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SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA



05-05-2026
Total pilgrims: 76,240
Tonsure: 28,257
Hundi kankals: 3,44 CR
Waiting Compartments: 30

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

GOLD RATE 24K ₹
1,52,240/-

CBI UNEARTHS BUILDER-BANK NEXUS IN HOMEBUYERS FRAUD CASE, FILES CHARGESHEET

New Delhi (TSIT)

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a chargesheet in a major homebuyers fraud case, unearthing an alleged nexus between builders, bank officials and proxy buyers that led to significant financial losses for both financial institutions and innocent homebuyers. According to CBI, the chargesheet has been filed against M/s AVJ Developers (India) Pvt Ltd, M/s AVJ Developers Pvt Ltd, M/s Kesar Builders Pvt Ltd, their Directors, and certain bank officials associated with Bank of India, ICICI Bank and UCO Bank, along with several alleged proxy homebuyers. The agency's investigation revealed that the accused builder firms and their Directors, in collusion with public servants and private individuals, allegedly lured homebuyers and investors through false assurances and misleading representations. The accused are said to have secured financial gains through deceptive and illegal practices. CBI officials further stated that certain bank officers abused their official positions to facilitate these irregularities, bypassing established banking norms and procedures.

Rajinikanth meets Stalin after DMK's defeat, expresses solidarity

Chennai (TSIT)

In a significant political development following the Tamil Nadu Assembly election results, superstar Rajinikanth on Wednesday met DMK President M.K. Stalin at his residence in Alwarpet, Chennai, amid intense political activity surrounding government formation in the state. According to sources, Rajinikanth expressed solidarity with Stalin after the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's disappointing performance in the Assembly elections and conveyed that he would continue to stand by the senior leader during difficult political circumstances. The meeting lasted for some time and is being viewed in political circles as an important gesture of personal and political support at a time when the DMK is facing one of its biggest electoral setbacks in recent years. The DMK, which had been in power for one term under Stalin's leadership, managed to secure only 59 seats in the 234-member Assembly, losing power after a high-voltage election campaign dominated by anti-incumbency sentiments and the dramatic rise of actor-politician Vijay and his party,

CM Revanth urges centre to approve Hyderabad metro phase-II expansion

**New Delhi TSIT:**

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday urged Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar to accord early approval for the pending Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-II project and requested the Centre to participate as a partner in the ambitious metro expansion initiative.

Chief Minister met Manohar Lal Khattar in New Delhi and held detailed discussions on the proposed expansion of Hyderabad Metro Rail under Phase-II and Phase-III projects. During the meeting, CM Revanth Reddy explained that the Telangana Government has already prepared a comprehensive Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Metro Rail Phase-II, covering seven corridors with a total length of 122.9 kilometres at an estimated cost of Rs.38,595 crore. He informed the Union Minister

that the DPR has already been submitted to the Central Government for approval. Highlighting Hyderabad's rapid urban growth and increasing transportation demands, the Chief Minister stressed the urgent need for expansion of the metro rail network to ensure safe, efficient and convenient public transportation for commuters across the city.

The Chief Minister further informed the Union Minister that the Telangana Government had taken full control of Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-I from L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Limited with the objective of ensuring seamless execution of future expansion projects under Metro Phase-II and Phase-III. CM Revanth Reddy stated that with the

State Government now directly managing the metro system, the implementation of the upcoming phases would become smoother and more efficient. He appealed to the Centre to expedite approvals and support the Hyderabad Metro Phase-II project as a joint venture between the Union and Telangana Governments.

The Chief Minister also requested the Union Minister to take up the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport-Bharat Future City corridor under Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-III to meet the city's future transportation requirements. He informed that the DPR related to Metro Phase-III has also been submitted to the Union Government.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary K. Srinivas, Special Secretary to the Chief Minister B. Ajith Reddy, HMRCL Managing Director Sarfaraz Ahmed, State Government Advisor (Urban Transport) N.V.S. Reddy, Telangana Bhavan OSD Sanjay Kumar, Secretary for Coordination of Central Government Schemes Advait Kumar Singh and other senior officials participated in the meeting.

Requests Union Government to partner in Metro Rail expansion and take up Airport-Future City Corridor under Phase-III

India, Vietnam elevate ties to enhanced partnership; set \$25 billion trade target by 2030

**New Delhi (TSIT):**

India and Vietnam on Wednesday elevated their bilateral ties to an enhanced comprehensive strategic partnership and set an ambitious target of USD 25 billion in annual trade by 2030. The decision was taken during talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vietnamese President To Lam, who is on a three-day state visit to India. The discussions focused on strengthening cooperation in trade, defence, digital connectivity, and critical minerals amid evolving geopolitical challenges.

Following the meeting, both sides signed 13 agreements cov-

ering key sectors such as digital payments, rare earth minerals, pharmaceuticals, education, banking, and culture, paving the way for deeper bilateral engagement. The leaders also reviewed the situation in the Indo-Pacific region and reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining peace, stability, and rule of law, particularly in the backdrop of rising tensions in the South China Sea.

Prime Minister Modi noted that bilateral trade has doubled over the past decade to reach USD 16 billion and expressed confidence that the new target of USD 25 billion by 2030 would further boost economic cooperation. He also highlighted steps to enhance financial con-

nectivity, including linking India's UPI system with Vietnam's fast payment network. The two countries agreed to update the India-ASEAN trade agreement by the end of this year to facilitate greater trade and investment flows. Cooperation in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and energy security is also expected to expand significantly.

Describing Vietnam as a key pillar of India's Act East Policy, Modi said the enhanced partnership would support mutual growth and strengthen collaboration across sectors. President To Lam the importance of deepening political trust and enhancing security cooperation between the two nations.

Congress signals openness to back Vijay's TVK in Tamil Nadu

New Delhi (TSIT)

The Congress on Tuesday indicated that it is considering extending support to actor-turned-politician Vijay and his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), to form a government in Tamil Nadu, with the final decision to be taken by the party state unit.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary KC Venugopal said Vijay had formally approached the party seeking its backing to form the government. "TVK President Thiru Vijay has requested the Indian National Congress for support to form a Government in Tamil Nadu. He has spoken about drawing inspiration from Perumthalaivar K. Kamaraj as well, in his political mission," Venugopal said.

He added that the Congress views the electoral verdict in Tamil Nadu as a mandate for a secular government committed to



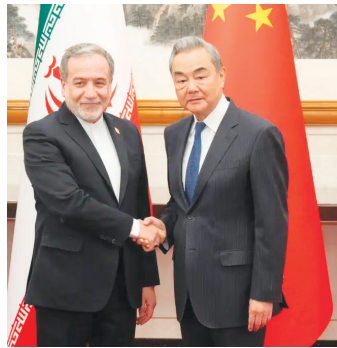
upholding constitutional values. "The INC is clear that the mandate in Tamil Nadu is for a secular government that is committed to protecting the Constitution in letter and spirit. The INC is determined not to have the BJP and its proxies run the Government of Tamil Nadu in any manner," he said. Venugopal said the party leadership has asked the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) to take a final decision on the request after assessing the ground situation. "Accordingly, the Congress leadership has directed the TNCC to take a final decision on Thiru Vijay's request, keeping in view the sentiments of the state reflected in the electoral verdict," he added.

Iran seeks 'fair' peace deal with US, says Iranian FM Araghchi

Beijing (TSIT)

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on Wednesday, emphasizing that Iran will accept a peace agreement only if it is "fair and comprehensive." The discussions come as tensions persist over the Strait of Hormuz and regional hostilities. Araghchi's statement comes after US President Donald Trump's pause of "Project Freedom", a naval mission aimed at reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump cited "great progress" in negotiations with Iran as the reason for the temporary halt, without providing further details. "We will only accept a fair and comprehensive agreement," Araghchi said, according to ISNA. He also praised China for its stance, particularly in condemning the actions of the United States and Israel, describing



China as a "close friend of Iran." Araghchi added that under the current circumstances, cooperation between the two countries will only grow stronger.

"The war launched against us is a blatant act of aggression and a clear violation of international law. We will do our utmost to protect our legitimate rights and interests in the negotiations," he said. The one-on-one meeting between Iran's top diplomat Abbas Araghchi and Chinese Foreign

Minister Wang Yi carries heightened significance as it comes ahead of US President Donald Trump's scheduled visit to China on May 15. Araghchi's stop in Beijing is the latest leg of his diplomatic tour aimed at garnering support for Iran and seeking a resolution to the ongoing conflict with the United States. China has played a key but largely indirect role in the crisis.

As Iran's largest oil importer, it has provided a crucial financial lifeline to Tehran while simultaneously working behind the scenes to mediate the conflict. Trump has even suggested that Beijing helped bring Iran to the negotiating table, highlighting China's strategic leverage in the region. Trump's "Project Freedom", announced on Sunday, had failed to bring about any significant resumption of traffic through the waterway, while provoking a new wave of Iranian strikes on ships in the strait and on targets in neighbouring countries.

Siddaramaiah signals full five-year term amid change-of-guard buzz

Mysuru (TSIT)

Amid intensifying speculation over a possible power-sharing arrangement in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday asserted that the Congress high command alone would decide on the continuation of his tenure, while expressing confidence that the gov-



ernment would complete its full five-year term. Addressing reporters here, Siddaramaiah said he was prepared to continue as Chief Minister for the entire tenure if directed by the party leadership, in remarks widely seen as a response to recurring political discussions surrounding a rotational chief ministership formula involving Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

CM Mann alleges BJP 'conspiracy' behind Jalandhar, Amritsar blasts; BJP Leaders Counter-Attack

Chandigarh (TSIT)

An intense political row has erupted between Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) following the IED explosions near the BSF and Army installations in Jalandhar and Amritsar.

Chief Minister Mann, speaking during a 'Shukrana Yatra' at Sri Anandpur Sahib, alleged that these blasts are part of the BJP's election strategy to garner votes by creating fear among the public. He claimed that orchestrating small-scale

blasts and riots in poll-bound states is a hallmark of the BJP's political style. In light of the security situation, the Chief Minister has also postponed his scheduled visit to Jalandhar.

The BJP has hit back sharply at these allegations, with union Minister of State Ravneet Singh Bittu describing the Chief Minister's statement as "absurd" and "disgraceful". Bittu pointed out that while the Director General of Police (DGP) is citing the involvement of Pakistan's ISI, the Chief Minister is instead



attempting to incite internal political friction. He challenged Mann to file a formal case against BJP leaders if he had any evidence, rather than demoralizing security forces with such claims. BJP National Secretary Tarun Chugh also condemned the remarks, call-

ing them a cheap political tactic. Amidst this political sluff, security has been significantly tightened across the state. The main gate of the Punjab Police Headquarters in Chandigarh has been reinforced with bulletproof shielding, and additional personnel have been deployed to monitor all movement. While the political blame game continues, the DGP confirmed that special teams are investigating the Pakistani connection and the claims made by the Khalistan Liberation Army (KLA) regarding the IED detonations.

Record \$20.5 billion Indian Investment in US announced at SelectUSA Summit

New Delhi (TSIT)

A record USD 20.5 billion in investments by leading Indian companies into the United States was unveiled at the SelectUSA Investment Summit 2026 in Maryland, marking the largest-ever commitment from India at the forum and underscoring deepening economic ties between the two countries.

