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BJP hijacked and destroyed democracy, says Kejriwal

NATION | PAGE

RUSSIA AND UKRAINE ANNOUNCE RIVAL CEASE-FIRES AS DEADLY STRIKES CONTINUE

WORLD | NEWS



VIRAL VIDEO: POOJA HEGDE PREDICT-ED THALAPATHY VIJAY'S 2025 WIN

CINEMA | PAGE



SCAN FOR E-PAPER

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

04-05-2026
Total pilgrims: 70,996
Tonsure: 28,809
Hundi kansalku: 3.74 CR
Waiting Compartments: 10

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens) - 8 H

GOLD RATE 24K

₹ 1,52,240/-

FIRE BREAKS OUT AT RBI BUILDING IN NEW DELHI, NO INJURIES REPORTED

New Delhi (TSIT):

A fire broke out at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) building here on Tuesday afternoon, but was controlled soon in a swift response from firefighting teams. No injuries or casualties were reported in the incident, officials said.

According to officials, the blaze originated from a box containing solar panels within the premises. Firefighters were alerted to the situation at around 1.05 pm, following which five fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The fire was brought under control within 15 minutes, preventing any major damage or escalation.

Authorities confirmed that the situation was handled quickly and safely, with no harm to personnel present at the building. The incident comes close on the heels of another fire reported in the city. A blaze had broken out earlier in the Chawri Bazar area of Delhi, for which a call was received by the Connaught Place Fire Station at around 7:21 pm on Sunday. Firefighting teams were immediately dispatched to manage the situation. Meanwhile, last week, the central bank said that 98.47 per cent of the Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes in circulation have been returned, nearly three years after it announced their withdrawal.

21 killed, 61 injured in China fireworks plant explosion

Changsha (TSIT):

The fireworks plant explosion in central China's Hunan Province has left 21 people dead and 61 others injured, authorities said Tuesday. The explosion occurred at around 4:43 p.m. Monday at the plant of Huasheng fireworks manufacturing and display company in Liuyang, a county-level city under Changsha, capital city of Hunan. More than 480 rescuers in five teams have been mobilised for the rescue, with three rescue robots deployed. As the explosion site is located near two black powder warehouses, the rescuers have evacuated nearby residents and set up a buffer zone to prevent a secondary accident. As of 8 a.m. Tuesday, the rescuers had confirmed the casualties following the first round of searching. The injured have been rushed to hospital for treatment and the second round of searching is underway.

Court stays FIR against Jeevaraj, Siddaramaiah alleges vote theft in Sringeri row



Bengaluru (TSIT)

A fresh political storm has erupted in Karnataka over the controversial Sringeri postal ballot recount case, even as the Karnataka High Court granted major interim relief to BJP MLA DN Jeevaraj by staying proceedings in a voter ballot tampering FIR and describing it as a "motivated case".

The legal relief comes at the centre of a widening political and institutional clash over the integrity of postal ballots, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah alleging "vote theft" and a "criminal conspiracy" in the

recount process linked to the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections.

The dispute, originally confined to the narrow Sringeri constituency result, has now escalated into a full-scale political confrontation over election credibility, sealed ballot security, and the conduct of post-poll judicially ordered recounts. The controversy traces back to the 2023 Assembly election, where Congress candidate T.D. Rajegowda was initially declared winner by 201 votes. Following an election petition filed by Jeevaraj, the Karnataka High Court ordered

re-verification of 279 rejected postal ballots in April 2026.

After the recount exercise, the Returning Officer revised the result on May 3, 2026, declaring Jeevaraj the winner by a margin of 52 votes. Hours later, a criminal FIR was registered alleging tampering of ballot papers, triggering a parallel legal battle.

While hearing Jeevaraj's plea against the FIR, the High Court stayed the proceedings and strongly questioned the timing and basis of the criminal case. The Court observed that election disputes are to be addressed through election petitions rather than criminal proceedings, and described the FIR as appearing "politically influenced" and "motivated".

The bench also raised procedural concerns, questioning why the Returning Officer had not been made an accused and criticising the manner in which the investigation was initiated. Amid this legal backdrop, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah intensified the political confrontation, alleging that the recount process itself was tainted.

Mamata rules out resignation, vows to strengthen INDIA bloc

Kolkata (TSIT):

A day after Trinamool Congress witnessed a major defeat in West Bengal Assembly elections after 15 years of uninterrupted rule in the state, the outgoing Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, on Tuesday, stressed on the necessity of strengthening the INDIA Bloc to organise a movement nationally against the BJP and the NDA-ruled Centre. She also ruled out the possibility of voluntarily tendering her resignation to the Governor as the outgoing Chief Minister.

According to her, the "defeat" of Trinamool Congress this time, was not a "defeat" in the real sense as the results did not reflect the true public mandate. "Why shall I resign now? We are not defeated in the true sense. The results are reflections of massive misappropriation and vote-looting. So, where from the question of resignation comes," Mamata Banerjee told media persons on Tuesday afternoon at a press conference accompanied by her nephew and Trinamool Congress General Secretary, Abhishek Banerjee and a host of members of the outgoing state Cabinet led by her.

Speaking on the occasion,



"Why shall I resign now? We are not defeated in the true sense. The results are reflections of massive misappropriation and vote-looting."
MAMATA BANERJEE.....

she also claimed that after the results were declared on Monday night, she received solidarity calls from all top leaders of the constituents of the INDIA bloc. According to her, top leaders from the INDIA Bloc like Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Arvind Kejriwal, Akhilesh Yadav and Hemant Soren called her up and assured of support. "The INDIA Bloc will become stronger in the coming days. Akhilesh wanted to come and meet today. I have asked him to come tomorrow."

TARGETING CIVILIANS UNACCEPTABLE: PM Modi condemns attack on UAE that injured 3 Indians

New Delhi (TSIT):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday condemned the attack on the UAE's Fujairah that resulted in injuries to three Indian nationals and termed the targeting of civilians and infrastructure "unacceptable."

PM Modi expressed India's solidarity with the UAE and reiterated support for the peaceful resolution of all issues through dialogue and diplomacy.

"Strongly condemn the attacks on the UAE that resulted in injuries to three Indian nationals. Targeting civilians and infrastructure is unacceptable. India stands in firm solidarity with the UAE and reiterates its support for the peaceful resolution of all issues through dialogue and diplomacy. Ensuring safe and unimpeded navigation through the Strait of Hormuz is vital for enduring regional peace, stability and global energy security," PM Modi posted on X.



CM Naidu hails South Coast Railway Zone creation

Amaravati (TSIT)

The long-cherished dream of Andhra Pradesh's people has been fulfilled, said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday while hailing the gazette notification issued by the Centre to create the South Coast Railway Zone.

"It is heartening that the Railway Ministry has issued a gazette notification establishing the South Coast Railway Zone with Visakhapatnam as its headquarters. The long-cherished dream of Andhra Pradesh's people has been fulfilled. Official operations of the zone, centred at Visakhapatnam, are set to



commence from June 1, 2026," the Chief Minister posted on X.

"As part of the reorganisation of the Waltair Division, merging key sections like Palasa-Ichchapuram into the Visakhapatnam Division will transform the transportation landscape of North Andhra.

With coordination between the newly formed Visakhapatnam Division and the Rayagada Division, the railway system will be further strengthened. This will contribute to the state's development, particularly the industrial growth of North Andhra," he said.

Rahul warns of 'threat to democracy' after Bengal, Assam results; urges Opposition unity

New Delhi (TSIT)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday cautioned against what he described as "petty political reactions" to the recent Assembly election outcomes in West Bengal and Assam, warning that the developments signaled a deeper



challenge to democratic institutions in India. In a post on X, Gandhi took exception to sections within the Congress and other opposition circles who were reacting with satisfaction to the Trinamool Congress's setback in West Bengal.

CABINET CLEARS PROPOSAL TO INCREASE SUPREME COURT JUDGES' STRENGTH

New Delhi (TSIT):

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Tuesday approved the introduction of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, in the Parliament to increase the sanctioned strength of judges in the apex court. The proposed legislation seeks to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, enhancing the number of judges from the present 33 to 37, excluding the Chief Justice of India (CJI). According to an official statement, the move is aimed at improving the efficiency and functioning of the Supreme Court while ensuring the expeditious delivery of justice. "The increase in the number of judges will enable the Supreme Court to deal with cases more effectively and reduce pendency, thereby ensuring timely justice to litigants," the government said.

CS reviews arrangements for PM Modi's May 10 Telangana visit



Hyderabad TSIT:

Ahead of the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Telangana on May 10, a high-level review meeting was held at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Tuesday to assess preparedness across departments. Chief Secretary K.Ramakrishna Rao chaired the meeting

and reviewed the arrangements being made for the Prime Minister's tour. He directed officials of all departments to work in close coordination to ensure smooth and successful conduct of the visit. During the visit, the Prime Minister is expected to inaugurate several development projects and participate in a public meeting.

TRUST, ENGINEERED:

Ten Layers of Physics, One Founder's Promise - The Arun Teja Story

There are stories that travel in straight lines, and there are stories that bend the world around them. Arun Teja's story belongs firmly to the second. It begins in a classroom in Hyderabad, where a young boy with stacked books and steady eyes was already doing what would come to define his life, outworking everyone around him.

He topped his school. He stood among the brightest minds in his college. And against the kind of competition that defines a generation, he earned a place at the National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra, one of India's most prestigious engineering institutions, from which he graduated with the quiet pride of a boy who understood that an education like his was not merely an achievement, but a debt to be repaid through work that mattered. Today, that work is being done in the United Kingdom where Arun is the founder of Retronics Marketplace UK Limited, a company doing something most innovative in the field of electronics.

The Problem No One Solved

The refurbished mobile phone market in Britain is enormous, and yet it has long been crippled by a single ailment. Trust. Buyers fear hidden defects, secretly replaced components, batteries that will fail in months. Sellers fear something worse than the phone they part with will carry their old data into a stranger's hands, that their photographs and messages will be resurrected by anyone with a laptop and the latest AI tools. And so millions of perfectly good phones sit unused in drawers across Britain, fuelling one of the country's fastest-growing electronic waste problems. Existing players in the industry have tried to solve this with checklist-style testing.

Tick if the speaker works. Tick if the camera turns on. A pass-or-fail certificate that anyone, frankly, could print. "Anyone can give a certificate," Arun says, with the quiet conviction of a man who has chosen the harder path. "What matters is what is behind the certificate. We are not handing out



From topping his school in Telangana to graduating from NIT Kurukshetra, and now building one of the most quietly remarkable technology companies in the United Kingdom the story of Arun Teja

paper. We are handing out science."

The Retronics Digital Device Certificate (RDC) for Every Phone in Britain

Just as every car in Britain must pass an MOT to earn the nation's trust, Retronics has built an RDC for mobile phones, the first of its kind anywhere in the world. For decades, the refurbished phone industry has run on a quiet dishonesty. A checklist.

A tick. A signature. A piece of paper that asks the buyer to take the seller's word for it. Millions of Britons have been burned by it: the phone that looked perfect on day one and failed on day ninety, the battery that died before the next paycheck, the "original" part that turned out to be anything but. The industry has known about this for years. It has simply chosen not to solve it, because solving it is hard. Retronics has solved it. At the heart of the RDC sits something no other player in this market possesses: a suite of advanced, state-of-the-art machine learning algorithms, trained in-house by Retronics on vast volumes of real-world device data.

Forensic Wipe-Out Solving Britain's Hidden Drawer Problem

There is a second fear that Retronics has set itself to solving and it

is, in some ways, the more important one. Every household in Britain has at least one old phone sitting in a drawer. Not because it is broken, but because its owner is afraid to sell it. Afraid that the data on it, photographs, messages, banking apps, private videos might be resurrected by a stranger. In an age where artificial intelligence can reconstruct deleted information from the faintest digital trace, that fear is no longer paranoia. It is foresight.

The Heart Behind the Engineering

Speak to Arun, and the man you meet bears no resemblance to the loud archetype of the modern technology founder. He is soft-spoken, measured, unmistakably composed. Ask him about his vision, and he speaks not of valuations but of the working model. "My education at NIT Kurukshetra taught me that engineering is not about being clever," he reflects. "It is about being re-sponsible. Every certificate we issue, there is a real person at the other end of it. We have a duty to be worthy of their trust."

Britain The Wings Beneath the Ambition

If Hyderabad gave Arun his foundation, it is Britain, he insists, that has given him his wings. "India taught me how to think," he says. "Britain has shown me how to build." It is a sentiment offered without flattery and without ceremony simply the honest acknowledgment of a founder who knows precisely what his adopted country has made possible. The United Kingdom's startup ecosystem, with its rare blend of world-class universities, deep technical talent, and a culture that quietly celebrates the underdog innovator; has provided Retronics with the soil it needed to take root. Government policies designed to back early-stage science research and development tax incentives, the Innovator Founder visa route, grants for sustainable technology, and the steady encouragement of agencies like Innovate UK have, in Arun's words, "treated a first-time founder with the seriousness usually reserved for institutions."

Indian Muslims should develop own political leadership: Owaisi

Hyderabad, May 5: AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi said on Tuesday that Muslims in India should develop their independent political leadership to become citizens with rights, instead of being mere voters for "so-called secular parties". Reacting to the results of the Assembly elections, especially in West Bengal and Assam, the Hyderabad MP told media persons here that the "so-called secular parties" have failed to stop the BJP.



"I want to reiterate that Muslims should try to create their own independent political leadership. Your vote is getting wasted because you are casting your vote in favour of so-called secular parties that are not secular. They failed to stop the BJP," he said. While acknowledging the need to stop fascist and communal forces, he said that this does not mean that there should be no political leadership of Muslims.

"Reposing faith for so many years in so-called secular parties has not given them any development nor eradicated injustice and discrimination. They (the community) should think about the value of their vote. You voted for them in Maharashtra, Bihar,

Delhi, and West Bengal, but the BJP won in all these states," he said.

"These so-called secular parties have not been able to stop the BJP. We have seen this in the past. In Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal played soft Hindutva. The same was done in Maharashtra by Uddhav Thackeray's party, and to a certain extent by the erstwhile Nationalist Congress Party as well. We have seen the same behaviour in West Bengal by Mamata Banerjee and the All India Trinamool Congress."

He alleged that Mamata Banerjee treated Muslims of West Bengal only as a vote bank and did nothing to improve their socioeconomic conditions despite being in power for 15 years. Owaisi noted that West Bengal is the only state in the country where Muslims are in a majority in 60 Assembly constituencies, while there are 20

other segments where Muslims are 30-40 per cent, but still the BJP won there.

Stating that the people of West Bengal have given power to the BJP, he hoped that the BJP government would work for every section of society and stop the marginalisation of Muslims.

