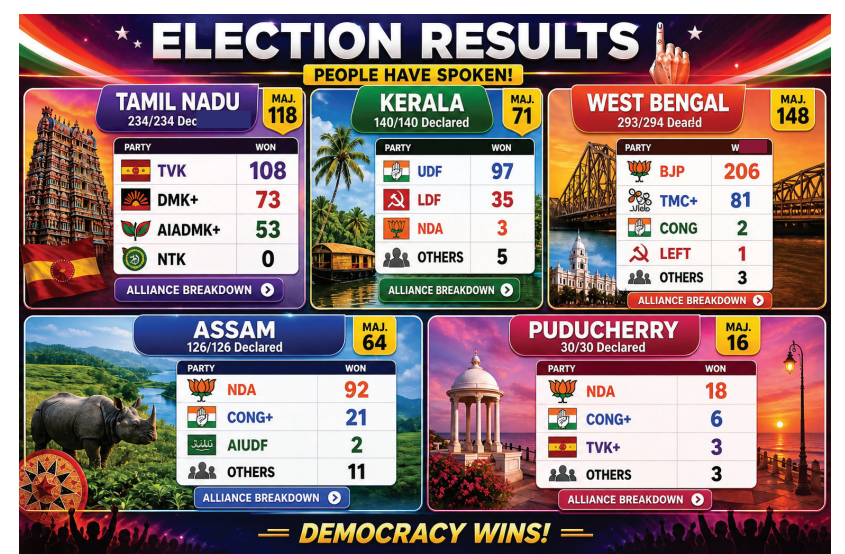


HYDERABAD HEADLINES

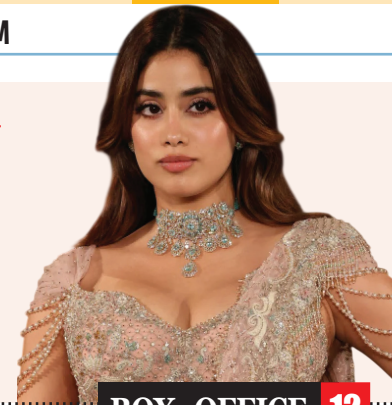
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MUMBAI INDIANS DOMINATE THE CHASE

STADIUM 11

SHE IS AN ALLY STATEMENT BACKS JANHVI



BOX -OFFICE 12



"I HAVE ALWAYS SAID, I WILL FIGHT EVEN IF ONLY ONE VOTER IS LEFT. TODAY, THE MACHINERY MAY HAVE WON A SEAT, BUT THEY HAVE NOT WON THE HEART OF BENGAL. MAMATA BANERJEE

"I DO NOT SEE MY OPPONENTS AS ENEMIES, BUT AS FRIENDS IN A DEMOCRACY. THE PEOPLE OF KOLATHUR HAVE CHOSEN A DIFFERENT PATH TODAY, I ACCEPT IT WITH HUMILITY. STALIN

SHORT TAKES



Local Products to Become Global Brands

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu emphasized that steps must be taken to transform products manufactured in Andhra Pradesh into global brands.

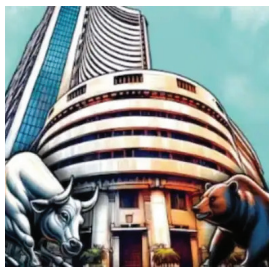
NEXT DOOR 05



Akhilesh May Face a Mamata-Like Shock in UP

The storm of the BJP's impressive victory in West Bengal has shaken the entire country. The people there, especially the Hindu community, united to give a strong response to Mamata Banerjee's politics of appeasement.

OPINION 06



Sensex, Nifty rise on election boost

Markets closed higher on Monday after early gains drew support from state election trends and earnings optimism. The rally lost steam later as a weak rupee, firmer crude and profit booking kept investors cautious.

MONEY MATTER 09



The Rise of the JANA NAYAGAN

"THE 2026 ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN – A BJP WAVE IN BENGAL, A UDF LANDSLIDE IN KERALA, NDA STRENGTH IN ASSAM, AND A MAJOR SHAKE-UP IN TAMIL NADU."

KOLKATA/CHENNAI, MAY 4

Extending its saffron brushstroke in north and east India, the BJP was Monday set for a decisive win over the TMC in long elusive West Bengal and headed for another term in Assam while actor-politician Vijay's TVK made a stunning debut in Tamil Nadu as the largest single party in terms of seats won or led. As votes were counted for assembly elections in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, Election Commission trends showed a wipeout of the Left and a solitary win for the Congress that has been battling diminishing electoral returns. That silver lining for the opposition party came from Kerala where the Congress-led UDF won or was leading in 101 of the 140 Assembly seats while the CPM-led ruling

Left Democratic Front (LDF) was ahead in just under 40 constituencies. The cynosure of Election 2026, however, was West Bengal, the eastern state where the Trinamool Congress was eyeing a fourth straight term in its only bastion. "The Lotus blooms in West Bengal! The 2026 West Bengal Assembly Elections will be remembered forever. People's power has prevailed and BJP's politics of good governance has triumphed," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on X. "I bow to each and every person of West Bengal. The people have given a spectacular mandate to BJP and I assure them that our Party will do everything possible to fulfil the dreams and aspirations of the people of West Bengal. We will provide a Government that ensures

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Bengal Goes SAFFRON

THE BJP'S BLOCKBUSTER BENGAL CONQUEST.

The Lotus blooms in West Bengal!

New Delhi: The 2026 West Bengal Assembly Elections will be remembered forever. People's power has prevailed and BJP's politics of good governance has triumphed. I bow to each and every person of West Bengal. The people have given a spectacular mandate to BJP and I assure them that our Party will do everything possible to fulfil the dreams and aspirations of the people of West Bengal. We will provide a Government that ensures opportunity and dignity to all sections of society.



Telangana Cabinet Decisions: CBI Probe into Power Deals



HYDERABAD, MAY 4

In a high-stakes meeting chaired by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday, the Telangana State Cabinet took several landmark decisions ranging from anti-corruption measures to significant revenue reforms. Most notably, the government has officially handed over the investigation into alleged irregularities in the power sector during the previous BRS regime to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The meeting, which concluded late Monday evening, addressed long-pending issues including

land registration values, employee welfare, and the modernization of vocational education. The Cabinet has decided to refer the alleged irregularities in the construction of the Bhadradi and Yadadri Thermal Power Projects and various Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) to the CBI. The decision follows a 114-page report by the Justice Madan B. Lokur Commission, which scrutinized procurement processes and inter-state deals. Ministers stated that since the investigation involves inter-state entities and Central PSUs, a federal agency like the CBI is required for a comprehensive and impartial probe.

In a move that will significantly impact the real estate sector, the Cabinet approved an upward revision of land market values and registration charges, effective from the last week of May 2026. The revision will follow recommendations by noted economist Arvind Subramanian to bridge the gap between "government rates" and "actual market rates." To protect early movers, applicants under the Hyderabad Industrial Land Transformation (HILT) policy who applied before the hike can lock in current rates by paying 10% of the conversion charges upfront.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



KTR calls for statewide protests over failed crop procurement

HYDERABAD, MAY 4:

BRS working president KT Rama Rao has urged statewide protests, instructing party members to gather at procurement centres and government offices in support of struggling farmers. He criticised the Congress government for its inability to set up sufficient procurement centres, leaving farmers waiting for the purchase of their harvested crops.

While visiting a Bengal gram procurement centre in Sadasivpet of Sangareddy district on Monday, the BRS leader spoke with farmers who claimed the government was not buying their produce, resulting in significant distress. He indicated that the procurement system had completely failed, with the government opting for superficial measures rather than ensuring timely crop purchases.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



TELANGANA GEARS UP FOR MODI VISIT; Dr LAXMAN

HYDERABAD, MAY 4

BJP Rajya Sabha member K. Laxman on Monday said that excitement is building across Telangana ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on May 10, calling it a "significant occasion" as it marks his first visit to the state since beginning his third term. Addressing the media after the groundbreaking ceremony

for a massive public meeting here at Secunderabad Parade Grounds, Laxman said people are eagerly awaiting Modi's arrival, with visible enthusiasm across the state. He credited Modi's governance model - focused on development, welfare of the poor and transparency - for the BJP-led NDA's continued electoral success, adding that recent results in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

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Rail Safety Review: Srivastava on Summer Prep 2026



HYDERABAD, MAY 4

Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, South Central Railway held a detailed meeting on safety of train operations and summer preparedness across the zone today i.e., 04th May, 2026 at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad. Shri Satya Prakash, Additional General Manager, SCR participated in the meeting along with Principal Heads of Departments. Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) of all the six divisions viz., Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur, Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Nanded Divisions joined the review meeting through video confer-

ence.

During the review meeting, Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava emphasized on importance of summer preparedness in view of the prevailing heat wave conditions to ensure safe and uninterrupted train operations. The General Manager advised the officials to focus on strengthening of tracks to withstand high temperatures and ensure ballast filling on tracks, wherever required. Further, the General Manager advised the officials and supervisors to sensitize the track patrol staff on importance of summer precautions while working in hot weather conditions. He also

advised the officials to ensure provision of protective gears for Gang-men and availability of adequate drinking water and oral rehydration solutions at the work spots.

Further, the General Manager reviewed the fire safety drive being carried out by the zone to prevent any fire incidents in trains during summer. He also took stock on the provision of CCTV cameras at private sidings, goods sheds and advised the officials to further expedite the process. The General Manager reviewed the track fencing at some locations prone to trespassing and advised the officials to stay vigilant.

CONG 'REJECTED BY PEOPLE': BANDI SANJAY

HYDERABAD, MAY 4

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Monday claimed that the Congress party has been decisively rejected by voters, asserting that it would never return to power at the national level. Speaking to media persons in Karimnagar, he said the recent Assembly election trends across five states reflected a clear public mandate against the party.

Taking a swipe at the Congress, he said the party was "fading away" from India's political landscape and blamed its stance on key issues like

the Women's Reservation Bill for its decline. He also criticized parties opposing major reforms, stating that the voters had "taught them a fitting lesson" and would not forgive those obstructing development.

In a sharp personal attack, Bandi Sanjay targeted senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, alleging that even leaders within his own party do not view him as an effective leader. He claimed that the Congress was "plummeting to rock bottom" under his leadership.

Meanwhile, BJP MP Eatala Rajender said the electoral outcome in Assam demonstrated

the effectiveness of BJP governance. He expressed confidence in the party's future prospects in Telangana, highlighting the Union Cabinet's approval of the Regional Ring Road (RRR) project and the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "In the South, it is the BJP's flag that will fly high in the future", he claimed.

Rajender predicted the BJP victories in key Hyderabad civic bodies and said the party's influence in South India would continue to grow, adding that the people in Telangana were increasingly disillusioned with the Congress government.

Ensuring Every Worker Returns Home Safe

TGSPDCL'S ELECTRICAL SAFETY WEEK IN KUKATPALLY AND MIYAPUR.



MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, MAY 04

Decisive move to bolster on-site safety was demonstrated as a safety meeting was conducted across the Mayurinagar SS and Hydernagar sections, under the Kukatpally division. The gathering, part of the TGSPDCL's Electrical Safety Week observance by the Kukatpally and Miyapur zones division, highlighted Telangana's campaign from May 1 to 7 to eliminate electrical accidents through public awareness on safe handling, proper wiring, and earthing practices. The meeting was chaired by senior officials including the Chief General Manager (CGM), Safety Engineer (SE), Deputy Engineer (DE), and Assistant Divisional Engineers (ADEs) from both the Kukatpally and Miyapur zones, focusing on reinforcing safety protocols for personnel working on lines and with electrical equipment.

Key leaders and attendees included the chairpersons and leadership such as the CGM, SE, DE, and ADEs from Kukatpally and Miyapur, along with core participants Chief Engineer Medical Zone—RAMESH, Superintendent Engineer Medical Circle—Karunakar Babu, Divisional Engineer Operation Kukatpally—Janapriya, Kukatpally Assistant Divisional Engineer Kukatpally—B. Prasad, Assistant Divisional Engineer Miyapur—Hari Krishna, and all AEs, O&M staff across the entire division.

The emphasis was on comprehensive safety protocols, with updated

procedures for working on overhead lines and with electrical equipment, including lockout/tagout practices, personal protective equipment (PPE) usage, and energized work controls. There was a clear focus on role clarity and accountability, defining responsibilities for each cadre—CE, SE, DE, ADEs—to ensure rapid decision-making, risk assessment, and incident reporting. Training and drills were highlighted, with a commitment to scheduled safety refreshers and hands-on exercises to reinforce proper technique and response to electrical hazards. Facility and equipment checks were also prioritized, outlining routine inspection schedules for tools, gear, and line equipment to minimize fault exposure and equipment-related incidents. Enhanced communication protocols were discussed to improve coordination between the Kukatpally and Miyapur teams and streamline safety communications across the division.

The meeting underscored a proactive safety culture within the Kukatpally division, reinforcing that safeguarding personnel is paramount in every operation involving electrical infrastructure. By aligning leadership with frontline staff, the division aims to reduce risk, improve response times, and ensure that every worker returns home safely at the end of the day. For ongoing updates on safety initiatives and division-wide trainings, the official channels will be the primary source, and inquiries or suggestions can be directed to the Safety Office.

HOW MODI-SHAH ENSURE BJP'S VICTORY IN BENGAL

VIVEK SHUKLA

As the trends of the West Bengal Assembly election results started coming in on Monday, a large number of BJP leaders and workers gathered at the party's national headquarters on Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg in Delhi. They were offering floral tributes to the life-size statue of the party's ideological mentor, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, in the park outside. Although there was visible tension on faces before the initial trends, as the results began pouring in, that tension gradually turned into enthusiasm and joy.

Breaking the Old Chains

The people of West Bengal have finally broken the decades-old chains of political slavery and dictatorship. The horrific era of goonda-raj, violence, and appeasement politics under Mamata Banerjee's rule has come to an end. This time, the people of Bengal have given a massive, revolutionary, and unambiguous mandate to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), handing it power. This is not an ordinary electoral victory, it is the resurrection of Bengal's soul. It was the accumulated anger of millions who had been suffering for years from political terror, corruption, and policies that were pushing the state towards ruin.

Whose Magic?

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, the miracle that the BJP has performed will be recorded in the golden pages of history.

"How did this happen?" This question is now coming from the mouths of so-called political analysts and opposition sycophants. First Odisha, now Bengal. The BJP, which originated from the Hindi heartland, is now connecting the entire country with its agenda of development and nationalism. The people of Bengal have sent a clear message that "No more." The era of backdoor politics, vote-bank appeasement, and a culture of violence must end.



Strategic Struggle

The BJP does not believe in shortcuts in politics. It knows that power gained through the back door is short-lived. Therefore, instead of taking flashy routes in Bengal, the party chose the path of continuous struggle, tireless hard work, and iron will. This strategic patience and aggressive leadership that understood the pain of the people laid the foundation for this massive victory.

Prime Minister Modi's charismatic personality and Amit Shah's foolproof strategy infused the entire campaign with new energy. Together, the duo created a storm from Bengal's streets to its lanes.

Winning Bengal was as difficult for the BJP as chewing iron gram. The state's complex demography was the biggest obstacle. It has the country's largest Muslim vote bank, with around 85 seats being Muslim-dominated. In 2021, TMC had won 75 of them.

This was the result of the Modi government's welfare schemes and Amit Shah's grassroots efforts. Instead of using the Muslim community as a vote bank, Shah took the bold step of bringing them into the mainstream. The promise of ₹3,000 monthly financial assistance to Muslim women (double TMC's promises) was taken door-to-door. This message of discrimination-free development proved highly effective among Bengal's daughters.

The Strongest Foundation of BJP's Historic Victory

The strongest foundation of BJP's historic victory was the strict curb imposed on political violence. Mamata Banerjee was adopting the brutal violence policy of the Communist era to save her power. Her goons enjoyed open patronage.

This time, Amit Shah showed no leniency. In coordination with the Election Commission, heavy deployment of central armed forces was carried out. The high-handedness of local goons and police stopped. Shah's stern message—"If anyone is harassed after voting, we will hang them upside down"—removed years of fear from the minds of ordinary voters. As a result, voter turnout crossed 90%. For the first time, the people of Bengal could vote freely and without fear.

Strategy of Local Faces

Countering TMC's "Bengali identity versus outsider" propaganda, Shah declared that "a Bengali-speaking person will become the Chief Minister of Bengal." The people embraced this assurance.

As soon as the Odisha elections ended, General Secretary Sunil Bansal was sent to Bengal. Better coordination was established with the RSS. A strong organization was built down to the booth level. Thousands of workers from across the country reached Bengal and took responsibility for bringing voters to the booths.

TMC's Disintegrating Image

On the other hand, TMC appeared completely shattered. Everything was centered around Mamata Banerjee, but she herself was embroiled in corruption, the Arghya Kar scam, and cases of illegal infiltration. Courts kept rejecting her arguments. Under the watch of central forces, her goons became powerless. Instead of personal attacks, the BJP focused on Bengal's real issues—political violence, corruption, unemployment, and illegal infiltration. Public sympathy for Mamata had completely vanished.

Game-Changer for BJP in Eastern India

West Bengal was the last major challenge for the BJP in eastern India. The Modi-Shah duo had already prepared for it. With this victory, the BJP's vote share is estimated to have risen from 38% in the Lok Sabha to nearly 48% in the Assembly. This will prove to be a game-changer for the entire country.

This spectacular victory in Bengal proves that the combination of continuous hard work, courageous local leadership, genuine development politics, and strict law and order is invincible. The BJP is now firmly established from east to west. This mandate from Bengal is not just a historic decision that will change the politics of the state, but the direction of the entire nation.

CBI Probe into Power Deals

FROM PAGE 1

A major structural overhaul of vocational training was approved to streamline the state's workforce development. All Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), polytechnics, and T-SAT institutions will now be integrated under the administrative control of the Young India Skill University. An OTS scheme was cleared to recover pending property tax and utility dues from government offices in the GHMC and Cyberabad regions. Penalties and interest worth nearly ₹4.178 crore will be waived to recover a principal amount of ₹1,686 crore.

In response to recent unseasonal rains, the CM directed district-in-charge ministers to im-

mediately assess crop damage and initiate relief measures for farmers. The Cabinet approved an MoU to hand over the Nalgonda-Rangareddy Milk Producers' Association (NARMAC) to the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to revive the struggling unit. 42 acres of land were allotted in Azinagar (Moinabad) for a state-of-the-art modern vegetable market.

The government will establish solar power generation plants at 33/11 kV substations across nine districts. Initially, 18 locations will host 19 MW of solar projects at an estimated cost of ₹66.50 crore.

Following recommendations from the BC Commission, the Cabinet approved the removal

of derogatory names for certain castes to eliminate social stigma. "Dhobi" will now be used as a synonym for "Chakali," and "Meru" for "Mera." 49 castes were identified as nomadic communities to make them eligible for the Central Government's SEED scheme (Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs). These decisions reflect a two-pronged strategy by the Revanth Reddy government: maintaining an aggressive stance against the previous administration's financial dealings while aggressively seeking new revenue streams through land reforms to fund its ambitious "Six Guarantees" and infrastructure projects.

KTR calls for statewide protests over failed crop procurement



FROM PAGE 1

On the occasion, the BRS working president urged party leaders and workers to visit procurement centres in their local areas over the coming week, support farmers until their stocks are collected, and organise protests if procurement does not occur.

He also called for demonstrations outside Tahsildar and District Collector offices and urged the submission of memorandums to officials. "The BRS will persist until every grain is procured," he stated.

