

# HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328 VOL NO. 17 ISSUE NO.: 13 RANGAREDDY (HYDERABAD) PAGES: 12 RS. 1/-

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026

WWW.HYDERABADHEADLINES.COM



### ALLEN'S TON POWERS KKR TO HUGE WIN OVER DC

STADIUM 11

### SIMRAN EXPOSES BOLLYWOOD'S TREATMENT OF SOUTH STARS



BOX-OFFICE 12

## CONGRESS-DMK RIFT EXPLODES – INDIA ALLIANCE LIES IN TATTERS AS TAMIL NADU POWER PLAY REWRITES NATIONAL OPPOSITION SCRIPT



### CONGRESS-DMK DIVORCE SHAKES INDIA BLOC Tamil Nadu Power Revolt Turns National Opposition Into A Battlefield Of Distrust

The Congress party's dramatic decision to drift away from the DMK and openly lean towards Vijay's TVK has detonated a political crisis far bigger than Tamil Nadu

SPECIAL 02

SHORT TAKES



CM directs officials to intensify efforts to provide housing for all

Target set to construct additional 10 lakh houses by December 2027 Complete state-wide re-survey along with issuance of pattadar passbooks by 2027:CM Officials asked to reduce financial burden on common man Chief Minister instructed officials to focus on livelihood

TELANGANA 05



Severe Stomach Pain Turns Out to Be Football-Sized 20 cm Ovarian Tumor

A young woman suffering from severe abdominal pain and rapidly increasing stomach swelling was successfully treated at Medicovert Hospitals after doctors discovered and removed a massive football-sized ovarian tumor measuring more than 20 cm.

MONEY MATTER 09



Break the Silence" Experts Addresses Loneliness Epidemic In an era marked by constant digital connectivity yet growing emotional isolation, leading mental health experts gathered in East Delhi to address one of the most pressing public health concerns of our time. A focused seminar titled "Loneliness & Depression: Implications & Solutions" was organised.

OPINION 06

## KTR applauds Skyroot's historic \$1 billion milestone

HYDERABAD

Following the historic announcement of Skyroot Aerospace reaching a \$1 billion valuation, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Friday hailed the milestone as a defining success story for the industrial and innovation policies of Telangana. He stated that the achievement marks the first time an Indian space-tech startup has entered the "Unicorn Club," a feat KTR attributed to the robust, world-class ecosystem meticulously built in Hyderabad over the last decade. "This is a proud moment for our startup ecosystem and a testament to the boundless potential of Indian talent and ambition," KTR stated. He emphasised that Skyroot's journey, from its early days as an idea to becoming a global player, is a direct result of the state's vision to foster deep-tech innovation through platforms like T-Hub. Skyroot Aerospace was among



the early startups nurtured at T-Hub, the world's largest innovation campus. KT Rama Rao noted that the "phenomenal milestone" reached in such a short span serves as a blueprint for how government-led enablement can accelerate private enterprise. "It's truly inspiring that Hyderabad-based Skyroot, incubated at T-Hub, has reached this milestone. This success belongs to the entire ecosystem we have cultivated in Telangana," he added.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

## Working for 18 hours a day for Telangana development: Revanth

KODANGAL

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy affirmed that the Telangana State is being placed in top position in the development with the support of all. The Chief Minister said he has been working for at least 18 hours a day to achieve the goals set by the People's Government for the robust growth of the Telangana State.

Addressing a public meeting after laying foundation stones for Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple and other development works in Kodangal on Friday, the Chief Minister said the Telangana was witnessing fast track development.

Highlighting the development programmes taken up in his Kodangal Assembly Constituency, he said that educational institutions, including medical and engineering colleges, an ATC centre, a nursing college, a polytechnic, and a sainik school are being established in Kodangal and the development of this educational hub will be completed within a year and a half.

"Steps are being taken to ensure that students from across the state



come to Kodangal for higher education," he said.

Thanking Kodangal people for their blessings to attain the Chief Minister position, Revanth Reddy declared that Kodangal will be transformed into a role model for the entire country.

"We are establishing an industrial park spanning 2,300 acres at Lagacherla and constructing a major roadway connecting the airport di-

rectly to Kodangal. 90 per cent of the Vikarabad railway line was already completed and the construction of a cement industry will commence within the next six months, to provide local employment and livelihood opportunities. India's leading industries are setting up their units in Kodangal," he said.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to complete all development works in Kodangal by December

2027 and appealed to all local body representatives to strive for development of their villages by setting aside political differences.

On the irrigation front, the Chief Minister instructed the officials to complete the Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme within a year and a half to bring the waters of the Krishna River to the region. "The lands of Kodangal must be irrigated by the Krishna river. Minister V Srihari was entrusted with the responsibility of land acquisition for Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme within a month," he said.

Revanth Reddy assured that funds will be sanctioned and solve all hurdles in the completion of the lift project.

The Chief Minister recalled the plight of the Kodangal people and said that in the past, residents of Kodangal had to travel to neighboring Vikarabad or Pargi to pursue their education. Now, We are undertaking extensive initiatives to ensure access to education and healthcare for the poor, he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



## Telangana eyes top spot in defence manufacturing by 2030

Minister Uttam at FTCCI MSME spark 3.0

HYDERABAD

Telangana is on course to become India's "undisputed Aerospace and Defence Capital" by 2030, Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said on Friday while addressing the "MSME Spark 3.0 – Aerospace & Defence Manufacturing" conclave organised by the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) in association with Telangana Industries department.

Held at Taj Deccan here in the city, the conclave brought together over 400 policymakers, defence experts, MSMEs, startups,

investors and industry leaders to explore opportunities in India's rapidly expanding aerospace and defence manufacturing sector.

Speaking at the event, Uttam Kumar Reddy highlighted Hyderabad's growing stature as a cost-effective global aerospace hub backed by defence laboratories, advanced manufacturing facilities and a strong MSME ecosystem. He said nearly 1,500 MSMEs in Telangana are currently linked to the aerospace and defence supply chain.

Former DRDO Chairman G. Satheesh Reddy said the conclave coincided with the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, which showcased India's indigenous defence capabilities.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

## Musi Rejuvenation: Bhatti promises fair, lawful support for displaced residents



HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has assured that the government will extend full support to those who may be displaced as part of the Musi River Rejuvenation Project. He emphasised that assistance will be provided in a lawful and fair manner.

Bhatti Vikramarka, who is also the Chairman of the Musi Rejuvenation Cabinet Sub-Committee, along with Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, met representatives of the Madhupare Ridge (B-Block) Residential Association at the Praja Bhavan here on Friday. During the meeting, the association representatives submitted their requests and concerns to the Ministers. The Ministers addressed and clarified the doubts and apprehensions expressed by the residents. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that the govern-

ment is taking a very positive approach toward the residents of Madhupare Ridge B-Block.

He reiterated that the government's goal is to ensure the well-being and improved quality of life for all citizens. Bhatti Vikramarka urged the residents to cooperate and become partners in this prestigious project, which aims to provide clean air, water, and greenery to city dwellers. The association representatives responded positively to the government's assurances and expressed their willingness to extend their support to the Musi rejuvenation effort, he said. The meeting was attended by Association President Dodda Srinivas Reddy, Secretary G.V. Shekhar, and members Satyanarayana, Gautam Roy, Renudhal, Nabi Sahab, and Sahil Khan. From the government side, Musi Project MD E.V. Narsimha Reddy, Joint MD Gautami, Additional Collector Chandra Reddy, and other officials were present.

## IPS officer's wife murdered in Jubilee Hills, city in shock

HYDERABAD

The brutal murder of Sunanda Ray, wife of retired IPS officer Vinay Ranjan Ray, at their residence in Prashasan Nagar has sent shockwaves across the city. Director General of Police CV Anand rushed to the crime scene soon after the incident came to light and reviewed the investigation with senior officers concerned.

Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender also visited the residence. Historically, Gurkhas have earned a reputation as highly trustworthy individuals, serving as domestic help, security guards and watchmen. Consequently, a large number of them have found employment in the southern states particularly in Hyderabad. However, over the past five or six years, a disturbing shift has been observed in their conduct. They are now infiltrating households under the guise of domestic help only to set their sights on robbing the very homes that employ them.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

VICAT  
TRUST. LEGACY. FOREVER.

## CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

**Bharathi CEMENT**  
SUPERIOR QUALITY. GUARANTEED.

**ULTRAFAST**  
FAST SETTING CEMENT

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY  
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL  
TAMPER PROOF PACKING

# 3 TIMES BETTER

Net City 50 kg  
MPP Rs  
Inclusive of all taxes



### Memorandum Submitted to CM Revanth Reddy Seeking Inclusion of Mudirajs in BC-A Category



**HYDERABAD:** A delegation comprising Telangana Minister Vakti Srihari, Telangana State Mudiraj Corporation Chairman Borra Gyaneshwar Mudiraj and several Mudiraj community leaders submitted a memorandum to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy requesting that the Mudiraj community be reclassified from the BC-D category to the BC-A category. During the meeting held at the Secretariat, the leaders explained various concerns related to the community. They stated that the recently released SEEP-2026 report clearly highlighted the severe backwardness of the Mudiraj community in social, educational, and economic sectors. They urged the Chief Minister to implement the Supreme Court directives and ensure immediate justice to the Mudiraj community. The leaders informed the media that the Chief Minister responded positively to their request. They stated that the CM directed officials to examine the issue at the earliest, hold discussions, and take an appropriate decision. Expressing hope over the government's response, the leaders said that a positive decision would help in the upliftment of the Mudiraj community, provide better opportunities for youth, and secure their future. Mahabubnagar District DCC President Sanjeev Mudiraj, Khairatabad DCC President Motha Rohith Mudiraj, senior Congress leaders Putti Raju, B. Venkatesh Mudiraj, and several other Mudiraj leaders participated in the programme.

# CONGRESS-DMK DIVORCE SHAKES INDIA BLOC

## Tamil Nadu Power Revolt Turns National Opposition Into A Battlefield Of Distrust

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

Friday, May 8, 2026 may be well remembered as the day the carefully manufactured image of opposition unity cracked in full public view. Not with a dramatic parliamentary showdown. Not with ideological warfare. But with something far more lethal in politics - wounded ego, broken trust and naked ambition. Congress has effectively signalled that its future calculations in Tamil Nadu no longer revolve around the DMK alone. The quiet but unmistakable warmth towards Vijay's TVK has sent shockwaves through Stalin's political establishment. What has enraged the DMK leadership is not merely the shift itself. It is the manner in which it unfolded. No consultation. No warning. No political courtesy. For a party that stood shoulder to shoulder with Congress through repeated electoral battles and national campaigns, the silence was interpreted as calculated disrespect. And in politics, humiliation travels faster than ideology. The message received inside Anna Arivalayam was brutally simple: Congress no longer sees DMK as indispensable. That single perception has now placed the INDIA alliance under extraordinary stress.

### DMK and Congress were never natural allies

The current rupture becomes even more explosive when one examines the history. DMK was born by fighting Congress dominance. The anti Hindi agitations, Tamil identity politics and federalist assertion transformed the Dravidian movement into a political earthquake in 1967. Congress rule in Tamil Nadu collapsed under that wave. Yet politics has always thrived on convenience over



memory. From Indira Gandhi's tactical understanding with Karunanidhi to the unstable equations involving MGR and Jayalalitha, Tamil Nadu politics repeatedly demonstrated one iron rule, alliances survive only as long as arithmetic remains profitable. Karunanidhi mastered this game with ruthless precision. He aligned with national fronts, flirted with the NDA, then returned to Congress when the winds shifted. Every move was transactional but strategically brilliant. The 2004 alliance between Congress and DMK became one of the most electorally successful partnerships in modern Indian politics. It delivered a parliamentary sweep and helped install the UPA government at the Centre. Congress regained oxygen in Tamil Nadu through DMK's organisational machine. DMK gained leverage in Delhi. But beneath the smiles and stage sharing, the imbalance was obvious. Congress needed DMK far more than DMK needed Congress. That reality remained hidden as long as no alternative emerged. Now Vijay has entered the frame. And suddenly the old partnership looks negotiable.

### Vijay has changed the chemistry of Tamil Nadu

The arrival of Vijay's TVK has altered both perception and calculation. For years, Tamil Nadu politics revolved around two towering Dravidian formations. Even when national parties contested, they did so through regional crutches. But Vijay's emergence has injected uncertainty into a system that appeared frozen. Congress sees possibility. A younger political narrative. A celebrity powered mobilisation structure. An anti establishment emotional current. A chance to reinvent itself beside a rising force instead of remaining permanently subordinate within the DMK framework. That temptation appears to have become irresistible. But political opportunism comes with consequences. DMK cadres believe Congress has enjoyed electoral survival in Tamil Nadu almost entirely due to Stalin's machinery and vote transfer discipline. Inside the DMK ecosystem, the feeling today is not disappointment. It is betrayal. And betrayal is the most combustible fuel in coalition politics

### Akhilesh's discomfort is the bigger warning signal

The tremors are not confined to Chennai. When leaders like Akhilesh Yadav begin signalling discomfort, the crisis moves from regional to national.

Regional parties within the INDIA bloc always feared one possibility that Congress would eventually prioritise its own expansion over coalition discipline. Tamil Nadu has suddenly become the case study validating those fears. The SP watches this carefully. So do other regional players. Because the issue is no longer Vijay or Stalin alone. The issue is whether Congress still believes in collective opposition politics or whether it is preparing selective solo expansions wherever opportunity appears. That uncertainty corrodes alliances from within. Political coalitions do not collapse only because of electoral defeats. They collapse when trust evaporates. And right now, trust inside the INDIA alliance appears dangerously fragile. CONGRESS IS PLAYING A HIGH RISK GAME Let nobody underestimate the gamble underway. Congress strategists clearly believe the old order is weakening. They see AIADMK struggling for ideological clarity. They see BJP attempting aggressive expansion. They see Vijay attracting urban youth curiosity. And they likely fear remaining permanently trapped as DMK's junior appendage. So the party has rolled the dice. But this strategy carries enormous national risk. If the INDIA alliance fractures visibly in Tamil Nadu, BJP gains a powerful political narrative, that the opposition cannot even manage internal cohesion, let alone govern the country collectively. Every public disagreement strengthens that perception. Every leaked grievance deepens it. Every angry ally magnifies it. And in politics, perception often becomes reality faster than facts.

### Stalin now faces his biggest political test

MK Stalin's challenge is now deeply

personal and political. If he reacts aggressively, he risks accelerating the collapse of opposition unity. If he remains soft, he risks appearing weak before cadres already furious with Congress. That balancing act will define the next phase of Tamil Nadu politics. Because the real battle ahead is not merely electoral. It is psychological. Can DMK convince its supporters that it still controls the anti BJP opposition space in Tamil Nadu? Or will Vijay's rise and Congress's recalibration create a perception that the old Dravidian axis is entering a vulnerable phase? This uncertainty explains the intensity of the reactions now pouring out from every corner.

### Alliance of ambition now trapped in a crisis of trust

The collapse of political trust rarely arrives with one loud explosion. It grows silently through arrogance, poor communication, wounded egos and calculated political moves. That is exactly what is unfolding inside the INDIA alliance today. Congress appears convinced that Vijay's rise offers a fresh political gateway in Tamil Nadu. DMK sees the move as a humiliating betrayal after years of standing firmly with the national party. Across the opposition space, regional allies are now watching Congress with rising suspicion and caution. Behind the public statements and political theatre lies a brutal truth. A fractured opposition only makes the ruling establishment stronger. The INDIA bloc was projected as a united national counterforce. Today, it appears weighed down by mistrust and competing ambitions. Once again, Tamil Nadu has become the testing ground where national political equations are being reshaped at high speed.

## PM, Narendra Damodardas Modi Public Meet in Secunderabad



### Attikari Mallesh Urges Activists to Work "Like a Soldier"

Samudrala Kiran | Correspondent

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

A senior BJP leader from Kukatpally, Attikari Mallesh, has called for a massive turnout from both the public and party cadre to ensure the success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming public meeting at the Secunderabad Parade Ground on May 10.

On Friday, local BJP leaders convened at Indiranagar in the Balanagar division for a strategic preparatory session, guided by BJP Executive Member Vaddepalli Rajeshwar Rao. The focus was on mobilizing a robust turnout from the Kukatpally and Balanagar regions. During the gathering, Balanagar Division President Dr. Kiran highlighted Modi's global impact, noting that the world now views India with

renewed respect owing to Modi's decisions, transparent governance, and patriotism. He pointed to housing for the poor and security for women as tangible outcomes of the government's resolve.

Mallesh described the May 10 meeting as more than a political rally; he called it a "guiding event" for the nation's future and asserted that voters have shown a preference for development over family-based politics and corruption. He urged activists to work "like a soldier" to bolster the BJP, outlining a plan for a mass rally that would begin from the Balanagar mandal and proceed to the Parade Ground. He also invited all citizens, leaders, and activists to attend in record numbers to demonstrate solidarity with the Prime Minister's vision.

The meeting saw active participation from several key local figures, including General Secretary Srinivas Rao, Division Vice-President Anil, and Senior Members Arjun, Surrender, Raju, Vijay,

Balaswamy, Nagaraju Suresh, and Kumar Goud. The Kukatpally BJP cadre remains optimistic, viewing the May 10 event as a pivotal moment for maintaining party momentum in the region.

Context and expectations: The event is positioned as a mobilization milestone for the BJP in the Kukatpally and Balanagar corridors, with organizers aiming to showcase broad public support for Modi's development agenda. Observers note the emphasis on governance achievements—from housing initiatives to women's security—as a narrative core for rally-day messaging.

Potential impact: A high-turnout public meet could energize local party machinery ahead of upcoming elections and bolster the BJP's foothold in the Secunderabad area. The emphasis on development and anti-corruption themes aligns with Modi-era messaging designed to appeal to a broad swath of voters seeking tangible results.

## Kaleshwaram project built only for commissions: Vivek

KUMURAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

Minister for Labour and Mines Minister Dr. G. Vivek Venkataswamy alleged that the previous BRS government deliberately weakened the Pranahita-Chevella project and constructed the Kaleshwaram project only to earn commissions.

The Minister, who visited the Tummidihatti project area along with Minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Friday, spoke to the media after performing Jalaharathi in the Pranahita river.

Minister Vivek shared that about ₹1,100 crore had already been spent on the Pranahita-Chevella project and

a large part of the work had been completed. He said if another ₹25,000 crore had been allocated, the project would have been completed.

Vivek recalled that former union minister Kaka Venkataswamy strongly felt that the project was essential to solve the drinking and irrigation water problems of North Telangana.

The Minister said the then Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy recognised this need and laid the foundation stone for the Pranahita-Chevella project. He explained that during the Kiran Kumar Reddy government, an agreement was reached to fix the height of the project at 152 meters.

"With that, only about 5,000 acres would have been submerged in Maharashtra, and it would have been enough to pay ₹5,000 crore as compensation," he said.

The Minister criticised that after the formation of Telangana State, the KCR government reduced the height of the project to 148 meters and weakened Pranahita-Chevella. Vivek alleged that the Kaleshwaram project was built only for earning commissions and some contractors benefited hugely from it.

The Minister said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is now taking steps to revive the Tummidihatti project,

which will provide irrigation to 2 lakh acres, keeping in mind the interests of the people of North Telangana.

He revealed that the Chief Minister will soon visit Tummidihatti and start the related works. Vivek Venkataswamy appealed to all elected representatives from Telangana, especially BJP leaders, to meet Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and work to get permission for a height of 150 meters.

MLC Dande Vittal, MLAs Gaddam Vinod, Palvai Harish Babu, District Collector K Haritha, SP Nitika Pant and others participated in the programme.

### CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

## Working for 18 hours a day for Telangana development: Revanth

> FROM PAGE 1

The Chief Minister explained the geographical challenges for Kodangal development and said that Kodangal is situated in one of the highest-altitude regions of the state. Consequently, there is virtually no possibility of accessing water resources. Conditions are such that cultivating paddy is impossible and nothing will grow here except for red gram. The people of Kodangal are also innocent and unable to even construct their own Indiramma houses. Today, we have successfully constructed roads connecting every thanda and Gram Panchayat," he said.

Revanth Reddy also remembered Kodangal people's support to him during 2019 Lok Sabha elections and their help to win as MP from Malkajgiri Lok Sabha segment.

"The sapling you planted in 2009 has now grown into a mighty tree. It is now your responsibility to protect and nurture it. With the blessings of the people, I have assumed the office of Chief Minister of Telangana," he said. Further, the Chief Minister list-



ed numerous welfare schemes—such as farm loan waivers, provision of fine-quality rice, Rythu Bharosa, Indiramma housing, ration cards, and fee reimbursement implemented by the Telangana government.

