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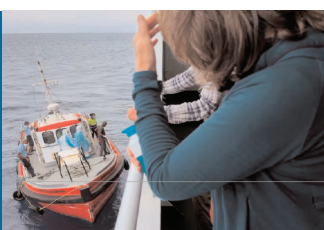
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TMC's battle against BJP to continue: Abhishek Banerjee

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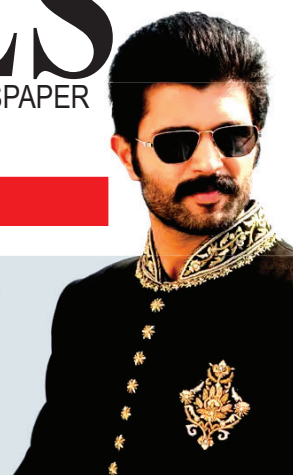
Hantavirus cases nearly doubled in Argentina in the past year. Experts say climate change is to blame

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Sensational Vijay Deverakonda's Birthday Special Poster from "Rowdy Janardhana" unveiled; Introduces His Love & Soul

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SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

08-05-2026
Total pilgrims : 67222
Tonsures: 33,188
Hundi kanakalu: 3.90 CR
Waiting Compartments: Outside line at Krishna Teja Guest house.
Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens): 18 H

PM to Dedicate Rs.1,535 Crore Railway Projects in Telangana



Hyderabad (TSIT BUREAU):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate major railway infrastructure projects worth around Rs.1,535 crore in Telangana on May 10, aiming to enhance rail connectivity, operational efficiency, and freight movement across the region. The projects include multiple sections of the Kazipet-Vijayawada multi-tracking project covering 118 kilometres along the busy Grand Trunk railway corridor, a key route for both passenger and cargo traffic. The upgrades are expected to facilitate faster train operations, reduce congestion, improve punctuality, and significantly boost freight transportation. In addition, the Kazipet Rail Under Rail Bypass will be inaugurated, which will decongest the busy Kazipet Junction by allowing simultaneous train movements towards Hyderabad, Balharshah, and Vijayawada. Officials said the bypass will streamline operations, reduce delays, and strengthen Telangana's rail network. Railway authorities stated that the projects will contribute to economic growth, industrial expansion, and logistics development in the state by improving overall rail infrastructure and efficiency.

Hyderabad to get 'traffic free city' makeover: Revanth



Hyderabad TSIT Bureau:

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday outlined an ambitious plan to transform Hyderabad into a "Traffic Free City" through a comprehensive network of underpasses, elevated corridors, surface roads, multi-level parking complexes, and a multi-modal transport system.

Addressing the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing, CM Revanth emphasized that merely widening roads would not solve the city's congestion. Instead, a

multi-pronged transportation model and improved public transport infrastructure are being adopted to ensure smoother traffic movement.

The Chief Minister presented a futuristic regional development model, dividing Telangana into three economic zones: Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) for services within the ORR, Peri-Urban Region Economy (PURE) as a manufacturing hub, and Rural Agriculture Region Economy (RARE) focusing on agriculture beyond the RRR. He also highlighted the "Telangana Rising 2047" vision, aiming for a \$1 trillion econo-

my by 2034 and \$3 trillion by 2047. Environmental initiatives include electric buses for RTC and conversion of auto-rickshaws to electric vehicles in the CURE region. Detailed plans for drinking water, urban development, and the Musi River Rejuvenation Project were presented.

Committee members praised the government's initiatives, especially the Musi River project, and commended efforts in women empowerment and visionary urban planning. CM Revanth sought the Centre's support for infrastructure projects to realize Hyderabad's transformation.

Suvendu Adhikari takes oath as Bengal's first BJP chief minister amid saffron spectacle at Brigade

Kolkata TSIT:

In a historic political transition, Suvendu Adhikari took oath as the first BJP Chief Minister of West Bengal, ending 15 years of Trinamool Congress rule. The oath-taking ceremony was held at Brigade Parade Ground, a venue symbolic of Bengal's shifting political landscape, at exactly 11:32 am on Rabindra Jayanti, the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

Governor R. N. Ravi administered the oath in Bengali. Adhikari, 55, wore a saffron kurta and white pyjama, and took the oath in the name of God in front of a crowd that included Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, BJP president Nitin Nabin, and chief ministers from nearly 20 BJP-led states. The ceremony showcased Bengali culture with



floral tributes to Tagore, portraits of Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Purulia Chhau dancers, and folk performances. PM Modi performed a full sashtanga pranam before the public, earning loud cheers from supporters.

Alongside Adhikari, five ministers — Dilip

Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtaniya, Khudiram Tudu, and Nisith Pramanik — were sworn into the new cabinet. Leaders from the NDA and BJP, including Yogi Adityanath, Himanta Biswa Sarma, N. Chandrababu Naidu, Devendra Fadnavis, Smriti Irani, and actor-

politician Mithun Chakraborty, attended the event. The BJP secured 207 of 293 seats, marking the party's first-ever government in West Bengal. Supporters celebrated the political shift as the beginning of a "Sonar Bangla" era, expressing hope for change and improved governance in the state.

India successfully tests Agni missile with multiple payloads



New Delhi (TSIT):

The Advanced Agni missile with Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) system, capable of hitting different targets spread over a large area, was successfully flight-tested over the Indian Ocean Region, a DRDO official said on Saturday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh complimented the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Indian Army, and industry on the successful flight test conducted on Friday.

"This will add an incredible capability to the country's defence preparedness against the growing threat perceptions," he said. The successful flight trial of the Advanced Agni missile with MIRV was conducted from Dr

APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha, said an official statement. The missile was flight-tested with multiple payloads, targeting different targets spatially distributed across the Indian Ocean Region, it said.

Telemetry and tracking were carried out by multiple ground- and ship-based stations. These systems tracked the entire missile trajectory from lift-off to the impact of all payloads. Flight data confirmed that all mission objectives were met during the trial, the statement said.

"With this successful trial, India once again demonstrated the capability to target multiple strategic targets using a single missile system. This missile is developed by DRDO laboratories with the support of industries across the country," it said.

Vijay meets Governor for 4th time to stake claim for govt formation in TN

Chennai (TSIT)

In a major political development in Tamil Nadu, the Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) on Saturday extended its support to the Vijay-led Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK), enabling the party to cross the majority mark of 118 MLAs required to form the government in the state. Following the development, TVK chief C. Joseph Vijay met Governor-in-Charge Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar to formally stake a claim to form the next government.

Notably, Vijay has met the Governor for the fourth time in as many days. Tamil Nadu went to the polls for all 234 Assembly constituencies in a single phase on April 23. The election witnessed a fierce four-cor-



The suspense ended when the Thirumavalavan-led VCK, which has two seats, extended support after keeping the TVK on tenterhooks and the political circles abuzz over its stand.

nered contest involving the DMK, AIADMK, Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK), and TVK.

The results, declared

on May 4, saw TVK emerge as the single-largest party with 108 seats, though it initially fell short of the majority mark in the Assembly.

After the results, intense political negotiations began in Chennai, with TVK initiating talks with several parties and independent legislators to gather support for government formation.

Rahul, Kharge to take final call on Kerala Chief Minister

New Delhi (TSIT):

Suspense over the Congress' choice for the next Chief Minister of Kerala continued on Saturday after nearly three hours of high-level deliberations at Congress President Mallikarjuna Kharge's residence here.

Senior party sources said the final decision would be taken by Congress President Kharge and senior party leader Rahul Gandhi, while an official announcement would be made "in due course". AICC general secretary in charge of Kerala Deepa Dasmunshi said. The meeting was attended by key Kerala



Congress leaders, including V.D. Satheesan, K.C. Venugopal and Ramesh Chennithala, and focused on finalising the leadership transition following the party's strong performance in the state.

However, despite prolonged discussions and back-to-back consultations, the party refrained from announcing a deci-

sion, indicating that further internal deliberations could take place.

Speaking to reporters after the closed-door meeting, Dasmunshi said: "The name will be announced in due course. We have time till May 23, so the announcement can happen any time before that."

She reiterated that the party leadership was carefully evaluating all aspects before formalising its decision. Addressing reporters outside Kharge's residence, V.D. Satheesan expressed concern over protests reported from parts of Kerala earlier in the day.

Shivakumar denies Tamil Nadu MLAs visited Eagleton resort

Bengaluru (TSIT):

Deputy Chief Minister and State Congress President, D.K. Shivakumar, said that reports claiming that Tamil Nadu party MLAs had arrived at the Eagleton Resort on the outskirts of Bengaluru were false. He said he was not aware of any such development and added that if there had been any such development, he himself would have informed about it.

He further stated that the Eagleton Resort is currently closed for repairs and that all reports in this regard are false.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, he said, "I don't know where they have gone. Some say they have gone to Hyderabad, while others claim they



have arrived in Bengaluru. I saw such reports on television, but I am not aware of it. The party high command has not spoken to me yet regarding the matter. It would be a different matter if the high command had discussed it with me."

"Whatever stand the party takes, I will abide by it," he said.

"It is the party's decision. I have left it to the party. They asked me to go for campaigning, and I went for campaigning.

Indian seafarer killed after ship catches fire, sinks near Strait of Hormuz

Dubai/New Delhi (TSIT):

An Indian seafarer lost his life while four others sustained burn injuries after a wooden dhow carrying 18 Indian crew members capsized near the Strait of Hormuz following a fire onboard, official sources confirmed on Saturday.

The incident took place on Friday in the strategically sensitive Strait of Hormuz region, where tensions linked to the ongoing Iran-US conflict continue to escalate, and reports of drone activity in the area have heightened security concerns. According to sources, the wooden dhow was transporting general cargo when the fire broke out. Authorities are still



trying to determine the exact cause of the blaze that led to the vessel capsizing. Providing details of the incident, a government source said, "A wooden Dhow, carrying general cargo, with 18 Indian crew capsized yesterday close to the Strait of Hormuz after it caught fire. The exact cause of the fire is being ascertained. The crew members were rescued by a vessel which was passing by. In

this incident, one Indian on the dhow died while four received burn injuries. The injured are receiving medical treatment in Dubai and are safe." The source further stated that officials from the Indian Consulate had met the rescued Indian nationals on Friday night and were coordinating with the dhow owner while extending all possible support and assistance to the crew members and their families.

TMC's battle against BJP to continue: Abhishek Banerjee

Kolkata, May 9 : As Suwendu Adhikari took oath as the ninth Chief Minister of West Bengal on Saturday afternoon, Trinamool Congress general secretary and the party's Lok Sabha member, Abhishek Banerjee, claimed that his party's struggle and movement against BJP would continue.

He said this was despite the BJP's victory in the recently concluded West Bengal Assembly elections through an allegedly rigged process.

"We have fought an extremely difficult election where nearly 30 lakh genuine voters were allegedly disenfranchised from the electoral rolls. Throughout this entire process, we witnessed what we believe was deeply partisan conduct by several government agencies as well as the Election Commission of India," Banerjee observed in a social media statement issued on Saturday.