KTR insisted that all crops must be acquired at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), claiming that farmers growing paddy, jowar, and Bengal gram were not receiving the promised prices. He emphasised that procurement should take place without any conditions.

TELANGANA GEARS UP FOR MODI VISIT; Dr LAXMAN

FROM PAGE 1

five states reflected public trust while indicating anti-incumbency against non-BJP governments. In Assam, however, the people expressed their satisfaction with the BJP's administration and once again bestowed their mandate upon the party through a "pro-incumbency" vote, he claimed.

Laxman also took aim at opposition parties, accusing them of corruption, dynastic politics, and questioning democratic verdicts through allegations against Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). He asserted that public sentiment in Telangana is turning against both BRS and Congress, claiming growing support for the BJP across various sections, including youth, women and farmers.

Expressing confidence in the party's prospects, he said the BJP aims to come to power in Telangana and dedicate the victory to Prime Minister Modi.



JANA NAYAGAN

FROM PAGE 1

opportunity and dignity to all sections of society," he said ahead of a grand celebration being planned at the party's headquarters in Delhi.

As counting progressed, power for the TMC seemed to be pulling away "further and further. The state's political landscape was changing with the BJP, its campaign spearheaded by Amit Shah with Modi as its lodestar, pushing ahead in border, tribal and industrial regions, while the TMC held ground in parts of Kolkata and select rural strongholds. According to the Election Commission, the BJP won or was ahead in 195 of the 294 seats, well ahead of the magic number of 147, power in the state finally within its grasp. The Trinamool Congress tally was 90.

The writing may be on the wall, said pollsters. If the trends hold out, it could be all but over for the tough talking Mamata Banerjee and another victory for Brand Modi.

A defiant Banerjee disagreed.

"A false narrative is being spread," she alleged in a video message. The chief minister accused the Election Commission of "not declaring results or leads" in areas where the TMC was ahead. "This is a game plan by the EC and the BJP as it (poll panel) is not declaring results or leads in areas where we are leading," she said. Banerjee also alleged irregularities in the counting process at some locations.

"In several places, counting has been stopped after the first two to three rounds. In Kalyani, we have caught seven machines with severe anomalies," she claimed.

"I appeal to everyone that neither TMC candidates nor counting agents should abandon the counting centres," Banerjee said. It was a volatile election campaign with issues of SIR, electoral rigging and polarisation dominating the discourse. More than 2.5 lakh personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), along with state police, were deployed with the TMC and BJP engaging in a showdown outside several strongrooms, where EVMs were stored in the run-up to the counting.

"The BJP will form the government," said a confident Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari as his party seemed poised for a historic breakthrough in the city.

In Assam, where the election was a

hot-headed affair too, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma led the BJP to another straight victory with leads in 81 of the 126 seats, leaving the Congress far behind at 19. Congress state unit president Gaurav Gogoi faced his first electoral defeat in Jorhat. West Bengal was one headline of Election 2026, the other was superstar Vijay, who defied the odds and the taint of a stampede during his rally in September 2025 in which 41 people were killed. That was clearly in the past as his party broke bipolar Dravidian politics and was poised to become the largest single party in Tamil Nadu with wins and leads in 109 of the state's 234 seats.

The ruling DMK that had started the morning at number three position was at 61 and the AIADMK at 44.

Chief Minister M K Stalin was trailing in Kolathur by 8,284 seats. According to Election Commission data, 15 other ministers were also lagging behind.

The choice, it appeared, was clear. Joseph Vijay Chandrasekhar could well join the pantheon of MGR and Jayalalithaa as the stars who made it big in the political firmament.

The star of hits such as "Mersal" and "Leo" went into the campaign with a list of lofty poll promises, including 8 gm gold for marriage, worth about Rs 1.12 lakh. Vijay's assurances in the party manifesto included Rs 2,500 monthly assistance for women below 60 years of age, 8 gm gold for marriage, and six free cooking gas cylinders a year per family.

In Kerala, Sunny Joseph, the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) chief, said the numbers indicated a pro-UDF trend in the state and expressed confidence that the UDF would reach the 100-seat mark in the 140-strong assembly.

With a major win in its pocket, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Wayanad MP thanked the people of the state for their overwhelming support.

"To all my brothers and sisters in Kerala, thank you for your faith and for your overwhelming support. The trust you have placed in us will be the UDF's guiding force as we work hard towards building a better future for each one of you," she said.

In Puducherry, the All India NR Congress had won or was ahead in 11 of the 30 seats. The DMK stood at five and the BJP at four. The TVK made its presence felt with three.

Engineering Staff College of India is a premier training institution

- ESCI Director
Dr. G. Rameshwar Rao

HYDERABAD

A training institution earning a strong reputation among both Central and State Governments, as well as top corporate and multinational companies, is a matter of pride, said Dr. G. Rameshwar Rao, Director of the Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI). He stated that these organizations are sending their personnel to ESCI, Hyderabad, for advanced training in their respective fields, and attributed this recognition to the dedicated efforts of the ESCI staff.

On Monday, May 4, 2026, Dr. G. Rameshwar Rao inaugurated the training programs conducted by the Civil & Transportation, Management & Technology, Quality & Productivity, and Power & Energy divisions at the ESCI Convention Centre. On this occasion, he expressed his gratitude to the engineering personnel who had come from various parts of the country.

He noted that ESCI, Hyderabad—where eminent scientists like Dr.



A.P.J. Abdul Kalam once served as faculty—has over 45 years of experience as a training institution. Over the past nine months, ESCI has been providing training to DISCOM engineers across the country in areas such as renewable energy, cybersecurity, and energy portfolio management. Additionally, engineers from the Public Works Department of Madhya Pradesh are being trained in structural design and quality assurance, while aerospace engineers from the defense sector are receiving training in quality management for root cause analysis. Engineers from Shell India,

a leading company in the fuels and lubricants sector, are being trained in the design, operation, and troubleshooting of compressors and gas turbines.

The Director expressed his appreciation to the engineering personnel from various states that have come to attend this week-long advanced training program.

The event was attended by Dr. U. Jyothi, Head of Management & Technology; E. Ram Kishore, Head of Quality & Productivity; Dr. Vidyasagar, In-charge of Power & Energy; along with senior faculty members

including Dr. P. Srinivas Reddy, CEO of Rehab Technologies; V. Parvateesam, Managing Partner at Hindustan Academy Council of Law and an expert in labour laws and industrial relations; M. Hari Krishna, Senior Engineer at BHEL and expert in centrifugal compressors and gas turbines; and M.V.V. Ravi Kumar, member of the Quality Control Forum of India.

Also present were ESCI heads K.J. Amar Nath, Anita Agarwal, Sai Kishore, C.H. Tilak, G. Naresh, S. Lakshmi Kantha Rao, Dr. P. Rajarao, along with engineering personnel from various states.

Geetha Murthy stated that the BJP has Sounded the victory drum in the Assembly elections

HYDERABAD

On 4th May 2026, BJP National Council member and former State President of the Mahila Morcha, Geetha Murthy, stated that the BJP has sounded the victory drum in the assembly election results of four states and one Union Territory. She said that this is a victory of Narendra Modi and that people in those states are overwhelmingly supporting the BJP.

She particularly described the victory in West Bengal as extraordinary, noting that the BJP had zero seats in 2011, reached double digits in 2016, won 77 seats in 2021, and has now



won nearly 200 seats, creating a new record. She also said that the BJP has made significant inroads in Tamil Nadu, and in Assam, it is certain to form the government by winning nearly 100 seats. In Puducherry, she added, the NDA forming the government is confirmed.

State BJP President N. Ramchander Rao, Rajya Sabha member Dr. Laxman, Legislative Assembly party leader Maheshwar Reddy, State Vice President Jayashree, Mahila Morcha leader Karuna Sri, and others participated in the celebrations. She mocked that this defeat brings Rahul Gandhi's tally to 99, and if he loses one more, he will complete a century.

Women's Reservation Bill Must Be Implemented Without Delay: Mahila Congress



Postcard campaign launched in Medchal to press for immediate action

QUTHBULLAPUR

Stepping up pressure on the Centre, the Mahila Congress on Monday launched a postcard campaign in Medchal district, demanding the immediate implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill, which seeks to ensure greater political representation for women in legislative bodies. The campaign was organised under the guidance of Mahila Congress National President Alka Lamba and State President Errabelli Swarna, with

district-level leadership spearheaded by Rajanolla Lakshmi. The programme was presided over by Renuka Reddy of the Quthbullapur constituency.

As part of the initiative, party workers conducted a signature collection drive on postcards addressed to the Central Government, urging swift implementation of the long-pending legislation. Addressing the gathering, Rajanolla Lakshmi expressed concern over what she described as a persistent gap between women's achievements and their political representation. "Women today are excelling across sectors, yet their presence in legislative institutions remains disproportionately low," she said.

She argued that the enactment of the Women's Reservation Bill would ensure equitable representation in Parliament and State Assemblies, enabling more effective articulation and resolution of women's issues. Lakshmi also criticised the Central Government, alleging that its commitment to women's empowerment has remained largely rhetorical.

"There is a need to translate intent into action. Implementing the Women's Reservation Bill is a decisive step in that direction," she said. Emphasising the broader impact of the proposed legislation, she noted that enhanced political participation of women would contribute significantly to progress in social, economic, and governance spheres.

Several Mahila Congress functionaries and local leaders participated in the campaign, including District General Secretary Jajala Ramya, A Block Vice President Ashwini, Secretaries Latha, Lalithamma, and Madhavi Reddy, Assistant Secretary Jajala Archana, and Division President Sujatha Yadav, among others. The campaign forms part of a wider mobilisation effort by the Mahila Congress to build public pressure and galvanise support for the Bill across constituencies.

Sabyasachi Ghosh held Comprehensive review meeting

HYDERABAD

The Union Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Sudhansh Pant, along with Special Chief Secretary (Implementation of Welfare and Development Schemes), Sabyasachi Ghosh, held a comprehensive review meeting with senior officials of the State Government at the Secretariat today to assess the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes under the Government of India. The meeting focused on key welfare initiatives aimed at the upliftment of marginalized communities, including Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarships, the Protection of Civil Rights framework, construction of SC/BC hostels, comprehensive rehabilitation of transgender persons, and the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE).

Speaking on the occasion, Union Secretary Sudhansh Pant appreciated the State Government's efforts in effectively implementing centrally sponsored schemes. He noted that while significant progress has been achieved, there



remains scope for further improvement to ensure deeper outreach and impact. He emphasized that sustained and consistent efforts are essential for the socio-economic upliftment of marginalized and vulnerable sections of society.

The Union Secretary assured that the Central Government would address all pending issues raised by the State and expressed confidence that enhanced financial support would be extended in the future, enabling broader coverage and greater benefits to eligible beneficiaries. He also appreciated the progressive initiative of the Telangana Parental Support Act, highlighting it as a noteworthy

step towards social protection.

Special Chief Secretary Sabyasachi Ghosh presented a detailed overview of the status of various centrally sponsored schemes in the State. He outlined achievements, ongoing initiatives, and implementation strategies, while also bringing to the attention of the Union Secretary several policy and procedural matters requiring support and clarification from the Centre. Principal Secretary Finance Sandeep Kumar Sultania, along with senior officials from SC, BC and Disabled Welfare Departments and other concerned departments, participated in the meeting.

GITAM Congratulates Dr. Ramesh Goura on Earning His Ph.D. in Chemistry

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, congratulates Dr. Ramesh Goura on the successful completion of his Ph.D. in Chemistry under the guidance of Prof. M.S. Surendra Babu, Department of Chemistry.



His doctoral research, titled "Development of Innovative Synthetic Approaches of Methimazole, Levodopa, MitapivatSulfate, and Varenicline Tartrate APIs," focuses on designing efficient, safe, and economically viable synthetic routes for key pharmaceutical compounds.

Dr. Ramesh developed novel and scalable processes for four important active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), significantly improving yield, impurity control, process safety, and industrial feasibility. Notably, his work includes a robust Quality by Design (QbD)-based process for Methimazole, a streamlined two-step synthesis for Levodopa, an optimized multistep route for Mitapivat Sulfate, and a nitrosamine-free pathway for Varenicline Tartrate ensuring high purity and regulatory compliance.

His research, supported by advanced analytical characterization, offers practical and industry-relevant solutions for pharmaceutical manufacturing, contributing valuable advancements to the field of process chemistry.

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. Ramesh on this remarkable academic achievement.

PrepMonkey App Launched to Support UPSC Aspirants



HYDERABAD

Telangana IT Minister Sridhar Babu launched PrepMonkey, an artificial intelligence-based learning app designed to help aspirants preparing for UPSC and other competitive examinations.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that integrating technology with education can create better opportunities for students. He stated that talented students from rural areas can also achieve great success when they receive proper guidance and access to the right resources. He expressed confidence that PrepMonkey would become a valuable platform for competitive exam aspirants and appreciated such

innovative initiatives that are driving digital transformation in education.

Developed by a team of education and technology experts, the platform offers features such as smart notes, answer evaluation, adaptive question banks, real-time performance analysis, and mentor support.

The founding team of PrepMonkey includes Ranjith, Sudhakar, Ram Abhinav Teja, Pavani, Akash, and Meghana Reddy. The team stated that their goal is to make quality education accessible to aspirants from diverse backgrounds across the country and help them succeed through proper guidance and confidence-building support.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. M-TRD-29-IOT-25-26-24R,26R,28R and No. M-TRD-29-IOT-2025-26-24R

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager/ Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Southern Railway, Chennai - 3, invites online tender from the experienced Contractors for the following works for further details, please refer to www.ireps.gov.in

Sl. No.	Tender No / Name of the work	Value (Rs.)	Closing date/time
1.	Tender No. M-TRD-29-IOT-2025-26-24R Electrification of yard lines from Road 2 to Road 7 at Villivakkam Yard	20875713.91	21/05/2026 (15:00 hrs)
2.	Tender No. M-TRD-29-IOT-2025-26-26R Modification to existing OHE arrangements in connection with provision of up loop line at Kettanadapatti(KDY) in AJJ - JTJ section of Chennai Division.	8598670.30	19/05/2026 (15:00 hrs)
3.	Tender No. M-TRD-29-IOT-2025-26-28R Replacements of existing 65 sq mm weak catenary wire in MAS-RU and AJJ-JTJ section of Chennai Division.	23014130.00	19/05/2026 (15:00 hrs)
4.	Tender No. M-TRD-29-IOT-2026-27-05 Improvements to existing OHE by elimination of silver brazed/codal life completed contact wire on condition basis in suburban sections of Chennai Division.	26442590.00	19/05/2026 (15:00 hrs)
5.	Tender No. M-TRD-29-IOT-2026-27-06 Improvements to existing OHE by elimination of silver brazed/codal life completed contact wire on condition basis in north-suburban sections of Chennai Division.	29438631.00	19/05/2026 (15:00 hrs)

(Sr.DEE/TRD/MAS)
Divisional Railway Manager
Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Chennai-3



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Uttam Kumar Reddy Orders Urgent Paddy Procurement Ramp-Up



- as Unseasonal Rains start Lashing Telangana
- Procurement crossed 14.80 LMT mark
- 8575 PPCs fully operational
- Paddy purchased from 1.84 farmers so far
- Rs 2001.96 crores remitted to farmers' accounts

HYDERABAD

Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has directed swift measures to scale up paddy procurement operations while ensuring urgent safeguards to protect farmers from untimely rains and losses.

In view of the forecast of untimely rains for the rest of the week and heavy summer showers that battered multiple districts last night, triggering havoc on paddy stocks at harvest centres and market yards, he held an urgent video conference with district in-charge ministers, collectors, the Civil Supplies Commissioner, and senior state officials.

The meeting reviewed the season's progress, including paddy arrivals and procurement. The meeting focused

sharply on accelerating procurement, tackling bottlenecks, and protecting farmers from heavy losses caused by unseasonal rains and heat-wave conditions across several districts.

Putting the entire official machinery involved in Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations on high alert, the Minister emphasized the need for vigilant monitoring of weather conditions and ensuring that farmers are promptly informed about rainfall forecasts from time to time.

Procurement has so far reached around 14.80 lakh metric tonnes (LMT), with all 8,575 Paddy Procurement Centres (PPCs) fully operational. This includes over 8 lakh metric tonnes of coarse varieties. An amount of over Rs 2001.96 crore has already been remitted to the accounts of farmers.

He made it clear that Minimum Support Price operations would be crucial in the current month for achieving the targets set for the Rabi Marketing Season. Paddy arrivals are likely to rise in volume in the coming days, making an immediate ramp-up of purchases critical. He wanted special focus on high-volume PPCs, especially those in Nalgonda and Nizamabad districts.

Drenched paddy for parboiled milling

Unseasonal rains accompanied by

strong winds have drenched significant quantities of paddy in different districts including Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar, and Khammam. The Nalgonda Collector reported 299 MT of wet paddy across four centres following a sudden 20-minute storm the previous evening that blew off tarpaulins despite prior alerts.

Similar incidents were reported in Mahabubabad, Suryapet, Khammam, and Kothagudem. The Minister directed collectors to treat protection of farmers' produce from unseasonal downpours as a top priority. He insisted on advance positioning of tarpaulins at every PPC based on daily morning weather alerts.

All drenched paddy should be immediately shifted to assigned parboiled rice mills using already-issued district allocations to salvage the crop. He directed officials to ensure that tarpaulins are used properly and stocks are covered before any visible damage occurs.

The Minister directed officials to prepare for continued unseasonal rains over the next 3-4 days by taking every possible precautionary measure. Quoting Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's observations on the rain havoc, he said the response from the official machinery must be fool proof in the event of untimely rains impacting farmers.

The government has made it clear that procurement will continue as scheduled

without any let-up, and officials must carry this assurance to the village level. Intermediate storage capacity of about 16 lakh MT has been arranged across districts as a buffer.

The state has also secured parboiled rice allocations (nearly 16.8 lakh MT equivalent so far) and has sought an additional allocation of 15 lakh MT. Gunny bag stocks of 18.5 crore bags (both new and old) have been mobilised.

The Minister requested his cabinet colleagues in-charge of different districts to personally oversee procurement performance in their respective districts. Collectors were given a clear shortlist of action points, including measures to step up procurement pace immediately with focused attention on high-volume centres. He directed officials to resolve any local transport issues using alternate arrangements. Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, D. Sridhar Babu, and Adhuri Lakshman participated in the meeting virtually, while Ponnamp Prabhakar and Vakati Srihari joined the review in person.

Civil Supplies Commissioner Stephen Ravindra apprised the participants of the measures initiated to ensure smooth procurement operations. Transport Commissioner K. Ilambarathi and Secretary (Labour, Employment and Disaster Management) D. Harichandana also took part in the meeting.



Industry Must Train Telangana's 2 Lakh Engineering Graduates Every Year, Says IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu

HYDERABAD

Telangana's IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Monday called upon the IT industry to take direct ownership of skilling and mentoring the state's vast pool of engineering graduates, stressing that classroom education alone cannot bridge the gap between academic learning and industry readiness. The Minister was delivering the keynote address at the 10th Anniversary celebration of PSR Techhub, a Hyderabad-based IT Services company that has grown into a ₹120 Crore enterprise over the past decade. The event was held at Taj Vivanta, Begampet.

Addressing entrepreneurs, and young professionals at the event, Minister Sridhar Babu underscored the scale of the challenge — and the opportunity — before them. With nearly two lakh engineering graduates passing out of Telangana's institutions every year, he said, the responsibility of equipping this talent with industry-ready skills could not rest with the government alone. "The industry must step forward — not just to absorb this talent, but to actively train, mentor, and shape it," the Minister said, urging IT companies across the state to institutionalize structured skilling and mentorship programs.