Revanth Reddy also highlighted the spiritual activities in Kodangal. Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Kodangal is renowned as the "Tirupati of the Poor," serving not only the people of Telangana, but also those from neighboring Karnataka and Maharashtra. The Chief Minister said the Kodan-

gal Assembly constituency represents a unique duality - on one side stands the 'Gudi' (the temple), and on the other, the 'Gadi' (the seat of power).

"The temple and the seat of power have united to propel Kodangal forward, transforming it into a land flourishing with bountiful crops and prosperity," he said.

Revanth Reddy recounted former MLA Nandaram Suryanarayana played a pivotal role in the development of the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple by securing funds from the TTD (Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams). Today, we performed the groundbreaking ceremony at the auspicious time (Muhurtham) suggested by Agama Shastra advisor, Sundaravaradacharyulu.

The Chief Minister proposed to name Sundaravaradacharyulu after one of the pilgrim guest houses. The rituals performed at the Kodangal temple should strictly adhere to the same traditions followed at Tirupati. We are constructing a Venkateswara Swamy temple in Doultabad and a Venugopala Swamy temple in Kogsi, he said. (NSS)

## IPS officer's wife murdered in Jubilee Hills, city in shock

> FROM PAGE 1

Looting when the opportunity arises and resorting to murder - if anyone stands in their way - has become a recurring pattern.

Police have launched an intensive probe into the murder and are examining all possible angles, including the role of domestic workers and security staff linked to the household.

The incident has triggered concern among residents over the verification of domestic help employed in private homes. Officials are expected to strengthen background verification mechanisms and monitoring systems for domestic workers across the city. Members of the Nepali community in Hyderabad expressed concern that isolated criminal incidents should not lead to the targeting or stigmatization of an entire community, many of whom have lived and worked in the city for decades with clean records.

Police appealed to citizens not to spread rumours or make assumptions based on nationality, stating that the investigation is underway and action will be taken strictly on the basis of evidence. (NSS)

## Tigers under stress as tourism shrinks safe breeding spaces: CCMB study

HYDERABAD

A landmark study by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) has found that tourism and human activity are increasing stress in India's tigers and limiting safe breeding spaces for tigresses.

Published in the "Animal Conservation" journal of the Zoological Society of London, the study tracked tigers across five major reserves - Corbett

Tiger Reserve (Uttarakhand), Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra), Kanha and Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserves (Madhya Pradesh) and Periyar Tiger Reserve (Kerala) between 2020 and 2023. The first multi-reserve study on tigers for over two years shows shrinking spaces for tigresses to breed healthily.

Scientists analysed 610 genetically confirmed tiger scat samples, including 291 females and 185 males, and found that tigers living near tourism

routes and disturbed areas showed higher stress hormone levels. Surprisingly, tigers in protected core zones showed sharper stress responses to seasonal tourism than those in buffer zones, which appear habituated to constant human presence.

"Tigresses prefer quiet forest patches for breeding, but such spaces are shrinking," said Dr. G. Umashankar, chief scientist at CSIR-CCMB. "Tigresses prefer to breed in the quiet parts of the forests.

## Telangana eyes top spot in defence manufacturing by 2030

> FROM PAGE 1

He noted that the Defence Acquisition Council had cleared proposals worth Rs.3.5 lakh crore under the Acceptance of Necessity framework and said India aims to achieve defence exports worth Rs.50,000 crore by 2028. DRDO Director General Chandrika Kaushik said India's defence budget of

Rs.7.85 lakh crore, with over 75% of capital procurement reserved for domestic industry, presents significant opportunities for MSMEs and startups. She added that DRDO has signed more than 2,200 technology licensing agreements and is offering over 750 patents royalty-free to encourage indigenous innovation. FTCCI President R. Ravi Kumar

said the conclave aimed to connect MSMEs and startups with emerging opportunities in defence manufacturing under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

The event featured technical sessions on defence procurement reforms, funding support, investment opportunities and indigenous technology development, with participation

from DRDO, BEL, MIDHANI, Bharat Dynamics Limited, SIDBI and several private defence manufacturers.

The event was supported by leading industry partners, including Hyderabad Precision Manufacturing Co. (P) Ltd., Sudhakar Pipes & Fittings, Empilot, State Bank of India (SBI), SIDBI, Dynamic Aero, Ecobliss, and Dun & Bradstreet.

## Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth Launches Future-Ready Creative Media Courses in Collaboration with EROS AI VIDYA

HYDERABAD

In a major step towards empowering students with next-generation creative and digital skills, Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth has announced the launch of specialized industry-oriented programs in Creative Media with AI, Filmmaking, Digital Media, Animation with VFX, and Gaming in collaboration with EROS AI VIDYA.

The newly introduced programs are designed to prepare students for the rapidly evolving global entertainment, media, and digital technology industries by integrating creativity with cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence tools and immersive technologies.

\*Dr. Bhadra Reddy, Chairman, Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth\* stated that "the initiative aims to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry requirements by creating a platform where innovation, creativity, and technology converge. The collaboration with EROS AI VIDYA will provide students exposure to industry experts, real-time projects, advanced studios, AI-powered creative workflows, and career opportunities in the rapidly expanding digital entertainment ecosystem".

\*Dr. Preeti Reddy, Vice-Chairman, Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth\* stated that "the global demand for skilled professionals in AI-driven media,



animation, gaming, and digital storytelling is increasing significantly, these programs are expected to create exciting career pathways for aspiring creators, filmmakers, designers, and technology innovators. The university believes that this initiative will position students at the forefront of the creative digital revolution and contribute to building India's future-ready talent ecosystem".

\*Dr. Sudha Ramana, Chancellor, Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth\* expressed that "this initiative marks a significant milestone in transforming creative education by integrating emerging technologies, digital storytelling, and industry-oriented practical learning into mainstream academics. These courses are specially designed

to equip students with advanced technical expertise, creative excellence, and entrepreneurial thinking required for the rapidly growing global media and entertainment industries".

\*Dr. Anil Kaul, Vice Chancellor, Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth\* mentioned that "Students enrolling in these programs will gain access to modern production methodologies, advanced AI tools, studio-based learning environments, and mentorship from industry professionals. The curriculum has been carefully curated to align with international industry standards and evolving global employment trends".

Speaking on the occasion, the leadership of Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth emphasized that the future belongs to creators who can combine imagination

with technology. The university aims to nurture a new generation of digital innovators, filmmakers, animators, gaming professionals, and media entrepreneurs capable of competing on a global platform.

The collaboration with \*EROS AI VIDYA\* is expected to create a dynamic ecosystem where students can learn through live projects, internships, collaborative productions, and real-world industry exposure. The partnership will also help bridge the gap between academia and industry requirements while promoting skill-based experiential education. With Artificial Intelligence reshaping every aspect of media, entertainment, advertising, gaming, and communication, the university believes these future-centric programs will open vast career opportunities for students across multiple creative and technology sectors.

Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth continues to remain at the forefront of educational innovation by introducing transformative programs that empower students to become leaders in the digital era and contribute meaningfully to India's growing creative economy. Speaking on the occasion, Prashanth Pandit, CEO, EROS AI VIDYA emphasized that "the future belongs to creators who can combine imagination with technology.

## CMC chief reviews town planning works; Calls for transparency, timely execution

HYDERABAD

Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) Commissioner G. Srijana held a comprehensive review of town planning initiatives at the Commissioner's Office on Friday. The focus was on enhancing timelines, ensuring transparency, and improving execution at the field level across all zones.

Present at the meeting were

the Chief City Planner (CCP), City Planners (CPs) from all three zones, and other relevant officials. They discussed the status of applications, enforcement activities, and unresolved issues in detail.

The Commissioner instructed that applications be promptly processed, which includes building permissions, occupancy certificates, Transferable Development Rights (TDR), and Layout Regular-

ization Scheme (LRS) cases. She emphasised the need to address pending court cases, such as Writ Petitions (WPs) and Contempt Cases (CCs), ensuring timely submission of counters and proactive measures for removing encroachments, especially from road margins and public lands. Additionally, the Commissioner urged progress on grievance resolution, land acquisition, and road widening efforts.

### ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

E-Tender Notice No. N-2025-26-TSK-NIT-37 Dated: 05-05-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:

E-Tender No. N-2025-26-TSK-T-37. Brief Description of Item: Annual maintenance contract of Efftronics make Datalogger with COA system & Software in Tinsukia Division for a period of 02 (Two) years. Tender Value: ₹1,86,69,557.72/- Earnest Money: ₹3,73,400/- Date & time of closing of tender: At 15.00 hrs. on 29-05-2026 & opening after 15.00 hrs. on 29-05-2026. The complete information with tender documents of above e-Tender will be available in [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

DSTE, Tinsukia  
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY  
Serving Customers With A Smile

### SOUTHERN RAILWAY

SALEM DIVISION

E-TENDER NOTICE No. SA-E2-2026-27-W1-W2, Dated: 04.05.2026

Divisional Railway Manager / Electrical / Salem Division, Salem - 5 for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for the under mentioned works. Online bids only will be accepted. For detailed NIT, qualification criteria, bidding document, tender submission etc., can be viewed / downloaded from website portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

E-Tender Notice No., Date and Name of Work	Details
1) SA-E2-2026-27-W1 Dated: 04.05.2026 Comprehensive Annual Maintenance contract (CAMC) for Johnson make Escalators and lifts available at Salem Division for a period of 5 years.	Approx. Cost - ₹ 79,48,166.00/- EMD - ₹ 1,59,000.00/- Tender Booklet cost : ₹ 5900/- Completion Period - 60 Months
2) SA-E2-2026-27-W2 Dated: 04.05.2026 Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for Air Conditioners and Water Coolers over Salem Division for a period of two years.	Approx. Cost - ₹ 54,01,272.00/- EMD - ₹ 1,08,000.00/- Tender Booklet cost : ₹ 5900/- Completion Period - 24 Months
For all the works Closing Time & Date	15.00 hrs. on 04.06.2026
For all the works Bids Opening Time & Date	15.30 hrs. on 04.06.2026

All Addendum / Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website portal [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical) / Salem

## Urban Challenge Funds Can Be Utilized for Several Urban Development Works: Municipal Secretary Dr. T.K. Sridevi

HYDERABAD

Dr. T.K. Sridevi, Secretary, Municipal Administration Department, stated that apart from taking up only CC roads and BT roads in municipalities, nearly 14,000 crore of funds are available under the Urban Challenge Funds for various urban development activities. She said that civil contractors working in municipalities should not forget that all the goals of the Central Government's Viksit Bharat and the Telangana Global Summit are aimed at urban development.



hBharat Mission, Urban Development, TUFIDC, and Urban Challenge Funds, around 28,000 crore of funds are available. Municipal contractors can undertake several innovative and people-centric projects with new ideas, she added.

She was speaking at the inaugural session of the two-day Civil Contractors' Training Programme organized jointly by the National Institute of Urban Management and the Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI) on 7th May and concluded on Friday, 8 May 2026.

Dr. Sridevi interacted with 50 civil contractors who had come from various municipalities across Telangana. Addressing them, she said that training is being imparted to 276 civil contractors working in municipalities across the state in seven batches, with 40 participants in each batch. Experts and senior officials are providing training on quality standards, planning, documentation, quality control, and safety measures in works execution.

She further stated that contractors have opportunities to execute works worth not less than 15 crore in municipalities and 40 crore in municipal corporations. Under schemes such as AMRUT, Swach-

Emphasizing the need for quality standards in works, she said that local labour should be provided employment opportunities. To achieve the government's target of a three-trillion-dollar economy by 2047, extensive urban development works need to be undertaken, she added.

On the occasion, retired Engineer-in-Chief Mohammed Ziauddin said that a contractor must function not only as a planner and engineer but also as an employer, safety officer, quality controller, financial manager, service provider, and custodian of public assets.

Retired Chief Engineer G. Kondal Rao, BhaskerReddy, Srinivas and other senior officials from MA&UD participated in the programme.

Earlier, inaugurating the programme, Dr. G. Rameshwar Rao, Director, Engineering Staff College of India, said that ESCI has been providing training to engineers of DISCOMs across the country, senior officials working in the Ministry of Road Transport, and Jal Jeevan Mission officials. He thanked Dr. Sridevi for arranging training programmes for municipal contractors of Telangana at ESCI.

As part of the programme, the contractors were taken on field visits to the Durgam Cheruvu Engineering Works on the first day and to Siddipet Municipal Corporation on the second day, Friday.

The programme was coordinated under the supervision of Anita Agarwal, Head, Environment Management Division, along with staff members Nagamalleswar Rao and Prakash.

## Maharana Pratap Jayanthi

(On the occasion of "Pratap Jayanthi" on 09 May)

People of India, especially in the north, honour and even worship Maharana Pratap for his heroic attitude and achievements during his lifetime. The legendary king is renowned as a true patriot that commenced the first war of independence. He fought alongside Akbar, one of the most famous Mughal Emperors in the battle of Haldighati on 18 June 1576. The battle lasted for four hours and Maharana Pratap had to make an escape in the end. However, he had managed to kill many opponents in the battle field, earning him the respect and honour he has today. Despite being outnumbered to 80,000 Mughals to 20,000 Rana Pratap's force, he used terrain and tactics as his powerful weapon to defeat Mughals once and kill the opposing general showed the world his bravery and war tactics.

### Maharana Pratap Jayanthi :

Maharana Pratap birth anniversary is observed on the 3rd day of the Jeshta Shukla Paksha i.e., on 09 May 2025. On his Jayanthi, there are many cultural events, debates, seminars, dramas, bravery acts, pujas, and visiting to his memorial located at Udaipur. Throughout India, people of all castes and colours honour for his bravery. He was a great warrior who never surrendered to the Mughal Empire. The birth of one of the India's bravest Rajput warriors. Known for his unmatched courage and loyalty towards Mewar. Rana Pratap remains a symbol of patriotism and inspiring millions of Indian now also.

### Symbol of Warfare and Swordsmanship:

This year will mark the 486th birth anniversary of the legendary warrior who was born on 09 May 1540 AD in Kumbhalgarh, Rajasthan. His father was Maharana Udaipur Singh 2, the founder of Udaipur, and his mother was Maharani Jaivanta Bai. From his young age, he was trained in warfare, swordsmanship, horse riding, and politics. He became the ruler of Mewar in 1572 after his father's death. Many Rajput rulers allied with the Mughals, but Rana Pratap Singh chose the harder path of resistance, used guerrilla war tactics, ambushes, and skirmishes in the hills of Mewar to reconquer Mewar. He was seen as a symbol of Rajput valor and fight against foreign domination. He took his last breath on January 19, 1597 at Chavan, Mewar.

—Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy, 9949700037

## GITAM Scholar Earns Ph.D. in Chemistry

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, congratulates Dr. E. Namratha on the successful completion of her Ph.D. in Chemistry under the guidance of Prof. M. S. Surendra Babu, Department of Chemistry. Her doctoral research, titled "Synthesis and Characterization of TiO<sub>2</sub>-Doped MOF Derivatives and Porphyrin-Based MOFs for Toxic Gas Sensor Applications at Room Temperature," presents an innovative approach to detecting hazardous gases, particularly ammonia, under ambient conditions.



Focusing on environmental safety and public health, her work develops advanced sensing materials by integrating titanium dioxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>) with metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) and porphyrin-based structures. These novel composites demonstrate enhanced sensitivity, selectivity, rapid response, and long-term stability compared to conventional materials.

The study highlights the strong performance of Zn-doped TiO<sub>2</sub>/ZnO composites and porphyrin-based hybrids in efficiently detecting ammonia at room temperature, offering a cost-effective and energy-efficient solution for real-world applications.

Dr. Namratha's research contributes significantly to next-generation gas sensor technologies, with potential applications in environmental monitoring, industrial safety, and healthcare diagnostics.

The GITAM community—including Prof. D.S.Rao (Pro Vice-Chancellor), D.V.V.S.R. Varma (Resident Director), Dr. M. Reza (Principal, School of Science), Dr. Gousia Begum (Head, Department of Chemistry), along with faculty members, researchers, and students—extends its warmest congratulations to Dr. Namratha on this remarkable academic achievement.

**STRONG EPOXY FOR ANY SEASON • ANY REASON**

**TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 040 45474612**

**ENQUIRE NOW**



## Cyberabad She Teams conduct 99 decoy operations



**HYDERABAD:** Cyberabad Police SHE Teams conducted 99 decoy operations between May 2 and May 7, catching 32 persons allegedly involved in indecent behaviour at public places. Police registered 42 petty cases and counselled others. The SHE Teams also received 17 complaints from women through various channels during the period. The Cyberabad Anti Human Trafficking Unit rescued three victims and arrested six accused in three PITA cases. In separate Juvenile Justice Act cases, four boys were rescued and four accused were apprehended. Authorities said Family Counselling and CDEW Centres helped reunite 33 couples involved in family disputes. As part of awareness initiatives, SHE Teams and the Anti Human Trafficking Unit organised programmes across Cyberabad, reaching nearly 1,685 participants. Sessions covered issues including human trafficking, cyber bullying, stalking, child rights.

# Kavitha warns of statewide stir over Palamuru project delays

SHADNAGAR

It is a matter of happiness that after the formation of Telangana Rakshana Sena, we are holding our first meeting in Mahabubnagar district. I am a devotee of Goddess Jogulamba. We are fulfilling the promise we made earlier that our first meeting would be held here.

Whoever fought for Telangana's interests received the people's support and won. Many changes came to Telangana because of those struggles. Similarly, Telangana Rakshana Sena is now taking up a movement for water rights. This is a day that must be recorded in Telangana's history. Everyone knows that the Telangana movement was fought mainly for water.

In the past, we suffered while saying that even wild plants were growing in villages due to lack of irrigation. Though the Krishna River flows 300 kilometers through Mahabubnagar district, we still did not receive water.

All the Krishna waters flowed away to Andhra. Even after Telangana was formed, not a single acre received water in the last 12 years. Projects like Bhima, Nettampadu, and Koilsagar were also not completed properly. The water that should have come to Palamuru from the Krishna River never arrived. Even after ten years of BRS rule and two-and-a-half years of Congress rule, Krishna waters have still not reached us. ₹33,000 crore was spent on Palamuru-Ranga Reddy, but not even 33 acres got water.

Earlier, we criticized Andhra rulers for denying us water. But BRS, which came to power by criticizing Andhra leaders when needed, also failed to provide even a drop of water. Palamuru



is a land of intellectuals and artists. All of you should think carefully.

Our own rulers deceived us. This is absolutely true. During the united Andhra Pradesh period itself, Kiran Kumar Reddy brought GO 72 to draw water from Jurala. But after coming to power, BRS changed course.

They shifted the source point from Jurala to Srisailem. What BRS did is an unforgivable crime. Later, they even increased the lifting height for the water. A cunning contractor in BRS colluded with them and increased the lifting height.

The approach channel was supposed to be 140 meters, but they reduced it to 50 meters. Reservoirs were built, but the required small canals were not constructed.

Because the source point was shifted to Srisailem, we now face disputes with Andhra every day. The Chowdari Gudem area in Lakshmidvipalli, where we are holding this meeting,

is the highest region in Telangana. If a reservoir is built here, water can be supplied to 4 lakh acres in Ranga Reddy district and 7 lakh acres in Mahabubnagar district.

But the Congress government is continuing the same mistakes made by BRS. They built reservoirs and collected commissions, but failed to provide water. Our government will definitely come to power. I promise you that we will build the project in this very region. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who claims to be the son of Nallamala Tiger, is also doing injustice to this region.

Palamuru people gave Congress 12 seats, but till now not even a basket of soil has been moved for development. For the betrayal you are doing to Palamuru, the people will bury the Congress party a kilometer deep. If not the ten-year BRS government and the current Congress government, then who else should be held responsible?

Without supplying water, they spent ₹6,000 crore on motors and pumps. Out of greed for commissions, they cheated the people. All Congress MLAs in this district share responsibility for this sin.

We are giving you time until Dasara. A reservoir must be built at Lakshmidvipalli. Otherwise, from the morning after Dasara, we will begin a padayatra across the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy project command area.

Because of my criticism, the pink brigade (BRS supporters) will attack me from tomorrow. But we should think once. Despite ruling Telangana for ten years, they did not complete even one major project in many districts.

In Adilabad, they promised projects like Tummidatti and Wardha, but did not complete them. In Nizamabad, not even one new acre received water. In Karimnagar, they only stabilized ayacut under projects like Yelampalli and Mid Manair.

Only in Medak district did they provide water to one lakh acres. In Warangal, they did not build even one new project. Even after 25 years, Devadula remains incomplete.

In Nalgonda, not even one new reservoir was built. Even Dindi did not receive promised water. Now they are linking Palamuru-Ranga Reddy to supply water to Nalgonda district. Today, I felt sad after reading news in the paper. Andhra used 770 TMCs of Krishna water. We used only 221 TMCs. The Krishna waters flowing near us are being diverted to Andhra. We do not need to blame them. They intelligently built dams and check dams. They worked efficiently for their people without indulging in corruption.



