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CM Vijay blends experience and new faces in first Tamil Nadu Cabinet

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Sunday unveiled a nine-member Cabinet that reflects a blend of political experience, administrative expertise, youth representation, and strategic political appointments, shortly after taking oath as the state's new Chief Minister.

The first-ever Cabinet of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government includes veteran politicians, former bureaucrats, professionals, political strategists, and first-time legislators, signalling Vijay's attempt to balance governance experience with a new political generation after the party's landmark victory over the DMK in the Assembly elections.

Among the most prominent faces in the Cabinet is veteran leader K.A. Sengottaiyan, whose five-decade-long political career makes him one of the most experienced Ministers in the new government.

A 10-time legislator, Sengottaiyan began his political journey in the 1970s and first entered the Assembly in 1977 during the rise of M.G. Ramachandran's AIADMK government. He later became a close associate of former Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa and handled major portfolios, including Revenue and School Education.

Expelled from the AIADMK in 2025 following differences with the party's General Secretary and former Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Sengottaiyan later joined Vijay's TVK.

N. Anand, popularly known as "Bussy" Anand, was also inducted into the Cabinet and is widely regarded as one of Vijay's closest political associates.

Anand played a major role in building the party's grassroots structure and campaign machinery across Tamil Nadu. He earlier served as an MLA in Puducherry after winning from the Bussy assembly constituency in 2006 and is known for several civic initiatives in his constituency.

Another key figure in the Cabinet is Aadhav Arjuna, regarded as one of TVK's principal strategists and among the most visible public faces of the party. A former basketball player and President of the Basketball Federation of India, Arjuna previously served briefly in the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK).

The Villivakkam MLA-elect is also known for his role in expanding TVK's organisational and electoral network across Tamil Nadu.

One of the biggest talking points in the Cabinet is the induction of 29-year-old S. Keerthana, the first woman MLA elected from Sivakasi.

A former political consultant and digital campaign strategist, Keerthana has previously worked with election teams linked to leaders such as M.K. Stalin, Mamata Banerjee and N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Her elevation is being viewed as a strong signal towards youth and women's representation in the new government.

Former IRS officer and doctor K.G. Arunraj also joined the Cabinet after resigning from government service to enter politics under Vijay's leadership.

Arunraj, who served as TVK's General Secretary for policy and propaganda, won from Tiruchengode with a significant margin.

R. Nirmal Kumar, who handled TVK's IT and social media operations, has also been rewarded with a Ministerial berth after playing a major role in the party's digital outreach and post-poll negotiations with Left parties.

A former BJP functionary, he joined the TVK in 2025.

Actor, comedian, television anchor and director A. Rajmohan, who served as TVK's propaganda secretary, was inducted after winning from Egmore constituency.

Senior advocate and TVK treasurer P. Venkataramanan, considered the party's prominent Brahmin face, also took oath as a Minister. He had earlier administered the party pledge during TVK's maiden State conference in 2024.

Dentist-turned-politician K.T. Prabhu, who defeated Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) founder Seeman in Karaikudi, completed the Cabinet line-up.

Political observers view the composition of Vijay's first Cabinet as an effort to project inclusivity, administrative capability and generational change as the actor-turned-politician begins his first term in office.

CM Chandrababu Naidu to Visit New Delhi Today

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will undertake an official visit to New Delhi today. The Chief Minister will depart from Hyderabad in the morning and is scheduled to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah at 11:30 AM. He will subsequently hold discussions with Union Minister for Jal Shakti C. R. Patil.

During these meetings, the Chief Minister is expected to discuss key issues relating to the state, including various infrastructure projects and matters concerning central assistance and funding.

At 3:00 PM, representatives from the World Bank will call on the Chief Minister. Later in the evening, at 4:00 PM, He will participate in the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Business Summit to be held at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi.

The Chief Minister will also meet members of NITI Aayog, including Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, S. Mahendra Dev, to discuss developmental and economic priorities.

PM Modi Launches Rs 9,400 Crore Development Projects in Telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated development works, foundation stones, and several projects worth Rs 9,400 crore in Telangana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated development works, foundation stones, and several projects worth Rs 9,400 crore in Telangana. Using a button, he launched the initiatives aimed at boosting infrastructure and development in the state. The event marked a significant step in the Centre's efforts to promote growth and progress across Telangana.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the Kazipet–Vijayawada multi-tracking project and the Kazipet Rail-over-Rail Bypass Line. He also laid the foundation stone for the 'PM MITRA Mega Textile Park,' expected to create thousands of jobs. The completion of these projects will further develop Warangal as a major industrial and transportation hub. During the event, Modi emphasised the significance of infrastructure development for economic growth and employment generation.