The commitments span key sectors including pharmaceuticals, advanced manufacturing, energy infrastructure, and emerging technologies, and are expected to create thousands of jobs in both countries while expanding



US production and joint innovation capacity. A dominant share, over USD 19.1 billion, comes from India's pharmaceutical sector, targeting manufacturing expansion, research and development, and new facilities in the US. Additional investments in steel, connectivity, and energy supply chains aim to reinforce industrial capacity and build resilient supply networks.

VMRDA Takes Key Decisions to Drive Urbanization in Rural Areas

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) The Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) has taken several key decisions to promote the development of rural areas towards urbanization, Chairman M.V. Pranav Gopal stated. The decisions were made during the authority meeting held on Wednesday at the VMRDA conference hall under his chairmanship, where development works, fund allocations, and future plans were discussed in detail. Officials reviewed the progress of ongoing development works across all constituencies under VMRDA lim-



its and examined the utilization of funds. The Chairman emphasized that special priority is being given to areas beyond the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) limits. Funds have been allocated for the development of drainage systems, roads, and parks

in municipalities such as Narsipatnam, Vizianagaram, Cheepurupalli, Nellimarla, and Payakaraopeta. An amount of approximately Rs.9 crore has been earmarked for the construction of a Sports Village in Gajuwaka. As per the directions of Chief

Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, steps are being taken to further develop Visakhapatnam as a major tourist destination. As part of this initiative, preparations are underway to inaugurate a Trishul statue at Kailasagiri on the 9th of this month. Efforts are also being made to complete the construction of key roads leading to the Bhogapuram International Airport within the stipulated time frame. Funds have been allocated for beautification works including decorative lighting, greenery in medians, and construction of drains where necessary along these roads.

South Coast Railway Zone Launch Fulfills Long-Pending Demand: Bhisetti Babji

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : Lok Satta Party State President Bhisetti Babji expressed happiness over the long-pending demand of the people of Andhra Pradesh for the establishment of the South Coast Railway Zone finally being fulfilled. According to the Gazette notification issued by the Central Government, the new zone, with Visakhapatnam as its headquarters, will commence operations from June 1. Speaking at a press conference held at the Lok Satta office near Ushodaya Junction in Visakhapatnam East constituency on Wednesday, Babji recalled that extensive movements



were carried out for the railway zone as part of implementing the assurances under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. These efforts were led by Uttarandhra Charchavedika Chairman and former minister Konathala Ramakrishna, along with Lok Satta, left parties, and various public organizations.

He stated that delegations had visited New Delhi twice to meet leaders of the ruling BJP and opposition Congress to exert pressure on the Centre regarding the issue. While welcoming the formation of the zone, Babji expressed dissatisfaction over the allocation of the Kottavalasa-Araku section (105 km) to the Rayagada divi-

sion. He urged Members of Parliament to take initiative and pressurize the Centre on this matter, stating that only then would the South Coast Railway Zone be fully effective. He also expressed optimism that Visakhapatnam would develop into a major railway hub, contributing to the state's economic growth. Babji further appealed to the Central Government to expedite the implementation of remaining bifurcation assurances and to introduce new trains, railway lines, and a separate railway board in line with the state's needs. Lok Satta city president M.S.N. Murthy, Marrapu Sudheer, Ippalavalasa Gopi,

AIG Hospitals, Banjara Hills Launches “Beat the Heat” Public Awareness Campaign to Prevent Heat Stroke and Heat-Related Emergencies

Hyderabad, 6th May 2026: With Telangana witnessing intense summer conditions and several districts including Hyderabad recording temperatures above 44°C in recent days, AIG Hospitals, Banjara Hills has launched “Beat the Heat”, a large-scale public awareness initiative aimed at educating citizens on heat stroke, heat-related illnesses, early warning signs, first-aid measures, and preventive action. Though intermittent rainfall and thunderstorms may bring temporary relief, weather advisories continue to underline the need for caution as heat stress remains a serious public health concern. The campaign comes at a time when weather experts are also closely watching the evolving El Niño pattern, which is often associated with increased heat stress, uneven rainfall, and greater weather variability in India. Telangana has also been advised to prepare for heat and uneven rainfall patterns as the season progresses. Speaking on the need for the initiative, Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman, AIG Hospitals, said, “Heat stroke is one of those medical emergencies where awareness can directly save lives. Many people still think of heat-related illness as simple dehydration or tiredness, but in reality, it can rapidly affect the brain, heart, kidneys, and other vital organs. Our goal is to help people recognise danger signs early, protect vulnerable family members, and act correctly in the first few minutes.” Heat stroke occurs when the body loses its ability to regulate temperature. It is not the same as ordinary fever. In fever, the body's temperature control system is still functioning; in heat stroke, that system begins to fail. As the core body temperature rises dangerously, it can cause altered mental status, seizures, collapse, and multi-organ damage. Medical guidance from leading health institutions identifies heat stroke as a medical emergency that can quickly damage the brain, heart, kidneys, and muscles if treatment is delayed.



Explaining the clinical seriousness, Dr. Praveen Kumar Koppula, Director & Sr. Consultant – Internal Medicine, AIG Hospitals Banjara Hills, said, “The biggest problem with heat stroke is that it often begins innocently. A person may first feel unusually tired, dizzy, nauseous, or may develop headache and muscle cramps. These are usually dismissed as exhaustion. But when the body is unable to cool itself, symptoms can progress very quickly. Confusion, unusual behaviour, slurred speech, fainting, persistent vomiting, seizures, or not sweating despite extreme heat should never be ignored. These are red flags that the brain and vital organs are under stress. At that point, waiting at home or assuming that the person will recover with rest alone can be dangerous.” One of the key objectives of the campaign is to help the public understand the progression from heat exhaustion to heat stroke. Heat-related illnesses may begin with cramps, dehydration, heavy sweating, weakness, dizziness, or headache. If ignored, the condition may progress to heat stroke, where the individual may become confused, restless, drowsy, unconscious, or develop seizures. Delay in cooling and treatment increases the risk of kidney failure, cardiac complications, liver dysfunction, muscle breakdown, and brain injury. The longer the body remains overheated, the greater the chance of serious complications or death. Emphasising the importance of first response, Dr. Imran Shareef, HOD & Sr. Consultant – Emergency Medicine, AIG Hospitals, said, “In heat stroke, the first

few minutes are critical. The most important action is to start cooling immediately while arranging medical help. Move the person to shade or an air-conditioned area, remove excess clothing, apply cool water or wet cloths, fan the person, and place ice packs or cool towels around the neck, armpits, and groin. If the person is fully conscious, small sips of water or oral rehydration can be given. But if the person is confused, drowsy, vomiting, or unconscious, do not give anything orally because of the risk of choking. Cooling should begin even before the ambulance arrives, because in heat stroke, cooling is the treatment.” Certain groups are at a much higher risk during extreme heat. These include the elderly, infants and children, pregnant women, outdoor workers, traffic personnel, athletes, people living alone, and those with diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease, obesity, neurological illness, or cardiovascular disease. People on medications such as diuretics, certain blood pressure medicines, psychiatric medications, or drugs that affect sweating and hydration may also be more vulnerable. The World Health Organization notes that heat can worsen underlying illnesses such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes, and that older adults and people with chronic diseases face higher risks during heatwaves. Highlighting the risk among cardiac patients, Dr. Varsha Kiron, Director – Cardiology, AIG Hospitals Banjara Hills, said, “Extreme heat puts additional strain on the heart. To cool the body, the heart has to pump more blood and dehydration can

further reduce blood volume, making the heart work even harder. For patients with coronary artery disease, heart failure, hypertension, rhythm disorders, or those taking diuretics and blood pressure medications, this can increase the risk of dizziness, low blood pressure, palpitations, worsening heart failure, or even acute cardiac events. Cardiac patients should avoid peak heat hours, maintain hydration as advised by their doctor, never skip medicines without consultation, and seek help immediately if they experience chest discomfort, breathlessness, fainting, or unusual fatigue during hot weather.” As part of the “Beat the Heat” public awareness campaign, AIG Hospitals, Banjara Hills will focus on simple preventive measures that can be adopted by every household. These include drinking water regularly and not waiting until thirsty, avoiding direct sun exposure between late morning and afternoon, wearing light-coloured and breathable clothing, using caps or umbrellas outdoors, taking frequent rest breaks, avoiding intense exercise during peak heat, checking on elderly family members, avoiding alcohol and excessive caffeine during extreme heat, and ensuring children and pets are never left inside parked vehicles. The hospital also advises people with diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, kidney disease, and elderly individuals to be extra cautious during heatwave conditions. They should monitor symptoms closely, keep emergency contacts available, store medications safely, and consult their doctor regarding fluid intake if they have any restrictions due to heart or kidney conditions. The “Beat the Heat” initiative will include public awareness camps, doctor-led talks, educational materials, media outreach, community engagement, and practical guidance on recognising and responding to heat-related illness. The campaign's core message is simple: heat stroke is preventable, but only if people recognise the risk early and act in time.

Kiran Mugabasav Appointed to NSUI Central Election Authority



NEW DELHI :Shri Kanhaiya Kumar has appointed Shri Kiran Mugabasav to the Central Election Authority (CEA) of the NSUI to oversee internal organizational elections. A veteran leader from Hubli, Mugabasav previously served as an NSUI Election Commissioner (2016-18) and is recognized as a disciplined party soldier. Key Highlights of Kiran Mugabasav's Career: Organizational Leadership: Currently serves as an AICC Member and General Secretary of the KPCC. Grassroots Impact: Built the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Raj Sangathan (RGPRS) in Telangana and served as its National General Secretary. Dedicated Padyatri: Completed the 3,570 km Bharat Jodo Yatra, the 600 km Sarvodaya Sankalp Padyatra, and the 600 km Lok Swaraj Padyatra. Strategic Role: Served as National War Room Coordinator for the AICC in Maharashtra and New Delhi. This appointment leverages Mugabasav's extensive experience in grassroots organizing and his lifelong commitment to the values of Satya and Ahimsa.

TRP forms Jogulamba Gadwal district committee to boost BC empowerment

Jogulamba Gadwal, May 6 (TSIT): The Telangana Rajyadhikara Party, founded by Teenmar Mallanna, has completed the Formation of its district executive committee in Jogulamba Gadwal with a focus on strengthening political empowerment. The appointments were made under the supervision of joint district in-charge Vemulawada Madana Mohanachari and led by district president Morugu Veeresh. The newly appointed office bearers have officially assumed their responsibilities. Uppari Gangadhar Sagar from Sindhanur village was named Working President, while Ashok

Pujari from Pulikal village was appointed Vice President. Minigi Bharathi from Thatikunta village will serve as District Women's President, R. Thippareddy as Farmers Wing President, Narasimha Raju as Labour Wing President, and Suresh Naidu as District Social Media Incharge. Party leaders said the formation of the district committee aims to strengthen the organisational structure at the grassroots level and expand the party's outreach across the region. The newly appointed leaders expressed their commitment to uphold the party's principles and work actively towards its growth and public service initiatives.