## Degree Colleges with Skill Development Courses in Former District Headquarters

HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy directed officials to establish special degree colleges for minority students in the former district headquarters and to prioritize skill development and AI training in those institutions. He said that instead of only traditional courses, students should receive training that helps improve their livelihoods.

The Chief Minister conducted a review meeting of the Minority Welfare Department at the Secretariat on Friday evening. CM Revanth Reddy suggested introducing a special program to provide incentives to minority students, similar to those given to talented BC, SC, and ST students.

He also directed that interested minority candidates selected for Group-1, Group-2, and Group-3 services should be assigned responsibilities within the Minority Welfare Department and trained thoroughly about all programs undertaken by the department.

The Chief Minister advised inviting successful Group exam candidates and sportspersons to programs that provide incentives to students

so they can explain the importance of education and sports.

He instructed officials to ensure that honorariums for Imams and Mouzams are released regularly without delay. The CM also suggested giving importance to AI-based teaching in minority schools. He stated that land would be allocated for graveyards wherever land availability exists.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said the government is preparing a plan to improve the living standards of auto drivers by retrofitting diesel and petrol autos with electric engines, thereby reducing fuel expenses.

As part of the Musi Riverfront development project, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy directed officials to construct a mosque, church, and gurudwara along with a temple. He said these structures should reflect the cultures of the respective religions and showcase India's uniqueness and Telangana's "Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb" (composite culture). The Chief Minister expressed hope that these structures would develop into major centers for the study of different cultures and traditions.

## AIYF protests railway job cuts at Rail Nilayam

HYDERABAD

All India Youth Federation (AIYF) activists staged a protest at Rail Nilayam here on Friday opposing the Railway Board's proposed 2% manpower reduction under "Manpower Rationalisation 2026-27".

The AIYF Telangana State Council alleged that the move to cut nearly 29,608 posts was part of a larger agenda to privatise the Indian Railways and weaken public sector employment. Following the demonstration, an AIYF delegation submitted a memorandum to South Central Railway General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava.

Addressing the protest, AIYF State President Vali Ullah Quadri and General Secretary Kalluru Dharmendra claimed that while Indian Railways has a sanctioned strength of over 14.8 lakh posts, nearly 3 to 4

lakh vacancies remain unfilled. They said that the proposed reduction would further worsen staff shortages in critical departments.

The leaders alleged that loco pilots, maintenance staff, signalling personnel and technical workers were already burdened with excessive workloads due to inadequate staffing. They termed the Centre's manpower rationalisation exercise an "anti-employment policy" aimed at encouraging privatisation through contractual systems.

The AIYF leaders also criticised delays in various Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) examinations, including the Non-Technical Popular Categories (NTPC), Group-D, Junior Engineer (JE) and Technician posts, which have been held in abeyance for two years. They alleged that lakhs of aspirants have been left waiting for over two years.



TREES FELLED

Axing of trees goes unabated around the Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park area for the proposed H-CITI project works, raising concerns among environmentalists and residents over the shrinking green cover and its impact on the city's ecological balance.

## Serving humanity is life's ultimate purpose, says Governor

HYDERABAD

Telangana Governor and President of the Indian Red Cross Society Shiv Pratap Shukla said that serving humanity should be regarded as the ultimate purpose of life and that "serving others alone gives true meaning to human life."

World Red Cross Day and World Thalassaemia Day were observed at the Samskruti Community Hall in Lok Bhavan on Friday under the aegis of the Indian Red Cross Society, Telangana Branch.

The Governor paid floral tributes to the portrait of Hen-

ry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross Movement.

On the occasion, the Governor inaugurated a blood donation camp and distributed certificates to blood donors, appreciating their contribution.

He also distributed nutrition kits to children suffering from thalassaemia and enquired about their well-being.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor said that this year's theme, "United in Humanity," reminds society of its responsibility to stand in solidarity with those who are suffering and in need. He noted

# Transboundary Ecological Damage of Localized Wars

Frequent regional wars between different countries cause severe environmental damage through bombings and military operations, destroying forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands. Explosions and the use of chemical weapons release toxic substances into the air, soil, and water, leading to long-term pollution. Oil spills and the burning of fuel reserves significantly increase air and marine pollution. Wildlife habitats are damaged, forcing animals to migrate or face extinction. The use of heavy machinery and landmines degrades soil quality and reduces agricultural productivity. Water resources become contaminated, making them unsafe for both humans and animals. Wars weaken environmental protection systems and lead to the illegal exploitation of natural resources. Post-war reconstruction puts additional pressure on already damaged ecosystems. Increased greenhouse gas emissions during wars further intensify climate change.

The World War I and World War II caused immense long-term environmental damage. During World War I, trench warfare alone devastated vast areas of land across Europe; it destroyed vegetation, compacted the soil, and accelerated soil erosion. The use of chemical weapons such as chlorine and mustard gas poisoned soil and water systems, rendering land unusable for many years. Historical analyses indicate that millions of hectares of forests were cleared for military purposes, leading to habitat loss and a decline in biodiversity. In World War

II, environmental damage increased further due to industrialized warfare methods; bombing campaigns destroyed ecosystems across Europe and Asia. According to estimates by the United Nations Environment Programme, wars disrupt ecosystems, contaminate water resources, and deplete natural resources, with impacts lasting for generations. During World War II, more than 15 million tonnes of oil were released into the oceans from sunken ships, causing long-term marine pollution. The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki generated temperatures of around 4000°C and intense radiation, instantly destroying plant and animal life and leaving behind long-term radioactive contamination. Based on research published on ScienceDirect, a review of 193 global case studies shows that wars commonly lead to deforestation, soil degradation, and the collapse of ecosystems. Additionally, reports from the United Nations Environment Programme indicate that armed conflicts have occurred in more than two-thirds of the world's biodiversity hotspots, posing a serious threat to conservation systems.

Major regional wars across different continents have caused large-scale environmental damage. Reports from the United Nations, International Union for Conservation of Nature, and various scientific journals clearly highlight this issue. In Asia, the Vietnam War is one of the most extensively studied examples. During this war, approximately 11-20 million gallons of herbicides such as Agent Orange were sprayed, destroying millions

of hectares of forests, mangroves, and biodiversity. Around 366 kilograms of toxic dioxin were released, persisting in the environment for decades. Research shows that sprayed forests supported only about 24 bird species, compared to over 150 species in unaffected areas. In the Middle East, the Gulf War stands as one of the worst environmental disasters. During the conflict, 6-8 million barrels of oil were deliberately released into the Persian Gulf. Additionally, the burning of around 700 oil wells caused massive marine and air pollution. These events severely damaged coastal ecosystems, fisheries, and air quality. In Europe, during the Balkan Wars (1990's), bombing of industrial sites led to the release of toxic chemicals into rivers such as the Danube River, contaminating water resources and agricultural lands. In Africa, internal conflicts in regions like Sudan and Democratic Republic of the Congo have led to deforestation, wildlife loss, and increased illegal exploitation of natural resources due to weak governance.

In recent times, the Russia-Ukraine War has extensively damaged forests, agricultural lands, and water infrastructure, increasing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Experts describe these impacts as "ecocide" (environmental destruction). Similarly, conflicts in West Asia have destroyed water resources and urban ecosystems, further intensi-



fy environmental stress. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, more than 40% of global food insecurity is linked to wars, as agricultural lands are either abandoned or degraded. Reports from the International Committee of the Red Cross indicate that in around 60% of conflicts, water systems are damaged, reducing access to clean water and harming aquatic ecosystems. As reports suggest, environmental recovery is often very slow or may not occur fully; some ecosystems can take decades or even centuries to regenerate. Due to America-Israel and Iran war in just the first 14 days (February 28-March 14, 2026), the conflict generated over 5 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, exceeding the annual emissions of Iceland. The total emissions during this short period were equivalent to those of 84 countries combined, highlighting an extreme climate impact. Approximately 2.4 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> resulted from the destruction of buildings and infrastructure alone, while oil facility fires and fuel combustion contributed an additional 1.8-2 million tonnes, along with toxic air pollutants. More than 300 environmentally harmful incidents, including oil spills, strikes, and pollution events, were recorded across the region. Overall, the conflict has released toxins, heavy metals, and pollutants into the air, water, and soil, with environmental and health impacts likely to persist for decades.

Several global conferences and initiatives have been undertaken to protect natural resources from the impacts of regional wars. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was among the first to recognize that armed conflicts cause severe environmental damage and laid the foundation for global action. The Earth Summit, through Agenda 21, emphasized sustainable resource management and highlighted that conflicts significantly harm ecosystems. According to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, about 40% of conflicts since 1960 have been linked to natural resources, reinforcing the need to protect ecosystems in conflict-prone regions. The United Nations Environment Programme states that more than 60% of major armed conflicts occur in biodiversity-rich areas, increasing environmental risks. The United Nations General Assembly has adopted several resolutions, including in 2016, recognizing the need to protect the environment during warfare. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, around 50-60% of conflicts damage water infrastructure, severely affecting both the environment and human life. Although not directly focused on wars, the Paris Agreement supports conflict-affected regions by promoting sustainable resource use and climate stability. Estimates suggest that environmental recovery may take 10 to 50 years or even longer, depending on the severity of the damage.

Protecting environmental resources from regional wars requires a combi-

nation of legal, institutional, and technological measures. International laws under the United Nations should be strictly enforced to prohibit environmental destruction during armed conflicts. Countries must enter into strong agreements to safeguard critical ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, and water resources. Environmental impact assessments should be made mandatory before and after military operations. The use of harmful weapons such as chemical weapons must be completely banned and monitored by global organizations like the International Committee of the Red Cross. Protecting water infrastructure is essential to ensure access to clean water and to maintain ecological balance. Immediate funding should be allocated and implemented for post-war environmental restoration programs. Satellite monitoring and modern technologies can help detect environmental damage in real time. Local communities should be actively involved in conservation and restoration efforts. Strong governance and anti-corruption measures are necessary to prevent the illegal exploitation of natural resources during conflicts. Through global cooperation and awareness, led by organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme, long-term environmental sustainability and peace can be achieved.

**Dr. P. Subramanyachary,**  
Professor, School of Commerce and Management, Mohan Babu University, Tirupati, PIN-517502- Mobile 8309082823

## Government Formation Uncertainty for TVK CHENNAI:

The oath-taking ceremony of Vijay is unlikely to take place tomorrow amid uncertainty over support from alliance parties. Sources say the Thol. Thirumavalavan-led VCK is expected to hand over its support letter to TVK only if all of its demands are accepted by the party leadership. Meanwhile, the Indian Union Muslim League (IUMI) has reportedly withdrawn its support. At present, TVK is said to have the confirmed backing of only 116 MLAs, keeping the government formation process under suspense.

## Mumbai Court Grants Bail to Professor in Dental Student Suicide Case MUMBAI: (MAY 8)

A special court under the ASC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act has granted anticipatory bail to a 60-year-old medical professor in a case pertaining to the suicide of a 24-year-old Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) student. The court said there was no evidence suggesting he had tortured the victim based on her caste or compelled her to take her own life. The postgraduate student, Stuti Sonawane, was found hanging at her home in Mumbai's Antop Hill area on March 9 this year.

## IndiGo Flight Makes Emergency Landing in Lucknow

LUCKNOW: (May 8) Adverse weather forced an IndiGo Kolkata-Patna flight to make an emergency landing at Lucknow airport on Friday, airport sources said. According to airport officials, weather conditions in Patna deteriorated suddenly on Friday afternoon, affecting flight operations. IndiGo flight 6E 6917 from Kolkata, which was scheduled to land in Patna at 3.50 pm, could not land due to bad weather and kept circling in the air after failing to get clearance from air traffic control, they said.

Tamil Nadu politics may be heading toward one of its most dramatic and unpredictable phases in recent decades. If the DMK and AIADMK — parties that have defined themselves through decades of bitter rivalry — were ever to come together to form a government, it could mark an extraordinary turning point in the State's political history. In a political culture where voters often choose one party primarily to defeat the other, such a coalition could trigger intense public debate over the meaning and value of the electoral mandate.

In such a scenario, the role of TVK and actor-turned-politician Vijay would become politically crucial. The larger question would not merely be about numbers inside the Assembly, but about public legitimacy outside it. Technically, the Tamil Nadu Assembly can function as long as quorum requirements are met. But democracy operates not only through constitutional arithmetic; it also survives on public trust and political credibility. If a situation were to emerge in which a government continued despite large-scale political instability or mass resignations, questions over moral legitimacy would inevitably dominate political discourse. Under such circumstances, Vijay's first strategy may not necessarily be resignation, but constitutional confrontation. If his party believes that alternative coalitions are being encouraged

# CM directs officials to intensify efforts to provide housing for all

AMARAVATI:

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed the government machinery to intensify efforts toward housing for all, welfare delivery and social empowerment by stressing that governance must directly improve the quality of life of poor, middle-class and vulnerable sections. Speaking on the second day of the Seventh District Collectors' conference at Secretariat today, the Chief Minister reviewed welfare departments, revenue administration, housing and summer action plans. He instructed officials to ensure housing for all eligible beneficiaries through construction, land allocation and regularisation measures. The Chief Minister directed that by August 15, collective housewarming ceremonies be conducted for 2.5 lakh houses, followed by another 2.38 lakh houses by December. The government has also set a target of constructing an additional 10 lakh houses by December 2027. The Chief Minister stated that nearly 2 lakh families are expected to require house sites and instructed officials to provide 3 cents in rural areas and 2 cents in urban areas wherever possible. He directed authorities to regularise houses constructed on government lands and hill regions, stating that any policy bottlenecks could be brought before the Cabinet for approval. He also stressed

**Target set to construct additional 10 lakh houses by December 2027**  
**Complete state-wide re-survey along with issuance of pattadar passbooks by 2027:CM**  
**Officials asked to reduce financial burden on common man**  
**Chief Minister instructed officials to focus on livelihood generation through Rural Auto Nagar clusters**



the need to resolve all pending 22A land issues and complete the state-wide re-survey process along with issuance of pattadar passbooks by 2027. Emphasising social justice and inclusive development, the Chief Minister said the government would examine extending all welfare benefits applicable to Scheduled Castes to the Budaga Jangam community, pending approvals from the Centre regarding SC inclusion demands. He also noted that a special commission has been constituted to study backwardness among BC communities and that appropriate reservations in local bodies would be implemented based on the commission's recommendations. The Chief Minister instructed officials to focus on livelihood generation through Rural Auto Nagar clusters across constituencies with significant minority populations, transforming them

into livelihood and industrial hubs. He also called for integration of welfare programmes such as Jaladhara and fodder development with central government schemes. Stressing on reducing the financial burden on citizens, the Chief Minister directed officials to work toward lowering expenditure on education, healthcare and electricity. He said the government is prioritising welfare and empowerment for weaker sections, while ensuring equal opportunity for SC, ST, BC, minority and economically weaker communities through education, skill development and employment initiatives. Highlighting the state's long-term welfare vision, the Chief Minister said more than 11 lakh families have already been adopted under the P4 initiative, which combines educational support, economic assistance, employment

opportunities, and improvements in living standards. He also described solar power as a transformative opportunity and announced subsidised rooftop solar schemes for SC, ST, and BC families. Reviewing major welfare schemes, the Chief Minister directed officials to ensure timely transfer of subsidies under Deepam 2.0 on fixed dates. He noted that Rs 3,504 crore has already been spent under the scheme benefiting 1.08 crore beneficiaries. Under Stree Shakti, 60.6 crore free bus journeys have been recorded with annual spending of Rs 1,940 crore, while the Talliki Vandanam scheme is benefiting 67 lakh people with an allocation of nearly Rs 10,000 crore. Assistance worth Rs 286 crore will also be distributed under the Matsyakarula Sevalo programme on May 19. The Chief Minister further called for the estab-

lishment of Net Zero Healthy Campuses in hostels with integrated kitchens, fruit gardens and circular economy waste systems. He directed officials to provide advanced coaching for SC and tribal welfare students to secure IIT ranks and instructed departments to facilitate low-interest education loans for students pursuing studies in premier national and international institutions. He also emphasized German language training for SC and ST youth to improve overseas employment opportunities. Focusing on tribal economic development, the Chief Minister said coffee, turmeric and saffron cultivation are being promoted in tribal regions with emphasis on value addition, natural farming, traceability, certification and processing infrastructure. He urged officials to fully leverage the opportunity to position Araku Coffee as a global brand and integrate these initiatives with tourism development projects. Reiterating the broader purpose of governance, the Chief Minister stated that every review meeting, welfare initiative and administrative exercise is ultimately aimed at improving the lives of citizens and ensuring sustainable, inclusive development across Andhra Pradesh.

## Final decision on Kerala CM turns into political cliff-hanger as ball now in Congress High Command's court

The question of who among the three probables — V.D. Satheesan, K.C. Venugopal and Ramesh Chennithala — will make the cut appears set to go down to the wire, with High Command reportedly scheduled to make pivotal announcement on May 10



The decision on Congress' Chief Minister in Kerala seemed to assume the contours of a political cliff-hanger on Friday (May 8, 2026). The question of who among the purported three Chief Minister probables — Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K.C. Venugopal, and sen-

ior leader Ramesh Chennithala — would make the cut appeared set to go down to the wire, with party High Command reportedly scheduled to make the pivotal announcement on Sunday. Mr. Satheesan, Mr. Chennithala and Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPC) president Sunny Joseph were bound for Delhi, reportedly for a penultimate round

of discussions with the party's High Command on Saturday. Meanwhile, the accidental disclosure of a part of a document purportedly showing a list of "yes" votes from elected Congress MLAs supposedly backing Mr. Venugopal, published in a newspaper on Friday, caused political embarrassment, prompting AICC observers Mukul Wasnik and

Ajay Maken to deny the "record's legitimacy". Notably, Mr. Joseph, who, as per the "questionable" document surreptitiously captured by a lensman, appeared to back Mr. Venugopal, stated somewhat enigmatically to reporters that "numbers meant everything in parliamentary politics". His statement assumed some significance against the backdrop of reports that a majority of Congress' MLA designates had backed Mr. Venugopal for the "top post". Notably, Sandeep Varier, another MLA designate whose name was on the "yes" list, did not deny that he had backed Mr. Venugopal. The "list" seemed to hold a mirror up to the allegedly raging power struggles and turmoil in Congress over the Chief Minister's post. For one, the par-

ty's MLA-designate from Udma in Kasaragod, N. Neelakantan, emailed AICC's observers that they had "erroneously" recorded his "definite choice" for the Chief Minister's post as "neutral" in the "list". Mr. Neelakantan's complaint triggered social media insinuations by Congress' "faction fighters" that attempts were afoot to stack the odds in Mr. Venugopal's favour by disregarding "naysayers". Allies express apprehension Notably, UDF allies have repeatedly expressed apprehensions that the "vexatious" selection process would carve up the Congress and, by extension, the alliance, rendering the tight-knit leadership team that delivered the historical electoral win divided profoundly.

### Are Fresh Elections the Only Exit?

Political history repeatedly reminds us that there are no permanent enemies in politics. Yet a DMK-AIADMK understanding would still be emotionally difficult for many Tamil voters to accept because both parties built their identities through opposition to each other over several decades. If such a political arrangement were to emerge, a section of the electorate may feel that the spirit of the mandate had been compromised. That perception alone could become politically advantageous for Vijay, particularly if he succeeds in framing the crisis as a conflict between traditional power politics and a new political force claiming to represent public sentiment. In that context, fresh elections may eventually appear to be the most practical democratic resolution. If voters perceive that the orig-

inal mandate was politically altered after the election, sympathy for Vijay could grow substantially. At the same time, another election would involve enormous financial and organisational challenges, especially for a relatively new political formation like TVK. Ultimately, the success or failure of such a confrontation would depend on several factors: judicial intervention, the Governor's decisions, party unity, public sentiment, and the ability of political actors to maintain stability during a prolonged constitutional dispute. What may finally decide the outcome is not merely legislative arithmetic, but public opinion itself. In Tamil Nadu's deeply emotional political landscape, the court of the people has often proved more decisive than the numbers inside the Assembly.