Targeting the Election Commission



of India (ECI), Banerjee said that the democratic institutions that were meant to function impartially appeared compromised, raising serious concerns about the fairness, credibility and transparency of the electoral process in West Bengal.

"From the counting process to allegations surrounding the handling and movement of EVMs, mismatch of control units, several disturbing incidents

have left millions of people questioning whether the true mandate of the people has been respected. I have already demanded the release of CCTV FOOTAGE FROM THE COUNTING CENTRES and a transparent counting of VVPAT slips so that the truth can come before the people and every doubt can be addressed openly and honestly," his statement read.

According to him,

since democracy could only survive when electoral institutions inspire trust and confidence among citizens, what was witnessed in the recently concluded West Bengal elections was shaking the trust of the people in these institutions.

"At the same time, reports of post-poll violence, attacks on party offices, intimidation of our party workers and threats against supporters are deeply

alarming and unacceptable in a democratic society. Many dedicated Trinamool workers and supporters who fought tirelessly on the ground have allegedly faced targeted attacks and have been forced to flee their homes out of fear and insecurity. No political worker in a democracy should ever have to choose between their safety and their political beliefs," Banerjee said.

He concluded his statement claiming that he and his colleagues in Trinamool Congress would continue to stand firmly with the people of West Bengal and with every Trinamool worker who fought tooth and nail against what his party believed was a compromised electoral machinery. "Under the guidance and leadership of Mamata Banerjee, our fight for democracy, constitutional values and the rights and dignity of the people will continue without fear and without compromise," he added.

Govt inaugurates Maharashtra's first future-ready Post Office

New Delhi, May 9 : The renovated Andheri RS Post Office in Mumbai was inaugurated as a future-ready Post Office under the Jan Sewa Connect initiative, an official statement said on Saturday. The upgraded facility features modern infrastructure and interiors, enhanced customer amenities, digital integration, efficient service delivery systems and strengthened branding and visual identity, the statement from Ministry of Communications said.

Jan Sewa Connect is India Post's flagship infrastructure modernisation initiative aimed at reimagining post offices as accessible, efficient and digitally empowered community service hubs. India Post has proposed the upgradation of around 2,000 post offices across Maharashtra under the initiative. Andheri RS Post Office is one of 40 sites chosen for a Proof of Concept across 17 States under Jan Sewa Connect and is the first in Maharashtra and the second in the country to be opened under the initiative.

The Greatest Gift for a Mother is Good Health

Hyderabad: As Mother's Day approaches on the second Sunday of May, medical experts at KIMS Cuddles, Kondapur stress that the greatest gift for mothers is not material, but good health. Dr. K. Shilpi Reddy, Clinical Director of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, highlighted that mothers often neglect their own well-being while caring for their families, leading to long-term physical and mental health challenges.

Dr. Reddy advised that women prioritize regular health check-ups, maintain a balanced diet, engage in at least 30 minutes of daily physical activity, ensure sufficient rest, and practice yoga or meditation to manage stress. She emphasized that mental health is equally crucial, as balancing household, professional, and child-care responsibilities can create significant stress. Families also play a vital role in supporting mothers by encouraging healthy habits, providing emotional support, and sharing household responsibilities. Dr. Reddy urged that this Mother's Day, beyond gifts and celebrations, families should focus on promoting mothers' health, reinforcing the idea that a healthy mother is the foundation of a happy and thriving family.



DR. K. SHILPI REDDY
CLINICAL DIRECTOR –
OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY,
FERTILITY SPECIALIST, HIGH-
RISK PREGNANCY CARE,
MINIMAL INVASIVE SURGEON &
ROBOTIC SURGEON
KIMS CUDDLES, KONDAPUR

Bayireddi Foundation Launches Major Summer Relief and Community Service Initiatives in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, May 9, 2026: Responding to rising summer temperatures across the city, Bayireddi Foundation carried out extensive community service initiatives from May 7 to 9, aimed at providing relief to commuters, workers, and vulnerable populations. The Foundation distributed nearly 6,000 servings of lemon water and buttermilk at key locations including Raidurgam Metro Station, Gachibowli Junction, and Hitech City, offering immediate relief from the heat. Volunteers actively served people on-site,



ensuring wide reach and effective implementation. In a significant health initiative, over 300 employees donated blood at a camp organized with Chiranjeevi Eye & Blood Bank, supporting emer-

gency medical needs in the city. Additionally, around 1,000 food packets were distributed to cancer patients, attendants, and hospital staff at Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital & Research

Institute, providing comfort to families traveling from distant areas. Srinivas Pindi, Vice President HR & TA at Phenom, highlighted the importance of corporate social responsibility, praising employees' voluntary participation and reaffirming continued support for community welfare. Founded by Mahe Bayireddi and Hari Bayireddi, the Bayireddi Foundation remains committed to social development through healthcare, education, and relief initiatives, creating meaningful impact across Hyderabad.

State Open Chess Tournament Showcases Young Talent and Sportsmanship

Vijayawada May 9: The State Open Chess Tournament was successfully organized under the leadership of Dr. Shivani Kondapalli, Managing Director of IDPS School, aiming to promote intellectual sports and nurture young talent across the state. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students and chess players representing multiple districts. Competitors demonstrated remarkable focus, discipline, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

Galla Madhavi graced the event as Chief Guest, while Koneru Ashok Kumar attended as Special Guest. Dr. Shivani Kondapalli high-

lighted that chess is more than a game—it cultivates analytical thinking, patience, decision-making, and confidence among children. She encouraged students to engage in mind games and competitive activities for holistic development. The tournament was conducted with the support of Ravindra Raaju Academy of Chess Education, coaches, parents, teachers, sponsors, and media representatives. Winners and participants were lauded for their dedication and performance. The management expressed heartfelt gratitude to all contributors who helped make the tournament a grand success.



No Health Without Mental Health: Kamineni Hospitals Emphasizes Awareness Amid AI Era



Hyderabad, May 9: On the occasion of Mental Health Awareness Month-2026, Kamineni Hospitals organized an awareness program titled 'More Good Days, Together' at LB Nagar, highlighting the critical importance of mental health in modern life.

Senior Consultant Psychiatrist Dr. M. Saradhi Goud emphasized that physical health alone does not ensure overall well-being. He stated that mental disorders such as depression, anxiety, stress, and addictions are medical conditions influenced by biological, psychological, and social factors. Dr. Goud urged people not to feel ashamed to seek professional help, stressing that early identification, counseling, lifestyle changes, and medication can effectively manage mental health issues.

Consultant Psychiatrist

Dr. Gautami Nagabhairava highlighted the mental health challenges posed by excessive social media use, smartphones, and AI. She noted that cyberbullying, gaming addiction, insomnia, and pressure to maintain a perfect online image are affecting youth, particularly children and teenagers. Dr. Gautami stressed that while technology offers benefits, it should not interfere with sleep, exercise, relationships, or emotional well-being.

Doctors at Kamineni Hospitals called for dispelling myths around mental health, promoting emotional support, and using technology responsibly to ensure holistic health. The program aimed to encourage society to treat mental health care as a normal and essential part of life. Several hospital doctors and staff participated in the awareness initiative.

500+ Orthopaedic Surgeons, International Faculty Gather in Hyderabad for Robotic Hip Replacement Conference

Hyderabad, May 9, 2026: Medicovert Hospitals, Secunderabad, is hosting a two-day national conference on Robotic-Assisted Hip Replacement on May 9-10, 2026, bringing together over 500 orthopaedic surgeons from across India alongside internationally recognised faculty. The event, held at Novotel Hyderabad, is organised in collaboration with the Telangana Orthopaedic Association, Twin



Cities Orthopaedic Society, and Telangana Arthroplasty Association. The programme

aims to train young surgeons in advanced robotic and computer-assisted joint replace-

ment techniques, increasingly essential in modern orthopaedic care. International expert Dr. Andrew B. Wickline, MD, FAOS, shared insights from his practice in New York, where same-day hip replacement discharge is routine due to robotic precision. Dr. Uday Krishna Myneni, Head of Orthopaedics at Medicovert Hospitals, highlighted the advantages of robotic-assisted surgery for Indian patients.

"Yashoda Hospitals Group" recognized as one of the best hospitals among the list of "World's Best Hospitals 2026" by the eminent international magazine

Hyderabad, May 9, 2026: Yashoda Hospitals Group-Hyderabad has earned a prestigious place in the "World's Best Hospitals 2026" rankings jointly announced by internationally renowned & eminent magazine "Newsweek" and Statista and also secured the best hospitals recognition as one of the India's leading hospitals.

Yashoda Hospitals has achieved this prestigious recognition for the 8th consecutive year once again demonstrating its commitment to excellence and quality in healthcare services. The 2026 World's Best Hospitals rankings were prepared after evaluating 2,780 hospitals across the globe. The assessment considered several key parameters including quality of patient care, patient experience, advanced medical technology, and clinical excellence. Yashoda Hospitals' inclusion in this presti-



gious list reflects the outstanding contribution and excellence achieved by the Group in the healthcare sector of the India & Telugu states.

Notably, among all the hospitals, only seven hospitals from the Telugu states were secured place in the "World's Best Hospitals 2026" list. Again among them, Yashoda Hospitals Group's

Somajiguda, Secunderabad and Malakpet all Three hospitals earned very prominent positions in India's Top 100 Best Hospitals as well as in the global list of world's best hospitals by "Newsweek" and Statista. On this occasion, Yashoda Hospitals Group, Chairman Shri Gorukanti Ravender Rao, said, "This global recognition once

again establishes Yashoda Hospitals as a trusted Medical institution delivering world-class healthcare services. This achievement stands as a testament to our continuous efforts and unwavering commitment towards providing international standards of medical care. Receiving this honour for the 8th consecutive year is a matter of immense pride for our doctors, medical teams, and staff members. We will continue striving further to improve better patient outcomes through advanced technology, expert medical services, and a compassionate approach to healthcare. Yashoda Hospitals has always remained focused on delivering the highest standards of world class medical care. This achievement has been possible because of the dedication of our doctors and staff, and the trust placed on us by our patients."

RINS Empowers Young Doctors Through Specialized Masterclass in Neurology & Neurosurgery

Musheerabad, Secunderabad, May 9: A two-day "Masterclass in Neurology & Neurosurgery" aimed at enhancing the clinical knowledge and practical skills of postgraduate medical students and resident doctors commenced on Saturday at the Alumni Auditorium of Gandhi Medical College, Musheerabad. The academic program is being jointly organized by the Departments of Neurology and Neurosurgery of Renova Institute of Neurological Sciences (RINS), the Departments of Neurology and Neurosurgery at Gandhi Hospital, Pan Research Foundation, and the Telangana Neurosciences Society (TNS). More than 80 postgraduate medical students and resident doctors from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are participating in the intensive training program, which focuses on recent advancements and modern treatment approaches in Neurology and Neurosurgery.

