

EYE SECRETS

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PM Modi pays tributes to Sardar Patel, reaffirms commitment to fulfil his vision for India

Gir Somnath: During the Somnath Amrut Mahotsav on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who, he said, made significant efforts for the restoration of the Somnath Temple following Independence.

He reaffirmed the commitment to fulfil Sardar Patel's vision for India.

In a post on X, PM Modi said, "At Somnath, paid heartfelt tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose vision and resolve played a defining role in the temple's reconstruction. He dreamt of seeing Somnath rise again in all its glory, as a symbol of India's civilisational pride and spiritual continuity."

"We will always remain committed to fulfilling his vision for our nation," he added. Earlier in the day, PM Modi participated in Vishesh Maha Puja, the historic Kumbhabhishek and Dhvajrohan ceremonies at the temple.

The 'Somnath Amrut Mahotsav' commemorated 75 years since the restored Somnath Temple was inaugurated by India's first President, Dr Rajendra Prasad, in 1951, following reconstruction efforts led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. During this, he also released a commemorative stamp and coin, commemorating the legacy of the sacred shrine.



Later, addressing a large public gathering after participating in the religious ceremonies, the Prime Minister criticised the "appeasement politics" during his address at the 'Somnath Amrut Mahotsav'

in Gujarat, saying that India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, had opposed the reconstruction of the Somnath Temple after Independence. Politics Addressing a large public gathering after participating in religious ceremonies at the Somnath Temple, PM Modi said the reconstruction of the temple symbolised India's "independent civilisational consciousness" following Independence.

"The re-establishment of the Somnath Temple 75 years ago on this very day was no ordinary occasion. If India became independent in 1947, then the consecration of Somnath in 1951 proclaimed India's independent civilisational consciousness," he said.

The Prime Minister praised Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and India's first President, Dr Rajendra Prasad, for supporting the reconstruction of the temple after Independence.

"At the time of Independence, Sardar Patel united more than 500 princely states to shape a modern India, and through the reconstruction of Somnath, he told the world that India had not merely become free.. India had also begun its journey to reclaim its ancient glory," he said.

PM Modi said that Sardar Patel and Rajendra Prasad had faced opposition

during the reconstruction effort.

After Independence, one of the first responsibilities was to restore the Somnath temple, and therefore Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Dr Rajendra Prasad made immense efforts for it. But we all know how much opposition they faced from Nehru Ji," he said.

He further added, "I will not go into detail today, but it was Sardar Patel's determination that, despite all opposition, he did not waver. The Somnath temple was rebuilt, and the country washed away centuries of humiliation."

The Prime Minister also linked the issue to contemporary politics, saying "such forces still exist in the country today for whom appeasement matters more than national self-respect".

"We saw this during the construction of the Ram Temple as well, when opposition was raised even against it. We must remain cautious of such thinking. We must move beyond such narrow politics. We have to move forward with both development and heritage together," he said.

During his speech, PM Modi described the Somnath Amrut Mahotsav as "not merely a celebration of the past" but "a festival of inspiration for India for the next thousand years".

Telangana CM orders investigation into POCSO case against MoS Bandi Sanjay's son

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister, A. Revanth Reddy, on Monday directed Director General of Police C.V. Anand to immediately initiate an investigation into the Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act case registered against Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay's son, Bandi Bhagirath. Hyderabad city guide The Chief Minister instructed the DGP to constitute special teams for a comprehensive investigation into the case of the alleged sexual assault on a minor girl by Bandi Bhagirath. The Chief Minister questioned the DGP over the delay in taking action despite the complaint having been lodged on May 8 at Pet Basheerabad Police Station. Following the Chief Minister's direction, the police chief reportedly constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the case. According to the Chief Minister's Office, DGP Anand briefed the Chief Minister on the details of the case. The DGP informed the Chief Minister



that the entire police force had been engaged in security arrangements in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Hyderabad. Meanwhile, the Telangana State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TSCPCR) has formed a special Bench to hear the case. TGSCPCR Chairperson, Kothakota Seetha Dayakar Reddy, obtained details from the City Police Commissioner and constituted a special Bench to conduct an enquiry into the matter. The action by TSCPCR and the Chief Minister's direction to the DGP came amid the continuing protest by the Opposition Bharath Rashtra Samithi (BRS) demanding action against Bandi Sanjay's son. A case was regis-

tered against Bandi Bhagirath under POCSO Act for alleged sexual assault on a 17-year-old girl. The girl's mother alleged that Bhagirath had been harassing their daughter for over six months. He also allegedly misbehaved with her at a farmhouse in Moinabad.

On her complaint, the police registered a case under Section 11 of the POCSO Act and relevant sections of BNS. Bhagirath, 25, had earlier lodged a complaint in Karimnagar II Town Police Station against the girl and her parents. He alleged that they attempted to honey trap him and demanded Rs. 5 crore to not file a police complaint against him. On his complaint, a case was booked against the girl and her parents under various Sections of the BNS for extortion, criminal intimidation, criminal conspiracy and common intention. Bandi Sanjay has denied the allegation against his son. He claimed that political rivals were trying to tarnish his image by making false allegations.

Holiday rush at Durga temple

Vijayawada: A heavy influx of devotees was witnessed at the famous Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri here on Sunday owing to the ongoing summer holidays and weekend rush. In view of the large turnout, Executive Officer and Special



Grade Deputy Collector VK Seena Naik personally inspected the arrangements at the temple to ensure that devotees faced no inconvenience during darshan. The EO visited the ghat road, queue lines and inner temple premises. Despite the heavy rush, devotees reportedly expressed satisfaction over the smooth conduct of darshan. He instructed the staff to ensure continuous supply of drinking water and buttermilk at the Chalivendrams set up across the temple premises. In view of the summer crowd, Antaralaya Darshan was temporarily suspended from 10 am to 2 pm on Sunday to facilitate quicker darshan for general devotees. The Antaralaya Darshan resumed after 2 pm. Meanwhile, the EO informed that the next hundi counting programme of the temple would be conducted on May 18, at the sixth floor of the Mallikharjuna Maha Mandapam atop Indrakeeladri.

NaMo meets AP CM, Deputy CM in city, discuss strategic NDA alliance

Hyderabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the residences of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan in Hyderabad's Jubilee Hills on Sunday, triggering widespread political discussion across both Telugu states. The Prime Minister first visited Pawan Kalyan's residence, where he enquired about his health condition as the leader is reportedly recovering after a recent sinus-related surgery. Modi extended heartfelt wishes for a speedy recovery during the brief interaction. Later, the Prime Minister proceeded to the residence of Chandrababu Naidu,

where he was welcomed by the Chief Minister and his son, Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh. The meeting between Modi and Chandrababu Naidu reportedly lasted for over an hour. Sources indicated that the discussions touched upon the current political situation in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the functioning of the alliance government, and broader strategies of the National Democratic Alliance. These high-level interactions have drawn significant attention amid increasing activity in the region ahead of key electoral battles. The visit has generated interest in political circles, particularly as it comes before

important developments in Telangana, including the GHMC elections. Analysts suggest the timing has fuelled speculation about possible alliance strategies and the future approach of the BJP in local politics. Observers are debating whether the interactions indicate efforts to further strengthen the NDA alliance in South India, where the Telugu Desam Party, Bharatiya Janata Party, and Jana Sena Party share strong ties. Meanwhile, Telangana BJP leaders have been asserting that the party will focus intensely on the state's political landscape. Reacting to the visit, Chandrababu Naidu posted on



X, describing the meeting as a truly special occasion and an evening his family would never forget. He expressed gratitude for the continued encouragement and support being extended towards the development journey of Andhra Pradesh.

Additional SP NB Ratnam Receives Public Grievances at Prajavani Programme



From Our Staff Reporter Mahabubnagar: MAY-11 Additional SP NB Ratnam Receives Public Grievances at Prajavani Programme

As part of the Prajavani programme conducted at the District Police Office, Additional SP Sri N.B. Ratnam personally received and patiently heard grievances from people who came from various parts of the district. After listening

to the issues explained by the complainants, the Additional SP spoke directly with the concerned officials over the phone and instructed them to take immediate action. He directed the

officials to treat every complaint with priority and ensure speedy justice to the victims. On this occasion, the Additional SP stated that the Police Department is always accessible to the public and remains committed to resolving their problems efficiently. Speaking further, Sri N.B. Ratnam said, "Prajavani programme is serving as an effective platform to directly understand the problems of the people and provide quick solutions. We are responsibly addressing every complaint and taking measures to further strengthen public confidence in the Police Department," he said.

Public Grievance Petitions Must Be Resolved on Priority Basis: District Collector Hemanth Sahadeorao



From Our Staff Reporter Mulugu: MAY-11 District Collector

Hemanth Sahadeorao stated that petitions submitted during the Prajavani public grievance programme should be given top priority and resolved promptly.

On Monday, during the Prajavani programme held at the Collectorate meeting

hall, District Collector Hemanth Sahadeorao and RDO Venkatesh received applications from complainants at the divisional-level Prajavani session.

A total of 67 applications were received during the programme. These included 11 related to Indiramma houses, 20 pension applications, 1 employment-related application, 13 concerning

other departments, 21 land-related petitions at the divisional level, and 1 senior citizen-related application.

The District Collector personally received the petitions submitted by the public. Speaking on the occasion, he said that every application was being thoroughly examined and forwarded to the respec-

tive department officials concerned.

He clarified that land-related petitions received at the divisional level were immediately forwarded online to the Tahsildars for necessary action. He further stated that applicants who submitted petitions during the Prajavani programme could track the status of their applications online using the receipt provided by the officials. The Collector directed officials to give priority to Prajavani petitions, take necessary steps for their resolution, and regularly update the status of the applications online.

Additional Collectors C.H. Mahender G and Sampath Rao, along with district officials from various departments and staff members, participated in the programme.

Corporate-Level Education is the Goal of Praja Government: Government Whip Adi Srinivas

From Our Staff Reporter Vemulawada: MAY-11 State Government Whip

and Vemulawada MLA Adi Srinivas stated that the goal of the Praja Government is to provide corporate-level education to every student, and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is moving forward in that direction. On Monday, as part of the Telangana Government's "Praja Palana Pragathi Pranaliika" 99-day action plan and the Education Week celebrations, Adi Srinivas attended as the chief guest at the Girls High School in Vemulawada town and formally inaugurated the summer camps organized at the school. He further stated that



through the Education Week celebrations, the government's innovative educational initiatives are being taken to the people. The summer camps, which will continue from May 11 to May 25, will provide students train-

ing in coding, arts, sports, yoga, and personality development. He urged students to make good use of these opportunities. Municipal Chairperson Pulkam Raju, Councilor Annam Srinivas, Co-op-

tion Members Katkuri Srinivas and Peer Mohammed, Market Committee Vice Chairman Kanakarapu Rakesh, Education Department District Coordinator Padmaja, Headmaster Bannaji, teachers, and others participated in the programme.

International Nurses Day Celebrated Every Year on May 12

From Our Staff Reporter Siddipet: MAY-11 International Nurses Day

is observed every year on May 12 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder and philosopher of modern nursing. Hence, May 12 was chosen to celebrate the occasion worldwide.

The theme for International Nurses Day 2026 is: "Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives."

Nurses: The True Symbol of Human Service

It is often said that helping hands are greater than praying lips. For patients suffering from illness and admitted to hospitals, the

most caring and service-oriented hands are those of nurses. Through selfless service to humanity, nurses make their lives meaningful.

Doctors prescribe medicines and treatment schedules, but it is the nurse who ensures that medicines are given on time without fail, even waking up sleeping patients to administer them. From newborn babies to elderly people at the final stages of life, everyone depends on nursing care.

When healthy, people often move around energetically without concern, but when illness strikes, they desperately seek support. From common fever patients to those suffering from severe diseases such as AIDS,



cancer, and tuberculosis, everyone looks toward nurses for care and compassion. Despite being overwhelmed with countless responsibilities and pressures, nurses continue to serve patients with patience,

kindness, comforting words, and a smile. Even family members may sometimes hesitate to touch critically ill patients, but nurses, though unrelated by blood, continue to provide compassionate care.

Community Contact Program to Control Crime: Ramagundam CI Krishna



From Our Staff Reporter Peddapalli: MAY-11

Following the instructions of senior officials of the Peddapalli Zone under the Ramagundam Police Commissionerate, a Community Contact Program was organized in PK Ramaiah Colony under the limits of the NTPC Police Station in the Ramagundam Commissionerate. The program was conducted under

the supervision of CI Krishnakumar and SI Uday Kiran.