PM Modi visits Chandrababu and Pawan Kalyan's residences

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the residence of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan to inquire about his health.

Pawan recently underwent surgery for a sinus problem and is currently recuperating at home.

The Prime Minister also visited the residence of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to discuss recent political developments.

Srisailam temple to host 'Somnath Swabhiman Parv' celebrations today

Srisailam: Marking the completion of 1,000 years since the historic attack on the revered Somnath Temple and 75 years of its reconstruction, Srisailam Devasthanam is set to organise a series of spiritual and cultural programmes on May 11. The events form part of the nationwide 'Somnath Swabhiman Parv' celebrations, being held under the guidance of the Union Ministry of Culture and State Endowments Department. Devasthanam Trust Board Chairman Pothugunta Ramesh Naidu and Executive Officer M Srinivasa Rao announced the details during a meeting on Saturday. They emphasised that the celebrations aim to highlight the spiritual heritage, resilience, and cultural pride associated with the SomnathTemple, one of the most significant Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. The day-long programme will begin with a grand Kalasha Yatra at 7 am from Gangadhara Mandapam. The procession will pass through Nandi Mandapam, Mallikarjuna Sadan and Veerabhadra Swamy Temple before returning to the starting point. Devotees participating in the yatra will be provided books for writing the sacred Panchakshari Mantra as a devotional activity. At 10 am, a special national programme will be screened on a large LED screen at the Gangadhara Mandapam, showcasing the importance of Somnath Swabhiman Parv. In the evening, devotional programmes including Shiva Bhajans and Bhakti Ranjani will commence at 5:30 pm, followed by a religious discourse on the significance of 'Omkaram' at 6:30 pm. The celebrations will culminate with a spectacular performance of Perini Shiva Tandavam at 7:30 pm.

V-DAY CELEBRATIONS | President says Russia will win Ukraine war

North Korean troops join scaled back Putin parade

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday voiced confidence of victory in Ukraine as he oversaw a military parade on Red Square commemorating the defeat of Nazi Germany in WWII, a show that didn't include heavy weapons for the first time in nearly two decades.

Security was tight in Moscow as Putin and foreign leaders attended the parade, which was scaled down even as a US-brokered three-day ceasefire eased concerns about possible Ukrainian attempts to disrupt the festivities. Putin, in power for over a quarter-century, has used Victory Day, Russia's most important secular holiday, to showcase the country's military might and rally support for his military action in Ukraine, now in its fifth year.

Putin hailed Russian troops fighting in Ukraine, declaring they "face an aggressive force that is armed and supported by the Nato," and are fighting for a "just cause".

"Victory has always been and will be ours," Putin said, as columns of troops lined up on Red Square. "The key to success is our moral strength, courage and valour, our unity and ability to endure anything and overcome any challenge."

But in a notable shift this year, the parade took place without tanks, missiles and other heavy equipment, aside from a traditional flyover of combat jets.

Officials explained the sudden change of format by the "current operational situation" and said additional security measures have been taken in response to the threat of Ukrainian attacks.

State television commentators said the heavy weaponry was more needed on the battlefield in Ukraine.

For the first time, Saturday's parade featured **troops from North Korea**)R€ tribute to Pyongyang that sent its soldiers to fight alongside Moscow forces to repel a Ukrainian incursion into Russia's Kursk.

TRUMP TRUCE

US President Donald Trump announced Russia and Ukraine have bowed to his request for a ceasefire running Saturday through Monday and an exchange of prisoners, declaring the break in fighting could be the "beginning of the end" of the war. Russia declared a unilateral ceasefire for Friday and Saturday, while President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced a truce that was supposed to begin on May 6, but neither of them held as the parties traded blame for continuing attacks.

BAHRAIN DETAINS 41

IRGC LINKS

Dubai: The Bahrain Ministry of Interior said on Saturday it had arrested 41 people it alleges are part of a group affiliated with Iran's Revolutionary Guard. It said investigations are on to take action against anyone affiliated with the group but did not provide further details.

A US strike overnight killed at least one sailor and injured 10 others aboard a cargo vessel that caught fire, a news agency affiliated with Iran's judiciary reported. It was unclear if the ship was one of the two tankers the US acknowledged striking.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said the country was not paying attention to "deadlines" and Tehran continues reviewing a US proposal related to ongoing negotiations, according to state-run IRNA.