The inaugural session was formally launched with the lighting of the



ceremonial lamp by Dr. Dhairyawan, Founder Chairman, Telangana Neurosciences Society; Dr. N. Pratap Kumar, Secretary, TNS; Dr. D. Raja Reddy, Former Director of NIMS; and Mr. Ravindranath Garaga, COO, Renova Group of Hospitals.

Speaking on the occasion, Organizing Chairman Dr. J.M.K. Murthy and Organizing Secretaries Dr. T.V.R.K. Murthy and Dr. Syed Ameer Basha Paspala stated that the masterclass was specially designed to strengthen the clinical competencies of postgraduate students and resident doctors pursuing Neurology and Neurosurgery. They said that

the program includes hands-on clinical training, bedside examination techniques, clinical case discussions, and mock examination sessions to help participants enhance their diagnostic, clinical examination, and patient assessment skills. Senior faculty members shared their academic and clinical expertise while guiding students on effective approaches for practical and university examinations.

Prof. K. Srinivas, Head of the Department of Neurosurgery, Gandhi Hospital, Prof. K. Ravi, and Prof. R. Ramesh, Head of the Department of Neurology, Gandhi Hospital, played a key role in the successful conduct of the masterclass and provided valuable academic guidance to the participating students. Senior professors also shared their extensive clinical experience and offered important insights and practical tips to help students effectively prepare for practical and university examinations.

EDITORIAL

West Bengal: Mission Accomplished

In a ruthlessly crafted mission, with the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) being close collaborators, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government has been laid low in west Bengal.

In a shameful first, 2.7 million voters came to be disenfranchised because their “logical discrepancies” – a device never used before by the Election commission – could not be sorted out for want of time. What that unprecedented breach of the Constitutional injunction that “free and fair” elections cannot be said to have been held should even a single eligible voter be prevented from casting her vote does to the republic order is for residual democrats to ponder.

Imagine that the total difference of votes cast for the BJP and the TMC has been three million or so. What might have happened had the 2.7 million disenfranchised voters actually voted is for all to wonder at, especially in view of the seats that were lost or won by less than 5,000 votes.

A travesty of an electoral process if there ever was one. The felling of the feisty Mamata Banerjee has brought cheer equally to the Left and the Right. Long viewed as an unpedigreed usurper who had the temerity in 2011 to rudely bring down the 34-year-old Left front regime – high priests of theory and iron-clad organisation notwithstanding – by, of all things, mobilising the farming community against industrialists who were eyeing to acquire agricultural land to set up manufacturing units, leading to an episode of police firing on agitating peasantry with many fatalities resulting, the vandalism visited now on a statue of Lenin seems less consequential than the ignominious exit of Banerjee, the bete noir.

That Left cadres have for some time now been openly raising the slogan “pehle Ram, phir Vaam” (first the party of Ram, meaning the BJP, then the Left) is not exactly the best kept secret of recent West Bengal politics. Therefore, it is just as well that the Mamata party has been brought low, even if by the fascist right-wing that has played the communal card to the hilt. Never before have Bengalis been so nakedly appeased as Hindus as during the campaign run by the Modi-Shah combine. Even the memory of the constitutional/electoral imperative that no appeals may be made to religious or other identity markers during electoral campaigns has now been lost to the ECI, the executive, and wretchedly, vast sections of the populace as well. Mamata, conversely, has been arraigned for molly-coddling Muslims in the name of secularism. Indeed, the erstwhile TMC leader-turned-BJP frontrunner, Suvenud Adhikari, has loudly let it be known that since only Hindus voted for him, there was no call on him to look after Muslim issues. It is another matter that his party did not put up a single Muslim candidate. The least attention to Muslim problems is no longer to be viewed as the State’s constitutional duty to protect and preserve minority interest within a still-secular Constitution.

Indeed, the fall of West Bengal has brought nearer the coveted Sanatan goal of forging a unitary state – a sort of one-party right wing parallel to the Chinese model, dumping the principle of federalism as anathema to national unity. Peninsular India still remains rather cussed in its refusal to prostrate to the unitary idea, but West Bengal has shown that the captive State now has all the wherewithal to breach the Deccan in time to come. When that happens, the argument and the ground would have been made available to formally effect the transformation of the State into a majoritarian theocracy, with civilisational oneness crushing the decrepit pluralisms of old. There remains though one thorn in the side of this unitary project – like it or not, the Indian National Congress. The animal refuses to embrace the extinction so often pronounced and prophesied by the loud mouths of the right-wing.

Admirably, Rahul Gandhi, giving proof of a sagacious political vision, has rebuked the local unit of the party in West Bengal for their petty gloating over Mamata’s defeat, rectifying some of his own negative observations of earlier days. Conversely, Mamata has lost no time in acknowledging the gesture and reciprocating the sentiment, vowing to work to strengthen the INDIA bloc. It is to be hoped by all those still wedded to the ideal of a pluralist, multiparty democracy, underpinned by staunchly independent institutions, that not only the TMC but other factions as well who once were part of the Indian National Congress, will see the pit that awaits Indian Constitutional democracy, and forge a new unity across the republic that may acquire the clout to build a people’s movement forged not just on lung power but a deeply considered conjoint understanding of how a manifesto of a people’s charter may be drawn up, and what organisational mechanisms may be conjointly put in place across northern and central India to unravel the depredations wrought by a rampaging right-wing that now needs the Constitution only as a facade till brought down. The need for a thoroughly analysed and assimilated alternate politics

Mamata and all other elements of the secular-democratic INDIA bloc will need to understand that the return to a collectivity cannot just be a Pavlovian response to political adversity, but a thoroughly analysed and assimilated alternate politics that has the substance to defeat the right-wing in the hearts and minds of the common citizenry. Now that both the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Left front in Kerala have been ousted, it will be for them and parties like the Samajwadi party and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in Bihar to hold hands with the Congress to salvage the centre before worrying about their pocket-boroughs as their chief myopic concerns. There is a new youthful generation of Indians gone quite American in foregrounding money before emancipatory or enlightened social and political ideas. In a grand capitalist phrase, the corporate media calls them the “aspirational class”. Surely, a nation’s educational system cannot be geared merely to feeding the aspiration for higher incomes to the exclusion of ethical, altruistic orientations of mind. And surely, our pride in civilisational values can hardly square with a world view which regards the acquisition of private wealth as the acme of developmental nationalism. Corporate media houses and the ubiquitous barrage of commercial messages, made poisonously addictive through digital instruments, are now a formidable Epsteinian reality, and the task of retrieving an ethical state and polity are stupendously intractable.

HUMANITY DESCENDING INTO THE GUTTER



PRIYANKA SAURABH

Indian cities today appear divided into two images. One is of gleaming roads, smart city projects, sprawling malls, and cleanliness campaigns, while the other is of heaps of garbage, stinking drains, overflowing sewers, and people wading through them. Unfortunately, society often avoids seeing the second image, because it reveals not just filth but also the truth about our social character. The very people who are responsible for cleaning cities are still facing the most humiliation, insecurity, and neglect. This is not just an administrative failure, but the result of a casteist mentality that has, for thousands of years, considered certain people to be “cleaners of dirt.”

It’s ironic that in a society where cleanliness is equated with God, the very same person who cleans doesn’t receive equal status. The very hands that keep cities clean are not respected by people at the doorsteps of their homes. The Constitution guaranteed equality, laws criminalized untouchability, but the filth of caste, deeply embedded in society’s minds, remains ingrained. This is why sanitation workers still overwhelmingly belong to a single caste. It’s the biggest

social paradox of modern India that a country that reached the moon still forces its own citizens to clean gutters with their bare hands.

Every year, news comes from different parts of the country about the deaths of sanitation workers due to toxic gas while cleaning sewers. The media briefly discusses the matter, the administration expresses grief, politicians announce compensation, and then the matter is over. But life never returns to normal for those families. The death of a worker is not just the death of one person, but the end of an entire family’s hopes, their children’s future, and their livelihood. The saddest thing is that society has almost accepted these deaths as “normal,” as if they are not accidents but their predestined fate.

The question is, why do humans still have to descend into sewers? Can’t machines do this work in this age of technology? The truth is that machines exist, technology exists, and resources exist, but the lives of sanitation workers have never been considered a priority. The lives of poor laborers are cheap for this system. This is why people are forced into toxic sewers without safety equipment. Often, contractors and officials know this is illegal, yet it continues because the victims are not influential individuals.

If a senior official, doctor, or government employee dies prematurely, the entire system swings into action. Financial assistance is provided to the family, government jobs are provided, messages from leaders arrive, and condolences are expressed. This should be the case, because every human life

is precious. But why does this same sensitivity disappear when a sanitation worker dies in a sewer? Why are the tears of his wife and children considered less precious? Why is society not as disturbed by his death? The answer isn’t merely economic or administrative, but social. The casteist mindset ingrained in our minds for centuries has “normalized” the suffering of sanitation workers. In fact, the filth in our minds is more dangerous than the filth on the streets. The municipal corporation can remove the garbage from the streets, but mental garbage will only be removed by changing the mindset of generations. We have turned cleanliness into a caste, not a job. We have convinced some people that they were born to clean up filth. This thinking is the biggest threat to both democracy and humanity. In any civilized society, no profession is determined by birth, but in India, caste has determined a person’s identity, respect, and even employment. It’s also ironic that a country that has launched campaigns like “Clean India” has failed to ensure the safety of sanitation workers. It’s easy to grab a broom for a photo op, but it takes serious political will to change the lives of those who descend into sewers. Even today, in many municipalities, sewer cleaning is entirely dependent on contractors. To save costs, contractors don’t provide safety equipment, forcing workers into the pit of death. When accidents occur, the blame is passed on to others. Rarely does any official or contractor face severe punishment. This impunity perpetuates these deaths. It’s also worth noting that sani-

itation workers face not only economic injustice but also social humiliation. They clean cities, but are often forced to live in slums. Their children face discrimination in schools. In many places, people still hesitate to eat with them. What kind of society is this that wants cleanliness but refuses to respect the people who do it?

We must understand that sanitation is no small task. Doctors save bodies, teachers build futures, and sanitation workers protect society from disease. If sanitation workers stopped working one day, life in cities would come to a standstill. Epidemics would spread, and stench and infection would make life difficult. Yet, the lowest respect and highest risk are associated with that very profession. This is not only a social failure, but also a moral bankruptcy.

The problem won’t be solved by mere speeches. First and foremost, complete mechanization of sewer and gutter cleaning is essential.

Forcing any human being to expose themselves to toxic gases is a direct violation of human rights. Governments must seriously invest in modern machinery, robotic technology, and safety equipment. Furthermore, if a sanitation worker dies, the relevant officials and contractors should be charged with culpable homicide. This cycle will not stop until accountability is established.

Additionally, the families of sanitation workers must receive respectable compensation. The government cannot absolve itself of its responsibility by simply handing out a few lakh rupees. Assistance of at least one

crore rupees, a government job for one family member, and a guarantee of education and housing for the children should be provided. Because those who lost their lives were not just laborers, but a vital part of the system that keeps society healthy.