## Suvendu da ghar mein aake haraya

Amit Shah's dig at Mamata over Bhabanipur loss

Home Minister Amit Shah took a dig at Mamata Banerjee, while declaring Suvendu Adhikari as the BJP's chief ministerial face in West Bengal, saying "defeated on her home turf" in south Kolkata's Bhabanipur.

we do not have an MLA," he said. He also credited the record turnout in the Assembly polls and peaceful polling. "Polling crossed 93 per cent. Both phases concluded without a single death," Shah said, congratulating the Election Commission, security forces and state officials for conducting what he called a model election. Taking aim at the Opposition, Shah rejected allegations of polarisation. "This is not about polarisation. This is an issue of national security," he said, adding that the BJP would act firmly against threats "booth by booth" across the country. The Home Minister criticised the Congress leadership, saying repeated electoral defeats called for "serious introspection". "Those in politics who refuse self-reflection can never truly achieve victory," he said. He also congratulated Adhikari on being named Chief Minister, calling the verdict a "historic mandate" and expressing confidence in his leadership. "I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes (to him). I hope this historic mandate becomes the means to fulfil the aspirations and expectations of the people of Bengal," Shah said. Recalling his long association with Adhikari, he added, "I have known Suvendu Adhikari for a long time. He is a fighter. I have seen both his political rise and his connection with the grassroots." Shah said Adhikari had continued his struggle despite obstacles. "The administration created many hurdles, yet Suvendu ji carried on with determination. I have complete faith in him. The struggle he carried out has produced results today," he said. The Home Minister thanked the people of the state for placing their trust in the BJP, saying West Bengal had long witnessed an atmosphere where free and fair voting was difficult.

Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday took a sharp dig at Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee, while announcing Suvendu Adhikari as BJP's Chief Minister face for West Bengal, saying she had been "defeated on her home turf" in Bhabanipur. "Suvendu da ghar mein aa ke haraya (Suvendu da came to your home turf and defeated you)," Shah said, underscoring Adhikari's victory over Banerjee in her south Kolkata stronghold. He made the remarks at a key BJP meeting where Adhikari, 55, was named as the party's legislative party leader, effectively becoming the first West Bengal Chief Minister from the saffron party. Describing the decisive mandate for the BJP as a turning point in West Bengal politics, Shah said, "Didi ka supra saaf ho gaya (Didi has been wiped out on her home turf)." Framing the BJP's victory as a broader political shift, Shah said, "For five long decades, Bengal has suffered from the erosion of democracy, the collapse of law and order. Today, Bengal is entering a new phase." He stressed that the party now carried the responsibility to fulfil the promises made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Highlighting the scale of the victory, Shah noted that the BJP had emerged as the number one party in 20 out of 30 districts and secured sweeping wins in regions like Purba Medinipur, Asansol, Purulia and Bankura. "There is not a single district where

we do not have an MLA," he said. He also credited the record turnout in the Assembly polls and peaceful polling. "Polling crossed 93 per cent. Both phases concluded without a single death," Shah said, congratulating the Election Commission, security forces and state officials for conducting what he called a model election. Taking aim at the Opposition, Shah rejected allegations of polarisation. "This is not about polarisation. This is an issue of national security," he said, adding that the BJP would act firmly against threats "booth by booth" across the country. The Home Minister criticised the Congress leadership, saying repeated electoral defeats called for "serious introspection". "Those in politics who refuse self-reflection can never truly achieve victory," he said. He also congratulated Adhikari on being named Chief Minister, calling the verdict a "historic mandate" and expressing confidence in his leadership. "I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes (to him). I hope this historic mandate becomes the means to fulfil the aspirations and expectations of the people of Bengal," Shah said. Recalling his long association with Adhikari, he added, "I have known Suvendu Adhikari for a long time. He is a fighter. I have seen both his political rise and his connection with the grassroots." Shah said Adhikari had continued his struggle despite obstacles. "The administration created many hurdles, yet Suvendu ji carried on with determination. I have complete faith in him. The struggle he carried out has produced results today," he said. The Home Minister thanked the people of the state for placing their trust in the BJP, saying West Bengal had long witnessed an atmosphere where free and fair voting was difficult.

## TTV Dhinakaran of AMMK meets Governor, seeks invite for AIADMK govt

TTV Dhinakaran met the Governor backing AIADMK's claim, alleging his lone MLA is missing amid suspected horse-trading, adding fresh tension as rival bids intensify in Tamil Nadu's government formation race.



In a fresh twist to Tamil Nadu's political drama, AMMK chief T. T. V. Dhinakaran on Friday met Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar to back AIADMK's claim to form the government, alleging his party's lone MLA is missing amid suspected horse-trading.

During the meeting, Dhinakaran submitted a letter extending full support to Edappadi K. Palaniswami and urged that he be invited to form the government. "I hereby extend my full support to the claim of Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami to form the new Government of the State of Tamil Nadu," he said in the letter, adding that his party has one MLA, Kamaraj S from Mannargudi, who had backed the move. However, Dhinakaran claimed that the same MLA is now untraceable and may have been targeted in alleged poaching attempts. He told the Governor that the legislator could have been "bought using money" and pointed fingers at TVK chief

Vijay. Accusing Vijay of "doing injustice," Dhinakaran also took a swipe at his political positioning, saying he calls himself "thooya sakti" (pure force) while engaging in such actions. The intervention comes at a time when Vijay continues to stake claim with support from Congress, Left parties and VCK, pushing his numbers close to the majority mark. Dhinakaran's move backing AIADMK adds another layer of complexity to the numbers game, with competing claims and counter-allegations intensifying the race to form the government in Tamil Nadu. Sources in Lok Bhavan said a statement on the developments is expected shortly as the Governor weighs the competing claims. Earlier in the day, Tamil Nadu's post-poll drama had taken a sharp turn as TVK chief Vijay appeared set to be sworn in as Chief Minister on Saturday, before last-minute uncertainty stalled the process.



without allowing it a fair opportunity to establish majority support, it could seek judicial intervention. The spirit of the landmark S.R. Bommai judgment — which strengthened the principle that legislative majority must be tested on the Assembly floor — would likely become central to such a challenge. Legal Battle or Mass Resignation? The question of whether Vijay should ask his MLAs to resign would not simply be an emotional political move. It would be a long-term strategic calculation with serious constitutional and electoral consequences. In a politically aware State like Tamil Nadu, such a step could reshape not only government formation, but also public perception

of democratic ethics. For that reason, resignation may emerge only as a last political weapon rather than an immediate response. A legal battle demanding a floor test would likely come first. However, if judicial remedies fail or if public opinion increasingly views a post-poll arrangement as contradicting the spirit of the electoral verdict, mass resignations could become a pressure tactic capable of destabilising the political environment. Such resignations, however, would not automatically dissolve the Assembly. The constitutional process is far more complex. The Speaker would first have to determine whether the resignations were voluntary and genuine. If there were delays in accepting them, the MLAs would technically continue to re-

main members of the House. That could open the door to further litigation in the High Court or Supreme Court. Simultaneously, if a large number of seats were to fall vacant, debates could intensify over whether governance remained politically and administratively stable. In an extreme situation, discussions around Article 356 and President's Rule could also re-enter the national conversation, though such an outcome would ultimately depend on the Governor's assessment, the Union government, and the Election Commission. Politically, however, mass resignations could significantly alter Vijay's image. The message projected would be simple but powerful: that the battle is not for office, but for protecting the spirit

of the people's mandate. Such a move could elevate him from being viewed merely as a film star entering politics to a leader willing to embrace political risk for public legitimacy. Yet this strategy would carry enormous dangers. Vijay would need to ensure absolute unity within his legislative ranks. Rival parties could attempt persuasion, negotiation, or political inducements to weaken collective action. Even a small crack within the bloc could damage both the strategy and Vijay's leadership credibility. At the same time, Tamil Nadu's political culture has historically been shaped by strong emotional identification between voters and leaders. Public anger against

perceived defections or betrayals has often carried long-term political consequences. That reality could itself act as a restraint against large-scale political desertion. India has witnessed comparable moments before. The Nav Nirman movement in Gujarat during the 1970s saw political unrest and resignations eventually leading to the dissolution of the Assembly. Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh have also experienced governments collapsing after large-scale resignations by legislators. However, Tamil Nadu would present a different dynamic: not merely a struggle for power, but a larger debate over the moral interpretation of an electoral verdict.

EDITORIAL

Mandate 2026

# Gangotri to Gangasagar, the BJP's 'Hindu Wave' Gains Momentum

**ASSAM'S NEW ORDER:  
HOW THE BJP CONSOLIDATED POWER  
UNDER HIMANTA BISWA SARMA**

Following another successful campaign that propelled the BJP to victory in Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma is poised to assume office once again as the State's Chief Minister. This represents a remarkable trajectory for a leader who, back in 2011, was a prominent face of the Congress party during its electoral triumph in the north-eastern State. By shifting his political allegiance to the BJP in 2015, Mr. Sarma rapidly transformed into the indispensable anchor of the saffron party's strategy, not just within Assam but across the wider Northeast region. His electoral dominance is formidable; beginning his legislative journey in 2001 under the Congress banner, he has successfully defended his seat in six successive Assembly elections. Having established himself as a highly influential political force, his transition to the BJP culminated in his appointment as Chief Minister in 2021. Since taking the helm, he has systematically reconstructed the state's political arena through a potent mix of formidable organizational skill, divisive communal rhetoric, and the strategic deployment of state machinery.

This political restructuring has been underpinned by a massive push for infrastructure development alongside targeted welfare distribution. Key initiatives like the Orunodoi scheme, which provides direct financial assistance to women, and Mission Basundhara, a flagship program designed to modernize land records and secure land rights, have acted as catalysts. These programs did more than just facilitate the BJP's grass-roots penetration; alongside structural maneuvers like the 2023 redrawing of Assembly constituency boundaries, they fundamentally altered the electoral geography of Assam. In this sweeping transformation of the political landscape, Mr. Sarma has functioned simultaneously as the primary architect and the chief beneficiary.

On a national level, the BJP's resounding success in Assam carries profound implications for the internal balance of power within the party organization. Mr. Sarma is widely understood to enjoy a close political alignment with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Within the 126-member state legislature, the BJP secures a comfortable majority on its own, while the broader ruling alliance commands a formidable 102 seats. This electoral juggernaut has not only crushed the traditional Opposition but has also marginalized regional political forces to the point of irrelevance. By uniting a fragmented array of social groups under its umbrella, the party has successfully weakened the traditional grip of linguistic and ethnic identity politics in the region.

However, this consolidation has come at the cost of deep religious polarization across Assam. The recent delimitation exercise strategically restructured electoral districts, effectively diluting the voting power of Muslim communities, which has resulted in an Assembly where the BJP and the Congress increasingly mirror a stark Hindu-Muslim divide. Furthermore, state-led eviction campaigns have fallen disproportionately upon Bengali-speaking Muslim populations. In 2025 alone, these operations displaced approximately 40,000 people; while the administration defended these actions as routine crackdowns on illegal encroachment, critics widely interpreted them as discriminatory targeting. Given Assam's delicate position as a sensitive border state, its administration demands a high degree of statesmanship and nuance. While every political organization has the democratic right to build its base and win mandates, such efforts must remain mindful of the long-term stability of the society and the broader national interest. Amidst the celebrations of this decisive victory, the BJP leadership in Assam must seriously contemplate the societal toll of the triumph they have achieved.

After its victory in West Bengal, a new trend is becoming visible. Earlier, the BJP used to say that it did not receive Muslim votes. Now the same party openly says that it wins elections with Hindu votes. Along with this, it also adds that those who stood with us, we stand with them. Earlier, however, Prime Minister Modi used to say, 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'

This is being said because the BJP's spectacular victory in West Bengal has created a stir in political circles. Workers celebrating on the streets there are shouting that they won because of Hindu votes. Earlier, the BJP used to say that Muslims did not vote for it, but now the same party openly admits that it gained power because of Hindu brothers. At the same time, it strongly says that whoever stood with us, we stand with them. Hearing this new tone raises questions: is the BJP changing its path? The Prime Minister's old slogan was 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas,' but now it seems the chant of Hindu unity is gaining strength. In Uttar Pradesh politics, this shift could challenge Akhilesh Yadav's PDA formula. Looking back, in the 2017 and 2022 Assembly elections, this very polarization of Hindu votes had defeated the Samajwadi Party. So, will the PDA magic that succeeded in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections now lose its effect?

In any case, the victory in West Bengal is no ordinary event. The BJP has shaken the stronghold of the Trinamool Congress there. Party workers are overjoyed. Standing on stages, they are declaring that Hindu brothers chose them, and therefore they will protect Hindu interests. Earlier, the BJP was accused of being deprived of Muslim votes. Now the same party leaders are openly saying that Hindu unity is their real strength. Whoever stood with us, we will stand with them. Hearing such statements has stunned opposition parties. The Trinamool Congress had long accused the BJP of practicing polarization politics, but now the BJP itself seems to be accepting it openly. Is this a new strategic turn? In a state like West Bengal, where Hindus are in the majority but traditionally divided, this slogan appears to have worked. The question now is whether the same slogan will create a similar impact in a large state like Uttar Pradesh.

The politics of Uttar Pradesh has always been complex. Here, vote-bank calculations are set with great precision. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Akhilesh Yadav adopted the PDA formula. By uniting backward classes, Dalits, and minorities, he gave the BJP a tough challenge. The Samajwadi Party demonstrated the power of alliances along with socialist policies and won several seats. But the history of Assembly elections tells a different story. In 2017, the BJP played the Hindu card. It raised the Ram Temple issue. From Gorakhpur to Varanasi, slogans of Hindu unity echoed. The result was that the SP-BSP alliance was crushed. The same happened again in 2022. Yogi Adityanath used bulldozer politics to crack down on criminals. Hindu votes consolidated. The PDA formula of the Samajwadi Party failed. Akhilesh Yadav kept trying to

(Together with all, development for all). The question is whether the BJP is now changing. The party appears to be moving ahead continuously with the support of a growing Hindu wave. To unite Hindus, could this electoral mantra of the BJP blunt the edge of Akhilesh Yadav's PDA strategy in Uttar Pradesh, just as seen in the 2017 and 2022 Assembly elec-

tions? It is possible that the formula of PDA (Backward classes, Dalits, and Minorities), which helped Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav significantly check the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, may collapse in 2027. After all, voters' thinking changes in every election. In politics, no formula remains successful forever.

unite backward communities, but Hindu polarization destroyed those efforts. Now, after the West Bengal victory, the BJP is once again bringing out the same old weapon. Will Akhilesh's PDA become ineffective again?

Political analysts say that voters' thinking changes constantly. Every election writes a different story. No formula remains successful forever. In 2014, the Modi wave swept the country. The slogan 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' echoed everywhere. Development, nationalism, and the anti-corruption campaign demolished the Congress. But in 2019, national security became the dominant issue. The Pulwama attack and the Balakot airstrike gave wings to Hindu nationalism. In 2024, the opposition showed unity. The INDIA alliance was formed. In Uttar Pradesh, PDA performed impressively. The Samajwadi Party said it would take everyone along. It united Yadavs, Muslims, and Dalits and achieved partial success. But now the BJP is preparing to implement the Bengal model in Uttar Pradesh. Encouraged by its victory through Hindu votes in Bengal, BJP leaders are saying that the same formula can work nationally. Hindus make up nearly 80 percent of Uttar Pradesh's population. If they unite, what will happen to PDA?

BJP leaders are now speaking openly. In West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee's party was attacked as being anti-Hindu, and it was said that Hindus therefore chose the BJP. Now, in Uttar Pradesh too, Yogi Adityanath may follow the same path. The bulldozer still stands as a symbol. By projecting fear regarding law and order, Hindu votes may again be consolidated. Akhilesh Yadav may be challenged with the accusation that his PDA is merely a vote-bank business, while the BJP presents itself as the true protector of Hindu interests. Temple-mosque disputes may once again heat up. Credit for the Ayodhya Ram Temple will be highlighted. Attention may also shift toward Kashi and Mathura. Will minority votes remain with the Samajwadi Party, or will they scatter out of fear? This is exactly what happened in 2017 and 2022. Muslims largely voted for the SP, but Hindus shifted toward the BJP.

Now the 2027 Assembly elections are approaching. The BJP may amplify the Bengal narrative in Uttar Pradesh. Akhilesh Yadav's difficulties could increase. His PDA is an attempt to attract backward communities. But in Hindu polarization, Brahmins, Thakurs, Vaishyas, and other Hindu groups often move toward the BJP. Dalits too, at times, become dissatisfied with the Bahujan Samaj Party and lean toward the BJP. In 2024, the Samajwadi Party projected Brahmin faces prominently and achieved some success. But if the BJP says it is fighting for Hindu unity,

Brahmin votes could once again slip away. The Samajwadi Party depends heavily on Yadav support, but Hindu sentiment in rural areas may intensify. Akhilesh will have to find a new response. Perhaps he may emphasize development and employment or strengthen alliances. But in politics, voters' minds keep changing. West Bengal has shown how effective the Hindu slogan can be. Opposition parties too will now have to rethink their strategy. Congress and other parties are worried about the BJP's new tone. They say it goes against the spirit of the Constitution. But what will the public think?

This debate will spread through tea stalls in Uttar Pradesh villages. Some will say the BJP is right and Hindus should unite. Others will argue that Akhilesh will take everyone along. Electoral strategies are changing. The BJP's slogan of 'Sabka Saath' seems to be fading into the background. Now the chant is about Hindu interests. The victory in West Bengal is being seen as proof of this. If the same strategy succeeds in Uttar Pradesh, then the PDA formula of the Samajwadi Party could collapse. Everything depends on the thinking of voters. Every election creates new hopes, but the danger of history repeating itself remains. This shift is a major gamble for the BJP. Earlier, it tried to appeal to everyone, but now it appears to be openly playing the Hindu card. Will this completely alienate Muslim voters? Or will some return in the name of development? Uttar Pradesh remains a difficult test. Castes are deeply fragmented there. Yadavs, Jats, Kurmis, Mauryas all think differently. PDA attempted to unite them, but the slogan of Hindu unity could overshadow these divisions. Akhilesh will have to remain cautious. He will need to build a new narrative perhaps by raising farmers' issues or promising jobs to the youth. Politics is an uncertain game. West Bengal has sent a signal. What will happen in Uttar Pradesh, only time will tell. The voter is king. If the voter's thinking changes, political formulas will change as well.



Sanjay Saxena,  
Senior Journalist  
9454105568



## ELEGY OF THE ABYSS

I fastened the cradle of your memory to the last surviving nerve of heaven and taught my loneliness to pronounce your name like a sacred wound. Even the clocks grew merciful around me. Time itself attempted to lower me gently into the narcotic river of forgetting.

Yet you remained—  
a shard of lunar glass  
lodged inside the red cathedral of my chest:  
too deep to remove,  
too merciless to endure.

You were never merely beloved.

No—  
you were catastrophe wearing the perfume of light. Your tenderness was a beautifully sharpened blade. Your silence was not silence at all, but the slow architecture of execution. Like placing a dying bird before an infinite sky and whispering, with unbearable softness,  
"Fly."

Under the glacial empire of your indifference, entire springs within me froze mid-bloom. Gardens once drunk on music collapsed inward like burned cathedrals.

I became then a fish convulsing inside the courtroom of drought, a rootless tree dragging forests of grief through storms without soil, a flute carved hollow by the teeth of absence. And you—untouched, immaculate, distant—watched my ruin with the calm indifference of a moon observing tides drown villages.

But the moment I witnessed you tearing tender leaves from the trembling tree of human mercy with your jeweled hands of selfishness, something volcanic awakened within my blood. My veins learned wildfire.

My scars learned prophecy. My shattered ribs became a cathedral flute through which sorrow itself began singing its first true language.

Then I understood:  
pain is merely love  
after being abandoned too long  
inside darkness. So I wrote.

I wrote with ink wrung from insomniac veins. I wrote with alphabets steeped in the red rainfall of memory.

I wrote until language itself began bleeding through its own skin. You—devourer of songbirds  
nesting in the green branches of trust—



one day, when winter builds its frozen parliament inside your soul, you too shall wander abandoned by even your own shadow.

For a heart evacuated of tenderness becomes more desolate than galaxies. And a soul stripped of mercy is more terrifying than death itself.

There will come an hour when mirrors refuse your reflection, when every room fills with the echo of un-lived tenderness, when all the names you buried rise like smoke around your sleep. Then you shall finally understand that cruelty is merely loneliness too proud to kneel. And in that final season—

you, who should have wrapped yourself around my existence

like spring ivy climbing ruined stone, shall rise instead above my grave as a weather-worn inscription rusting beneath centuries of regret. Then, before the immense tribunal of silence, with no witness remaining except your own conscience, you shall sing at last—

not for me, not for the vanished world, but for the terrible hollow echoing endlessly inside yourself: the abyssal elegy

of all that might have lived had love not mistaken itself for power.

...: Dr. Peruka Raju ...  
7810032847

# Break the Silence"

## Experts Addresses Loneliness Epidemic

In an era marked by constant digital connectivity yet growing emotional isolation, leading mental health experts gathered in East Delhi to address one of the most pressing public health concerns of our time. A focused seminar titled "Loneliness & Depression: Implications & Solutions" was organised.

The event brought together psychiatrists, geriatric specialists, counsellors, and members of the public to discuss the silent epidemic of loneliness and its deep links with depression. The auditorium saw a diverse audience, including senior citizens, working professionals, and young adults, reflecting how this issue cuts across all age groups.