Mazaher Hosseini, affiliated with the office of Iran's former supreme leader, told a gathering Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei was in "complete health" and he would eventually appear in public. CNN reported Mojtaba was out of public view but still shaping strategy, US intelligence has assessed.

Russia's foreign ministry said it, along with Saudi, is calling for continued diplomatic efforts to reach a "sustainable, long-term pact" to end the war. Egyptian and Qatari diplomats have reiterated diplomacy is the sole path to finding a solution, as per a readout of a Saturday phone call between Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty and his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.

PM Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan has been in touch with the US and Iran to extend the ceasefire and reach a peace deal. Reportedly, Iran has seized an oil tanker, accusing it of "attempting to disrupt oil exports and the interests of the Iranian nation". China confirmed a Marshall Islands-flagged tanker carrying Chinese crew members had been attacked near the strait.

HMS DRAGON HEADS TO WEST ASIA FOR 'STRAIT MISSION': The Royal Navy is sending a warship to West Asia where it could join an international mission to safeguard shipping in the strait. HMS Dragon, a type 45 destroyer, will "pre-position" in the region ahead of its "potential role" in what the Ministry of Defence (MoD) described as a "strictly defensive and independent" mission. Britain's PM Sir Keir Starmer, who together with French President Emmanuel Macron is championing the mission, has said the shipping mission would only take place once fighting in the region ends.

WAR SNIPPETS

CHINESE EXPORTS JUMP 14.1 PER CENT

China's exports rose 14.1. in April from a year ago, govt said, despite the Iran war and lingering impacts from US tariffs. The data was released days ahead of a meeting between US President Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing next week. That beat estimates and was a significant improvement from March's 2.5. YoY expansion. Imports climbed 25.3. , slower than the 27.8. growth in March but still robust.

EX-US SPY TO RUN FOR ISRAELI PARL

A former US intelligence analyst who spent 30 years in prison for spying for Israel has apologised for his actions. Jonathan Pollard also announced he would run for Israel's parliament, the Knesset, in the upcoming elections later this year. In an interview with NPR, Pollard said, "I made a mistake; I didn't think about the consequences. And 30 years later, here I am trying to leave a better legacy." Pollard was arrested in 1985 after passing highly classified US documents.

Top Sri Lankan monk arrested for alleged sexual abuse of girl

Colombo: One of Sri Lanka's senior most Buddhist monks has been arrested for the sexual abuse of a girl, the police said on Saturday.

Venerable **Pallegama Hemarathana**, 71, is the chief priest of a prominent temple in the country. He was taken into custody on Friday night after a court in the holy city of Anuradhapura issued an arrest warrant against him and the victim's mother for allegedly aiding and abetting child abuse. He has been remanded until May 12.

The victim is a girl who is now 15 years old, according to the police, who was allegedly abused on the premises of a temple in Anuradhapura, police spokesperson FT Wootler told reporters.

A complaint was registered in March. It was initially about abduction and detention of a minor, reported the Daily Mirror media portal. When a probe was initiated, the investigators found out more.

Hemarathana was arrested from the emergency unit of a private hospital in Colombo, around 200 km from Anuradhapura, where he was undergoing some treatment, police said. The mother has also been arrested.

Patient zero in ship hantavirus outbreak identified as Dutch national

A Dutch birdwatcher who visited a landfill site described as the "end of the world" has been identified as patient zero in the deadly hantavirus outbreak on board the MV Hondius cruise ship.

Ornithologist **Leo Schilperoord**, 70, boarded the MV Hondius with wife after making a fateful visit to the rubbish tip in Argentina. Leo was the first passenger to lose his life to the virus while on board the vessel. His wife, Mirjam Schilperoord, disembarked the ship with his body but tragically died while attempting to board a flight to the Netherlands from South Africa.

The couple, from Haulerwijk, a small village of 3,000 people in the Netherlands, were named in obituaries published in their local monthly village magazine, the Sun reports.

Prior to boarding the MV Hondius, Leo and Mirjam had been on a five-month trip across South America. On March 27, they visited a landfill site four miles outside the city of Ushuaia. The vast rubbish tip on the town's outskirts is home to rare species of Patagonian birds, including the White-bellied Seedsnipe. The site, dubbed "the end of the world" and shunned by locals, is a popular destination for birdwatching tourists.

Argentinian authorities believe the Dutch couple contracted the feared Andes strain of the hantavirus at the site, likely through exposure to infected rodents at the rubbish dump. Four days later, on April 1, the couple set sail on the MV Hondius from Ushuaia, alongside 112 other passengers. By April 6, Leo reported suffering from a fever, headache, stomach pain and diarrhoea. He passed away on the ship five days later, with his body remaining on board until April 24 when the ship docked in St Helena.