But even laws and compensation will remain incomplete until society changes its mindset. Schools, universities, and social organizations must launch serious awareness campaigns against casteism. Children must be taught that no work is small, and a person’s dignity is not diminished by their profession. Until sanitation workers receive equal respect, the dream of a “Clean India” will remain unfilled.

Today, the need is not just to clean cities, but to cleanse the soul of society. We must look within ourselves and ask why the death of a sanitation worker doesn’t disturb us as much as the death of a senior official does. Why are jobs still divided on the basis of caste? And why, despite claiming modernity, we remain mentally centuries behind.

The true identity of a nation isn’t determined by its tall buildings, wide roads, and economic growth, but by how it treats its most vulnerable and hardworking citizens. If sanitation workers continue to die in sewers and society remains silent, it’s not just their defeat, but the defeat of democracy as a whole.

We must acknowledge that the real filth lies not in the garbage heaps, but in the mindset that divides people along caste lines. The day this mental filth is cleared, India will truly be worthy of being called a clean, civilized, and humane nation.

From Confrontation to Consultation



AMARAVAJI NAGARAJU

The role played by RTC workers in the Telangana movement remains deeply etched in public memory. They were not mere participants but frontline contributors who sacrificed livelihoods, halted services, and risked personal security to support the cause of statehood. In the aftermath of Telangana’s formation, there was a widespread expectation that their contributions would be honoured through job security, institutional strengthening, and welfare measures. However, those expectations remained largely unfulfilled during the previous regime. The discontent among RTC workers reached a peak during the 52-day strike in 2019. Far from being a routine labour protest, it was a movement rooted in dignity, livelihood security, and long-pending demands. The response of the then government was marked by rigidity. Declaring the strike illegal, refusing dialogue, and invoking the “self-dismissal” of nearly 48,000 employees created an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty. Reports of worker deaths, including alleged suicides, underscored the human cost of the crisis. Yet, a conciliatory approach was conspicuously absent.

The episode revealed a deeper structural issue: the failure to engage with labour concerns through democratic dialogue. Decisions such as delaying pay revisions, withholding retirement benefits, discontinuing union

recognition, and shelving the promise of RTC’s merger into the government further eroded trust. For a workforce that had stood firmly behind the Telangana movement, this phase was widely perceived as a betrayal. In contrast, the current Congress government has adopted a markedly different approach. Under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, there has been a visible shift from confrontation to consultation. The government’s handling of recent labour concerns reflects a willingness to engage, listen, and resolve through dialogue – a fundamental principle of democratic governance.

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar’s proactive intervention played a key role in resolving the latest strike within days. By facilitating discussions between management and worker unions, the government created space for negotiation and mutual understanding. The acknowledgment that long-pending issues cannot be resolved overnight, but require sustained engagement, reflects administrative maturity.

Concrete measures have further reinforced worker confidence. The government has agreed to an 11% fitment, initiated discussions on the long-pending merger issue through a committee, and restored the recognition of unions that were previously dissolved. Additionally, the clearance of pending dues, including Rs.280 crore in wage revision bonds and other allowances, signals a commitment to financial accountability. Equally significant has been the government’s humane approach from engaging directly with workers to offering assurances on wages during strike periods and withdrawing cases filed earlier. Such gestures, though administrative in nature, carry symbolic weight in rebuilding trust.

Vijay Gets Math Right, But Trust Deficit Can Be His Government's Achilles' Heel

Actor-turned-politician Vijay has moved closer to achieving his goal - becoming the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Yes, you can hear a collective sigh of relief among supporters of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) all over the state.

After twists and turns that would put a Kollywood pot-boiler to shame, TVK chief Vijay can finally show the 120 MLAs-elect in his support to Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Arlekar. The extension of support by the VCK and a change of heart by the IUML helped Vijay cross the finish line after much huffing and puffing. On Friday evening, Vijay’s request for an invite to be sworn in as chief minister had been turned down because his numbers were two short of the majority mark of 118. That is because the VCK had postponed its decision to Saturday, while the IUML refused to extend support. Meanwhile, the AMMK accused the TVK of forging the signature of its lone MLA from Mannargudi to make it seem he was extending support. That is an allegation that could still queer the pitch for the TVK. Vijay would do well to keep his fingers crossed and his legal arguments ready. But through Friday night and early hours of Saturday, one man - Thol Thirumavalavan of the VCK - kept the TVK waiting. The inordinate delay led to speculation that some hard bargaining was taking place behind closed doors, even though the VCK denied any demands were made and said it was because one of its two MLAs was not in Chennai. Its letter of support said “unconditional support” but the nature of cabinet formation and early decisions would shed light on what the VCK has got in return for its support. After all, there is nothing called a free lunch in pol-



itics. Will Vijay now provide a stable government? Highly unlikely. To understand what Tamil Nadu politics may look like in the next few months - and why it will be marked by trust deficit - it is important to understand what unfolded behind the scenes.

After Vijay’s initial two attempts to convince Lok Bhavan about his numbers failed, the TVK began serious attempts to get the DMK allies - the CPI, CPM, VCK and IUML, all four parties with two MLAs each - on board. In fact, ‘proper attempts’ would be the right phrase because, according to VCK general secretary Sinthanai Selvan, the TVK in the post-results phase had sent messages over WhatsApp seeking support instead of Vijay personally reaching out to Thirumavalavan. “How are we supposed to understand seeking support through a WhatsApp message?” he asked. The indignation was justified. This time, Vijay personally called up Thirumavalavan to seek his support. Having learnt an important lesson that Gen-Z mode of communication is frowned upon by traditional politicians, the TVK also received help from the Congress top leadership that had a vested interest in making the coalition arrange-

ment work. The Congress had received flak for deserting the DMK and had been labelled as “backstabbers”. Chairperson of the DMK Parliamentary party, Kanimozhi, even shot off a letter to the Lok Sabha Speaker, informing him that the DMK MPs no longer wanted to be seated alongside the Congress MPs in the House. If Vijay fell short, the Congress too would have been left with egg on its face. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi worked the phones to reach out to Thirumavalavan, the IUML leadership, which is part of the UDF in Kerala, and leaders of the two Left parties. All four were part of the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA) with the Congress in Tamil Nadu. Stalin was reportedly reluctant to see the four alliance partners go because once the Congress + Left + VCK + IUML supported the TVK, it would give Vijay the reputation of being anti-BJP, a tag the DMK wanted exclusively for itself. The movement of VCK and the IUML could result in a loss of the Dalit and minority votes that otherwise accrue to the DMK. The developments over the last 48 hours, when the prospect of an alternative in the form of an

AIADMK-led government supported by the DMK from the outside gained traction, proved decisive in determining which way the four parties would go. According to CPM general secretary MA Baby, the DMK wanted the two Left parties to support the AIADMK-led formation. The CPI and CPM refused. They realised that if they did not jump ship, they would be indirectly aiding in the formation of such a government. Particularly when the PMK, whose presence is anathema to the VCK, would be part of such a formation. A DMK-AIADMK political arrangement, it was also felt, would not be stable in the long run. The parties, therefore, went back into a huddle to do a SWOT analysis of the decision to support a Vijay-led coalition. The parties had good reasons to consider the offer favourably. The TVK offer was like a lifeline to the two Left parties, still nursing the wounds of their humiliating defeat in Kerala. The “outside support” to the TVK government allows the CPI and CPM to be part of the power structure in a big state like Tamil Nadu. The VCK chief had reason to worry about the erosion in his Dalit vote bank. 28 SC MLAs were elected on the TVK ticket - four of them in general constituencies.

Global oil stockpiles deplete at record pace due to Iran war disruptions

The world has burned through oil inventories at a record speed as the Iran war throttles flows from the Persian Gulf, eating into the very buffer that protects against supply shocks. The rapidly shrinking stockpiles mean that the risk of even more extreme price spikes and shortages is getting ever-closer, leaving governments and industries with fewer options to cushion the impact of the loss of more than a billion barrels of supply, two months into the near-closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The sharp depletion will also mean the market stays vulnerable for longer to future disruptions even after the conflict ends. Morgan Stanley estimates global oil stockpiles dropped by about 4.8 million barrels a day between March 1 and April 25 — far exceeding the previous peak for a quarterly drawdown in data compiled by the International Energy Agency. Crude accounts for almost 60% of the decline, and refined fuels the rest. Crucially, the system also requires a minimum level of oil, which means that the “operational minimum” is reached long before the inventories actually hit zero, said Natasha Kaneva, JPMorgan Chase &



Co.'s head of global commodities research. “Inventories are acting as the shock absorber of the global oil system,” she said. But “not every barrel can be drawn.” There are some signs that the drawdown may have slowed slightly in recent days, according to Goldman Sachs Group Inc., which pointed to weaker demand from China, the world's top oil importer — leaving more available for other buyers. Still, global visible oil stocks are already close to their lowest since 2018, the bank said. Estimating global inventories involves both art and science. A large part are

strategic caches of crude and fuel controlled by governments, either directly or by requiring the industry to maintain a level of reserves that can be released when needed, or a combination of the two. But there's also a huge amount in commercial stockpiles — the inventories of oil producers, refiners, traders and distributors held as part of normal business operations. The most immediate points of stress are in a handful of fuel-import-reliant countries in Asia, with traders pointing to Indonesia, Vietnam, Pakistan and the Philippines as the biggest worries, potentially hitting

critical levels of supplies in as little as a month. Larger economies in the region, particularly China remain comfortable for now. However, European jet-fuel stocks are also depleting fast just as summer vacations approach, and some analysts predict they could hit critical levels as soon as June. Operational Minimum JPMorgan's Kaneva warns that inventories in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development could reach “operational stress levels” early next month, if the strait doesn't reopen, and then “operational minimum” floors by September.

That's the point when the world hits the bare minimum amounts of oil needed for pipelines, storage tanks and export terminals to function properly. The US, which has become the supplier of last resort to the world, has already drawn down domestic inventories of crude and fuels to below historical averages as exports surge. US crude stocks, including the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve, have dropped for the last four straight weeks, according to government data. US distillate stockpiles were at their lowest point since 2005 at the end of last week, while gasoline stockpiles were hovering near their lowest seasonal levels since 2014. While America's oil drillers have started to turn the taps on, executives have warned that inventories are likely to keep falling in the short-term. Even if the waterway reopens, Gulf output and shipping is unlikely to return to normal levels any time soon, meaning fuel users could have to dig even deeper into storage tanks. The conflict has already sent physical crude and key fuel prices surging, threatening higher inflation and intensifying the risk of a global recession.