Announcing a significant step in this direction, Minister Sridhar Babu revealed that the Telangana government is set to operationalize its AI Hub within the next couple of months — a dedicated facility that will offer structured upskilling and reskilling programs for soft-

ware engineers across the state.

Singling out PSR Techhub as an example worth emulating, Minister Sridhar Babu noted that the company — which has provided employment to over 250 associates in the course of its journey — represents how home-grown, mid-sized IT enterprises can make a meaningful contribution to the state's technology workforce. Congratulating Founder Mr. Ranga Rao and the entire PSR Techhub team on completing ten years, Minister Sridhar Babu commended the company's journey as a model of disciplined entrepreneurship and resilient leadership. Founded in 2016, PSR Techhub has navigated a highly competitive landscape — including the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic — to achieve a turnover of ₹120 Crores.

Responding directly to Minister Sridhar Babu's call to action, Director P. Namyutha made an emotional commitment on behalf of PSR Techhub. "Hon'ble Minister Sridhar Babu has shown us the way. We will train fresh engineering graduates. We will mentor them, walk with them, and help them find their footing in this industry — because someone once did that for us, and we have never forgotten it," she said, to resounding applause.

Director Namyutha announced that PSR Techhub is set to expand its presence globally, with clients already being established across the world. She shared that the company's workforce — today a family of over 250 dedicated associates — will grow to 1,000 employees within the next three years, she said.

Addl. CEO Telangana Conducted a Vedio conference



HYDERABAD

Today, as part of the upcoming Special Intensive Revision (SIR), Shri Dr. Vasam Venkateswar Reddy, IAS, Additional Chief Electoral Officer, Telangana, conducted a video conference from the CEO Telangana Office, Hyderabad, with 28 Assembly Constituency EROs and AEROs of six districts—Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Sangareddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Nizamabad, and Khammam—where the mapping of electors is below 50%.

During the session, preparedness for the upcoming Special Intensive Revision (SIR), electoral mapping, disposal of demographically similar entries (DSE), and pendency of Forms 6, 6A, 7, and 8 were reviewed. The Additional CEO instructed that all eligible

voters in the 2025 electoral roll should be mapped with the 2002 voter list. All the BLOs shall conduct door-to-door visits to collect voter details and complete the mapping process expeditiously.

He further instructed that, the assistance of Booth Level Agents (BLAs) should be utilised, and meetings should be held with Residential Welfare Associations (RWAs). Dead, multiple, and shifted voters should be identified, and necessary action should be taken as per the SOP. VVIP and VIP electors should be appropriately marked in the electoral roll.

The AEROs were instructed to expedite the mapping process as per the action plan and achieve the prescribed daily targets.

The Dy CEO, STNO, Project Manager, and concerned staff were present.

Telangana BJP celebrated victory

HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP today celebrated the BJP alliance's resounding victory in Assam, West Bengal, and Puducherry in the five-state election results announced today.

The BJP Telangana State Office was filled with a festive atmosphere and grand celebrations. Under the leadership of BJP State President N Ramchander Rao, leaders and party workers including women gathered in large numbers to distribute sweets and exchange greetings. Excited with party victory, party workers burst crackers and raised slogan in support of PM Narendra Modi.

Prominent figures participated in the celebrations including BJP Rajya Sabha MP D K Laxman, BJLP Leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy, MLC Anji Reddy, State Vice President Kasam Venkateswarlu and State Chief Spokesperson and Media Incharge N V Subhash, along with several senior leaders and activists. Earlier, in a significant boost to the party's professional wing, several medical professionals joined the BJP today under the auspices of the BJP Doctors' Cell. BJP State President Ramchander Rao formally welcomed the new members by draping them with the party shawl.

Speaking to media on the occasion, Rao said with the joining of minority brothers and sisters from Kukatpally it proves that

walls of misinformation were crumbling as some parties deliberately spread false propaganda that BJP is against specific religions to keep minorities away. He clarified that BJP is not against any religion or community.

He said "PM Narendra Modi always working on the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' and his government ensures that welfare schemes reach every individual, regardless of their background."

BJP state chief alleged that leaders like Asaduddin and Akbaruddin Owaisi of MIM has created hurdles because they want to maintain their own monopoly and prevent women from gaining political power. However, the women of India have expressed their faith in Modi through recent election results, he asserted. Rao said the assembly elections clearly shows that people have rejected separatist and destructive politics of the INDI Alliance who tried to divide the country with 'North vs South' rhetoric.

The people of Telangana are watching the results. They are ready to teach the Congress and the INDI Alliance a lesson in the upcoming elections, he said and urged people to make success of proposed visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by attending public meeting in large number on May 10 at Secunderabad Parade Ground who is visiting Hyderabad for the first time since becoming Prime Minister for the third term.

Kavitha's First Step from Palamuru

- TRS chief to raise voice against injustice done to Telangana over Krishna waters
- Public meeting for Palamuru-Rangareddy project on the 8th at Chowdari Gudem
- Poster unveiled by Telangana Rakshana Sena leaders

HYDERABAD

After founding the Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) party, its chief and movement leader Kalvakuntla Kavitha will take her first political step from the Palamuru region. As she had announced that she would move forward after seeking the blessings of Goddess Jogulamba following the party's formation, Kavitha is set to launch her agitation for the rightful share of Krishna waters from the joint Mahabubnagar district on the 8th of this month.

On the morning of the 8th, Kavitha will visit Goddess Jogulamba. On the same evening, she will attend and address a public meeting at Chowdari Gudem near the proposed KP Lakshmidivipalli reservoir under the Palamuru-Rangareddy project.



After founding the TRS party, she has given top priority to securing Telangana's rightful share of Krishna river waters. A "Palamuru-Rangareddy Project Sadhana Sabha" (achievement rally) will be held on the 8th at Chowdari Gudem. Kavitha has stated on several platforms that even after 12 years of Telangana becoming a separate state, the backwardness in utilization of Krishna waters is due to flawed policies of the ruling governments. She also announced that her group has a clear policy to efficiently utilize Krishna and Godavari waters and divert them to Telangana's fields.

In this context, she is moving to-

wards announcing an agitation plan for the rightful share of Krishna waters. She had earlier expressed anger during the "Janambata" program over the fact that even after 11 years since the Palamuru-Rangareddy project was first launched after the formation of Telangana, not even 50% of the works have been completed.

She is planning an agitation strategy to pressure both the central and state governments to secure speedy completion of the project and ensure its completion at the earliest. She is also preparing plans to divert every drop of water due to Telangana to its parched lands.



Poster launch of "Palamuru-Rangareddy Project Sadhana Sabha"

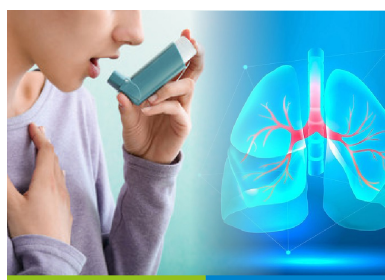
Kavitha has initiated a movement over the fact that even after 11 years, work has not begun on three packages of the Palamuru-Rangareddy project, including the KP Lakshmidivipalli reservoir which is meant to supply water to the Rangareddy district. A massive public meeting will be held on the 8th near Chowdari Gudem close to the KP Lakshmidivipalli reservoir.

At the Telangana Jagruthi office in Banjara Hills, senior leaders of Telangana Rakshana Sena unveiled the poster for the Palamuru-Rangareddy Project Sadhana Sabha. TRS leaders Naveen Achari, Gongalla Ranjith Kumar, Syed Ismail, Naresht Prajapati, Edurugatla Sampath Goud, Seema Ramesh, Bucchibabu, Mustafa, and others participated in the program.

Access to Anti-inflammatory Inhalers for everyone with Asthma - Still an Urgent Need

(On the occasion of "World Asthma Day" on 05 May)

Asthma is one of the commonest chronic non-communicable diseases (NCD) that affects over 260 million people and is responsible for over 4.5 lakh deaths annually around the globe. It is also the most common disease in children and adolescents, affecting 15% of young adolescents globally. The irony is that most of these deaths are preventable. Asthma attacks cause great distress for sufferers and their carers, and these attacks may result in hospitalisation and even death. In low-middle-income countries, lack of availability or high cost of inhaled medicines, especially inhaled corticosteroid-containing inhalers, are major contributors to the that 96% of global asthma deaths occur in these countries. India has the highest and growing burden of asthma in the



world in terms of deaths and disability-adjusted life years, and over 3.4 crores of people in India have asthma.

World Asthma Day-2026 Theme

World Asthma Day was first organised by Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) in 1998 and has grown each year to become one of the most important asthma events globally, with widespread awareness-raising activities. This day is observed annually on first Tuesday of

May month i.e., 05 May 2026. The GINA has chosen the World Asthma Day-2025 theme as "Access to anti-inflammatory inhalers for everyone with asthma — still an urgent need", to emphasize the need to ensure that people with asthma can access inhaled medications that are essential for both control of the disease and attacks.

Asthma Precautionary Measures and Medications

On this day, various global and local organisations step forward together to combat the major global NCD in children and adults. Asthma can be prevented by avoiding exposure to asthma triggers (air pollution, cold air, fragrances etc), allergens contact, and smoke from cigarettes/candles/incense/fireworks. The other important precautionary measures are staying away from sick people, away from chilled weather, keeping dust free sur-

roundings, taking vaccinations on time for various diseases, and taking asthma medications. The goal of this year's world asthma day include universal access to inhaled treatments, prevent morbidity and mortality, raise awareness and related education, advocate policy change, and empower patients and communities.

Let's bring awareness about asthma to at least save their lives, as this chronic disease is preventable. The poverty, lack of awareness, unhealthy environment, lack of proper nutritious food, medication gaps, limited public healthcare facilities are the main reasons of high prevalence of asthma cases and also even deaths. It is the duty of responsible civil society to bring basic awareness in their localities.

- Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy
Principal & Associate Professor (Rtd)
9949700037.



Mallikarjun Kharge vows people-centric governance to restore Kerala's glory

NEW DELHI: (MAY 4)

As the UDF sealed victory in the Kerala assembly polls, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday said "real welfare" and economic empowerment would begin in the state now. He thanked voters for electing the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) government, and said it is committed to restoring the lost glory of Kerala. "True welfare and real economic empowerment begins in Kerala now. On behalf of the Indian National Congress, I extend heartfelt gratitude to every voter of Kerala for placing their trust in Congress and the UDF," he said in a post on X.

vijay.. whistle.. victory

"I am Vijay..!"
Vijay, who created a sensation in Tamil Nadu politics with the 'whistle' symbol.

Vijay was born on June 22, 1974, in Chennai. His full name is Joseph Vijay Chandrasekar.

Vijay's father is S. A. Chandrasekar and his mother is Shobha Chandrasekar.

From cinema to politics, Vijay's journey has now taken a new turn.

TVK government in Tamil Nadu!

Trisha visits Vijay's home. Special wishes to "Thalapathy".

Vijay creates a sensation in Tamil Nadu election results.

Actress Trisha congratulates him.

Celebrations at Vijay's residence in Chennai.

Chennai, May 4: Like NTR and MGR, star hero Vijay has achieved a "super hit" in his very first election. In the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, Vijay's whistle symbol created



a storm. His party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), is leading in over 100 assembly seats on its own. It has become clear that Vijay is set to become the next Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Over the past few decades in South India, many film stars have entered politics, but the success rate has been quite low. After NTR, Vijay is the only star to achieve this level of success. Stars like Vijayakanth, Megastar Chiranjeevi, and Pawan Kalyan entered politics but did not achieve such success. In this context, Vijay's victory is being compared to the journeys of NTR and MGR, who became Chief Ministers right at

their political debut. Remarkable result in a short time

Vijay achieved extraordinary success in a very short period. He announced his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), on February 2, 2024. The party flag and anthem were unveiled on August 22, 2024. On October 27, 2024, Vijay revealed the party's ideology. The Election Commission officially allotted the "whistle" symbol to the party on January 22, 2026—just three months before the elections. Despite this short time, Vijay successfully took his party's symbol and agenda to people across all constituencies at remarkable speed.

He also announced on March 18 that the party would contest all 234 seats independently without forming alliances.

Following MGR's strategy

The DMK party was founded by C. N. Annadurai on September 17, 1949. After his death in 1969, Karunanidhi became Chief Minister. At that time, M. G. Ramachandran (MGR) was in the DMK and had significant popularity. Differences arose between Karunanidhi and MGR regarding governance and party leadership. MGR was not included in the cabinet in 1971. He began criticizing the government while still in the party. In 1972, he demanded dis-

closure of ministers' assets, leading to his expulsion from DMK on October 10, 1972. Within a week, on October 17, 1972, he founded the AIADMK party. In the 1977 Tamil Nadu elections, MGR's alliance won a decisive victory with 144 seats. Similarly, Vijay adopted a comparable strategy, positioning TVK as an alternative to both DMK and AIADMK—and the election results reflect that. Actress Trisha congratulated Vijay on his sensational election results. She visited his residence in Chennai to extend her wishes. On her birthday, she had earlier visited the Tirumala temple for darshan. Meanwhile, Vijay's family members celebrated his success with great joy, dancing and blowing whistles at their residence. Videos of the celebrations are currently going viral on social media.

Earlier, on her 43rd birthday, Trisha offered special prayers at the Tirumala Venkateswara Temple and shared the moments on social media. She was seen wearing simple floral attire and greeted devotees with a smile, attracting fans who gathered around her.

Midwife: Critical at Every Crisis

Midwives perform a vital service in providing care and support to women and their families while pregnant, throughout labour and during the period after a baby's birth. Midwifery is skilled, knowledgeable and compassionate care for childbearing women, newborn infants and families across the continuum through pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, birth, postpartum and early weeks of life. A midwife is a person who, having been regularly admitted to a midwifery educational program, duly recognised in the country, has successfully completed the prescribed course of study in midwifery and has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practice to practice midwifery.

International Day of the Midwife-2026 Theme:

The world is facing an unprecedented number of crises - natural disasters, conflicts, and ongoing impacts of climate change. These crises disproportionately affect women, girls, and gender diverse people, exposing them to heightened risks such as pregnancy complications and

gender-based violence, while also limiting their access to essential health services. In these changing times, midwives are critical. To appreciate and acknowledge the invaluable services to the well-being of both newborn and mother "International Day of the Midwife" on 05 May annually around the globe. The theme of 2026 International Day of the Midwife is "One Million More Midwife" indicating the importance of many more midwives in building healthy child and mother. They can provide up to 90% of sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, and adolescent health services, even in the most complex humanitarian settings. With minimum resources, midwives can provide safe births, antenatal, and postnatal care, contraception, comprehensive abortion care, and care for survivors of gender-based violence. They also support breastfeeding, ensure newborns receive safe, clean, and reliable nutrition. Midwives educate and prepare communities with the knowledge and tools they need to stay safe and healthy during emergencies.

Local Products to Become Global Brands

AMARAVATI, MAY 04:

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu emphasized that steps must be taken to transform products manufactured in Andhra Pradesh into global brands. He directed officials to ensure road, rail, and port connectivity for industrial clusters across the state. On Monday, the Chief Minister conducted a review on Product Perfection Clusters at the RTGS center in the AP Secretariat. As part of the review, discussions were held on the development of industrial clusters in the Visakhapatnam Economic Region, Amaravati Economic Region, and Tirupati Economic Region.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the development of industrial parks and chemical parks under the Central Government's "Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA)" scheme. Discussions included the establishment of a Rare

Logistics Connectivity for Industrial Clusters.. Reducing Transportation Costs is Key
Special Focus on Industry-Infrastructure-Tourism
CM Chandrababu Naidu Reviews Product Perfection Clusters in AP



Earth Mineral Park in 2026-27, the East Coast Industrial Corridor, a container manufacturing cluster, and the development of 175 MSME parks cluster-wise.

The Chief Minister suggested that along with product perfection in industrial parks, logistics integration should also be ensured. Infrastructure such as water, electricity, cold chain, and warehousing must be connected to these

logistics parks. He highlighted that reducing transportation costs would bring significant benefits.

The Chief Minister suggested that logistics integration mapping should be carried out to ensure rail, road, and port connectivity to industrial clusters.

Development of Industrial Townships

The Chief Minister stated

that locally manufactured products can reach global standards only with improved quality. He emphasized the need to ensure access to local, regional, national, and international markets. He directed that MSME products across the state should be encouraged to meet international standards. He also suggested forming Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) within industrial clusters to benefit farmers. Under the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA) scheme, he proposed setting up chemical manufacturing parks in different regions of the state. He instructed that development plans should follow an integrated approach combining industry, infrastructure, and tourism. He said that establishing a mega industrial

park in every district would generate large-scale employment opportunities for local youth. He also directed that industrial townships should be developed near every industrial cluster. Through the "One Family - One Entrepreneur" program, he stressed that Andhra Pradesh should become a leader in establishing MSMEs. He highlighted the need for skill development aligned with current industrial requirements and suggested introducing hybrid-mode courses in universities to enhance skill development.

Industries Minister T.G. Bharath, Chief Secretary Sai Prasad, and senior officials from industries, investments, infrastructure, forest, food processing, and RTGS departments attended the review meeting.

Commission Probes Social and Economic Status of BCs

Petitions received in the erstwhile East Godavari district
Commission Chairman Rajeev Ranjan Mishra

RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, MAY 4:

A Dedicated Commission appointed by the government to conduct a comprehensive study on the determination of reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) in rural and urban local bodies across the state held a public hearing on Monday at the R&B Guest House in Rajamahendravaram. At the meeting chaired by Commission Chairman Rajeev Ranjan Mishra, key information was collected from district officials. Speaking on the occasion, Rajeev Ranjan Mishra clarified that while determining BC reservations, not just caste enumeration but also social and

economic backwardness will be considered as key criteria. He stated that reservations will be decided by taking into account population proportions and regional conditions. Along with Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop, Municipal Commissioner Rahul Meena, Assistant Collector Kshitij Aditya Sharma, and Additional Secretary D. Chandrasekar Rao, the Commission Chairman reviewed matters with district officials from various departments. Officials were directed to submit reports on details of sarpanch posts from previous elections, seats allocated to BCs, and the number of BC candidates who won. They were also instructed to provide details of

surveys conducted so far on the social and economic conditions of BCs. The Commission received petitions from representatives of various caste associations and stated that reservations would be finalized by considering the population ratio of BCs in each constituency. Chairman Rajeev Ranjan Mishra emphasized that the Commission's objective is to ensure that government benefits effectively reach the Backward Classes. He added that all petitions received during the public hearing will be thoroughly examined and a report will be submitted to the government. BC Welfare Officer B. Shashank and other district officials participated in the program.