Mirjam travelled with his body to South Africa but she also became unwell. Her health worsened as she got ready to catch a KLM flight from Johannesburg to Amsterdam.

She briefly got on board but was denied clearance to travel and was instead rushed to hospital in South Africa where she passed away a day later on April 26. A third person from the ship, a German passenger, has also died. The tally has reached six, WHO said. Of these, three British citizens have confirmed cases.

MEANWHILE...

- Spain readies for evacuations; ship heads for Canary Islands.
- US passengers aboard cruise to quarantine in Nebraska.
- WHO head to oversee evacuation of passengers and crew.
- Two suspected cases found in Spain, remote Tristan da Cunha.

Indian-American man faces denaturalisation proceedings in US

New York: A 62-year-old man from India, who later became a US citizen, is facing denaturalisation proceedings after it emerged he conspired to defraud investors of ?2.5 million and did not disclose this information to the federal authorities here.

Debashis Ghosh is a naturalised US citizen whose last known residence is in Cook County, Illinois. He entered the US multiple times on various non-immigrant visas beginning as early as 1991 and became a US citizen in 2012.

Ghosh is among 12 individuals against whom the US Dept of Justice announced it has filed denaturalisation actions in US district courts. The 12 individuals are accused of serious offences, including providing material support to a terrorist group, committing war crimes and sexually abusing a minor.

The US Justice Dept said before Ghosh naturalised, he conspired to defraud investors of ?2.5 million intended for the construction of an aircraft maintenance facility.

After naturalising, Ghosh continued the fraudulent scheme, misrepresenting the location and safekeeping the investor funding. In his 2012 naturalisation application and interview, Ghosh claimed he had never committed a crime for which he had been arrested. —PTI

US proposes higher wage for H1B hires

The US has proposed to increase the minimum wages paid to hire an employee under the H1B visa programme by 30% over the previously fixed limits, a move the administration claims will help prevent foreigners from undercutting wages of US nationals. The new rule, proposed by the US Dept of Labour on March 27, seeks to raise the minimum wages for four categories from entry-level to the most-experienced, contending the existing wage levels were fixed 20 years ago and fail to adequately protect US workers. According to the proposed rule 'Improving Wage Protections for the Temporary and Permanent Employment of Certain Foreign Nationals in the United States', the prevailing wage for entry-level foreign workers was USD 73,279 per annum, USD 98,987 (Level II), USD 121,979 (Level III) and USD 144,202 (Level IV). The new rule, which is now open to public comments till May 26, seeks to increase the prevailing wages for entry-level workers to USD 97,746, a hike of 33.39 per cent over the old rates, USD 123,212 (Level II, 24.47 per cent), USD 147,333 (Level III, 20.79 per cent), and USD 175,464 (Level IV, 21.68 per cent). The prevailing wages differ from city to city. According to the Department of Labour, the current methodology allows employers to hire foreigners at wage levels significantly below those paid to similarly employed US. The proposed changes will dramatically increase the prevailing wage levels used in the H1B, H1B1, E-3, and PERM labour certification programs. —PTI

EAM, Trinidad PM explore ideas to expand bilateral ties

Port of Spain: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held comprehensive talks with Trinidad and Tobago PM Kamla Persad-Bissessar to explore new ideas and initiatives for expanding bilateral cooperation between India and the dual-island nation.

Jaishankar arrived in Port of Spain from Paramaribo on Friday on the concluding leg of his three-nation tour of Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, to deep India's engagement with the Caribbean nations.

"Sat down this evening with PM Kamla Persad-Bissessar and her Cabinet colleagues for a comprehensive review of our bilateral ties," Jaishankar said on social media.

"While delivering on the commitments made by PM Narendra Modi last year, we explored new ideas and initiatives in our bilateral cooperation," he said.

Earlier in the day, Jaishankar joined Persad-Bissessar at an event for the distribution of Made-in-India laptops to schoolchildren, describing it as the fulfilment of a commitment made by Prime Minister Modi last year.

He concluded agreements on tourism, solarisation of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM)Caribbean Community and Common Market€Affairs building, Quick Impact Projects and the establishment of an Ayurveda Chair.

EAM TRIES 'DOUBLES'

Further, Jaishankar sampled Trinidad and Tobago's popular street food 'doubles" during his visit to the Caribbean nation, with PM Kamla Persad-Bissessar describing it as an example of the growing cultural bonds between the two countries.