CBI RAIDS 17 MUMBAI LOCATIONS IN RELIANCE ADA GROUP CASES



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted searches at 17 locations in Mumbai in connection with three cases registered against companies of the Anil Ambani-led Reliance ADA Group, according to an official statement issued on Saturday. The searches, carried out on May 9, 2026, relate to the cases against Reliance Telecom Ltd., Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd. and Reliance Home Finance Ltd., along with their directors. According to the agency,

the raids were conducted at the residential premises of the companies' directors as well as offices of intermediary entities allegedly used for diversion of bank funds. The CBI said the searches were conducted based on warrants issued on May 8 by the Special Judge for CBI cases in Mumbai. The agency said it seized incriminating documents during the operation. Investigators also found that multiple intermediary



Royal Enfield announces Rs 2,200 Cr AP plant amid Kolar showroom Kannada row

Bengaluru: Leading two-wheeler manufacturer Royal Enfield has announced plans to establish a massive new manufacturing facility in Andhra Pradesh with an estimated investment of Rs 2,200 crore, a move expected to generate more than 5,000 direct and indirect jobs. Significantly, the announcement comes on the same day that a Royal Enfield showroom in Karnataka's Kolar district came under attack from Kannada activists over a signboard-related dispute. Though the two developments are unrelated, the timing has triggered discussions about Karnataka potentially missing out on another major industrial investment opportunity. Royal Enfield, which already operates a major manufacturing base in Tamil Nadu, had reportedly been exploring options for setting up a second large-scale production unit outside the state for several years. According to reports, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu personally approved the project through the State



Investment Promotion Board (SIPB). The upcoming plant will be established at Satyavedu in Tirupati district, close to the Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu border. The new facility will mark Royal Enfield's first major production unit outside Tamil Nadu since the company began operations in India in the 1950s. The project is expected to be implemented in two phases with a total investment of around Rs 2,200 crore. Officials said the plant would have an annual production capacity of nearly nine lakh units once fully operational. In addition to

boosting manufacturing output, the project is expected to create employment opportunities for more than 5,000 people in the region. The Andhra Pradesh government has reportedly allocated around 267 acres of land for the project. Along with the manufacturing facility, a dedicated vendor park will also be developed to support component suppliers and improve logistics efficiency. The vendor ecosystem is expected to reduce transportation costs and speed up production processes. As per the proposed timeline, the first phase of the project is likely to be completed by

2029, while the second phase is expected to be operational by 2032. The new facility is aimed at meeting the growing domestic and international demand for Royal Enfield motorcycles. Meanwhile, in Karnataka, members of the Karnataka Nadu Nudi Swabhimani Vedike staged a protest at a Royal Enfield showroom in Kolar over alleged non-compliance with Kannada signboard regulations. Activists reportedly entered the showroom premises, questioned officials over the prominence of Kannada on display boards and issued a warning notice.

Upgrade Your Sound with Sennheiser at the Amazon Great Summer Sale 2026

New Delhi May 2026: Sennheiser, a global leader in audio innovation, has announced special offers on its premium audio products as part of the Amazon Great Summer Sale 2026, starting 8 May. Customers can enjoy discounts of up to 42% on selected Sennheiser products, including the MOMENTUM 4 Wireless, Profile Wireless 1-Channel Set and 2-Channel Set, MOMENTUM True Wireless 4, HDB 630, AMBEO Soundbar Mini, HD 490 PRO Plus, Profile USB Microphone, and more. Additionally, shoppers can benefit from no cost EMI options for up to 24 months and select bank offers, making it the perfect time to experience Sennheiser's signature sound.

MOMENTUM 4 Wireless
Upgrade your audio game with Sennheiser's flagship MOMENTUM 4 Wireless. Engineered with precision 42mm transducers, these premium headphones deliver the brand's signature sound with rich detail. Enjoy Adaptive Noise



Cancellation, Transparency Mode, and up to 60 hours of battery life in a lightweight, ergonomic design with ultra-soft ear cushions for all-day comfort. The Smart Control App lets you personalize your sound, while intuitive features like Smart Pause and Auto On/Off make every moment seamless. Available at 21,990, with additional discounts on select bank cards during the Amazon Great Summer Sale.

Profile Wireless Series
Take your content to the next level with the

Sennheiser Profile Wireless series, a versatile wireless microphone solution designed for content creators and videographers on the move. The Profile Wireless 2-Channel Set is an all-in-one creator audio toolkit featuring a compact 2.4 GHz receiver, two clip-on microphones, and a portable charging bar that also functions as a handheld interview microphone. Designed for flexibility, it supports cameras, smartphones, and computers, offering a versatile solution for a wide range of content creation workflows. The Profile Wireless 1-

Channel Mic offers a streamlined single-microphone solution tailored for solo creators who require a lighter, more compact setup while maintaining the same professional-grade wireless audio performance. Each clip-on microphone delivers up to 7 hours of runtime and features 16 GB of memory for up to 30 hours of internal recording. Combined with 32-bit float recording, built-in backup recording, and reliable wireless transmission, the Profile Wireless series delivers clear, distortion-free audio with minimal setup. The Profile Wireless 1-Channel and 2-Channel Sets are available at 12,990, and 19,990 respectively, with additional discounts on select bank cards during the Amazon Great Summer Sale. MOMENTUM True Wireless 4 (Black Copper) Experience next-gen audio with Sennheiser's MOMENTUM True Wireless 4 (Black Copper), combining signature sound, lossless audio, and future-ready tech. Powered by the TrueResponse transducer system.

PB Fintech Secures SEBI Approval For Stockbroking License To Offer Debt Securities

PB Fintech Ltd.'s subsidiary, PB Marketing and Consulting Pvt. Ltd., has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to operate as a stock broker in the debt segment on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), according to an exchange filing on Saturday. PB Fintech is the parent company of Policybazaar and Paisabazaar. Policybazaar is one of the country's most prominent digital insurance aggregators. Paisabazaar is one of India's largest online marketplaces for financial products such as loans and credit cards.



per its stock exchange notification on Wednesday. Consolidated revenue of the Policybazaar parent advanced by 36.7% year-on-year for the three months ended March, reaching Rs 2,061 crore in comparison to Rs 1,508 crore. Operating income, or earnings before interest and taxes rose 94.3% to Rs 218 crore from Rs 112 crore. Margins expanded

to 10.6% from 7.4% in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2025. PB Fintech Q4 Result Highlights (Cons, YoY) Net Profit rises 53.5% at Rs 261 crore versus Rs 170 crore. Revenue rises 36.7% at Rs 2,061 crore versus Rs 1,508 crore. Ebitda surges 94.3% at Rs 218 crore versus Rs 112 crore. Margin at 10.6% versus 7.4%

Successful Hyderabad Investor Meet under ‘Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet (GRAM)–2026’

Hyderabad, May 2026: In a significant move towards establishing Rajasthan as a global hub for agricultural innovation, agritech investment, and a technology-driven agricultural economy, the Department of Agriculture, Government of Rajasthan, in collaboration with Rajasthan Foundation and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), successfully organised the Hyderabad Investor Meet under the banner of ‘Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet (GRAM)–2026’ at Hotel Park Hyatt, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. The event was attended by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma, Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Shri Joraram Kumawat, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Co-operation Shri Gautam Kumar Dak, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries & Commerce Shri Shikhar Agarwal, Principal Secretary, Agriculture & Horticulture Ms. Manju Rajpal, Rajasthan Foundation Commissioner Dr. Manisha Arora, Agriculture Commissioner Shri Naresh Kumar Goyal, Horticulture Commissioner Ms. Shweta Chauhan, Director General of ICRISAT Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Co-Chairman of the FICCI National Agriculture Committee Shri



Subroto Gees, President of Rajasthan Foundation Hyderabad Chapter Shri Pawan Bansal, and several eminent representatives from the industry including Ms. Bhagwati Baldewa. One of the major highlights of the Hyderabad Investor Meet was the signing of MoUs worth INR 200 crore during the programme. The event brought together senior representatives of the Rajasthan Government, leading industry experts, agritech companies, investors, research institutions, and members of Rajasthan Foundation. The primary objective of the meet was to showcase Rajasthan's immense potential in agriculture, technology, innovation, dairy, drone

technology, digital agriculture, and investment partnerships on a global platform. Addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma said, “Rajasthan is rapidly moving beyond traditional agriculture towards a technology-driven, innovation-led, and investment-enabled agricultural economy. We invite investors to explore the vast opportunities available in agritech, food processing, dairy, digital agriculture, and agricultural infrastructure across the state.” Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Shri Joraram Kumawat stated, “Rajasthan is no

longer recognised solely as an agrarian state, but is steadily emerging as a hub for agritech, animal husbandry, and rural innovation. We are encouraging partnerships that strengthen farmers, livestock owners, and the rural economy.” Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Co-operation Shri Gautam Kumar Dak remarked, “The co-operative sector in Rajasthan is being transformed through modern thinking, technological innovation, and investment. Our goal is to build a strong ecosystem where farmers, startups, and industries work together to take the rural economy to greater heights.” The event commenced with a high-level panel discussion on the theme “Possibilities of IT Intervention in Agriculture.” The session was chaired by Principal Secretary, Agriculture & Horticulture, Government of Rajasthan, Ms. Manju Rajpal, and moderated by Ms. Surabhi Rana. Experts from Coromandel International Limited, ITC Limited, ICRISAT, ICAR, NSL Group, T-Hub, Marut Drones, and other leading institutions shared their insights on smart farming, agri-data, drone technology, digital agricultural solutions, and interstate agritech collaboration.

PUTIN DENOUNCES NATO AT SCALED BACK VICTORY DAY PARADE



Vladimir Putin has used his annual Victory Day speech in Moscow's Red Square to justify his war in Ukraine and denounce Nato. Speaking in front of hundreds of military personnel, the Russian president said he was fighting a "just" war and called Ukraine an "aggressive force" that is being "armed and supported by the whole bloc of Nato". His remarks come amid muted celebrations across Russia to mark the nation's biggest national holiday, commemo-

rating the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany. Ahead of the celebrations, curtailed for security reasons amid fears of Ukrainian attack, Russia and Ukraine agreed to observe a three-day ceasefire, announced by US President Donald Trump on Friday. Following the parade, Russia's defence ministry accused Ukraine of breaking the ceasefire, without providing details. Ukraine did not immediately comment. For the first time in years, no armoured vehi-



cles or ballistic missiles featured in Moscow's Victory Day parade. But under tightened security, military personnel marched in droves across Red Square. Addressing the crowd, Putin started his speech by commemorating the sacrifices of Soviet soldiers during World War Two. "The great feat of the generation of victors inspires the soldiers carrying out the goals of the special military operation today," he said, referring to the war in Ukraine which has been

going on for more than four years. "They are confronting an aggressive force armed and supported by the whole bloc of Nato. And despite this, our heroes move forward." The Russian leader went on to celebrate the citizens of Russia, making reference to the contributions of workers to its war effort, including scientists, inventors, military correspondents, doctors and teachers. "No matter how military tactics change, the future of the country is being provided for



by the people," he said. Immediately after the speech, cannons fired successive rounds before music was played by a military brass band. Foreign guests in attendance included Belarus's leader Alexander Lukashenko, Malaysia's King Sultan Ibrahim and Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, the only representative of the EU to attend, was also pictured meeting Putin at the Kremlin ahead of the parade.