The manifest festival of Lord Shri Chitrugupta celebrated in Noida

S. N. VERMA

The manifest festival of Lord Shri Chitrugupta was organised by Kayastha Sabha Gautam Budh Nagar in the auditorium of Noida Entrepreneur Association till late evening on May 3. The event started with the worship of Lord Shri Chitrugupta with Archana

and Aarti. The chief guest of the event was Yogendra Narayan and the special guest was Sunil Nigam Advocate, President Akhil Bharatiya Kayastha Mahasabha. More than 120 members of Kayastha Sabha Gautam Buddha Nagar were present in the meeting. It is noteworthy that the manifestation of Lord

Chitrugupta ji is celebrated with great joy and gayety by Chitra Sabha. Almost all the members of the families present a program of very beautiful songs, dance performances have been given by small children and children, young and elderly, all have given their own performances in making this program entertaining. RN

Srivastava, Chairman of Kayastha Sabha, while welcoming the chief guest and the distinguished guest, told about the achievements of Kayastha Sabha Gautam Buddha Nagar. He also said that it has been decided to help in the education of the children of the weaker section. The chief guest, Yogendra Narayan, former

general secretary of the Rajya Sabha, while praising the Kayastha Sabha Gautam Buddha Nagar, said that by worshipping Lord Shri Chitrugupta ji, continuous intelligence is strengthened, the paths of progress open and the pride of the Kayastha society in the society becomes permanent. He said that the contribution of the

Kayastha community in India has been incomparable and commendable and the participation of the Kayastha families in the administration of India has always been remarkable. Kayastha Sabha gave good wishes and blessings to Gautam Buddha Nagar. Sunil Kumar Nigam also gave a message to the people of the whole coun-

try to move forward with a resolution by making the All India Kayastha Mahasabha more powerful that all of us should be strong with mind, body and in mind, so that we can be more and more useful for the society.

Along with Yogendra Narayan, his wife Mrs. Neena Mathur ji was also present.

Udhayanidhi Stalin wins Chepauk-Tiruvallikeni seat

Chennai: Since the DMK has emerged as the second-largest party in the 17th Tamil Nadu Assembly, and his father and DMK president, MK Stalin, has been defeated in the Kolathur constituency, Udhayanidhi Stalin is likely to be the next Leader of the Opposition. So, eventually, it will be TVK president C Joseph Vijay Vs DMK Youth wing secretary Udhayanidhi Stalin in Tamil Nadu politics in the coming days!

End of Communist Rule in the Country with LDF Defeat

KOCHI, MAY 4:

With the defeat of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala, the era of Communist rule in India has come to an end. Left parties, which had remained in power in one form or another across the country for decades, have now lost even their last stronghold. The CPI(M)-led LDF had been in power in Kerala for the past 52 years. However, in this Assembly election, it suffered a crushing defeat. As a result, for the first time in 49 years, Communist parties are not in power in any state. This clearly indicates a difficult period for Communists in Indian politics.

History of Communists in India

Communist ideology in India began in the 1920s. The Communist Party of India (CPI) was officially formed in 1925. Inspired by the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, the Communist Party played a key role in anti-colonial struggles. However, due to bans and suppression by

British rulers, Communists had to operate underground. After India's independence, differences emerged between the ideologies of China and the Soviet Union (then Russia). In addition, internal disagreements over participation in parliamentary democracy led to a split in the party in 1964. This resulted in the formation of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)].

Golden Era of Left Parties

Kerala: The world's first democratically elected Communist government was formed in Kerala in 1957 under E.M.S. Namboodiripad. Since then, Left parties have maintained significant influence in the state. Although the UDF ruled intermittently, the LDF returned to power in 2016 and retained it in 2021. However, despite hopes of a third consecutive victory, it suffered defeat.

West Bengal: From 1977 to 2011, the Left Front ruled West Bengal for 34 years. It



implemented land reforms and strengthened local governance systems. However, lack of industrial growth and controversies like Singur and Nandigram led to widespread criticism. In 2011, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) under Mamata Banerjee defeated the Communists and came to power, ending the Left era in Bengal. TMC has continued to rule for the past 15 years. In 2026, the BJP came to power in the state, but Communists failed to

make any impact. Tripura: In Tripura, too, Left rule continued for over 25 years. However, in the 2018 Assembly elections, the BJP defeated the Communists, ending their rule. In states like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha, Communists once had some influence, but it gradually declined over time. Political analysts say Communists have failed to adapt to changing times and continue to cling to outdated ideologies. This, they

argue, is a major reason for their decline. Even though Communist countries like China and Vietnam adopted market reforms, Indian Left parties remained tied to traditional Marxist principles. They strongly oppose economic liberalization, privatization, and globalization, which are essential in today's world. As a result, they have drifted away from development-oriented voters. Initially, Communists successfully implemented land reforms,

but later were associated with nepotism, violence, and economic failures, alienating sections of the public. Urbanization and youth migration have increased, and public priorities have shifted from class struggle to jobs, infrastructure, and development. Communists failed to adapt to these changes and often opposed them, leading to further decline. The rise of regional parties also weakened their vote base.

Will They Survive?

In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, CPI(M) won only 4 seats and CPI only 2 seats. Now, with the loss of power in Kerala, there is no state in India ruled by the Left. Although the Pinarayi Vijayan government focused on welfare schemes, education, and healthcare, issues such as unemployment, economic difficulties, and anti-incumbency after ten years of rule affected them. Thus, with the LDF's defeat, there is now no Communist-led

government in India. Old ideological rigidity, internal conflicts, leadership issues, and lack of young leadership are major challenges facing Left parties. At the same time, most current Communist leaders are elderly, and there is a clear lack of youth leadership. However, at the national level, Communist parties still play an important intellectual role in promoting secularism and fighting economic inequality. In that sense, there is arguably no alternative to them in ideological terms. But whether they can remain politically relevant is the question. Many welfare policies once promoted by Communists have now been adopted by other parties. Meanwhile, parties like the BJP and several regional parties are advancing with nationalism and development agendas. In this context, the key question remains: Will Communist parties survive politically, or will they fade into history?

Crores fraud in Rajasthan health scheme; doctor, lab operator held

JAIPUR: (May 4) The Special Operations Group (SOG) has unearthed a major fraud in the Rajasthan Government Health Scheme, involving doctors and a lab operator allegedly causing financial losses worth crores to the state exchequer, police said on Monday. Additional Director General of Police (SOG) Vishal Bansal said the irregularities came to light during a probe into the implementation of the RGHS, a flagship scheme aimed at providing free and accessible healthcare services to the general public and government employees. According to officials, the fraud was carried out through a nexus between certain doctors and laboratory operators, who allegedly generated fake prescriptions and diagnostic reports to claim reimbursements from the state government.

EDITORIAL

NAVIGATING THE INTERSECTION OF
JUDICIAL DISCRETION,
CLINICAL SAFETY, AND
REPRODUCTIVE AUTONOMY

The fundamental principle that freedom is inseparable from significant responsibility dictates that any decision arising from such liberty must be anchored in a comprehensive understanding of its potential repercussions. In its apparent effort to vest absolute reproductive autonomy within the individual woman, the Supreme Court may have inadvertently marginalized the indispensable role of rigorous clinical review in high-stakes medical situations. The Court recently directed the Union government to pursue legislative amendments to the existing abortion framework, specifically seeking to eliminate the statutory time constraints on the medical termination of unwanted pregnancies for minor survivors of sexual assault. This significant judicial observation was articulated by a Bench comprising the Chief Justice of India, Surya Kant, and Justice Joymalya Bagchi, while they were declining to entertain a petition challenging a prior judicial intervention that permitted a 15-year-old rape survivor to terminate her pregnancy during the 30th week of gestation.

In the foundational judgment of this case—which reached the court via a curative appeal—the presiding judges emphasized that the right of a minor to discontinue a pregnancy resulting from an illegitimate act must be prioritized to preserve a woman's fundamental right to reproductive self-determination. Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan highlighted that the minor in question had demonstrated a resolute and unwavering refusal to carry the pregnancy to term. The Bench asserted that the judiciary lacks the authority to coerce any individual, particularly a minor, into completing a pregnancy against her explicit intentions. Furthermore, the justices cautioned that if legitimate legal avenues for termination are obstructed, desperate individuals might resort to the perilous services of unqualified practitioners, thereby placing their lives in immediate jeopardy.

Conversely, legal counsel representing the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) remained steadfast in their opposition to the late-stage termination to justify their stance. They argued that performing a termination at such an advanced stage—specifically 30 weeks—would be inherently detrimental to the physical well-being of the adolescent mother. Under the current legislative framework in India, the termination of pregnancy is generally permitted only up to the 24-week gestational threshold.

The crux of this entire legal and ethical debate revolves around gestational age. As the primary metric for tracking the progression of a pregnancy, gestational age is a vital determinant in evaluating whether a surgical or medical abortion remains clinically safe for the patient. The majority of nations that have codified legal abortion maintain a restrictive window of 24 weeks, largely due to the severe physiological complications and increased mortality risks that threaten the mother beyond that point. However, the cornerstone of any legalized abortion regime is a professional medical assessment of the involved risks.

This raises a critical question: Can a minor child or her guardians, possessing only lay knowledge, truly conduct a nuanced and studied evaluation of such complex medical hazards? While the minor's desire to be liberated from a forced and traumatic pregnancy is undeniably valid, it remains the collective responsibility of her family and the legal-medical system to provide her with safe, viable options within the established permissible timeframe. Arriving at an uninformed decision at this advanced stage of gestation could prove tragically counterproductive; while it aims to honor the right to bodily autonomy, it simultaneously risks compromising the very life and health that the law seeks to protect.

OPEN FORUM

Akhilesh May Face a
Mamata-Like Shock in Uttar Pradesh

“Elections in Uttar Pradesh may now hinge less on divisions and more on who can unite the largest social base.”
“From booth strategy to broader identity appeal, the next UP election will test whether old formulas still work.”

The storm of the BJP's impressive victory in West Bengal has shaken the entire country. The people there, especially the Hindu community, united to give a strong response to Mamata Banerjee's politics of appeasement. It would not be wrong to say that just as Muslim voters often consolidate in favor of parties practicing appeasement politics to defeat the BJP, now Hindu voters are also uniting and voting in favor of the BJP. The big question now is whether this trend will repeat itself in Uttar Pradesh as well. Will a united Hindu vote in UP halt Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav's politics of Muslim appeasement? Will caste divisions among Hindus lose their influence? And will strategist Sunil Bansal, who is credited with electoral success, once again take charge in UP and lead the BJP to victory as he did in 2017?

The politics of Uttar Pradesh has always been complex, largely driven by caste equations. The Samajwadi Party has long focused on strengthening its Muslim vote bank. Akhilesh Yadav has taken several steps to attract the Muslim community distributing tickets to Muslim candidates in panchayat elections, introducing special schemes in their areas in the name of development, and making controversial statements during Hindu festivals. However, the example of West Bengal is now before everyone. There too, Mamata Banerjee relied on a similar formula. Restrictions on Ram Navami processions, actions around Hindu temples, and perceived benefits extended to Muslims in exchange for votes led to a backlash among Hindus. The result is evident BJP raised the banner of Hindu unity and achieved significant success. After the West Bengal results, discussions among Hindu voters in Uttar Pradesh about unity have intensified. Social media debates are heating up, political messaging is echoing in religious gatherings, and old caste-based divisions seem to be weakening.

Strategist Sunil Bansal played an important role in BJP's success in West Bengal by emphasizing Hindu unity. He implemented a micro-level strategy to unite Hindu society, trained workers at the grassroots, engaged with religious leaders, and ran awareness campaigns against appeasement politics. In the 2017 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, he demonstrated similar strategic skill. The BJP broke caste barriers and brought together Brahmins, Thakurs, Dalits, and OBCs on one platform, defeating Akhilesh Ya-

the Ram Temple construction, the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, and the development of Ayodhya have contributed to this consolidation. Social media has increased awareness. Leaders across the Hindu spectrum are speaking out against appeasement. The Samajwadi Party cannot rely solely on Muslim votes anymore. It has other possible strategies. One is to attract youth voters, as it did earlier with schemes like laptop distribution. It can also focus on unemployment, farm loan waivers, and rural devel-

opment. Another path is alliance politics reviving ties with BSP or engaging smaller caste groups. However, breaking into the Hindu OBC vote will be the biggest challenge. Communities like Kurmi, Maurya, and Nishad have not been strongly aligned with SP. If Akhilesh offers targeted policies or reservations, he may gain some traction. A third approach is focusing on development if SP makes strong promises regarding infrastructure and urbanization, it may appeal to urban Hindu voters. But all of this would require moving beyond appeasement politics.

Amid all this, the reality is that the political winds in Uttar Pradesh appear to be shifting. West Bengal has signaled that appeasement pol-



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AJAY KUMAR
Senior Journalist,
Lucknow (U.P.)



“BREATH IS LIFE FOR EVERY LIVING BEING”

Breath is a continuous life process,
A flow that fills us with faith,
A signal that conveys awareness,
Between humans, breath itself is trust,
A conscious act that grants life.

Like a leaping waterfall,
Crossing all barriers...
It searches for pathways,
If silence is observed... it becomes pure breath...
Always renewing freshness,
An unceasing process,
Resting warmly in many eastern doorways,
In the folds of love,
It preserves the lifeline upon the forehead.
Breathing begins in the mother's womb itself!..

Touching all layers and spaces,
It keeps moving forward,
Heights... depths... pressures...
It illuminates them with faith,
It frolics like an infant, It crawls with affection!..

Breath is an intimate touch,
A conscious memory it provides,
No matter how far, it reaches near instantly...
Always staying by our side,
From the belly of air, It gently finds its way to us!..
It holds, nurtures, and sustains human life...
In every living being on earth,
Breath exists, A natural process,
Invisible yet perceptible, Unseen, yet sustaining life!..

If breath ceases,
A human falls into eternal sleep.
It releases the lonely mental ghosts,
With gentle greetings, it sustains life,
Correcting deep pressures and pains,
It travels through hidden layers,
Filling streams of light,
Bringing complete life-giving air,
Moving within, with restraint,
Circling around,
Resonating through every nerve!..

If breath falls silent,
If silence stands between two people,
If that silence loses its rhythm,
When memory unfolds toward death,
Within just a few steps of distance,
Moment by moment, every instant...
Breath is the address of endless joy,
Giving peace and filling faith,
As breath, it pours life into every being...



...: Ambati Narayana ...
Nirmal

Not “Rented Children,” but a
Renaissance of Belonging

When the evening of life descends into its full expanse, what a person needs most is not medicine or wealth, but the presence and warmth of loved ones. This is the phase when one longs to share a lifetime of memories, experiences, and emotions. Yet, the harsh reality today is that many elderly people have become strangers in their own homes. Echoing silences in large houses, deserted courtyards, and eyes fixed on the door in endless—together compose a tragedy that is not merely personal but indicative of a deeper social disintegration. Globalization, the compulsions of livelihood, and the pursuit of a better future have scattered the younger generation across countries and continents. This is understandable. However, the greatest price being paid in this process is the erosion of familial sensitivity. Many children settle abroad and become so absorbed in their lives that their parents are reduced to occasional phone calls and formal messages. Some even live in the same city but fail to visit their parents for years. This is not just a problem of physical distance, but a crisis of emotional disconnect.

Amid this atmosphere of insensitivity, a disturbing new trend has emerged—“rented children.” Some companies and institutions now provide young people who spend time with the elderly, talk to them, accompany them on walks, and attempt to ease their loneliness. At first glance, this arrangement may seem comforting. But on deeper reflection, it reveals a profound failure of our social structure. It raises troubling questions: Will affection and belonging now be packaged into contracts? Will the warmth of relationships be available for a fee? This phenomenon is not just ironic—it is a serious social warning of how far we have drifted from our core values. The concept of “rented children” stands as a glaring contradiction and tragedy of modern social organization. It is also true that not all families are the same. Sometimes, children face genuine constraints that prevent them from liv-



ing with their parents. Likewise, some elderly individuals may struggle to adjust with the younger generation due to differences in temperament or outlook. However, beyond these exceptions, the broader trend reflects an increasingly self-centered lifestyle and a decline in emotional depth. Even more concerning is the fact that such services are accessible only to those elderly individuals who have sufficient financial resources. Middle-class and lower-income seniors, whose sources of income have diminished, cannot afford such arrangements. The situation is particularly difficult for retirees from the private sector, where pensions are minimal and medical expenses continue to rise. Their lives often oscillate between financial insecurity and emotional distress. Undeniably, society today is moving rapidly toward consumerism and materialism, where the warmth of relationships and emotional depth are steadily fading. Life's priorities have shifted away from human values toward consumption, competition, and economic success. As a result, relationships are increasingly measured by utility and self-interest. The family, once a center of affection, support, and values, now appears fragmented under the pressures of ambition and busyness. In this changing environment, the elderly are the most neglected. They neither participate in the race of the market nor fulfill the material expectations of the younger generation. Their experience, sacrifice, and affection are often seen as burdens rather than assets. The break-

down of joint families and the rise of nuclear families have further weakened their social and emotional security. The digital world has made communication more superficial, replacing intimacy with formality. Consequently, loneliness, insecurity, and neglect among the elderly are increasing—clear indicators of a moral decline in society. In developed countries, strong systems of social security exist for the elderly. Governments take responsibility for healthcare, pensions, and caregiving. In contrast, in India—where the family was once considered the greatest source of security—that very structure is weakening. Governments collect taxes, yet adequate welfare systems for the elderly remain insufficient.

In such circumstances, solutions cannot remain limited to emotional appeals. A multidimensional and constructive approach is essential. First and foremost, there must be a serious effort to revive family values. From early childhood, children must be nurtured with a sense of duty, respect, and sensitivity toward their parents. Education should not merely be a means of employment, but a carrier of life values—this is the need of the hour. A second important step is the integration of old-age homes and orphanages. This is not just an imaginative idea, but a deeply practical and humane solution. If elderly individuals and orphaned children are housed within the same environment, both can benefit. Children would receive affection and guidance, while the elderly would experience companionship and a

renewed sense of belonging. This bond would not be artificial, but natural and heartfelt. Governments must take policy initiatives in this direction.

At the same time, there is a need to establish well-equipped, dignified, and humane old-age homes—not merely as care facilities, but as centers of social and cultural engagement. Private institutions should also be encouraged, but with safeguards to ensure that service remains rooted in compassion rather than becoming purely commercial. The elderly themselves must also accept that this stage of life demands self-reliance and inner strength. Practices such as yoga, meditation, pranayama, spiritual gatherings, and social participation can bring positivity to their lives. Digital literacy can also help them stay connected with their children and society.

In essence, a society is not defined solely by economic progress, but by the richness of its compassion. If we fail to provide our elderly with respect, affection, and security, all our achievements remain incomplete. The concept of “rented children” compels us to reflect—are we turning relationships into commodities, weighing them on the scales of materialism? This is a moment for introspection—for looking within and deciding what kind of society we wish to build. If we truly envision a healthy, sensitive, and balanced society, we must rekindle the lamp of belonging, so that every elderly person can live the twilight of life with dignity, warmth, and peace.



DR BURRA
MADHUSUDHAN
REDDY
9949700037



Jitendra Singh resigns as Cong's Assam in-charge after poll rout

NEW DELHI: (May 4) Senior Congress leader Jitendra Singh on Monday tendered his resignation as the party's general secretary in-charge of Assam with immediate effect, taking responsibility for the outcome of the assembly polls in which his party suffered a crushing defeat. In his resignation letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Singh said it is in the best interest of the organization that he steps aside to allow for fresh leadership and renewed direction. "I write to tender my resignation as General Secretary In-Charge of Assam with immediate effect. The recent election results have been deeply disappointing, and I take full responsibility for my role in the outcome," Singh said.

"Bengal Tiger BJP"

KOLKATA, MAY 4:

The BJP achieved a landslide victory in the elections. The key issues that shaped the polls were corruption allegations, women's safety, consolidation of the Hindu vote bank, and the implementation of CAA. The saffron brigade gained strength due to the weakness of the Left and Congress. A historic turning point has taken place in West Bengal politics. Ending the 15-year dominance of the Trinamool Congress (TMC), the BJP registered a massive victory. The TMC, which came to power with the slogan "Maa, Maati, Manush," lost the trust of the people and faced defeat. Having missed an opportunity in 2021, the BJP capitalized on it in 2026 with a huge majority, marking a new chapter in Bengal politics.