Prof. (Dr.) Nimesh Desai, Former Director of the Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IH-BAS), set the tone with a powerful opening remark. "We live in an age of constant connectivity yet deep emotional isolation," he noted. "Loneliness is no longer just an emotional state. It has emerged as a significant risk factor linked to depression, anxiety, cardiovascular diseases, and weakened immunity."

Dr. Harijit Singh Bhatti, a renowned Healthy Ageing Activist and Geriatric Specialist (MD, AIIMS, New Delhi), highlighted the vulnerability of senior citizens. He pointed out that social isolation after retirement often accelerates physical and mental decline. However, he stressed that working professionals and youth are equally affected due to hectic schedules, nuclear families, and excessive reliance on social media.

Dr. Deepika Verma, Consultant Psychiatrist at Pushpanjali Medical Centre, outlined the hidden signs of depression that often go unnoticed. "Many people mistake persistent fatigue, loss of interest in daily activities, irritability, and emotional numbness as normal stress," she said. "Recognising these early signals is crucial for timely intervention."

The session was moderated by Ms. Poonam Gaur, Counsellor and Director of RA-

HEE, and Ms. Rashmi Dhuriya, Founder & Lead Clinical Psychologist at STHIR - The Mind's Clinic. The panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Druhin Grover and Dr. Prabhani Bindra, both Consultant Psychiatrists at Pushpanjali Medical Centre, focused on practical, real-world coping strategies.

The event was organised by Dr. Vinay Aggarwal, former president of Indian Medical Association (IMA) and head of Pushpanjali Medical Education & Research Cen-

of lived realities.

Dr. Vinay Aggarwal, while addressing the gathering, said the objective of the seminar was not just awareness but action. "Breaking the silence is the first step toward healing," he stated. "Such platforms are essential for normalising help-seeking behaviour and building emotionally supportive communities."

The seminar concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session where attendees shared personal experiences and sought advice. Organisers distributed resource pamphlets listing helplines, counselling services at Pushpanjali Medical Centre, and details of follow-up support programmes by RAHEE and Subhashan Foundation.

Mental health professionals present warned that loneliness now rivals traditional risk factors like smoking and obesity in its impact on public health. They called for greater community involvement, workplace mental health programmes, and stronger family bonds to combat this growing challenge.

The event has received appreciation from participants, many of whom described it as timely and deeply relevant. Several attendees committed to joining support groups and spreading awareness in their own circles.

With rising cases of anxiety and depression reported across urban India, initiatives like this seminar play a vital role in shifting societal attitudes. Pushpanjali Medical Education & Research Centre, RAHEE, and the Subhashan Foundation plan to organise similar programmes in the coming months, aiming to reach more sections of society.

In a fast-paced cities like Mumbai and Delhi, where millions live surrounded by people yet often feel profoundly alone, such efforts offer a beacon of hope reminding citizens that help is available and healing begins with a single conversation.

Vivek Shukla  
9818155246



**2025 Leh violence: Judicial inquiry nears completion, 93 witnesses examined**  
LEH/JAMMU: (MAY 8)

Joint Secretary of the Judicial Inquiry Commission probing the Leh violence in September, Rigzin Spalgon, on Friday said 93 witnesses have been examined until the third session of the inquiry. He expressed hope that the ongoing session would likely be the final phase of the probe. The three-member commission, headed by former Supreme Court judge B S Chauhan, was appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs on October 17 last year to look into the circumstances that led to a law and order crisis in Leh on September 24, 2025.

## CM Revanth Reddy announces State Government will bear additional burden facing by Haj pilgrims

The CM warns attempts are being made to remove voter names in the guise of SIR in Telangana  
Minorities are receiving their due share in welfare and development.. ITIs upgraded as ATCs to get skill jobs in Germany, Japan and USA  
Free retrofitting for all autos as EVs in ORR limits which benefits more number of minorities in Hyderabad  
CM Revanth Reddy flags off buses carrying haj pilgrims today

HYDERABAD:

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy announced that the State Government will bear the additional burden facing by Haj pilgrims this year.

Flagging off the buses carrying haj pilgrims at the Haj House today, the Chief Minister said that air fuel prices were increased due to the prevailing crisis in West Asia in recent times and consequently air travel fares also enhanced. To ensure the Haj pilgrims are not burdened additionally, the Chief Minister said that the State Government is bearing the additional cost. The CM affirmed that his government is respecting all religions and the Hindus and Muslims are



being considered as brothers.

In the wake deletion of voters names in the SIR programme, CM Revanth Reddy warned that attempts are also being made to remove the voters names in the guise of SIR. The Chief Minister appealed to people to unite and stop such vote removal tactics in

Telangana state.

The CM remembered the ghastly bus accident which claimed 44 lives of haj pilgrims during pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia last year. The State government supported the bereaved families by providing a compensation of Rs 5 lakhs to the family of each

deceased individual.

CM Revanth Reddy highlighted the minority welfare schemes launched by the People's Government. The minorities are getting their due share in both employment opportunities and welfare schemes. Scholarships were also provided to minorities to support their education in foreign countries.

Referring to the government's initiative of reducing air pollution, the Chief Minister said that many poor minorities in Hyderabad earn their livelihood by driving auto-rickshaws. The government decided to provide free retrofitting services to all auto-rickshaws operating within the Outer Ring Road, thereby converting them into electric

auto-rickshaws (EVs). This initiative will result in significant cost savings for auto drivers.

Stating that there is a higher demand for blue-collar jobs compared to white-collar jobs, the CM said that job opportunities are more abundantly available in countries like Germany and Japan than in the United States. The government was already upgrading ITIs (Industrial Training Institutes) into ATCs (Advanced Training Centers) to provide skill training to the youth and compete in the competitive world. The Chief Minister reiterated that he was striving to develop Telangana as the number one state in the development and stood a role model for the country.



## RPF/NFR Recovers Over Rs. 2.45 Cr.

Through Anti-Smuggling, Ticket Checking and Enforcement Operations in April 2026

MALIGAON, 8 TH MAY, 2026:

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of North-east Frontier Railway (NFR) continued its sustained efforts towards strengthening passenger security, curbing unlawful activities and ensuring a safe railway environment across the zone during April 2026. During the month, RPF/NFR registered 3081 cases under various sections of the Railways Act and prosecuted more than 3000 offenders for unlawful activities across railway premises. RPF also assisted in ticket checking drives leading to detection of 1074 ticketless travellers and recovery of fines exceeding Rs. 10 lakh. In a major enforcement achievement, RPF/NFR detected 33 narcotics smuggling cases involving ganja, brown sugar and cough syrup collectively valued at over Rs. 2.35 Cr. Additionally, 15 persons were arrested in connection with illicit liquor smuggling cases. In anti-touting operations, four touts were arrested with seizure of 47 railway tickets worth over Rs. 1.43 lakh. Further, 32 persons involved in theft of railway property were apprehended with recovery of stolen railway materials valued at more

than Rs. 2.10 lakh. As part of its ongoing efforts to ensure passenger safety and security, RPF/NFR apprehended 28 persons involved in theft of passenger belongings and recovered stolen items including 44 mobile phones worth over Rs. 6.19 lakh. The force also arrested three persons involved in stone pelting incidents on running trains and apprehended 16 illegal immigrants during the month. Additionally, 113 left-behind luggage items worth around Rs. 1.40 Cr were recovered and returned to passengers after proper verification. On an average, 53 trains were escorted daily by RPF personnel to ensure passenger security across the zone. Demonstrating its humanitarian commitment alongside enforcement activities, RPF rescued 80 minor boys and girls along with four women and safely handed them over to Childline, NGOs, parents and police authorities. RPF/NFR also remained actively engaged in cleanliness and public assistance initiatives, during which 1596 persons were prosecuted for littering railway premises. Anti-encroachment drives were also carried out at several locations across the zone to ensure smooth and safe railway operations.

## Gorakhpur Workshop Gets Computerized Brake Testing Facility

GORAKHPUR, MAY 08, 2026:

The Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur has been continuously working towards modernization of the workshop and improvement in quality standards. Under the guidance of General Manager, North Eastern Railway, Uday Borwankar, the workshop is adopting new technologies and continuously training its employees in modern systems and advanced maintenance techniques. In this sequence, in the august presence of Chief Workshop Manager Dr. Sunil Kumar Sharma, Senior Supervisor Vijay Kumar inaugurated the state-of-the-art "Computerized Brake Testing Facility" (Single Car Test Rig - SCTR) on May 08, 2026, in the Air Brake Shop of the workshop for final air brake testing of all LHB and ICF coaches. On this occasion, Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer/Works Anuj Kumar Mishra, Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer/Repair Satyendra Kumar Verma, supervisors, and employees were present.

On this occasion, Chief Workshop Manager Dr. Sunil Kumar Sharma stated that the continuous incor-



poration of modern technologies in the workshop is an important step towards further strengthening quality and maintenance efficiency. This advanced system will make the inspection of coach brake systems faster, more accurate, and more reliable. It is equipped with modern features such as automatic logging, digital display, and data recording, through which distributor valves and other brake equipment can be tested error-free. A key feature of this system is that it is capable of automatically testing the coach brake system without the need for a locomotive. During testing, the system automatically checks various parameters and records the data. Through this system, critical conditions such as air leakage, emergency brake per-

formance, and brake release systems can be tested quickly and accurately, enabling timely detection of possible faults. In addition, the facility also provides automatic testing of brake cylinders and equipment related to air suspension systems, thereby further enhancing coach reliability and passenger safety. The system also includes modern features such as "Intelligent Testing and Failure Simulation," through which potential faults can be assessed in advance. This will help make long-term maintenance analysis of coaches more systematic, accurate, and effective. The use of this technology will reduce the possibility of human error and contribute towards making rail travel safer, more reliable, and technologically advanced.

## Expert task force created to save lychee crop in Bihar

S. N. VERMA

New Delhi: An expert task force (task force) has been constituted on the direction of Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan after the issue of crop damage caused by lychee sting bug by lychee farmers in Bihar has been raised, which will visit the affected areas and report and give solutions.

It is known that during the farmers dialogue program organised at the Central Institute of Subtropical Horticulture, Lucknow, farmers had raised the issue of heavy damage to the crop due to lychee sting bug before Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. According to the order issued by the National Lychee Research Centre, Muzaffarpur of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, this task force will assess the current status of lychee sting bug, visit the affected areas, conduct scientific study of crop damage and suggest immediate and long-term measures to provide relief to the farmers. The Task Force will also advise on necessary consultations, extension activities and necessary interventions at the state and central levels for farmers. According to the order, this specialist task force has been



constituted involving scientists, officials and experts from various institutions. In this, the Director of National Lychee Research Centre, Muzaffarpur has been made the chairman. The following members have been taken in it - Director of Horticulture-cum-Bihar State Horticulture Mission, representative nominated by the Government of Bihar, Representative nominated by the Director of Plant Protection, Agriculture Department, Government of Bihar, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Representative nominated by the Pest Scientist of Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur, the representative nominated by the Principal Scientist (Pest Science) of Bihar Agricultural University, Sabaur, Bhagalpur, the designated representative by the Integrated Horticulture

Development Mission, the Scientist of ICAR-Research Complex for the Eastern Region and the Agricultural Systems Research Centre for the Hill and Plateaus Region, Ranchi, Dr. Jaipal Singh Chaudhary, National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru, Dr. M. Sampat Kumar, ICAR-National Lychee Research Centre, Muzaffarpur Scientist (Entomology) Dr. Ipsita Samal and Principal Scientist (Pestology) Dr. Vinod Kumar (member secretary).

According to the order, the task force will soon visit the main affected blocks of the lychee growing districts of Bihar. After this, this team will submit its report to the Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan within a week, so that necessary action can be taken in time.

## Woman Cop Alleges Rape, Forced Abortion by Colleague

The woman alleged that the accused constable sexually exploited her for a long period after promising to marry her.

A woman constable in Rajasthan's Ajmer has accused a fellow constable of rape, forced abortion, cheating and criminal intimidation. The accused has been suspended. According to the complaint,

the accused constable allegedly sexually exploited the woman for a long period after promising to marry her. The survivor alleged that the accused also behaved obscenely with her and later forced her to undergo an abortion.

The woman further claimed that the accused had conspired to get her divorced as part of the plan to continue the relation-



ship under the false promise of marriage.

Following the allegations, Ajmer Superintendent of Police Harshvardhan Agarwala suspended the accused constable with immediate effect.

The case has widened beyond the main accused, with police also booking his wife, brother, sister and brother-in-law under various sections based on

the woman's complaint. The survivor alleged that the accused's family continuously threatened her and even warned that she could be killed through a criminal gang. Allegations of financial fraud have also surfaced in the case. Ajmer North Circle Officer Shivam Joshi said a case has been registered based on the complaint and the survivor's medical examina-

tion has been conducted as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) laid down by the police headquarters. He said the accused constable has been suspended and investigators are closely examining all documents and evidence linked to the case. Police are now probing the role of the other accused persons, including the claims of threats and intimidation.

## Jhansi court sentences help to life for murdering employer

JHANSI (UP): (MAY 8)

A court here has sentenced a domestic help to life imprisonment for murdering his employer nearly two years ago, prosecution officials said on Friday. Assistant District Government Counsel Ravi Prakash Goswami said the verdict was delivered by the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge (I) Sunil Kumar Yadav. The court convicted Wasim, a resident of Shahpur in Muzaffarnagar district, and sentenced him to life imprisonment after finding him guilty of murder. It also imposed a total fine of Rs 63,000 under various sections of law.

## Guntakal Division of SCR Launches Parcel Cargo Express

GUNTAKAL, MAY 8:

The Guntakal Division of South Central Railway has launched a Parcel Cargo Express service between Renigunta and Nischintapur (Agartala), marking an important milestone in strengthening freight transportation logistics. The inaugural service was flagged off from Renigunta Railway Station on 07 May 2026. In recent years, agricultural production has expanded significantly in the Rayalaseema region, especially around Renigunta and nearby areas. To improve market opportunities and ensure better prices for farmers, transporting agricultural products to distant markets has become essential. Transporting goods by road is both time-consuming and expensive. To support traders and agricultural produc-

Between Renigunta and Agartala



ers, the Guntakal Division of South Central Railway took the initiative to introduce the Parcel Cargo Express service under a six-year agreement model.

In its inaugural run, the train transported:

- Betel nut products
- All Out liquid refills
- Incense sticks
- Chocolates
- Other household consumer goods

The train is mainly intended to transport Fast-Moving

Consumer Goods (FMCG) and agricultural products to distant regions through an efficient railway logistics network that can meet growing market demand.

In the future, the service is expected to handle transportation of:

- Red chillies
- MRF tyres
- ITC products
- Cadbury products
- Kimberly-Clark products
- Enerlife products
- Perfetti consumer goods
- Other industrial and commercial products

This reflects strong freight transport potential along this corridor. The division is expected to generate approximately ₹54 crore in revenue during the entire contract period, further strengthening the freight earnings potential of the division.

This dedicated cargo train

will provide a faster and more economical parcel and cargo transport facility across the country by connecting South India with major commercial hubs such as:

- Kolkata
- Silchar
- Guwahati
- Agartala

South Central Railway General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava congratulated the Guntakal Division team for successfully launching the Parcel Cargo Express service.

He stated that the launch marks an important step toward improving freight business and strengthening logistics connectivity. He added that the train will provide traders and industries with a reliable and cost-effective transportation solution while also contributing to the growth of railway freight traffic in the zone.

## Three killed in volcano eruption in Indonesia

JAKARTA

Three people were killed after Mount Dukono erupted in Indonesia's North Maluku province, local police said on Friday. Search and rescue authorities earlier said that rescuers were working to evacuate about 20 hikers trapped by the eruption.

Mount Dukono erupted at around 7:40 am local time on Friday, sending a column of volcanic ash up to about 10 km into the sky, Xinhua news agency reported.

Local rescue authorities warned residents not to carry out activities within a 4-km radius of the crater and cautioned that volcanic mudflows could occur during rainfall. Mount Dukono had also erupted in February earlier this year, prompting the country's Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation Centre to issue an aviation warning.

## Aurat March crackdown in Pakistan labelled as 'disgraceful assault' on democratic freedom

### ISLAMABAD

The handling of the Aurat March by Pakistan's Sindh government this week has been criticised as a "disgraceful assault" on democratic freedoms. The events outside the Karachi Press Club could not be law enforcement, but the "suppression of peaceful civic activity", a report said on Friday.

According to an editorial in leading Pakistani daily Dawn, Aurat March organisers, for the eighth consecutive year, faced delays and intimidation over the issuance of a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for their annual event.

Highlighting the persistent restrictions, it said, "Just days before the scheduled march, the authorities still had not granted permission. Then came the spectacle of activists — including veteran classical dancer Sheema Kermani — being dragged into police vans for attempting to hold a press conference. A mere



press conference." The report questioned under what law the government considered it illegal for organisers to address the media inside a press club.

"Even under Section 144 restrictions, holding a press conference within the Karachi Press Club does not constitute unlawful assembly. Yet the police impeded access, detained activists — later released — and

reportedly manhandled women demanding nothing more radical than constitutional rights," the newspaper opined.

It highlighted a recurring visible pattern surrounding Aurat March events, with NOCs delayed until the last moment, confusion deliberately generated, and organisers made to believe that constitutional freedoms require state approval.

"This is especially shameful for a ruling party that endlessly invokes its progressive credentials and the democratic legacy of Benazir Bhutto," it added.

The report noted that Sindh cannot claim to champion women in politics in speeches while suppressing their presence on the streets. It added that democratic rhetoric coexists alongside the intimidation of citizens demand-

ing constitutional freedoms.

"The right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression are constitutional guarantees. If the state now views even a women-led press conference as something to be feared, what does that say about the shrinking space for dissent in Pakistan's democracy?" the report questioned.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has also condemned the arrest of Aurat March organisers and volunteers outside the Karachi Press Club, saying that these are not isolated incidents but part of a broader and deeply troubling pattern of restricting public space in the country.

The remarks came after police on Tuesday briefly arrested several Aurat March leaders, including activist and artist Sheema Kermani, outside the Karachi Press Club. "The rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression are constitutionally guaranteed.



## Spain reports suspected hantavirus case linked to cruise ship outbreak

### MADRID

Spanish Secretary of State for Health Javier Padilla said on Friday that the health authorities had taken relevant measures after detecting a suspected case of hantavirus in the eastern city of Alicante. The person travelled several weeks ago on the same flight as one of the infected individuals, Padilla said.

He added that the person had developed symptoms compatible with hantavirus infection, although the authorities are still assessing whether the case can be confirmed, Xinhua news agency reported. In addition, Padilla confirmed that all 14 Spanish passengers aboard the MV Hondius had agreed to undergo voluntary quarantine measures in order to minimise the risk of further transmission.

The Dutch-operated expedition cruise ship, currently heading toward Spain's Canary Islands, has so far been linked to three deaths.

Padilla said a team from the Spanish Health Ministry would travel to Tenerife on Saturday ahead of the ship's expected arrival on Sunday.

Passengers are expected to disembark by small

boats before being transferred under strict isolation measures. Spanish citizens aboard the vessel will be transported to Madrid for quarantine observation.

Two British nationals have been confirmed to have contracted hantavirus, with a third suspected of infection, on the South Atlantic island of Tristan da Cunha, the UK Health Security Agency said on Friday.

None of the British citizens on board the cruise ship MV Hondius is currently reporting symptoms, but they are being closely monitored, said the agency, adding that all British passengers and crew onboard will be asked to isolate for 45 days upon returning to Britain.

British government staff will be on site to support British nationals disembarking when the ship docks in Spain's Tenerife on Sunday. The agency is aware that seven British nationals disembarked the ship at St Helena, a South Atlantic island, on April 24. Two of them have returned to Britain and are isolating at home and have not reported symptoms of infection. Four of them remain in St Helena, and the seventh has been traced outside Britain.

## Terror group JNIM's expansion in Mali sparks bigger fears: Report

### BAMAKO

As terror group Jama'at Nasrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM), closely linked to Al-Qaeda (AQ), rapidly tightens its grip over Mali, experts reckon that the threat is no longer limited to Africa and similar patterns are appearing in different regions. It is like a "waterbed" - pressure in one area causes it to resurface in another, a report highlighted on Friday.

Writing for Usanas Foundation, Peter Knoop, noted counter-terrorism and international cooperation expert, expressed concern over the lack of attention being given to the developments taking place in Mali.

He emphasised that even though the international community is preoccupied with



other issues, ignoring events in Bamako will not make them disappear. Calling for an urgent mobilisation of global expertise, he asserted that all available brainpower must be brought together to develop effective approaches, warning that Mali could very well be the starting point for something much bigger. He highlighted that JNIM

aligned with the Azawad Liberation Front (FLA), a coalition of separatist forces seeking to establish an independent country in Northern Mali named Azawad.

"On the 25th of April, a well-orchestrated series of attacks shook the West African landlocked country. JNIM teamed up with the Tuaregs.