Doubles, a popular street food in Trinidad and Tobago with roots in the Indian diaspora, consists of curried chickpeas served between two pieces of fried flatbread and is often compared to India's chole bhature for its flavour profile and chickpea-based preparation.

On social media, the PM said Jaishankar got "a true taste" of one of Trinidad and Tobago's most beloved local delicacies, doubles.

"Beyond diplomacy and discussions, it was an opportunity to share the warmth, flavour and spirit of the Trinidad and Tobago people. From India to Trinidad, our bonds continue to grow stronger through friendship, culture and shared heritage," she said. —PTI

Starmer brings in Gordon, Harriet to ease pressure

From L: Gordon Brown, Sir Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves

London: Sir Keir Starmer has brought in Gordon Brown and Harriet Harman as advisers to ease pressure on the PM to resign after the disastrous election results for Labour.

Brown, the former premier and long-serving chancellor under Tony Blair, has been made Starmer's envoy on global finance, with a brief to advise on financial partnerships to help with defence-related investments, particularly with Europe. Harman, who was Labour's deputy leader under Brown, will be the prime minister's adviser on women and girls, focusing on tackling violence and improving economic opportunities, The Guardian reports.

While the roles are part-time and unpaid, there is deliberate symbolism in Starmer gathering Labour heavyweights around him as he battles to save his job, particularly with the optics of Brown being pictured with him at Downing Street on Saturday morning.

With the bulk of the votes now counted from Thursday's series of elections, Labour lost over 1,400 councillors in England, shedding support to Reform UK and the Greens in traditional heartlands. In Wales, the party lost power for the first time, plummeting to just nine Senedd seats behind Plaid Cymru and Reform UK, while losing ground in the Scottish parliament.

While none of Starmer's cabinet have yet moved, other Labour MPs have called on him to set a date to hand over the leadership, including Clive Betts, the long-serving Sheffield South East MP, and Debbie Abrahams, for Oldham East and Saddleworth.

Abrahams told the BBC on Saturday morning she hoped Starmer would "always put the country first" given the electoral threat from Reform. "We have to recognise the dangers that we're in now, that on this trajectory it doesn't look good." Asked how quickly he should consider departing, Abrahams said: "I think it is a matter of months."

3 PIOs convicted of couple's murder in Canada

Abbotsford: Three Indian-origin persons have been found guilty of first-degree murder by a court in Canada in the killing of a couple in Abbotsford, according to local broadcaster CBC News.

Arnold and Joanne De Jong were found dead in their Abbotsford residence in May 2022. Four years later, British Columbia Supreme Court Justice Brenda Brown on Friday ruled Gurkaran Singh, Abhijeet Singh and Khushveer Toor played a willing and integral role in the couple's murder, the broadcaster reported. The judge agreed with prosecutors the murders were financially motivated and rejected defence arguments the deaths resulted from a robbery that went wrong, the report said.

Prosecutors told the court the trio had jointly planned to rob and kill the couple, and they stole credit cards, cheques and a power washer from the house. They worked together for a cleaning company owned by Abhijeet Singh, which had previously carried out work at the De Jongs' home. The accused, in 20s, had pleaded not guilty to two counts each of first-degree murder at the start of the trial. The couple were found dead in separate bedrooms, with Arnold's head and face wrapped in duct tape while Joanne was found with blood. Their hands and feet were bound with rope.

Prosecutors presented evidence linking the accused to the killings, including DNA, rope allegedly used to tie up Arnold De Jong and a metal baseball bat. —PTI

'UK's 1st gay dad' charged with human trafficking

London: A multi-millionaire football club owner known as Britain's first gay father has been charged with rape and human trafficking.

Barrie Drewitt-Barlow is widely known as one of Britain's first openly gay fathers through surrogacy.

According to Sky News and The Guardian, Drewitt-Barlow appeared before magistrates alongside husband Scott Hutchinson over alleged offences involving male complainants. The charges include rape, sexual assault and trafficking for sexual exploitation. The alleged offences are said to have taken place over years in Essex and Manchester. They deny the allegations, were remanded in custody and are due to appear in a court in June.

PÉTER MAGYAR IS SWORN IN AS HUNGARY'S NEW PREMIER

Budapest: Péter Magyar called for those who occupy high office, described as remnants of the Orbán regime, to vacate their posts by May 31. The order was extended to specifically include the country's President Tamás Sulyok. Péter Magyar has been sworn-in as Hungary's new PM, after taking his oath in parliament on Saturday morning, bringing an end to 16-years of Viktor Orbán rule, cementing a landslide April election victory.