Corruption allegations against TMC leaders at all levels

The main reason behind the BJP wave in Bengal was growing public anger against the TMC government. Allegations of corruption from grassroots to top leadership



during 15 years of rule created strong dissatisfaction among people. In particular, the School Service Commission teacher recruitment scam, ration distribution irregularities, and illegal coal and sand mining allegations damaged the government's reputation. The recovery of large amounts of cash from the residences of ministers and key leaders caused anger among the middle class and educated sections. The BJP successfully redirected this anti-incumbency sentiment in its favor. **Crimes against women in Sandeshkhali involving TMC local leaders**

Women who earlier supported Mamata Banerjee distanced themselves this time.

Incidents in Sandeshkhali involving alleged atrocities and land grabbing by TMC local leaders became a national issue. Similarly, the rape and murder of a woman doctor at R.G. Kar Hospital in Kolkata and the government's response drew widespread criticism. The perception that the government failed to ensure women's safety became stronger. Despite welfare schemes like "Lakshmi Bhandar," this dissatisfaction pushed women voters towards the BJP.

Consolidation of Hindu vote bank benefits BJP

Another major factor was the consolidation of the Hindu vote bank. BJP's campaign that the development accel-

erates when the same party governs both Centre and State. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speeches comparing BJP-ruled states with Bengal influenced voters significantly. **BJP's more strategic approach than before**

This time, BJP's leadership acted far more strategically. Opposition leader Suwendu Adhikari strengthened the party at the grassroots level. Having once been a key TMC leader, he understood its weaknesses and framed strategies accordingly. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the national leadership closely monitored booth-level operations, energizing the party machinery. Prime Minister Modi actively participated in campaigning, boosting morale among cadres. His emotional speeches targeting Mamata Banerjee further energized BJP workers. Overall, TMC failed to correctly assess public anger. While corruption scandals and concerns over women's safety contributed to its defeat, BJP's strong ground-level strategy delivered it a historic victory.



NE Railway is committed to providing better passenger facilities

GORAKHPUR, MAY 4, 2026:

The Northeast Railway is committed to providing better passenger facilities and ensuring smooth travel for its passengers. In this regard, the Additional General Manager of Northeast Railway, Mr. Vinod Kumar Shukla, conducted a comprehensive inspection of passenger amenities available at Platform No. 9 of Gorakhpur Junction station on May 4, 2026. On this occasion, Divisional Railway Manager, Lucknow, Mr. Gaurav Agrawal; Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Operations), Lucknow, Mrs. Neetu; along with senior officers, supervisors, and staff from headquarters and the Lucknow division were present. During the inspection, Mr. Shukla paid special attention to drainage cleanliness and environmental protection. During the inspection, Mr. Shukla thoroughly reviewed passenger facilities available at Platforms No. 1 and 9 of Gorakhpur Junction station. He examined amenities such as cabways, parking areas, drinking water facilities, and pay-and-use toilets. He instructed the concerned to complete the projects on time with full quality. He directed officials to ensure that passengers do not face any inconvenience during redevelopment work and that their movement remains smooth.

to the Gorakhpur store depot, carry out plantation there, and protect the plants with tree guards. He also suggested beautifying the area by painting large trees. To facilitate smooth passenger movement, he directed that the barricading for vehicle entry at the eastern and western ends of Platform No. 9 be brought closer to the platform, and that sheds be installed in the parking area designated for railway staff vehicles. He also instructed that the number of water booths on the platforms be increased. At the end of the inspection, he checked the cleanliness of the pay-and-use toilets at Platform No. 1. He emphasized maintaining cleanliness in the station premises so that passengers have a pleasant experience. He also stressed maintaining proper cleanliness of the station and its drainage systems. During the inspection, the Additional General Manager also reviewed the ongoing construction projects at Gorakhpur Junction station and instructed the concerned to complete the projects on time with full quality. He directed officials to ensure that passengers do not face any inconvenience during redevelopment work and that their movement remains smooth.

Senior journalist Nepram Krishnamohan Singh gets Thiyam Premkumar Award

BY:ASEM BHAKTA SINGH

Imphal, 3 May 2026: Senior journalist Nepram Krishnamohan Singh was conferred the Thiyam Premkumar Award at a function organised by Sahitya Thoupang Lup to mark World Press Freedom Day at the Manipur Press Club, Imphal today. The programme was chaired by Asem Bhakta Singh, President of the All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU), as Chief Guest. Tongbram Amarjit Singh, President of Sahitya Thoupang Lup, presided over the function. Rahul Hidang delivered the introductory remarks on the occasion. Receiving the award, Nepram Krishnamohan Singh shared his experiences from his journalistic career and expressed happiness at being honoured. He became very emotional today as he fondly recalled his memories with journalist Thiyam Premkumar from the 1980s, speaking of their shared assignments, dedication to the profession, and Premkumar's commitment to truth and fearless reporting. He reflected on the challenges faced by journalists and the need to uphold truth and professional ethics. In his presidential address, Tongbram Amarjit Singh spoke on the significance of World Press Freedom Day and its impact on working journalists and the pub-

lic. He said that a free press is essential for an informed society and that journalists must serve as watchdogs of democracy while remaining sensitive to the social fabric, especially in conflict-affected states like Manipur. He added that press freedom carries the responsibility of factual, balanced, and ethical reporting, and urged media persons to guard against misinformation that can deepen divides. He also called for greater public understanding of the pressures faced by working journalists. In his address, Chief Guest Asem Bhakta Singh highlighted the role of the press in a democracy and urged journalists to maintain credibility, responsibility, and courage in their reporting. He congratulated the awardee for his contribution to journalism in the state. He further stated that the Thiyam Premkumar Award should continue to be conferred only on senior journalists in recognition of their lifetime service, while younger journalists should apply for other state-level awards and competitions. The Thiyam Premkumar Award is instituted by Sahitya Thoupang Lup in memory of journalist Thiyam Premkumar to recognise senior journalists for their service to the profession. The function was attended by senior journalists, editors, writers, and members of the media fraternity.

"A New Era in Tamil Politics"

CHENNAI, MAY 4:

A new era has begun in Tamil Nadu politics. After five decades of power alternating between DMK and AIADMK, authority has now shifted into the hands of a new leader. Actor Vijay, popularly known as "Thalapathy," founded the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), which registered a historic victory in its very first election.

Firstly, there has been growing public dissatisfaction with the two-party system that has dominated Tamil Nadu politics for decades. Since 1967, either DMK or AIADMK has ruled the state, and issues like corruption allegations and dynastic politics have created voter fatigue. In this situation, people looking for a strong third alternative saw TVK as a ray of hope.

Ideological clarity also played a role

Vijay's personal decisions also played a crucial role in the party's success. He gave up lucrative film projects worth crores at the peak of his career, which increased public trust. His message that he is committed to public service strongly attracted voters. Ideologically too, TVK presented a clear direction. It promoted secular values, social justice, and equality, staying away from religious and caste divisions. It attempted to combine the ideas of Periyar, Kamarajar, and Ambedkar to appeal to all sections of society.

Massive fan base as a key strength

The 'Dravidian' parties shaken by Vijay's tsunami
Voters end decades-old two-party dominance.. Vijay leaves cinema and enters politics
Youth, women, and digital cadre play a key role in victory
Clear ideology and clean-image candidates are major plus points



Vijay's massive fan base became a major electoral strength. His long-running welfare activities through Vijay Makkal Iyakkam gradually transformed into a strong political cadre. Activities such as blood donation camps, educational support, and disaster relief built public trust.

Youth support played a decisive role. First-time voters overwhelmingly supported Vijay, attracted by promises of employment opportunities, education reforms, and transparent examination systems. Special welfare schemes for women also shifted silent votes toward TVK.

Digital campaign and personality appeal

Digital campaigning also strongly benefited the party. Vijay fans led social media campaigns, spreading party ideology and manifesto through WhatsApp, Instagram, and YouTube, even reaching rural areas.

Vijay's personality attracted voters—his simple lifestyle, closeness with the public, and personal engagement with fans made him popular. Being affectionately called "Anna" translated into votes.

AIADMK's internal divisions and lack of strong leadership also helped TVK, as a significant portion of its vote base shifted to Vijay. Anti-incumbency against DMK further benefited TVK.

TVK also stood out in its manifesto by focusing on district-specific local issues rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. It proposed solutions for farmers, fishermen, and workers. The party also made innovative candidate selections, giving tickets to educated professionals like doctors, lawyers, and social activists with clean reputations, which increased public confidence.

Election results and political impact

Tamil Nadu voters gave a major surprise to actor Vijay. Defying exit poll predictions, TVK is showing strong dominance in the Assembly elections. The party is leading in

more than 90 seats, overtaking DMK and AIADMK.

Vijay is reportedly leading in both constituencies he contested—Perambur and Tiruchy East.

DMK initially led in postal ballots, but TVK surged ahead during EVM counting. AIADMK is in second place, while DMK has slipped to third.

Celebrations and security
TVK workers are celebrating widely, singing Vijay's "Whistle Podu" song and expressing joy on social media, claiming victory. Meanwhile, security has been tightened at Vijay's residence due to large gatherings of supporters and fans. Authorities are taking precautions to prevent crowd incidents.

A major political shift

Political analysts say Vijay's rise marks a turning point in Tamil Nadu politics. Even though TVK has not reached the majority mark of 118 seats, emerging as the single largest party is seen as a historic shift. In the 2021 elections, DMK won 159 seats, while AIADMK secured 75. Exit polls had predicted another DMK victory, but TVK has changed the equation.

DMK, once in power under Stalin, is now pushed to third place, causing deep concern within the party. Despite anti-incumbency, the results have shocked DMK leadership and its cadre.



NFR Improves Speed of Trains in Chaparmukh-Senchoa Section

Assam with New Bridge Construction

MALIGAON, 4 MAY, 2026:

The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has achieved a significant milestone in infrastructural upgradation with the successful commissioning of a new major bridge No. 7 on 3rd May 2026. The bridge has been constructed in the Chaparmukh-Senchoa section under Lumding Division alongside a permanent track diversion. The new bridge consists of a configuration of Prestressed Concrete Slab & Open Web Girder representing a substantial engineering upgrade, which will replace the existing old bridge at the location. The old bridge, originally a metre gauge structure later retained with strengthening, during the 1994 gauge conversion to broad gauge, had operational limitations and was subjected to a Permanent Speed Restriction (PSR) of 40 kmph. Recognizing the technical demand for modernization and enhanced safety, the division undertook the rebuilding work along with the construction of a permanent

diversion alignment to facilitate smoother and safer train movement in the section. The new bridge and diverted track were successfully connected to the existing running line at both ends through a well-coordinated cut-and-connection operation executed under a traffic block of approximately six hours. Despite the operational challenges, the work was completed efficiently and the section was commissioned for train movement on the same day, demonstrating high levels of planning, coordination and execution by the engineering and operating teams. With the commissioning of this upgraded infrastructure, the earlier speed restriction of 40 kmph has been eliminated, resulting in improved operational efficiency, enhanced safety and smoother train operations in the section. This accomplishment underscores NFR's continued commitment towards strengthening rail infrastructure and ensuring reliable services for passengers and freight movement in the zone.



Omar Abdullah: Next 6 months crucial for J&K growth

SRINAGAR: (May 4) Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said the coming six months represent the year's most productive period, with favourable weather conditions enabling execution of development works. Addressing the meeting at the Civil Secretariat, Abdullah described the occasion as a significant milestone, noting that this was the first full-fledged Darbar Move to Srinagar after a long gap. He acknowledged the logistical challenges involved but commended departments for successfully managing the transition.

NDA Retains Power in Puducherry

CHENNAI, MAY 4:

The NDA has taken control of the Union Territory of Puducherry. As predicted by exit polls, the All India N.R. Congress (AINRC), part of the NDA alliance, has emerged victorious. Out of the total 30 seats, it secured the magic number and formed the government for the second consecutive time. Meanwhile, the Congress-DMK alliance was restricted to second place.

The NDA entered the elections banking on Chief Minister Rangasamy's popularity and welfare schemes, which worked strongly in its favor. The public also showed clear support for the NDA alliance. The fact that the NDA is in power at the Centre turned out to be an added advantage for the BJP-led alliance. The "double-engine government" slogan was effectively communicated to the people and gained their trust. Seat-sharing within the NDA alliance—comprising AINRC, BJP, AIADMK, and

NDA Alliance Secures Victory for the Second Consecutive Time Rangasamy's Leadership and Welfare Schemes Worked in Favor INDIA Alliance Limited to Second Place



LJP—was carried out smoothly without internal conflicts, and this unity made the NDA's victory easier. The promises made during the campaign also attracted voters. These included water ATMs, Atal cantens, two free LPG cylinders for women, e-scooters for girls, and job reservations for locals. The alliance also promised to increase financial assistance

for homemakers who are not receiving any government support from ₹1,000 to ₹2,500. Additionally, they pledged to address long-pending demands of fishermen by including them in the backward classes list, which appealed to voters.

Rangasamy Played a Key Role in the Victory

The NDA's victory was not

just due to the alliance and welfare schemes; Chief Minister Rangasamy's leadership played a crucial role. His clean image made the victory easier. He enjoys strong public support and is known for his simple lifestyle, staying away from extravagance. He is unmarried and often travels on a bike. He gained popularity through initiatives such as providing breakfast (bread and milk) to students, increasing pensions for senior citizens, supporting farmers, and offering aid during disasters. He also shares a strong connection with rural voters. Rangasamy entered politics in 1990 and has served as a minister and four-time Chief Minister. With this victory, he is set to become Chief Minister for the fifth time. Surveys conducted during the elections indicated that 62–68% of voters preferred Rangasamy as Chief

Minister.

Weakness of the Congress-DMK Alliance

The Congress-DMK alliance faced disappointment once again, finishing in second place. Internal differences within the INDIA alliance worked against them and indirectly benefited the NDA. While the NDA had a strong leader like Rangasamy, the INDIA alliance lacked a leader of similar stature, which weakened their position. Veteran leader V. Narayanasamy, who had long been a key figure for Congress in Puducherry, did not contest in this election, which proved to be a major setback. Internal conflicts also contributed to the defeat. Additionally, the entry of Vijay's TVK party into the elections negatively impacted the INDIA alliance by splitting the anti-incumbency vote, weakening the Congress alliance's vote bank. As a result, the NDA alliance's victory in Puducherry became a smooth and easy one.

Could you share the news text or topic you want a short heading for?

LUCKNOW: (May 4) In a relief to power consumers, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided that all prepaid smart metres will now function as postpaid, enabling monthly billing with a 15-day payment window, officials said on Monday. The decision came

following directions from Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to simplify billing and ensure faster resolution of consumer grievances. Energy Minister A K Sharma said after a review meeting. "The billing cycle will remain similar to the earlier postpaid system.

IMO urges vessel near Strait of Hormuz to exercise 'maximum caution'

LONDON

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has said that vessels operating near the Strait of Hormuz should continue to exercise "maximum caution", following reports of a US operation to "guide" stranded ships out of the area.

In a written response to Xinhua news agency, an IMO spokesperson on Monday said: "We are aware of the reports but do not have further details. We continue to urge ships to practice maximum caution in the area."

US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that the United States would begin a transit facilitation operation on Monday to "guide" stranded ships through the Strait of Hormuz. Xinhua news agency reported.

In response, the Iranian military command warned on Monday that any foreign armed forces, particularly the US, would

be attacked if they attempted to approach or enter the strait.

The UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) confirmed on Monday that the US has established an enhanced security area south of the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Strait of Hormuz to support vessel transits.

However, it warned that the maritime security threat level in the area remains "critical" due to ongoing regional military activity.

Meanwhile, a fire broke out following an explosion on a Panama-flagged vessel operated by a major South Korean shipping company and stranded in the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, with authorities now working to verify whether an external attack caused the incident, South Korean Foreign Ministry officials said.

An explosion followed by a fire occurred on the vessel operated by HMM Company Limited at around 8:40 p.m. while it was an-

chored in waters near the United Arab Emirates (UAE) within the strait, according to the Ministry as quoted by Yonhap news agency. The vessel had 24 crew members on board -- six South Korean and 18 foreign nationals. No casualties have been reported so far, it added.

The cause of the explosion and fire, as well as the extent of the damage, is currently under investigation.

Iran-US conflict on brink of reigniting as Washington project

The conflict between Iran and the US was on the brink of reigniting as Washington's 'Project Freedom' to free ships stranded in the Strait of Hormuz set off attacks by both sides, with Tehran also striking neighbours.

US Central Command (CENTCOM) Chief, Admiral Brad Cooper, said on Monday that Iran sent a barrage of cruise missiles



and drones at ships in the Strait and the US Navy retaliated by shooting them down. He added that six Iranian speedboats that threatened ships were taken out.

But beyond the Strait, Iran appears to have resumed attacks on its neighbours. The United

Arab Emirates reported that its Fujairah Oil Industry Zone was attacked by Iranian drones and its Defence Ministry said it was fending off drones and missiles.

Oman's new agency, ONA, reported that a housing complex near the Strait was hit and two

expatriates -- whose nationality was not disclosed -- were injured.

Iran appeared to be targeting other countries directly, rather than the US.

An official statement quoted by Iran's PressTV said that it had sent missiles and drones "near

US warships" rather than at them -- a nuanced differentiation.

US President Donald Trump said on Truth Social that a South Korean ship had come under Iranian attack. No other ships were damaged, he added.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) Spokesperson Brigadier General Hossein Mohebbi had earlier warned that it would "forcefully" stop any ship trying to break through the blockade his country had imposed, according to the Iranian government's PressTV. It also denied that any of its boats had been sunk. The US denied Iranian claims that two of its missiles had struck its ships.

US CENTCOM Chief Cooper said that ships belonging to 87 countries were stranded in the Strait and the US was reaching out to "dozens of ships and shipping companies to encourage traffic" through the Strait.

The CENTCOM said that two

US-flagged ships had already gone through the Strait safely.

On Saturday, an Indian gas ship operating under Marshal Islands flag managed to chart its way through the Strait, but it was not known if there was a deal with Iran for it.

Iran has been demanding tolls for ships to go through the Strait, which the US has condemned and the United Nations has declared illegal under international law. Neither side has made headway on negotiations to end the confrontation between them, defiant on their demands.

The US would theoretically be free of Congressional restraints from resuming the war full scale because the US CENTCOM Chief said the conflict that began February 28 was truncated by the April 7 ceasefire agreement, short of the 60-day limit for the Legislature's approval. He could claim a new cycle was beginning if Iran resumed major attacks.



Japan's child population declines for 45th straight year

TOKYO

Child population in Japan has reduced to an estimated 13.29 million as of April 1, showcasing a decline of 350,000 from a year earlier and marking a new record low, local media reported on Monday. The figure has declined for 45th consecutive year.

The ratio of children aged below 15 years dropped 0.3 percentage point to 10.8 per cent of the total population, lowest since comparable data became available in 1950, according to data released by Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication, Japan-based Kyodo News reported.

The figures, including foreign residents, were calculated based on population estimates mentioned in national census conducted every five years.

The decline in population has continued for 45 years despite several measures taken by the Japanese government like increasing financial support for families who are raising a child. In order to address the declining birthrate, the Japanese gov-

ernment has declared the period through 2030 as a "final opportunity to reverse the trend."