He believes that there are many reasons for the Trinamool's loss. "One of the reasons is SIR. There was a huge anti-incumbency, massive corruption, and huge exploitation of the Muslim community."

Owaisi stated that the image of Banerjee outside West Bengal as a very liberal and secular leader is completely wrong. "She has exploited the Muslims only as a vote bank. She has not treated them as citizens," he remarked.

Owaisi recalled that in 1998, the first BJP MP to win in West Bengal was Tapan Sikdar, who was supported by the Trinamool, and he won again in 1999. "Mamata Banerjee was part of the (PM Atal Behari) Vajpayee government as a Railway Minister. She left them and rejoined them. The same is the case with Uddhav Thackeray and AAP. It's high time Muslims must get united and create their own political leadership.

Ph.D. Awarded to Veerlapati Ramaiah, EEE Senior Faculty, KITSW

WARANGAL, May 5, TSIT : Veerlapati Ramaiah, senior faculty having with 32 years of teaching and research in the Department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering (EEE) Kakatiya Institute of Technology and Science, Warangal (KITSW), has been awarded Ph.D. degree by the Vel Tech Rangarajan Dr.Sagunthala R&D Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai said by the Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy.

In a press note released on Tuesday, KITs Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy said that Veerlapati Ramaiah had submitted his Ph.D thesis titled "Performance Assessment of Indian Electricity Distribution Utilities Using DEA-Malmquist Index". He did his research work under the supervision of Dr. P. Chandrasekar, Professor of EED, Vel Tech Rangarajan

Dr.Sagunthala R&D Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai.

Veerlapati Ramaiah has carried out the research to evaluate the operational efficiency and productivity of Indian Electricity DISCOMs using Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) and Malmquist Productivity Index (MPI) techniques. Key Findings : The analysis reveals that most utilities operate below optimal efficiency levels, with significant input over-utilization and high Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses. Although moderate improvements in operational efficiency were observed, technological progress has declined, resulting in an overall drop in productivity. Wide regional disparities highlight uneven reform implementation across the country.



Shailaja Ramaiyer A Quiet Executor Shaping Telangana's Administrative Backbone

Hyderabad, May 5: In the evolving governance landscape of Telangana, senior IAS officer Shailaja Ramaiyer stands out as a low-profile yet highly effective administrator, known more for execution than visibility. A 1997-batch IAS officer of the Telangana cadre, she has built a career marked by steady, multi-sectoral leadership across key departments.



Over the years, Ramaiyer has handled a diverse portfolio spanning endowments, handlooms, textiles, industries and information technology—departments that require both policy sensitivity and operational depth. Currently serving as principal secretary in multiple departments, she has been at the centre of administrative decision-making in areas that directly impact livelihoods and economic activity.

Her tenure in the handlooms and textiles sector is particularly notable. At a time when traditional sectors face market disruptions, Ramaiyer's approach has focused on institutional strengthening and welfare-oriented execution, aimed at supporting weavers and

improving sectoral resilience.

What distinguishes her administrative style is the ability to handle concurrent responsibilities - often managing multiple departments simultaneously, including additional charges such as commissioner roles. This reflects a governance model increasingly dependent on officers who can deliver across verticals without compromising efficiency.

Beyond the secretariat, Ramaiyer has also contributed to the education ecosystem, having served as Vice-Chancellor (in-charge) of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad. Her stint in academia reflects the administrative system's reliance on experienced civil servants to stabilise and steer key

public institutions. Her career trajectory - from district-level administration to senior policy roles - illustrates the traditional IAS pathway of grounding in field experience followed by strategic governance responsibilities. She has also been empanelled for joint secretary-level roles at the central level, indicating recognition of her administrative capabilities beyond the state.

Operating largely outside the media spotlight, Ramaiyer represents a category of bureaucrats who drive governance through continuity and institutional memory rather than public visibility. In a state like Telangana, where rapid industrialisation, digital expansion and welfare delivery run in parallel, such administrative stability plays a crucial role.

As Telangana continues to position itself as a growth engine across sectors—from technology to traditional industries—officers like Shailaja Ramaiyer form the backbone of policy execution, translating political vision into ground-level outcomes with consistency and precision.

Medicover Doctors Save Woman from Rare Post-Abortion Complication, Preserve Fertility

Hyderabad, April 2026: In a remarkable feat of advanced gynecological and interventional care, Medicover Hospital's successfully managed an exceptionally rare and life-threatening post-abortion complication in a 32-year-old woman, preventing catastrophic bleeding and preserving her uterus through a highly coordinated multidisciplinary approach. The patient, who had a history of previous cesarean section and recurrent pregnancy losses, presented with continuous vaginal bleeding for over 25 days after undergoing a dilation and curettage (D&C) procedure for a missed abortion at six weeks of pregnancy. Despite initial medical treatment elsewhere, the bleeding persisted, significantly affecting her health and raising concerns of severe internal complications. Upon comprehensive evaluation at Medicover Hospitals, advanced ultrasound and MRI scans revealed a rare and life-threatening condition. Its a combination of Grade 3 retained products of conception (RPOC), secondary



uterine arteriovenous malformation (AVM), and a previous cesarean scar niche (Isthmocele). This complex condition posed an extremely high risk of sudden, life-threatening hemorrhage, where conventional treatment could have resulted in emergency hysterectomy and permanent loss of fertility. Recognizing the complexity and urgency, Medicover's specialists devised a carefully planned, step-wise, fertility-preserving treatment strategy involving interventional radiology and advanced minimally invasive gynecological surgery. A multidisciplinary team followed, Dr. Sai Teja, Consultant Interventional

Radiologist, performed a highly specialized Uterine Artery Embolisation (UAE), selectively blocking abnormal uterine blood vessels and significantly reducing the risk of massive bleeding. Simultaneously after Successful embolisation, Dr. Perum Prithivi, Consultant Robotic and Laparoscopic Gynecological Surgeon, performed Hysteroscopic RPOC Resection along with Laparoscopic Repair of the Previous Cesarean Scar Niche (Isthmocele). During the complex surgery, the team meticulously addressed dense adhesions between the uterus and anterior abdominal wall, bladder

adhesions at the scar site, and deeply embedded retained pregnancy tissue within the uterine wall—all through precision-driven minimally invasive techniques. Post-operative angiography confirmed complete exclusion of abnormal vascular circulation, and the procedure was completed successfully without major complications. The patient recovered well, with only a brief fever episode managed conservatively, and was discharged in stable condition. Speaking about the rare case, Dr. Perum Prithivi said, "This was an extraordinarily challenging case due to the coexistence of uterine AVM, retained products, and cesarean scar niche (Isthmocele). Such patients are at very high risk of severe hemorrhage, and hysterectomy often becomes the only life-saving option. Our multidisciplinary strategy with prior embolisation allowed us to safely control bleeding, completely avoid hysterectomy, and most importantly preserve the patient's fertility and reproductive future."

Shift to Oil Palm for Better Income: MLA Rajesh Reddy

The South India times Nagar Kurmool: An awareness seminar on oil palm cultivation and alternative crops was conducted in Nagarkurnool Division under the "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika" program by the Horticulture Department. MLA Kuchukulla Rajesh Reddy participated and addressed the farmers. He advised farmers to shift from traditional crops like paddy, maize, and cotton to high-demand horticulture crops. He stated that oil palm cultivation provides stable and long-term income and urged farmers to utilize government subsidies and schemes effectively. Market Chairman Ramana Rao and Municipal Chairman Teegala Suresh said that horticulture crops offer better profits and encouraged farmers to take up oil palm, fruit orchards, and vegetable cultivation. KVK scientist G. Eshwar Reddy explained the methods and benefits of oil palm cultivation.

GITAM to Hold GAT 2026 Phase-3 Entrance Exam on May 17

Hyderabad: GITAM Deemed to be University will conduct the GITAM Admission Test (GAT-2026, Phase-3) on May 17, 2026, for admissions into undergraduate and post-graduate science programmes at its School of Science. Candidates can apply online through the official portal until May 14, 2026. Recognised by the University Grants Commission and accredited with an A++ grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, the School of Science offers a wide range of interdisciplinary programmes supported by experienced faculty and advanced research facilities. At the undergraduate level, programmes include B.Sc. (Honours) in Biotechnology, Chemistry, Food Science & Technology, Microbiology, Physics, and Statistics, along with minors in

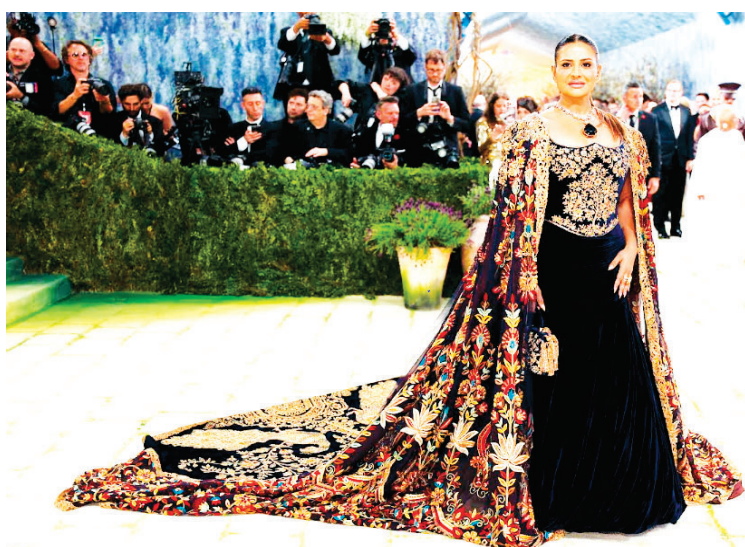


emerging fields such as Data Science and Quantum Computing. Special programmes like B.Sc. Computer Science and Cognitive Systems and B. Optometry—offered in collaboration with L V Prasad Eye Institute—provide industry-oriented training. Postgraduate options include M.Sc. courses in Biotechnology, Chemistry, Data Science, Food Science, and Physics, along with Ph.D. programmes across disciplines. According to Principal M. Reza, the curriculum integrates future-focused domains like Data Science and Quantum Science, along with early research exposure and internships. The university has collaborations with premier institutions such as Indian Institutes of Technology, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, and Defence Research and Development Organisation, as well as industry leaders like Pfizer, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, and Tata Consultancy Services. GITAM also offers merit-based scholarships of up to 100% under its Unified Student Scholarship Framework. Admissions can be secured through GAT or valid scores from exams such as JEE, TS EAMCET, AP EAPCET, and JAM. The UG selection process includes a personal interview on May 17, with results announced the same day.

Sudha Reddy Pays Homage To South Indian Heritage At The 2026 Met Gala

The Billionaire Philanthropist Championed Centuries Old Textile Art Form Kalamkari In Custom Manish Malhotra 'Tree Of Life' Couture That Took 3,459 Hours And 90 Artisans To Create

New York : - At the 2026 Met Gala, billionaire philanthropist and style icon Sudha Reddy returned to the red carpet with a look that balanced spectacle with substance, wearing a custom creation by India's leading couturier Manish Malhotra. Conceived in collaboration with global celebrity stylist Mariel Haenn, the ensemble titled 'The Tree of Life' was a profound dialogue between heritage, craftsmanship and contemporary couture. Rooted in Machilipatnam style of Kalamkari, one of India's oldest textile traditions, the look reinterpreted the 3,000-year-old storied art form through a contemporary, sculptural lens. Traditionally hand-painted with natural dyes, Kalamkari is known for its intricate depictions of mythology, nature and cosmology. Its most enduring motif, the Tree of Life - symbolizing balance, growth and interconnectedness of all life forms, became the central anchor of the ensemble. In keeping with this year's 'Costume Art' theme, the ensemble moved beyond fashion into a constructed immersive narrative where couture, craftsmanship and culture converged. Realised over 3,459 hours by more than 90 artisans, the ensemble brought together zardozi, marodi, resham and metalwork, merging traditional



Indian hand-embroidery techniques with couture innovation. Drawing deeply from the landscape of her city of origin, the design incorporated symbolic motifs tied to the region's identity: the Palapitta (Indian Roller), the Jamma Chettu (Prosopis Cineraria), and the Tangedu (Tanner's Cassia alongside celestial references to Kalpavriksha (the wish-fulfilling tree of abundance), Surya (the Sun god) and Chandra (the Moon god). Each element, rooted in seasonal

festivals and cultural traditions of Telangana, was intricately embedded throughout the ensemble to portray a living map of heritage. A sculpted, corseted silhouette in deep royal blue formed the foundation of the ensemble, anchored by Manish Malhotra's signature swirl construction. Antique gold zari embroidery flowed across the surface, while the Tree of Life emerged in intricate zardozi spanning velvet, silk, and tulle. The Palapitta appeared delicately along the bodice in fine

marodi work, while peacock motifs unfurled across the embroidered 7 meter lavish trail, enhancing its sense of scale and drama. A sheer tulle cape softened the structured form, hand-embroidered in resham and subtly accented with antique gold zari, with delicate depictions of Hyderabad's flora and fauna. The ensemble was further elevated by a dramatic installation at the upper back—a sculpted metal vine crafted entirely by hand in brass, copper, and silver. At its centre stood the Kalpavriksha, surrounded by motifs including the Jamma Chettu, Tangedu, Surya, Chandra and the Palapitta.

The monochromatic sapphire-wash palette extended into the jewellery, drawn from Reddy's personal collection and valued at \$15 million, lending the look a sense of museum-worthy maximalism. At its centre was a Victorian-finished necklace featuring triangular and pear-shaped rose-cut diamonds arranged in delicate floral clusters, anchored by the striking 550-carat 'Queen of Merelani' deep violet-blue tanzanite sourced from Tanzania's Merelani Hills. The suite was completed with a 23-carat yellow diamond ring alongside a 30-carat rose-cut polki diamond ring from Rajasthan.

CCEA approves Rs 23,437 Cr Rail Multitracking Projects to add 901 km across 6 States

New Delhi (TSIT): The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs today approved three major multitracking railway projects with a total estimated cost of Rs 23,437 crore, aimed at significantly enhancing capacity and efficiency across key routes of Indian Railways, Information and Broadcasting Minister

Ashwini Vaishnav said after the meeting. The approved projects include the Nagda-Mathura third and fourth lines, the Guntakal-Wadi third and fourth lines, and the Burhwal-Sitapur third and fourth lines, which together will expand the railway network by about 901 km across 19 districts in Madhya

Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The projects are scheduled for completion by 2030-31. Briefing reporters, Vaishnav, who is also the union Railway Minister, said the capacity augmentation will significantly improve mobility, operational efficiency and service reliability.

NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
(Formerly, Niwas Housing Finance Private Limited)

Regd. Office: - Unit No. 305, 3rd Floor, Wing 2/E, Corporate Avenue, Andheri- Ghatkopar Link Road, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400093

Notice under Section 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

NHFL has sanctioned home loan/mortgage loan/construction loan to the following borrowers against mortgage of residential premises. The repayment of the said loans were irregular and the accounts are finally classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with directions and guidelines of National Housing Bank (NHB).

NHFL has therefore invoked its rights and issued a notice under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 and called upon the below listed borrowers to repay the total outstanding mentioned below within 60 days from the date of the demand notice. The following borrowers are hereby called upon by this publication to pay the total dues mentioned against them plus further charges & interest accrued till payment within 60 days from the date of the said demand notice, failing which NHFL shall resort to all or any of the legal rights to take possession of the secured assets, dispose/sale it and adjust the proceeds against the outstanding amount. The borrowers are also restrained from alienating or creating third party interest on the ownership of the properties.

Sr. No	Location/ Loan Account Number	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/Guarantor	NPA Date	Date & Amount as per Demand Notice
1	TUMKUR/ LNTMKOHL-03240042496	S PRASANTH (BORROWER) SHIVAKUMARA(CO-BORROWER)	09-Apr-2026	16-Apr-2026 Rs. 9,28,614 as on 15-Apr-2026

Description of Property/Secured Asset: "All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Bearing Katha No. 13c/13/3, Pid No. 15030070600301431 Measuring E= 35 Ft And N= 30 Ft Out Of Total Extent Of 50 X 70 Ft Situated At Kaarenahalli Village, Obalapura Post, Tyamagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural Dist. Bounded On: East By: Own Property, West By: Road, North By: Own Property, South By: Own Property."

Date: 06-05-2026.
Place: Karnataka

Sd/- Authorized Officer
NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Rising temperatures trigger surge in heat stroke cases across Karnataka

Bengaluru, May 5: With temperatures steadily rising across various parts of the state, doctors and public health experts have warned of an increase in heat wave-related health issues among the public. Although sudden rainfall in some places has provided temporary relief, overall temperatures have not reduced significantly. As a result, hospitals are witnessing a growing number of

patients admitted with dehydration, headache, dizziness, vomiting, fatigue, and heat stroke-related complications. According to doctors, heat stroke-related illnesses often begin gradually and can progress to severe stages. Initial symptoms include headache, joint pain, weakness, discomfort, anxiety, and dizziness. If these symptoms are ignored, body temperature can rise beyond 40 degrees Celsius.

R. Ashok Seeks Governor's Intervention for Jeevaraj Oath, Warns of Protest

Bengaluru : Shringeri MLA D.N. Jeevaraj has not yet been administered the oath by Speaker U.T. Khader. Therefore, we have requested the Governor to directly administer the oath, said Opposition Leader R. Ashok.

Speaking to reporters after meeting the Governor, Ashok said: In the recount of votes in the Shringeri Assembly constituency, BJP's D.N. Jeevaraj has been declared the winner. He has

received the certificate of election from the Election Commission, just like all other MLAs. The state government has also issued the necessary gazette notification. All MLAs, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, have become legislators in the same manner. When I tried to call Speaker U.T. Khader regarding this, he deliberately did not take the call. When I met him, he started giving me lectures on the law. The Speaker himself became



an MLA in the same way and did not go to court at that time. Even though there is a 45-day window

for any MLA to approach the court, it does not prevent them from taking the oath. However, Speaker U.T. Khader alone is not allowing the oath and has started a new precedent, he alleged.

Regarding the complaint against Jeevaraj, the High Court has pulled up the state government. Congress people are committing daylight robbery. The CBI should investigate whether Siddaramaiah or D.K. Shivakumar called the

Returning Officer during vote counting and exerted pressure. Nowhere has it been said that the result should be submitted to the court. There is only a direction to declare the result immediately. When we meet the Speaker and ask, he says "Come tomorrow, we need to take legal opinion." If that is the case, he should have taken legal opinion for all 224 MLAs as well, Ashok said.

According to Article 188 of the Constitution, the Governor administers the

oath. If the Speaker is not available, the Governor has the power to nominate someone else. Therefore, we have requested the Governor to administer the oath instead of the Speaker. When Mamata Banerjee's government in West Bengal did something similar, two BJP MLAs approached the Governor. We have done the same. If this process does not happen, we will have to launch a fight against the Speaker, he warned.



"Honoring Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's ideals of dignity and equality, J. Babu, State President of DSS Karnataka, celebrated his birthday with the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Manipal Hospital Association, where members and friends came together to extend heartfelt wishes".

Karnataka Signs Pact with ISEG for Bengaluru Economic Master Plan

Bengaluru : Karnataka government today signed a Statement of Intent with the Institute for Sustainable Employment and Growth (ISEG) to prepare a comprehensive Economic Master Plan for Bengaluru and transform the city into a world-class hub.

Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department

Tushar Giri Nath and ISEG Director Dr Shirish Sankhe exchanged signed documents in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at an event organized in Vidhana Soudha.

Speaking on the occasion, the DCM, who is also in charge of Bengaluru Development, said, "We have been making efforts for the past three years to make Bengaluru into a world-class hub. We have provided record levels of economic strength to Bengaluru and its surrounding areas over the last three years. The per capita income in the Bengaluru Metropolitan Area stands at \$8,850 — double the state average. Bengaluru urban, rural, and southern districts



and Kolkata. I am not blaming them. We have formulated a plan on how to solve this problem. A plan worth approximately Rs.2 lakh crore has been drawn up and is being implemented in a phased manner," he explained.

"Instructions are being given to formulate a data-driven Economic Master Plan. This will not impose any financial burden on us. Opinions and suggestions will be sought from key citizens as well as sectors including energy, city corporations, water, urban development, information technology, and industries. We are giving new shape to the decision taken to make Bengaluru a world-class hub. Bengaluru will be prepared to compete with global cities. The ISEG Foundation, which has come forward to sign this agreement with us, has already formulated such plans in Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, Pune, and Varanasi. They have been given 4 months, within which they will submit the blueprint. I am instructing our officials to extend all necessary cooperation to them. Citizens of Bengaluru, developers, industrialists, and educational institutions must be taken into confidence to create a grand Master Plan," he directed.

Job Placement offer letters distribution

Bengaluru: The Training and Placement Cell of Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City successfully organized an offer letter distribution ceremony for candidates placed at Agile Robots on 5th May 2026 at the Academic Block in Central college campus. The event was presided over by Vice Chancellor Prof. Ramesh. B. In his keynote address, the Vice Chancellor encouraged the students to excel in their careers and contribute responsibly to the society at large.

Dr. T.N. Thandava Gowda, Director, Prasaranga, Prof. Rithika Sinha, Director of Skill Development, and Mr. Badrinath, CEO of Ethnus Technologies were present on the occasion. Out of around 45 selected candidates from Bengaluru and nearby areas, 34 candidates received their offer letters during the event. Prof. Nabi A., Director In-Charge, welcomed the gathering. Mr. Harsha, Training and Placement Officer, delivered vote of thanks.

Complete Storm Water Drain Development Works on Priority – D.S. Ramesh

Bengaluru: The Commissioner of Bengaluru East City Corporation, D.S. Ramesh, conducted a coordination meeting with officials to accelerate the storm water drain development works being undertaken with World Bank assistance and to ensure effective inter-departmental coordination in project execution. The Commissioner stated that the primary objective of the meeting was to review the progress of ongoing storm water drain development and modernization works, identify drain boundaries, clear encroachments, and implement pre-monsoon preparedness measures in a coordinated manner.

Key Directions Issued During the Meeting

The Commissioner directed that the overall responsibility for execution, maintenance, and development of storm water drain works under World Bank funding lies with the Project Implementation Unit Officials handling the projects. The PIU has been entrusted with full responsibility to coordinate with the Revenue Department for demar-



cation of drain boundaries and removal of encroachments, ensuring smooth execution of development works. In view of the upcoming monsoon, the Commissioner instructed that all precautionary measures, emergency works, and priority tasks must be taken up immediately by the PIU without delay.

The Commissioner emphasized that completing storm water drain works with speed and quality is critical to preventing waterlogging during the monsoon season. All concerned officials were directed to work in close coordination and strictly implement precautionary measures to avoid inconvenience to the public.

Prepare Effectively to Face Monsoon: Dr. Rajendra K.V.



Bengaluru : The Commissioner of Bengaluru West City Corporation, Dr. Rajendra K.V. instructed officials to work with proactive preparation, planning, and coordination to prevent potential mishaps during the upcoming monsoon season. Addressing a meeting regarding monsoon and various development works within the jurisdiction of the Bengaluru West City Corporation, the Commissioner stated that the pre-monsoon has already begun and the monsoon season will start shortly. He warned that all teams must work actively in all 112 wards of the West City Corporation to ensure no accidents occur, failing which strict action would be taken. He directed officials to carry out desilting work in roadside drains and

shoulder drains of major roads, including arterial, sub-arterial, and high-density corridors, and to maintain cleanliness to ensure water flows smoothly through the gratings. He instructed officials to conduct site inspections to confirm that cleanliness is being maintained effectively. Clear Dilapidated Buildings and Walls: Work must be carried out effectively to remove dilapidated buildings, compound walls, shelter points, manholes, and potentially falling flex/banners within the West City Corporation limits. He instructed officials to conduct supervision, identify dilapidated structures/walls, and issue notices for their removal. Stay in Contact with Locals: Identify low-lying areas where water stagnates

and areas prone to damage, and maintain continuous contact with local residents. He directed that precautionary measures be taken in problematic areas to prevent accidents by coordinating with the Corporation, Fire and Emergency Services, and the Police Department. Road Marking: The work of marking humps and speed breakers to make them clearly visible must be completed quickly. Open slabs on footpaths, debris, dried trees, and branches must be removed immediately. Additionally, he instructed that action be taken to clear encroachments on footpaths. Other Key Points and Instructions Discussed in the Meeting: * Instructions were given to effectively utilize necessary equip-

ment, including saws and wood-cutting machines, to clear trees and branches that fall during the monsoon. * Instructions were issued to maintain cleanliness by completely desilting the primary storm-water drain (Rajakaluve) near the Gaali Anjaneya Temple. * Directions were given to fill potholes quickly. * Instructions were issued to immediately remove concrete poured around the base of saplings/trees. * Instructions were given to remove unauthorized cables. * Directions were issued to take necessary measures to prevent water stagnation in underpasses. * Officials were told to obtain prior information about programs/events held in wards to ensure no negligence occurs. * Instructions were given to replace street-lights and carry out repairs where necessary. Joint Commissioner Sangappa, Deputy Commissioners Shankareppa Vanikyala and Manjunath Swamy, Chief Engineers Swayamprabha and Basavaraj Kabade, Superintendent Engineers, heads of all departments, and Executive and Assistant Executive Engineers of all divisions were present.

Commissioner inspects various areas of city – directs immediate action

Bengaluru : Commissioner of Bengaluru North City Corporation, Pommala Sunil Kumar, conducted site inspections across various parts of the city this morning and reviewed waterlogging issues, storm water drainage systems, and the progress of road works in view of the upcoming monsoon. During the inspection, strict instructions were issued to the concerned officials to take immediate action on the issues identified at various locations.

Puttenahalli Lake Road: Noting severe waterlogging and traffic congestion, directions were issued for immediate clearance. Officials were instructed to strengthen the drainage system and ensure continuous monitoring to prevent recurrence. Additionally, KRDC engineers were specifically instructed to clear debris from footpaths without delay and to complete desilting of drains on priority by Friday. Emergency desilting of drains was directed to address water stagnation and foul smell. Removal of cable obstructions affecting free flow of rainwater and clearance of encroachments hindering drainage works were also instructed. Further, officials were directed to coordinate with National Highways and other concerned departments to clear all pending and obstructed works on

priority. Near Motherhood Hospital, Byatarayanapura: Drain blockages caused by metro construction debris were reviewed, and BMRC officials were instructed to clear them immediately. National Highway authorities were directed to remove road debris and improve the service road, while BESCOM officials were instructed to relocate electric poles obstructing pedestrian pathways.

Udupi: Continued gas shortage hits hotel industry

Udupi, May 5: Along with the rise in commercial gas prices, the shortage of gas supply continues, further aggravating problems for the hotel industry. As the supply of commercial gas falls short of demand, hotels are exploring alternative options. While some hotels have turned to

traditional wood-fired stoves, others have modified their menus. A few establishments have adopted a shift system—serving only limited breakfast items along with tea and coffee in the morning, providing a simple lunch, and remaining closed during the evening and night.

Process Paid Adv. Krishna Thacker

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF CIVIL JUDGE (S.D.) CBD BELAPUR AT CBD BELAPUR
Exh. 14

Misc. Appl. No. 717 of 2026

1. SMT SUVARNA HIREMATH alias MATAM SUVARNA Aged 66 Years, Occu: Housewife
2. MS DIVYA SHIVANAND HIREMATH Aged 46 Years, Occu: Service (Through POA holder of Smt Suvarna Hiremath Alias Matam Suvarna)
3. MS POORVASHREE SHIVANAND HIREMATH (Through POA holder of Smt Suvarna Hiremath Alias Matam Suvarna) Aged 36 Years, Occu: Service

All having address at Hiremath mansion, Row House No. 52, Sector-4, Koparkhairane, Navi Mumbai- 400709 Mob. No. 7715853562 Email id: divyahiremath@gmail.com

... Applicants

V/s Nil

That deceased LATE MR HIREMATH SHIVANAND BASAYYA alias SHIVANAND BASAYYA HIREMATH alias MR SHIVANAND H BASAYYA alias DR. S.B. HIREMATH who expired on 5th September 2025 at Greater Mumbai, is the husband of Applicant 1) SMT SUVARNA HIREMATH alias MATAM SUVARNA and father of Applicant 2) MS DIVYA SHIVANAND HIREMATH and Applicant 3) MS POORVASHREE SHIVANAND HIREMATH The Property descriptions in the name of deceased herewith-

- 100% share in Apartment no. 305, 3rd floor in tower No 1 (Plumeria) wing B, Godrej Royale Woods at Chikkasanne Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore along with car parking space.
- 50% share in Site no. 152 bearing khata no. 207/181/152, property no 1503002100220111, Max Residency Phase III, Thindlu Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.
- 50% share in Site no. 67, Agraraj Elite Grandeur, Survey No. 44/1, 41/2 and 41/3, Chikkatattamangala Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk.