As part of the program, police carried out extensive vehicle inspections in the colony. A total of 65 two-wheelers, 3 autos, and one car without proper documents or number plates were checked, and fines were imposed on motorists who violated traffic rules. Residents were advised to

immediately inform the local police station or dial 100 if any new or suspicious persons are seen entering the colony. Citizens were urged to verify the identity of unknown persons and warned that sheltering people with criminal backgrounds is also an offense. In view of the increasing number of cyber frauds, the police advised people not to respond to calls from

unknown persons and warned against sharing OTP details with anyone. In case of any cyber fraud, citizens were asked to immediately call the cyber helpline number 1930 and lodge a complaint. To prevent thefts, residents were encouraged to install CCTV cameras at their homes. The CI remarked that "One CCTV camera is equal to one hundred police personnel." He explained that CCTV footage helps police easily identify and apprehend accused persons in cases of thefts, accidents, and disputes. People going on tours, pilgrimages, or travelling to other places were advised to inform the local police station or dial 100 before leaving. Ramagundam CI Krishna Kumar, Godavarikhani One Town CI-2 Afzaluddin, NTPC SI Uday Kiran, Lachanna, and other police personnel participated in the program.

Public Grievance Petitions Must Be Resolved Quickly Through Field-Level Verification: District Collector Kumar Deepak



From Our Staff Reporter Mancherla: MAY-11 District Collector Kumar

Deepak stated that the applications received during the Prajavani programme should be examined at the field level and resolved at the earliest. On Monday, he, along with Additional Collectors P. Chandrayya and V. Ramulu, received petitions from applicants at the meeting hall of the Integrated District Offices Com-

plex in Nasapur.

Kota Shankar from Singapore village of Nasapur mandal submitted a petition stating that he had purchased land on the outskirts of Indaram village in Jaipur mandal nearly 10 years ago and requested that the land be mutated in his name. Ayyori Likhitha from Kondapur village of Dandepallimandal submitted a representation stating that her family depends on driv-

ing a taxi for livelihood and requested that their details, currently listed under L3 in the Indiramma Housing Scheme, be shifted to L1 and a house be sanctioned. Karukoori M allayya from Korvichelma village of Dandepallimandal alleged that his children had illegally transferred the ownership of their properties into their names and driven the elderly couple out of

the house.

He requested the authorities to cancel the pattas and restore the lands in their names. Banoth Rajesh from Lambadi Thanda village of Kasipetmandal submitted a petition requesting the establishment of a ration shop, stating that their village had been separated from the old Gram Panchayat. Vodnala Komurayya from Chirragunta village of Mandamarrimandal requested officials to stop the CC road construction works being carried out on his private land without permission. Concerned officials and others participated in the programme.

Solutions Must Be Provided for Prajavani Petitions Collector Garima Agrawal

From Our Staff Reporter Rajanna Sircilla: MAY-11 District Collector

Garima Agrawal directed officials to ensure timely resolution of petitions received through the Prajavani grievance redressal program. The Prajavani program was conducted on Monday at the auditorium of the Integrated District Offices Complex, where Collector Garima Agrawal personally received petitions from the public.

She stated that resolving public grievances is the primary objective of Prajavani. Officials were instructed



not to keep petitions pending and to conduct field-level inquiries before resolving issues within the stipulated time. She also directed officials to work in coordination to avoid delays in addressing public problems. A total of

165 applications were received during the program. The Collector instructed the concerned departmental officials to take immediate action on the petitions. She also appealed to the public to make use of the

Prajavani programs being conducted at the divisional level.

Additional Collector Gaddam Nagesh, Housing PD Venkata Madhava Rao, and others participated in the program.

From Our Staff Reporter REBBENA: MAY-11: As part of

Telangana Government's Education Week celebrations, District Collector K. Haritha and Asifabad MLA Kova Lakshmi performed Bhoomi Puja and laid the foundation stone for the construction of additional classrooms at the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Junior College in Gangapur village of the mandal on Monday. MLA Kova Lakshmi said efforts are being made to strengthen government education and extend better facilities to girl students. She noted that the additional classrooms are being constructed in view of the increased student strength so that they do not face



any difficulties. Later, the MLA felicitated girl students who secured top marks in the recently declared Intermediate results. She honoured them with shawls and extended her best wishes for more success in the future. MRO, MPDO, and MEO, along with village

Sarpanch Venkatesham Chari, Single Window Chairman Karnatham Sanjeev, Vice Chairman Rangu Mahesh, former Mandal President Potu Sridhar Reddy, Sarpanches Durgam Bharadwaj and Madasu Ravinder, Upa Sarpanches Jagadish

Varalakshmi and Mamidi Lakshmi, leaders Madhunaiah, B Ursa Pochamalla, Aruna Murali Goud, Padma, Vilas, senior officials from various departments, school management, and other public representatives attended the programme.

Hyd woman, daughters die after falling into well in Sangareddy

Hyderabad

In a tragic accident, a mother and her two daughters died after falling into a well in Borgi village of Sangareddy district.



A WEEK AGO, THE FAMILY TRAVELLED TO BORGI VILLAGE TO ATTEND A WEDDING CEREMONY. DURING THEIR STAY, SAVITRI AND HER DAUGHTERS WENT TO A NEARBY WELL TO WASH CLOTHES

Parashuram lived with his wife Savitri, 30, and two daughters - Nikitha, 10 and Nandini, 8 - in Hyderabad. A week ago, the family travelled to Borgi village to attend a wedding ceremony. During their stay, Savitri and her daughters went to a nearby well to wash clothes. Unfortunately, the youngest daughter slipped and fell into the water. Panicked, Savitri and Nikitha also jumped inside to save Nandini, but in vain. All three died by drowning. Nearby family and villagers pulled the bodies out and informed the police. A case has been registered.

CM directs admissions to Inter as per existing system

Hyderabad

The Telangana government on Sunday said admissions to Intermediate (XI and XII) this academic year would be held as per the existing system.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy gave a directive to officials in this regard.

The instructions came in view of a proposal mooted by the government this year to merge Intermediate education with the general school education system.

"In view of the availability of a limited time for admissions and various technical hurdles currently impeding the process of merger of Intermediate



education with the general school education system, the chief minister instructed that the admission process be initiated immediately to ensure that students do not face challenges," an official release said. The Telangana Education Commission had recommended the abolition of

the Intermediate education system and replacing it with Class 11 and Class 12 grades - similar to the CBSE model, it said.

CM Revanth Reddy directed officials to conduct extensive consultations with all stakeholders regarding the merger. He also suggested that the committee constituted to formulate the Telangana Education Policy should study the issue and submit its recommendations.

The chief minister said a final decision on the proposed merger would be taken only after holding a debate in the Legislative Assembly, the release added.

Gang caught selling spurious liquor in expensive bottles

Hyderabad

A gang that was refilling expensive imported liquor bottles, including Royal Salute Scotch whisky priced at around Rs 25,000 a bottle, with cheap adulterated alcohol and selling them for profit has been busted by the Secunderabad Excise District Task Force.

The operation began when task force officials, acting on intelligence about an ongoing adulteration racket, intercepted two individuals near Rasoolpura Metro Station and recovered six bottles of Shivaji Regal premium liquor.

On examination, the liquor turned out to be adulterated, with the original contents being replaced



with low-grade alcohol. During interrogation, the accused revealed where the operation was being run. A subsequent raid on that location led to the seizure of 41 full bottles of adulterated Shivaji Regal liquor and 63 premium liquor bottles of various brands that had been refilled with the spurious mix. Three persons, Chikun Swain, Sonu Mahanti and Prapul Kumar Naik, have been identified as the accused. Swain and Mahanti have been arrested. The third remains at large.

Car overheats, catches fire at Gachibowli

Hyderabad

A Mercedes-Benz burst into flames near AMB Cinemas in Gachibowli on Saturday evening, sending passersby into a panic before firefighters brought the blaze under control.

No one was injured in the incident. The driver first noticed smoke rising from the car around 7:30 pm near SLNT in Kothaguda and had the presence of mind to pull over and step out, moments before the vehicle was fully engulfed in flames. Fire officials who rushed to the spot said that engine overheating is the likely cause. Police also reached the scene, and the fire was put out without any casualties.

Goud seeks PM Modi's support for Metro expansion, Musi rejuvenation

Hyderabad

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee President Mahesh Kumar Goud on Sunday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to support Hyderabad Metro expansion, Musi rejuvenation and infrastructure ventures.

In an open letter, Goud asked the Centre to approve the Phase 2 expansion of Hyderabad Metro as a joint venture model. After acquiring a 100 per cent stake from Larsen & Toubro in the first phase, the state government is planning an expansion of 122.9 km at an estimated cost of Rs 38,595 under the second phase of Hyderabad Metro.

Pitching the Musi Rejuvenation project not just as a river-cleaning initiative but as a comprehensive project linked to urban development, public health, tourism, and city beautification, Goud asked the Centre to provide it with special financial assistance and



recognition as a national-level urban river restoration project.

He also asked the Union Defence Ministry to clear land permissions sought for the Gandhi Sarovar project at Babu Ghat.

Goud sought the Union Cabinet's approval and financial clearances for the northern part of the Regional Ring Road, citing its importance in reducing traffic burden on Hyderabad and boosting investments, employment, and transport infrastructure in surround-

ing districts. He urged that permission for the southern part of the project, too, be granted without delay. The proposed Regional Ring Road project alongside the Regional Ring Road (RRR) should also be taken up at the earliest and fully funded by the Centre, he added. He also reminded the Modi government of the Rs 45,000 crore financial assistance sought by the state government for the development of radial roads connecting the Outer Ring Road and the Regional Ring Road.

Youth ends life after parents deny phone

Hyderabad

A 20-year-old youngster died by suicide in Mahabubabad on Friday after his parents allegedly refuse to buy him a mobile phone.

The deceased was identified as K Sai Kumar, a native of Thorur mandal. According to the police, he had damaged his phone and demanded a new one.



Kumar, allegedly in an inebriated condition, argued with his parents over the issue.

He was upset as his parents asked him to wait for some time before purchasing the new phone. Kumar took the extreme step and hung himself in his room, while his parents were away.

After being alerted, the police arrived at the spot and shifted the body to a government hospital for postmortem.

AC technician attacked in Attapur, body found near Agri varsity



THE DECEASED WAS IDENTIFIED AS HUSSAIN, A RESIDENT OF LANGER HOUZ. HIS BODY HAS BEEN SHIFTED FOR POSTMORTEM, AND ATTAPUR POLICE ARE CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING THE MATTER

Hussain was first attacked at Pillar Number 223 of PVNR Expressway. Then he was taken to the Agriculture University, where he was assaulted again. Locals found his body. Police are assessing CCTV footage to catch the miscreants.

A 25-year-old AC technician's body was found lying in a pool of blood at the Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University in Rajendranagar on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Hussain, a resident of Langer Houz. His body has been shifted for postmortem, and Attapur police are currently investigating the matter.

Gas cylinder explosion at hotel in Patancheru, couple injured

Hyderabad

A gas cylinder explosion triggered a massive fire at a mess beside the Patancheru bus stand on Sunday. Although the entire establishment was gutted, its owners escaped unhurt.

The incident was reported at around 11 am at the Sri Shiva Khanawali Hotel. On information, the Patancheru fire station was the first to respond. "There was a power outage in the mess during a



gas leak, and the explosion occurred right after the

power came back," an official from the Patancheru fire station said.

The fire was contained to the first floor of the building housing the mess and did not spread to the commercial shops below, the official added. It was doused in around 30 minutes.

Owners Jagdish and Shobha were the only ones present in the mess and suffered light injuries. They were treated at a hospital and have been discharged.

Six Sikh couples tie the knot at free mass marriage in Hyd

Hyderabad

In a mass marriage ceremony, six Sikh couples from economically weaker families were married in a traditional ceremony at Gurudwara Baram Bala in Kishanbagh, Hyderabad, on Sunday.

The 'Samuhik Vivah Samagam' was organised by the Gurudwara's Prabhanda Committee.

"Not a single rupee was spent on the marriages.

Education Week from May 11-17 under Praja Palana programme

Hyderabad

The Telangana government on Saturday, announced that the education week will be observed from May 11-17 as part of the 99-day Praja Palana programme.

During this week, the Telangana Education Department will focus on infrastructure development in schools. The inaugural ceremony is scheduled for Monday at 5 pm at the LB Stadium in Hyderabad.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will be the chief guest and perform the inaugural ceremonies for the development works and unveil a



roadmap for the future projects. Telangana Education Secretary, Dr Yogith Rana, will address the gathering, highlighting the measures for public education and outlining the objectives of the Education Week celebrations.

The 14-week Praja Palana programme features a different theme each week.

It will begin with a focus on sanitation, followed by topics such as education, healthcare, women's empowerment, farmers' welfare, youth development, and the environment. At the onset of the programme in April, officials were instructed to prioritise the clearance of garbage vulnerable points (GVPs), impose penalties on habitual offenders dumping waste, undertake e-waste collection drives, remove garbage from lakes and water bodies with the support of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers during the sanitation week.

Driver skids car off ORR, suffers minor injuries

Hyderabad

A 24-year-old private employee, suffering from drowsiness, skidded his car off a service road on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) in Kokapet, police said on Sunday.