The Tuaregs are the herdsmen living in the most northern, Sahelian region of Mali. The Malian minister of defence was killed by the terrorists in these attacks. A large part of the country is now under the control of JNIM and the Azawad Liberation Front (FLA). They are heading for the mining areas and may control the resources of the country very soon," Knoop detailed.

According to the expert, the emergence of a terrorist-run State in West Africa should keep all governments awake at night because Mali may serve as a focal point from where more terrorism can spread. "It should remind us of the darkest hours of Daesh and the caliphate. JNIM is clever enough not to give its territory in Mali the same name.

## Chad declares state of emergency in Lake Province after deadly Boko Haram attack

### N'DJAMENA

Chad has declared a 20-day state of emergency in the Lake province following terrorist attacks by Boko Haram militants on soldiers. According to a statement released late Thursday by the country's army, the emergency measure will run from midnight on May 7 to midnight on May 27.

The statement urged officials and security forces to take "all necessary measures" to ensure the safety of people and their property during the period, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Violations of measures taken under the state of emergency are punishable in accordance with applicable laws. The measures taken pursuant to this decree cease to have effect upon the termination of the state of emergency," the statement said.



Twenty-three Chadian soldiers were killed and 26 others injured on Monday in an assault by Boko Haram militants on the Barka Tolorom island military base in the province. "I express the nation's deepest condolences, and to the wounded soldiers receiving care, I wish a speedy recovery," Chadian President Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno said in a message posted on his social media platforms after visiting the injured soldiers in a hospital.

## South Korea not considering military logistics support pact with Japan: Defence ministry

### SEOUL

South Korea is not considering signing a bilateral military logistics support agreement with Japan, a South Korean defence ministry official said Friday, following a report suggesting Tokyo seeks to push for such a deal.

Japan aims to make progress in future talks with South Korea for an acquisition and cross-servicing agreement (ACSA), following their "two plus two" security meeting of defence and foreign vice ministers that took place in Seoul on Thursday, according to Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun. An ACSA is a bilateral pact between the United States and its allies on facilitating the sharing of logistics, supplies and services, such as food, fuel and transportation,



during contingencies. "We are not considering the signing of an ACSA between South Korea and Japan," a defence ministry official said, Yonhap news agency reported. "The South Korean government continues to pursue stable and future-oriented defence exchanges and cooperation with Japan based on mutual respect and trust," the official said. Tokyo is seeking to sign an ACSA with Seoul between their militaries as a way to enhance bilateral military coordination and also trilaterally with the US.

## Commerce Secretary visits Switzerland to advance India-EFTA TEPA trade pact

### NEW DELHI

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal undertook an official visit to Switzerland from May 6-7 to advance the implementation of the India-European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement and strengthen India-Switzerland trade and investment engagement, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said on Friday.

The ministry stated that during the visit, the Commerce Secretary held a bilateral meeting with Helene Budliger Artieda, State Secretary, Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs.

Both sides reviewed the progress achieved since the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement became operational and discussed measures to expand trade and investment, strengthen regulatory cooper-



ation, address non-tariff barriers and promote deeper business linkages, it added.

The Commerce Secretary also participated in the 55th St Gallen Symposium on May 6.

As part of the programme, he joined the session titled "Networking Dinner @ SQUARE: 200 Days of TEPA - Lessons from the Swiss-Indian Trade Agreement" along with State Secretary Helene Budliger Artieda. Under the leadership of PM Modi, India has concluded

nine Free Trade Agreements with 38 developed countries, creating expanded opportunities for Indian manufacturers, services firms, farmers, fishermen, workers, women, youth, startups, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and professionals, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal stated in a keynote address through a video message.

The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement marks

a significant milestone in India's trade engagement strategy. It is India's first trade agreement with the European Free Trade Association economies and the country's first operational trade arrangement with a European economic bloc.

The agreement is expected to support deeper integration of Make in India products into European value chains, with Switzerland serving as an important gateway market, the ministry said. It also highlighted that under the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, the European Free Trade Association has offered improved market access on 92.2 per cent of its tariff lines, covering 99.6 per cent of India's exports, along with tariff concessions on processed agricultural products.

India's exports to Switzerland exceeded USD 1.2 billion during FY 2025-26.



## IWT: Pakistan needs to credibly, irrevocably renounce support for cross-border

### JERUSALEM

India's decision to place the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance following last year's April 22 Pahalgam terror attack carried out by a Pakistan-based terrorist group is "principled, proportionate, conditional, and reversible." The move is not an attempt to weaponize water, but a decision to suspend cooperation with a party that has long weaponised terrorism from its territory, a report has detailed.

According to a report in The Jerusalem Post, Islamabad's response was rhetorical from the onset, portraying the abeyance "as an act of war, branded water weaponization" given Pakistan's heavy reliance on the Indus water system - one of the world's largest river basins.

It highlighted that a year after the Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistan brought the issue before the United Nations Security Council, calling on India to "restore full implementation" of the treaty and warning of potential "grave humanitarian consequences".

Although the UN Security Council bears primary responsibility for international peace and security, the report said, it is "not a treaty-interpretation body, nor a tribunal" over the performance of a 1960 bilateral instrument.

Referring to Article 26 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT), it argued that parties are obligated to implement treaties in good faith, a standard that cannot be met through selective compliance while the underlying conditions of peace-

ful coexistence are eroded. India's position, the report said, that "sustained Pakistani sponsorship of cross-border terrorism", culminating in the Pahalgam attack, has shattered the very foundation of bilateral cooperation - which "is not a creative interpretation" but the "black-letter application of pacta sunt servanda (treaties must be performed in good faith)".

The report noted that Pakistan must "credibly and irrevocably" renounce support for cross-border terrorism. This requirement is purposive and grounded in the customary international obligation, reinforced by Security Council Resolution - that "every state prevents the use of its territory for terrorist acts against others". It added that Pakistan's claim of "weaponization" conflates the treaty's "cooperative scaffolding with its physical entitlements". India, the report stressed, has not "diverted, dammed, or interdicted Pakistani waters" in violation of the provisions of the agreement but has suspended the cooperative apparatus: "data exchange, commission engagement, and treaty-level dispute mechanisms".

Highlighting India's principled and consistent stance while continuing the abeyance, the report said, "The path back to the treaty is open. It runs through Pakistan's credible, irrevocable, and verifiable abandonment of cross-border terrorism through no other forum and certainly not the Security Council."

## Pakistan: Islamisation of military consolidates under Asim Munir

### NEW DELHI

The origins of the Pakistani Armed Forces are rooted in the colonial history of British India. When the Indian subcontinent was partitioned into two sovereign states, India and Pakistan, based on the Muslim League's "Two-Nation Theory", the division extended beyond territory. Resources and personnel, including the military, were also split. The nascent Pakistani state inherited the Muslim segment of the British Indian Army. While India opted to remain a secular democratic state, Pakistan emerged as a state where the military held significant power. Over time, religion was increasingly used as an ideological tool to motivate forces, particularly in the context of its rivalry with India.

Ayub Khan, who became the first native Pakistani Commander-in-Chief in 1951, was a sol-

dier firmly rooted in the colonial framework and was initially less sympathetic toward religion as an ideological force. However, following his seizure of power, a new generation of nationalist officers emerged. Unlike their predecessors, they had little attachment to the colonial legacy and were driven by nationalist ideas, seeking to transform the Pakistani Army from a colonial institution into a more distinctly national force. This ideological reconfiguration pushed the army to claim continuity with an Islamic past, drawing symbolic links between itself and the armies of early and classical Islamic history. Figures such as Khalid ibn al-Walid, Salahuddin Ayyubi, and Tariq ibn Ziyad, as well as medieval Muslim rulers of the subcontinent like Muhammad Ghori, Mahmud Ghaznavi, and Babur, were elevated as symbolic icons of military heritage.



During the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, Field Marshal Ayub Khan and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto devised a plan to seize the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir by force, naming it 'Operation Gibraltar'. The name deliberately invoked Islamic history, referencing the Arab conquest of Gibraltar in 711 CE led by Tariq ibn Ziyad, framing the operation in a heroic and religiously symbolic light.

A popular myth within Pa-

kistan, both among the general public and segments of its military leadership, holds that "one Pakistani (Muslim) soldier is equal to 10 Indian (Hindu) soldiers," often attributed to faith and perceived warrior ethos. In line with this ideological orientation, the Pakistani military has named several of its missile systems and offensive capabilities, such as 'Ghauri' missile, 'Babur' missile, and 'Ghaznavi' missile, after historical Muslim figures. This reflects an effort to symbolically connect modern military identity with narratives of medieval Islamic power and continuity.

During the era of General Zia-ul-Haq, the Pakistani armed forces more explicitly projected themselves as defenders of the Islamic faith. This shift was shaped by a combination of organisational dynamics and geopolitical circumstances.

Unlike Ayub Khan, who had

observed the Pakistan Movement largely from within military barracks and had little direct engagement with it, Zia's generation had witnessed the Muslim League's movement firsthand in college campuses and public spaces. As a result, they developed a different ideological attachment to Pakistan and its military. Many senior officers during this period came from urban, middle-class Punjabi backgrounds, with a significant number, including Zia himself, having migrated from eastern Punjab during Partition.

Building on trends that had begun on a limited scale under Ayub Khan, the ideological reorientation of the Pakistani Army toward identifying itself with the legacy of classical Islamic history accelerated significantly under Zia. Soon after becoming Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), Zia altered the army's guiding motto. He replaced

Muhammad Ali Jinnah's 'Iman, Itihad, Nazm' (Faith, Unity, Discipline) with 'Iman, Taqwa, Jihad fi sabilillah' (Faith, Piety, and Struggle in the path of God). He also characterised the Pakistani soldier as a 'soldier of Islam', and part of the 'Jaish al-Islam' (Army of Islam).

During this period, religious organisations such as Jamaat-e-Islami and Tablighi Jamaat were given space to operate within the military environment, encouraging greater religious observance among soldiers and officers. Stephen P. Cohen, noted during his field research in the late 1970s and early 80s, that while personal faith had always been an important aspect of officers' private lives, under Zia it became more institutionalised. An officer's piety and religious practices increasingly factored into official evaluation and promotion considerations.

## Think PAN is needed only for ITR Filing? 7 transactions where you must quote it

PAN has quietly become one of the most important financial documents in India today, but are you aware that many banking, investment and cash transactions cannot be completed without quoting it?



For many people, the Permanent Account Number or PAN is simply a document used while filing income tax returns. But today, PAN has become an important part of almost every major financial activity in India. From opening a bank account to buying property or making expensive purchases, quoting PAN is now compulsory in several transactions. The government has made these rules stricter to improve financial transparency and reduce tax evasion. Under Rule 114B of the Income-tax Rules, individuals must provide their PAN details for certain high-value transactions. Having said that, here is a look at seven financial transactions that require mandatory PAN quoting.

**OPENING BANK AND DEMAT ACCOUNTS**  
PAN is now essential for opening bank accounts and demat accounts. Financial institutions use PAN to track investments and banking activities. Without PAN, opening many types of accounts can become difficult.

**APPLYING FOR LOANS AND CREDIT CARDS**  
Whether someone is applying

for a home loan, personal loan, car loan or even a credit card, PAN details are mandatory. Banks and lenders use PAN to verify financial history and assess repayment capacity.

### HIGH-VALUE CASH PURCHASES

PAN must be quoted for cash purchases above Rs 2 lakh in a single transaction. This rule applies to expensive purchases such as jewellery, luxury items and even certain travel-related expenses. The move is aimed at keeping a check on large cash dealings.

### CASH PAYMENTS AT HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS

If a person makes cash payments exceeding Rs 50,000 at hotels or restaurants, PAN details are required. This rule covers high-end spending and helps authorities monitor large cash transactions.

### BUYING BANK DRAFTS OR PAY ORDERS

Purchasing bank drafts, banker's cheques or pay orders above Rs 50,000 in cash also requires PAN. Banks are required to record these details to maintain transaction transparency.

## Severe Stomach Pain Turns Out to Be Football-Sized 20 cm Ovarian Tumor

Doctors at Medcover Hospitals, Chandanagar Save Young Woman Through Complex Surgery

CHANDANAGAR, 8TH MAY, 2026:

A young woman suffering from severe abdominal pain and rapidly increasing stomach swelling was successfully treated at Medcover Hospitals after doctors discovered and removed a massive football-sized ovarian tumor measuring more than 20 cm. T. Sandhya 35 years from Bodapatla Village, Douthabada, Sangareddy Dist had been struggling with severe intermittent abdominal pain, abdominal heaviness, and progressive swelling for nearly two weeks. Initially believing it to be a minor gastric or stomach-related issue, she underwent treatment at a nearby hospital, but her condition continued to worsen. As the swelling increased abnormally and the pain became unbearable, she consulted Dr G Bhavya - Senior Obstetrician & Gynecologist Laproscopic & Fertility Specialist at Medcover Hospitals, Chandanagar. On clinical examination, doctors were shocked to find a huge cystic mass occupying almost the entire abdomen, making the abdomen appear similar to that of a 30-week pregnancy. Further investigations including Ultrasound and CECT Abdomen & Pelvis revealed a giant multiloculated ovarian cyst arising from the right ovary, measuring approximately 14.1 x 20.3 x 19.5 cm - nearly the size of a football. Doctors explained that ovarian tumors



of this size are extremely rare and can become life-threatening if not treated immediately. Such tumors carry the risk of sudden rupture, ovarian torsion, severe internal bleeding, compression of surrounding organs, breathing difficulty, and in some cases may even hide underlying cancer. Tumor marker tests including CEA and CA-125 were performed and were found to be within normal limits, suggesting that the tumor was likely benign. However, considering the massive size and complexity of the tumor, a multidisciplinary team involving gynecology, surgical oncology, cardiology, and anesthesia specialists was assembled to carefully plan the surgery. After detailed counseling regarding the risks and possible complications, the patient and her family agreed to proceed with open surgery. The surgery was successfully performed under the leadership of Dr G Bhavya along with Dr Raghu Rami Reddy S - Surgical Oncologist and the multidisciplinary surgical team. During the complex procedure, doctors identified a gi-

ant ovarian cyst with extensive vascularity and a long pedicle attached to the ovary and fallopian tube. The tumor was carefully removed intact without rupture and immediately sent for frozen section biopsy. The biopsy later confirmed the tumor to be a benign mucinous cystadenoma with no evidence of cancer. Doctors also identified and removed a simple cyst from the left ovary while successfully preserving the uterus and healthy reproductive organs, ensuring the patient's future fertility potential. The patient recovered well after surgery and was shifted to the ICU in stable condition for postoperative monitoring. Speaking about the case, Dr G Bhavya said: "When the patient came to us, the tumor had already grown to occupy almost the entire abdominal cavity. Cases of this magnitude are extremely rare in young women. Delaying treatment further could have caused sudden rupture, torsion, severe internal complications, or irreversible damage to nearby organs. Our priority was not only to safely remove the tu-

mor but also to preserve her reproductive organs and future fertility." Dr Raghu Rami Reddy S added: "Large ovarian tumors can sometimes mimic malignancy and create major surgical challenges because of their size, blood supply, and pressure on surrounding organs. Careful preoperative planning and multidisciplinary coordination were crucial in this case. Fortunately, the frozen section biopsy confirmed that the tumor was completely benign, which was a huge relief for both the patient and the treating team." Expressing her gratitude after recovery, patient T. Sandhya said: "My stomach had swollen so much that I looked pregnant and the pain was unbearable. I was extremely scared when doctors told me about the tumor. But the doctors at Medcover Hospitals supported me throughout the treatment and gave me confidence. I feel like I got a second life." Doctors further emphasized that women should never ignore persistent abdominal pain, bloating, sudden increase in abdominal size, loss of appetite, or heaviness in the abdomen, as these symptoms may sometimes indicate serious gynecological conditions that require immediate medical attention. This successful surgery once again highlights the advanced surgical expertise, multidisciplinary teamwork, and comprehensive women's healthcare services available at Medcover Hospitals.



## Sensex closes over 500 points lower as SBI tumbles nearly 7% after Q4 results

**Benchmark indices closed sharply lower on Thursday after SBI's weaker-than-expected Q4 results hit banking shares. The decline reflected caution around crude oil prices, West Asia tensions and the broader earnings season.**

Banking stocks emerged as the biggest drag on benchmark indices during the session, with SBI plunging 6.74% to close at Rs 1,018.40 after reporting weaker-than-expected Q4 earnings. Benchmark stock market indices ended sharply lower on Thursday, dragged down by heavy selling in banking and financial stocks after disappointing earnings from State Bank of India (SBI) hurt investor sentiment. The BSE Sensex closed at 77,328.19, down 516.33 points or 0.66%, while the NSE Nifty50 settled at 24,176.15, lower by 150.50 points or 0.62%. Banking stocks emerged as the biggest drag on benchmark indices during the session, with SBI plunging 6.74% to close at Rs 1,018.40 after reporting weaker-than-expected Q4 earnings. The sharp fall in SBI came after pressure on treasury income overshadowed stable core banking performance, triggering broader weakness across financial stocks. HDFC Bank declined 1.89%, Axis Bank declined 1.76%, Bajaj Finance slipped 1.88% and Shriram Finance dropped 1.24%. Weakness in metals, infrastructure and energy stocks further weighed on markets. Coal India declined 2.07%, UltraTech Cement fell 1.61%, ONGC slipped 1.62% and Larsen & Toubro

ended 1.12% lower. Investor sentiment also remained cautious amid uncertainty around crude oil prices and geopolitical tensions in West Asia, with markets continuing to react to developments linked to Iran and the broader Middle East. However, selective buying in IT, healthcare and consumer stocks helped limit sharper losses. Titan surged 4.86%, Apollo Hospitals jumped 3.42%, Asian Paints gained 2.74% and Infosys rose 1.44%. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said markets witnessed a risk-off session after fresh US-Iran military action near the Strait of Hormuz weakened hopes of a ceasefire and triggered profit booking. However, he noted that stability in crude oil prices around \$100 per barrel and relatively benign US bond yields continue to support broader sentiment and the rupee. "Though the road ahead is slightly bumpy, optimism around a possible diplomatic resolution persists," Nair said. He added that investors continue to focus on opportunities emerging from favourable corporate earnings, particularly in the midcap and smallcap space where valuations in several counters remain attractive. According to Nair, sectoral trends remained mixed during the session, with IT and consumer durables showing relative strength despite the uncertain global backdrop. Market experts said volatility is likely to remain elevated in the near term as investors track global developments, crude oil prices, foreign investor activity and the ongoing Q4 earnings season.



## Lenskart shares fall over 2% amid block deal buzz, IPO lock-in expiry

Lenskart shares fell in Thursday's trade as block deal chatter coincided with the expiry of its IPO lock-in period. The move put the spotlight on possible supply pressure even as analysts said fundamentals remain unchanged.

Shares of Lenskart Solutions Ltd fell sharply in Thursday's trade amid reports of a potential block deal and the expiry of the company's IPO lock-in period. The stock declined over 2% on the BSE in early trade and was trading around Rs 475.80, down Rs 12.20 intraday. Market chatter around a possible institutional stake sale weighed on investor sentiment. According to reports, nearly 4% equity stake in the company could change hands through block deals. The pressure on the stock also comes as Lenskart's six-month IPO lock-in period expired today, making a large number of shares eligible for trading. Brokerage estimates suggest that around 104.7 crore shares worth more than Rs 51,000 crore have become eligible for trade following the lock-in expiry. While lock-in expiry does not necessarily mean investors will immediately sell their holdings, markets often react cautiously due to the possibility of increased supply in the secondary market. Several early investors and pre-IPO shareholders, including large institutional backers, were covered under the lock-in restrictions. Analysts said the decline in the stock appears to be driven more by concerns around potential supply pressure than by any change in the company's fundamentals.

## The Body Shop Introduces White Tea & Elderflower Range for Mother's Day

INDIA, 07TH MAY 2026:

British-born ethical beauty brand The Body Shop has introduced its limited edition White Tea & Elderflower Bath & Body range. A light, refreshing collection thoughtfully crafted to celebrate Mother's Day, this range is designed to elevate everyday self-care into a luxurious sensory experience of love and appreciation. Infused with a delicately uplifting fruity-floral fragrance, the collection opens with crisp notes of tonic water, cucumber, and upcycled apple purée, evolving into a soft heart of white tea, elderflower, and Conference pear, and settling into a comforting base of cedarwood and musk, creating a fresh, airy, and effortlessly indulgent scent perfect for the Indian summer. Formulated with nourishing ingredients and lightweight textures, the range is designed for easy everyday



rituals and thoughtful gifting, featuring Bath & Shower Gel (250ml | INR 595), Body Butter (200ml | INR 1,695), Body Yogurt (200ml | INR 1,495), Hand Cream (30ml | INR 595), and Fragrance Mist (100ml | INR 1,195), alongside curated Mother's Day gifting options including a Shower Gel & Body Yogurt duo (INR 2,345), a Fragrance Mist gift set (INR 1,395), and a customizable Create Your Own (CYO) Gift Box. The products are available across The Body Shop's retail stores and official online channels.