Whereas the above named applicants have filed Misc. Application for Heirship Certificate under Bombay Regulation Act 1827 Regulation No. VIII the court of Civil Judge (S.D.) CBD Belapur at CBD Belapur. You the member of public are hereby given notice to appear in the court of Civil Judge (S.D.) CBD Belapur at CBD Belapur, in person or by pleader duly instructed and to file your Say/Objections if any within 30 (Thirty) days from the date of publication of this public notice failing which the said application will be held presuming that there is no objection from anybody and the application will be finally decided. Given under the hand & Seal of the court this 29 day of 04/2026

Sd/- Clerk
By Order
Asst. Superintendent
Civil Court S.D. Belapur

NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
(Formerly, Niwas Housing Finance Private Limited)

Regd. Office: - Unit No. 305, 3rd Floor, Wing 2/E, Corporate Avenue, Andheri- Ghatkopar Link Road, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai – 400093

Notice under Section 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

NHFL has sanctioned home loan/mortgage loan/construction loan to the following borrowers against mortgage of residential premises. The repayment of the said loans were irregular and the accounts are finally classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with directions and guidelines of National Housing Bank/RBI.

NHFL has therefore invoked its rights and issued a notice under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 and called upon the below listed borrowers to repay the total outstanding mentioned below within 60 days from the date of the demand notice. The following borrowers are hereby called upon by this publication to pay the total dues mentioned against them plus further charges & interest accrued till payment within 60 days from the date of the said demand notice, failing which NHFL shall resort to all or any of the legal rights to take possession of the secured assets, dispose/sale it and adjust the proceeds against the outstanding amount.

The borrowers are also restrained from alienating or creating third party interest on the ownership of the properties.

Sr. No	Location/ Loan Account Number	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/Guarantor	NPA Date	Date & Amount as per Demand Notice
1	Bangalore/ LNBAN0HL-05250057942	PRATAP S (BORROWER) SRUTHI V(CO-BORROWER)	09-Apr-2026	16-Apr-2026 Rs. 31,00,625 as on 15-Apr-2026

Description of property/Secured Asset: *ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY BEARING Plot No.468, Town Municipal Khata No. 1563/468/138/468, totally measuring 2,179.14 Sq. Mtrs. (23,447.55 Sq. Ft.) carved out of residentially converted land in Sy.No.117, duly converted for residential purpose vide Official Memorandum bearing No.BDS/ALN/SR/120/1997-98 dated 13.03.1998 situated at Kenchanakuppe Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagera Taluk and District of BMRD. A approved project and bounded on the East by: Road, West by: Park & Pathway, North by: Road, South by: Road. SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY. Description of the Unit/Apartment agreed to be conveyed): A Single Bedroom Flat bearing No.107 on the First Floor of the Building in Cedar Court, KHATHA No.1563/468/138/ 468/FF/107 P/O No.5448696965 with a super built-up area of 710 Square Feet (65.961130 sq. mtrs.) [Carpet Area 560 Sq. Ft./52.025680 Sq. Mtrs.] which is inclusive of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use, with one covered Car Parking Space in the basement/ground level of the Building THE FOLLOWING BOUNDARIES ARE EAST- FLAT NO.108, WEST-FLAT NO.106, NORTH- ROAD, SOUTH- CORRIDOR SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY (Description of undivided share in Schedule 'A' Property agreed to be conveyed): An undivided 0.424% (ZERO POINT FOUR TWO FOUR PERCENT) share in the land comprised in the Schedule 'A' Property [i.e., 311.85 Square Feet/ (28.9718060 Sq. Mtrs.)]

Date: 06-05-2026
Place: Karnataka

Sd/- Authorized Officer
NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

EDITORIAL

The Strongman Who Underestimated His Opponent - And Paid The Price

The year was 2011, when the DMK found itself demolished by the AIADMK in the Tamil Nadu assembly elections. That election, MK Stalin had moved from his traditional Thousand Lights seat to the newly created Kolathur constituency. Stalin was up against Saidai Duraisamy of the AIADMK, and it was a tense see-saw electoral battle as there were several delays during the counting process due to disputes over EVMs. Meanwhile, at the Karunanidhi residence in Gopalapuram, the then DMK chief was anxious because Stalin's defeat would mean a rejection of the next-in-command of the party. It was only when Stalin finally scraped through by a margin of some 2,700-odd votes that his father heaved a sigh of relief, even though the party was voted out of power.

Kolathur Gives, Kolathur Takes

Fifteen years later, Kolathur gave Stalin heartache once again, keeping him worried through the course of Monday. This time, however, there was no good news at the end of the counting process. Stalin suffered the ignominy - like M Bhaktavatsalam, the last Congress chief minister of Tamil Nadu in 1967, and J Jayalalitha in 1996 - of a sitting chief minister losing his own seat. VS Babu of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) defeated Stalin by 8,795 votes. Ironically, Babu is of the DMK DNA, having been a party MLA from Purasawalkam in 2006. Stalin's defeat in Kolathur is more than just a lost seat; it is the collapse of the strongman image. During the election campaign, Stalin wore a black shirt, burnt copies of the delimitation bill and cast himself in the role of a Tamil Nadu warrior taking on the might of the Delhi Sultanate. Little did he realise that in his backyard in Kolathur, ensconced inside the DMK's Chennai fortress, the ground was slipping under his feet. So, what went so horribly wrong for the DMK, considering that just three months ago, several opinion polls predicted that he would return as chief minister and achieve a feat even his celebrated father did not - that is, win a second consecutive term in office?

Udhayanidhi And Other Awkward Questions

The decision to elevate Udhayanidhi Stalin to the post of deputy Chief Minister presented the "dynastic politics" charge to his opponents on a platter. Therefore, when the DMK outsourced the job of attacking actor-turned-politician Vijay to the likes of Prakash Raj, it rang hollow. When Raj asked what work Vijay had done to deserve coming to power, people obviously asked the counter question - what did Udhayanidhi do to be elevated to the No. 2 position?

The second mistake Stalin made was to underestimate Vijay's star power. He treated Vijay as another Kamal Haasan who had just an urban appeal at best. When huge crowds thronged Vijay's roadshows, they were dismissed as crazy fans. By the time the DMK realised Vijay's aura transcended all divides - rural-urban, gender, caste, religion, social and economic status - enough holes had already been made in the DMK citadel.

Stalin thought the welfare template of the DMK regime was enough to make the electorate vote decisively for them for the fourth consecutive time since 2019. But what was different from the previous two Lok Sabha and one assembly election was the presence of a fresh political force - one that did not believe in bribing voters, one that did not mobilise crowds by paying money, or arrange tempos, liquor and biryani. The youth did not want freebies. They found the promise of an AI ministry, collateral-free education loans, anti-drug enforcement and start-up seed capital, more attractive. The Gen-Z gave the thumbs up to the empowerment promised by Vijay, rejecting Stalin's doles.

What really took away the women's vote from the DMK was the perception that the law and order situation was bad. The surge in drug-related crimes was the DMK's Achilles' heel. So, when Stalin spoke of the 'D-stock', referring to the Dravidian ideology of the party, critics lampooned it. For, 'D' in their book stood for 'drug culture', reportedly prevalent at every street corner.

Kill The Messenger

However, instead of remedying the situation, the DMK regime tried to control the narrative. Media management was put in place to ensure no negative news found its way into mainstream, digital and social media. Now, with the DMK out, many journalists are relieved that they will no longer be intimidated if they file a report or even put out a tweet critical of the government. There is a lesson there for ruling parties in other states in India.

In terms of strategy, the DMK used the template it had successfully employed and used in elections in the past. It kept trying to scare the voter, saying that AIADMK-BJP combine would mean that Chennai would be controlled by Delhi. But it was a line that no longer excited the voter because the voter had moved away from the DMK-AIADMK binary and started looking towards the new kid on the political block.

That Insurance Policy

When did it begin to look like Stalin was growing unsure about victory? When he went out of his way to include more than 20 parties in his alliance. The move was marketed as the trait of an 'accommodative' leader. It was not. It was an insurance policy the DMK was buying. In the end, the allies turned out to be paper tigers. The choice of candidates was another. Take the example of Katpadi. While the DMK gave the ticket yet again to 87-year-old Durai Murugan (who lost), the TVK presented an alternative in the form of Dr M Sudhakar against him. The DMK ecosystem dismissed Vijay's supporters as "tharkuris" (idiots). But the fact of the matter was that several professionals with expertise in different fields have now won on TVK tickets.

In the revolving door of Tamil Nadu politics, Stalin is no stranger to defeat. But the latest one comes at a particularly inopportune time. A re-election would have meant passing the baton to his son, Udhayanidhi, during the course of the term. The Tamil Nadu assembly would now see two actor-turned-politicians facing off, Chief Minister Joseph Vijay vs Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin.

Self-Inflicted Wounds? How Mamata Became The Architect Of Her Own Collapse

May 4 has turned out to be much more than just another counting day in Bengal. It will go down as the day when a 15-year political order imploded in full public view. By mid-afternoon, it became clear that the Trinamool Congress's 15-year rule in West Bengal was coming to an end as news of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) electoral successes came pouring in from across the state. Out of a total of 294 seats in the assembly, the BJP has bagged a whopping 206, while the Trinamool Congress (TMC) has been reduced to a mere 81, a bitter loss of 133 against its 2021 sweep. The rest of the tally is divided among the CPI(M), the Congress and others, whose outcome could not tilt the scale. It was a six-to-seven per cent swing of votes in its favour that pulled the BJP from 77 seats in 2021 to where it is today, all thanks to a campaign where it not only capitalised on the TMC's mistakes but also steadily pushed its own goals. RG Kar, Nirbhaya, And How Governments Fall For the Trinamool, the main talking points in its election campaign were its welfare schemes that focused on women's empowerment, education, and rural development. Key initiatives included the flagship Lakshmir Bhandar scheme, which offers monthly financial aid to women, and other programmes such as Kanyashree, Swasthya Sathi, and Karmashree, targeting social security. The BJP, on the other hand, came with the promise of extending to Bengal its schemes from other states, and also raising the amount distributed through them. Many existing beneficiaries appear to have been convinced that even if a new government came in, the ongoing schemes would not be stopped.

Despite women's issues making up much of the core of Mamata Banerjee's policymaking - Ma, Mati, Manush was its clarion call this election - doubts about women's security in the state could not be dispelled.



Incidents like the rape and killing of a young doctor on duty at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College in 2024 cast a long shadow over the effectiveness of the state government. One could almost draw a parallel between RG Kar and the Nirbhaya incidents, both of which eventually snowballed politically, and, coupled with other factors, unseated the governments of the day.

Mamata Made It Easy For BJP

It is fair to state that West Bengal's political and social landscape has undergone a drastic change in the past few decades when it comes to communal politics. Through its relentless Hindu-versus-Muslim narrative, the BJP was able to convince a large section of the electorate, especially in the urban and peri-urban areas, that Bengal faced an impending danger of being overrun by Muslims.

Banerjee herself handed such talking points to the BJP by aggressively engaging with the state's orthodox Islamic leaders and attending their religious events, often in hijab. Schemes such as honorariums for imams also met with disapproval

from a large section of Hindus. Banerjee tried to balance this by constructing lavish temples in Digha (the Jagannath temple) and Kolkata's New Town (Durga Angan), which further entrenched her in competitive communalism in a society that had, for long, imagined itself to be relatively resistant to these forces.

The Construction 'Syndicates'

Construction and material supply syndicates were another bane for the TMC. In the absence of large or medium-sized industries, a large section of Bengal's youth resorted to supply networks to earn a living. These often boiled down to extortion of money from local businessmen in exchange for protection. Such syndicate-controlled activities ranged from construction and road-building in rural areas to illegal coal supply and cattle smuggling. Syndicates also controlled bidding for state government contracts, and part of the money generated through such operations came back to the party via its local leaders. It will be interesting to see how the BJP dismantles this syndicate system, as it promised during its election campaign. It will

need to do this because syndicates often tend to co-opt whoever is in power.

No More An Outsider

The BJP owes the astounding result significantly to Narendra Modi and Amit Shah's election management. Both made Kolkata their second home in the run-up to voting in late April. While Modi spoke about big-picture issues, it was left to Shah to take care of the nuts and bolts. The campaign was also aided by a much harder booth-level and seat-level focus than before. Without putting Hindutva front and centre of its messaging, the BJP doubled down on the idea of "Paribartan" (change) - one of their campaign slogans was "Paltano dorkar, chai BJP sorkar" ("We need change, we need a BJP government") - giving the TMC a taste of the same medicine it had administered to the Left Front in 2011, the last time Bengal's political landscape shifted seismically.

The election also unfolded under an extraordinary security and administrative architecture. Shah deployed nearly 250,000 paramilitary forces of various kinds, aided by armoured

personnel carriers - the kind usually seen in insurgency-prone areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Naxal-dominated regions, or conflict zones like Manipur. The entire state administration, from Chief Secretary to Block Development Officers, was transferred, replaced by handpicked officers from BJP-ruled states. Hundreds of special election observers from outside the state were deployed, right up to polling personnel, sending a clear message that the Election Commission (and the central government) did not trust officers from West Bengal. And all this after some 27 lakh people were struck off the electoral list through the much-debated Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. With more than 92% average polling, it appears that the people of Bengal, especially its youth, have given the BJP the mandate it was desperately seeking. The state is beset with unemployment and a lack of opportunities, which have led to thousands of youth migrating to other parts of India in search of jobs. It is clear that the TMC's leadership and a section of Bengal's media - steeped in conventional modes of narrative-building - had little sense of the tectonic shift that was underway in Bengal.

Where The BJP Worked The Hardest

One of the sharper explanations for the result lies in electoral arithmetic. Back in 2021, the TMC's advantage was not evenly spread: nearly a third of its 215 seats had been won by margins of more than 20 percentage points. This meant the BJP did not need to overturn Bengal everywhere. It needed to write off difficult seats and concentrate on the competitive ones, where a five-to-seven percentage-point swing could be decisive. The results suggest that the BJP did exactly that: it overperformed in vital pockets, made inroads into peri-urban belts.

Mamata Banerjee Brought Down The Left, But Never Quite Learnt From Its Fall

When Mamata Banerjee first took West Bengal by storm in 2011 with the twin slogans of "poribartan" (change) and "Maa, Maati, Manush" (mother, earth, mankind), she came as a breath of fresh air in a state desperate to unshackle itself from 34 years of Left rule.

Fifteen years later, her heady slogans lie tattered in a corner of West Bengal's psyche. From the bhadrakol in urban areas to the rural peasantry, from the tribals in the north and the south to the Scheduled Castes and OBCs scattered across the state, disillusionment with Mamata appears to have outstripped disgust with the Left, to hand the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) a stunning breakthrough in a state whose cultural chauvinism was long considered impervious to the appeal of Hindi heartland Hindutva. Long after the dust has settled and the first BJP chief minister assumes office in a state that the party sees as the biggest jewel in its crown after Uttar Pradesh, Mamata and other Opposition leaders will continue to question how the verdict was shaped by aggressive state interventions, such as the Election Commission's hurried Special Intensive Review (SIR) of electoral rolls (which disenfranchised around 90 lakh voters, of whom 27 lakh are awaiting a verdict on their appeals) and the positioning of 2.5 lakh paramilitary forces across West Bengal.