Experts call for integrated action to curb antibiotic resistance

CHENNAI: Antibiotic resistance is a critical global health threat due to excessive and inappropriate use of antibiotics in humans, livestock and agriculture, warn health experts. A major concern is the growing tendency among people to take antibiotics without medical advice. When antibiotics are misused, taken in the wrong dose or stopped midway, bacteria survive, mutate and become resistant over time. Even simple infections can turn life threatening,” infectious disease expert Dr Surendran told DT Next. “Patients often discontinue antibiotics once symptoms improve, instead of completing the full course, enabling harmful bacteria to persist. Self-medication, use of leftover antibiotics and pressure on doctors to prescribe them for viral infections like colds and flu worsen the problem.” It warns that antibiotic resistance could lead to 10 million

deaths annually by 2050 if urgent action is not taken. In India, surveillance by the Indian Council of Medical Research shows alarming trends. In 2024, analysis of more than 99,000 laboratory samples revealed that gram-negative bacteria continue to dominate serious infections, particularly blood, urine and respiratory illnesses. Declining effectiveness of last-resort antibiotics such as carbapenems against pathogens like Klebsiella pneumoniae has raised serious concern among clinicians. Antibiotic misuse extends beyond humans. Large quantities are used in poultry, dairy and livestock farming to accelerate growth and prevent disease. In agriculture, antibiotics used for crop protection contaminate soil and water. “These residues enter our food chain and water sources, contributing to resistance. It is not only a medical problem but an environmental one too,” said environmental activist Sundarrajan of Poovulagin Nanbargal.

Amit Shah to release Yediyurappa speech volumes

Bengaluru (TSIT) In a major political and symbolic tribute to veteran BJP stalwart BS Yediyurappa, union Home Minister Amit Shah will unveil two landmark books documenting the former Karnataka Chief Minister's five-decade-long political and public life journey during the grand ‘BSY Abhimanyotsava’ celebrations in Chitradurga on Saturday. The event, being projected by the BJP as a historic gathering, marks 50 years of Yediyurappa's public life and comes at a politically significant time for the party in Karnataka, where the veteran Lingayat leader continues to wield considerable influence. According to State BJP OBC Morcha president R Raghu (Kautilya), the two books seek to capture not just Yediyurappa's political rise, but also his aggressive legislative interventions, pro-farmer politics and mass leadership that helped shape the BJP's growth in Karnataka. The first book, titled ‘Kendavare – Kamala Aralida Katha’ (The Story of the Lotus Blooming from the Ashes), traces



Yediyurappa's journey from humble beginnings to becoming one of the tallest leaders in Karnataka politics. Written by R Raghu (Kautilya), the biography records key turning points from his childhood, organisational struggles and grassroots mobilisation to his emergence as the BJP's strongest face in the state. The second publication, ‘Sadana Shikari – Yediyurappanavara Gudugina Nudigalu,’ is a compilation of Yediyurappa's speeches in the Karnataka Legislature over several decades. The book highlights his combative style inside the Assembly and Council, where he frequently raised issues relating to farmers' distress, regional development and governance failures, irrespective of whether.

Antimicrobial resistance a major health challenge for India: Experts

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to check the indiscriminate use of antibiotics has been lauded by health experts who said that his message drew attention to a major health concern of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) that the country is presently facing and called for regulating over-the-counter sale of such drugs. AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial medicines, according to WHO. As a result of drug resistance, antibiotics become ineffective and infections become difficult or impossible to treat. In his monthly ‘Mann Ki Baat’ radio address, Prime Minister Modi on Sunday said that antibiotics are not medicines that can be taken mindlessly and urged people to take them only on the doctor's advice. He said the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recently released a report which said that antibiotics were proving ineffective against many diseases like pneumonia and UTI (Urinary Tract Infections). “This is a matter of great concern for all of us,” he said. Dr M Srinivas, Director of AIIMS-Delhi, underlined that antibiotics should be consumed only when prescribed by doctors and for the exact duration. “Indiscriminate use of antibiotics will lead to resistance, and if the infection increases, there will be no reserved drugs left to use. The AIIMS has taken the leadership role in this matter... we have SoPs and hospital infection control systems and are creating awareness about the issue,” he said. ICMR Director General Rajiv Bahl said, “PM Modi has drawn the nation's attention to a serious issue. Overuse or irrational use of antibiotics for infections like pneumonia can lead to resistance, making them less effective. Antibiotics should only be used when needed and prescribed by doctors,” he said. Dr Atul Gogia, senior consultant and Head of Infectious Diseases at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, said that antimicrobial resistance is one of the greatest challenges India is currently facing. Indiscriminate use of antibiotics - unsupervised and self-medication - is leading to growing morbidity and mortality, he said. The common simple-to-treat infections are becoming increasingly difficult to treat because of the growing antimicrobial resistance, Gogia stressed. “There is a need of the hour to restrict over-the-counter sale of antibiotics as well as restrictions on their use in animals. Ensuring supervised anti-

biotic use in proper dosage and duration is the need of the hour to prevent further aggravation in the AMR situation,” he said. The early involvement of physicians and infectious disease doctors for proper implementation of the guidelines is very essential to prevent the onslaught of AMR, he added. India, bearing a silent and large pandemic in terms of high burden of infectious diseases, with UTI and pneumonia being the major ones, easy over-the-counter availability of antibiotics, irrational prescribing, and incomplete treatment courses have accelerated resistance, said Dr Neha Rastogi, Senior Consultant-Infectious Diseases, Fortis Gurugram. “With the strategy to empower the community as a modality to combat antimicrobial resistance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised on mass awareness,” she said. Massive impact of behavioural change, better diagnostics alongside stringent regulation and implementation of national policies on controlling AMR are needed. “Prevention of infections - vaccination, sanitation and environmental factors; preempting - early and improved affordable diagnostics, avoidance of self-medication, right dose right duration protocol are key pillars to build and sustain the drive against antimicrobial resistance,” Rastogi said. Dr Manisha Arora, Director of Internal Medicine at CK Birla Hospital, Delhi, said that antibiotic resistance has emerged as one of the most serious global public health crises. While it is a worldwide concern, India is among the countries most severely affected due to the widespread misuse and overuse of antibiotics, she said. Studies suggest that nearly 50-70 per cent of antibiotic use in India is inappropriate, she said. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the rise of drug-resistant “superbugs” is alarming, with antimicrobial resistance currently responsible for approximately 700,000 deaths each year globally. If left unchecked, this number could rise dramatically to 10 million deaths annually by 2050, surpassing cancer as a leading cause of mortality. “In India, the situation is further worsened by self-medication and the easy availability of antibiotics without a prescription. This is a major concern and calls for stricter regulation and enforcement. “Antibiotics should only be taken when prescribed by a qualified healthcare professional. In parallel, strengthening infection prevention and control measures.

Delay in bypoll result raises doubts, CBI probe needed: R. Ashoka

Bengaluru: Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka has demanded a CBI inquiry into the one-day delay in declaring the Sringeri by-election result, alleging possible pressure on election officials.Speaking to reporters after the oath-taking ceremony of MLA D. N. Jeevaraj at Vidhana Soudha, administered by Speaker U. T. Khader, Ashoka questioned why the result was not announced immediately after the recount. He said the court

had directed that the Election Commission issue the certificate without delay once the result was finalised.Ashoka alleged that despite the result being clear, officials delayed the declaration by a day, and called for a probe to identify if any external pressure was exerted. He also dismissed allegations of vote tampering, stating that strong rooms are under CCTV surveillance and police security, making manipulation unlikely.

Bengaluru allows withdrawal of erroneous eKhata applications

Bengaluru: Citizens in Bengaluru can now withdraw wrongly submitted eKhata applications, announced Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner (Revenue & IT), as part of new reforms aimed at improving public services.

The announcement was made during a workshop held at Town Hall, where officials were briefed on enhancements to the eKhata system designed

to make property-related services more efficient and citizen-friendly.Officials highlighted that around 13.05 lakh property owners linked to SAS ID-based properties can now download eKhata certificates and apply for final eKhata online, reducing reliance on manual processes.

As part of the reforms, citizens can also modify select property details online, minimising the need for office



visits. A new provision allows applicants to withdraw incorrect submissions, providing greater flexibility and reducing procedural delays.

Additionally, an auto-validation feature has been introduced for properties marked as ready for registration. Based on verification of Encumbrance Certificates (EC), the system can now fast-track approvals, easing property transactions.

Addressing the officials, Moudgil emphasised the adoption of a simplified, transparent, and user-friendly system, reinforcing the administration's commitment to digital governance and improved citizen convenience. Senior officials, including Joint Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, and Revenue Department staff, attended the workshop.

Sub-division-wise Control Rooms Must Function Systematically: Dr. Rajendra K.V.

COMMISSIONER CONDUCTS INSPECTION AND MEETING IN BASAVANAGUDI DIVISION

Bengaluru : Bengaluru West City Corporation Commissioner Dr. Rajendra K.V. has directed officials to ensure that the sub-division-wise control rooms established within the corporation function systematically. He addressed a meeting held today with the Engineering and Revenue Department officials of the Basavanagudi Division regarding monsoon preparedness, property records, and the 2027 Census of India.He

instructed officials to expedite works such as desilting drains to ensure the smooth flow of rainwater and to open sub-division-level control rooms to operate efficiently.

Inspection of Various Locations: The Commissioner visited the Assistant Revenue Officer's office and reviewed the maintenance of mutation registers and e-Khata documentation related to property records. He personally verified the process

of linking property records with GPS tags along with the GPS operator in the Basavanagudi Division.

Regarding the census, he directed the Charge Officers to carry out the house-listing process systematically. Joint Commissioner Sangappa, Executive Engineer of the concerned division, Assistant Executive Engineers, Revenue Officers, and other staff members were present on the occasion.

Jeevaraj accuses Speaker of oath delay, Khader denies allegations



Bengaluru, May 6 (UNI) BJP MLA from Sringeri DN Jeevaraj on Wednesday said approaching the Governor became "inevitable" after he was allegedly denied an opportunity to take oath as a member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, even as Speaker UT Khader rejected allegations of deliberate delay and assured that the oath would be administered soon in accordance with constitutional provisions.

Addressing reporters at the BJP state headquarters Jagannath Bhavan here, Jeevaraj said he had formally sought permission to take oath as an MLA, but Speaker Khader did not provide an opportunity in time.

"We had requested permission for administering the oath. But since the Speaker did not allow it, approaching the Governor with a complaint became unavoidable," he said.

Jeevaraj said the issue, which could have been handled in a simple manner, was unnecessarily turned into a "high-voltage" controversy. He added that had the Speaker informed them that arrangements would be made within a couple of days, there would have been no need to meet the Governor.

He claimed that after the BJP's victory following the recount, developments that unfolded were "unusual" and could set a wrong political precedent.

"In a democracy, there

will be victory and defeat. But filing complaints and FIRs immediately after losing, merely because one's own party is in power, creates pressure on those who have won after a prolonged struggle," he alleged.

Jeevaraj further claimed that if such trends continued, it could discourage candidates from even contesting by-elections or seeking recounts in future. He said he had submitted a letter to the Assembly Secretary seeking arrangements for the oath-taking ceremony. Since the Speaker was unavailable in Bengaluru, a personal meeting could not be held, he added.

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters in Mangaluru, Speaker Khader denied allegations of intentional delay and said the oath would be administered at the earliest after following due constitutional procedure.

Khader said Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot had spoken to him over the phone regarding the issue and that he had already clarified the situation.

"There is no delay as such. The matter requires

proper discussion and legal consultation. I will administer the oath in accordance with the Constitution and established rules," he said.