According to the data, there were 6.81 boys and 6.48 million girls. As many as 3.09 million children were aged between 12-14 years while 2.13 million were zero to two years, showcasing a trend of fewer children being born. The number of children, including foreign residents, born in Japan in 2025 reached a record low of 705,809, witnessing decline for the 10th consecutive year, according to preliminary data released by Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Child population in Japan has been declining since 1982 after peaking in 1954 at 29.89 million. The ratio of children has been declining for the 52nd consecutive year since 1975. Earlier in February, Japan's health ministry said that the number of children born in Japan in 2025 declined from a year earlier to 705,809, the fewest since data became available in 1899 and reaching a new low for the 10th consecutive year, Kyodo News reported.

Rights body flags sharp decline in civic space, judicial independence in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) on Monday expressed grave concern over the shrinking of civic space, the erosion of judicial independence, and deepening insecurity across the country over the past year.

In its latest report, 'State of Human Rights in 2025', the HRCP documented that in Pakistan, the right to freedom of expression -- particularly to question authority and demand accountability -- was significantly suppressed in 2025, with far-reaching consequences for the rule of law and fundamental freedoms.

"Worryingly, legal and institutional mechanisms were increasingly used to curb dissent. Amendments to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, alongside the use of sedition and anti-terrorism laws, led to the widespread targeting of journalists, political workers, activists, and lawyers. Reports of intimidation, enforced disappearances, and restrictions



on movement contributed to a climate of fear and self-censorship, limiting public discourse and obscuring human rights violations," the report stated.

The HRCP noted that amendments to Pakistan's Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 at the federal and provincial levels, particularly in Balochistan, allowed law enforcement agencies and even the armed forces to detain any person for up to three months without charge or judicial oversight, expanding the scope for arbitrary detention while undermining protections of liberty and due process. The report

highlighted a marked deterioration in judicial independence across Pakistan, particularly following the passage of the 27th Constitutional Amendment, which "reconfigured judicial appointments and expanded executive influence."

It added that key court decisions in 2025 further narrowed democratic space, raising serious concerns about due process and the separation of powers. These included rulings that allowed the military trials of civilians and effectively stripped the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) of the reserved seats it had

been granted in 2024. Highlighting that security challenges compounded human rights violations in Pakistan, the report said that militancy and counterterrorism operations disproportionately affected Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, resulting in significant civilian and law enforcement casualties.

"Enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and collective punishments persisted, while vulnerable groups -- including women, children, religious minorities, and transgender persons -- continued to face violence and discrimination without adequate redress. Miners and sanitation workers in particular remained vulnerable to accidents with little reported progress in improving their safety," the HRCP stated.

The rights body stated that climate-related disasters, especially in Pakistan-occupied Gilgit-Baltistan, caused multiple civilian deaths and destroyed infrastructure, while the authorities' response remained reactive rather than focused on long-term resilience.

EU seeks to exclude leather from revised anti-deforestation law

BRUSSELS

The European Commission on Monday proposed to remove leather from the scope of the revised European Union (EU) Deforestation Regulation, in a move to avoid penalising EU producers of goods such as handbags and shoes.

The draft delegated act, open for public feedback until June 1, proposes targeted amendments

to the product scope, including adding soluble coffee and certain palm oil derivatives while excluding leather and retreaded tyres and so on, said the Commission in a statement, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The Commission also unveiled a package of supporting measures to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the revised law, following the adoption of the revised text by

the European Parliament and the Council of the EU in December 2025.

The measures include a simplification review report, updated guidance and frequently asked questions. The supporting measures are expected to reduce annual compliance costs for companies subject to the EU Deforestation Regulation obligations by about 75 per cent compared to the original regu-

lation. The Commission said the package is designed to provide additional clarity to economic operators, members and third countries while guaranteeing legal stability and predictability.

The EU Deforestation Regulation aims to ensure that key goods placed on the EU market do not contribute to deforestation and forest degradation, which are major drivers of climate change and biodiversity loss.

'China's 'lying flat' youth movement politicised as national security concern'



BEIJING

China's "lying flat" movement, which emerged around 2021 as a rejection of societal pressures and hyper-competitive work cultures among Chinese youth, has drawn wider concerns among the authorities. Rather than confronting the regime, it reflects disengagement or resistance, a report said on Monday.

According to a report in 'The Diplomat', China's Ministry of State Security posted a video on its social media platform on April 28, describing "lying flat" (tangping) as an attempt by hostile foreign forces to poison and ideologically influence Chinese

youth. The report questioned how a lifestyle choice could be framed as a national security issue. "The mainstream analysis takes 'lying flat' as an economic phenomenon rooted in the assumption that economic performance is the core of Chinese legitimacy. Of course, youth unemployment, unaffordable house prices, '996', 'flowing downward', etc., are real problems that have caused the desperation of the youth. However, the economic perspective can only be used to analyse the civilians' decision. It cannot answer why the Chinese government needed to use the state security apparatus to address

a labour market issue," the report detailed. "Another potential explanation is that Chinese bureaucrats tend to externalise domestic issues, so it is just the same old playbook. But it still cannot explain why the Ministry of State Security -- not the Ministry of Human Resources or the Communist Youth League -- was the one responding," it added. The report stressed that for the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), "lying flat" is not merely an economic problem but an existential challenge to its governing logic.

Chinese President Xi in 2019 warned that most of the cadres "always hope everything will

be peaceful and calm" and have "more than enough desire for stability, but not enough spirit of struggle". Seven years later, the Ministry of State Security has extended the same critique to an entire generation of Chinese youth.

The report argues that the prevailing view -- that Chinese political legitimacy derives from economic performance -- is an assumption which is not wrong but incomplete. It added that since the Chinese regime depends on "emotional mobilisation" rather than "economic output", the key indicator is "not only the wallets of the people, but also the sentiments of 'struggling' among them." As official rhetoric increasingly uses the term "struggle", young people coin new phrases to reject it.

"The widening gap between the two is itself the most revealing indicator. By claiming lying flat as a state security issue, we can see an obvious signal that the policymaking of the current Chinese government is driven more by political security concerns than by economic indicators. For those trying to read where China is headed or how to deal with it, this is not a minor angle. It is the main story," the report noted.

Bangladesh sees decline in professional standards amid partisan influence

DHAKA

Bangladesh's professional bodies are increasingly divided along partisan lines, leading to the sidelining of professional standards in favour of political interests. This trend serves personal ambition, including securing leadership positions and exploiting opportunities, often under the guise of party loyalty, a report said on Monday.

Mahfuz Anam, Editor of leading Bangladeshi newspaper The Daily Star, wrote that doctors, lawyers, engineers, journalists, and members of many other professions in the country have openly placed party interest above professionalism, resulting in a decline in professional standards. "One of the key factors that has prevented our modernisation and progress is politicisation of public service bodies like the bureaucracy, administration, and law enforcement institutions, whose accountability has shifted from the people and transformed into loyalty to the ruling party of the day," Anam stated.

Highlighting a politicised example from the legal profession, he said last week the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) rejected the nomination papers



of 42 lawyers out of 90 candidates in the election scheduled for May 13-14 on grounds of their affiliation with the Awami League, whose political activities have been banned under the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Act, 2025. "With one stroke, electoral rivals were totally removed. The SCBA should disclose under what provision of their own article of association they took that action. The fact that the association has so far refused to make its formal resolution public raises questions about the attempt to hide something that the public deserves to know," Anam stressed.

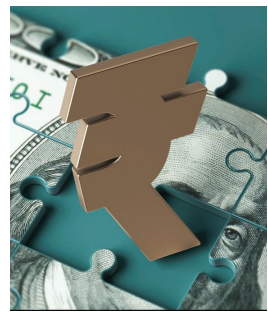
He noted that denying 42 lawyers the opportunity to participate in an election, for which

they are legally and professionally qualified, amounts to a violation of their legal and constitutional rights. "The lawyers whose nominations were cancelled did not submit their applications as candidates of the Awami League; they reportedly did so in their individual capacity. Today, the SCBA is practically taking away their right to contest elections, and tomorrow, they may use the same law to deprive them of their right to practise. So, the decision by SCBA has serious implications and must be thoroughly examined," he stated.

Anam said that the situation is not only dangerous but also "extremely damaging" for the reputation of the current Tarique Rahman-led Bangladesh Na-

tionist Party (BNP) government, which expressed opposition against such practices.

He added that such conduct by the SCBA erodes public faith in the law and in the constitution, and should never be permitted. Emphasising the wider concerns, Anam said, "I conclude by repeating the initial question about how politicisation of our professions has held Bangladesh back. Take a look at the world and realise where every profession has gone, is going, and where they are headed. Do we have any chance of competing without transforming ourselves? The place to begin is to restore professionalism in every profession and institution in our country."



Rupee falls 39 paise to close at all-time low of 95.23 against US dollar

MUMBAI: (MAY 4)
Rupee fell 39 paise to close at an all-time low of 95.23 against the US dollar on Monday, as the ongoing Middle East tensions are causing volatility in global markets, keeping oil prices high and raising fears of inflation and economic slowdown. Forex traders said Brent oil, hovering near USD 110 per barrel, is putting pressure on oil-importing economies like India. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.95 against the US dollar, then lost ground and finally settled for the day at its lowest-ever closing level of 95.23, registering a fall of 39 paise over its previous close.

Kia India hits record April sales; Seltos drives 16% growth

NEW DELHI, INDIA, 01 MAY 2026:

Kia India, one of the country's leading mass-premium automakers, today announced its highest-ever sales for the month of April since inception, with wholesale volumes of 27,286 units, marking a 16% year-on-year growth over 23,623 units sold in April 2025. The performance reflects sustained customer demand across its product portfolio and reinforces the brand's commitment to the Indian market.

On a year-to-date (YTD) basis, Kia India recorded sales of 111,611 units, compared to 99,199 units in the same period last year, registering a 13% growth. The steady growth indicates evolving customer preferences towards feature-rich, safe and connected mobility solutions, along with a growing inclination for superior ownership experiences. This trend also reflects Kia India's continued focus on listening to customer needs and translating them into meaningful product enhancements across its portfolio.

Commenting on the per-



formance, Mr. Atul Sood, Senior Vice-President, Sales & Marketing, Kia India said, "Our highest-ever April performance builds on the steady growth we have seen over the past several months. This momentum is being led by the new Kia Seltos, with Sonet and Carens along with Clavis continuing to strengthen our presence across key segments through ongoing enhancements. The expansion of our service network further reflects our focus on improving accessibility and delivering seamless ownership experience to customers."

Along with this, the Carens line-up strengthens Kia's position in the family mover space, with the Clavis (ICE and EV) adding premium appeal through GT-Line and

X-Line trims, electric and panoramic sunroof features, along with a 6-seater layout with captain seats—reflecting Kia's focus on evolving its offerings in line with customer needs. While the 2026 Kia Syros reinforces brand's overall offerings with its value-led, mass-premium positioning with a more distinctive SUV appeal, wider variant choice, and improved accessibility to automatic transmissions, including diesel AT options.

Keeping in line with its commitment to customer satisfaction beyond the point of sale, Kia India achieved a significant milestone in its after-sales journey with the expansion of its service network with 500 workshops. This milestone reflects the company's focus on enhancing accessibility, reducing service turnaround times, and delivering a seamless ownership experience across the country.

The company remains aligned with evolving market dynamics while building on its growth momentum in India. The brand's expanding footprint, spanning 891 touchpoints across 396 cities, increases accessibility to

sales and service nationwide. This is complemented by 128 Certified Pre-Owned outlets, enabling seamless exchanges, instant payments and a hassle-free ownership experience for customers.

The brand also achieved a momentous 1.5 million domestic sales milestone in the seven years of its India operations, reflecting the growing trust and connection with customers. Driving the numbers forward, Kia Seltos continues to be the cornerstone of the brand's success, contributing to over 41% of total sales and setting benchmarks in its segment. The Kia Sonet, with a 36% share, has strengthened Kia's reach in the compact SUV space, while the Kia Carens line-up, accounting for 20%, has carved a niche as a versatile family mover. At the premium end, the Kia Carnival reinforces Kia's aspirational positioning.

Looking ahead, Kia India remains committed to building on this momentum by continuing to listen to its customers and delivering products and experiences that are relevant, progressive and aligned to their evolving needs.



Toyota Kirloskar Motor posts 17% sales growth in April

BENGALURU, MAY 1:

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) reported a 17% year-on-year rise in total sales for April 2026 at 32,086 units, compared to 27,329 units in the same month last year. Domestic sales drove the growth, increasing 21% to 30,159 units from 24,833 units in April 2025. However, exports declined 23% to 1,927 units, down from 2,496 units a year ago. For the January–April period, TKM recorded a 19% growth in total sales at 1,37,194 units, up from 1,15,157 units in the corresponding period of 2025. Domestic sales rose 20% to 1,26,651 units, while exports grew 13% to 10,543 units. A key highlight during the month was the Toyota Innova HyCross crossing the 2-lakh cumulative sales milestone, underscoring rising demand for hybrid vehicles. Commenting on the performance, Sabari Manohar, Executive Vice

President (Sales-Service-Used Car Business), said the growth reflects steady progress driven by customer-centric strategies, product quality, and strong market execution. He added that the company remains optimistic about sustaining momentum with its expanding portfolio and dealer network. Company snapshot: TKM is a joint venture between Toyota Motor Corporation (89%) and Kirloskar Systems Limited (11%), employing 6,466 people. Its Bidadi facility near Bengaluru spans about 432 acres with a total installed production capacity of up to 3.42 lakh units annually. The first plant, operational since 1999, manufactures models such as the Innova HyCross, Innova Crysta, Fortuner and Legender, with a capacity of 1.32 lakh units. The second plant, operational since 2010, produces the Camry Hybrid, Urban Cruiser Hyryder and Hilux, with a capacity of 2.10 lakh units.

IDBI Bank Grants Rs. 2.49 Crore

to Upgrade Panipat Civil Hospital Under CSR Initiative

CHANDIGARH, MAY 4

IDBI Bank has provided a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) grant of Rs. 2.49 crore to the Haryana Health Department for the upgradation of District Civil Hospital, Panipat. The grant was formally handed over to Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Sumita Misra, today at Chandigarh. The financial assistance will be utilised for procuring advanced medical equipment, including ventilators, digital X-ray machines, ultrasound units, operation theatre tables, and multipara monitors. These additions are expected to significantly enhance diagnostic and critical care services at the district hospital level, reducing dependency on larger medical centres in cities like Rohtak and Chandigarh. Welcoming the initiative, ACS, Dr. Sumita Misra described the collaboration as a meaningful example of



public-private partnership. She emphasised that such targeted CSR contributions directly benefit patients relying on government healthcare facilities and help bridge infrastructure gaps in the system.

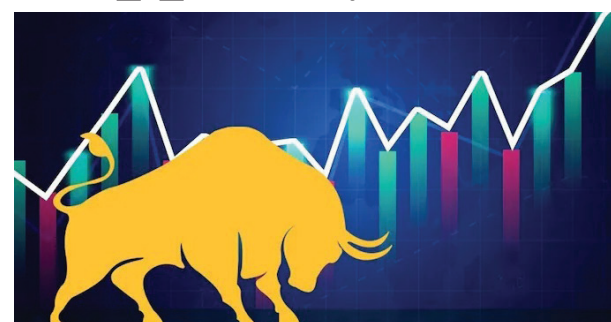
The sanctioned funds will support procurement across multiple departments. The orthopedic unit will receive

advanced operation theatre tables, while neonatal care will be strengthened with infant warmers. Radiology services will be upgraded with a high-end digital X-ray machine, and intensive care facilities will benefit from ventilators and infusion pumps. All equipment will carry a minimum five-year warranty along with fixed

maintenance costs, ensuring long-term sustainability. The initiative is part of IDBI Bank's flagship CSR programme 'HOPE – Healthcare Outreach and Public Empowerment', which has already supported 23 healthcare institutions across Haryana during the 2025–26 financial year with the total CSR contribution of approx Rs. 1 Crore. The programme focuses on improving medical infrastructure, sanitation, and outreach services in underserved areas. District Civil Hospital, Panipat, caters to a large population from both urban and rural areas. With the addition of modern equipment, patients are expected to receive improved treatment locally, reducing travel costs and delays in critical care. The initiative is being seen as a replicable model for corporate participation in strengthening public healthcare systems, offering tangible benefits to citizens at the grassroots level.

Sensex, Nifty rise on election boost, gains capped by weak rupee

Markets closed higher on Monday after early gains drew support from state election trends and earnings optimism. The rally lost steam later as a weak rupee, firmer crude and profit booking kept investors cautious.



Benchmark stock market indices ended higher on Monday, supported by positive sentiment around state election trends and steady earnings optimism, although gains were capped by a weakening rupee and rising crude oil prices. The BSE Sensex closed 355.90 points, or 0.46%, higher at 77,269.40, while the Nifty 50 gained 121.75 points, or 0.51%, to settle at 24,119.30. Markets had rallied nearly 1% in early trade, reacting to favourable election trends in West Bengal, but pared gains as the session progressed amid profit booking and macro concerns. Buying was

largely broad-based, with several heavyweights leading the charge. Among Sensex stocks, Adani Ports emerged as the top gainer, rising 5.30%, followed by Hindustan Unilever up 2.60%, Reliance Industries gaining 2.24%, Larsen & Toubro up 2.18%, Eternal rising 2.09% and Maruti Suzuki advancing 2.02%. Bajaj Finserv and Bajaj Finance also posted solid gains. On the flip side, losses were seen in select heavyweights. Bharti Airtel declined 3.14%, Kotak Mahindra Bank fell 2.82%, TCS dropped 1.73%, ITC slipped 1.25%

and Infosys lost 1.11%, weighing on the indices. Sectorally, the rally remained mixed. Realty stocks stood out, with the Nifty Realty index jumping 2.41%. Metal, pharma and financial services indices also saw gains, rising 1.09%, 0.89% and 0.84%, respectively. However, IT stocks remained under pressure, with the Nifty IT index falling 0.95%, while media and PSU bank indices also ended in the red. Broader markets outperformed the benchmarks, with the Nifty Midcap 100 rising 0.63% and

the Nifty Smallcap 100 gaining 0.70%, indicating sustained risk appetite. India VIX, a measure of market volatility, eased 0.86% to 18.30 levels. Crude oil prices, however, remained a key overhang. Brent crude traded around \$113.5 per barrel, up nearly 5%, while WTI crude rose over 4% to around \$106.5 per barrel, reflecting continued concerns over supply disruptions amid geopolitical tensions. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said investor sentiment was supported by domestic triggers but global uncertainties persisted. "Investor sentiment remained supported by a favourable election outcome in West Bengal and a better-than-expected Q4 earnings, helping markets look past Middle East-related concerns. However, intermittent profit booking persisted amid uncertainty surrounding the U.S. 'Project Freedom' initiative to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

HC rejects SpiceJet plea in ₹144-cr dispute with Kalanithi Maran

NEW DELHI: (MAY 4)

The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed pleas moved by SpiceJet and its promoter Ajay Singh seeking a review of an earlier order asking the airline to deposit Rs 144 crore in connection with its legal dispute with

media baron Kalanithi Maran and Kal Airways. Justice Subramonium Prasad also imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 on the airline and Singh, and directed them to take immediate steps to deposit the amount of Rs 144.51,69,887 with the registry. On January 19, the court directed SpiceJet

and Singh to deposit Rs 144 crore with the registry within six weeks against an admitted liability of Rs 194 crore, pursuant to an arbitration award against them in their dispute with Maran. On March 18, the time to make the deposit was extended by four weeks.



8th Pay Commission update: Where things stand after 6 months

Six months after its formation, the 8th Pay Commission is moving steadily, but how far has it really progressed so far? Let's have a look.