There are no short answers to this debate in the face of the saffron surge evident from the numbers, which tell a story in themselves. The BJP pushed up its vote share by a whopping 8%, from 38% in 2021 to 46% this time, to streak past the TMC with a comfortable four-percentage point lead. The ground was fertile for change, and the

BJP, supported all the way by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), seized the advantage with systematic and meticulous groundwork over the past couple of years.

When Mamata Arrived The rise and fall of Mamata Banerjee is a poignant saga of a self-made woman political leader who pushed her way into a men's club through sheer grit and determination. Unlike some of her contemporaries, such as the late AIADMK leader Jayalalitha or the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)'s Mayawati, Mamata had neither family legacy nor a male mentor to help her rise. She cut her teeth fighting the Left Front government on the streets of West Bengal, only to be dismissed contemptuously by the men around her, both in her own party - which was the Congress at that time - as well as her political opponents in the Left, who called her a "mad, hysterical" woman. She even took lathi blows on her head during an anti-Left demonstration in Kolkata, necessitating 18 stitches. But that didn't quieten the rebel in her.

Her star started rising once she walked out of the Congress in late 1997 to form her own regional party, the Trinamool Congress. She wove in and out of alliances, first with Atal Bihari Vajpayee's BJP, and then with Sonia Gandhi's Congress - always mercurial, always dramatic, always playing to the gallery (and performing for the media).

Ultimately, however, the traits that served her well when she swept the Left out of power in West Bengal in 2011 are the very ones that would ultimately lead to her downfall. Politics cannot survive on populism alone. The 'Didi' image earned her the undying loyalty of women

Journalism is not just a game of microphone and camera



Priyanka Saurabh

Every hand has a microphone, every voice is not a journalist

(Factless reporting in the game of views weakens public trust)

In today's digital age, the flow of information has become faster and more widespread than ever before. Smartphones and cheap internet have given everyone a platform for expression. While this is a positive sign for democracy, it also poses serious challenges. Especially when some people, armed with a microphone and camera costing just 100-200 rupees, declare themselves "journalists" and begin disseminating information without any responsibility. This problem isn't just about individuals, but about the mindset that transforms journalism into a game of views and likes rather than a responsible social obligation. Digital media has democratized journalism. Large media houses are no longer the sole purveyors of information; ordinary citizens can also record events and bring them to public attention. Often, this citizen journalism highlights issues that mainstream media ignores. This shift is also a source of strength for democracy, as it increases the diversity of voices and strengthens the demand for accountability at all levels of power. However, when



this openness is used recklessly, this very strength turns into a weakness. Today, going "viral" on social media has become the yardstick for success. In this race, some people try to gain popularity through controversy, sensationalism, and incomplete information. They know that harsh language, accusations, and provocation attract attention, so they focus more on inciting emotions than on facts. The biggest downside is that confusion spreads in society and the line between truth and falsehood becomes blurred. People accept any information as true without verifying it, causing rumors to spread rapidly and their impact to deepen. This also directly impacts government institutions. Government institutions are the administrative backbone of any nation, and their purpose is public service. If false or misleading information spreads about them, public trust is undermined. This trust is eroded not by a single news item, but by the continuous spread of incomplete or misleading information. As

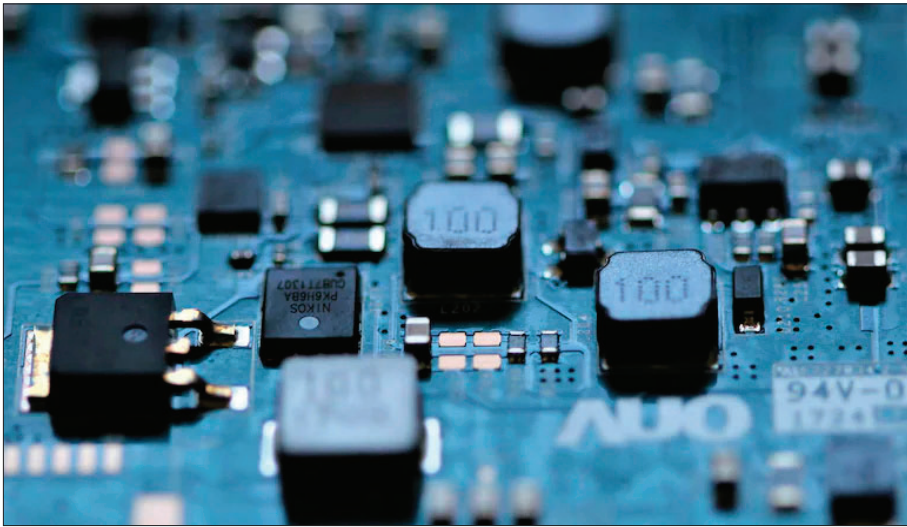
a result, people begin to doubt the system, which can lead to unnecessary conflict and discontent. It is equally true that government institutions are not infallible, but the approach to exposing their shortcomings must be factual and responsible, not merely sensational. Calling every person with a small microphone a "fake journalist" is as wrong as assuming every viral news is true. The value of journalism is determined not by equipment, but by perspective, honesty, and responsibility. Often, it's small and independent journalists who uncover the ground truth, while even large organizations sometimes err under pressure. Therefore, it's more appropriate to understand the problem as "responsible versus irresponsible" rather than "small versus big." The real crisis is the decline in journalistic values, where haste and popularity have replaced ethics and fact-checking. The solution doesn't lie in a single step; it's only possible through collective effort. First, society must become media literate, so that people don't

accept every piece of information without verifying it. They must understand that the credibility of a news story is determined by its source, evidence, and context, not by its virality. Furthermore, strict and impartial action is essential against those spreading fake news, so that a clear message is sent that freedom of expression does not mean anarchy. Digital platforms must also understand their responsibility and develop effective mechanisms to control misleading content. The need for training and ethical standards in journalism is felt more than ever. While a formal degree may not be mandatory to become a journalist, a basic understanding, a grasp of fact-checking procedures, and a sense of responsibility to society are essential. It is equally important to encourage those who work with integrity and balance to set positive examples. The greatest need today is balance. It's not right to dismiss every small journalist, nor to blindly believe every news story. We must recognize that this new age of information brings both opportunities and dangers.

Cabinet Clears Two New Semiconductor Units For Rs 3,900 Crore Under ISM 1.0

TOTAL APPROVED PROJECTS RISE TO 12

The Union Cabinet has approved two new semiconductor manufacturing projects under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 1.0, taking the total number of cleared proposals to 12. The two projects, entailing a combined investment of about Rs 3,936 crore, will be set up in Gujarat and are expected to generate over 2,200 skilled jobs. Among the approvals is the country's first commercial facility for Mini/Micro-LED display manufacturing based on Gallium Nitride (GaN) technology. This project, led by Crystal Matrix, will come up in Dholera and include an integrated compound semiconductor fabrication and assembly unit. The facility will cater to a wide range of applications, from televisions and smartphones to automotive displays and emerging segments such as extended reality devices. The second project, by Suchi Semicon, will establish an outsourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) facility in Surat. The unit will focus on discrete semiconductors with applications across power electronics, industrial systems, automotive and consumer electronics, with a pro-



posed capacity of over 1 billion chips annually. With these additions, cumulative investments under ISM have reached around Rs 1.64 lakh crore. The government said the approvals will strengthen India's broader semiconductor ecosystem, complementing ongoing efforts in chip design and manufacturing. Of the projects cleared so far, two have already begun commercial shipments, while several others are at advanced stages and expected to go online soon, signalling steady progress in India's ambition to build a domestic semiconductor

value chain. India's electronic manufacturing strategy is driven by the Prime Minister's vision of AtmaNirbhar Bharat and Making India a global manufacturing hub. The Government adopted a structured and targeted policy for electronics manufacturing across the entire value chain including semiconductors. As a result of these policies, electronics manufacturing in India has expanded significantly in the last 11 years. It can be seen from the following statistics: Semicon India Programme Semiconductors is a foundational and strate-

gic industry. Semiconductors are used in almost every device. To promote the development of its manufacturing ecosystem in India, the Government launched Semicon India Programme in January 2022. It aims at developing a complete ecosystem, ranging from design, fabrication, assembly, testing, packaging and module manufacturing. In a short span of four years, the Government has approved 10 projects with investment commitments of about ₹1.6 lakh crore. Commercial production from two plants (Micron and

Keynes) has commenced with 2 more plants to start commercial production this year. The details of the approved Semiconductor manufacturing units are placed at Annexure I. Developing India's chip design ecosystem: Government is developing India's chip design ecosystem in two ways: 1. Supporting Indian design engineers through chip design tools in a one of its kind initiative in the world, Government has provided cutting edge chip design tools from 8 different companies to 315 universities at no cost. So far, their usage has exceeded 200 lakh hours. Using these tools 211, chips have been taped out by 75 institutions across India including 149 chips at 180nm, SCL Mohali and 62 chip at overseas foundries. 2. Supporting Indian design companies through grant, free design tool and fabrication support: Government has approved 24 projects for the design of semiconductor chips and SoCs. These projects address critical sectors such as video surveillance, drone detection, energy metering, microprocessors, satellite communications, and broadband and IoT SoCs.

Dream Sports Launches DreamStreet – a new-age broking platform to help users invest with ease and confidence



May 2026, Mumbai: Dream Sports1 today announced the launch of DreamStreet2, a new-age broking platform designed to make investing simpler and more accessible for many Indians. DreamStreet combines AI, data-driven insights, and access to SEBI-registered Research Analysts (RAs) & Investment Advisors (IAs) to help investors make informed decisions. The platform is designed especially for first-time investors and those who may have stayed away from markets due to its perceived complexity or lack of guidance. At launch, DreamStreet will offer investment in stocks and ETFs, and Futures & Options (F&O) and IPOs expected to go live in the coming weeks. DreamStreet will offer a host of

features, including stock recommendations by SEBI-registered experts, AI-enabled access to information for stock and an intuitive, built-in AI companion-Veda-to assist users with insights, and analysis for smart investment decisions. Over the next few months, DreamStreet will also introduce arrangement of capabilities to further simplify investing. Rahul Mirchandani, Co-Founder and CEO, DreamStreet said, "India's demographic tailwinds - rising disposable incomes, growing financial literacy, and rapid smartphone adoption are creating a generational opportunity for new retail participation in financial markets. While we have seen strong growth in demat accounts in recent years, a significant number of potential investors remain

on the sidelines due to a lack of clarity and confidence around investing. With DreamStreet, we aim to bridge this gap. By integrating AI-enabled data G information into the core of the platform, we want to help users cut through complexity, so that more Indians can be a part of the India growth story." By combining expert advice, intelligent technology, and an intuitive investing experience, DreamStreet aims to bridge the gap between the intent to invest and the confidence needed to take the first step. At its core, DreamStreet is focused on reducing the friction and apprehension that prevent many from starting their investing and trading journeys. By combining human guidance with AI-powered intelligence, the platform seeks to inspire confidence and simplify the investing journey for users..

HCLTech expands Cornerstone Partnership with MetLife Stadium, New York Jets and New York Giants as an Official AI Partner

NOIDA, India, May 5, 2026 – HCLTech, a leading global technology company, today announced a new extension and expansion of its Cornerstone Partnership with MetLife Stadium, including its new designation as an Official AI Partner to the Stadium, the New York Jets and the New York Giants. Building on its designation as the Official Digital Transformation Partner of MetLife Stadium in September 2022, the partnership now enters its next phase, with HCLTech exploring the integration of its AI-led capabilities to create intelligent, scalable solutions that enhance customer experiences and support smarter, safer, and more connected environments. "Our partnership with MetLife Stadium, the New York Jets and the New York Giants demonstrates how strategic collaborations can drive meaningful brand impact and business outcomes," said Jill Kouri,



Global Chief Marketing Officer, HCLTech. "We have created experiences that resonate with clients while strengthening HCLTech's brand presence across the strategically important Tri-State market. We look forward to building on the momentum and equity of our relationship by leveraging this multi-year extension as a model for experience-led marketing." "HCLTech is an

indispensable partner as they enable us to explore how technology can transform the customer experience in meaningful ways," said Ron VanDeVen, President and CEO, MetLife Stadium. "As we continue to innovate, this collaboration will play a key role in enhancing the customer journey while continuing to ensure a secure and seamless experience." With a

growing portfolio of Fortune 500 clients in the United States, HCLTech continues to strengthen its presence through select, long-term sports and brand partnerships that provide a global platform to showcase its strategic work. MetLife Stadium anchors HCLTech's sports partnership portfolio that has expanded into global golf, cricket and branded hospitality.

TRAI Assesses Network Quality Across Warangal City and their adjoining areas in a Telangana State (under Andhra Pradesh Licensed Service Area)

Hyderabad, May 05, 2026: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released its Independent Drive Test (IDT) findings for the Andhra Pradesh Licensed Service Area (LSA), covering extensive city of Warangal and surrounding areas in the month of March 2026. The drive tests conducted under the supervision of the TRAI Regional Office, Hyderabad, were designed to capture real-world mobile network performance across diverse usage environments- Urban Zones, Institutional Hotspots, rural residential areas etc. Between 23rd March 2026 to 25th March 2026, TRAI teams conducted detailed tests for 375.3 Kms Warangal City drive test and 8 Hotspot locations. Technologies evaluated included 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G, reflecting the service experience of users across multiple handset capabilities. The findings of the IDT have been intimated to all



Highlights
The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released its Independent Drive Test (IDT) findings for the Andhra Pradesh Licensed Service Area (LSA), covering extensive city of Warangal and surrounding areas in the month of March 2026.

the TSPs concerned.

Key Parameters Assessed:
a) Voice Services: Call Setup Success Rate (CSSR), Drop Call Rate (DCR), Call Setup Time, Call Silence Rate, Speech Quality (MOS), Coverage.

The overall mobile network performance in Warangal city is summarized below:
Call Setup Success Rate: Airtel, BSNL, RJIL and VIL have 100%, 96.11%, 97.95% and 99.08% call setup success rate respectively in

Auto-selection mode (5G/4G/3G/2G).
b) Data Services: Download / Upload Throughput, Latency, Jitter, Packet Drop Rate, and Video Streaming Delay.
Average download speed of Airtel (5G/4G/2G) is 161.18 Mbps, BSNL (4G/3G/2G) is 8.32 Mbps, RJIL (5G/4G) is 260.01 Mbps and VIL (4G/2G) is 27.83 Mbps.
CSSR: Call Setup Success Rate (in %), CST: Call Setup Time (in seconds), DCR: Drop Call Rate (in %) & MOS: Mean Opinion Score.