Magyar post was confirmed on Saturday in the inaugural session of the National Assembly. He was appointed with 140 votes in favour, 54 against and 1 abstention.

After taking the oath, Péter Magyar said people had given his Tisza party a mandate to lead a new chapter in the country's history, to change not only the government but the system as well. "I will not rule over Hungary. I will serve my homeland," he stressed. "However, there can be no new beginning without reconciliation, and no reconciliation without justice," he added. "In the house of Hungarian democracy, I call on those holders of high public office who were the servants of the previous system to resign today, or by 31 May at the latest," said the new PM, adding, "President Tamás Sulyok should be the first to do so."

Breaking 36-years of tradition and protocols pertaining to government change, former PM Viktor Orbán did not deliver a speech at the inaugural parliamentary session, nor was he even present for the proceedings.

Ágnes Forsthoffer, Vice President of the Tisza Party, was elected the new speaker of parliament, and she was quick to announce her first order of business, reinstalling the EU flag on the Hungarian parliament building, after around 12 years of absence.

Ray-Ban heir files legal challenge to €10bn stake sale

An heir to Ray-Ban billionaire Leonardo Del Vecchio is challenging the approval process for a roughly €10 billion)?11.8 billion€family deal that would reshape control of EssilorLuxottica SA's biggest shareholder, according to people familiar with the matter, Bloomberg reports.

The claim was filed by Rocco Basilico in a Luxembourg court on Friday, and could complicate the deal approved last month by owners of Delfin Sarl, the family holding company created by Del Vecchio to manage his investments, the people said, asking not to be identified discussing private information.

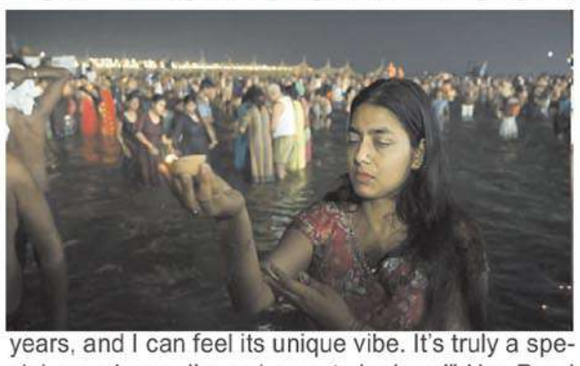
Basilico, the son of Del Vecchio's widow, claims the procedure clearing the transfer of a 25. stake in Delfin to Leonardo Maria Del Vecchio didn't reach the required voting approval, the people said. A ruling in his favour could complicate or delay the plan for Leonardo Maria, one of Del Vecchio's six children, to buy out two of his siblings.

Shares of EssilorLuxottica, the world's largest eyewear company, extended losses after Bloomberg reported on the lawsuit, falling as much as 2.2. . The Franco-Italian owner of Ray-Ban and Oakley brands has become a key player in AI-enabled glasses through its partnership with Meta Platforms Inc. Delfin is its largest shareholder with almost a one-third stake, and also holds investments in Assicurazioni Generali SpA and Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena SpA.