The accident occurred at around 4:30 pm. Luckily, no one else was injured, and the driver made it out with minor injuries.

He has been shifted to Continental Hospital and is undergoing treatment. A case has been registered under Section 125 (rash or negligent acts) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at the Narsingi police station.

A few days ago, senior police officers held a



meeting chaired by Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar at the Telangana Integrated Command and

Control Centre (TGICC), where it was observed 33 per cent of accidents on the ORR were attributed to drowsiness and sleep

deprivation. This was followed by reckless driving at 25 per cent, speeding at 15 per cent and tyre bursts at 14 per cent.

Hyd-Vijayawada RRR works to start soon

Hyderabad

The tender process of the Hyderabad-Vijayawada (NH-65) Regional Ring Road has been completed, and arrangements are being made to start construction very soon, National Highways Authority of India Chairman Santosh Kumar Yadav stated on Sunday.



He was conducting a meeting with the Telangana Roads and Buildings Minister, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy. The Minister asked NHAI to take up the eight-lane expansion of the Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway as soon as possible to prevent frequent accidents.

He also mentioned that the state government has decided to construct a 7.1 km double-decker elevated corridor on the Nagpur model from LB Nagar to Hayat Nagar, and a Detailed Project Report has been sent to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Heatwave to hit TG tomorrow

Hyderabad

Telangana is likely to experience an intense heatwave from May 12, which will last for 10 days.

According to Telangana weather enthusiast T Balaji, temperatures in North and East Telangana are expected to reach 43 degrees Celsius. "During May 18-22, temperatures can even touch 47°C in East Telangana districts due to LOO winds," Balaji said in a post on X.

The Telangana weather

enthusiast predicted that the state will experience scattered rain over the next 10 days, even as there will be no respite from the heat.

Balaji also said that the southwest monsoon is expected to make its onset over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands around May 15, with a possible variation of one day.

However, despite the monsoon progress in the Bay of Bengal region, Telangana is unlikely to get a respite anytime soon.



On May 8, the India Meteorological Department predicted that heatwave conditions will be back by May 10. The temperatures that crossed 42 degrees Celsius in Hyderabad and 45 degrees

Celsius in other districts of Telangana have declined. The lowest maximum temperature of 35 degrees Celsius recorded on Saturday, May 9, was in Nagarkurnool district.

In the case of Hyderabad, the lowest temperature was 36 degrees Celsius, which was recorded in Khairatabad.

Even the highest maximum temperature recorded in Nizamabad district was 42.8 degrees Celsius.

Two held in separate cyber fraud cases in Malkajgiri

Hyderabad

At least two people were arrested in two separate cases of cyber fraud by Malkajgiri police in one week and Rs 4.31 lakh were returned to the victims.

The accused involved in fake investment and trading fraud via WhatsApp and fraudulent investment apps were arrested during a crackdown by the



Malkajgiri police. Following the arrest, the police cautioned the public to beware of such fraudsters.

"Do not trust unknown apps, suspicious links, or online trading groups and verify before investing online.

Report cyber frauds immediately to 1930," said the police.

In March 2026, the Cyberabad cybercrime police arrested 11 cyber fraudsters in seven cases and returned Rs 24 lakh to the victims.

EDITORIAL

New hopes, New challenges

Will the results of the assembly elections in the five states have an impact on Telangana politics? When I went to a TV debate, this question that the moderator asked me naturally circulates in political circles. It is an undeniable fact that there will be an impact, whether directly or indirectly. In the five state assemblies where elections were held, public opposition changed the governments in the big states of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. That is, was it a natural consequence of public opposition? Were different effects added to it? It should be noted. Each place has a different situation! Although the opposition to the government that brought down the ruling parties was common in three places, the people crowned three different parties/alliances. Different factors were responsible for that. While the BJP came to power for the first time in Bengal, ousting Mamata Banerjee (TMC), who had been in power for three terms, the United Democratic Front (UDF), which had been in power for two consecutive terms, returned to power in Kerala, where it defeated the Left Front (LDF) coalition, which had been in power for two consecutive terms. The ruling DMK alliance led by the Dravidian parties, who have been rivals for decades in Tamil Nadu, and the opposition AIADMK alliance, have not been replaced by the hero Vijay's new party TVK, which has come to power like a movie wave. The results achieved by the national parties BJP and Congress in this election will also have an impact on Telangana. It is known that after the formation of the state in 2014, BRS (previously TRS) ruled for almost ten consecutive years, but Congress came to power with a victory in the 2023 assembly elections! In the Lok Sabha (2024) elections held immediately after that, BJP created a sensation by winning 8/17 seats. BRS, which ruled for ten years, did not get a single seat. BRS lost its seats in the two assembly by-elections that followed. Now it is struggling to recover. In these circumstances, BJP's goal is to come to power in Telangana in the assembly elections to be held in another two and a half years. The results of the latest five state assemblies are a boost for the BJP to take strategic steps towards this end! Despite criticisms of the strategy and methods, the next target of the BJP, which is expanding unopposed in the country, seems to be Telangana. Some party leaders are saying that directly, but what will the top leadership do about it? It is interesting to know! Especially after the latest results of the assembly elections in five states, the party leadership is redoubled in enthusiasm. After bringing down the useless Didi Mamata Banerjee and winning West Bengal, why is there still failure in Telangana, which is positive? This is the question of the BJP top leadership. It has been revealed many times that the Delhi leadership is not very satisfied with the performance of the state leadership. The latest comment made by the top leader in an internal party meeting is a clear proof of that. 'How many of you will be in the party and for how long? Stay together and united for as long as you can!' He said in a somewhat harsh and threatening tone, which can only be understood from this. There are so many differences among the party's state leaders that they cannot even make a joint and public statement saying, 'We are all united, there are no differences between us'. One of the key leaders does not like the other. The rivalry between the old generation leaders and the new leaders who want to come and settle in the party is an open secret! Despite winning a third of the seats in the Hyderabad metropolitan elections and raising new hopes, the party has not gained public support and has not been strengthened. Despite getting Lok Sabha seats, there is a feeling that the party is not strengthening institutionally across the state. Although it is gradually strengthening in North Telangana, it is not growing in districts like Khammam, Nalgonda and Ranga Reddy. What new task will the high leadership give in these matters? Will it pull any key leaders from other parties into the BJP as the Logada campaign did? Will there be reconciliation between the old and the new? All these are now coming up for discussion again.

If BJP increases its strength, the BRS party should be the first to be alert and prepared! If we want to come back to power, it is difficult to achieve results unless we work fully and with the spirit of the movement. We need to learn a lesson from the results of Tamil Nadu. In 2016, the AIADMK led by Jayalithaa retained power, unlike the alternative options that are coming up unexpectedly and traditionally. This is a record after MG Ramachandran in 1984. The AIADMK party/alliance has not won any election since Jayalithaa's death in late 2016. It has been weakening as a party. Even though the people opposed the DMK alliance led by CM Stalin in yesterday's elections, they did not choose the opposition AIADMK-BJP alliance. Film star Vijay, who came as a new force and contested in all constituencies, crowned his party TVK. Even though he did not get the absolute majority to form the government, he is now in a position to become the Chief Minister. 'After the formation of the state, the aspirations of the people of Telangana have not been fulfilled, they have seen them for ten years and have not for five years, and they have been deceived. Give us a chance once, we will be at the Centre and in the state, development with a 'double engine government' and Telangana's aspirations will be fulfilled! If the BJP expands politically, it will be a difficult situation for the BRS! After ten years of power, it faced defeat in 2023 and got respectable opposition status with 39 seats, but there is criticism that it is not working at that level. 'Why is there a salary for the opposition leader who does not come to the assembly?' the CM is asking. Ten MLAs who have changed parties are with the party 'technically'. After the defeat in the 2024 Lok Sabha, the subsequent Secunderabad Cantonment and Jubilee Hills by-elections, there were no significant results in the panchayat elections. There is a feeling among the people that the local leadership got those seats only because of their struggle and perseverance. Kavitha, who is far from the party, has not only criticized the BRS leadership on many issues but also founded her own political party. There is a strong feeling within and outside the party ranks that the party is devaluing another key leader, Harish Rao, for the sake of the positivity of KTR, the son of KCR, who is the working president. If that feeling also affects Harish Rao, or if it increases... it will be a danger to the party!

Suvendu Adhikari: The Man Who Waited For 15 Years - And Won

The year was 1993. On July 21, in the heart of Kolkata, police opened fire on a crowd of demonstrators. Thirteen people were killed. The march had been led by Mamata Banerjee, then a Young Congress leader, towards the Writers' Building as part of the "Writers' Chalo" movement. The incident shook Bengal politics to its core and would go on to become one of the most enduring emotional symbols of Mamata Banerjee's political movement. Since then, every year, Mamata has observed July 21 as Shahid Dibas - Martyrs' Day. Even after the formation of the Trinamool Congress, the event continued to grow in scale and significance. Over the years, it became one of the biggest annual political gatherings in Bengal.

18 Years Later

The story of Suvendu Adhikari - one of Bengal's most consequential political figures of recent times - begins 18 years later, in 2011. That year, a huge event was organised at Brigade Parade Ground and Dharmatala under Mamata Banerjee's leadership. The crowd was enormous. The atmosphere was charged. By then, Mamata had already emerged as the undisputed force against the Left Front government, and the momentum for change in Bengal was building to a fever pitch. Suvendu Adhikari was, at that time, the Youth Trinamool Congress president - an important organisational figure who had played a major role in strengthening the party at the grassroots level, especially in East Midnapore and adjoining regions. He was on stage that day. But something felt wrong. The event management, stage announcements, and overall coordination were almost entirely in the hands of Kunal Ghosh, who was then extraordinarily prominent within the party and closely aligned with Mamata Banerjee. Kunal was making the announcements, directing the flow of the event, energising the crowd, and effectively conducting the entire gathering. Suvendu, despite his organisational stature, remained largely silent and inactive on stage - present, but peripheral. To many observers, it appeared as though he had

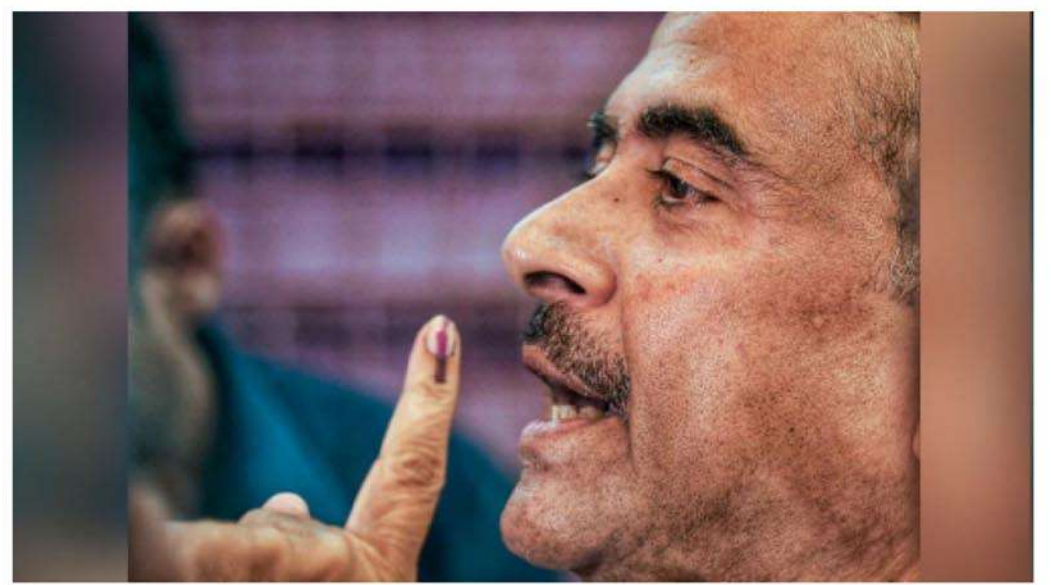
been placed there simply to be seen, not heard.

The First Slight

For someone as politically ambitious and organisationally driven as Suvendu Adhikari, that was not a trivial insult. Outwardly, nothing happened. But the first seeds of distance had been planted. Suvendu reportedly felt that Kunal Ghosh had displaced him in the leadership hierarchy, and that Mamata Banerjee herself had quietly approved this arrangement. From that moment, a slow-burning sense of wounded pride began to take root. The answer to why he felt so isolated - despite being surrounded by Mamata, the party leadership, and the very movement he had helped build - lies partly in the nature of Mamata Banerjee's politics itself. Mamata had emerged from street movements, agitation politics, and direct mass mobilisation. She valued absolute loyalty and exercised tight central control over the movement's emotional narrative. In such a political universe, space around the leader is carefully rationed. Younger leaders with strong independent mass bases inevitably began competing - consciously or unconsciously - for visibility and influence. Suvendu was among such young leaders then. But, stubborn and self-respecting, he was also not the type to let things go. That incident at Brigade and Dharmatala stayed with him. Soon came another blow. Rajib Banerjee had reportedly been assured the post of Youth Trinamool Congress president, and was even asked to postpone a planned trip to Australia in anticipation. But at the last minute, Soumitra Khan was brought in instead, and Suvendu was effectively edged out of that organisational space entirely. For Suvendu, this was yet another betrayal.