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK OPENS NEW BRANCH IN HYDERABAD'S NANAKRAMGUDA AREA

Hyderabad, on 05th May 2026 in a well-organized and dignified ceremony attended by senior officials, esteemed guests, association members, and valued customers. The program commenced at 11:00 AM with the Inauguration and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, led by the Zonal Manager (ZM Madam), followed by a traditional Pooja seeking blessings for the success and prosperity of the branch. The ceremony continued with Lamp Lighting and Welcome of Guests, symbolizing the beginning of a new journey, in the presence of dignitaries, union representatives, and guests. Senior officials addressed the gathering, including: Mr. Arvind Kalra, Circle Head, Hyderabad Mr. Sujeet Kumar Jha, Circle Head, Secunderabad Ms. Vandana Pandey, Zonal Manager, Hyderabad They highlighted the



Bank's commitment to expanding its reach, delivering customer-centric services, and strengthening financial inclusion in the region. The event also provided a platform for association members, landlords, and customers to share their views and experiences, reflecting strong community engagement and support. The program concluded with a Vote of

Thanks delivered by the Branch Head, Mr. P. Somukumar, expressing gratitude to all dignitaries, guests, and participants for their presence and support. Punjab National Bank reaffirms its commitment to excellence, trust, and customer satisfaction through this new branch, aiming to serve the growing financial needs of the Nanakramguda region.

School of Law, Mahindra University, Inaugurates International Arbitration Confluence 2026; Unveils Campus-Based Arbitration Centre and Signs MoU with HNLU

Hyderabad, 5th May 2026: The School of Law at Mahindra University, Hyderabad, today inaugurated the International Arbitration Confluence 2026 (IAC 2026) — a three-day international platform dedicated to examining the intersection of law, technology, and global dispute resolution — at the APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium on campus. The event is hosted under the aegis of the Seeding Centre for Peace and Justice, MU-ADR, in collaboration with IIAM-APCAM and HNLU, Raipur.



A Distinguished Gathering
The inauguration was presided over by Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Kameswar Rao, Judge, High Court of Delhi, as Chief Guest. The ceremony was attended by Guests of Honour — Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jasmeet Singh, Judge, High Court of Delhi; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Advait Sethna, Judge, High Court of Bombay; Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravindra Bhat, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India; and Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. Raghuram, Former Director, National Judicial Academy. Special Invitees Mr. Gourab Banerji and Dr. Pinky Anand, both Senior Advocates of the

Supreme Court of India, also graced the occasion. The dignitaries were felicitated by Dr. Yajulu Medury, Vice Chancellor, Mahindra University, and Prof. (Dr.) E. R. Jayaram, Dean, School of Law, Mahindra University. Mr. Anil Xavier, Senior Advocate and President of IIAM, and Prof. (Dr.) V. C. Vivekanandan, Vice Chancellor of HNLU, Raipur, served as co-hosts of the event.

integrating law schools into the justice delivery system, articulating that justice must be prompt, affordable, satisfying, and amicable — a vision he sees realised through the Confluence's founding intent. Hon'ble Mr. Justice G. Raghuram urged the ADR community to engage in honest critical reflection on the structural weaknesses and "pathologies" of alternative dispute resolution, cautioning against complacency in the face of systemic challenges. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravindra Bhat underscored that ADR represents a fundamentally different conception

of justice — one that moves beyond adversarial frameworks toward a resolution that is humane and restorative. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Advait Sethna highlighted the primacy of dialogue in dispute resolution, arguing that meaningful conversation between parties remains the most reliable path to mutually beneficial outcomes. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jasmeet Singh drew attention to the enduring centrality of the human element in arbitral proceedings, calling for progressive and purposive interpretation of Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act — particularly in the context of rapidly advancing artificial intelligence. In his address, Chief Guest Hon'ble Mr. Justice V. Kameswar Rao reflected on ADR's inherent adaptability to technological and economic transformation, stressing that institutional arbitration — with its emphasis on transparency, accountability, and structured process — remains the most credible framework for navigating this evolution. He called for a deliberate balance between technological innovation and the irreplaceable quality of human understanding in dispute resolution.

Hegseth says the US-Iran ceasefire is 'not over' despite attacks in Strait of Hormuz

'Iran knows what not to do', Trump says when asked about ceasefire violations published at 21:21 21:21 "Well, you'll find out because I'll let you know." Trump says when asked what Iran would have to do to constitute a breach of the ceasefire. "They know what to do, or what not to do more importantly." He says they don't have any boats in their navy, instead they have eight "little boats" that are "all gone". "So they're looking around for little boats to try and compete with our great navy," he adds. On the US blockade of Iranian ports, Trump says not one Iranian ship has been able to pass. One ship tried and US forces "hit the engine with one shot" after being warned not to cross. More now from President Donald Trump, who says if the US hadn't engaged in the conflict "we would've had an Iran with a nuclear weapon". "Maybe we wouldn't all be here right now," he adds. For context,



the UN, US and EU imposed extensive economic sanctions on Iran from 2010, over suspicions that its nuclear programme was being used to develop a bomb. Iran says its nuclear programme is for civilian purposes only. The president says the US "have beaten [Iran] badly", adding that Iran is "reduced to little boats with a machine gun on

the front of them". It comes after the US attacked small Iranian boats in the Strait of Hormuz. In a Truth Social post on Monday, Trump said: "We've shot down seven small Boats or, as they like to call them, fast Boats". At the Oval Office, Trump claims Iran started the war with 159 ships, before saying "every single ship they had is rest-

ing underwater at the bottom of the sea". We've just heard Trump, who is speaking at the Oval Office, mention the ongoing war with Iran. "Iran has no chance," he says. "They never did. They know it. They express it to me when I talk to them and then they get on television and say how well they're doing." He repeats the

familiar lines that the US has wiped out Iran's military, navy, airforce, and leaders. "We can't let Iran have a nuclear weapon," he adds. Moving away from a focus on the Strait of Hormuz briefly, we can bring you this report from Lebanon where the conflict with Israel continues: Evacuation orders have become the norm for many Lebanese villages and towns in the south, and when people get these orders, they don't know when or if they will be able to go back. Yesterday several villages also got the order of evacuation and more strikes came from the Israel Defence Forces. Sometimes these orders are happening in areas that haven't been declared to be inside the yellow line, because the Israelis keep expanding their position on the ground and the areas they declare as a buffer zone to protect their borders. The Israelis maintained the same line

throughout the war that they are attacking Hezbollah infrastructure, Hezbollah personnel - but actually, if we look at figures and numbers and names of people who've been killed, most of them are civilians. Some are paramedics and journalists, even. There is mounting anger because villages and homes and towns have been destroyed or demolished completely, with the fear that these areas in the south will not go back to being residences. The Israelis have warned that no-one can come back. But the Lebanese want to come back - they have nowhere to stay. It's a really dire situation for people to go back to their homes. The manoeuvre, announced by Trump on Sunday, involves US forces guiding commercial ships and their crews through the Strait of Hormuz, which has been effectively blocked by Iran, the US Central Command (Centcom) says.

Popular Australian author pleads guilty over child exploitation material

Popular Australian author Craig Silvey, best known for his children's and young adult fiction books, has pleaded guilty to possessing and distributing child exploitation material. Silvey, 43, was arrested in January during a police raid at his Perth home in Western Australia where several electronic devices were seized. In court on Tuesday, the Jasper Jones and Runt author admitted to two charges relating to child exploitation material produced in January. Police dropped two extra charges, one over material allegedly produced in 2022. The father-of-three's bail was continued and he is due back in court in July. Since his arrest, publishers, shops and schools have pulled his books from shelves. Outside court, Silvey did not make any comments to the media. His 2009 novel Jasper Jones - a coming-of-age story featuring a 13-year-old boy as its protagon-



ist - garnered several awards in Australia and was shortlisted for the International Dublin Literary Awards. In 2017, it was made into a feature film, starring Toni Collette and Hugo Weaving. Another of his acclaimed works is 2022's Runt, about the adventures of an 11-year-old girl and her stray dog and set in the Australia outback. It was also adapted for film in 2024, featuring Celeste Barber.

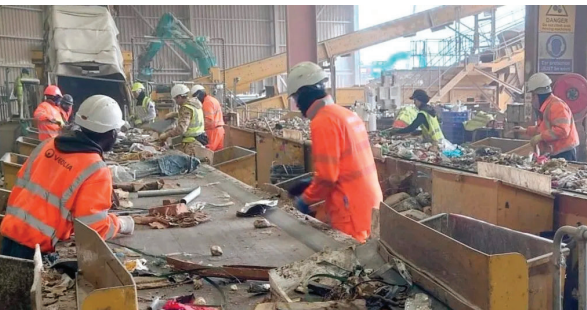
ROMANIAN PM OUSTED IN NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE



Romanian MPs have voted to remove Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan in a no-confidence vote in parliament. The largest party, the left-wing Social Democrats, abandoned Bolojan's four-party coalition last month and joined the far-right opposition to call for the vote. The Social Democrats have repeatedly clashed with Bolojan, a liberal, over austerity measures aimed at reducing the budget deficit. President Nicusor Dan, who is now expected to try to rebuild the coalition under a different prime minister, has sought to give reassurances that Romania - an EU and Nato member which borders Ukraine - will retain its pro-Brussels stance. A total of 281 MPs voted for the no-confidence motion, well above the 233 needed for the measure to pass. Elections are not due until 2028, and though a snap poll is unlikely, financial markets are concerned that the turbulence could mean Romania wavers in its commitment to narrowing the EU's biggest budget deficit. Romania's currency, the leu, fell to a record

low against the euro ahead of Tuesday's vote. Bolojan's coalition came to power 10 months ago during efforts to curb the rise of the far-right Alliance for Uniting Romanians (AUR), which won one-third of parliamentary seats. Dan himself won a tense presidential poll last May, after a far-right victory in elections the previous year was annulled over allegations of campaign fraud and Russian interference. The coalition had started to reduce the deficit but frictions with the Social Democrats grew as the leftists' voter base was hit by austerity. The party has said it is prepared to rejoin a pro-EU coalition under a different prime minister. "Political discussions will be difficult, but it is my responsibility as president - and that of the political parties - to steer Romania in the right direction," Dan told reporters. The president is now expected to nominate a different member of Bolojan's party, or possibly a technocrat, to lead a new government. Bolojan will continue as caretaker prime minister until it is approved.

Robots move in as waste firms struggle to find staff

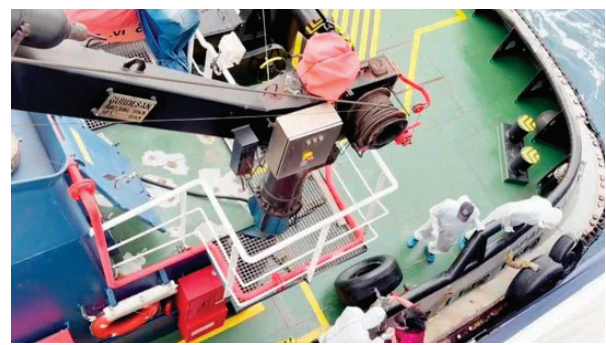


The dust at this busy recycling plant is pervasive and the steady noise of hoppers and conveyor belts makes this a challenging environment to work in. The facility in Rainham, east London is owned by Sharp Group, a family-run skip and waste management firm. Along the conveyor belts runs everything you could imagine, from shoes, to old VHS cassettes and blocks of concrete. The team here processes up to 280,000 tonnes of mixed

recycling every year with 24 agency workers on its rapid conveyor belts. This is a hazardous industry. While Sharp Group is proud of its safety record, work-related injury and ill-health in the sector is 45% higher than other industries. And the fatality rate is a sizeable multiple of the national average. These factors, along with the unpleasant nature of the work, mean keeping workers is difficult. Annual staff turnover runs at 40%.

Hantavirus may have spread between passengers on cruise ship, WHO says

The World Health Organization says there may have been rare human-to-human transmission of hantavirus on the Dutch cruise ship where three passengers have died. The virus is usually spread from rodents, but the WHO said in this instance it could have spread among "really close contacts" aboard the MV Hondius vessel. It stressed the risk to the public was low. Two crew members - one British and one Dutch - are due to be medically evacuated by aircraft to the Netherlands after displaying "acute respiratory symptoms", the ship's operator Oceanwide Expeditions said. MV Hondius set sail from Argentina on its voyage across the Atlantic Ocean around a month ago. It is



currently anchored near Cape Verde, off Africa's west coast. Medical teams from Cape Verde, supported by the WHO, have boarded the ship to help with the suspected cases, spokesperson Tarik Yasarevic told the BBC. Testing is taking place for other passengers and crew members who are displaying symptoms. Images taken from on board the cruise ship show workers in

hazmat suits in a smaller vessel alongside. Some 149 people from 23 countries remain aboard under "strict precautionary measures", Oceanwide said. They include around 20 British nationals, according to a UK government spokesperson. "We do believe that there may be some human-to-human transmission that is happening among the really close contacts," WHO offi-

cial Dr Maria Van Kerkhove said. She added that the WHO suspected the first person to fall ill could have contracted the virus before boarding the ship. Seven cases of hantavirus - two confirmed and five suspected - have so far been identified, according to the latest WHO update. A person "associated" with the German national who died is due to be medically evacuated alongside the two crew members. The two confirmed cases are a Dutch woman, who is among those who died, and a 69-year-old UK national who was evacuated to South Africa for medical treatment. The woman's husband also died but he is not a confirmed case, nor is the German national who passed away on 2 May.

Two killed and many injured after car driven into crowd in German city of Leipzig

Two people are dead and several others injured after a car drove into a crowd in the eastern German city of Leipzig on Monday afternoon, local authorities said. Leipzig Mayor Burkhard Jung said the suspected perpetrator - who authorities have confirmed is a 33-year-old German citizen - was arrested. Jung added that authorities were not yet clear about a motive. Police confirmed a car had struck several people in the central Grimmische Straße area before driving off. Authorities said 22 people were injured, including three seriously. Michael Kretschmer, the head of the state of Saxony, of which Leipzig is a part, said the sus-



pect previously suffered from mental illness. "We are utterly stunned by what has happened. A man has driven at high speed into the shopping area. We are currently mourning two deaths, three people with serious injuries and many others who have been injured," Jung said. "It is

impossible to find the right words to describe this horrific rampage." Leipzig police spokesperson, Susanne Luebecke, said that at about 17:35 (15:35 GMT) "a person drove a vehicle across Augustusplatz into Grimmische Street, continuing on past the market".