Over 1 crore take holy dip in Triveni Sangam by noon on Maha Shivratri

Bhopal: Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar, pledged unwavering support from the Union government to potential investors. Laying emphasis on importance of urban mobility, the minister stated that improved mobility facilitates easier access to residential facilities and enhances the appeal of cities. Highlighting the vast potential of Madhya Pradesh, Khattar noted that the state's growing population necessitates a focus on creating sustainable living environments. He acknowledged that urban development is a challenging endeavour, with numerous obstacles continually arising. Also Read - ELECRAMA 2025 Marks the Beginning of India's Next-Generation Electrical Revolution Khattar made these remarks during his address on the concluding day of the Madhya Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2025, held in Bhopal on Tuesday. "Madhya Pradesh has immense potential, and with its population, we must focus on developing sustainable living environments. Alongside housing, urban mobility assumes a pivotal role -- better mobility ensures easier access to residential facilities and renders cities more desirable. Expanding the metro network in Bhopal and Indore is imperative, and we are resolute in our commitment to meeting the mobility demands as they arise," he said. Also Read - BJP set to win Delhi polls with clear majority: Khattar The minister extolled Gurugram as the epitome of urban development and avowed that he had invariably considered suggestions and recommendations proffered by both the government and the public alike if they come for public cause and development. "Having now been entrusted with the mantle of urban development at the central level, I assure you that any suggestions or concerns pertaining to new policies will be addressed with the requisite improvements. You are well aware of the public's demands, and whatever you propose, we shall earnestly strive to fulfil," proclaimed the minister. Also Read - Union Minister Khattar vows to ensure no power shortage in TG He remarked that Madhya Pradesh possesses abundant potential and commended the state for its rapid assimilation of Central government policies. The minister assured that there would be a single-window clearance from the Centre for need-based approvals from the state. The Union Minister remarked upon Delhi's rampant illegal encroachments, which have led to its developmental stagnation, and vowed to transform the Capital within the next two years. Also Read - Union Minister Khattar to visit State today He eloquently highlighted the significant growth witnessed during his decade-long incumbency as the Chief Minister of Haryana, drawing a stark contrast with Delhi, which he lamented had shown little progress. He elucidated that Delhi's limited land and the rampant illegal encroachments had severely impeded urban expansion, further aggravated by policy and political challenges. Khattar also asserted that his administration had introduced novel policies and effected nearly thirty amendments to existing ones. Now, assuming his responsibilities at the Centre, he pledged that all suggestions would be duly acknowledged and implemented. The Union Minister reiterated that Delhi's limited land and widespread illegal encroachments have hindered urban expansion, compounded by policy and political challenges. "Over the past 10-12 years, we have metamorphosed Gurugram, whereas Delhi has remained stagnant. Unauthorised colonies have proliferated, and illegal encroachments are ubiquitous. Fortunately, the political landscape has ameliorated. Today, from this very stage, I declare that within the next two years, we shall reform all requisite policies and comprehensively address Delhi's urban development needs," the Minister said.The clash between Air Force personnel and the local public in Cox's Bazar on Monday that claimed the life of one civilian is yet another manifestation of the chaos that Bangladesh has descended to after the interim government headed by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus assumed power in August last year.According to reports in the Bangladesh media, a scheduled meeting between Bangladesh Air Force officials and local representatives was set to take place at the district administration office on Monday afternoon to discuss the relocation of residents for land acquisition.Around noon, a resident named Md Zahid and a few others were travelling to the district administration office on a bike when they were stopped at an Air Force checkpost near Diabetic Point.Air Force personnel forcibly removed Zahid from the vehicle, sparking an argument. As they attempted to detain him, locals quickly gathered at the scene to intervene, leading to a confrontation.During the clash, Air Force members fired blank shots to disperse the crowd, injuring at least 10 to 15 people. Some of the wounded were taken to Cox's Bazar District Sadar Hospital, where one person was pronounced dead.Though the incident may be seen as an isolated one, it is symptomatic of the near-total chaos that Bangladesh is descending to following the ouster of Prime Minister Shiekh Hasina in August last year in the face of a mass uprising and the interim government headed by Yunus assuming power.This transition, while aiming to restore stability and democratic order, has been accompanied by considerable challenges and unrest. The catalyst for change was a student-led movement protesting against public sector job quotas, which they perceived as discriminatory.This movement, known as Students Against Discrimination (SAD), rapidly gained nationwide support, evolving into a broader call for governmental reform. The protests intensified in July 2024, leading to violent clashes that resulted in over 1,000 deaths. Facing mounting pressure, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned on August 5, 2024, and sought refuge in India.The new interim government included key figures from the student movement, such as Nahid Islam and Asif Mahmud, reflecting a commitment to address the protesters' demands. The primary mandate of this interim government was to draft a new, inclusive constitution and organise general elections to restore democratic governance.However, despite the interim government's efforts, Bangladesh has faced ongoing turmoil. The immediate aftermath of the uprising saw a breakdown in law enforcement, leading to widespread burglaries and thefts in Dhaka. Residents formed vigilante groups to protect their communities, and numerous weapons were looted from police stations nationwide.

As the grand Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 nears its culmination on February 26, coinciding with the auspicious festival of Mahashivratri