Responding to criticism over alleged unresponsiveness, Khader said the request for oath-taking had been submitted in the morning with a demand for immediate action.

"If an application is submitted in the morning, how is it possible to administer the oath by evening? At least 24 hours' time should be given," he remarked.

Referring to the legal and procedural complexities, Khader noted that Congress leader TD Rajegowda had earlier taken oath after being declared elected, before the Karnataka High Court ordered a recount in which Jeevaraj later emerged victorious.

"Tomorrow, if there is another development and the results change again, how should the process proceed? These issues are interconnected and require careful consideration," he said.

Khader also cautioned against statements that could create doubts over constitutional offices, saying such remarks would weaken democratic and parliamentary institutions.Jeevaraj, however, expressed surprise over the remarks made by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar after the BJP's victory in the recount process.

Congress betrayed DMK, INDIA bloc must introspect: R. Ashoka



Bengaluru : The Congress, which contested the elections in Tamil Nadu in alliance with DMK, has now stabbed the same party in the back. Opposition Leader R. Ashoka said that the INDIA alliance partner parties should introspect on this matter. Speaking to reporters, he said: "In Tamil Nadu, Congress's true colours have been exposed. The DMK leaders who befriended Congress are now left with sullen faces. It was decided that they would come together and form the government after the elections. But after the results, Congress has grabbed the 'winning horse's tail'.

These people follow no principles. DMK, which trusted them, has been backstabbed. It has now become clear to the people that Congress is a party that betrays its allies. It is evident that Congress is not worthy of trust. Other parties in the INDIA alliance should seriously introspect on this. They need to watch how Congress betrays its partners. Otherwise, the same fate that has befallen DMK awaits them too."

He also said that Speaker U.T. Khader has agreed to administer the oath of office to MLA D.N. Jeevaraj. After approaching the Governor, permission was granted for the oath. Once a name is published in the gazette and the Election Commission issues the certificate, the oath must be administered. Either the Governor or a person nominated by him can administer it. It is

heartening that in the final stage, Speaker U.T. Khader himself has accepted the result and is administering the oath. "It is now crystal clear who has indulged in vote theft. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is accusing others of dacoity, should have approached the court first.

When Rajegowda won, the Election Commission was fine; now they say it is not. Rahul Gandhi says EVMs are fine in Kerala but not in West Bengal. All these people need a brain mapping done. At least now, they should think properly before speaking about election results," he said. "After Mallikarjun Kharge's entry, no one is talking about the CM's chair anymore.

D.K. Shivakumar's dream has been shattered. He had said, I, the rock of Kanakapura, will become the stepping stone to Vidhana Soudha.' Senior Congress leaders are busy carving that rock into a stone idol. The complete stone idol is not yet ready. D.K. Shivakumar will remain just a stepping stone and will never be able to become the stone (idol) himself," Ashoka remarked.

HI LIFE SUMMER FASHION EXHIBITION TO BEGIN IN BENGALURU

Bengaluru: Fashion enthusiasts in the city can look forward to a stylish summer as the HI Life Exhibition – Summer Edition arrives with a curated showcase of designer collections.

The three-day exhibition will be held from May 8 to May 10 at The Lalit Ashok, bringing together top designers from across India under one roof.

The event will feature an exclusive range of designer wear, elegant couture, statement jewellery, and trend-forward accessories, offering visitors an opportunity to refresh their seasonal wardrobe with the latest fashion trends.

Organisers said the exhibition aims to provide a premium shopping experience, showcasing unique and high-quality collections for fashion lovers in Bengaluru. With a mix of traditional and contemporary styles, the HI Life Exhibition is expected to attract shoppers seeking distinctive designs and summer-ready fashion.



WILDFIRES AND MENTAL HEALTH: COMMUNITY FIRST, THEN THERAPY

It was pitch black and smoky at 4 a.m., when Vivianne Parker, 66, of Altadena, California, got the emergency notice to evacuate now as the Eaton Canyon wildfire was approaching her home. She hurriedly gathered some necessities and set out to walk the 3 miles to the Pasadena Convention Center, the nearest evacuation center. Soon, another neighbor joined her walk, then another neighbor saw them and offered to drive them to the center. Have you checked in with yourself today? Health experts outline habits that positively impact your mood and protect your state of mind. Inside the center, she and hundreds of other evacuees had cots and other amenities; outside, representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other groups had set up shop.

Inside the evacuation center, social worker Elizabeth Hamilton, LCSW, MPH, senior director of regional behavioral health at Kaiser Permanente Southern California, was offering a listening ear to the evacuees. "People are looking for comfort," she said, and are reaching out to others to get that. "There is comfort in connections, in knowing people have your back."

Some call this psychological first aid, an approach used by mental health experts to reduce distress, encourage hope, and help people affected reconnect with family and friends. The support and connections just after a wildfire disaster can go a long way in preserving mental health, researchers have found. After a wildfire disaster, receiving good support from the community is at the top of the list for mental health, according to Vincent Agyapong, MD, PhD, a professor and head of psychiatry at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, who has long researched the mental health status of people affected by wildfires and other climate events.

"The most positive predictor of psychological well-being was the perception you are receiving good support from the community." That support can come from family, friends, local groups, or government, he said. As the fires continue to burn, the Los Angeles community continues to offer support. As of January 22, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Eaton Fire was 91% contained; Palisades, 68%. More than 15,700 structures have been destroyed and more than 40,000 acres burned. About 200,000 people were under evacuation orders at first, although some of those orders were later lifted.

Restaurants invited people affected by the fire to



stop by for a meal. Hotels and short-term rentals are offering free or discounted stays. One collection point – Santa Anita Park, near the Eaton Fire – was so full of donations just four days after the fires began, the organizers said they didn't need more of some donations. Animal shelters helped evacuate small and large animals. Music benefits with big names are scheduled. GoFundMe accounts to help people rebuild are being set up at brisk rates. A synagogue in Pacific Palisades that survived the fire put together an information panel with speakers who had lost their homes in previous fires. A Veterans of Foreign Wars post miles from the fires is hosting a \$10-a-bowl pozole benefit, giving proceeds to displaced veterans. Clothing retailers are offering new clothes, gratis, to those affected. In 2024, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information, more than 61,000 U.S. wildfires burned more than 8.8 billion acres, the seventh-most burned acreage over the last 25 years. As the number of wildfires grows, research on the mental health effects is increasing. Alison Hwong, MD, PhD, an assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Stanford School of Medicine, analyzed data from the California Health Interview Survey, which in 2021 added questions about exposure to extreme weather events and mental health. More than half, 53%, reported their mental health was affected by climate events such as wildfires. Young, White, college-educated respondents, as

well as women and rural residents, were more likely to report poorer mental health, but Hwong can't entirely explain that finding. People with mental health issues are more vulnerable, she and others said. Agyapong's team tracked the mental health status of residents affected by the 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire in Canada, with 2,400 homes destroyed and 88,000 people evacuated. "Those who reported no support from the community were at greater risk of mental health problems at six months and also at five years," Agyapong said. Family and friend support also protected people from depression, he found. His team reviewed 63 published studies on the impact of wildfires on mental health, finding an increased rate of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and anxiety both right after the disaster and for years after. Just after evacuation, "people are seeking immediate relief," said Dawn Gillam, a licensed clinical social worker and executive leader of behavioral health services at Kaiser Permanente Southern California. "They want to know where to get a shower, where to get food. They want help walking their dogs, playing with their kids." Then, "A few days in, they want to talk about their feelings. People want to talk about their frustration over little things, like they are not getting a warm enough shower." Whether a therapist, friend, or family member is listening, people want to feel validated about how they are feeling, therapists said. Hamilton recalled a woman at the evacuation center who told her: "I'm not a crier, but I can't stop crying." She was in community leadership roles, and the reversal, of needing help instead of giving it.

GLP-1 drugs offer benefits but raise concerns over side effects, drug interactions: Experts

While GLP-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) are gaining widespread use for diabetes and weight management due to their added health benefits, experts have flagged growing concerns over side effects and potential drug interactions. These medications, known for improving glycaemic control and aiding weight loss, are also associated with several gastrointestinal side effects such as nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, constipation, bloating and flatulence. Other risks include hypoglycaemia when used alongside other antidiabetic drugs, gallstone formation.

ICI Home Finance

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[See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable assets
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immoveable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgage/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction	One Day Before Auction Date	SARFAESI Stage
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	Divakaran K (Borrower) Jayasree R (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHPGT00001316417	Old Sy No 160D/8C Block No 18, Thenkurissi 1 Village Alathur Taluk 369/13 Palakkad Kerala- 678671	Rs. 9,86,441/- April 30, 2026	Rs. 986,580/- April 30, 2026	May 18, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	May 25, 2026 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	May 22, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Physical Possession
2.	Sudheesh R (Borrower) Devi (Co-Borrower) Loan No. LHPGT00001483948	Re Sy No. 359/59 I Vadakkancherry II Palakkad Kerala- 678682	Rs. 6,28,633/- April 30, 2026	Rs. 14,89,500/- April 30, 2026	June 02, 2026 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	June 09, 2026 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	June 08, 2026 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-https://BidDeal.in) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Mortgagees/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till May 22, 2026, June 08, 2026 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before May 22, 2026, June 08, 2026 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before May 22, 2026, June 08, 2026 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICI Home Finance Company Ltd. - Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article.
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300.
The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit https://www.icihfc.com/
Date: May 07, 2026
Place: Palakkad
Authorized Officer, "ICI Home Finance Company Limited",
CIN Number:- U65922MH1999PLC120106



EDITORIAL

Mafia, Scams and
Shifting Loyalties:
How Mamata Banerjee
Lost The Plot

In any election, there is never just one reason behind how people vote. Outcomes are shaped by multiple forces working together over time. West Bengal has a population of roughly ten crore, with around six crore voters - figures that can be verified - but the larger point remains: no single factor explains such a political shift.

Over the past two years, I have travelled across almost every district in the state. Based on those observations, a clearer picture begins to emerge.

The first and most visible factor was strong anti-incumbency against the Trinamool Congress government. Fifteen years in power had inevitably created fatigue. Anti-incumbency, after all, is almost a law of nature: what rises must eventually face decline.

The second factor was something I noticed consistently across districts: the rise of local strongmen. In many places, groups of 'goons' operated under political protection. They exercised control, often through intimidation, and gradually a culture of extortion took root. This was particularly visible in sectors like real estate - everything from sand supply to cement distribution became part of a larger patronage network. For many, this system became a livelihood, but it also created a coercive structure in which ordinary people had to pay "cuts" not just to local political figures but, in some cases, to the police as well. Small party offices often became centres of local authority, with individuals acting as power brokers. This was not hidden; it was visible on the ground. Even something as everyday as running e-rickshaws became tied to informal payments. Many drivers - sometimes without proper registration - paid local intermediaries to operate. Once such systems took hold, they became difficult to challenge. People endured them, but a growing desire to break free was unmistakable.

The third major factor was a sense of disillusionment among sections of civil society. This was not always loud, but it was there. Closely linked to that was the impact of the education scam controversies, which significantly damaged public perception of the government. The RG Kar incident further intensified concerns, particularly around women's safety - and this had a crucial electoral impact, since women had been one of Mamata Banerjee's strongest support bases.