**About The Body Shop**  
Founded in 1976 in Brighton, England, by Dame Anita Roddick, The Body Shop is a glob-

al beauty brand. The Body Shop seeks to make a positive difference in the world by offering high-quality, naturally-inspired skincare, body care, hair care, and make-up produced ethically and sustainably. The Body Shop India operates in India through its partner Quest Retail, a leading Beauty Specialist Omni Channel Retailer and Brand development company in India. Quest Retail has been a pioneer in bringing Beauty Retail and Brand concepts to India since 2006.

**About Quest Retail**  
Founded in 2006, Quest Retail is the leading, beauty-focused, specialty retailer in India - bringing the most loved global brands alive through the multi-channel expertise, powerful storytelling and deep community connect. For over 20 years, we have launched and scaled leading global beauty and retail brands in the dynamic Indian

subcontinent. Our entrepreneurial agility and commitment to exceptional service have fueled high growth for global brands in our markets. From the start, we've been at the forefront of the fast growing Indian retail industry, building innovative services, omni-channel distribution, robust store networks, and engaging online presence. With a deep commitment to sustainability, everything we do aims to make a positive impact on the environment and the communities we serve. Our key verticals include House of Beauty - a new age beauty division with expertise in scaling global prestige beauty brands via premium distribution. Our expanding portfolio includes The Body Shop, Avon, Anastasia Beverly Hills, Kylie Cosmetics by Kylie Jenner, Juice Beauty, Neal's Yard Remedies, The Honest Tree & Boddess among others.

## SCI profit doubles to Rs 404.60 cr in Q4

NEW DELHI: (MAY 8)

The country's largest shipping liner Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) on Friday posted a 118.53 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 404.60 crore in the March quarter. It had reported a net profit of Rs 185.14 crore

for the January-March period of the preceding fiscal year, the company said in an exchange filing. The state-owned company's total income rose to Rs 1,659.75 crore from Rs 1,400.55 crore in the year-ago quarter, while expenses declined to Rs 1,235.51 crore from Rs 1,242 crore.

## Samsung Unveils Next-Gen Vision AI-Powered Mini LED TVs for Enhanced Viewing in India

Samsung's new Mini LED lineup delivers brighter visuals, richer colours, and intelligent viewing with advanced processing and immersive design

GURUGRAM - MAY 8, 2026:

Samsung, which is celebrating 30 glorious years in India, today announced the launch of its new Mini LED TV range, which redefine home entertainment with brighter, richer visuals and AI-powered features. Samsung Mini LED is designed to bring cutting-edge technology to a broader audience. Starting at INR 42,990, Samsung Mini LED TVs cater to diverse consumer preferences with screen sizes ranging from 43-inch to 100-inch. Its MetalStream Design, inspired by aircraft aesthetics, offers a sleek, single-metal body with ultra-slim bezels for an immersive edge-to-edge viewing experience. With its combination of advanced technology, AI features and premium design, Samsung's

Mini LED TVs make next-gen entertainment accessible to all. "Samsung has been the Global No. 1 TV Brand for 20 consecutive years. We are taking a decisive step towards democratising premium home entertainment with our latest Mini LED TVs and this launch reflects our commitment to making advanced display technologies more accessible. By combining technology and AI, we are focused on delivering an immersive and enhanced viewing experience. As we continue to push the boundaries of innovation, we will ensure that the benefits of next-generation technology reach more homes across the country," said Viplesh Dang, Vice-President, Visual Display Business, Samsung India. At the core of this launch is Samsung's advanced Mini LED technology, which delivers



superior picture quality with deeper contrast, enhanced clarity and life-like visuals. Mini LEDs are half the size of conventional LEDs, and provide precise light control, revealing finer details and realistic depth. Pure Spectrum Color ensures pixel-level accuracy for true-to-life, ultra-wide colour reproduction, making each hue rich and precise. Advanced phosphor technology further enhances colour performance,

delivering over 90% wide colour gamut for more vivid and realistic visuals. Additional enhancements such as Color Booster and Mini LED HDR further elevate contrast and colours to ensure consistently high-quality visuals across content. For gamers and sports lovers, the Motion Xcelerator 144Hz feature guarantees smooth motion and no blur, ideal for fast-paced content. It estimates the movement between

frames and uses that information to improve motion smoothness for subsequent frames. The new range offers the most advanced Mini LED experience, combining Samsung's picture quality and AI-powered features, including an AI Sound Controller for audio performance based on user preference. The Mini LED TVs are powered by the NQ4 AI Gen2 Processor, which features a 20-neural-network architecture for real-time picture and sound optimisation. The technology enables superior upscaling, enhanced contrast control, and improved clarity across content types. Samsung Knox Security protects sensitive data and monitors connected IoT devices, while SmartThings optimises home devices for a smarter lifestyle. One UI Tizen delivers a seamless experience with quick access to

content, AI management, and seven years of OS upgrades. **Redefining home entertainment**  
The new Mini LED lineup comes with Samsung TV Plus, India's leading free ad-supported streaming television (FAST) service that provides free access to over 150+ national and international channels across 14 languages spanning news, movies, entertainment and infotainment. Customers can enjoy up to 5% cashback and zero down-payment EMIs with flexible tenures up to 30 months. With innovative features and exclusive launch offers, Samsung's new Mini LED TV range is set to transform living spaces into cinematic hubs. Samsung Mini LED TVs are available across leading retail outlets and online platforms, including Flipkart and Samsung.com.

**About Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.**  
Samsung inspires the world and shapes the future with transformative ideas and technologies. The company is redefining the worlds of TVs, digital signage, smartphones, wearables, tablets, home appliances and network systems, as well as memory, system LSI and foundry. Samsung is also advancing medical imaging technologies, HVAC solutions and robotics, while creating innovative automotive and audio products through Harman. With its SmartThings ecosystem, open collaboration with partners, and integration of AI across its portfolio, Samsung delivers a seamless and intelligent connected experience. For the latest news, please visit the Samsung Newsroom at news.samsung.com/in



# The Silicon Scaffold

## How AI is Transforming Indian Real Estate

The skyline of urban India is undergoing a dual transformation. While steel, glass, and concrete physically reshape our metropolitan landscapes, an invisible architecture of data, algorithms, and neural networks is fundamentally altering how these spaces are conceived,

built, valued, bought, and managed. For decades, Indian real estate was caricatured as an opaque, highly fragmented, and relationship-driven sector characterized by information asymmetry and bureaucratic delays. Today, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is systematically dismantling these legacy inefficiencies. From predictive market underwriting and generative architectural design to algorithmic property valuation and smart building management, AI has transitioned from a futuristic talking point to an operational necessity. This comprehensive analysis explores the profound ways AI is reshaping the Indian real estate ecosystem, the macroeconomic and technological catalysts driving this digital revolution, and why Hyderabad has emerged as the vanguard city leading this technological transformation.

### The AI Revolution in Indian Real Estate: Key Paradigms

Artificial Intelligence is not a singular tool but a suite of cognitive technologies—including Machine Learning (ML), Natural Language Processing (NLP), Computer Vision, and Generative AI—that interact with different stages of the real estate lifecycle.

### Predictive Analytics in Land Acquisition and Underwriting

Historically, acquiring land in India was a speculative gamble. Developers relied on fragmented municipal records, local brokers, and instinct. AI-driven predictive analytics has turned this speculative practice into a data science.

**Data Integration:** Modern AI algorithms ingest thousands of disparate data points: historical land transaction registries, zoning laws, master plans, demographic shifts, proximity to upcoming transit corridors (like metro lines or highways), and even satellite imagery tracking green cover changes.

**Feasibility Modeling:** By analyzing these inputs, machine learning models can predict the future yield of a micro-market with astonishing accuracy. Developers can run automated feasibility studies, estimating project costs, optimal unit pricing, and absorption rates before a single shovelful of dirt is turned.

### Generative AI in Architectural Design and Engineering

The planning and design phase of large-scale Indian projects historically took months of back-and-forth between architects, structural engineers, and developers. Generative AI has compressed this timeline to days.

**Generative Design:** By inputting local building codes (such as Floor Space Index or FSI regulations), environmental parameters (sunlight paths, wind direction), and budgetary constraints into AI design engines, architects can generate hundreds of optimized building configurations in minutes.

### Sustainability Optimization:

These models can calculate the thermal efficiency of a building envelope,

suggesting layouts that maximize natural light and airflow, thereby reducing HVAC energy loads by up to 20% to 30% before construction begins.

**Hyper-Personalized Marketing and Immersive PropTech** The Indian homebuying journey is deeply emotional and logistically tedious. AI is streamlining this process, making it highly personalized and remote-friendly.

**Predictive Lead Scoring:** Real estate portals and developers use machine learning to analyze user behavior—search patterns, time spent on specific floor plans, financial profiles, and life-stage data. This allows sales teams to target high-intent buyers with tailored offers, reducing customer acquisition costs (CAC) by up to 40%.

**Virtual PropTech and Computer Vision:** AI-driven virtual staging allows buyers to walk through interactive, photorealistic 3D models of under-construction apartments. Using Computer Vision, these platforms can adapt the interior styling

(furniture, color schemes, lighting) in real-time based on the user's observed preferences.

### Automated Valuation Models (AVMs) and FinTech Integration

Valuing a property in India has historically been prone to bias and manipulation. Algorithmic valuation is bringing institutional-grade transparency to the sector.

**Dynamic Pricing Engines:** AVMs utilize regression models and neural networks to evaluate properties by comparing millions of active listings, historical registration values, local infrastructure developments, and macroeconomic indicators.

**Seamless Underwriting:** Financial institutions are leveraging these AVMs to instantly assess property collateral value, enabling rapid home loan approvals. This has drastically shortened the turnaround time (TAT) for mortgage processing from weeks to mere hours.

### AI-Enabled Construction Management

Indian construction sites are notoriously prone to delays and cost overruns. AI is introducing unprecedented operational discipline to the job site.

**Computer Vision for Site Safety and Progress:** Drones equipped with computer vision fly over construction sites daily, comparing physical progress against Building Information Modeling (BIM) blueprints. The AI flags structural discrepancies, safety violations (e.g., workers without helmets), and supply bottlenecks automatically.

**Predictive Maintenance for Machinery:** IoT sensors placed on heavy machinery (cranes, concrete mixers) feed data to AI systems that predict mechanical failures before they happen, minimizing expensive project downtime.

### Catalysts Driving AI Adoption in Indian Real Estate

The rapid deployment of AI in Indian real estate is not happening in a vacuum. It is the result of a perfect storm of regulatory reforms, infrastructure upgrades, and shifting consumer demographics.

### CATALYSTS OF REAL ESTATE DIGITIZATION

1. Regulatory Reforms (RERA, Digital Land Records)
2. The India Stack & UPI (Frictionless Digital Transactions) & Venture Capital
3. Rise of PropTech Startups & REITs demand transparency

### The Clean-up: RERA and Digital Land Records

Prior to 2016, the lack of structured data made AI implementation impossible. The introduction of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA) mandated that developers upload project timelines, approvals, and carpet areas to centralized public portals. Simultaneously, the government's push for the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) has led to the digitization of land surveys, spatial maps, and mutation records. This massive influx of clean, structured public data served as the essential fuel that AI algorithms needed to train their predictive models.

### The "India Stack" and Financial Digitization

India's world-class digital infrastructure—the India Stack (Aadhaar, e-KYC, DigiLocker, and UPI)—has made frictionless transaction data a reality. PropTech companies can instantly verify buyer identities, access digitized tax records, and check credit scores through APIs. This financial transparency allows AI-based underwriting systems to function seamlessly, connecting property data with consumer financial data.

### The Rise of PropTech Startups and Venture Capital

A booming ecosystem of PropTech startups has acted as the primary conduit for AI into the real estate sector. Venture Capitalists have poured billions into Indian PropTech firms specializing in fractional ownership, AI-driven brokerage, and visual rendering. These startups have forced legacy, family-run developer houses to either adopt AI technologies or lose market share to more agile, tech-enabled competitors.

### Institutionalization of Real Estate

The entry of global private equity players (like Blackstone, Brookfield, and GIC) and the successful launch of multiple Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) in India have mandated international standards of reporting, transparency, and asset management. To manage multi-million-square-foot portfolios of Grade-A office spaces and logistics parks, these institutional players rely heavily on AI-driven building management systems (BMS) to optimize energy usage, track occupancy, and project rental yields.

Hyderabad: The Epicenter of India's Real Estate AI Transformation While cities like Bengaluru and Mumbai have historically been the flag-bearers of technology and real estate respectively, Hyderabad has uniquely positioned itself at the absolute intersection of both. Over the last decade, Hyderabad's real estate market has experienced unprecedented growth, characterized by massive commercial absorption, soaring residential demand, and world-class infrastructure. This physical boom has been supercharged by the city's technological prowess, making Hyderabad the undisputed testing ground and launchpad for AI in Indian real estate.

### The Government as a Tech Catalyst: The "AI City" Initiative

The Telangana government has consistently championed a proactive, technology-first approach to governance. The AI City Project: Hyderabad's upcoming dedicated "AI City"—a massive ecosystem designed to house global AI research hubs, startups, and academic institutions—is a testament to this vision.

**Digitized Municipal Workflows:** Hyderabad's municipal body (GHMC) and the registration department were among the earliest adopters of digitized property records and automated building permission systems (such as TS-bPASS). This has created an incredibly rich, easily accessible local data lake, allowing AI developers to train localized algorithms with high accuracy.

### Access to Deep Tech Talent and Research Ecosystems

Hyderabad boasts an unparalleled academic and entrepreneurial pipeline that feeds directly into the PropTech sector. IIIT-Hyderabad and IIT-Hyderabad are the premier institutions and global hubs for research in AI, Computer Vision, and Robotics. IIIT-Hyderabad's Product Labs have consistently incubated startups that apply computer vision to spatial planning and construction site analysis.

**T-Hub and IMAGE CoE:** T-Hub, India's largest startup incubator based in Hyderabad, alongside the Center of Excellence for Image, Multimedia, Animation, Gaming, and Entertainment (IMAGE CoE), has nurtured dozens of PropTech startups focusing on Virtual Reality (VR) staging, AI-driven interior design, and spatial analytics.

### The Dominance of Grade-A Commercial Real Estate

Hyderabad's office market is dominated by global technology giants (Microsoft, Google, Amazon, Meta) located in micro-markets likeHITEC City, Gachibowli, and the Financial District. These MNC occupiers demand highly sophisticated, sustainable, and smart buildings.

**AI-Enabled Smart Offices:** To cater to these premium clients, Hyderabad developers have been pioneers in integrating IoT and AI-driven Building Management Systems. These systems monitor real-time indoor air quality, optimize HVAC operations based on predictive weather and occupancy patterns, and utilize AI-driven access control systems.

**Micro-Market Analytics:** Because Hyderabad's de-

velopment is highly clustered, local developers have been early adopters of AI-driven micro-market analytics to predict where the next commercial expansion should occur, leading to the highly strategic development of areas like Kokapet and Narsingi.

### Pioneers in Digital Twin Technology

Hyderabad has emerged as a pioneer in the deployment of Digital Twins—virtual, real-time replicas of physical buildings and urban spaces. Developers in the Financial District are utilizing AI-driven digital twin models to simulate various structural stresses, emergency evacuation scenarios, and traffic flows around mega-complexes before they are even built. This level of planning is virtually unprecedented in other Indian metros.

### Challenges and the Road Ahead

Despite the immense promise, the widespread adoption of AI in Indian real estate is not without significant bottlenecks. While major progress has been made under RERA and digital land record initiatives, India's real estate data remains highly fragmented, especially in tier-2 and tier-3 cities. Legacy land disputes, unrecorded transactions, and inconsistent naming conventions in regional languages make it difficult for AI models to achieve uniform accuracy across the country.

### High Initial Capex and Legacy Mindsets

Integrating AI systems, IoT sensors, and BIM workflows requires substantial upfront capital. For a vast majority of mid-sized and small developers operating on tight margins, this high initial cost is a major deterrent. Furthermore, the Indian real estate sector has historically been controlled by legacy developers who are often resistant to shifting away from traditional, relationship-based modes of operation.

### Cyber Security and Data Privacy

As buildings become smarter and collect vast amounts of data on occupant behavior, energy consumption, and biometric access, they also become vulnerable to cyberattacks. Ensuring robust data privacy frameworks and securing IoT networks against hacking is a critical challenge that the Indian PropTech industry must address urgently. Artificial Intelligence is no longer a peripheral novelty in the Indian real estate sector; it has become the core operating system of its future. By converting raw, unstructured data into actionable intelligence, AI is bringing unprecedented efficiency, transparency, and financial viability to a sector that contributes nearly 7% to India's GDP.

## The Safe Haven Effect

### How Gulf Tensions Reshape Dubai's Real Estate and What It Means for Indian Investors

In the theater of global real estate, few markets are as dynamic, resilient, or paradoxically sensitive to geopolitical currents as Dubai. Positioned at the crossroads of East and West, the glittering metropolis of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has spent the last two decades transforming itself from a quiet desert port into a global playground for capital, luxury, and innovation.

Yet, this rapid rise is set against a backdrop of chronic geopolitical volatility. The Arabian Gulf is a region where historical rivalries, maritime chokepoint vulnerabilities, and proxy conflicts are a constant undercurrent. Historically, conventional economic wisdom dictated that regional instability should spell disaster for local property markets. In Dubai, however, a completely different phenomenon plays out. Instead of triggering capital flight, escalating tensions in the wider Middle East often supercharge Dubai's real estate sector. This unique dynamic—widely known as the "Safe Haven Effect"—has profound implications for global wealth, particularly for its largest and most consistent demographic of buyers: Indian investors.

### The Paradox of Proximity: Why Gulf Tensions Fuel Dubai Real Estate

To understand how regional instability benefits Dubai, one must distinguish between localized conflict and regional geopolitical friction. While the UAE maintains a highly sophisticated defense system and a deeply entrenched foreign policy of neutrality and de-escalation, neighboring territories often experience periods of intense friction. When tensions rise in the Levant, the Red Sea, or across the Gulf, Dubai operates as an economic sanctuary. Several structural factors explain this counter-intuitive trend.

### The Flight to Safety

When political instability or economic sanctions threaten capital preservation in nearby countries (such as parts of the wider Middle East, North Africa, or Central Asia), wealthy individuals seek immediate avenues to park their wealth. Dubai, with its world-class infrastructure, strict rule of law, and zero-tax regime on property capital gains, presents itself as the most logical destination. It is close enough for regional elites to manage their affairs but politically insulated enough to keep their assets secure.

### Currency Stability via the USD

During times of regional crisis, regional currencies often face severe devaluation, high inflation, or capital controls. Buying real estate in Dubai allows international investors to convert volatile local assets into hard-currency-backed brick and mortar. This acts as an excellent hedge against inflation and currency degradation. Strategic Neutrality and Open-Door Diplomacy The UAE has mastered the art of economic pragmatism. By maintaining diplomatic channels open with almost all global powers and regional players, the country avoids getting dragged directly into proxy conflicts. Whether it is navigating European disruptions, regional maritime standoffs, or global trade wars, Dubai remains open for business to everyone, offering a neutral ground where global citizens can co-exist and transact securely.

### The Current Landscape of Gulf Tensions and Market Impacts

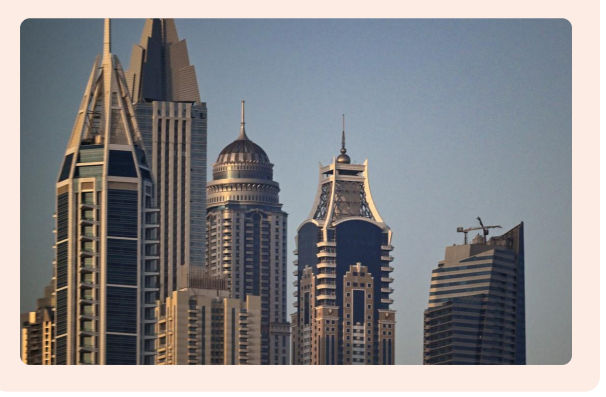
In recent years, the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East has faced severe stress tests—ranging from maritime disruptions in key shipping lanes like the Bab al-Mandab strait to broader regional escalations. These events have had dual, contrasting impacts on Dubai's real estate sectors: The Premium Residential Boom The high-end luxury residential sector (villas in Palm Jumeirah, penthouses in Downtown Dubai, and ultra-luxury estates in Emirates Hills) has seen unprecedented price appreciation. Ultra-High-Net-Worth Individuals (UHNWIs) fleeing uncertainty have viewed these properties not just as holiday homes, but as primary residences or highly liquid assets. According to market data, luxury property prices in Dubai saw double-digit growth year-over-year through recent cycles of regional friction, consistently outpacing traditional safe havens like London, New York, or Singapore, which are currently grappling with higher tax burdens and regulatory scrutiny.