The Mukul Roy Era

Around the same period, Mukul Roy's star was rapidly rising as one of the most powerful figures inside the Trinamool Congress. He and his son, Subhranshu Roy, grew increasingly influential in youth and organisational politics. In fact, people would openly say that though Mamata Banerjee



was the Chief Ministerial face, Mukul Roy was the TMC's organisational backbone. Abhishek Banerjee had not yet emerged as a dominant force in the party in those days. Yet, he was slowly rising through the youth leadership structure. Inside the party, a quiet but unmistakable conversation had begun taking shape about who would eventually emerge as Mamata Banerjee's political heir, Roy or Banerjee. A silent power struggle was already on its way. Suvendu, watching all of this patiently, began to understand his own position more clearly. The number-two role he had perhaps aspired to get, was already slipping away from him. Roy or Banerjee, Adhikari found himself slowly sidelined - close to Mamata, and yet far from power. Eventually, though, Mukul Roy left for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). That would further clear the way for Abhishek Banerjee. The trajectory was becoming clear. And its implication wasn't lost on Suvendu. As these developments unfolded, Suvendu slowly began to reckon with the possibility that he, too, might eventually have to leave the Trinamool. BJP leaders had already begun establishing contact with him. But it wasn't that straightforward. His father, Sisir Adhikari, an old Congressman and seasoned politician, was firmly opposed to the idea. Mamata Banerjee herself reportedly made repeated efforts to stop Suvendu from leaving. She even sought Sisir Adhikari's help to bridge the growing distance. Sisir tried to defuse the tensions. But by

then, the real conflict perhaps was no longer between Suvendu and Mamata directly - it was Abhishek Banerjee's growing influence over the party machinery that didn't sit right with Suvendu.

Suvendu Was No Mukul Roy

Mukul Roy's drift towards the BJP had been driven by some sticky factors. For one, he faced multiple allegations as a Rajya Sabha MP. By the time he had made the move, his significance within the Trinamool was also fading. His flight to the BJP, thus, was only natural. Suvendu's case was different - and the BJP knew it. He was seen not merely as another defector but as a potential alternative for anti-Mamata politics in Bengal. BJP strategists saw in Suvendu something of what leaders like LK Advani had once identified in Mamata decades earlier - a regional force capable of channelling widespread popular discontent against an entrenched establishment.

The Final Nail In The Coffin

Before Suvendu's final goodbye, there was one last telling episode. The Trinamool Congress had organised a massive state conference in Digha - deep in the Adhikari family's home turf of East Midnapore. Suvendu was one of its principal organisers and naturally expected recognition for the scale and effort. Instead, the conference seemed to dissolve into what many described as a celebratory fan gathering rather than any serious organisational exercise. Despite the enormous effort he had put in, Suvendu

felt, once again, that he had not received the importance he deserved.

That was the last straw.

On December 19, 2020, Suvendu Adhikari officially joined the BJP in the presence of Amit Shah. By the 2021 assembly election, he had defeated Mamata Banerjee in Nandigram, her own chosen battlefield. Suvendu Adhikari had now well and truly emerged from the Trinamool and Mamata's shadow to cement his place in Bengal's political memory. Now the Leader of Opposition in the assembly, it was time for Suvendu to challenge his former political family head-on - and take no prisoners as he did that.

Suvendu Rises

After joining the BJP, Suvendu moved steadily and visibly closer to the RSS ecosystem. One of the most discussed moments came when he attended a major RSS gathering wearing the traditional RSS uniform, or a 'ganvesh'. Appearances at events of that level are rarely extended to leaders unless they have a deep organisational grounding in the Sangh. That made his presence there symbolically significant. In July 2023, he attended another major RSS event associated with Mohan Bhagwat, which many observers interpreted as confirmation that the RSS had formally accepted him as being part of the broader Sangh Parivar. Over time, Suvendu Adhikari became one of the most prominent Hindutva voices in West Bengal.

No Permanent Rivals In Politics As Vijay Turns Tamil Nadu Into 3-Way Battle

Ahead of C Joseph Vijay's possible oath as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and forming the state's first coalition government since 1952, the saga of cobbling together the numbers and staking his claim was filled with conniving conspiracies, desperate manoeuvres to keep the actor-turned-politician out, gubernatorial delays in the swearing-in, and a level of political uncertainty the state has never witnessed. It exposed the two Dravidian parties, the way the Vijay verdict has shaken up Tamil Nadu politics, the opportunism that drives politics, and TVK's inexperience in handling such situations.

Back in 2006, when former Chief Minister J Jayalithaa formed an alliance with MDMK chief Vaiko, she told waiting reporters that "there are no permanent friends or allies in politics." Surely, she would not have expected her party's future leadership to take her words so literally as to explore an alliance with the DMK.

Over the last 48 hours, Chennai was abuzz with reports that the DMK and AIADMK were in talks to work out an arrangement to keep Vijay out of power, with the BJP allegedly facilitating it by delaying his swearing-in. DMK and AIADMK sources confirmed

that back-channel proposals were seriously considered. One proposal was to install an Edappadi Palaniswami government, offering cabinet berths to the DMK's allies such as the Left and VCK, with DMK support from outside.

This idea was reportedly pushed by younger leaders and those close to Udhayanidhi Stalin. However, senior DMK leader and parliamentary party chief Kanimozhi Karunanidhi led the charge to thwart any such effort and even threatened to leave the party if it proceeded with the experiment, claim sources.

Fortunately, what would have been a travesty of the people's mandate for Vijay and an indelible blot on the state's polity was not carried out.

In fact, the TVK's firm warning that all its MLAs would resign if any effort was made to keep it out of power also showed it was not buckling under pressure and forced the other parties to fall in line.

Finally, the Left and VCK stuck with the TVK after the DMK decided not to force their hand. The mere fact that the AIADMK and DMK could even explore an alliance is flabbergasting and perhaps foretells the times to come in a state that has only seen two-party



decisive mandates in its history.

Yes, the DMK and AIADMK share ideological roots, but it is hard for any observer of Tamil politics to have imagined a day when the Two Leaves and the Rising Sun could ally with each other. The reason for this tectonic shift is that Tamil Nadu has moved from a two-way fight to a genuine three-party verdict. This may be the new reality for a state unaccustomed to such political uncertainty. The TVK, DMK, and AIADMK are now the three poles. Until the TVK decimates either the AIADMK or the DMK -- or the other two finish

off the TVK -- Tamil Nadu may have to get used to such uncertainty. To reiterate the numbers: The TVK has 108 seats (effectively 107, as Vijay has won two). The Congress has 5 MLAs, the two Left parties have 4 each, and the VCK has 2. This takes the alliance to 118 - an absolute majority. On the other hand, the DMK has 59 and the AIADMK has 47. If all the smaller pre-poll allies, including the Left and VCK, stay where they are, then the DMK-AIADMK alliance can also show an absolute majority of 120 without the Congress and the BJP.

All parties were taken aback by this verdict in Tamil Nadu, as a three-way fight resulted in a hung verdict. The speed and manner in which the TVK formed an alliance with the Congress also startled the BJP, which had preferred the TVK to align with the AIADMK. Its sole objective is to keep the Congress out of power. Vijay has also been cold toward the AIADMK and showed no interest in an alliance with the Two Leaves. This was because he felt it would be easier to manage smaller parties than a large ally - and also because the AIADMK is now a BJP ally.

PM Modi attacks Cong, says it is known for 'betraying' people

Bengaluru

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday attacked the Congress, accusing it of "failing" to provide good governance due to the internal power struggles in Karnataka, and "betraying" people. It has become a "parasite party" today, he charged.

He said that a "saffron sun" was rising from Bengaluru amid the BJP's expanding political influence across the country, in remarks indicating the party's recent electoral triumphs in West Bengal, Assam Puducherry.

"For the past three years in Karnataka, instead of resolving people's problems, most of the government's time here has been spent resolving internal conflicts. The Congress government

remained gripped by uncertainty over leadership and power-sharing arrangements," the PM said addressing a large gathering of BJP workers here.

Modi was referring to the ongoing power tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar for the past six months.

"They cannot decide how long the chief minister will remain. They cannot decide whether another person will get a chance or not. Everything has been kept hanging," he said.

Modi said the Congress government invariably faced anti-incumbency within months because the party lacked a governance agenda. "This is because Congress only knows how to betray people. They are false them-



selves, and their guarantees are also false. There is no chapter on governance in Congress' book of power," he charged.

The PM projected the BJP-led NDA as the embodiment of political stability and development, contrasting it with what he described as Congress' "politics of betrayal" and administrative failure in states ruled by the party.

Claiming that the BJP represented stability in an uncertain global environment, Modi said recent election results across states reflected growing public support for the NDA's governance model.

Referring to the NDA retaining power in Puducherry and Assam and forming its maiden government in West Bengal, and the

party's sweeping victory in Gujarat local body polls, he said the results indicated a decisive political shift.

"These election results are important for the direction of Indian politics. They reflect the mood of India's youth, women, farmers, poor and middle class," Modi said.

"People are saying that they want speed, not scams; they want solutions. They want politics based on national policy," he said.

The Prime Minister said Karnataka had historically played a pivotal role in strengthening the BJP, even during the party's early years. "I can see that a saffron sun has risen today from the land of Bengaluru. Even when the BJP was not such a large party, Karnataka gave it tremendous strength," he said.

Assam Gov invites Himanta to form govt, NDA set for third straight term

Guwahati

Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya on Sunday invited Chief Minister-elect Himanta Biswa Sarma to form the next government, paving the way for the NDA's third consecutive term in Assam.

After being unanimously elected leader of the BJP-led NDA's legislature party, Sarma, along with alliance leaders, met the governor at Lok Bhavan and formally staked claim to form the government.

"The Governor has invited Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma to form the new government in Assam," a statement from Lok Bhavan said.

Acharya will administer the oath of office and secrecy to Sarma and members of the new Council of Ministers on May 12.

The swearing-in ceremony will be held at the Veterinary College Playground in Khanapara and is expected to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP president Nitin Nabin, among others. The NDA, comprising the BJP, Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and Bodoland People's



Front (BPF), secured a sweeping mandate in the assembly polls, winning 102 seats in the 126-member House. The BJP bagged 82 seats, while AGP and BPF won 10 seats each.

Sarma, who first became chief minister in 2021, is set to become the first non-Congress leader in Assam to serve two consecutive terms as CM. "I have been elected as the BJP's legislative party leader. The NDA parties, BPF and AGP, also elected me as their leader," he said, while reading out the letter submitted to the governor.

"I have the support of 102 MLAs of the NDA. I have the signature of all of them," he added.

AGP chief Atul Bora and BPF leader Rihon Daimari also submitted letters of support to the governor.

This will be the NDA's third consecutive term in the state

since the BJP-led alliance first came to power in 2016 under then CM Sarbananda Sonowal. Union minister JP Nadda and Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini, who were appointed the BJP's central observer and co-observer, accompanied Sarma and other alliance leaders to Lok Bhavan. Speaking to reporters, Nadda said the election result reflected public endorsement of PM Modi's development policies.

He also praised the Sarma government for implementing central welfare schemes effectively in Assam. "In the next five years, the PM will introduce various schemes, which will be implemented in Assam by Himanta Biswa Sarma. We will see a government which is proactive, responsive, accountable and report card-driven," he added.

Kaun Banega Kerala CM

Congress high command's decision awaited

New Delhi

"Kaun Banega Kerala CM?" The question has been lingering in the minds of the people of the state and political watchers alike as the suspense over the Congress's chief-ministerial nominee prevailed on Sunday, with the party high command yet to announce its decision.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi are seized of the matter and the name is likely to be announced soon, sources said.

Congress leader K Muraleedharan said the party workers are bound to accept the high command's decision regarding the selection of the next chief minister of Kerala.

Responding to reporters' questions in Thiruvananthapuram, Muraleedharan said the current debate over the chief minister's post has not overshadowed the United



Democratic Front's (UDF) electoral victory in the southern state.

The top brass of the Congress held a meeting for more than three hours in Delhi on Saturday to discuss government formation in Kerala. The meeting convened by Kharge at his residence was attended by Gandhi, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary in-charge of Kerala Deepa Dasmunshi, general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal and senior leaders from the state Ramesh Chennithala and V D

Satheesan. Venugopal, Satheesan and Chennithala are considered to be the frontrunners for the chief minister's post.

"Everyone expressed their views and Rahulji heard them patiently."