That support had not emerged overnight. It was built over years. Even during her tenure as Railway Minister, long before she became Chief Minister, she had introduced measures benefiting working-class women, especially those who commuted daily for domestic work. Later, as Chief Minister, schemes such as health coverage registered in women's names, travel allowances for patients, and direct financial assistance like Lakshmi Bhandar (₹1,500 per month) helped consolidate that base. This time, however, there was visible erosion. One reason was the counter-campaign led by Narendra Modi, who commands his own strong appeal among women voters across India. Issues of safety, amplified by high-profile incidents, weakened the earlier consolidation. Modi emphasised women's security and, notably, promised ₹3,000 per month for women - a pledge he had not made before. In 2021, he had actually opposed such welfare schemes, calling them a driver of unemployment; recognising that approach had been a mistake, the BJP quietly changed course. The party is not averse to adopting the same playbook when it suits them.

The fourth factor was law and order - or, more precisely, its deterioration. Violence by TMC-affiliated elements increased markedly, particularly around elections. This pattern is not new to Bengal: when Congress fell, its strongmen migrated to the CPM; when the CPM fell, they migrated to the TMC. The TMC thus inherited and amplified a culture of coercion that previous governments had also relied upon.

Another significant shift came from the urban, educated middle class - the so-called bhadralok. Historically aligned with Congress, this group had moved toward the Left during the Singur and Nandigram agitations, and Mamata had shrewdly channelled that discontent into a political movement. But over time, particularly after industrial setbacks such as the departure of the Tata project from the state, confidence in her government began to erode. This erosion was visible even in constituencies like Bhawanipur - cosmopolitan, elite, and politically prestigious, the kind of seat once contested by leaders like Syama Prasad Mukherjee and Siddhartha Shankar Ray. The role of Suvenud Adhikari also stands out. Despite not coming from an elite urban background, he emerged as a credible and effective face for the BJP, particularly in consolidating Hindu votes. This brings us to another critical factor: religious polarisation. Muslim voters had traditionally backed Mamata Banerjee strongly, and there was every expectation that this would continue, especially given anxieties within the community about national politics under Modi and Amit Shah.

But the BJP's campaign intensified polarisation through aggressive labelling and pointed narratives. In response, Mamata attempted a counter-balance through visible religious outreach - visiting temples, invoking cultural symbols - yet these gestures did not fully neutralise the BJP's framing. The party managed to consolidate a large section of Hindu voters. There was also a widespread perception, especially in urban areas, that the state government had been overly accommodating toward certain groups even when law and order were at stake. Whether accurate or not, this perception had real electoral consequences. Symbolic issues - such as state involvement in temple affairs - became talking points that fed into the broader narrative. Finally, structural factors also played a role. Processes like voter list revisions (referred to in political circles as SIR) are believed by the BJP to have influenced outcomes, particularly in border districts. Without these factors, many of the shifts described above may not have translated as effectively into votes.

In the end, it was not one wave but many currents converging. Anti-incumbency, organisational fatigue, shifting voter loyalties, identity politics, and strategic campaigning all combined to reshape the electoral landscape. Mamata Banerjee did not lose the plot because of a single misstep. It was the cumulative weight of multiple changes - some gradual, some sudden - that altered the outcome.

The Vijay Paradox: How A 'Welfare State' Still Ended Up Dissatisfied

We know it is a case of anti-incumbency vote. We also know that Tamil Nadu is famous for turning movie stars into leading-edge politicians. But we need to look beyond these obvious clichés to figure out what the new normal is in the state's socio-economic dynamics. We need to deconstruct the much-discussed 'Gen Z' factor, under which a new generation of voters has catapulted into power a two-year-old toddler party in assembly elections. The huge mandate for C Joseph Vijay and his Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK - or Tamil Nadu's Victory Organisation) is such that one has to see its timing, manner, context, and the demographics surrounding the vote that has given the party a majority only a few seats short of an absolute assembly mandate. Reading the message of a mandate in an election, especially one in a parliamentary democracy, is akin to reading a tarot card that goes into the mystical ways of emotions, relationships, and intellect to predict moods and outcomes. In political terms, you could say that the TVK's surge is like a coming-of-age moment for Tamil Nadu. One is tempted to suggest that this may be the beginning of the end of feudal-era politics, in which kinships based on caste, community, or region are giving way to a broad-based mandate based not just on basic needs but on ambitions and aspirations.

As I told a panel discussion on NDTV, Vijay's arrival matches in political terms a Hindi punchline that went viral through an advertisement for Pepsi-Cola, popular when the movie star was rising in the 1990s: "Yeh dil maange more" (This heart wants more). Look at the context. Tamil Nadu has seen about three decades of an IT revolution driven by com-



puters, software, and the business process outsourcing (BPO) industries. There is a whole generation of digital natives in a state that has about 57 million voters, of which about 23 million - or about 25% - are below the age of 40. Smartphone penetration was about 92% a year ago. The state's population is around 85 million, while wireless subscriptions add up to 80 million. Clearly, the younger lot uses social media more. One humourist says elections in the last decade were about WhatsApp, while now they are about Instagram - where Vijay scores magnificently with a cult following. You are looking at a generation that has moved past a previous one that had to survive droughts, severe unemployment, distress migration, and security in relationships and marriages linked to blood relations and traditions. As election day approached, packed special trains ferried hundreds of thousands of young voters from bustling industrial hubs like Chennai and Coimbatore to

remote southern district towns and villages to cast their ballots. They carried not just the voter cards that enabled them to press a button on electronic voting machines (EVMs) but memories of conversations and memes on social media, and aspirations in the companies that they directly or indirectly worked with, such as Microsoft, Infosys Cognizant, Google and Amazon. Read that with the fact that Vijay saluted the portrait of 'Periyar' Erode Venkatappa Ramasamy (EVR) Naicker as he started his political journey. Much is being made out by critics of EVR's controversial anti-Brahmin politics to suggest that the TVK is a break from the Dravida politics of the past because his party does not contain the word "Dravida", which has been a shorthand for non-Brahmin, Hindi-baiting, often atheistic core of the Dravida movement that EVR founded through his Justice Party in the British colonial era. It is true that Vijay is definitely shedding a lot of the Periyar-era baggage.

But what he has retained is EVR's rationalist core that questioned the existing social and political establishment. Status quo has not been fashionable in Tamil Nadu for nearly a century now. That questioning spirit has been repackaged for a Gen Z and/or Millennial bundle of aspirations, much of which will be tested in the coming days. The TVK has to go the extra mile to deliver the goods because the DMK (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) under MK Stalin had spread out a slew of welfareist and supportive measures and schemes spanning education, industry, startups, farming, and skill-building, which was good but not enough for the Gen Z voters who wanted more. This could be because the game has shifted to a new normal, in which basic needs such as livelihoods, food, and clothing have been well taken care of. It is common to see in Tamil Nadu migrant workers from northern states like West Bengal and Bihar because locals are either better employed in jobs gained from

higher education and migration to developed countries. This new normal is one in which conversations have also gone beyond welfareist handouts and job opportunities. Dynastic politics, corruption, and an entrenched oligarchy of political families collectively signal to a new generation that they may have been short-changed. Liquor barons, sand mafia, illegal stone quarrying and rave parties are as much a part of social conversations as AI jobs. Here is where the "Yeh dil maange more" appeal of a youthful, energetic Vijay kicks in. His rhetoric is embellished by punchlines and dance movements in which the gap between a political speech and a 30-second prime-time commercial gets blurred. It is tempting to draw some corporate analogies to underline what Vijay's aspirational politics represent. Imagine a Sunder Pichai, born in Madurai and raised in Chennai, who now heads Google, one of the world's most towering technology companies. A Sundarapandian raised in Madurai cannot easily aspire for a similar leadership role in a DMK or even an AIADMK. Somewhere deep down, this helps Vijay's political promise. Much like employees who seek stock options, leadership roles, and bonuses beyond the usual salary and an annual raise, the Gen Z voters of Tamil Nadu seem to have raised the bar. What happens next is something we need to watch carefully. After all, electoral politics is not a cola war. (Madhavan Narayanan is a senior editor, writer and columnist with more than 30 years of experience, having worked for Reuters, The Economic Times, Business Standard, and Hindustan Times after starting out in the Times of India Group.

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 Ponnamm 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 ₹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.

THE DAM BREAKS:

Kerala Didn't Reject The Left, It Rejected What It Had Turned Into

There are election results that change governments, and there are verdicts that discipline political cultures. Kerala 2026 belongs to the second category. On the surface, the message is simple: the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) has returned to power after a decade, the Left Democratic Front (LDF) has been thrown out, and the BJP has made a small but symbolically important advance. The Election Commission's current figures show the Congress winning 63 seats, the CPI(M) 26, the IUML 22, the CPI eight, the Kerala Congress seven and the BJP three in the 140-member assembly; alliance-wise, the UDF has won 102 seats and the LDF 35. But Kerala rarely speaks in one register. This verdict is not merely an anti-incumbency wave, though anti-incumbency was undoubtedly its strongest current. It is also a moral correction issued by a politically literate electorate against the tone of power. The Left did not lose simply because voters stopped believing in welfare, social justice, secularism, or the larger grammar of the Kerala model. It lost because too many people, including sections of its own ecosystem, appeared to believe that the Left in office had drifted from the Left as an ethical idea. The charge from within the anti-LDF space was not that Kerala wanted less Left, but that it wanted a humbler, more inclusive, more humane Left. That is why the description of the verdict as a victory for a "Nehruvian Left" is more than just clever phrase-making. It captures the paradox of this election: the Congress has won by occupying, in sentiment if not in party structure, the



moral space that the Left vacated. The scale of the UDF victory makes another uncomfortable truth difficult to ignore. Without leakage from within the Left's social and organisational base, 102 seats would have been almost impossible. This was not simply a Congress mobilisation from outside the fortress; it was also a revolt from within the walls. The Left rank and file, its fellow-travellers, its disappointed voters, and its local rebels together helped convert resentment into a verdict. Reports of the CPI(M) rebels damaging the party in bastions, including G Sudhakaran's UDF-backed independent victory in Ambalappuzha, point to a deeper breakdown rather than just ordinary electoral fatigue.

BJP. Worse, it was accused by critics of enabling or failing to distance itself adequately from communally loaded and Islamophobic voices. In a state where political nuance matters, that was a devastating failure. The danger of such blurring is obvious. If the Left is seen to be flirting with majoritarian anxieties, if it is accused of offering a softer version of what the BJP already offers in full ideological force, why should voters looking for that politics not choose the original? Kerala has not become a BJP state, but the BJP's three-seat breakthrough is not a footnote. It has won Nemom and Kazhakkootam in Thiruvananthapuram and Chathannoor in Kollam, giving it its best Assembly tally in the state. What makes this more significant is geography. The BJP's gains have come from south Kerala, where the Left has traditionally had influence and where the Congress has not always been structurally dominant. This means the old assumption may need revision. The BJP was once expected to first weaken the Congress in Kerala and then confront the Left. The emerging contest may be different: the BJP could increasingly compete with the Left for opposition space in pockets where anti-Congress sentiment sur-

vives, but anti-Left confidence has collapsed. That is bad news for the CPI(M), because a party can recover from defeat; it is harder to recover from losing the ideological terms on which it is opposed.