### The Commercial and Logistics Shift

Beyond residential units, maritime tensions in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Oman have forced global shipping and logistics firms to re-evaluate their supply chains. Dubai's Jebel Ali Port and its free zones (DP World) have leveraged AI and advanced automation to bypass traditional maritime bottlenecks. Consequently, multinational corporations are increasingly setting up regional headquarters and massive warehousing operations in Dubai to ensure supply chain continuity. This has driven up demand—and yields—for commercial real estate and industrial logistics parks across the emirate.

### The Indian Investor Connection

To understand the scale of Indian investment in Dubai, one must look at the deep historical, cultural, and economic ties between the two regions. For decades, the UAE has been home to a massive Indian diaspora, ranging from blue-collar workers to some of the wealthiest business tycoons in the Middle East. Indian nationals have consistently ranked among the top three buyer nationalities in Dubai real estate, often vying for the number one spot alongside British and Russian buyers. The Push-Pull Dynamic For Indian investors, the decision to buy in Dubai is driven by a powerful combination of "push" factors from home and "pull" factors from the Gulf: The Pull of Dubai: High rental yields compared to India's urban average, tax-free rental income, clean air, high safety indexes, and world-class schooling. The Push from India Soaring property prices in premium micro-markets of Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, and Bengaluru have made luxury Indian real estate incredibly expensive. For the price of a premium South Mumbai apartment, an investor can often acquire a sprawling villa or a high-end sea-view apartment in Dubai, accompanied by much better infrastructure and lifestyle amenities.



inside

■ IPL 2026  
**'Hopefully, we can change a bit of our momentum as well'**



**NEW DELHI:** Delhi Capitals left-arm pacer Mitchell Starc said he has settled back into the rhythm of T20 cricket and hopes to spark a turnaround in momentum as his side prepares to face Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 clash at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Friday. Seventh-placed DC have eight points and need to break their four-game losing streak at home if they are to be alive in the race to the playoffs. Starc joined DC from their clash against the Rajasthan Royals last week and has picked up three wickets in two games. "It took me sort of the first game to get up to speed with T20 again, but the third game for me.

■ WORLD CUP SHOTGUN ALMATY  
**Shapath hits two perfect series to finish Day**



**NEW DELHI:** Shapath Bharadwaj hit two perfect series and followed it up with 21 shots in the third series to end the first day of the men's trap event with a total of 71 hits from 75 in the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup Shotgun at the Asanov Shooting Club in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Manisha Keer, with a score of 69, was the best Indian woman at the end of Day 1. Shapath started the day with two perfect rounds but only managed 21 in the third series, dropping him down the standings. Vi-vaan Kapoor also shot a perfect 25 in his second series, after starting with 22 hits and finishing the day with 23 shots in the third series. The third Indian in the competition, Ahvar Rizvi, shot 23, 22, and 23 to finish day one on a score of 68.

■ IPL 2026  
**Gambhir arrived at Arun Jaitley Stadium to watch DC-KKR clash**



**NEW DELHI:** India head coach Gautam Gambhir has arrived at the Arun Jaitley Stadium to watch the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 contest between Delhi Capitals (DC) and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), a fixture that carries huge significance for both teams if they are to maintain themselves in the race to the playoffs. Apart from Gambhir, dressed in a black shirt and blue jeans, his wife Natasha has also accompanied him to the stadium, and so has India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak. Gambhir has strong ties to both franchises, captaining KKR to two Indian Premier League (IPL) titles in 2012 and 2014, respectively, and also represented DC in two spells of his playing career.

# ALLEN'S 47-BALL TON POWERS KKR TO HUGE WIN OVER DC

**KKR's spinners restricted DC to just 142, and Allen gunned that total down almost singlehandedly**

NEW DELHI

Kolkata Knight Riders' spin trio strangled Delhi Capitals batters into submission before Finn Allen finished the job with a breathtaking unbeaten century off just 47 balls and powered the three-time champions to a huge eight-wicket victory in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Friday.

Allen's superb knock, laced with five fours and ten sixes, ensured KKR completed a chase of 143 with 35 balls to spare and helped the three-time champions seal their fourth consecutive win of the season. He was ably supported by Cameron Green, who hit 33 not out off 27 balls, as the duo shared an unbroken 116-run stand off 64 balls.

Where KKR's spinners - Anukul Roy, Sunil Narine and Varun Chakaravathy - with combined figures of 3-76 in 12 overs, ensured DC batting imploded yet again and ended up on 142/8, Allen ensured no such misery awaited his side by launching a ferocious assault on DC's bowling attack that rendered the target an afterthought. It was a complete team performance for KKR to get their fourth straight win - disciplined and ruthless in the field, explosive and commanding with the bat.

Such was the effect of the slowdown from KKR spinners that from overs 11-16, DC scored just 20 runs for the loss of two wickets, and as per CricViz, this is the lowest number of runs scored in this particular phase of the innings in any game in IPL 2026. It took Ashutosh Sharma's late 28-ball 39 to take DC past 140, but the batting issues continued to haunt the hosts, with Kartik Tyagi being excellent in the back end to pick 2-25. Electing to bowl first, KKR had to bide their

time to get their first breakthrough as Nissanka wasted little time in punishing anything loose with authority, while KL Rahul looked equally assured at the other end, as the duo collectively hit eight boundaries in 4.5 overs.

KKR finally got their first breakthrough when Rahul mistimed a slog off Tyagi and was caught by mid-on.

After DC ended power-play at 55/1, Nissanka continued to effortlessly hit boundaries with precision and got his fifty in 29 balls. But from the other end, KKR continued to land punches - Nitish Rana, who once played for them, was undone by a well-disguised short ball from Cameron Green and gloved to short fine leg. After Sameer Rizvi slog-swept to deep mid-wicket off Sunil Narine, Nissanka was stumped on the very next delivery after getting his fifty - a wide from Roy lured him down the pitch and Angkrish Raghuvanshi whipped the bails in a flash. Two balls later, Roy castled Tristan Stubbs through the gate to reduce DC to 89/5 in 10.5 overs.

The middle-over squeeze was suffocating. Between overs 7-14, Delhi managed just 45 runs and lost four wickets - the lowest middle-overs aggregate in this season. Axar Patel and Ashutosh found getting boundaries almost impossible to come by against Narine and Chakaravathy, who didn't give any room for it. Just as KKR appeared to be cruising to a formality, Chakaravathy's final over proved costly. Ashutosh launched him for a six into the sight screen before cutting two fours in succession and looting 16 runs from the 17th over.

Ashutosh's counterattack at least gave DC's total some semblance of respectability, even as Axar's lean run continued by pulling to mid-



wicket off Vaibhav Arora. But Tyagi responded with a superb final over, claiming Ashutosh and seeing Mitchell Starc run out in the span of just three runs to keep DC below 150.

KKR began positively from the first ball, as Allen drove and whipped Mitchell Starc for boundaries. Though DC briefly halted KKR's charge - captain Ajinkya Rahane's stay ended with a freak run-out at the non-striker's end as Starc's outstretched hand touched the ball before rolling onto the stumps, while Angkrish Raghuvanshi attempted a sweep off Axar, but the ball rolled off his gloves to hit the stumps - Allen had other plans entirely.

Once Green arrived to steady the innings, Allen simply refused to be contained - cutting, sweeping and thumping with authority to bring up his fifty off 32 balls via a scoop off Starc over fine leg - which was both effortless and imperious. The middle overs belonged emphatically to KKR, as Kuldeep Yadav was dispatched repeatedly. Allen pulled him over deep mid-wicket and then thumped him straight down the ground, while Green launched a monstrous six off the same bowler over deep mid-wicket.

Vipraj Nigam bore the heaviest punishment as Allen smashed three consecutive sixes off the leg-spinner in the 13th over - twice over long-off and once with a ferocious pull through deep mid-wicket - before moving into the 90s with another towering maximum off Kuldeep. Allen fittingly finished off the chase and got his first IPL century in style by dispatching Mukesh Kumar over mid-wicket for six. DC's spinners conceded 102 runs from nine overs for just one wicket, as Allen made merry to shut the door firmly and completely on DC and get another dominant win for KKR.

## WTA Italian Open: Wang Xinyu bows out after defeat to Alexandra Eala

ROME

China's Wang Xinyu lost to Alexandra Eala of the Philippines 6-4, 6-3 in the second round of the WTA Italian Open on Friday, failing to reach the last 32 after a match lasting 1 hour and 26 minutes. The two players had previously met at the ASB Classic in Auckland, New Zealand, earlier this year, where Wang won in three sets. In their latest encounter, Wang made a strong start by breaking serve and holding comfortably to race to a 3-0 lead in the opening set.

From the fourth game onward, however, Eala raised the intensity of her attacking play while Wang began to commit more unforced errors. Eala reeled off four consecutive games to turn the set around and eventually claimed it 6-4. In



the second set, Wang broke in the fifth game, but Eala responded immediately with a break back in the following game before sealing the set 6-3 to complete the straight-sets victory.

Wang said after the match that she could have handled key moments better, especially after taking an early lead in the opening set. "I think I could have played

more aggressively when I was ahead in the first set," she said. "At some crucial moments, I made choices that were not accurate enough or not the best ones, so I do feel it's a bit of a pity."

Eala's third-round opponent will be either former champion and second seed Elena Rybakina or Greece's Maria Sakkari. Top seed Aryna Sabalenka and defending champion Jasmine Paolini advanced to the third round of the 2026 Italian Open on Thursday, while Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas and Italian favourite Matteo Berrettini suffered early exits in the men's singles draw. Sabalenka of Belarus defeated Czech player Barbora Krejckova 6-2, 6-3 in straight sets. After an early exchange of breaks, the world No. 1 quickly took control of the match and never looked back.

## Asian U17 Boxing C'ships: Indian boys confirm five medals with strong quarterfinal showing in Tashkent



TASHKENT

India's young boxing contingent delivered a stellar performance at the Asian U17 Boxing Championships, with five boxers advancing to the semifinals and confirming at least five medals for the country.

In the quarterfinals, Yash Yadav (50kg) secured a hard-fought 4-1 victory over Kubanychbek Bolushov of Kyrgyzstan (KGZ). Nivesh Pal (54kg) continued the dominance, registering a unanimous 5:0 win against Shingen Kanai of Japan (JPN) to book his place in the semifinals.

In the 70kg category, Naman Kumar produced a commanding performance, defeating Ruzibek Miravotov of Tajikistan (TJK) with a 5:0 decision. Lakshay Phogat (75kg) also impressed, securing a clinical 5:0 victory over Cheng-En Li

of Chinese Taipei (TPE) to progress to the last four.

In other results, Karung Albertson (60kg) went down 0:5 against Emir Mukhit of Kazakhstan (KAZ). Ranveer (66kg) suffered a 0:5 defeat against Islam Suleimanogly of Kazakhstan (KAZ), while Siddhant (+80kg) lost 0:5 to Sabyrzhon Sagym of Kazakhstan (KAZ), ending their campaigns.

With four more medals confirmed today, India's total tally in the U-17 boys category now stands at five. The Indian contingent will look to build on this momentum and push for top podium finishes in the semifinal stage. Meanwhile, India's U-17 girls continued their dominant run at the Asian Boxing U15 & U17 Championships 2026, with 12 medals confirmed, underlining their strong presence at the continental stage.

## ITTF World Team Table Tennis Finals: China avenges S. Korea to reach men's semis

LONDON

China avenged their group stage loss with a 3-0 victory over South Korea in the men's quarterfinals at the 2026 ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals on Friday. World No. 1 Wang Chuqin gave China the lead with a five-game victory over Oh Jun-sung, who had scored two points in a 3-1 win over China in the group match with Wang rested.

Wang had a 3-1 win-loss record in their head-to-head, with his only defeat

coming from the men's singles quarterfinal at the 2024 Asian Championships. Wang won 11-9 in a closely contested first game, before cruising to an 11-1 victory to double the lead.

Playing in his first team worlds, Oh began clawing back in the third game, triumphing 11-8 and 11-7 to force a decider. Unfazed by the comeback, Wang took the fifth game 11-7 to move the defending champion ahead, reports Xinhua.

China's Lin Shidong showed improvement in his shape after struggling at



times in the group phase, dispatching Jang Woo-jin 11-3, 13-11, 11-8. In the third

match, Liang Jingkun delivered one of his best performances so far in the tour-

namment, beating An Jaehyun 11-7, 11-5, 15-13 to close out China's win. China will face either France or Brazil in the semifinals. Earlier in the day, Japan swept Ukraine 3-0, setting up a women's semifinal clash with Germany.

China beat South Korea 3-0 on Thursday to advance to the women's team semifinals at the 2026 ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals, with world No. 1 Sun Yingsha surviving a five-game scare in the second match. China had also defeated South

Korea 3-0 in the group stage. Wang Manyu gave China a strong start, beating Shin Yu-bin 11-1, 11-4, 11-4.

Facing Kim Na-yeong again after their group meeting, Sun was pushed much harder.

After taking the opening game 11-7, Sun dropped the next two 11-7, 11-7 and trailed 4-1 in the fourth. She then won 10 straight points to level the match and force a decider. Kim threatened another upset in the fifth, closing from 9-5 down to within one point, but Sun held on to win 11-9.



## SIMRAN EXPOSES BOLLYWOOD'S TREATMENT OF SOUTH STARS

For years, Bollywood positioned itself as the "main industry" of Indian cinema while referring to other film industries as "regional cinema." However, several South Indian actors have recently started speaking openly about the treatment they received in Hindi cinema. Veteran actress Simran, one of the biggest stars of South Indian cinema in the 1990s, has now shared her experience, and her comments are creating strong reactions across film circles.

According to Simran, Bollywood producers often bargain over hotel accommodations, flight tickets, and even question how many staff members South actors can bring along. She said such behavior felt disrespectful, especially after spending over three decades in cinema and building a huge legacy in the South. More than financial issues, she hinted that the attitude of some Bollywood makers toward South actors was the real problem.

Interestingly, this concern has been echoed by several South stars privately. Actor Dulquer Salmaan once revealed that he had to "create an illusion of stardom" in Bollywood just to receive basic respect on sets. Simran's comments have now added more weight to that discussion.

Today, South Indian cinema dominates the Indian box office with successful Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada films regularly becoming pan-India hits, while Bollywood continues to struggle for consistency.

# U.S. BOX OFFICE: RAM CHARAN BEATS PAWAN KALYAN RECORD IN USA

Mega Powerstar Ram Charan is proving his unparalleled global stardom as his upcoming film, Peddi, shatters presale expectations



Mega Powerstar Ram Charan is proving his unparalleled global stardom as his upcoming film, Peddi, shatters presale expectations. Taking an earth-shattering start in the US market, the film's premiere sales crossed \$50K in just 30 minutes and touched \$100K in under four hours.

This makes it the first Indian film to achieve this milestone within the first 24 hours of bookings opening, beating previous records held by films like They Call Him OG, Devara, and Salaar. The fact that Charan has managed to breach the earlier record for 24 hour presales that was set by Kalyan with OG, around \$82K is great news for mega fans as both their heroes are delivering big time.

The grand premieres are set for June 3rd, and Prathyangira Cinemas is leaving no stone unturned, opening advance bookings across 950+ shows for this massive North America release. Bookings are in full swing, and theaters are filling up fast.

Sensational promotional materials, especially the gripping Birthday Glimpses, have pushed the ticket demand to an all-time high. Inside reports strongly indicate that the raw emotion of the film matches Rangasthalam, largely due to Ram Charan's commanding screen presence.

Written and directed by Buchi Babu Sana, Peddi blends emotion, sports, and action like never before. Bankrolled by Venkata Satish Kilaru, the movie features Janhvi Kapoor and Shiva Rajkumar alongside lavish production values. The early box office rampage is a clear indicator of the storm brewing worldwide.

### CAN MYSTERY BECOME A RISK FOR PEDDI?

Peddi is currently one of the most awaited Telugu movies. Fans are eagerly waiting for the film because it stars Ram Charan and is directed by Buchi Babu Sana. After many disappointing films at the box office this year, movie lovers believe this film can bring excitement back to theatres. However, one major discussion is happening around the movie now. Many people still do not understand what the story of the film is about. The promotional videos released so far created curiosity, but they did not clearly explain the main concept of the movie.

In the first glimpse, Ram Charan appeared as a carefree village youngster who enjoys cricket tournaments and local life. Later, another promo showed him as a powerful wrestler. These two looks surprised audiences, but nobody understood how the transformation happens in the story. Because of this, many viewers are confused about the movie's actual plot. In recent years, several big-budget films failed because audiences entered theatres without knowing what kind of story they were



going to watch. Sometimes mystery creates excitement, but too much confusion can also reduce audience interest. Viewers usually connect more with a film when they understand at least the basic emotion and conflict before release.

According to reports, Peddi is said to be the story of a young man fighting for the respect and identity of his village. But the makers have still not revealed enough details about these elements. Now all eyes are on the trailer. Reports say the trailer may release two weeks before the movie hits theatres. Many fans feel this trailer should finally explain the core story and emotional background of the film. If the team gives a proper idea about the concept, audience excitement may increase even more. At the same time, the makers also want to keep some surprises hidden for the theatre experience. So the big question now is whether the team will reveal the movie's main secret in the trailer or continue to keep it mysterious until release.

## Vidya Balan in Talks for Balakrishna-Koratata Siva Film?



If industry sources are to be believed, Bollywood actress Vidya Balan is likely to return to Tollywood for an important role opposite Nandamuri Balakrishna in his upcoming film with director Koratata Siva. "She will be paired opposite Balakrishna and appear in the flashback portions of the film, although nothing has been finalized yet," says a source. "Balakrishna and Vidya Balan earlier played husband and wife in NTR: Kathanayakudu and NTR: Mahanayakudu, where she effortlessly portrayed the late Basavatarakam in both younger and older phases."

Vidya Balan's performance as Basavatarakam received appreciation from audiences across the Telugu-speaking states. She was praised for portraying the role with dignity and emotional depth, emerging as the emotional backbone of N. T. Rama Rao in the biopics. "Basavatarakam's role was not written as just a conventional housewife. She was portrayed as a strong-headed woman who stood firmly beside NTR during crucial phases of his life," the source adds. "Vidya interacted with Balakrishna and family members to understand the nuances of the character, and she executed the role with remarkable conviction."

Director Koratata Siva, known for writing strong and impactful characters, is said to have designed another performance-oriented role for the actress. "Vidya Balan is an immensely talented and selective actress. If everything falls into place, this project could mark her return to Telugu cinema," the source says. Like several Bollywood actresses working in South cinema, Vidya Balan is also believed to have insisted on a "scenes retention" clause in the agreement, ensuring that key scenes involving her character are not trimmed during the final edit. "Discussions are currently underway," the source concludes.

## 'I'M GAME' TO BE DULQUER SALMAAN'S MOST STYLISH FILM!

Actor Dulquer Salmaan has reportedly described his upcoming film 'I'm Game' as the most stylish project of his career so far. Directed by Nahas Hidayath, the film has already generated strong buzz among fans and movie enthusiasts. Sources say the movie, shot across nearly 100 locations in South India, is currently in post-production after wrapping filming in April this year.

Sharing pictures from the final day of shooting on social media, Dulquer wrote, "Wrap day smiles say it all. #ImGame shoot done & dusted, couldn't be happier! Grateful for this journey... see you all on August 20." According to industry insiders, the actor's character and the film's visual world have been designed with a sleek and modern style. Nahas Hidayath reportedly wanted to present Dulquer in a completely fresh avatar, making style one of the film's standout features.

Earlier this year, the makers celebrated Dulquer Salmaan's completion of 14 years in cinema by releasing a special poster from the film. Responding to the milestone, Dulquer thanked fans for their continuous love and support and announced that the film would release during the Onam festival season.

The movie also stars Kayadu Lohar, who joined the project last year. She is known for her role in Dragon directed by Ashwath Marimuthu. The makers had welcomed her to the team through social media posts, adding to the excitement surrounding the film.

Interest in the movie increased further after the release of Dulquer's first-look poster, which featured him holding a pistol in a stylish pose. The film marks Nahas Hidayath's next project after the success of RDX. Other important actors in the cast include Antony Varghese, Mysskin, Kathir, Parth Thiwari and Samyuktha Viswanathan.

Action choreography for the film is handled by the famous Anbariv Masters, known for films like Kabali, KGF, Kaithi, Vikram, Leo and Salaar. Produced by Dulquer Salmaan and Jom Verghese, the film marks Dulquer's return to Malayalam cinema and is his 40th film as an actor. Music is composed by Jakes Bejoy, while cinematography is by Jimshi Khalid.