The final decision on the chief minister will be taken by the Congress high command and whatever decision is made will be accepted by all," Chennithala had said after the meeting. Kerala Congress chief Sunny Joseph and senior observers Ajay Maken and Mukul Wasnik were also present at the meeting. "Very soon, in due time, we will get our final decision from our high command," Dasmunshi had told reporters after the meeting when asked about the new chief minister of Kerala. "Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi will take the final decision," she had said when asked as to "who in the high command will take the call".

Congress is hungry for power and position: Scindia

Bhopal

Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Sunday criticised the Congress over its support to the TVK-led government in Tamil Nadu, saying the party is not hungry for people's love and blessings but for power and position.

The Congress, which severed its ties with its old ally DMK to extend support to TVK, has announced that its alignment with the party, led by C Joseph Vijay, is for all future elections.

"This is the reality, and it has become well known... I have been saying this for six years; Congress is not hungry for the love and blessings of the people, but is hungry for power and position," Scindia told PTI Videos at the airport heading for Guna, his Lok Sabha constituency.

The Congress has said that its alliance with TVK, which won 108 of 234 seats in the recent assembly polls, is founded on mutual respect and shared responsibility



between the two parties. Scindia said, "Wherever it gets power and position, the Congress will turn its back, and a very recent example of this is the decisions taken in the last few days, which have once again made the people aware of this."

Asked about Kerala, where the party is yet to announce its chief ministerial face, Scindia said the Congress has lost the people's trust from north to south and from east to west, and is now "slowly going to lose the trust of its workers as well".

Scindia, who was earlier with the Congress, switched to the BJP along with many MLAs in 2020 in Madhya Pradesh.

CM chair 'stable', says Shivakumar

Refutes PM Modi's criticism of Cong in Karnataka

Raichur (Karnataka)

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday categorically refuted PM Narendra Modi's remark suggesting that the CM's chair in the state was "wobbling."

Speaking to reporters at Lingasagur in Raichur district, Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president, said, "No chairs are wobbling in Karnataka. All chairs are stable. I don't know what the PM is referring to."



He was responding to the PM's statement alleging a power struggle within the state government. At the heart of the "power tussle" within the Karnataka Congress is a reported 2023 understanding between Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar. According to reports, when the Congress high command selected Siddaramaiah as CM, there was an informal understanding that Shivakumar would take over after the government reached its halfway point.

Elvis Yadav gets Rs 10 cr extortion threat from 'close aide' of Bishnoi gang

Gurugram

Bigg Boss OTT 2 winner Elvish Yadav has received an extortion threat of Rs 10 crore from a foreign WhatsApp number, with the sender identifying himself as Randeep Malik having "close links" with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, police said on Sunday.

Family members of Yadav alleged that the accused threatened to shoot him if he did not pay the money within two days.

Police have lodged an FIR based on a complaint filed by Yadav at the Sector 56 police station.

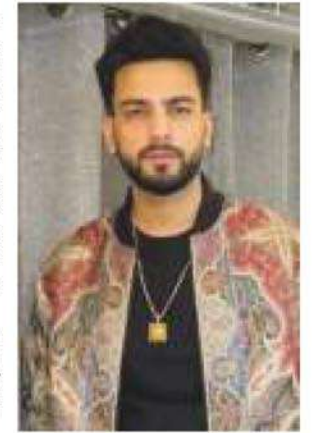
In his complaint, Yadav said he received a WhatsApp call from a foreign number on May 5 but could not answer it at the time.

He later received a message on WhatsApp from the same number containing threatening words.

"The sender identified himself as Randeep Malik and claimed to be a close associate of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. He demanded Rs 10 crore to be paid within two days, and threatened to shoot me if I did not pay the sum," Yadav said in his complaint.

The same threatening message was also sent to his father's mobile number, he alleged.

The case has been



transferred to the Crime Branch, a senior police officer said, adding that efforts are underway to trace the source of the call. Yadav is currently out of Gurugram for the shoot of a show called 'Laughter Safe'.

The social media influencer, who won the second season of Bigg Boss OTT in 2023, has been in the news for varied reasons in recent years.

Last August, unidentified gunmen fired more than two dozen rounds outside his residence in Sector 56. Delhi Police later arrested two shooters in connection with the case. Before that, Yadav was arrested in March 2024 on charges of supplying snake venom for rave parties. The Supreme Court quashed the FIR and legal proceedings related to the case in March this year.

STATE-CONTROLLED TEMPLES

PIL in SC for reviewing wages of priests, sevadars and temple staff

New Delhi

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking direction to the Centre and state governments to constitute a judicial commission or an expert committee to review the wages and other benefits given to priests, sevadars and temple staff in state-controlled temples.

The PIL filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay said that the writ petition seeks directions to the Centre and states to constitute a judicial commission or an expert committee to review the remuneration and other benefits given to the priests and temple

staff in state-controlled temples.

"Petitioner also seeks a declaration that priests and temple staff are 'employee' under Section 2(k) of the Code on Wages, 2019. Petitioner submits that once the State assumes the administrative, economic and financial control over temples, an employer-employee relationship arises and denial of dignified wages to priests and temple staff violates the right to livelihood guaranteed under Article 21," it said.

Upadhyay said that the cause of action accrued on April 4, when he went to



Varanasi to attend a public programme and after performing 'Rudrabhishek' in the Kashi Vishwanath

temple, which is controlled by the state, he came to know that even the minimum wages to live with

dignity are not given to the priests and temple staff. "Recently, in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, priests and temple staff organised a large-scale protest demanding the minimum wages. Priests and temple staff are not getting even the minimum wage prescribed by the State for unskilled and semi-skilled workers."

This is a systemic exploitation. State is acting as a model employer through the endowments department, but violating the minimum wages Act and the directive principles of state policy (Article 43)," it said.

ONE VOTE MARGIN

DMK leader challenges election of TVK candidate

Chennai

The Madras High Court on Sunday adjourned to May 11, further hearing on the petition filed by former DMK minister K R Periyakaruppan, who sought to restrain the TVK candidate who defeated him in election by one vote from taking oath as MLA.

The DMK's Tirupattur candidate for the April 23 Assembly polls moved the HC against TVK's R Srinivasa Sethupathi, who won by just one vote.

A vacation bench comprising Justices L Victoria Gowri and N Senthilkumar, which heard the petition for over three hours in a special sitting, adjourned to Monday, further hearing of the case.

Raising certain queries, the bench directed the Election Commission to file an affidavit on May 11.

Periyakaruppan contest-



ed from the Tirupattur constituency in Sivaganga district as a DMK candidate while Srinivasa Sethupathi contested on behalf of TVK.

While Sethupathi secured 83,365 votes, Periyakaruppan secured 83,364 votes. Srinivasa Sethupathi was declared elected by a margin of just one vote.

In his petition, Periyakaruppan sought a recount of votes and also an interim order to restrain Sethupathi from taking oath as an MLA.

Kolkata

West Bengal's newly sworn-in Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Sunday said the "air of fear" (bhoy) in the state has ended and trust (bhorsa) has taken its place.

Adhikari made the remarks while leaving his hometown Kanthi in Purba Medinipur district for Kolkata after receiving a rousing welcome from supporters following his swearing-in as chief minister a day before.

"Bhoy out, bhorsa in. Prime Minister Narendra Modiji has given the assurance. West Bengal will progress with the involvement of every stakeholder in an atmosphere of hope and trust," he told reporters before leaving for Kolkata. After taking oath at the Brigade Parade Grounds in Kolkata on Saturday and

completing official engagements, Adhikari travelled to Kanthi late at night after offering prayers at the Kalighat Kali Temple.

His convoy reached his residence 'Shantikunj', around 2 am, where thousands of supporters had gathered despite the late hour.

As the convoy entered the locality, supporters raised slogans and showered flowers and garlands on the chief minister.

The crowd forced the convoy to slow down, prompting Adhikari to step out of his vehicle and greet supporters.

Visibly moved by the reception, the chief minister folded his hands and appealed to the crowd to disperse, saying, "It is very late now, please return home."

The atmosphere resem-



bled a festival, with locals celebrating the rise of their "son of the soil" to the state's top post.

Adhikari also sought blessings of his parents after reaching home.

Father Sisir Adhikari and

'FEAR OUT, TRUST IN'

CM Adhikari promises era of trust in Bengal

ing his rise to political prominence to his strong will and persistence.

Since morning, a serpentine line of people from different parts of Purba and Paschim Medinipur, as well as from other districts, was seen outside his Kanthi residence as police and security forces were managing the crowd, most of them carrying flowers and bouquets in their hands.

"I have come from the Nandakumar. I am overjoyed as 'Dada' (Suwendu) has become the CM. He is very down to earth, and whenever he comes to our area, he makes it a point to talk to me. He is very gentle," Radharani Das, a woman, said.

Bijay Naskar, a resident of Diamond Harbour from South 24 Parganas, said he had been waiting for Adhikari since morning.

"I don't directly belong to any political party, but I support the BJP. I wish to congratulate Dada and also inform him that the victory of the BJP has inspired lakhs of people like us to voice our protests over any injustice without fear and exercise our rights against any tyranny and muscle power," the elderly person said.

A senior police officer said there will be no barricade before the residence of the CM in Kanthi to ensure people are not inconvenienced, and the central and state security personnel manning the place will do their job.

A member of the Adhikari family said, "We don't want any barricade to be put up, causing problems for people, our neighbours, the visitors, people passing by the building."

Iran war could make Trump's trip to China a bit chillier

Weeks before his trip to China, President Donald Trump was already predicting on social media that his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, would "give me a big, fat hug when I get there".

But Beijing's deep economic ties to Iran, as well as trade tensions over tariff threats stretching back to Trump's first term, could crimp the good feelings when Trump flies to Beijing this week — even though the Republican president has for years effusively praised Xi, making it clear he sees China's leader as a competitor strong enough to warrant his respect and admiration.

Trump isn't fond of long plane rides or extended stretches away from the White House or his properties in Florida and New Jersey. He is expected to only spend parts of three days on the ground in China.

There will be plenty of pomp, but the grandeur is not expected to rival Trump's first visit to China in 2017, which Beijing dubbed a "state visit-plus".

"Even before this whole conflagration with Iran, they weren't going to go state visit-plus like last time, just because things are tense," said Jonathan Czin, a former director for China at the National Security Council during the Biden administration.

Xi's better understanding of Trump

On Trump's first-term trip, China rolled out the red carpet for his arrival, with a band playing military music and children waving flags and chanting "Welcome".

Xi offered a tour of the Forbidden City. Trump and first lady Melania Trump even had a private dinner there. Trump was the first foreign leader since the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949 to experience what was once reserved for emperors.

The following morning brought another welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People and featured a military parade. There also was a state banquet in Trump's honour with video highlights from the Chinese leader's previous visit to Florida and a clip of Trump's granddaughter Arabella singing in Chinese.

Beijing does not offer this level of spectacle to



TRUMP ISN'T FOND OF LONG PLANE RIDES OR EXTENDED STRETCHES AWAY FROM THE WHITE HOUSE OR HIS PROPERTIES IN FLORIDA AND NEW JERSEY. HE IS EXPECTED TO ONLY SPEND PARTS OF THREE DAYS ON THE GROUND IN CHINA

most visiting foreign leaders. When British Prime Minister Keir Starmer visited the Forbidden City in January, Xi did not attend and the site remained open to the public. Starmer had to contend with tourists.

Ali Wynne, senior US-China research and advocacy adviser for the Washington nonprofit the Crisis Group, said the "Chinese delegation will likely do its utmost to ensure that Trump leaves Beijing believing that he has just concluded the most extraordinary state visit of his two presidencies."

But, he said, the "pomp and circumstance would serve a different role now than they did when he first visited Beijing" because "Xi has a

much better understanding of Trump, and the administration's own national security strategy and national defence strategy recognise China as a near-peer".

Expectations for what gets accomplished could be lower this time, said Czin, now a fellow at the Brookings Institution. He predicted that the Chinese may not offer major breakthroughs on trade or anything else because they are "working backward from our midterm elections" with the theory that the closer they get to Election Day "the more leverage they are going to have".

The GOP is focused on retaining control of Congress, even as polling shows most Americans

are unhappy with Trump's economic policies and believe that the United States went too far in Iran.

Still, the White House argues that Trump's previous firm hand with Beijing on tariffs — which the Supreme Court subsequently struck down — means the US will remain in a strong position.

"President Trump cares about results, not symbols," White House spokesman Anna Kelly said. "But even still, the president has a great relationship with President Xi, and the upcoming summit in Beijing will be both symbolically and substantively significant."

Trump and Xi may see a lot of each other this year

Trump could meet with China's leader four times in eight months.

After his visit to Beijing, Trump plans to host Xi at the White House. Trump might also attend the November Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Shenzhen, China. And Xi could come to the Group of 20 summit the following month at Trump's resort in Doral, Florida.