THE UDF'S QUIET SOCIAL ARCHITECTURE

The UDF's victory was not built on noise alone. It was built through a quiet, patient, open-door architecture that allowed a wide range of political energies to enter its fold: minorities who felt anxious, Christians who had drifted away in the previous assembly election, Muslims who consolidated sharply, Left rebels who needed a platform, and civil society voices uncomfortable with the arrogance of the regime. This openness had risks. At one stage, critics tried to portray the Congress's broad tent as an excuse to accommodate headline Islamist opinion. But the party did not lose its nerve. It stayed the course, and the Left's own inability to fully reject tactical support from Islamist quarters weakened its ability to attack the Congress on that front. The result was a consolidation that had both social and psychological depth. The IUML's performance reflects this clearly: it won 22 of the 27 seats it contested, its best-ever assembly performance, and reinforced its position as the UDF's indispensable second pillar. Minority consolidation appears to have been decisive. Reports indicate that the UDF won overwhelmingly in constituencies with substantial Muslim populations, while Christian voters who had moved away from the Congress in the previous assembly election returned in significant measure.

Business Segment grew by Rs. 1,092 Cr from Rs. 12,686 Cr to Rs. 13,778 Cr showing an increase of 8.61% on Y-o-Y basis Mortgage loan grew by Rs. 1,621 Cr from Rs. 3,814 Cr to Rs. 5,435 Cr showing an increase of 42.50% on Y-o-Y basis.

Iran considering US proposal to end war, official says, as Trump warns of strikes if no deal

AGENCY
Tehran: Reports suggest that the US and Iran are inching closer to a one-page memorandum aimed at ending the war. Experts, however, are warning that any negotiations aimed at bringing the war to an end are incredibly complex, and in the case of Iran's nuclear materials are highly technical. Holly Dagues, an Iran expert at the Washington Institute on Near East Policy, told the BBC that unless the Iranians address their nuclear programme as part of the proposed memorandum, the Trump administration is "highly unlikely" to be satisfied. While the one-page memorandum being reported sets a 30-day period to negotiate the issue - as well as the Strait of Hormuz and sanctions relief - Dagues said that timeline may be unrealistic. "It's worth emphasising that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, from which the first Trump administration with-

drew in 2018, was 150 pages long and included technical details," she said. There's also considerable confusion as to the pause in Project Freedom, and whether freedom of navigation in the Strait will, in fact, bring the two sides closer to a deal. "If this Mou [memorandum of understanding] does finalise, it should free up these vessels and be a big step in ending this war," a former top Pentagon official told me. "If it doesn't, this may further embolden Iran." Trump himself seems to be somewhat cautious about a deal. In a brief telephone interview with PBS this morning, Trump acknowledged that he's believed a deal was close in the past only to be thwarted. "I felt that way before with them," he said. "So we'll see what happens." On Tuesday, the US strategy seemed to be newly dependent on unclenching Tehran's grip on the Strait of Hormuz, with the diplomatic path apparently on the backburn-



er. Now, President Trump has ditched that approach and is saying that peace is all but at hand. It's being reported that there's a one-page document that the two sides are close to agreeing. The Pakistani mediators are talking it up, too. The little that's come out of Iran so far is as ever notably less enthused about developments. One official has said that what

Washington has presented is a wish-list rather than a reality. In a post on X citing the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Baghaei says the concept of negotiations requires "at the very least, a genuine attempt to engage in discussions with a view to resolving the dispute". "It needs 'good faith', then, meaning that 'negotiations' is not 'disputation'; nor is it

'dictation', 'deception', 'extortion' or 'coercion'", he adds. There is no direct mention of the US, or an American proposal to end the war, in the post. However, as we've been reporting, Baghaei has told Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA) that Iran has shared its views on the US proposal with Pakistani mediators. An American proposal to end the war with Iran is still being considered, an Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson tells Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA). In an interview with ISNA, Esmail Baghaei says that Iran is sharing its views on the US proposal with Pakistani mediators. A senior Iranian parliament member has dismissed US media reports of a deal to end the war with Iran being close as an American "wish-list" rather than a reality. According to a report from US news outlet Axios published earlier today, the White House believes it could be closing in on a 14-

point memorandum of understanding with Iran. Responding to the report, Ebrahim Rezaei, the spokesperson of the Iranian Parliament's national security and foreign policy commission, says the US will "not obtain through a failed war what they failed to gain in face-to-face negotiations". In a statement published on X in Persian, Rezaei says Iran "has its finger on the trigger and is ready". He warns that if the US "do not surrender and grant the necessary concessions", Iran will "deliver a harsh and regret-inducing response". While questions remain over whether the US and Iran could reach a deal to end the war, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) has said it is continuing to strike Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon. In an update earlier today, the IDF said two of its soldiers were injured by two explosive drones in the region, which it says were launched by Hezbollah.

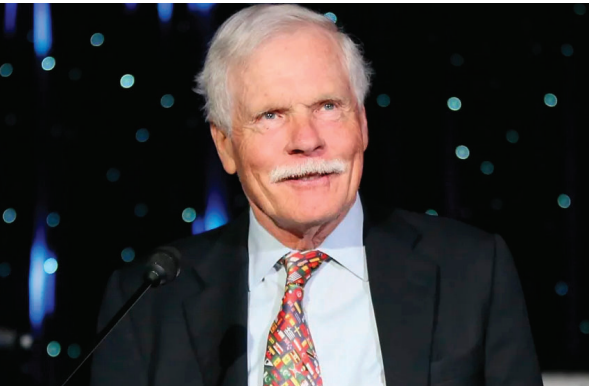
Orphaned baby hippo to be hand-reared by keepers at Kenya sanctuary



AGENCY
Kenya: A baby hippo found desperately nudging its dead mother at a lake in Kenya over the weekend is now being hand-reared at a wildlife sanctuary after being rescued. The calf, which has been named Bumpy, was "just days old" when it became orphaned, according to Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, a charity whose keepers are now taking care of it. The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), which rescued the calf and handed it over to the wildlife charity for specialised care, said the mother may have died

from natural causes. Sheldrick said it was possible that the hippo's mother died in a "territorial fight... protecting her calf, as infanticide is common in hippo society". KWS said rescuing the calf from the water was a "logistical challenge", with the calf clinging to its dead mother. It said it had to make a "painful decision" to use the decomposing body "as the only anchor to safely reach the calf". According to Sheldrick, the mother had been dead for more than a day or longer, based on the level of decomposition.

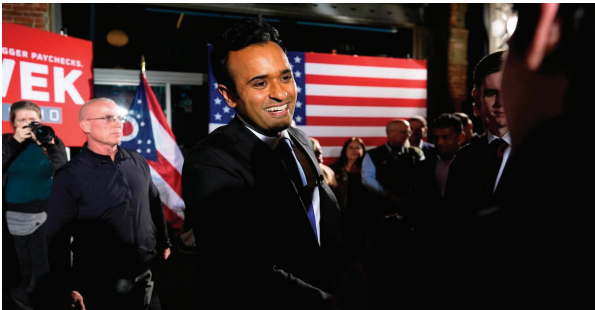
Ted Turner, media mogul who revolutionised TV news by launching CNN, dies at 87



AGENCY
Washington: Media mogul Ted Turner, who pioneered the modern 24-hour news culture when he launched the CNN channel, has died at the age of 87, the network has announced. In 1980, Turner launched Cable News Network as the first dedicated rolling news channel, which soon became a central part of the media landscape. US President Donald Trump paid tribute to him as "one of the greats of broadcast history, and a friend of mine". Current CNN CEO and chairman Mark Thompson described Turner as "the giant on whose shoulders we stand, and we will all take a moment today to recognise him and his impact on our lives and the world". In a statement, Thompson said: "Ted was an intensely involved and committed leader, intrepid, fearless and always willing to back a hunch and trust his own judgement. "He was and always will be the presiding spirit of CNN." President Trump has been a fierce critic of the current CNN, but said of Turner:

"Whenever I needed him, he was there, always willing to fight for a good cause!" CNN initially faced scepticism and struggles - being mocked as the "Chicken Noodle Network" in its early years by those who thought it would not succeed. But the channel proved its worth by providing speedy and continuous updates of stories like the assassination attempt on US President Ronald Reagan in 1981, and the Challenger space shuttle disaster in 1986. The network truly came of age with its live rolling coverage from Iraq during the 1990-1991 Gulf War. President George Bush once said he learned more from CNN than he did from the CIA. CNN's success led other news channels to follow, such as Fox News, launched in 1996 by Turner's long-time rival Rupert Murdoch. But CNN was far from Turner's only outlet. He began his career by taking over the successful family billboard company when his father took his own life, then bought a radio station in Atlanta, Georgia.

Vivek Ramaswamy wins Republican nomination for Ohio governor



AGENCY
Washington: Vivek Ramaswamy will run for the position of Ohio governor in November, after the staunch ally of US President Donald Trump emerged victorious in one of a series of primary contests held in the US Midwest. Projected results on Tuesday night showed the health-tech entrepreneur had defeated Casey Putsch to earn the Republican nomination. Ramaswamy - who gained prominence during his

unsuccessful run against Trump for president in 2024 - said at a victory party that his plan was to "leave this state and this country better than we found it". Meanwhile, Democratic candidate Amy Acton, who ran unopposed for her party's own nomination, told supporters she wanted to make Ohio more affordable again. "It shouldn't be this hard," said Acton, who is the former Ohio public health director. "It is time to put working families first."

British doctor evacuated from virus-hit cruise ship in stable condition, Spanish minister says

AGENCY
London: It was earlier confirmed that three people were evacuated from the MV Hondius; a 41-year-old Dutchman, a 65-year-old German and a 56-year-old Briton. It leaves a total of 146 people on board the ship, operator Oceanwide Expeditions confirmed to the BBC, including a passenger who died on board on 2 May. Prior to this, in a press update on Tuesday, Oceanwide said that there were 61 crew members and 88 passengers. British passengers made up the highest number in Tuesday's update, with 19 on board, as well as four crew members. Meanwhile the Philippines made up the greatest number of crew, with 38 on board. Other nationalities listed include the USA, New



Zealand, India, Belgium, Ireland and Japan, among others. In total, there are 23 different nationalities listed by the operator. Officials at the World Health Organization (WHO) are monitoring 69 close contacts of people who have been on board the ship, health official Marie Roseline Belizaire says in an online briefing. Samples from people on board are being sent

abroad and analysed, the WHO's representative in Cape Verde Ann Lindstrand tells the briefing. But you have to be "sharing a cabin or bring a couple or really being close" to be able to spread the disease from one to another, she adds. Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper says the UK is working with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to get British nationals on

board the MV Hondius "safely home". In a statement, Cooper says she is taking this action "with proper protection for public health" as the UKHSA works with the World Health Organization to lead the UK's response. "The outbreak of hantavirus is very serious and deeply stressful for those affected and their families," the foreign secretary adds. In figures released by Oceanwide Expeditions on Tuesday, 19 passengers and four crew members were listed as British. Since then, a 56-year-old Briton has been evacuated. Cooper says Foreign Office staff "are in direct contact" with Brits on board the vessel, while ministers are working with Dutch and Spanish counterparts to facilitate medical evacuations.