"Several people were injured in the incident. Unfortunately, we also have to report two fatalities," she added. "We are talking about a case of violent rampage here. We are working on the assumption that this was the act of a lone perpetrator and currently have no indications that there is still a threat to public safety." The Leipzig's public prosecutor's office confirmed the deceased were a 63-year-old woman and a 77-year-old man, both German citizens. It said they are investigating the suspect for murder and attempted murder, and that there was "no basis on current knowledge" to suggest there was either a religious or political motive involved.

NINE COAL MINERS DIE IN GAS EXPLOSION IN COLOMBIA



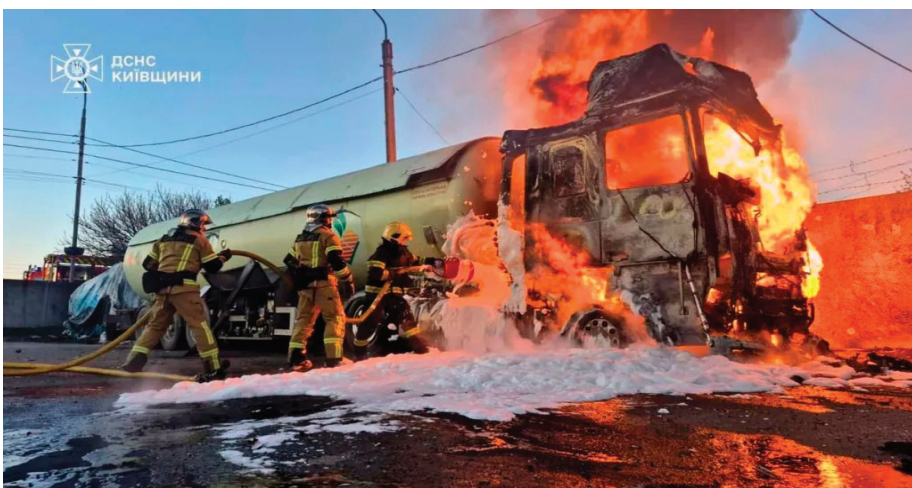
Nine people have died in an explosion at a coal mine in Colombia in the latest fatal accident to hit the country's mining sector. Emergency workers said they had rescued six miners from the shafts in Sutatausa, north of the capital, Bogotá. Colombia's national mining agency said a build-up of gases was thought to have caused the explosion at 16:00 (21:00 GMT) on Monday. It also published a list of recommendations it said it had made to the mine's operators after an inspection less than a month ago, in which it had warned of a "potentially dangerous gas build-up". Many mines in Colombia are operated informally and without proper safety standards. The captain of the regional fire department, Alvaro Farfán, said emergency workers were still working to retrieve the miners' bodies. Those who survived are being treated in hospital. Mining accidents are common in Colombia. Last July, 18

Highlights
■ Nine people have died in an explosion at a coal mine in Colombia in the latest fatal accident to hit the country's mining sector.

workers were rescued from an unlicensed gold mine after having been trapped underground for 18 hours due to a mechanical failure. One of the deadliest recent incidents also unfolded in Sutatausa in 2023, when 21 people died in a blast which tore through the tunnels of a complex of coal mines in the area. That explosion was caused by a build-up of methane gas, investigators said at the time. Sutatausa has been a coal-mining centre for decades with many of its residents working in the industry.

RUSSIA AND UKRAINE ANNOUNCE RIVAL CEASEFIRES AS DEADLY STRIKES CONTINUE

Russia and Ukraine have declared unilateral ceasefires starting this week, ahead of commemorations held by Russia to mark the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany on Saturday. Russia said it would hold a ceasefire on 8 and 9 May and threatened a "massive missile strike" on central Kyiv if Ukraine violated the truce. But Kyiv announced it would observe an open-ended ceasefire from midnight on 6 May, and that Ukraine would act "symmetrically" from that point on. Volodymyr Zelensky's chief of staff Kyrylo Budanov said that if the ceasefire announced by the Ukrainian president was reciprocated, "we will continue to observe



it... The next move is Russia's". Shortly after the warring sides announced the moves, five people were killed and dozens injured in combined missile and drone

strikes across Ukraine overnight. In Russia, authorities in the Chuvash Republic said two people were killed and 32 injured in a drone attack on Tuesday

morning. The two ceasefires appear to be unilateral - meaning the two sides have not agreed on their terms, length or monitoring. "We have made our proposal,"

Zelensky said, urging Russia to lay down arms "and move to real diplomacy". "It's utter cynicism to ask for silence to hold propaganda celebrations and to launch such missile-drone attacks every day beforehand," he added. Ukraine's earlier, open-ended truce is likely a way for Zelensky to show that his country is willing to start an immediate and lasting ceasefire and that any violations will be pinned on Russia. "We believe that human life is of incomparably greater value than the 'celebration' of any anniversary," he wrote on Telegram. Ahead of its own midnight ceasefire on Wednesday (Tuesday 22:00 GMT), Ukraine also launched a series of aerial

attacks on Russia, hitting an industrial area in Kirishi in the Leningrad region and a factory that produces military components in Cheboksary, in the Chuvash Republic. Zelensky said domestically-produced Flamingo cruise missiles were used to strike the Cheboksary factory, some 1,500km (930 miles) away from the front line. An unverified nighttime video showed a fast-moving object and large explosion. The Russian defence ministry later confirmed it had downed six Ukrainian Flamingos as well as 601 drones. On Tuesday morning, several airports across Russia were temporarily shut.



DELHI CAPITALS SETS A TARGET OF 155/7 FOR CHENNAI SUPER KINGS



"Unacceptable": Sunil Gavaskar Blasts Jasprit Bumrah For Big Error Against Lucknow Super Giants

Legendary Indian cricket team skipper Sunil Gavaskar blasted Mumbai Indians fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah for a major error during the IPL 2026 match against Lucknow Super Giants on Monday. During the 14th over of the LSG innings, Himmat Singh was foxed by a delivery from Bumrah and ended up getting caught behind by Ryan Rickelton. However, the bowler's joy was short-lived as the siren went off and the umpire signalled no-ball. Gavaskar was left fuming by Bumrah overstepping at such an important juncture and said that it is 'unacceptable' for a player of his calibre to bowl no-balls at that time. "This is not acceptable. You are a professional cricketer. Wides, I understand. But not no-balls," Gavaskar said on commentary. Mumbai Indians rode on sublime half-centuries from openers Rohit Sharma and Ryan Rickelton to outclass Lucknow Super Giants



by six wickets in a high-scoring Indian Premier League clash on Monday. Rohit hammered a fluent 84 off 44 balls and stitched a 143-run opening stand with Rickelton (83 off 32 balls) to power Mumbai Indians past Lucknow Super Giants' 228 for five, sealing the chase in 18.4 overs and notching up

their third win in 10 matches to move to six points. Lucknow, meanwhile, remained rooted to the bottom of the table with just four points from nine outings. Earlier, bottom-placed LSG finally found some spark as Nicholas Pooran smashed his maiden half-century of the season.

Dinesh Karthik Reveals How Virat Kohli Influenced Him To Join RCB As Batting Coach

Dinesh Karthik is a journeyman of sorts in the IPL. He started his journey with Delhi Daredevils and then went on to play for Kings XI Punjab, Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Gujarat Lions and Kolkata Knight Riders. The former Indian wicket-keeper-batter ended his IPL career with RCB in IPL 2024. His association with RCB, however, did not end there, as he joined the side as batting coach and mentor. Karthik has revealed that Virat Kohli played a big part in him taking up the role. "It manifested when, as I was finishing in 2024, Mo asked me if I would be keen or interested. I was in the middle of the tournament, and it was a very different IPL season - we had lost six out of seven or seven out of



eight games, I don't remember exactly - and we had a mountain to climb. To be fair, nobody gave us a chance," he said on a podcast. "But I was so invested in that. We were having discussions while I was playing, and I was also speaking to my wife and Mo. Malolan Rangarajan was also

giving me a picture of what it could be if I played. He never told me, 'Do this or do that.' He just showed me how it would look." "Mo was very confident I would be useful to the team. I trust Mo a lot - I've grown very fond of him and have a very good equation with him. He didn't convince me, but he

showed me exactly what it would look like and told me it's a good place to be, considering where I was in my career. I completely trusted him, and I dropped my hat," Karthik said on the RCB Podcast. Karthik said his multiple interactions with Kohli helped him make the decision. "In between all of this, towards the back end of the season, I spoke to Virat for a while, and he was very encouraging. He said, 'Think about it, I think it's good.' When the offer really came at the end of the season, after I hung up my boots, Mo called me and said they were keen. He also said Andy Flower was very happy and they were in a place where they felt a couple of Indian coaching staff would help as well," he said.

LSG Owner Sanjiv Goenka's Post For "Living Legend" Rohit Sharma Wins Internet

Marking a return from injury on Monday, Rohit Sharma played a pivotal role in the Mumbai Indians' victory over the Lucknow Super Giants in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026. Rohit emerged as the top-scoring batter in the match, registering an 84-run knock of 44 balls, while also orchestrating a match-winning partnership of 143 runs for the first wicket with Ryan Rickelton. After the game, Rohit engaged in a casual chat with the owner of the LSG franchise, Sanjiv Goenka, who shared a post on Tuesday, calling the MI stalwart a 'living legend'. The 39-year-old opener batter was making his return to the MI playing XI after missing a few matches due to injury, and he played an



impactful knock in just 44 balls with the help of six fours and seven sixes. As Goenka met Rohit after the game, he couldn't stop hailing his humility. "The warmth @ImRo45 carries shows up in every conversation I have with him. His humility is evident in every

moment spent around him. That's what makes him a champion and a living legend," the post from the LSG owner read. Speaking on Star Sports' 'Amul Cricket Live', the former Indian skipper Sunil Gavaskar lauded Rohit Sharma's batting display against LSG. "I

have been watching Rohit Sharma closely over the last year. Ever since he was removed as captain in white-ball cricket and the IPL, he has focused more on his batting. He scored runs in the ODI series against Australia, did well in the home series, and now he is doing the same in the IPL. In the IPL, he usually scores 400 to 500 runs a season, but his knocks are often impactful. He may not have many 80-plus innings, but his 40 to 50-run starts give his team early momentum," said Gavaskar. "The change in his game is clear: he now wants to bat deeper and leave a bigger impact. In this 84-run knock, we saw all the typical Rohit Sharma shots. The pull shot was on display.

"Then I Got Married": Ruturaj Gaikwad's 'Scared' Reply To Young Fan Goes Viral

Chennai Super Kings skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad left everyone in splits with a hilarious reply to a young fan during a recent event. In a video going viral on social media, Ruturaj was asked whether he is scared of facing bouncers and beamers but his reply caught his teammates off-guard and left everyone amused. "What do you think about the bowlers? Are they fast? Aren't you scared? Because bouncers and beamers will be bowled," the young fan asked. In reply, Gaikwad said - "No. I was scared till may two-three years back. But they I got married. Then, now I'm more scared of my wife". Chennai Super Kings bowling coach Eric Simons on Monday said that MS Dhoni has not travelled for the away game against Delhi Capitals here,



though he is steadily improving after yet to play a game this season due to a calf injury. More than half the season is done with CSK set to play their 10th game in what has been an underwhelming campaign. Like every season since his international retirement, there is immense speculation over the future of the 44-year-old Indian great in the IPL. In the

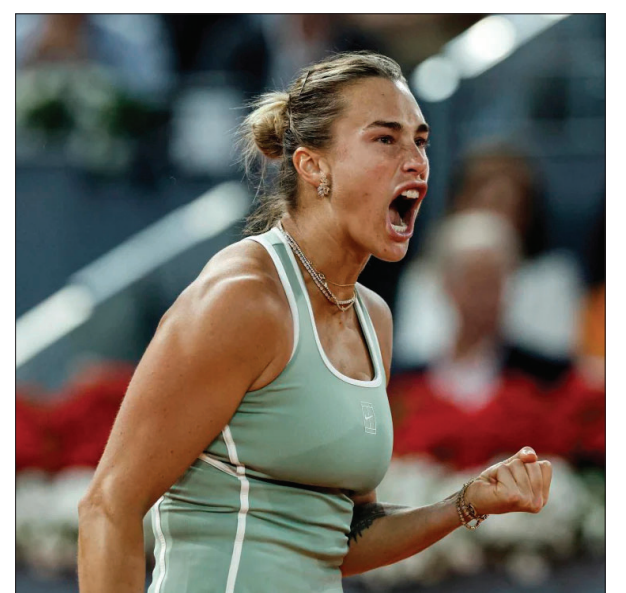
pre-match interaction, it was a hardly a surprise that the first question was on Dhoni, who has been batting in the nets of late. "Update on MS Dhoni is way above my pay grade. He's not with us (in Delhi), but steadily improving. He'll be ready when he's ready, and he knows when he's ready to play," that was all Simons had to say on the team icon.

Coach Luis Enrique Has PSG On Brink Of Another Champions League Final



Luis Enrique will join a select group of coaching greats if he leads Paris Saint-Germain to Champions League glory again this season, and it is his remarkable management that has the French club tantalisingly close to reaching the final once again. PSG head to Munich for the second leg of their semi-final against Bayern on Wednesday defending a 5-4 lead from an incredible first meeting which was one of the greatest matches in the competition's history. "It was the best game I have been fortunate enough to be involved in as a coach," Luis Enrique said after that encounter at the Parc des Princes. He nevertheless believes his side will need to score another three goals at the Allianz Arena in order to see off the German champions and secure a place in the May 30 final in Budapest. But he and his side need not look too far back for inspiration - their last visit to Munich ended in PSG hammering Inter Milan 5-0 in last season's final as they won the Champions League for the first time in their history. Maybe, after all he has achieved in his career, Luis Enrique could have simply walked away following that triumph, his job done.

World No. 1 Calls For 'Boycott' Just Ahead Of French Open



Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka believes tennis players should organize a boycott if they don't start receiving a bigger share of tournament revenues at the Grand Slams. Sabalenka and fellow No. 1 Jannik Sinner were among leading players - most of them ranked in the top 10 - who issued a statement on Monday expressing "deep disappointment" over the French Open prize money. "Without us there wouldn't be a tournament and there wouldn't be that entertainment. I feel like definitely we deserve to be paid more percentage," Sabalenka said on Tuesday at the Italian Open as she celebrated her 28th birthday. "I think at some point we will boycott it. I feel like that's going to be the only way to fight for our rights." The players are also seeking better representation, health options and pensions from the four

Grand Slam tournaments: Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open. French Open organizers announced last month they were increasing overall prize money by about 10% for an overall pot of 61.7 million euros (\$72.1 million), with the total amount up 5.3 million euros from last year. But the players' statement said "the underlying figures tell a very different story," claiming they will receive a smaller share of tournament revenues. "Players' share of Roland Garros tournament revenue has declined from 15.5% in 2024 to 14.9% projected in 2026," the players said. Iga Swiatek, a four-time French Open champion, said "the most important thing is to have proper communication and discussions with the governing bodies so we have some space to talk and maybe negotiate.