Czin noted that Xi also is not very fond of travel, meaning not all of the planned encounters may happen. He said China's leader also does not "do personal connections" like the kind Trump relishes, noting Xi led a Chinese military purge in January that included replacing officials with long-standing personal ties to his family.

Wynne, though, said Xi also "appreciates that he is unlikely to deal with another US president who admires him as greatly and embraces as narrow a view of strategic competition".

That means Xi may "attempt to pocket as many economic and security concessions from Trump as possible," Wynne said.

Trump has long praised Xi

Trump told The Wall Street Journal's editorial board in 2024 that Xi "was actually a really good ... I don't want to say friend. I don't want to act foolish. He was my friend. But I got along with him great."

Trump even suggested at the time that military force might not be required to ensure that Chinese troops do not encroach on Taiwan, simply because China's leader "respects me," despite Trump more recently discussing poten-

tially selling arms to Taiwan.

Trump has continued to praise the bilateral relationship since returning to the White House, even after his Beijing visit, originally scheduled for March, was postponed due to the early stages of the Iran war.

He unsuccessfully prodded China to get involved in reopening the Strait of Hormuz after Iranian forces choked it off and disrupted global economies. But China did use its leverage as the largest purchaser of Iranian oil to encourage Iran to agree to what has been a fragile ceasefire.

Beijing has strong economic ties to Tehran, and the war could hurt its economy, which was already projected to grow more slowly. If China can help establish lasting peace, though, that might boost its standing in negotiations on trade issues with the Trump administration.

Trade issues a sticking point

During his 2017 visit, Trump announced USD 250 billion in nonbinding trade deals, some of which never materialized. A round of trade deals announced in 2020 and worth USD 200 billion mostly never came to fruition before Trump's first term ended.

More recently, Trump's announcement last year of steep global tariffs prompted China to cut off purchases of US soybeans and clamp down on exports of rare earth minerals needed by American factories.

Tensions have eased somewhat since the US reached a trade truce last fall that has limited tariffs on both sides. The administration has continued to make reducing the US trade deficit with China a priority, insisting it can do so while still working to encourage trade between the two countries.

"I expect great stability in the relationship," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said. "But that doesn't mean our trade deficit can't continue dropping."

Kelly, the White House spokeswoman, said Trump "doesn't travel anywhere without bringing deliverables home to our country".

"Americans can expect the president to deliver more good deals for the United States while in China," she said.

"Smile at Terror: Inside Manesar where India trains men to catch the first bullet"



ARJA SRIKANTH
SENIOR BUREAUCRAT

Nations do not survive on speeches. They survive on those anonymous professionals who rehearse death with such precision that when the moment arrives, they do not negotiate with fear. They do not improvise courage. They execute it. In India, that rehearsal has an address: the NSG Commando Centre, Manesar—a fortified laboratory of violence-control where ordinary soldiers and police officers are stripped down, rebuilt, and reissued as the Black Cats, the Republic's last-resort answer to terror.

The National Security Guard is not a conventional force. It is not built for battlefield conquest, long campaigns, or territorial domination. It exists for one surgical purpose: to end chaos faster than chaos can multiply. That is why the NSG ethos is compressed into three uncompromising words—Sarvatra, Sarvottam, Suraksha: everywhere, supreme, security. This is not poetic branding. It is operational theology. At Manesar, theology becomes muscle memory.

The NSG does not merely train men to shoot. It trains men to enter spaces where hesitation is a death sentence, where the first three seconds decide whether civilians live or die. The NSG commando is not conditioned to ask, "Will I survive?" He is conditioned to ask only, "Will the nation survive this moment?" In that single shift of question lies the psychological architecture of the Black Cat. Fear is not denied; it is downgraded. The mission is upgraded into absolute priority.

Popular imagination treats elite commandos as invincible supermen. Manesar corrects that illusion with brutal honesty. The NSG is built on a harsher truth: the best operator is not the strongest man, but the most obedient mind under stress. Training is not about athleticism alone; it is about manufacturing calm inside panic. The commando must become a creature who can run at full speed into uncertainty and still fire with the precision of a machine. In other words, Manesar does not train heroes. It manufactures reliability.

This is why the selection process is designed as a grinder that destroys ego before it shapes capability. The training cycle—often described as a 14-month crucible—carries an attrition rate so savage that survival itself becomes a credential. Dropout rates exceeding 85% are not an unfortunate by-product; they are the design. The NSG is not looking for volunteers. It is looking for men who remain standing when the body demands collapse.

The first stage is three months of selection, where recruits face what insiders describe as



THE NSG DOES NOT MERELY TRAIN MEN TO SHOOT. IT TRAINS MEN TO ENTER SPACES WHERE HESITATION IS A DEATH SENTENCE, WHERE THE FIRST THREE SECONDS DECIDE WHETHER CIVILIANS LIVE OR DIE. THE NSG COMMANDO IS NOT CONDITIONED TO ASK, "WILL I SURVIVE?" HE IS CONDITIONED TO ASK ONLY, "WILL THE NATION SURVIVE THIS MOMENT?" IN THAT SINGLE SHIFT OF QUESTION LIES THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ARCHITECTURE OF THE BLACK CAT

"The 26 Elements"—a battery of physical tests engineered to induce exhaustion, humiliation, and cognitive breakdown. Obstacle courses, wall climbs, ditch jumps, rope drills, and endurance punishment are combined with a more intelligent cruelty: recruits are made to shoot accurately after their lungs are burning and hands are shaking. The philosophy is cold but logical—if you cannot aim while your body is begging for mercy, you cannot aim when civilians are bleeding beside you. Manesar teaches a foundational rule: in counter-terrorism, fatigue is not an excuse. It is the battlefield.

Then comes the advanced phase, where Manesar turns the human body into a platform for controlled aggression. The commando is drilled on firing ranges that feel less like training grounds and more like engineered paranoia. A 400-meter electronic range throws up targets like sudden moral emergencies, and the operator has two to three seconds to decide, identify, and neutralize. The targets are not simply silhouettes; they are simulations of chaos—terrorists beside hostages, threats inside crowds, danger hidden behind human shields. In such spaces, the NSG is not training marksmanship. It is training judgment at gunpoint.

The signature art of NSG training is Close Quarter Combat (CQC)—the terrifying intimacy of killing at breathing distance. Here, the commando learns the "combat room shoot," entering confined spaces and acquiring targets within seconds using torchlight, laser intensifiers, and instinct sharpened into science. The NSG is trained to dominate rooms, corridors, staircases, and narrow hallways where ambush is not a possibility but the default condition. In these environments, the commando does not "clear" a room like a checklist. He claims it like a verdict. But the most revealing aspect of NSG training is not technical skill. It is mindset. Manesar does not merely teach survival; it teaches sacrificial geometry. In hostage rescue, the first man through the door is statistically the

most likely to die. Yet NSG teams are built on the certainty that someone must always be first. That first man is trained not to enter reluctantly, but to enter as if his body is a shield issued by the Republic. This is why insiders describe NSG commandos as men trained to "take the first bullet with a smile"—not because they romanticize death, but because they have been conditioned to treat fear as irrelevant data.

That smile is not insanity. It is discipline so advanced that it looks like madness to civilians. The final stage—specialization and probation—separates commandos from legends. Those aiming for the elite 51 or 52 Special Action Group (SAG) must complete an additional 90-day probation to earn the coveted Balidan badge, a symbol that quietly declares: I have rehearsed the worst day of my life until it became routine. The badge is not decoration; it is certification of psychological demolition and reconstruction.

What makes Manesar truly formidable is that it trains the NSG not as a land-only force but as a multi-domain predator. The commando is engineered to strike across air, land, and water. Anti-hijack Sky Marshals train in Pekititirsia Kali, a Filipino martial art based on offensive-only action—designed not to block but to finish. In an aircraft cabin, where a stray bullet can compromise fuselage integrity, the NSG must neutralize terrorists without destabilizing the aircraft itself. Precision becomes morality. Violence becomes mathematics.

NSG operators also train in HALO jumps, helicopter slithering, combat diving, and amphibious insertion, because terror has no terrain preference. The Black Cats are trained as if every environment is already compromised, and every second is already late.

Recognizing evolving threats, the NSG has expanded its infrastructure. In October 2025, during its 41st Raising Day, it marked a major leap with the ground-breaking of the Special Operations Training Centre (SOTC) at Manesar—built on 8 acres at a cost of ₹141 crore.

Why politicians can't fix potholes permanently

Potholes are a safety risk, source of vehicle damage and recurring annoyance in the UK. They gain special visibility at times of local elections, given that the vast majority of roads are maintained by local authorities.

A survey conducted in April found that road condition was the top local issue for voters throughout Britain ahead of the May 7 elections.

The Asphalt Industry Alliance's (AIA) 2025 report indicates that 17% of the local road network in England and Wales is in poor condition. It estimates that the backlog of repairs would take a staggering 12 years to clear, costing £16.81 billion.

While it's easy for politicians to point to numbers of potholes filled as a way to gain votes from frustrated drivers, this does nothing to solve the problem in the long run.

Where do potholes come from?

Potholes are not isolated road surface defects, but rather the end-product of a hidden road deterioration process. In typical asphalt roads, bitumen ages, stiffens and becomes brittle over time. Traffic passage causes the road surface to crack.

Once cracks form, water enters the road structure. The weight of vehicles and freeze-thaw cycles over winter cause these cracks to expand and widen, eventually resulting in a pothole. By the time it appears on the road surface, the structural integrity of the subsurface is already compromised.

In the wake of climate change, the UK's increasingly wet winters accelerate this process, especially on roads that have reached the end of their structural life.

The UK's approach to repairing potholes is largely reactive: a short-term, localised patch job after the road has failed. Experimental studies show that while this approach is relatively inexpensive per intervention, it suffers from severe underperformance.

These repair jobs often last for just weeks or months in wet or winter conditions before needing to be done again. This "patch and repeat" cycle leads to escalating costs, network

disruption and inconsistent road quality.

A much better approach would be preventative maintenance — intervening before failure occurs. Preventative treatments, including surface dressing and crack sealing, yield superior cost-effectiveness because they substantially reduce the frequency of patch failure and replacement.

It's important to note that filling potholes, in itself, does not add life to roads, apart from temporarily keeping them safe. It is the construction equivalent of throwing good money after bad.

More ambitious would be to establish a predictive and proactive road management system that spans the road's entire lifecycle. This includes designing and constructing resilient road structures, conducting frequent monitoring, and applying targeted, timely preventative maintenance.

Emerging technology such as advances in data analytics, AI, automation, digital twins and non-destructive testing may make this approach increasingly feasible.

Economics of potholes

Evidence suggests that preventative maintenance would be longer lasting, and significantly more cost-efficient. Spending £1 today on preventative maintenance leads to £4.20 saved within 10 years.

This payback reflects the current poor condition of the local road network in Britain. More sustainable road maintenance would have a rapid effect.

Similar evidence exists for the climate impact. Traditionally, potholes are fixed again and again using cold-mix or hot-mix asphalt — a mixture of stones and petroleum-based bitumen derived from crude oil. This makes the process incredibly carbon-intensive.

Preventative maintenance reduces the long-term carbon costs because roads stay in good condition for longer. As extreme weather such as floods or heatwaves becomes more frequent, the risk of damage to road surfaces increases, making resilience a crucial factor in highway maintenance.



Airport hotels fuel hospitality as India expands aviation infra

New Delhi

India's expanding aviation infrastructure is emerging as a major catalyst for growth in the hospitality sector, with leading hotel chains ramping up investments in airport-linked properties amid rising air traffic, improved regional connectivity and the development of new urban corridors.

According to hotel industry executives, the surge in greenfield airports and improving connectivity to tier-II and tier-III cities is creating strong momentum for hotels located near airports, which cater to business travellers, transit passengers, airline crew and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) traffic.

Nikhil Sharma, Managing Director & COO, South Asia, of Radisson Hotel Group, told PTI that airport hotels are emerging as a high-growth segment within the hospitality industry as India accelerates airport infrastructure development.

"The rapid expansion of airport infrastructure across India, particularly greenfield developments, is positioning airport hotels as a high-growth segment within the hospitality sector," Sharma said.

"As air connectivity improves, we are seeing a



clear rise in demand for well-located hotels that cater to transit passengers, airline crew, and business travellers seeking convenience, efficiency, and seamless access to key commercial hubs," he added.

Sharma said the hotel chain is actively strengthening its footprint in airport-led micro-markets that are witnessing rapid commercial and urban expansion.

"We will continue to evaluate such opportunities that align with our expansion strategy and enable us to deepen our footprint across India's evolving aviation and hospitality landscape," Sharma said.

Gaurav Singh, COO of Chalet Hotels Limited, said airport infrastructure expansion is transforming hospitality demand dynamics by improving access to emerging destinations.

"The expansion of airport infrastructure across India is

playing a meaningful role in reshaping hospitality demand, particularly by improving access to markets that were earlier considered peripheral or seasonal," Singh said. "We are already seeing stronger traction in destinations that have benefited from better air connectivity, with demand becoming more consistent and less dependent on peak travel periods," he added.