MASSIVE ALASKA MEGATSUNAMI WAS SECOND LARGEST EVER RECORDED

AGENCY
Megatsunami: A massive 'megatsunami' wave created when part of an Alaskan mountain crumbled into the sea is the second tallest ever recorded - and a reminder of the risks posed by melting glaciers, say scientists. Last summer a giant wave swept through a remote fjord in southeast Alaska leaving destruction in its wake. The event went largely unreported at the time, but a new scientific analysis shows it was caused by a massive landslide. An incredible 64 million cubic metres of rock - the equivalent of 24 Great Pyramids - splashed into the water below. The sheer power of that amount of



rock plunging into the fjord in under a minute created a gigantic wave almost 500 metres tall. Only the time it happened - in the early hours of the morning - prevented tourist cruise ships being caught up in the devastation, say the researchers. Dr Bretwood

Higman, an Alaskan geologist, who saw for himself the damage at Tracy Arm Fjord, said it was "a close call". "We know that there were people that were very nearly in the wrong place," he said. "I'm quite terrified that we're not going to be so lucky in the future." These huge waves,

labelled megatsunamis, happen when a landslide caused by either an earthquake or loose rock hit water below. They are usually localised and dissipate quickly. The other type of tsunamis happen in the open ocean and are directly triggered by earthquakes, or occasionally other powerful events such as underwater volcanoes. They, like the 2011 Japan tsunami, can travel for thousands of miles, hitting populated areas and causing widespread devastation and loss of life. The biggest megatsunami was in the 1950s and was over 500 metres. This latest megatsunami was the second largest.

Russia ignores Ukraine's unilateral ceasefire and attacks kindergarten



AGENCY
Moscow: Volodymyr Zelensky has accused Russia of breaching a unilateral ceasefire announced by Ukraine by launching a wave of drone attacks on several cities. The Ukrainian president said Russia had carried out "active hostilities and terrorist shelling", targeting the front line as well as firing dozens of drones and missiles at civilian areas. In the Sumy border region, one woman was killed when a kindergarten was hit on Wednesday morning, local authorities said. No children were present at the time. Earlier this week the two warring sides had announced rival unilateral ceasefires - with no agreement on their terms, length or monitoring. Moscow was the first to demand a truce on 8 and 9 May to mark Victory Day on Saturday, when commemorations of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany are due to be held across the country. Kyiv followed on by announcing its own open-

ended ceasefire from midnight on Tuesday, and that Ukraine would act "symmetrically" from that point on. On Wednesday morning Zelensky stated that Russia's choice was "an obvious spurning of a ceasefire and of saving lives". Ukraine had "clearly stated that it would act in kind", he added, and would "decide on our further actions" based on evening reports from its military and intelligence. A slew of attacks on Tuesday left 27 people across Ukraine dead, including 12 victims in Zaporizhzhia alone. Ukraine's foreign minister, Andriy Sybiha, said Russia's continued aggression showed "fake calls for a ceasefire on May 9th have nothing to do with diplomacy. Putin only cares about military parades, not human lives". Various events are due to be held in Russia on Saturday, including a grand military parade on Red Square - although authorities have announced this year's event will be a pared-down version due to the "terrorist threat" from Kyiv.

GERMAN POLICE RAID NEO-NAZI CRIMINAL YOUTH GROUPS

AGENCY
Berlin: Police have raided around 50 homes and other locations, targeting people suspected of involvement in far-right criminal youth groups that have recently emerged in Germany. Prosecutors said the suspects were believed to be part of two groups, "Jung & Stark" (JS), or Young and Strong, and "Deutsche Jugend Voran" (DJV), which means Forwards German Youth. No arrests were made in Wednesday's raids, which took place in 12 states, mainly in the east and south of Germany, including Bavaria, Berlin, Brandenburg and Saxony. In a statement, federal prosecutors said the raids targeted individuals suspected of



organising violence through social media and forming nationwide networks. "Some of the accused are said to have attacked members of the left-wing scene or people they believed to be paedophiles. In each case, the victims were beaten by several attackers and sustained significant injuries," prosecutors said. During their

meetings, authorities say, group members have called "for acts of violence against political opponents and against alleged paedophiles". Last year one of the leaders of DJV was sentenced to more than three years in prison after a string of violent attacks against political opponents in Berlin. Twenty-four year-old Julian

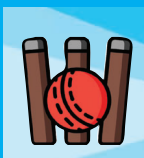
M, along with a group of 16 to 23 year olds, was convicted of brutally beating up a number of people who appeared to be wearing emblems connected to the political left. More than 600 police were involved in Wednesday's raids. There is deep concern in Germany about young people being drawn into far-right activity and violence targeting both left-wing figures and LGBT communities. Both JS and DJV operate openly, with a visible presence online, on Telegram, Instagram and other social media platforms. Jakob Guhl, from the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, says many of those who join JS and DJV are "pretty young", in their teens or early 20s.

Former FedEx driver sentenced to death for killing seven-year-old Texas girl

AGENCY
Texas: A former FedEx delivery driver was sentenced to death on Tuesday after he pleaded guilty to killing a seven-year-old Texas girl, Athena Strand, in 2022. A jury gave Tanner Horner a death sentence after a weeks-long court case, during which the court heard an audio recording of the young girl's last moments inside the attacker's delivery vehicle. "There are no words that truly capture the devastation that Tanner Horner caused us and our family," Elijah Strand, Athena Strand's uncle, said after the sentence was read. Horner was delivering Athena Strand's Christmas gift - a box of Barbie dolls -



to her home when he kidnapped her. She was later found dead not far from the property. Last month, Horner pleaded guilty to capital murder and aggravated kidnapping as his trial began. Jurors hearing the case had a choice of sentencing him to death or life in prison without parole. They ultimately chose a death sentence.



IPL 2026: SUNRISERS HYDERABAD SETS A TARGET OF 235/4 FOR PUNJAB KINGS



IPL 2026: Axar Patel Exposes 'Ineffective' Kuldeep Yadav Against CSK, Says "Missed Him"

AGENCY

Mumbai: Some admissions, some confessions, and a little bit of reflection, that was Delhi Capitals captain Axar Patel's post-match presentation ceremony after the defeat against the Chennai Super Kings on Tuesday. Axar admitted his side was below par in their eight-wicket loss to CSK in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, conceding that the team was 10-15 runs short with the bat, and on a sticky pitch, they missed the point of difference a set batter could offer. On a pitch that was offering some assistance to bowlers, Axar said that he "missed his partner" Kuldeep Yadav, despite the chinaman spinner bowling 3 overs for 34 runs in the game. "Obviously, the way



the wicket was playing in the first innings, I felt that yes, 155 was a good score. But since we were playing with eight batters, I felt we were about 10-15 runs short." Axar said after the match ended, with Sanju Samson hitting an unbeaten 87 in a successful chase for CSK. Reflecting on the surface, Axar said conditions eased

out for set batters but remained tricky for new ones. "I feel it got a little better, but I think the difference was made by the set batter. When a batter is well set, it feels like there is nothing in the pitch, but I still feel there was something in it. "For a new batter coming in, it was not easy. Yes, it wasn't easy for new players because, you

know, the length balls were holding up, sometimes staying low, and occasionally even bouncing after holding. So I feel it was very difficult for new batters. But when set batters were playing, it looked easier. You could see the way Sanju took the game forward." Despite the defeat, Axar took positives from the batting efforts of Sameer Rizvi (40 not out) and Tristan Stubbs (38) despite the top five batters' collapse. Kuldeep, who hasn't had the best of IPL 2026 campaigns, looked ineffective with the ball on the day. Though Axar didn't criticise the left-arm spinner for the lack of wickets, he made his feelings known about his ineffectiveness. "Yes, obviously, considering our batting, I think that's a positive.

Stefon Diggs 'Not Guilty' Of Assault Charges, But NFL Suspension Looms Large

AGENCY

Texas: Stefon Diggs has emerged victorious following a lengthy court battle involving an alleged assault, a ruling that may very well prove to be the catalyst that gets his Pro Bowl-caliber career back on track. After nearly two hours of deliberations, a panel of jurors cleared the former New England Patriots wideout of all wrongdoing in the high-profile criminal trial. Although the courtroom drama may finally be behind him, there could still be obstacles for the player before he can take the field once again at the professional level. As of now, there is still an active investigation into the case by the National Football League. Stefon Diggs was



accused of slapping and choking Jamila Adams, his former live-in personal chef, during an argument in December at his house in Massachusetts. Stefon Diggs' legal representative, Mitch Schuster, emphasized his innocence and called the incident 'opportunistic targeting'. "The evidence has shown what we've maintained from day

one: Mr. Diggs was wrongly accused, and this case represents exactly the kind of opportunistic targeting that players can face the moment they step off the field," Schuster stated. The dismissal of the assault charges does not mean that the situation will remain unresolved. As mentioned on NFL.com, according to the league's spokesman

Brian McCarthy, Stefon Diggs's case remains under review within the framework of the personal conduct policy, which does not shy away from issuing suspensions despite no criminal conviction in question. There are good reasons to believe that the same may apply in Diggs's case. Indeed, many players have been suspended for similar incidents despite a lack of convictions. Among these cases are Ben Roethlisberger, Jameis Winston, and Ezekiel Elliott. High-Ranking Clubs Converge As Stefon Diggs Becomes An Intriguing Free Agent Now that Diggs's legal issues are largely cleared up, the focus is once again on his future.

Fan Gives IPL Cheerleader A Hand Fan To Beat Delhi Heat, Her Reaction Can't Be Missed

AGENCY

Mumbai: A little fan's heartwarming gesture towards a cheerleader during the IPL 2026 clash between the Delhi Capitals and Chennai Super Kings has gone viral. The video captured a young girl giving a hand fan to one of the DC cheerleaders at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi. The cheerleaders had a short interaction with the girl, who then gifted them the fan in return for their kindness. The cheerleader, who was wearing a white top and a red-and-blue skirt, thanked the girl for the fan before passing the device to her colleagues. One of the cheerleaders even gave the little girl a DC flag to thank her for the gesture. Look at the priceless reaction of the cheerleader when a little



girl gifted her a hand fan during the live IPL match in Delhi's 45°C heat. First, the cheerleader interacted with the girl, and moments later, the little girl gifted her the hand fan. New Delhi experienced relatively cool and pleasant weather, with temperatures peaking around 33 degree C to 34 degree C and lows near 20 degree C to 23 degree C. However, the

National Capital Region experienced high humidity, peaking near 90% during early morning fog and averaging over 50% throughout the day due to unseasonal rain. Meanwhile, the BCCI announced on Wednesday that the IPL 2026 final will be held in Ahmedabad on May 31 instead of Bengaluru as originally planned.

Delhi Capitals Attain 'Worst' Record In IPL 2026 With Below Par Display vs CSK

AGENCY

Mumbai: It was another underwhelming display by the Delhi Capitals batters. Delhi Capitals' struggles with the bat at home continued as they faltered on a testing track to end up with a below-par 155 for seven against Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League on Tuesday. On a pitch offering assistance to the spinners, with the odd ball holding up, the home team's batters failed to apply themselves. The free fall began with the loss of opener Patum Nissanka, who failed to clear the mid-on fielder off a slower ball from left-arm pacer Mukesh Choudhary. Both Nissanka (19 off 15) and K.L. Rahul (12 off 13)



began with crisp boundaries but did not last long. After Nissanka's dismissal, Rahul attempted an inside-out hit off left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein but could not get to the pitch of the ball on the charge and was caught by opposition captain Ruturaj Gaikwad. According to Cricbuzz, DC have been the 'worst' team

in the IPL 2026 powerplays on four parameters. DC in Overs 1-6 in IPL 2026: Wickets lost: 21 Average runs per wicket: 23.85 Run rate: 8.35 Dot-ball percentage: 46.4% DC laboured to 37 for two in the powerplay, with Hosein bowling half of the overs, including one from the other end that produced the wicket of Rahul.