Markedly fewer world leaders turned up compared to last year's 80th anniversary parade, which featured 27 leaders including China's President Xi Jinping and Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Russian TV viewers were shown a broadcast of soldiers on the front lines after Putin's speech. Following the ceremony in Red Square, Putin laid flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier before attending a reception at the Kremlin.

Farage's Reform UK wins big in local elections, splintering two-party system and piling pressure on Starmer



London — The hard-right Reform UK party led by Nigel Farage has surged in England's local elections while the governing Labour Party has slumped, deepening doubts about Prime Minister Keir Starmer's ability to govern and further splintering Britain's traditional two-party political system. Results announced early Friday showed that the Reform party of Farage — a chief architect of Brexit and an ally of US President Donald Trump — had gained more than 600

seats, while Labour had lost more than 450. The Conservative Party — the other half of the duopoly that has dominated British politics for more than a century — lost nearly 300 seats. "Labour are being wiped out by Reform in many of their most traditional areas, and what you're going to see later on today is the Conservative Party being wiped out in their heartlands," Farage told reporters Friday morning, as some councils were still counting the votes.

Hungary's new PM sworn in after landslide victory over Orbán



Hungary's new prime minister, Péter Magyar, has been sworn in, almost a month after he steered his Tiszsa party to a landslide victory, sweeping away 16 years of rule by Viktor Orbán. Tiszsa holds 141 seats out of 199 in the new parliament - up from zero, a result of the party being founded just two years ago. Tens of thousands of people are expected to take part in a "celebration of freedom and democracy" outside parliament in Budapest, along the shores of the Danube. Magyar has told Hungarians to step through the "gateway of regime change". Orbán's Fidesz party crumbled from 135 to 52 seats, and shows signs of imploding. He and other key party figures have decided not to take their seats in parliament, and their political future is uncertain, beyond a vague commitment to "rebuild the national side". Each day brings new revelations or allegations of corruption against a party which has governed Hungary almost unchallenged since 2010. Magyar has promised a "change of system" as well as a change of government. It is not known whether Orbán will attend Saturday's open-

ing session of parliament, even as a simple guest. "The main priority is to set up the government... on the ruins of the previous one," Zoltán Tarr, incoming Minister for Social Relations and Culture, told the BBC. "We are ready to face a very grim economic situation. But at the moment, we just don't know the severity." A spending spree initiated by the Orbán government in the past eight months came on top of years in which state contracts and funds were channelled to business circles close to Fidesz. The budget deficit has already swollen close to the planned target for the whole year. The incoming government is at pains to show that it is morally stronger than Fidesz. One prominent businessman, György Wáberer, who switched from Fidesz to Tiszsa a week before the election, told a journalist he had donated €242,000 (280,000, \$331,000) to Tiszsa. Magyar promptly returned the money to him. When Magyar's brother-in-law, Márton Mellelthei-Barna, was named justice minister, the new government was bitterly criticised on social media.

Japanese council votes to remove unconscious mayor



A council in Japan has voted to remove its mayor who has been unconscious for several months. Kikuo Hatakeyama, 72, has served as the mayor of Hachirogata in north-east Japan since 2008, but fell ill in February and suffered a brain hemorrhage. The town assembly unanimously passed a no-confidence motion against the mayor meaning he will automatically lose his position on 19 May. Japan's national asso-

ciation of town and village assemblies says it's rare for a no-confidence motion to be filed against a mayor due to illness. The motion said removing Hatakeyama was a tough choice, but administratively necessary. His wife asked the town assembly last month to assess whether he could continue in his post, saying that it would be the best option for him to resign as mayor, according to the Japan Times.

IRAN ACCUSES US OF 'RECKLESS MILITARY ADVENTURE'

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has accused the US of opting for a "reckless military adventure" every time a "diplomatic solution is on the table". Iranians would "never bow to pressure", Araghchi said in a post on X, a day after each side accused the other of launching attacks in the Strait of Hormuz and as the US fired on more Iranian vessels. Despite the clashes, Trump said the ceasefire was intact. It is meant to enable talks to end the war that the US and Israel launched in February. Iran was expected to respond to US proposals on Friday, according to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. "I hope it's a serious offer, I really do," Rubio said during a visit to Italy. Iran has been controlling the Strait of Hormuz as well as attacking US allies in the Gulf in retaliation for the US and Israeli attacks. Some 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas uses the crucial waterway whose blockage has sent prices soaring. Early this week, Trump launched - and then paused - a US military operation to help free some 2,000 vessels which have been stranded in the area since February. The US is also maintaining a naval blockade of Iranian ports in order to



entering Iran," the statement said. Centcom said US forces were preventing more than 70 tankers from entering or leaving Iranian ports. Later on Friday the US signalled its readiness to host a new round of Israel-Lebanon talks next week aimed at halting the clashes in Lebanon between Iranian-backed Hezbollah and Israeli forces. A spokesperson for the US State Department said the "intensive" talks on 14 and 15 May would aim to deliver "lasting security for Israel, and sovereignty and reconstruction for Lebanon". The US and Israel say any peace deal requires full disarmament of Hezbollah, but the Shia militant group rejects the talks, which began between the Israeli and Lebanese ambassadors in Washington last month.

ANGER AND RESIGNATION IN TENERIFE AS HANTAVIRUS SHIP APPROACHES

As the MV Hondius cruise ship approaches Tenerife, the people of the Spanish island await it with a mixture of uncertainty and, in some cases, anger. The Spanish government has agreed with the World Health Organization (WHO) that the passengers of the vessel, which has seen an outbreak of the hantavirus, should be allowed to disembark there this weekend. It has travelled from Cape Verde, where three people were evacuated due to illness. On Friday, some Tenerife dock workers gathered outside the Canary Islands' parliament building in the town of Santa Cruz, to voice concerns that the imminent arrival could pose



a health risk for them. They blew whistles, sounded vuvuzelas and brandished banners. "We're unhappy at the idea of being allowed to work in a port without special safety measures or information when an infected boat is approaching," said Joana Batista, of a local port workers' union, who was taking part. Some of her colleagues have threatened to block the arrival of the cruise ship if their demands are not met. "If the boat is going to stop here, then it can do so, but with the necessary measures in place," she said. "Local people need to be told how

Hantavirus cases nearly doubled in Argentina in the past year. Experts say climate change is to blame



Hantavirus cases in Argentina have almost doubled in the past year, with the country recording 32 deaths alongside its highest number of infections since 2018. The rise comes as Argentine authorities race to trace the footsteps of a couple who traveled extensively in the country and later died amid an outbreak of the virus on the cruise ship MV Hondius. The vessel left port in Ushuaia, southern Argentina, on April 1 and is currently on its way to Spain's Canary Islands. It is expected to reach Tenerife's industrial port of Granadilla early Sunday morning. Experts blame climate change and habitat destruction for the rise in cases of the disease, which is usually caused by exposure to the urine or feces of infected rodents. The current season, which started in June 2025, has already seen 101 confirmed hantavirus cases, Argentina's health ministry said — compared with just 57 during the same period last season. Not only did the country record an unusually large number of cases this year, but it also

recorded one of the highest lethality rates of recent years, with the number of deaths marking an increase of 10 percentage points compared to the previous year. And those numbers exclude the outbreak on the cruise-ship MV Hondius, the origins of which remain unknown. While no cases of the hantavirus have been recorded in Ushuaia in recent decades, according to the ministry, the virus is endemic in some other areas of Argentina. Argentine authorities believe the couple visited various regions of the country as they crossed back and forth over the border with neighboring Chile on several occasions, and into Uruguay, before joining the cruise. Four geographic regions of Argentina are historically high-risk areas for contagion: Northwest (in the provinces of Salta, Jujuy, and Tucumán), Northeast (Misiones, Formosa, and Chaco), Center (Buenos Aires, Santa Fe, and Entre Ríos), and South (Neuquén, Río Negro, and Chubut).

Australia's right-wing One Nation party scores historic parliamentary win

Australia's One Nation party has won its first-ever lower-house seat in what is being seen as an important test for the right-wing populist party. With most ballots counted, One-Nation candidate David Farley has won an unassailable 60% of the primary vote in Farrer, a vast regional constituency in New South Wales. Independent candidate Michelle Milthorpe is far behind. The contest was triggered by the resignation of Sussan Ley, who quit when she was ousted as leader of the opposition conservative Liberal Party. While the result will not affect the Labor government's large majority, it is a clear sign that voters are moving away from traditional political parties in Australia. Saturday's poll was



the first federal test of One Nation's support after the party recorded the second-highest number of votes out of any political party in the South Australian state election in March. As news of the party's victory emerged, One Nation leader Pauline Hanson told supporters this was not just a win for Farrer, but a win for Australia, and

said the party was "coming after those other seats". Farley - whose background is in agribusiness - told supporters One Nation had "reached the end of its beginning, we're going through the ceiling". "What are we doing tonight? We're like a mason, with a chisel, and a hammer and we're re-carving the letters into the Australian democra-

cy." Australia has a preferential voting system where voters rank candidates from their most to least preferred. The final tally is calculated as a challenge between two candidates after preferences are distributed to ensure that the winner is supported by a majority. One Nation had never won a federal lower house contest before Saturday's poll. In the late 1990s Hanson initially held her seat as an independent before losing her re-election bid. She has since returned to the parliament as a senator. During the campaign, Farley said he had "lost a bit of faith" in the major parties. "They say one thing to your face and then go and do something else in parliament," he said.

THE RACE AGAINST TIME TO FIND EAGLES ESCAPED FROM DOLLYWOOD



They chased him all day Sunday throughout the mountains of Tennessee, a team of cops and executives and avian specialists all racing to bring a bald eagle named Rockland back home safe and sound. First he was spotted at a local hotel. Next a caller reported him perched on a car across town. Each time, team members rushed to the site, but "the advantage those lit-

tle stinkers have, that we don't, is they can take off," wryly notes one who watched him soar away - twice. Rockland first vanished two weeks ago, along with winged compatriots Wesley and Caesar, when a storm sent a century-old tree through their netted enclosure in Dollywood, the theme park in Tennessee's Smoky Mountains that Dolly Parton co-owns.

IPL 2026: GUJARAT TITANS SETS A TARGET OF 229/4 FOR RAJASTHAN ROYALS



"FILMING FOR HIS YOUTUBE CHANNEL": BCCI THREATENS LEGAL ACTION ON EX-PLAYER

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) have made further crack-downs after implementing their stricter anti-corruption policies during IPL 2026. Their latest move is set to put players, broadcasters, officials and their family members under the scanner. According to reports anyone associated with the BCCI or any IPL team has been strictly prohibited to make videos in the ground, and could even face legal notices if caught doing so. This comes just a day after sources told NDTV that the BCCI had asked Punjab Kings (PBKS) pacer Arshdeep Singh to stop vlogging for social media. According to a Times of India report, some officials and broadcasters have already been reprimanded by the BCCI after they were seen filming videos near the players and match officials area (PMOA) during IPL 2026. "There have been a few



breaches by a few commentators. One former international cricketer was found making videos on his phone near the dugout in a tense situation of a match. The BCCI team acted swiftly and got him to stop the recording," BCCI sources said, as per the report. "There could be a case of sending legal notices to an ex-cricketer who was found filming for his YouTube channel. The board has clearly mentioned that anybody wearing BCCI and IPL official attire can't be seen filming at the ground," the sources added. The report further added that the BCCI is concerned about the "reel culture" among IPL teams and players. Immediate family members of players have also been told to refrain from posting videos and pictures during the IPL.