Singh noted that enhanced connectivity is also diversifying the traveller profile in several destinations.

Improved connectivity is also broadening the traveller mix, bringing in not just leisure demand, but also corporate and MICE segments into markets that were previously more leisure-led. This, in turn, supports more stable occupancy and better quality of demand across the year," he said.

India got EU market opened for seafood through active talks: Goyal

AMID US TARIFF CHALLENGE

Mumbai

India actively negotiated with the European Union to open its market for seafood exports, helping the country overcome challenges arising from steep US tariffs, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Sunday. Addressing reporters here, he said the government anticipated disruptions and acted swiftly to secure alternative markets for Indian exporters. "Our government works 24 hours. Often, even before a problem arises, we begin planning and action," he said.

Goyal said the US decision to impose 50 per cent tariff



on Indian seafood had dealt a major blow to exports and caused distress among fishermen. "When America imposed a 50 per cent tariff on Indian seafood, our exports suffered a big

setback. Fishermen were very worried. The Centre responded by engaging with the European Union and addressing regulatory bottlenecks that had earlier restricted Indian shipments," he

pointed out. Several Indian fishing establishments had been delisted by the EU in the past, but India used quality control orders and standards to push for their restoration, he said. "We took a firm approach and used quality control mechanisms. Today, more than 125 Indian fishery establishments have been registered," he said, adding that this helped India regain access to a large and stable market. The minister said the strategic move yielded results, with seafood exports recording a growth of around 12-14 per cent last year despite global uncertainties. He stressed that opening up the EU market was crucial given its massive

import demand and importance in global trade.

Highlighting the broader approach, Goyal said India was focusing on securing long-term trade opportunities through free trade agreements and global partnerships. "If India has to become a developed nation, our international agreements must lay the foundation for the next 20-25 years.

Expanding exports, boosting manufacturing and creating employment opportunities remain key priorities, and gaining access to major global markets is essential to achieve these goals," the senior BJP leader asserted.

Balrampur Chini raises Rs 450 cr equity fund for poly lactic acid, lactogypsum plants in UP

New Delhi

Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd has raised Rs 450 crore equity fund mainly to set up a lactogypsum processing plant and also meet enhanced capex for poly lactic acid (PLA) facility in Uttar Pradesh.

The company has ten sugar factories in UP having an aggregate sugarcane crushing capacity of 80,000 tonnes per day. It also has distillery and co-generation operations of 1,050 kilo litre per day and 175.7 MW, respectively.

Kolkata-headquartered Balrampur Chini has diversified into bio-plastic business and is setting up a PLA manufacturing plant at Kumbhi in UP with a total annual capacity of 80,000 tonne.

"We have raised Rs 450 crore through issue of preferential shares to support the company's expansion and growth plans," Balrampur Chini Executive Director Avantika Saraogi said. She said the promoters also participated in the pref-



erential issue of shares and have invested nearly Rs 200 crore.

As part of the expansion plan, Saraogi said the company will invest Rs 160 crore to set up a lactogypsum processing plant in UP.

The company has also revised upwards its capital expenditure on new PLA manufacturing plant in UP by Rs 230 crore to nearly Rs 3,100 crore.

The remaining Rs 60 crore would be used for general corporate purposes, she said.

Saraogi said the PLA plant is likely to be operational this year. In February this year, the company bagged first

institutional order from Lucknow Cantonment Board to supply green bioplastic products, including compostable garbage bags.

Saraogi said the company is very bullish on the business potential of this new vertical.

She highlighted that a new scientific study conducted by an academic institution CIPET has revealed that PLA, a compostable polymer, can degrade into safe natural substances in Indian soil conditions without leaving harmful microplastics behind.

"This study represents a significant milestone for the Indian bioplastics sector. Traditionally, discussions were based on perceptions. However, today, there is scientific proof that materials like PLA can be recycled back into nature without creating any long-term environmental damage," she said. The future of plastics should focus on minimising plastic waste as well as developing materials that safely degrade in nature, Saraogi emphasised.

The company's executive director said that it is working with stakeholders towards replacing conventional pan masala / gutka packaging with PLA-based multilayer film, a viable and scalable alternative that is fully biodegradable.

Elaborating on the ongoing expansion, Saraogi said the proposed lactogypsum processing plant will have an installed capacity of about 76 lakh gypsum boards per annum. This upcoming plant intends to process lactogypsum generated as a byproduct from its PLA manufacturing operations.

Avaada Group adds 2 GW renewable capacity in FY26

New Delhi

Avaada Group added renewable energy capacity of 2 gigawatt during the financial year ended March 31, 2026.

With this, the company's renewable energy portfolio crossed 17.7 gigawatt peak (GWP) - 7.2 GWP operational and 10.5 GWP under construction, Avaada Group said in a statement on Sunday.



Vineet Mittal, Chairman, Avaada Group said, "Crossing the 17.7 GWP milestone reflects Avaada's commitment to accelerating this transition.

Backed by strong execution capabilities and a robust pipeline, we are well-positioned to scale rapidly across geographies and technologies."

Competition Commission orders probe against French spirits maker Pernod Ricard, 7 others

New Delhi

The Competition Commission has ordered a detailed probe against French spirits major Pernod Ricard and seven other entities for alleged cartelisation in the Indian-made foreign liquor market.

The seven entities that have come under the watchdog's lens are Indo Spirits, Pathway HR Solutions, Universal Distributors, Khao Gali, Bubbly Beverages, Shiv Associates and Organomix Ecosystems.

Ordering the investigation, the regulator said it is of prima-facie view that Pernod Ricard's restrictive conduct with its retailers/wholesalers, purportedly, to induce brand pushing and achieve higher market share in IMFL market in Delhi, falls within the purview of 'exclusive dealing agreement' under the Competition Act.

Such conduct violates the Act, according to a 26-page order, dated May 5, by the Competition Commission of India (CCI). The complaint was filed before the CCI in 2024. CCI's Director General (DG) will carry out the investigation that will also look into the role of the persons/officers who were responsible for the conduct of the activities of such entities as well as individuals whose consent or connivance was involved during the time of the contraventions.

India is the largest market by volume and second-largest by value for Pernod Ricard, which owns popular brands such as Absolut, Chivas Regal, and Glenlivet.

Gold, silver seen range-bound for second week amid US-Iran talks: Analysts

New Delhi

Gold and silver may remain range-bound for a second consecutive week as investors assess developments in US-Iran peace negotiations and global macroeconomic data, analysts said.

Traders will track inflation data from China, Germany, and the United States, along with GDP numbers from the Eurozone and the UK, later this week, they added.

"Gold prices momentum looks consolidative, while silver movement looks positive in the coming week as traders will focus again on the progress on peace talks between the US and Iran to end the war and markets are likely to react accordingly," Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG - Commodity & Currency Research, JM Financial Services Ltd, said.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures gained Rs 1,178, or nearly 1 per cent over the past week, to settle at Rs 1.52 lakh per 10 grams. Silver climbed Rs 10,985, 4.4 per cent, to close at Rs 2.61 lakh per kg. "Gold traded with a positive undertone last week, posting gains of nearly 1 per cent on MCX and closing around Rs 1.52 lakh per 10 grams," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency,



LKP Securities, said.

He added that the correction in crude oil prices after easing geopolitical risk premiums also improved sentiment for bullion.

"Lower US Treasury bond yields and a softer dollar index also helped gold remain stable despite volatility across global markets," Trivedi said. In the international market, Comex gold futures advanced nearly 2 per cent during the past week to close at USD 4,730.7 per ounce, and silver climbed 5.8 per cent to finish at USD 80.86 per ounce. "Gold prices traded steady and moved in a consolidation range through most of the week; however, overall momentum remained positive amid a dip in the dollar and reports of progress on a likely peace deal framework to end the US-Iran war," Pranav Mer said. Silver also ended with strong gains for the second straight week, supported by renewed buying of copper prices, a weaker US dollar, and signs of supply tightness in the global market, he added.

CII seeks phased fuel excise rollback as private sector capex up 67pc to Rs 7.7 lakh cr

New Delhi

India's private sector capital expenditure rose 67 per cent to Rs 7.7 lakh crore in September 2025 from Rs 4.6 lakh crore a year ago, CII said on Sunday, as it unveiled a five-point industry action agenda amid the West Asia crisis and beyond, comprising a phased draw-down of the central excise cut on petrol and diesel.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) termed the surge in private capex as the most decisive evidence yet of a powerful and broad-based revival in the country's investment cycle.

"The Rs 10 per litre central

excise cut on petrol and diesel, taken at significant cost to the exchequer, should be progressively rolled back in tranches over six to nine months as crude prices stabilise," argued CII.

Its five-point agenda also pitches for a 45-day MSME payment guarantee; supply-chain ring-fencing with deeper import substitution; and a front-loading of private capex coupled with voluntary price restraint and a stepped-up internship intake; among others.

CII's analysis of nearly 1,200 companies, drawn from the CMIE Prowess database, shows that private sector investment, measured as the annual change in net fixed



assets and capital work in progress, rose to Rs 7.7 lakh crore in September 2025, a 67 per cent jump over Rs 4.6 lakh crore a year earlier, it stated.

Manufacturing led the way,

accounting for Rs 3.8 lakh crore or nearly half of total private capex, with metals, automobiles and chemicals at the forefront. Services contributed Rs 3.1 lakh crore, or about 40 per cent, driven by

trading, communications and IT/ITes.

Complementary indicators reinforce the trend. Capacity utilisation of manufacturing firms rose to 75.6 per cent in Q3FY26 from 74.3 per cent in the previous quarter, while new order books grew 10.3 per cent year-on-year. Bank credit growth has rebounded sharply, averaging close to 14 per cent in the second half of FY26 against around 10 per cent in the first half.

"Buoyed by this strengthening cycle, CII has appealed to industry to step forward and shoulder its share of the national burden during the ongoing period of global stress, CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee said.

Air India terminated over 1,000 staff in last 3 years for ethical breaches: CEO

Mumbai

Air India has terminated more than 1,000 staff in the last three years for ethical breaches, including those for misusing the employee leisure travel system, according to the airline's chief Campbell Wilson.

Flagging that hundreds of employees are terminated every year due to non-compliance, Wilson has also emphasised that the staff need to act in the right way even when others are not looking.

As Air India implements cost-saving measures amid significant financial headwinds, Wilson

made the remarks during the town hall meeting with the staff on Friday, according to sources.

Tata Group-owned Air India has around 24,000 employees now.

The airline's CEO and MD said that over the past three years, "we have terminated more than 1,000 people for ethical breach" such as smuggling things off the plane and allowing excess baggage onto the aircraft without being charged. He also mentioned hundreds of staff who had misused the Employee Leisure Travel (ELT) system and added that such things should not happen.

Iran war disruptions spark higher costs, lost income in Bangladesh

Dhaka

Tariqul Islam lost his savings after setbacks in his clothing business about a year and a half ago and turned to ride-sharing on his motorbike to make ends meet. Until recently, he spent hours in fuel lines as supply disruptions linked to the war in Iran ripple into Bangladesh.

The 53-year-old father of four fears the strain will worsen if the war drags on, saying long hours waiting for fuel have sharply cut his income and made it increasingly difficult to support his family in Dhaka, the nation's capital, including a daughter at university and a son in

college. "My family was managing fairly well through ride-sharing," he said. "But after the fuel shortage began, I would buy fuel one day and run the bike for two days. As a result, I had to sit idle for one day, which reduced my income."

The strain in Islam's household reflects a broader squeeze in Bangladesh, heavily dependent on imported fuel, where energy shortages have disrupted daily life, slowed industrial output and raised concerns about economic growth as global tensions push up costs and strain supplies.

Conditions have eased



slightly in recent days, with shorter queues at fuel stations after the government increased supplies, but concerns persist across sectors.

Across Asia, governments are facing similar strains as the war-driven surge in

energy prices rattles economies dependent on imported oil and gas.

The continent is exposed because it relies on imported fuel, much of it passing through the Strait of Hormuz — a chokepoint for about a

fifth of global oil and natural gas trade.