DAVID WARNER RAISES EYEBROWS OVER PAKISTAN SUPER LEAGUE'S TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT



AGENCY

London: The 2026 Pakistan Super League (PSL) was won by Peshawar Zalmi, who clinched their second title with a five-wicket victory over debutant side Hyderabad Kingsmen in the final. The Babar Azam-led Peshawar were the most dominant team in PSL 11, losing just one match during the league stage before going on to dominate the title clash as well. Amid their title triumph, the PSL released its 'Team of the Tournament'. David Warner, who led Karachi Kings in the competition, questioned why none of his players were named in the side. "Where is (sic) Karachi players?" Warner asked. Karachi Kings finished sixth in the PSL standings. After defeating Hyderabad in the final, Babar praised his team-

mates for their collective effort and also thanked the management for their support. "This is quite an achievement for me, and I think for Peshawar Zalmi and all the fans as well. Throughout the tournament, as a team, we performed very well in all three departments and tried to enjoy our cricket. Every player executed the plans given to them in batting, bowling and fielding. Our aim was to take it match by match, and by the grace of God, we won tonight," Babar said during the post-match presentation. "From a planning perspective, the management always supported us. During our match-to-match discussions, we focused on identifying both the positives and the areas to improve, and we spoke about them openly," he added.

RADUCANU TARGETS WTA TOUR RETURN IN STRASBOURG



AGENCY

London: Emma Raducanu is targeting a return to the WTA Tour in Strasbourg in two weeks' time following her withdrawal from the Italian Open on health grounds. The British number one is, however, reliant on a wildcard having missed the entry deadline. Raducanu, 23, was granted a wildcard for last year's WTA 500 event and beat top 20 player Daria Kasatkina, before losing to American Danielle Collins. The tournament, which starts on 17 May, has not yet confirmed whether a wildcard will be forthcoming. Raducanu

pulled out of the Italian Open late on Tuesday, just minutes after completing a round of media interviews. She does not feel she has recovered 100% from a post-viral infection which has kept her away from the tour since March. Before her withdrawal, Raducanu told BBC Sport: "I had six weeks almost of doing nothing just trying to recover from the virus, and it takes a lot out of you physically." The event in Strasbourg takes place the week before the French Open, for which Raducanu will no longer be seeded - assuming she is fit to compete.

Haiti's record scorer on Paisley, stunning Scotland & escaping Iran



Nithiin's Next with Sithara Entertainments Officially Launched with a Pooja Ceremony

Actor Nithiin's next exciting project has been officially launched with a traditional pooja ceremony



The film is being produced by the prestigious Sithara Entertainments, known for delivering quality and successful films and is directed by talented filmmakers Nari Sirisawada and Somasekhar T. With a strong creative team coming together, the project makes all of us look. The film stars Nithiin in

the lead role alongside Ritika Nayak as the female lead. The project brings together a skilled and dynamic crew including DOP Anith Madadi, Music Director Suresh Bobbili and Production Designer Jonny Shaik each contributing their expertise to craft a visually rich and engaging film. The film is being produced by the

Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under Sithara Entertainments and fortune four cinemas and presented by Sri Kara studios. This combo is known for delivering quality and successful films.

Sathi Leelavathi' is highly entertaining... everyone will enjoy the comedy" – Lavanya Tripathi Konidela



Under the presentation of Anandhi Arts and produced by Naagamohan under the banner of Durgadevi Pictures, the upcoming film 'Sathi Leelavathi' stars Lavanya Tripathi and Dev Mohan in lead roles. The film is directed by Tatineni Satya, known for Bheemili Kabaddi Jattu and SMS (Siva Manasulo Sruthi). The movie is set for a grand worldwide release on May 8. On this occasion, Lavanya Tripathi interacted with the media. Here are the highlights: I have already watched 'Sathi Leelavathi'. It's very good, and I have strong confidence in it. Now we have to see how the audience responds. During the shoot of this movie, I found out that I was pregnant. However, with the team's support, I completed the shoot smoothly. Every day after shooting, I used to go to the hospital for checkups. Minor injuries during filming are common. When I first heard the story, I told Varun about it, but I didn't know I was pregnant then, nor did I have any symptoms. I also understood that the shoot wouldn't be easy. I even lost weight

for this movie. I don't know where I got the strength from. But in the future, if I know I'm pregnant, I will definitely take a break from shooting. In this film, I play a director. The entertainment in the movie is amazing, and everyone will enjoy the comedy. My manager and I laughed a lot while watching it. It also has emotional moments. Though it conveys a good message, it doesn't feel preachy. The kind of relationships shown in 'Sathi Leelavathi' don't exist in the real world, and no woman should face such situations. In real life, I'm fortunate to have a good husband like Varun Tej. I'm currently happy with my husband and son. No changes were made to the script because

I was pregnant, but some adjustments were made to the action sequences. This is my first time doing action. I had a kicking scene, which felt a bit difficult. Ram Charan has always been supportive. He keeps asking if we need any help. It made us happy that he released our trailer, which also increased our reach. Dev Mohan is a good person and a wonderful actor. He also dubbed for the film. I'm trying to dub for my own role too—it feels satisfying. Chiranjeevi always encourages us. If we invite him for promotions, he will definitely come. We're also planning to show him the trailer. Currently, I'm not signing new films. I want to dedicate my time to my family. My son keeps me busy, and I've decided to take a short break.

RASHI SINGH STUNS IN Chocolate Lace and Gold

Rashi Singh may have had a small role in the recently released Telugu film Santhana Prapthirastu, and while the film did not set the box office on fire, Rashi made sure no one forgot her name. Her screen time was limited but her presence was impossible to ignore. Off screen, however, Rashi is turning every head in the room. Her

fashion game is nothing short of stunning, and this latest photoshoot is proof. Draped in a rich chocolate brown one-shoulder lace dress, gold bangles stacked on her wrist, and hair slicked back like she owns the room, she looks every bit the star she is becoming. Tollywood may still be warming up to her talent, but the fashion world

already knows exactly who Rashi Singh is. And from the looks of it, she is just getting in g started.



MALVIKA NAIR LOOKS EFFORTLESS IN BLACK AND SILVER



Malvika Nair has come a long way since her debut in Yevade Subramanyam. She truly won hearts playing Anandhi, a role that made the whole of Telugu audience fall in love with her quiet charm and natural screen presence. That girl next door energy has never left her. Her recent appearance in Sharwanand's biker film may not have worked out at the box office, but Malvika is not letting

that slow her down. She has been keeping herself busy and her latest pictures are a reminder of exactly why people rooted for her in the first place. Dressed in a stunning black lehenga with heavy silver embroidery, silver bangles stacked on her wrist and her long hair falling naturally, Malvika looks effortlessly beautiful. Warm golden light behind her, a soft smile on her face. No effort, all elegance.



"My Goal is to be Known as a 'Beauty with Brains'": Jo Sharma on Her Debut Thriller M4M

The Indian film industry is abuzz with the upcoming suspense thriller "M4M (Motive For Murder)." Starring American-based actress Jo Sharma and directed by Mohan Vadlapatla, the film is set for a grand worldwide release on May 8. Distributed by PVR Inox Pictures, the movie will hit screens in five languages: Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam. In an exclusive interview, lead actress Jo Sharma

shares insights into her journey, the film's unique concept, and its international acclaim. Highlights of the Interview: - Unique Concept: A "world-first" plot involving murders modeled after legendary paintings. - Global Recognition: Already bagged 15 International Awards before its theatrical release. - Cannes Pride: Received a standing ovation at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. - Audience Challenge: A cash prize of ₹1 Lakh for identifying the villain on release day.

Q: Tell us about yourself and your upcoming film. Jo Sharma: Hello everyone! I am Jo Sharma, originally from San Francisco, USA. M4M (Motive For Murder) is my debut feature, and it's a massive project releasing in five languages. Directed by Mohan Vadlapatla garu, I play a character named 'Radha'—a fierce crime investigative journalist.

Q: Coming from the US, what was your experience working in the Indian film industry? Jo Sharma: I have a background as a theater artist in America and even run my own theater production company. However, for this film, I trained under Mohan garu for three years. I was also a co-writer for M4M alongside Mohan garu and Rahul Adavala. Being involved in the writing process helped me design Radha's character with a lot of depth and strength.

Q: The film has already garnered significant international buzz. Could you share details about the awards? Jo Sharma: It's been overwhelming! We have won 15 international awards before the release. This includes Best Film at the Los Angeles Film Festival, Best Director in London, and I was honored with Best Actress awards at the New York, Hollywood, and Santa Monica film festivals.

A special poster from Lenin has been released on the occasion of Bhagyashri Borse's birthday: Grand Release on June 26th

The upcoming film Lenin is being produced under the banners of Manam Enterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainments by Akkineni Nagarjuna and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi. It stars Akhil Akkineni and Bhagyashri Borse in the lead roles, with direction by Murali Kishor Abburi. The movie is set for a grand theatrical release on June 26. All the posters and songs released so far have generated strong interest among audiences. Recently, a special poster featuring the heroine was unveiled to mark her birthday. Wishing her a happy birthday, the makers revealed a striking

look where Bhagyashri appears in a regal avatar, wearing a crown, sporting a mustache, and dressed in a unique costume. Her appearance in this look has caught everyone's attention. The background and significance of this look in the film are yet to be revealed. She is playing as Bharathi in the film. The music for the film is composed by Thaman S, and both the songs and background score are expected to enhance the film's overall impact. Leon Britto is handling cinematography, while Naveen Nooli is the editor. The film will release worldwide on June 26th, 2026.



'Ugly Story' Trailer Launched by 'Bheemla Nayak' Director Sagar K Chandra – Film Set for May 22 Release



The much-anticipated trailer of Ugly Story, a bold romantic thriller that explores the darker side of love, has been officially unveiled. The trailer was launched by Sagar K Chandra, director of Bheemla Nayak, adding significant buzz to the film's promotions. Starring Nandu and Avika Gor in lead roles, Ugly Story has already started trending across social media platforms. The trailer impresses with its intense narration, powerful emotions, and unexpected twists, promising a gripping cinematic experience. Music composed by Shravan Bharadwaj further elevates the impact, blending suspense, tension, and romance seamlessly. Backed by Riya Zia Productions, the film showcases high production values and hints at strong box-

office potential. The grand trailer launch event witnessed the team expressing immense confidence in the film's output. Director Pranava Swaroop shared, "Every love story has a darker side, and our aim was to portray that truth boldly. Nandu and Avika have delivered powerful performances. Our producers Subhashini and Lakshman have supported me immensely in maintaining quality. Audiences will surely have a compelling experience in theatres." Actor Nandu said, "This role is a new challenge for me. The story is filled with thrilling and engaging moments. Avika brought strong emotional depth to her character, and Pranav has crafted the film brilliantly." Avika Gor added, "Through this film, we wanted to showcase the reality of love.