Record 1.3m apply for 2027 London marathon ballot

A record number of people have applied to participate in the 2027 London Marathon via the public ballot. In total, 1,338,544 people have applied for the event which will take place on 25 April, breaking last year's record of 1,133,813. The 2026 marathon had a record 59,830 finishers and was the biggest annual one-day fundraising event in the world. "This astonishing total of applicants firmly establishes London as the world's most sought-after marathon," said Hugh Brasher, chief executive of London Marathon Events. "Nothing else comes close. Our mission is to inspire people of every age and ability to get active - and these extraordinary numbers show the



massive draw and power of the London Marathon." The ballot results will be released early in July, with places allocated through a random

draw. It is the first time that more than a million applications from the UK alone have been submitted, and there was near parity in male and

female registrations. At last weekend's historic event, Kenya's Sebastian Sawe ran the first sub-two-hour marathon in a competitive

race, and Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa broke her own women's world record. The possibility of holding the 2027 London Marathon across two days - Saturday and Sunday - is still being explored. Brasher previously said the idea would be to hold the elite women's race on one of the days, alongside other women to have gained entry through their previous marathon times - and wheelchair races. The men's equivalents would take place on the other day, with mass races across both days. Speaking to BBC Breakfast on Tuesday, Brasher said he hoped it would be confirmed by the end of May. "This is for one year only. We are engaging, and have been

engaging for a long time, with a lot of stakeholders," he said. "Rightly, they want us to go through a process to ensure what we do is appropriate. People will get disrupted - it's never happened before on a Saturday. "There are lots of plans and mitigations that we've got and we would have to do some unique things. "But I think this shows the desire, the need, for the country. More than £400m of economic and social benefit would happen as a result of the two days, and we believe more than £150m would be raised for charities. "It would be a one-off. We hope to get there - we're not there yet. I'm positive it's the right thing to do."

Kara' Reinforces the Power of Content, Establishing a Strong Telugu Footprint with 4.8 Cr+ in 4 Days



Following its theatrical release on April 30, 2026, Kara, starring Dhanush and directed by Vignesh Raja, is witnessing a strong and steadily expanding run in the Telugu market, grossing 4.8 Cr+ within its first four days. Released by CH Sathish Kumar & Rajesh Kumar Bobbara under Vigneshwara Entertainments - R Star Logistics, the film is translating its strong content and audience connect into consistent theatrical performance across the Telugu states. Produced by Dr. Ishari K. Ganesh under Vels Film International Ltd, in association with Think Studios and

Vigneshwara Entertainments, Kara continues to build on its pre-release momentum, evolving into a content-led success driven by performances, narrative depth, and sustained audience engagement. Set against the backdrop of the 1991 Gulf War and the fuel crisis in India, Kara follows the journey of an ordinary man whose life is pulled into extraordinary circumstances shaped by economic disruption, scarcity, and survival. As the crisis tightens its grip, the character is drawn into a tense chain of events where personal choices, moral pressure, and situational urgency intersect, creating a narrative that is

both intimate and expansive in its scope. This rooted socio-political setting has played a key role in enhancing the film's realism and emotional resonance. At the centre of this narrative is Dhanush, whose performance has emerged as the defining force of the film's success. With a portrayal marked by restraint, emotional precision, and internal intensity, he brings depth to a character navigating fear, responsibility, and consequence. His performance has been widely appreciated across audiences and critics, further strengthening the film's cross-language appeal and driving repeat viewership.

Suriya, RJ Balaji, Dream Warrior Pictures' 'Veerabhadradu' completes censoring - Censor Board grants U/A certificate - Movie to have grand release on May 14th



Suriya has joined hands with director RJ Balaji for his magnum opus mass commercial entertainer 'Veerabhadradu'. This most awaited movie is being produced on a grand scale by Dream Warrior Pictures, a production house that has made a name for itself by producing several successful films. The film has recently completed its

censoring. The Censor Board has given the film a U/A certificate. Dream Warrior Pictures, which has provided popular content in the Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi industries, is making this film with ambition, keeping in mind both scale and content. The teaser and songs of this film, which have already been released, have created huge expectations.

RAKSHASAPURAM' SET FOR A GRAND THEATRICAL RELEASE ON MAY 15: KS RAMA RAO

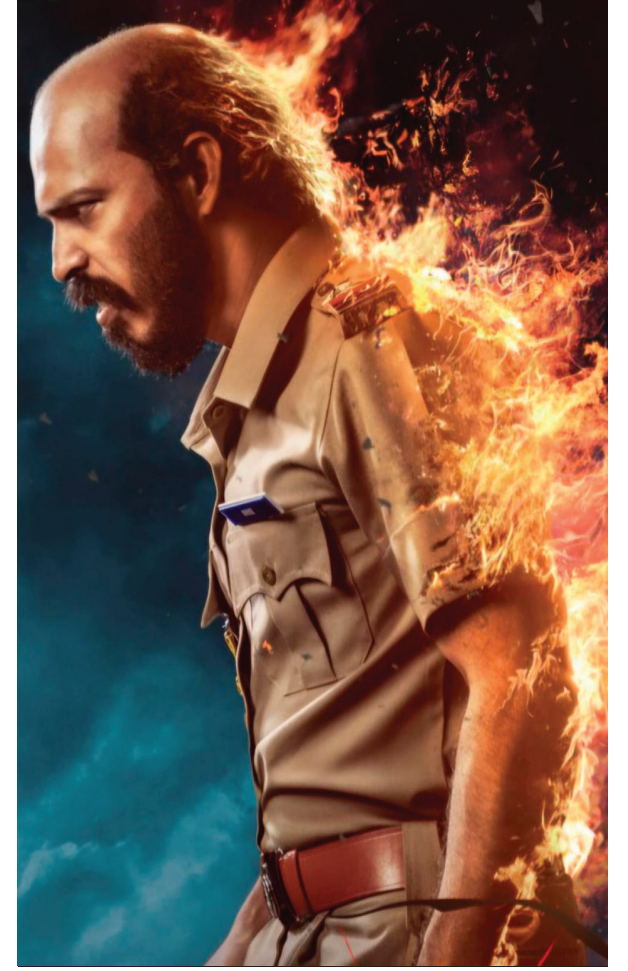
Senior producer and head of the prestigious Creative Commercials banner, KS Rama Rao, is bringing his latest offering, 'Rakshasapuram', to the Telugu audience. This film is the official Telugu dubbed version of the Kannada sensation 'Rakshasapura'. Producer KS Rama Rao has officially announced that the movie will hit screens worldwide on May 15, 2026.

The Plot and Cast

The film stars the versatile Raj B. Shetty, known for his unique acting style, in a powerful role as a Police Inspector. Directed by Dr. Ravi, the movie is a gripping murder mystery thriller. The narrative, centered around an intense investigation, promises to keep the audience on the edge of their seats with its suspenseful screenplay.

Reason for the Release Date Shift

While the film was initially slated for a May 7 release, the date was moved to May 15. Producer KS Rama Rao explained the strategy behind this change: Optimal Distribution: To secure better theaters and ensure maximum reach across the states. Summer Advantage: To capitalize on the ongoing summer vacation holidays. The IPL Factor: Addressing the current industry climate, he noted: IPL has become a curse for



the film industry. In the future, there might be no chance of releasing films during the IPL season. Producers must plan releases when the IPL is not active. Between the rise of OTT and the IPL season, the film industry is facing heavy losses." Despite the competition from cricket and digital platforms, the film unit remains confident that the audience will always sup-

port content-driven cinema.

Promotion and Expectations

Screenings: Distributors are planning special early shows, expecting a massive response for morning and matinee slots. Promotions: The official trailer and other promotional content are scheduled to be released soon to ramp up the buzz.

FLOPS ON SCREEN, FIREWORKS ON EVERY COVER

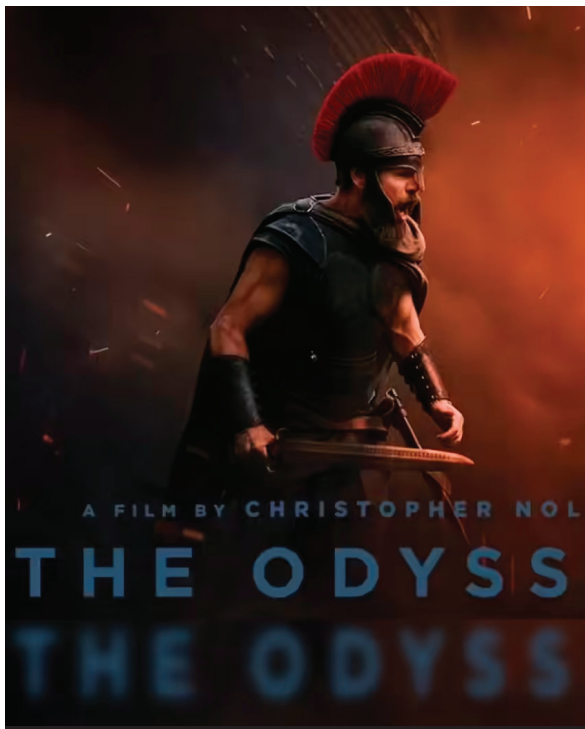


Krithi Shetty's recent films haven't quite matched those early highs. Krithi has been quietly winning a very different game, the cover page game. From Peacock to Aza to HT City Showstoppers, she has nailed every single shoot. But her Elle India Digital May 2026 cover? That is a whole new level altogether. The Elle shoot is nothing short of stunning. On the cover, she sits gracefully in a bold tropical printed dress against a beautiful Himalayan backdrop, totally effortless. Inside, she stuns in a red draped skirt with a heavily embroidered multi-colour halter top, full of garden-party energy. A

dreamy yellow-to-pink ombre kurta with olive pants and a printed headband gives soft and fresh vibes. She then switches to an earthy gold-green ruched co-ord, off-shoulder top and floor-length skirt, looking every bit like a forest goddess. Each look is bold, breezy and completely her own. On the film front, there is a lot to look forward to. Krithi is set to star in the upcoming entertainer directed by Anil Ravipudi, alongside the legendary Victory Venkatesh. With a mass director and a beloved hero together, fans are keeping fingers crossed that this film brings Krithi right back to the top, where she truly belongs.

THE ODYSSEY TRAILER: NOT EVEN THE GODS CAN STOP HIM

Filmmaker Christopher Nolan recently revealed a new trailer for his film The Odyssey on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert. This trailer gives more focus to supporting characters like Robert Pattinson as Antinous and Charlize Theron as Calypso, along with the main cast including Matt Damon as Odysseus, Anne Hathaway as Penelope, and Tom Holland as Telemachus. In the trailer, Calypso asks Odysseus what he remembers while he is stuck far from home. He recalls his family and winning a war, but also feels that his kingdom is in danger. Determined to return, he begins a long and difficult journey. He confidently says that no one, not even the gods, can stop him, but the final scene hints that his journey may not be easy. Technically, the film is extremely good and lives upto the standards of Nolan. The expectations are



naturally high and the team is anticipating a huge success with it as it will have a release in regional languages like Telugu and Tamil in India, along with Hindi. The film is based on

Homer's famous epic story. It also features actors like Zendaya and Lupita Nyong'o. Shot completely on IMAX cameras, the film is set to release in theatres on July 17. The trailer kicks

things off with Odysseus floating alone at sea, far removed from the point of glory following the Trojan War and quickly sets up a narrative of survival. It shows him battling not only the elements but also exhaustion and isolation. Unlike other adaptations, this version eschews the more traditional approach to depicting Odysseus and goes for a more realistic take. Instead of focusing on a hero's journey, this version appears to be physically and emotionally devastating. Based on the footage, Christopher Nolan's take on The Odyssey appears to cut out much of the fantasy and spectacle and focus on the human. While it appears that mythological elements will be a deeply embedded aspect of the film, the tone of the world is raw and grounded. The world feels harsh and unforgiving. Instead of a mythological journey, the trailer depicts a narrative of survival.

MET GALA: PRICE OF HYDERABAD'S SUDHA REDDY'S DIAMOND NECKLACE



The Met Gala 2026 once again lived up to its reputation as the world's most glamorous fashion event. Held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the night saw global celebrities arriving in bold, artistic outfits inspired by the theme "Fashion Is Art." Known as fashion's biggest night, the event brings together stars from film, business, and fashion on one iconic red carpet. While many international celebrities grabbed attention, it was Hyderabad-based entrepreneur Sudha Reddy who truly stood out. She brought a strong Indian presence to the global stage with a look that mixed luxury and tradition in a powerful way. Sudha Reddy's Necklace Price The biggest talking point of her look was her stunning necklace,

valued at around Rs. 142 crore (15 million USD). At the centre of the necklace was a rare 550-carat tanzanite stone called the "Queen of Merelani," surrounded by diamonds in a vintage Victorian-style design. What made it even more special is that it came from her personal collection, not borrowed like many celebrity jewels. Sudha paired the jewellery with a custom outfit designed by Manish Malhotra. The gown, inspired by traditional Kalamkari art, was titled "The Tree of Life." It featured detailed embroidery, rich fabrics, and cultural motifs, and was crafted over thousands of hours by skilled artisans. The outfit perfectly matched the theme and highlighted Indian craftsmanship on a global platform.

VIRAL VIDEO: POOJA HEGDE PREDICTED THALAPATHY VIJAY'S 2025 WIN

South star Pooja Hegde, who has been making a strong comeback in films, recently expressed her excitement over actor Vijay's historic victory in the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. Known for being active on social media, Pooja shared her happiness with fans and congratulated Vijay for his remarkable achievement. Pooja Hegde shared a behind-the-scenes video from the set of Jana Nayagan, where she played a fun prediction game about the election. In the video, a board reads, "Who wins the elections?" Pooja points to Vijay, hinting that he would win. Vijay covers his face,



smiling shyly, while Pooja's playful gesture made fans laugh. She captioned the video, "Guess I called it before it happened? Here's to dreams turning into reality, Vijay sir." Fans also noticed an interesting coincidence from Vijay's earlier

film Goat. In the movie, his car carried the number plate TN 07CM 2026. Social media users joked that it seemed like fate had predicted Vijay becoming Chief Minister in 2026. This small detail, combined with Pooja's playful video,

became a trending topic online. Vijay, a first-time contestant, created history by winning in both Perambur and Tiruchirappalli East constituencies. Many people, including celebrities, congratulated him on this unprecedented victory. His party, started just two years ago, now holds power in Tamil Nadu, marking a major milestone in his career. Jana Nayagan Film Update Jana Nayagan, directed by H Vinoth, stars Vijay and Pooja Hegde together for the first time since Beast. The film has faced delays due to censor certification issues.