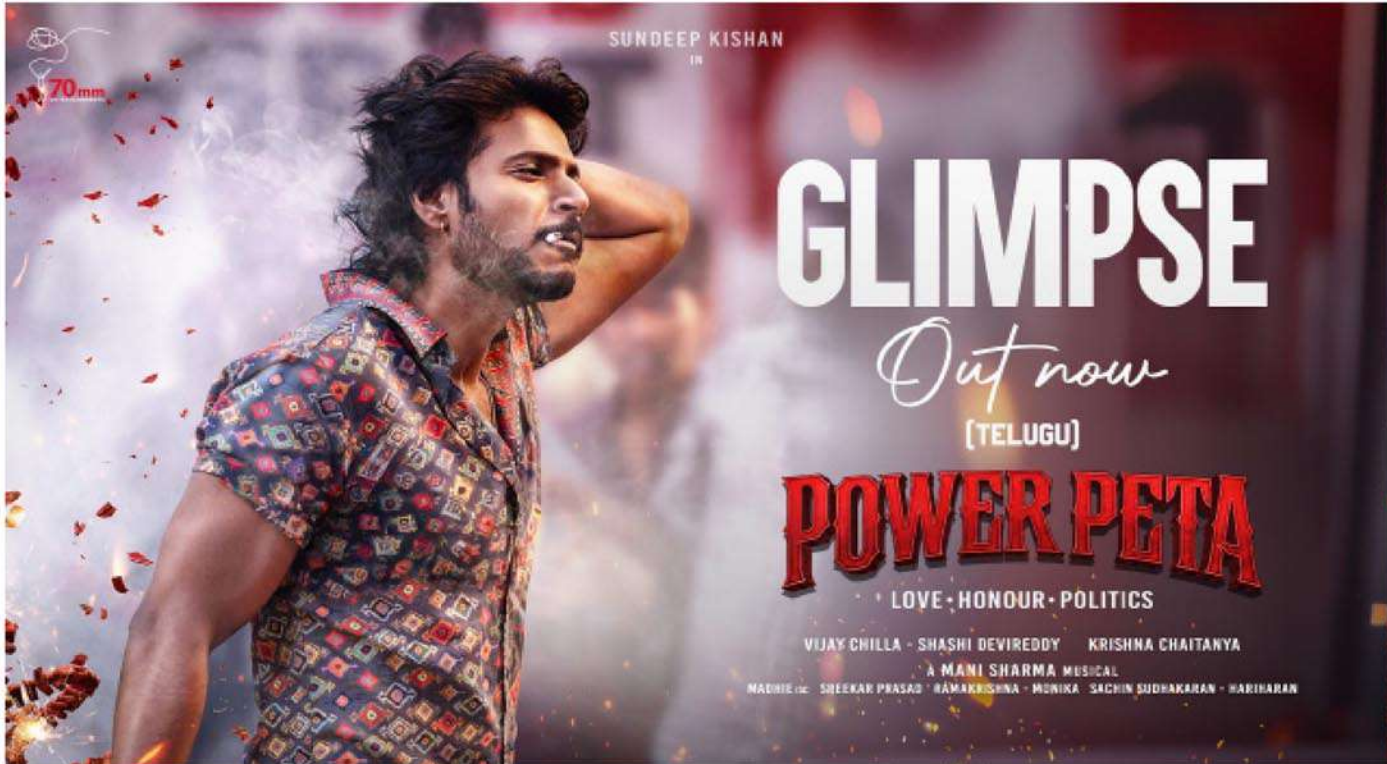
Higher fuel costs are leading to inflation and squeezing household budgets, while industries from manufacturing to transport are facing rising operating costs and supply disruptions.

The Asian Development Bank in late April cut growth forecasts for developing Asia and the Pacific, warning that war-driven energy disruptions would slow economies and fuel inflation. It now expects growth of 4.7 per cent in 2026, with inflation rising to 5.2 per cent as oil prices climb and financial conditions tighten.

Many are hoping for a quick end to the conflict and a return to normal.

"If this situation continues, we will have to move back to our village and find some other way to earn a living," Islam, the struggling father, said. It is not possible to survive in Dhaka by doing ride-sharing under these conditions." Energy crunch weighs on Bangladesh's economy. Rising energy prices are also expected to strain Bangladesh's finances, with the government likely to spend an additional USD 1.07 billion on LNG subsidies in the April-June quarter alone if global prices remain high.

SK's Powerpeta Glimpse: Mass Elevation



70mm Entertainments is back with a bang. Producers Vijay Chilla and Shashi Devireddy are backing another powerful entertainer Powerpeta starring Sundeep Kishan and directed by Krishna Chaitanya. To give audiences a taste of its tone and attitude, the makers unveiled an intense glimpse on the occasion of Sundeep Kishan's birthday.

A theatre explodes with FDFS madness. Amid the lively atmosphere, the protagonist makes a stylish entry, lighting a cigarette and delivering a punchy dialogue about the lion's defining trait and its dominance. He further hints at what it takes to become the supreme force of the region.

Writer-director Krishna Chaitanya clearly knows what

mass audiences crave. His writing is sharp and fiery, and his direction injects swagger into every frame.

Sundeep Kishan's transformation is striking. With a retro, effortlessly cool look, he fully commands the screen as Senapathi Ravi, a name that instantly exudes power.

The technical team adds immense weight. Madhie's visu-

als transport you straight into the era, while Mani Sharma's background score amplifies the impact. The production values from 70mm Entertainments look rock solid throughout.

With the first schedule wrapped and the next one gearing up, the glimpse sets the perfect expectations, promising next-level elevations and a film loaded with mass appeal.

GG Explores Father's Unconditional Love For Daughter

Sumanth Prabhas' rural family drama Godari Gattupaina, directed by Subhash Chandra on Red Puppet Productions, will arrive in cinemas today. The pre-release event of the movie turned emotional after the actor opened up about the film's emotional core and his personal connection to the story. Addressing the audience, Sumanth expressed confidence that viewers would thoroughly enjoy the film and appreciate its emotional depth. "Subhash is a beautiful person at heart. He deeply understands human emotions and values, and he has translated them wonderfully onto the screen. After watching this film, I genuinely felt that it is a movie filled with strong human values and heartfelt emotions. It has been a long time since I came across a film like this. Many people asked me why I chose to do this movie, but after watching it, the feeling I got was - can the father-daughter emotion really be this beautiful? Since there are only boys in our family, this film helped me explore that emotion even more deeply. The movie explores father's unconditional love for his daughter.

Watching Jagapathi Babu as



the father of a daughter felt incredibly moving. From the moment a daughter is born and a father holds her hand and walks with her, the amount of love, care, and responsibility he feels for her is unimaginable. He wants to do everything for her and never let her feel deprived of anything. Just imagine the emotion a father goes

through when he finally places that same hand into someone else's during her wedding and sends her away. Thinking from a father's perspective moved me deeply. After watching this film, every daughter will definitely feel like saying, 'I love you, Daddy.' The way Jagapathi Babu loves Nidhi in this movie will remind audi-

ences of the love their own fathers have for them. This film is going to be a cool and refreshing entertainer this summer. Everyone has tensions and pressures in life, and this movie will help you relax, lift your mood, and entertain you thoroughly." The film's premieres will be held today, in different cities across Telugu states.

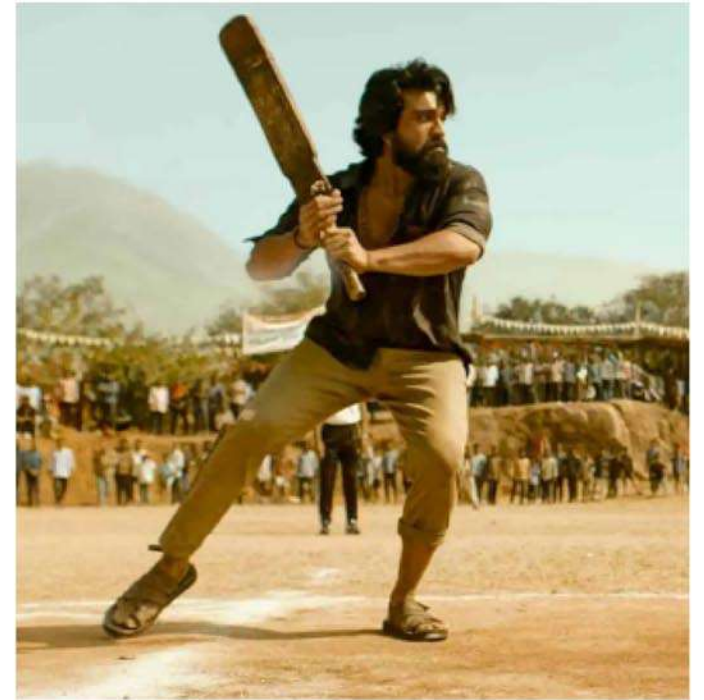
Pushpa 2 Tragedy: Allu Arjun's 2 Cr Support Wins Hearts



The Sandhya Theatre stampede incident that occurred during the release of Pushpa 2 has left everyone in shock. When a child, Sri Tej, was admitted to a hospital in a life-threatening situation, Allu Arjun faced a lot of criticism. However, Allu Arjun and his team handled it smoothly by stepping forward to offer the kid all kinds of support. They sponsored the hospitalization expenses and also made a fixed deposit in the kid's name. A fixed deposit of 2 Cr rupees has been made in the name of Sri Tej, which will give a monthly interest of 1.5 lakh rupees. Allu's family also decided to take care of Sri Tej's family on all grounds. The family has been in touch with them from day one, and yesterday Allu Arjun, along with Sneha Reddy, visited Sri Tej to enquire about his health. Reportedly, the treatment for Sri Tej is costing around 3 lakh rupees per month, which Allu Arjun is sponsoring. The actor is also ready to go to any extent to provide all kinds of support to Sri Tej for his full and fast recovery. Across the nation, we come across several such incidents but there is no one like Allu Arjun who stepped forward to take full responsibility of the situation. Allu Arjun vowed to be of a support to the family of Sri Tej and there is no going back on his word. A lot of times, the actors would ignore the consequences and after effects in such scenarios but Allu Arjun proved himself to be the Icon star that always stay closed with his fans.

Peddi Fans Disappointed as Makers Missing IPL Magic

Mega Powerstar Ram Charan's Peddi is scheduled for a grand release on June 4th. Buchi Babu Sana is the director of the movie. The team was supposed to bring the film for a release back in March, but postponed it twice, finally settling on a new release date of June 4th. Interestingly, the film will not only be the last hope during the summer season but will also be the first biggie post-IPL. That said, the fans are really upset about the new release date. From the first glimpse, Peddi has been attracting a lot of fans and audiences. Especially the first glimpse, featuring Ram Charan playing cricket, is an instant attraction. A lot of people assumed that the film would release during the IPL season and that cricket fans would turn to it, in line with the cricket fever all around. Last time there was buzz during IPL, but with Sun Risers Hyderabad occupying the top place on the table now, there is a huge buzz around the tournament and anything that has cricket.



However, the fans are now urging the makers to at least promote it well during the IPL season and, if needs be, at the stadiums to get maximum visibility. The fans also want to have some exclusive footage in stadiums, bring stars to the

stadium, as it could bring pan-India attention. Nani's The Paradise, which was supposed to release in March, was also postponed. But, the song Aaya Sher from the film got full advantage of the league.

3 Films in One Week: Sithara Speeds Up Again!

Naga Vamsi and Sithara Entertainments faced heavy criticism last year for repeatedly failing with much-awaited, big-hyped projects. Films like Kingdom, War 2 (Distribution), and Mass Jathara turned out to be big disappointments. However, the banner is in full swing this year. They already witnessed success this year with Anaganaga Oka Raju and are moving ahead with some josh for the rest of the year. Already, they launched three films in the span of one week now. Sithara is reuniting with directors Kalyan Shankar and Venky Atluri and is also introducing a new director duo. Additionally, they are also working with actors Nithiin and Siddhu Jonnalagadda for the first time while also bringing Karthi on board. All three projects are geared up for a big launch.

Nithiin will work with Nari Sirisawada and Somasekhar T for a comedy entertainer. And



then, Siddhu Jonnalagadda will act in Venky Atluri's direction. Rithika Nayak is the heroine. At the same time, Kalyan Shankar will direct Karthi in his next, and it will feature Meenakshi Chaudhary as the leading lady. All the new

films are looking promising with some solid cast and crew driving the project forward. Apart from these, the production house is also equally focused on God Of War in the combination of Trivikram Srinivas and NTR.

Is Dhanush Stuck in the Same Zone?



Dhanush is currently at a crucial phase in his career, with discussions growing around the need for a shift in his film choices. While the actor continues to earn praise for his intense and natural performances, recent box office trends suggest that repeated survival drama or intense emotional subjects are not consistently connecting with wider audiences. His latest release, Kara, reportedly underperformed at the box office despite strong appreciation for Dhanush's trademark acting style and screen presence. This has sparked conversations in the industry that it may be time for the actor to change gears and explore different genres beyond gritty survival-based storytelling. Trade analysts and fans alike feel that while Dhanush's acting distinction remains unquestionable, audience expectations are evolving, and variety in content could help him regain stronger commercial momentum. Many believe that experimenting with lighter entertainers, commercial action dramas, or fresh narrative styles could bring a new wave of success. Currently, Dhanush is preparing for his next big project with director Rajkumar Periasamy, which is already generating curiosity. Industry watchers are hopeful that this collaboration will present him in a new avatar and possibly mark a turning point in his recent box office trajectory. The film is expected to offer a fresh creative direction for the actor moving forward.