"MY SECOND GODDAUGHTER":

Kyle Juszczyk Melts Hearts After Olivia Culpo, Christian McCaffrey's Baby Announcement

Just months after becoming parents for the first time, Olivia Culpo and Christian McCaffrey surprised fans once again with another major family update. On Friday, May 8, the couple revealed they are expecting their second child together while celebrating Culpo's 34th birthday. The announcement quickly spread across social media as NFL fans and WAGs flooded the comments section with emotional reactions. The couple shared cozy picnic photos featuring daughter Colette, their dog Oliver, and sonogram images confirming the pregnancy. While fans celebrated the growing family, one heartfelt reaction from Kyle



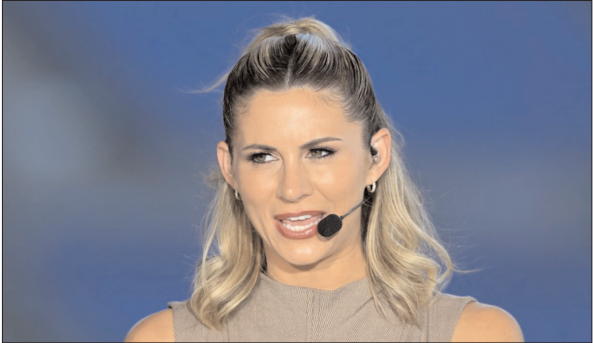
Juszczyk quickly became one of the biggest talking points online. Kyle Juszczyk's emotional "second goddaughter" comment became the biggest fan talking point Among all the celebrity reactions, Kyle Juszczyk's emotional message stood out the most. The

longtime 49ers star commented, "My second goddaughter, I'm truly honoured beyond belief," instantly grabbing attention from NFL fans online. Many fans called the comment "adorable," "genuine," and "pure family goals," while others praised the close

friendship shared between the two families. Fans and NFL WAGs quickly filled the comments section with congratulatory messages after the couple's announcement. Marissa Lawrence commented, "Congratulations," while Claire Kittle wrote, "the luckiest babies in the world." Kristin Juszczyk added, "Coco is a big sister." Basketball influencer Hailey Cavinder also joined the celebration with, "Yay!!! Congrats." Olivia Culpo and Christian McCaffrey shared the pregnancy news with a sweet family picnic post Culpo and McCaffrey announced the news through a joint Instagram post captioned, "Best birthday gift.

NFL Reporter Laura Rutledge Opens Up About The Difficult Emotions She Felt After Learning She Was Pregnant

For years, women in football broadcasting have faced pressure to prove they belong in one of sports' toughest industries. For NFL reporter and television host Laura Rutledge, that pressure became even heavier when motherhood entered the picture. Rutledge recently opened up about the emotional fears she experienced after learning she was pregnant for the first time, admitting she initially believed it could destroy the career momentum she had worked years to build. Today, she balances multiple football responsibilities while raising two young children, but behind her successful television career was a deeply personal fear that many women in sports media quietly understand all too well. Laura Rutledge



opened up about the career pressure she felt after learning she was pregnant During an appearance on The Pivot Podcast, Rutledge revealed she struggled emotionally after learning she was pregnant because she feared it would completely change her professional future. "I'll never forget finding out that I was pregnant and being so disappointed, which is like

the worst thing," Rutledge said. "I thought that this was going to end my career. I'm like, 'I'm building all this momentum. I can't get pregnant. I can't be on TV, pregnant.'" Rutledge explained that while other women had successfully balanced television careers and motherhood, she still worried her own journey would be different. She admitted she approached pregnancy believing she needed to accept every work opportunity possible before becoming a mother because she assumed her career would slow down afterward. Fans reacted strongly online after her comments began circulating across social media. Many praised Rutledge for speaking honestly about the pressure women face in sports broadcasting, while others called her words relatable and refreshing because successful television personalities rarely discuss those struggles publicly. Laura Rutledge now balances football coverage, motherhood, and some of the biggest moments of her career Over the years, Rutledge has become one of football television's most recognizable faces.

RORY MCILROY'S LIV GOLF STATEMENTS CREATE CONTROVERSY AS HE LOOKS TO REJOIN PGA TOUR

Golfer Rory McIlroy finds himself in controversy after making harsh comments regarding the possibility of LIV Golf players joining the PGA Tour again. With the involvement of the Public Investment Fund from Saudi Arabia in LIV Golf ceasing after 2027, uncertainty is growing within the break-away circuit, and many top-ranked LIV Golf players have already started considering the possibility of returning. The latest remarks made by Rory McIlroy, who is trying to convince LIV Golf players about joining the PGA Tour again, were quickly met with



a strong reaction online. While some fans hailed him for standing up for the best competitions in the sport, other fans criticized him for being hypocritical and arrogant. The debate was sparked when Rory McIlroy stated that golfers who really wanted to compete at

their best would still be interested in the PGA Tour as the final destination. The statements came against the background of mounting speculations regarding the plans of LIV Golf athletes such as Bryson DeChambeau and Jon Rahm. McIlroy's statement immediately ignited a heated discussion in the world of golf. Critics noted that the golfer himself had not taken part in many PGA Tour tournaments, and hence, he had no grounds for questioning the competitive spirit of other players. Moreover, some fans emphasized that top-ranking golfers earned huge sums in terms of appearance fees outside the PGA Tour, which makes McIlroy apply double standards.

DID SNEAKO PERMANENTLY GET BANNED FROM AUSTRALIA? STREAMER REVEALS REASON BEHIND SHOCKING LIFETIME BAN

Controversial streamer and internet personality Sneako is back in headlines again after confirming that he has officially received a lifetime ban from Australia. The creator, whose real name is Nicolas Kenn De Balinzhazy, addressed the situation during a livestream on May 8, 2026, after reports started spreading online that he had been deported from the country. According to Sneako, those reports were completely false, but he did confirm that Australian authorities revoked his visa and told him he could not return. The situation first started gaining traction on May 6, when reports claimed Australian Minister for Home Affairs Tony Burke had taken action against the streamer. During



his livestream, Sneako explained that the ban was not connected to any criminal charges or convictions. Instead, he claimed officials issued what he called a "character ban," meaning they believed his public image and online persona were not suitable for the country. The livestream quickly went viral, with clips spreading

across X, Kick communities, and YouTube commentary pages. Sneako says Australia banned him because his "character is not fit" While reacting to the reports, Sneako told viewers that he was never deported and was simply staying in Australia quietly before the ban happened. He claimed he had not even been streaming during his stay and was mostly filming vlogs and hanging around casually. During the livestream, Sneako explained that Australian authorities revoked his visa under what he described as a character-related decision. According to him, officials informed him that he could not return to the country again.

BLASI WINS VUELTA FOR FIRST GRAND TOUR VICTORY



Spanish cyclist Paula Blasi triumphed at the women's Vuelta a Espana to claim her first Grand Tour victory. The 23-year-old UAE Team ADQ rider began the day second overall, behind the Netherlands' Anna van der Breggen of Team SD Worx-Protime. However, four-time Giro d'Italia champion Van der Breggen was dropped on the final vicious ascent, with slopes of up to 23%. Blasi then crossed the final stage line in second, behind Switzerland's Petra Stiasny of Human Powered Health at the summit of L'Angliru, to secure the title. The home win cements Blasi's status as an emerging talent after winning the Amstel Gold Race and performing impressively at La Fleche Wallonne and Liege-Bastogne-Liege. Blasi, who began cycling competitively in 2024 after an injury ended her athletics career, was asked by a reporter how she

would react if someone had previously told her she would win the Vuelta. "I would think you were joking," she said. The tour was decided four kilometres from the finish on the punishing slopes of L'Angliru, when French rider Marion Bunel attacked and Blasi kept pace, while Van der Breggen fell behind. One of cycling's most difficult climbs, it is the first time the Asturias road has featured in the women's Vuelta. "It was crazy," Blasi said of the climb after her victory. "The best thing I could do was not think about it. I knew it would be about 50 minutes and so I said, 'just keep going, keep on your pace.' But I started to see Anna [van der Breggen] struggling and I said 'let's go for it.'" Behind Blasi, 36-year-old Van der Breggen came second overall, with Team Visma Lease a Bike rider Bunel, 21, finishing third overall.

Ailing Novak Djokovic Falls To Early Italian Open Exit Ahead Of Roland Garros

Novak Djokovic slumped to an early elimination from the Italian Open on Friday, crumbling to a second-round defeat at the hands of qualifier Dino Prizmic which leaves question marks about his physical condition ahead of Roland Garros. Tennis icon Djokovic was sent packing by big-hitting Croatian Prizmic, who claimed the biggest scalp of his young career with a stunning 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 win on centre court in Rome. Djokovic, a 24-time Grand Slam winner, was making his comeback from a shoulder

injury in the last big tournament before the French Open, which starts later this month. And the world number four was unsure as to whether he would be back to his best for the clay-court Grand Slam, simply saying "I hope so" when asked by reporters whether Paris would see the all-conquering "Nole" of old. "Let's see what happens," said Djokovic, who lamented persistent physical problems in the twilight of his stellar career. "I don't recall the last time in the last couple of years of preparation where I didn't have any physical issues coming into a tourna-

ment," said Djokovic. "It's always something, it's kind of a new reality that I have to deal with." Djokovic wore shoulder strappings in his first tournament since losing in the last 16 at Indian Wells in March, after pulling out of tournaments in Miami, Monte Carlo and Madrid. He hadn't previously been knocked out this early in a tournament since the Madrid Open last year, and he looked a long way from the player who has won six titles at the Foro Italico. He breezed into a one-set lead but then buckled under the weight of Prizmic's powerful hitting

which has led to the 20-year-old rising to a career-high world ranking of 79. Prizmic has beaten two top 10 players in a matter of weeks with sixth-ranked Ben Shelton succumbing in the second round in Madrid last month. Djokovic is Prizmic's idol, and a landmark win gives the young talent a match with either Ugo Humbert or Vit Kopriwa and a chance to make the fourth round of a Masters 1000 event for the first time. "It was big moment for me. It was also big thing to share the court with a legend," said Prizmic. "So yeah today, I

mean, I played unbelievable. I'm very happy about my performance." Zverev, Swiatek through Earlier, Alexander Zverev eased into the third round after comfortably dealing with fellow German Daniel Altmaier in straight sets, 7-5, 6-3. The second seed is in good form having reached the final in Madrid last weekend and he is again on the other side of the draw to red-hot favourite Jannik Sinner. The 29-year-old has been beaten by Sinner in four Masters 1000 events this year and will have his work cut out if he is to add to his 2017 and 2024 titles in Rome.