Rays Power Infra Commissions 1.1 GW of Solar Capacity in a Single Year

JAIPUR/ NEW DELHI, 04 MAY 2026:

Rays Power Infra Pvt.Ltd., one of India's leading integrated solar energy companies, today announced that it has commissioned 1.1 GW of solar capacity in a single financial year – the strongest year of execution in the company's history. Delivered across Karnataka, Rajasthan and Gujarat, the achievement takes Rays Power Infra's cumulative commissioned portfolio past 2.4 GWP and positions the company among India's most active integrated solar platforms as the country accelerates toward its 500 GW non-fossil capacity target. Building on the momentum, Rays Power Infra is expanding its EPC order book, scaling its long-term IPP portfolio and selectively entering adjacencies including hybrid

Marking Its Strongest Year of Execution



solar-wind, battery energy storage (BESS) and round-the-clock renewable solutions for utilities, large C&I customers, & Green Hydrogen and its derived Green fuels.

Ketan Mehta, Managing Director, Rays Power Infra said "Commissioning 1.1 GW in a single year is the most defining moment in our journey so far. It

is a testament to the trust our customers place in us, the resilience of our execution teams and the platform we have patiently built over more than a decade. With this single-year delivery, our cumulative footprint has crossed 2.4 GWP, and Rays Power Infra is structurally positioned to play a meaningful role in India's clean-energy

transition." **About Rays Power Infra :** Rays Power Infra Pvt. Ltd. is an integrated solar energy company headquartered in Jaipur, with capabilities spanning project development, EPC, Independent power production (IPP) and long-term O&M. We specialize in the development of 'ready-to-build' infrastructure for renewable power projects under our Co-Development Business model and providing engineering, construction and procurement services for renewable power projects under our EPC business. We are among the leading players in the Indian solar industry with a demonstrated track record, along with being one of the pioneers of the Co-Development Business model in India

(Source: CRISIL Report). In our Co-Development Business, our typical scope of work includes land aggregation, securing grid connectivity (both inter-state and intra-state as the case maybe), and assisting with approvals such as connectivity permissions, bay allocation, captive arrangements, and PPAs tailored to our customer's requirements in a separate SPV, followed by transferring these SPVs to our customers and further undertaking EPC and O&M activities, basis the contractual arrangements with our customers. We, currently have a diversified renewable energy portfolio of approximately 12 GW, comprising solar, wind, and hybrid projects. As of Mar 31, 2026, we have commissioned ~2.4 GWP renewable energy projects across multiple Indian states and international locations.

The 8th Pay Commission has now moved beyond its initial planning stage and entered a more active phase of consultations. Six months into its journey, the process appears steady, though the most critical work still lies ahead. Formally set up on November 3, 2025, the Commission has completed about six months, roughly one-third of the time given to submit its final recommendations. With six months completed and around 12 months still to go, the Commission is currently in its early-to-mid phase. This stage is largely focused on discussions, data gathering and stakeholder consultations before any concrete recommendations take shape.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN APRIL

April saw some important movement, signalling that the process is picking up pace. One of the first steps was the start of staff hiring on a contract basis around April 10. This is a crucial move, as a dedicated team is needed to handle the detailed analysis and wide-ranging consultations ahead. Soon after, on April 14, the National Council

of Joint Consultative Machinery (NC-JCM), which represents central government employees, submitted a detailed 51-page memorandum. This document is expected to play a significant role, as it outlines key demands and expectations from employees. Towards the end of the month, the Commission held its first round of formal discussions with NC-JCM representatives in Delhi. The meetings, which began on April 28 and concluded on April 30, marked the start of direct engagement between the Commission and employee groups. During these three days, representatives from various groups raised several concerns, including demands related to pay structures, pension reforms and overall service conditions.

WHAT LIES AHEAD

The next important milestone is the submission of memorandums, with the deadline now extended to May 31, 2026. This extension gives stakeholders additional

time to share their inputs and seek meetings with the Commission. Following the Delhi discussions, the Commission is set to expand its outreach. It is scheduled to visit Hyderabad on May 18–19, Srinagar from June 1 to June 4, and Ladakh on June 8, 2026, as part of its consultation process. Stakeholders have also been asked to submit their memorandums and meeting requests through the official portal within the given timelines. The overall message at this stage is simple, i.e., the process is moving, but gradually. The coming months are likely to be crucial, with more consultations, data analysis and negotiations expected. Pay Commissions typically take time, as they involve detailed reviews of salaries, pensions and allowances for lakhs of central government employees and pensioners. For now, the six-month update suggests that while the groundwork is in place, the final decisions are still some distance away.



Which Is India's Only Floating National Park?

Ever heard of a national park that moves with water? Discover the story behind India's most unusual and unique wildlife destination. Northeast India is full of hidden wonders, but few places are as fascinating as a national park that does not sit still. Imagine a forest that floats, where land gently shifts beneath your feet and wildlife thrives on a

surface unlike any other. Travellers who come here expect a normal green landscape but instead find a living, moving place that follows the flow of water. It is a place where science and wonder come together naturally. By the time you leave, you begin to understand why this park is unlike anything else in India.

India's only floating national park is Keibul Lamjao National Park, located in the northeastern state of Manipur. What makes it extraordinary is that it is made up of phumdis, which are thick masses of floating vegetation, soil and organic matter. These phumdis form a unique ecosystem that supports a wide variety of flora and fauna, making the park a truly one of a kind natural habitat. It is also the only place in the world where you can find a floating wildlife reserve of this scale.

Keibul Lamjao National Park Location

Keibul Lamjao National Park lies on the southern shores of Loktak Lake, the largest freshwater lake in Northeast India. It is situated around 50 kilometres from Imphal, the capital of Manipur. The park spreads across a large portion of the lake, where the floating phumdis create a constantly shifting landscape. These floating islands vary in thickness and size, giving the park its distinctive and ever changing character.

Keibul Lamjao Floating Ecosystem: What Are Phumdis?

The floating nature of the park comes from the phumdis, which are a naturally occurring phenomenon in Loktak Lake. These masses float during the monsoon season when water levels rise and settle down when water recedes. Over time, they have grown dense enough to support vegetation, animals and even humans in some areas. This delicate balance between land and water creates a rare ecosystem that cannot be found elsewhere.

Why Keibul Lamjao National Park Is Unique In The World

Keibul Lamjao National Park stands out for several reasons:

Floating landscape: The park is the only one in the world that floats, making it a geographical marvel. It creates a surreal experience where land appears to drift gently over water.

Home to the Sangai deer: It is the last natural habitat of the endangered Sangai, also known as the dancing deer of Manipur. This rare species is deeply linked to the cultural identity of the state.

Rich biodiversity: Apart from the Sangai, the park supports several species of birds, fish and other wildlife. It serves as an important ecological zone for both resident and migratory species.

islands shift and evolve, so no two visits are exactly the same. This constant change makes the park dynamic and scientifically fascinating.

Connection with Loktak Lake: The park is deeply tied to the health and rhythm of the lake ecosystem. Any change in the lake's water level directly impacts the survival of this unique habitat.

Wildlife In Keibul Lamjao National Park: Sangai Deer And More

The star attraction of the park is the Sangai deer, known for its delicate steps that give the impression it is dancing on the floating ground. Apart from this rare species, visitors can spot hog deer, wild boar and various

waterfowl. The park is also a paradise for birdwatchers, especially during the migratory season when several species arrive from distant regions.

How To Reach Keibul Lamjao National Park And Best Time To Visit

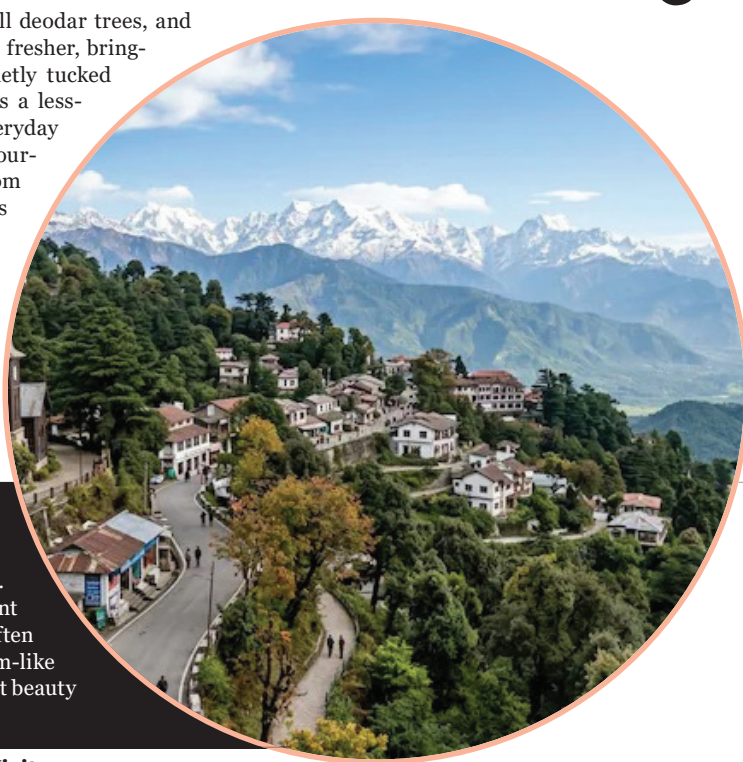
Keibul Lamjao National Park is accessible by road from Imphal, with regular transport options available. Visitors can explore parts of the park through watchtowers and guided routes that offer a safe view of the floating terrain and its wildlife. The best time to visit is between November and March, when the weather is pleasant and wildlife sightings are more frequent.

This floating national park is not just a destination, but an experience that redefines how we think about landscapes.



Why Landour, Near Mussoorie, Is The Ideal Destination For A Peaceful Getaway

Landour is surrounded by thick green forests, tall deodar trees, and sweeping mountain views. The air feels cleaner and fresher, bringing instant calm to both the mind and body. Quietly tucked above the busy hill town of Mussoorie, Landour is a lesser-known retreat that offers a calm escape from everyday stress. Unlike popular hill stations crowded with tourists, this small cantonment town has stayed free from heavy commercial development, helping it retain its old-world charm and peaceful character. Misty hills, colonial-era buildings, and narrow forest paths give Landour a timeless and soothing feel. It is an ideal place for anyone looking for solitude, mental rest, or a break from fast city life. Whether you love nature, enjoy writing, or simply want to slow down, Landour welcomes visitors with silence, fresh air, and scenic views that instantly calm the senses.



The Nature and Beauty of Landour

Landour is surrounded by thick green forests, tall deodar trees, and sweeping mountain views. The air feels cleaner and fresher, bringing instant calm to both the mind and body. Soft clouds often pass through the hills, creating magical, dream-like landscapes. Every part of Landour reflects unspoiled beauty and a sense of quiet elegance.

Why Should You Visit Landour?

- Peaceful Environment**
Landour offers rare quietness, far from traffic noise and crowded tourist areas. It is perfect for rest, relaxation, and mental renewal.
- Scenic Views**
The town offers stunning views of the Himalayas and nearby valleys. Sunrises and sunsets here are especially beautiful and calming.
- Colonial Charm**
Old British-era churches and buildings add a timeless appeal. Walking through its lanes feels like stepping into the past.
- Less Commercialisation**
Unlike many hill stations, Landour remains simple and uncrowded. This makes it ideal for travellers looking for authenticity and peace.

Best Time To Visit Landour

- Summer (March to June)**
The weather stays pleasantly cool, ideal for sightseeing and long walks.
 - Winter (October to February)**
Cold winds and occasional snowfall create a cosy and charming atmosphere.
 - Monsoon (July to September)**
The area turns lush and green, though frequent rain can affect travel.
 - Autumn (September to November)**
Clear skies and crisp air make this one of the most scenic seasons to visit.
- Things To Do In Landour**
- Nature Walks**

- Walk along quiet forest trails and breathe in the fresh mountain air.
- Visit Lal Tibba**
Enjoy wide views of Himalayan peaks from Landour's highest point.
- Café Hopping**
Spend time in cosy cafés, enjoy good food, and relax in calm surroundings.
- Explore Char Dukan Area**
Visit this small group of shops for snacks, tea, and local charm.
- Visit Historic Churches**
See old churches that reflect Landour's colonial past.
- Read and Relax**
Carry a book and enjoy uninterrupted time in peaceful surroundings.

- How To Reach Landour**
- By Air**
Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun is the nearest airport, followed by a scenic drive.
 - By Train**
Dehradun Railway Station is the closest railhead with good connections.
 - By Road**
Landour is easily reached via Mussoorie, with taxis and buses available.
- Landour is not just a place to visit, but an experience of calm, beauty, and simplicity that stays with you long after the journey ends.



Astrotourism Is The Next Big Travel Trend

5 Best Places For Stargazing In India

There's a quiet revolution happening in travel, and it begins after sunset. As city lights grow brighter, the stars above them are disappearing.

And that's exactly why astrotourism, the art of travelling to experience the night sky, is having its moment. From chasing eclipses

to spotting constellations and even practising moonlight meditation, travellers are now looking up as much as they look around.

What Is Astrotourism, And Why Is It Trending?

Astrotourism is all about travelling to destinations with minimal light pollution to witness celestial wonders like meteor showers, the Milky Way, or a sky bursting with stars you never knew existed. Closely linked to dark sky tourism, it's less about luxury and more about raw, immersive experiences.

While the idea dates back to ancient civilisations (yes, even monuments like Stonehenge were aligned with celestial movements), its modern revival is driven by a mix of science, sustainability, and curiosity. The movement gained structure with the International Dark-Sky Association, which began certifying low-light-pollution zones globally. Fast forward to today, and astrotourism is booming. India, with its vast and varied landscapes, is naturally positioned to become a global astrotourism hotspot. From the high-altitude deserts of Ladakh to coastal islands in the Andamans, the country offers some of the darkest skies you'll find. here's also infrastructure catching up. Observatories like the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences in



ies. But by night, it turns into a celestial theatre. Places like Kaza and Langza are emerging as astro hubs, with guided stargazing sessions, telescope setups, and even astrophotography workshops becoming common. The high altitude gives you uninterrupted views of constellations and planets.

3. Munsiyari, Uttarakhand

Often overshadowed by more popular hill stations, Munsiyari is a hidden gem. Nestled in the Kumaon region, it offers panoramic Himalayan views and equally stunning nightscapes. The region is also part of Uttarakhand's growing astrotourism push, with nearby observatories and astro villages being developed.

4. Dhordo, Gujarat

Who knew a desert could be this magical after dark? Dhordo, located near the Rann of Kutch, is gaining attention as an astrotourism hotspot. Its flat landscape and minimal artificial lighting create ideal conditions for stargazing.

5. Shaheed Dweep, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Formerly known as Neil Island, Shaheed Dweep offers a completely different stargazing experience by the sea. Here, the night sky reflects on the ocean, adding to the magic. With low population density and controlled development, light pollution in India is slowly becoming a movement. As Govind notes, "Several states are identifying villages to develop dedicated 'Astro Villages' as part of expanding rural night-time tourism... This evolving demand is also encouraging travel providers to innovate and design more meaningful, offbeat experiences tailored to the modern explorer." So the next time you plan a trip, skip the crowded viewpoints and find a dark sky.

5 Best Places For Stargazing In India

1. Hanle, Ladakh

If there's one place that feels like it was built for the stars, it's Hanle. At 4,500 metres, this remote village offers one of the darkest skies in India. It's also home to the Indian Astronomical Observatory. With almost zero light pollution and thin mountain air, the clarity here is unmatched. It's no surprise Hanle is often ranked among the best stargazing locations in the world.

2. Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh

By day, Spiti Valley is all rugged landscapes and monaster-





Rohit, Ricketon guide Mumbai Indians to six-wicket win over LSG

MUMBAI

Rohit Sharma made a grand return to action after recovering from an injury, smashing a half-century and adding 143 runs with Ryan Rickelton as the Mumbai Indians defeated Lucknow Super Giants by six wickets in Match 47 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday.

As part of a brilliant duopoly, Rohit Sharma top-scored with 84, and Rickelton added 83 runs as the Mumbai Indians scripted the highest run-chase at the Wankhede as the five-time champions secured their third win in 10 matches.

Nicholas Pooran blazed to a 16-ball half-century as he smashed 63 runs off 21 balls, and Marsh blasted 44 off 25 as LSG survived a middle-order collapse to post a challenging total of 228/5 in what is a must-win match for both sides, who are scraping the bottom of the points table with four points each from two wins. In reply, the Mumbai Indians capitalised on brilliant batting by Rohit Sharma and Rickelton and reached 229/4 in 18.4 overs to win with eight balls to spare. LSG slumped to their sixth defeat on the trot and remain at the bottom with four points.

Mumbai Indians made a cautious



start in their chase of 229 as Rohit Sharma and Ryan Rickelton took them to fifty in 30 balls. Rohit, who came into the side to loud cheers after recovering from a hamstring injury, hammered 21 runs in the sixth over, smashing Avesh Khan's attempted Yorkers for two fours and two sixes in successive balls. He had a close shave when the ball fell just short of the fielder on the last

delivery of Power-play as Mumbai reached 71 for no loss.

The Hitman smashed Prince Yadav for a couple of sixes in the sixth over and, with Rickelton, who struck two sixes and a four, hammered 23 runs off Impact Substitute Manimaran Siddharth. Rohit raced to his fifty off 27 balls, studied with three fours and five sixes after Rickelton raised his half-cen-

tury a couple of deliveries before off 22 balls (4x4, 4x6) as they took Mumbai past the 100-run mark.

Rohit and Rickelton raised 143 runs for the opening partnership as the South African smashed a four and six off Mohsin Khan off successive balls and followed that up with a six in the 11th over before he fell for 83. Mohsin Khan had the last laugh by getting caught by Josh Inglis at cover.

Rohit, who had scored a majestic century at the same venue a few weeks back, added 34 runs for the second wicket with Tilak Varma before he departed, missing out on a well-deserved century. He blasted 84 off 44 balls (6x4, 7x6) before he fell, trying to force the pace against Manimaran Siddharth, but only managing to offer an easy catch to Mohammed Shami in the deep. It was a superb innings by the six-time IPL winner as he played some exquisite shots, pulling, flicking, lofting, and driving for boundaries as the crowd roared in appreciation. Mumbai remained on course for their third victory of the season as they reached 187/2 at the end of the 15th over. But Varma departed for 11 off 13 balls, splicing it straight to Aiden Markam off Siddharth. Naman Dhir was dropped at cover by Inglis off Siddharth in the 16th over.



Blockx storms into Top 40, Fils returns to Top 20 in latest ATP Rankings after Madrid Open shake-up

NEW DELHI

The latest ATP Rankings have witnessed significant movement following an action-packed clay swing, with Alexander Blockx emerging as the biggest riser after a breakthrough campaign at the Mutua Madrid Open.

The 21-year-old Belgian has climbed 33 places to a career-high World No. 36 after reaching his maiden ATP Tour semifinal. Having entered April without a single tour-level clay win, Blockx transformed his fortunes by first making the third round in Monte-Carlo and then producing a stunning run in Madrid. His giant-killing spree included wins over top names such as Felix Auger-Aliassime and former champion Casper Ruud.

Frenchman Arthur Fils has also continued his upward trajectory, jumping eight places to World No. 17. Returning from a long-term back injury earlier this year, Fils has quickly rediscovered rhythm, capturing the Barcelona ATP 500 title before extending his winning streak to nine matches in Madrid. His run was eventually halted in the semifinals by World No. 1 Jannik Sinner, but the performance marks his return to the Top 20 for the first time since September.

Another young talent making headlines is Rafael Jodar, who has surged to a career-best No. 34. The 19-year-old thrilled home fans in Madrid by reaching his first Masters 1000 quarterfinal, highlighted by a breakthrough Top-10 vic-

tory over Alex de Minaur and a win against fellow teenager Joao Fonseca. His rapid rise is remarkable, considering he was ranked outside the Top 900 just over a year ago.

Chile's Alejandro Tabilo has climbed to No. 35 after regaining form with a title-winning run at the Aix-en-Provence Challenger 175 event, where he defeated Zizou Bergs in the final. Meanwhile, Poland's Hubert Hurkacz has moved up 10 spots to No. 53 after reaching the final in Cagliari, continuing his comeback from knee surgery. His run included a notable win over Matteo Berrettini before losing to Matteo Arnaldi in the final.

Elsewhere, several players have registered notable gains within the Top 100. Daniil Medvedev has edged up to No. 9, while Flavio Cobolli (No. 12), Jiri Lehecka (No. 13) and Valentin Vacherot (No. 16) have all reached career-best or joint career-best rankings.

Britain's Cameron Norrie has climbed four spots to No. 19, while Bergs sits at a career-high No. 39. Among other risers are Vit Kopriva (No. 55), Thiago Agustín Tirante (No. 69), Dino Prizmic (No. 79), Adolfo Daniel Vallejo (No. 84), Daniel Merida (No. 86), Wu Yibing (No. 88) and Martin Landaluce (No. 94), all making significant strides.

With the clay season in full swing, the rankings continue to reflect the emergence of a new generation alongside the resurgence of established names, setting the stage for an intriguing lead-up to Roland Garros.

FOOTBALL

Villarreal announces Marcelino to step down as coach



MADRID: Villarreal has confirmed that coach Marcelino Garcia Toral will leave the club at the end of the current season after two and a half years in charge in his second spell, during which he twice led the club into the Champions League. The news came in a statement published by the club after Saturday's 5-1 home win over Levante, which secured Villarreal's place in next season's Champions League and left the east-coast club third in La Liga with a five-point cushion over Atletico Madrid, reported Xinhua.

ISSF World Cup Shotgun

Ganemat Sekhon is best placed to qualify for the final after 75 targets



NEW DELHI: India's Ganemat Sekhon shot 70 out of 75 targets to finish Day one just one point outside the top eight places in the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup Shotgun, which got underway on Monday at the Asanov Shooting Club in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The Chandigarh shooter, who won a silver in the same range three years back, was the best-placed Indian to book a spot in the top eight of the competition. The remaining 50 targets of qualification and the finals for both women and men will be held tomorrow.

Jyoti Surekha to lead 16-member strong Indian squad for Archery WC Stage 2



NEW DELHI

India will field a strong 16-member squad led by experienced archers Jyoti Surekha Vennam and Deepika Kumari at the Archery World Cup 2026 Stage 2. This event begins in Shanghai on Tuesday.

The second leg of the four-stage World Cup circuit will feature over 300 archers from 44 countries, all competing for vital qualification

spots for the season-ending World Cup Final in Saltillo later this year.

India heads into the Shanghai leg trying to improve on a modest start to the season, having secured just one medal at Stage 1 in Puebla, where the women's compound trio of Jyothi, Madhura Dhamangaonkar, and Pragati won gold.

The same squad, chosen through national trials in Kolkata in February, will compete in Shanghai, a location

that holds good memories for the Indian team. Last year, India achieved a seven-medal haul, including two golds. Madhura was the standout performer, winning individual gold and a mixed team bronze with Abhishek Verma, while the women's compound team earned silver.

India's men's compound team, which won gold in Shanghai last year, returns with a solid lineup that includes Kushal Dalal, former world champion Ojas Deotale, Sahil Jadhav, and Abhishek Verma, bringing depth and experience.

In the recurve events, Deepika Kumari will once again be the focal point, aiming to add to her impressive total of 38 World Cup medals. The four-time Olympian had won an individual bronze in Shanghai last year and will be eager to improve this time. The men's recurve challenge will be led by Olympians Atanu Das and Tarundeep Rai, along with promising young talents.

Backing Vinesh, Mahavir Singh Phogat raises concerns over Indian state of wrestling

CHARKHI DADRI

Backing Vinesh Phogat, Dronacharya Awardee and veteran coach Mahavir Singh Phogat raised serious concerns over the state of wrestling infrastructure and administration in India, stressing the need for proper implementation of rules, better training facilities, and an end to internal conflicts among players.

He emphasised that consistent development—not occasional success—along with access to quality coaching and equal opportunities, is crucial for the growth of the sport. "The rules and provisions of the sport must be implemented properly. Performing well just once a year does not make much difference. Even today, there is neither proper training nor adequate facilities for players.

Many athletes are still forced to practice in fields. The biggest issue is the infighting and disputes among players—be it Vinesh, Sanjeeta, or Vijender.

Sabalenka, Swiatek headline stacked field in Rome as women's singles draw unveiled

ROME

The draw for the Italian Open 2026 women's singles event has been revealed, setting up a compelling fortnight of clay-court action at the Foro Italico, with World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka leading a star-studded field at the WTA 1000 tournament.

The prestigious event, now in its 83rd edition, marks the second major clay-court stop of the season following Madrid, with all top-ranked players in contention. Defending champion Jasmine Paolini returns to home soil, aiming to rediscover form, while several leading names face tricky early routes.

Top seed Sabalenka, who is chasing her maiden Rome title after finishing runner-up last year, will begin her campaign against either Barbora



Krejčíková or Elsa Jacquemot. The Belarusian could face Sorana Cirstea in the third round and is projected to meet the sixth seed, Amanda Anisimova, in the quarterfinals.

Third seed Coco Gauff, a finalist here last year, opens against either Yulia Putintseva

or Tereza Valentova and could face Emma Raducanu in the third round. Raducanu, returning after a break since Indian Wells, starts against Solana Sierra or a qualifier. Gauff is projected to meet Madrid runner-up Mirra Andreeva in the last eight, with Paolini also in

this section. In the bottom half, fourth seed Iga Swiatek, seeking to regain rhythm on clay, could open against either Caty McNally or Daria Kasatkina, with potential matchups against Emma Navarro and Naomi Osaka in the early rounds. A quarterfinal clash with fifth seed Jessica Pegula is on the cards, with the American enjoying a consistent season so far.

Second seed Elena Rybakina, the 2023 Rome champion, anchors the final quarter and could face Maria Sakkari in her opening match. Rising talents like Alexandra Eala and Xinyu Wang are also in her section, while Marta Kostyuk, fresh off her Madrid triumph, looms as a potential fourth-round opponent. Rybakina is projected to meet Elina Svitolina in the quarterfinals.

Mumbai's Kiaan Shah finishes second in star-studded Asia Series in Thailand

MUMBAI

Mumbai's Kiaan Shah (Rayo Racing) produced his best result yet in International Karting, with a second place finish in Round 2 of the RMC Asia Trophy on Sunday in Pattaya, Thailand.

The 15-year-old delivered one of his best qualifying results, clocking 51.218 on the 1.2 km Bira circuit, just 0.118 seconds behind Thailand's Pannu Stienmonkong who was fastest.

Kiaan started fourth in Heat 2, but lost a place at the start. He soon overtook Japanese racer Shun Sekiguchi and Eason Tseng of Chinese Taipei. Next, he got past Stienmonkong and finished second behind Thailand's Toby Gale.

Disaster struck in Heat 3, when Kiaan's engine shut off while running third. A quick-thinking Kiaan found the problem and fixed back a wire. But still finished last.

Kiaan started seventh in the Super Heat and drove a brilliant race to finish



second. An accident caused a Full Course Yellow, allowing paramedics to attend an injured racer. Rain and chaos ensued, once the race resumed. Kiaan fell to sixth after a mistake, but recovered to finish fourth.

The result from all heats decided the starting grid for the Final. Kiaan had a bad start from fifth and lost a place. He

made an extremely daring move and moved to fourth on Lap 1.

A series of quick laps saw him catch and get past Tseng to move into third. Next, he took down Krish Gupta to get behind the leader. Though he kept pace with the leader, Kiaan was unable to close the gap and eventually finished second, 3.8 seconds behind Gale. Stienmonkong was third. The same grid contested the Thailand Championship and therefore Kiaan won 2 trophies, one for the Asian Championship and one for the Thai.

"I am very happy how I drove this weekend. I had a bit of a pace deficit in Round 1, but now I am up there. The team did a fantastic job with the kart and I would like to thank everyone," said Kiaan.

Coach and mentor Raymond Banajee added, "The grid was close at the top and Kiaan has had impressive pace all weekend. He has improved his qualifying pace on new tyres and it's good to see the progress he has made at this level."

ISL 2025-26: Mumbai City aim to build momentum against in-form East Bengal

MUMBAI

Mumbai City FC will look to return to winning ways, while East Bengal FC aim to sustain their attacking momentum when the two sides meet in Indian Super League 2025-26 at the Mumbai Football Arena in Mumbai on Tuesday.

Mumbai come into the contest following a goalless draw against Bengaluru FC, a result that highlighted their ongoing issues in the final third. East Bengal, in contrast, arrive on the back of a commanding 3-0 victory against Odisha FC. That context has not

been lost on East Bengal head coach Óscar Bruzón, who expects a finely-balanced contest between two direct rivals in the title race.

"Mumbai are in a similar situation to us. They are in a do-or-die game. When they play in their home ground, they try to be a dominant force. They base their game on possession football and central areas, and try to find the speed of their wingers. They are a team with a lot of quality, but they also have weaknesses. For example, if you hold them in transitions, instead of just waiting in a low block, I think they make

mistakes in their build-up phase," Bruzón said.

The stakes are significant for both teams at this juncture. Mumbai City, currently on 19 points, can climb to the top of the table with a victory. Meanwhile, East Bengal, who are just a point behind, could move to 21 and draw level with Jamshedpur FC at the top, albeit remaining second on head-to-head record.

Historically, Mumbai City have held the upper hand in this fixture, winning six of the 10 ISL meetings, against East Bengal, registering just one victory, while



three matches ended in draws. Mumbai have also outscored their opponents 12 to 3 across those encounters. However, the most recent meeting between the sides,

played at the Mumbai Football Arena on January 31, 2025, ended in a goalless stalemate, offering East Bengal a rare instance of defensive resilience against the Islanders.

Beyond form and history, the contest presents a compelling tactical narrative. It is often framed as East Bengal's attack against Mumbai's defence, but the numbers suggest a more nuanced duel. East Bengal have been the most prolific side in the league with 25 goals, powered by the clinical form of Ezzejjari, who leads the scoring charts with nine strikes.

Mumbai, meanwhile, have managed just 10 goals, among the lowest tallies in the competition. Yet the gap is minimal in defence; Mumbai have conceded only seven goals, the second-best record in the league, while East Bengal are close behind with eight. The contest, therefore, is not simply attack-versus-defence, but efficiency-versus-balance.

For Mumbai, the priority will be sharpening their output in the final third, a theme also echoed by head coach Petr Krátký, who acknowledged the scale of the challenge posed by East Bengal's

attacking unit. "We are preparing accordingly because for me they are one of the best teams in the competition, as everyone knows.

Again, we are fully aware of their power forward...we prepare accordingly, but I believe in our team. If they deliver how they trained and they put everything on the park, I have full confidence in the team to give us the result," he said. Lallianzuala Chhangte, deployed centrally in the previous outing, is expected to lead the line again, with Noufal PN and Vikram Partap Singh providing width.

Why Is Buchi Babu Holding Back 'Peddi' Character Reveals?

With less than a month to go for the theatrical release of Peddi, directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the film's promotional campaign has officially entered a crucial phase. Yet, despite mounting curiosity, the makers appear to be taking a notably restrained approach.

So far, the promotional material—including the teaser, songs, and the "Kusthi" glimpse—has largely centered

ers, leaving audiences intrigued but wanting more. Given Siva Rajkumar's strong appeal among Telugu viewers—especially after his impactful presence in Jailer—a glimpse into his role could significantly boost momentum.

Similarly, Divyendu Sharma, popular for his work in Mirzapur, brings a youthful fan base that is eager to see him share screen space with Ram Charan. A brief character teaser could further tap into

tion, it stops short of establishing her character's significance in the story.

With such a diverse and compelling cast, the makers have ample opportunity to heighten excitement through character promos, teasers, or behind-the-scenes content. These elements could help audiences form a stronger emotional connection ahead of release.

Backed by A. R. Rahman's music and produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru under Vriddhi Cinemas, Peddi is slated to hit theatres in early June. As the countdown continues, all eyes are on whether the team will shift gears and unlock more of its ensemble appeal in the coming days.



around Ram Charan, offering little insight into the rest of the ensemble cast. While this strategy has kept the spotlight firmly on the lead, it has also raised questions about the absence of deeper character reveals.

Actors like Siva Rajkumar, Divyendu Sharma, and Jagapathi Babu have been introduced only through first-look post-

that anticipation. Meanwhile, Jagapathi Babu's striking look has already sparked interest, and a deeper reveal could add weight to the film's narrative intrigue.

Janhvi Kapoor, who plays a key role, has so far appeared only in the "Chikiri" song. While the track gained trac-

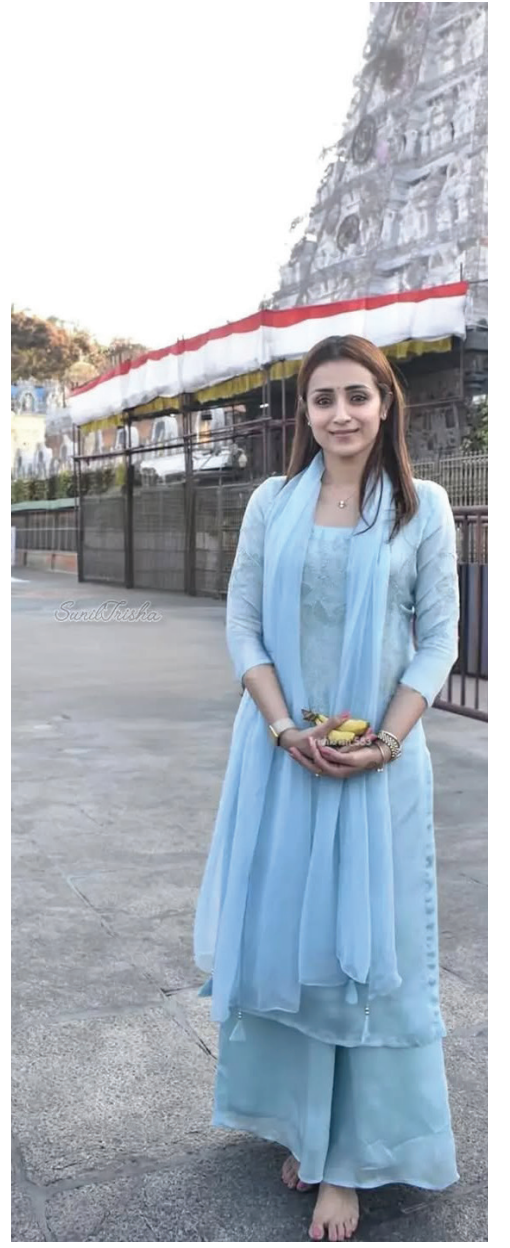
May 4th: Trisha Becomes Buzz Word In 3 States

May 4! And this is not just a day where Tamil actress Trisha Krishnan celebrates her 43rd birthday, but also there are a lot of cinematic and political colours flying around her. In recent times, she was accused of having a relationship with actor Vijay, the Chief of the TVK party, who contested in the Tamil Nadu elections for the first time. And her name got highlighted when Vijay's estranged wife Sangeetha filed for divorce, mentioning her in the petition, rather indirectly. Here's the thing now.

Apparently on the eve of her 43rd birthday, Trisha naturally became a trending topic because of the fact that the TVK party is racing ahead in the elections as well. Naturally, the set Tamil political circles are ablaze with a lot of speculations that she might meet Vijay very soon, later today, and congratulate him at the Party Office officially. By the time of writing this article, TVK already has clear lead in only 105 seats, while the magic figure is 118 seats. That way, Trisha became a buzzword in Tamil Nadu.

Coming to Andhra Pradesh, early in the morning, Trisha came for a special break darshan of Lord Balaji at Tirumala, with no hungama and without any special team around her. While some hailed her for going to Tirumala on her birthday, some stated that she went there to pray for Vijay's victory in the elections. Whatever it may be, Trisha's public appearance in the Telugu state has created ripples for sure. She's not someone who shies away from the cameras on that note.

Back in Hyderabad, the team of Megastar Chiranjeevi's Vishwambhara has released a special poster wishing their 'Avani' a happy birthday. That's the only film in Trisha's hand at the moment, and if going by political speculations, it looks like she won't be doing more films now, but will join active politics very soon. That's how Trisha became a buzzword in three states.



'She's an Ally' Statement Backs Janhvi

Actor Janhvi Kapoor has found herself at the center of an online misunderstanding after her past remarks about alcohol were widely misinterpreted. In response, her mental health initiative Off The Rocks, in collaboration with Amaha, has issued a formal statement clarifying her stance.

The controversy arose from comments Kapoor made during a podcast conversation with Raj Shamani, where she spoke candidly about a challenging phase in her life. While she acknowledged drinking more frequently during that period, her remarks were misconstrued by sections of the media as an admission of alcohol dependency.

Addressing the issue, Off The Rocks emphasized that Kapoor is not battling addiction but is instead contributing to the conversation as an "ally and caregiver." The statement expressed concern over misleading narratives, noting that such misrepresentation not only distorts her role but also undermines the lived experiences of individuals struggling with addiction.

"We urge media platforms and individuals to approach conversations around addiction with sensitivity and integrity," the note read, adding that misinformation in this domain can be harmful and disrespectful to affected communities.

Kapoor, who reshared the clarification on her social media, had earlier explained that her temporary reliance on alcohol followed a traumatic experience. She also noted that she became conscious of its negative effects and chose to step back.

On the professional front, Kapoor is gearing up for her upcoming film Peddi, where she will star alongside Ram Charan. The film is expected to release on June 6, 2026. She was last seen in Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, directed by Shashank Khaitan and co-starring Varun Dhawan, which hit theatres in late 2025.



WAMIQA PRAISES 'GOOD VIBES' ON THE SETS OF PATI PATNI AUR WOHO DO

As anticipation builds around the upcoming romantic comedy Pati Patni Aur Woh Do, actor Wamiqa Gabbi has shared her experience of working with director Mudassar Aziz and co-star Ayushmann Khurrana for the first time.

With the teaser already creating a buzz and songs like "Roop Di Rani" and "Dil Waale Chor" gaining traction, the film has steadily climbed the audience's watchlist ahead of its trailer release. Speaking about her time on set, Gabbi highlighted the relaxed and collaborative atmosphere fostered by both Aziz and Khurrana.

"It was my first time working with both of them," she said, adding that their grounded and easygoing personalities made the process seamless. "When you have good vibes on set, you are always able to give your best," she noted, emphasizing how crucial the director and co-actor are to her performance.

Gabbi also praised Aziz's storytelling style, particularly his ability to blend drama and comedy effectively. On working with Khurrana, she pointed out their shared roots in Chandigarh, which helped establish an instant rapport from day one.

Presented by T-Series and B.R. Studios, the film also stars Sara Ali Khan and Rakul Preet Singh in key roles. Produced by Bhushan Kumar, Renu Ravi Chopra, and Krishan Kumar, the project promises a mix of situational comedy and relatable relationship drama.

Pati Patni Aur Woh Do is slated for a theatrical release on May 15, 2026, and is expected to offer audiences a lighthearted entertainer packed with humour, confusion, and unexpected twists.