VIJAY VARMA, TAMANNAAH BHATIA CROSS PATHS AFTER ALLEGED BREAKUP

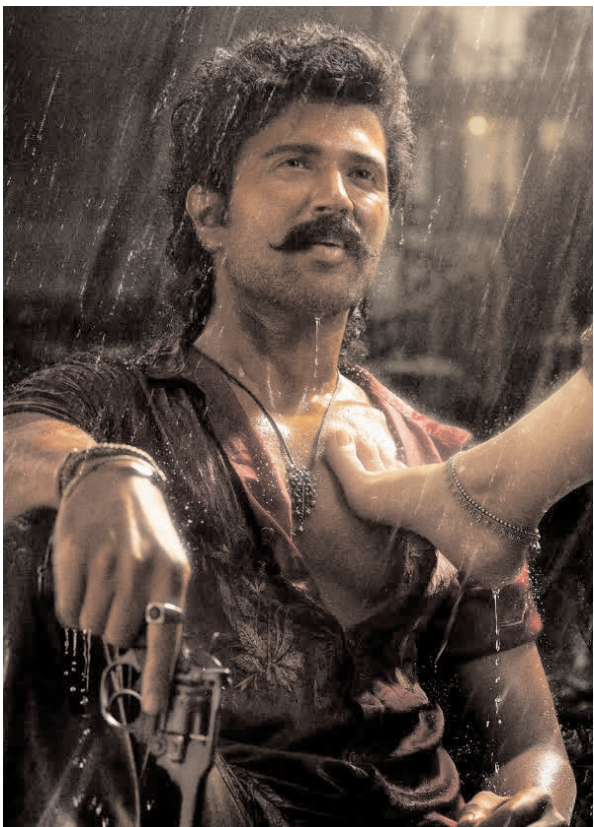
Vijay Varma and Tamannaah Bhatia, who were once one of the most talked-about couples in the industry, were both seen at the Femina Beauty Awards 2026. While Tamannaah walked away with The Golden Beauty award, Vijay won the Screen Stealer Award, making it quite an interesting same-room moment for fans who still remember their equation. The two may have moved on from their relationship, but every time they are spotted around the same space, the internet clearly knows how to connect the dots. This time too, the awards night brought both of them under the same roof, but their current chapters seem to be moving in very different directions.

Vijay has been in the news lately after he was spotted with actress-singer Aaliyah Qureshi. A recent video of the two leaving a restaurant together in Mumbai sparked fresh link-up rumours, though neither of them has confirmed anything yet. Tamannaah, on the other hand, seems to be keeping the spotlight firmly on work, appearances and her own star power. Her win at the beauty awards only added another moment to her already packed public presence, proving that she does not really need noise around her personal life to



stay in headlines. Femina Beauty Awards 2026: Full Winners List The night also saw several other names taking home big honours. Ananya Panday won the Global Face Award, Kriti Sanon was named Beauty Entrepreneur of the Year, Shanaya Kapoor received the Fresh Face Award, Ahan Shetty won the Rising Star Award, Pratibha Ranta was honoured as Gen Next Star female, Vedang Raina as Gen Next Star male, Kabir

Sensational Vijay Deverakonda's Birthday Special Poster from “Rowdy Janardhana” unveiled; Introduces His Love & Soul



Star hero Vijay Deverakonda is starring in the highly anticipated film “Rowdy Janardhana,” being produced under the prestigious banner of Sri Venkateswara Creations. Renowned producers Dil Raju and Shirish are backing the project, while talented young director Ravi Kiran Kola is helming the film. “Rowdy Janardhana” is being made as a grand pan-India rural action drama. On the occasion of Vijay Deverakonda’s birthday today, the makers released a special birthday poster wishing the actor. In

the poster, Vijay is seen drenched in the rain, holding a pistol, in an intense and striking look. Another intriguing element is actress Keerthy Suresh placing her foot on Vijay’s chest, hinting at an interesting dynamic between the lead pair. The poster effectively establishes both the action-packed and romantic angles of the film. Along with Vijay’s fans, movie lovers are eagerly waiting to experience “Rowdy Janardhana” on the silver screen. The film is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release this December.

A special birthday making glimpse from the movie “Ranabaali” has been released to celebrate actor Vijay Deverakonda’s birthday

Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna are playing the lead roles in the big-budget pan-India film “Ranabaali,” directed by Rahul Sankrityan. The movie is being produced on the Mythri Movie Makers banner by producers Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar, and is presented by T-Series. The newly released birthday glimpse showcases the intense hard work Vijay Deverakonda put into preparing for his role as Ranabaali, especially for the horse-riding sequences. The video highlights the rigorous training he underwent to master riding Stallion-breed horses, which are considered extremely difficult to handle. Known for his dedication, Vijay pushed through injuries and repeated practice sessions to perfect the skill for the film. In the glimpse, Vijay says, “These scenes will look spectacular on screen, and that’s why I’m willing to do such difficult sequences,” reflecting his passion and commitment toward cinema. The horse-riding scenes and large-scale action episodes involving horses are expected to be major highlights of the movie. “Ranabaali” is scheduled for a grand worldwide release on September 11. The film is set against the



backdrop of the 19th century and is based on real historical events that took place during British rule between 1854 and 1878.

Hero Krishna Sai Presents Rs. 4 Lakh Cheque to Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla

Donation in support of the Red Cross Society Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla appreciates the philanthropic gesture Tollywood hero Krishna Sai has once again earned praise for his philanthropic endeavors. He is actively engaged in social service through his organization, the 'Krishna Sai International Charitable Trust.' In support of the Red Cross Society's initiatives, he presented a donation cheque of Rs. 4 lakhs to Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla. During the meeting held at Lok Bhavan in Hyderabad, the Governor specially commended Krishna Sai for his service-oriented programs and for standing as a role model for the youth. The two also discussed various social issues during the



event. Through his trust, Krishna Sai organizes numerous welfare activities, including providing financial aid to underpriv-

ileged students, offering medical assistance, and distributing essential supplies to those in need. Notably, he is conducting

special awareness campaigns to protect the youth from falling prey to drug abuse. The Governor lauded his dedicated efforts in leading anti-drug initiatives and striving to bring a positive change among the younger generation. On the work front, Krishna Sai is currently busy with several upcoming film projects. 'Police Complaint,' a movie featuring him in a prominent role, is gearing up for release soon. Striking a commendable balance, he continues to showcase his talent in the cinema industry while remaining a strong pillar of support for society through his charitable work. Krishna Sai is rightfully earning widespread recognition not just as a film actor, but also as a dedicated philanthropist.

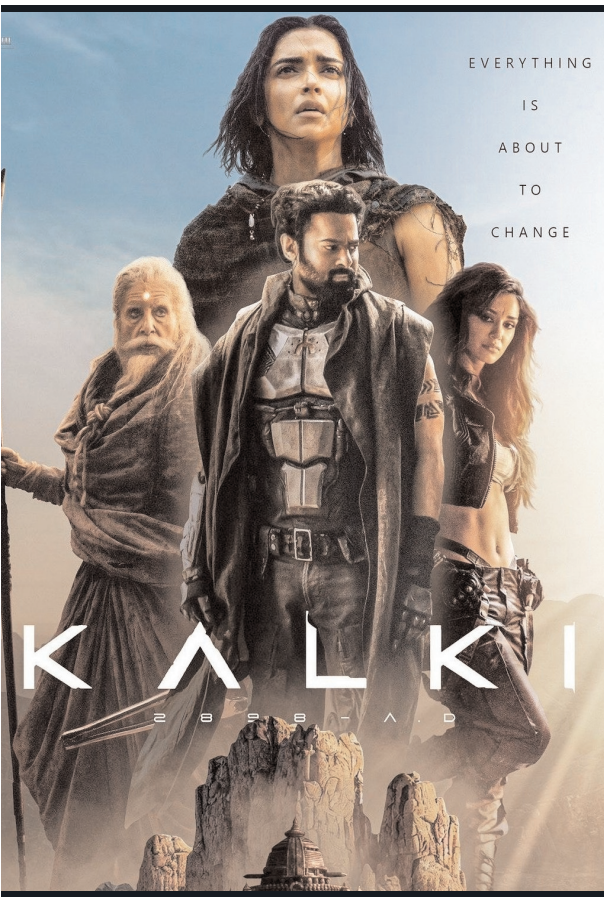
NEETU KAPOOR SAYS SHE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN THERAPY: IT'S NONSENSE



‘NANI’ HEROINE’S TALL STATEMENTS IN BOLLYWOOD



Bollywood actress Ameesha Patel, who is known to us for films like Mahesh babu’s Nani and is once again making headlines, and this time it is for her outspoken views on the film industry, her career journey, and her surprising family connections. In a recent interview, Ameesha sharply criticized the growing fake PR culture in Bollywood, taking an indirect dig at younger actresses who, according to her, become superstar after just a couple of average films. She stated that genuine stardom comes only through strong box-office success and long-lasting audience love. The actress also opened up about replacing Aishwarya Rai in Mangal Pandey: The Rising. Ameesha revealed that Aamir Khan was impressed by her intelligence after watching one of her interviews, which eventually helped her land the role. She also recalled how she missed out on Lagaan because the makers felt she looked too educated for the character.



Can Kalki 2 Really Make It to Screens by 2027?

Hype usually fades out when a sequel takes long gap to hit the screens after the first part. But, Kalki sequel seems like an exception to this trend because the second part commands massive anticipation even when there is no update from the team. This is because of the core emotion built by director Nag Ashwin with Kalki 2898AD. Moreover, the star-studded casting is another reason why there is strong buzz on this Prabhas starrer despite the long delay. While Nag Ashwin is currently busy filming important scenes involving stalwart actors Amitabh

Bachchan and Kamal Haasan in the sequel, Prabhas is yet to join the sets due to his busy commitments with films like Fauzi and Spirit. Though it is unclear if Prabhas can accommodate his full fledged dates for Kalki 2 this year given that he is fully immersed with both his upcoming pan-India projects, there is already a strong buzz that the makers of Kalki are planning to release the sequel in 2027. It is believed that the team wants to lock

December 2027 as the potential release window for Kalki 2.

There are reports that Nag

Hype usually fades out when a sequel takes long gap to hit the screens after the first part.

Ashwin is planning to wrap up all major portions by next June and shift his attention towards the extensive post

production phase to release the film by the end of the year. But, December 2027 seems improbable as of now given that Prabhas hasn’t commenced work on the sequel so far. With adequate portions of shooting left and also the fact that the post production will require more than six months after the entire shooting part is wrapped, Nag Ashwin is unlikely to rush things given that he would take his time to get perfect output for his world building on the big screen. So, if the team wishes to have a smooth release, the chances for Kalki 2 hitting the screens in 2027 are very little as of now.