Prayagraj: As the grand Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 nears its culmination on February 26, coinciding with the auspicious festival of Mahashivratri, international visitors, including many from Japan, are expressing their awe and spiritual fulfillment after partaking in the sacred dip at the Triveni Sangam. Among the Japanese visitors, Akiko from Tokyo shared her excitement with IANS, saying, "It's been such an exciting experience! I was amazed by the sheer number of people gathered here. It's such an honour to dip into the Triveni Sangam. Just ten days ago, I had no idea what the Maha Kumbh was, but a friend invited me to come. The energy here is so powerful — this event only happens once every 144 years, and I can feel its unique vibe. It's truly a special experience. I'm so happy to be here!" Also Read - Panel formed to probe Kumbh stampede holds review meet Another Tokyo resident who took part in the holy dip expressed his emotions with a serene smile: "It's my first time here for the Maha Kumbh, and I am filled with excitement. The atmosphere is peaceful, and I feel so at ease. The arrangements are excellent, and the energy of the place is amazing. I truly love India." The Maha Kumbh Mela, which began on January 13, is now nearing its majestic finale. Held at the sacred Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj, the festival draws millions of devotees from across the globe, all seeking spiritual cleansing through the sacred ritual of Amrit Snan. Also Read - Over 4 lakh devotees took part in Maha Kumbh from Northeast Frontier Railway jurisdiction The conclusion of the event will take place on February 26, coinciding with the Mahashivratri, with the most auspicious time for the final Amrit Snan set from 11:08 AM on February 26 to 8:54 AM on February 27. The Maha Kumbh Mela is not only a religious observance but also a vibrant cultural celebration, with spiritual discourses, lively religious processions, and a gathering of sants and pilgrims from every corner of the world.

Govt committed to making housing accessible for all: Piyush Goyal

Mumbai: The government is committed to making housing accessible and sustainable for all, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, has said. At an event here, Goyal conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message, stating that the government remains committed to providing pucca houses to the homeless and those currently living in kachha houses in the same locality. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presented 32 gallantry and service medals to Indian Coast Guard (ICG) personnel during the 18th ICG investiture ceremony in Delhi on Tuesday. The awards recognized the personnel's exemplary service and selfless dedication to duty, often performed under challenging and extreme conditions. The ceremony included the conferral of six President's Tatrakshak medals for distinguished service, 11 Tatrakshak medals for gallantry, and 15 Tatrakshak medals for meritorious service, covering achievements from 2022 through 2024. Also Read - Three Tamil Nadu Fishermen Apprehended Off Karnataka Coast After Fleeing Oman While congratulating the recipients, Singh described the medals as more than mere mementos, calling them symbols of "bravery, perseverance and unwavering resolve towards maintaining the honour of the tricolour." He praised the ICG's efforts in ensuring coastal security, organizational efficiency, drug seizures, rescue operations, and international exercises. Also Read - Centre inks over Rs 1,220 crore contract with BEL for 149 software-defined radios The Defence Minister emphasized India's geographic vulnerability, being surrounded by sea on three sides with an extensive coastline that faces dual security challenges: conventional warfare and maritime threats like piracy, terrorism, infiltration, smuggling, and illegal fishing. Singh also highlighted emerging unconventional threats due to technological advancements, urging the ICG to remain vigilant against cyberattacks, data breaches, signal jamming, radar disruption, and GPS spoofing. Also Read - Rail, air connectivity in Lucknow set for major boost: Rajnath Reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthening the ICG, Singh announced a substantial budget increase of 26.5% for the financial year 2025-26, with an allocation of Rs 9,676.70 crore. He detailed plans for procurement of new vessels, including 14 fast patrol vessels, six air cushion vehicles, 22 interceptor boats, six next-generation offshore patrol vessels, and 18 next-generation fast patrol vessels. Singh also commended the initiation of the Digital Coast Guard project, noting that these technological advancements would enhance the ICG's capability to effectively counter both conventional and unconventional threats.Nearly five months after he was killed in an Israeli airstrike, thousands of supporters of the longtime leader of Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group have flown into Beirut for Hassan Nasrallah's funeral on Sunday.Nasrallah was killed on Sept. 27 when Israel's air force dropped more than 80 bombs on Hezbollah's main operations room in southern Beirut. It was the biggest and most consequential of Israel's targeted killings in years.The death of Nasrallah, one of the Iran-backed Shiite group's founders and Hezbollah's leader of more than 30 years, was a huge blow to the group he had transformed into a potent force in the Middle East.Hezbollah, which the U.S. and some of its allies has designated a terrorist organization, has suffered significant losses in the latest war with Israel, including the killing of several of its most senior military and political figures.His cousin and successor Hashem Safieddine, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike on a Beirut suburb a few days later, will be laid to rest in his hometown in southern Lebanon. The two had temporarily been buried in secret locations. Hezbollah earlier this month announced plans for their official funerals.Crowds are expected to gather on Sunday at Beirut's main sports stadium for a funeral ceremony before Nasrallah's interment. Flights from Iraq, where Hezbollah has a huge following among Iraqi Shiites, have been full for days on end. According to an Iraqi transportation ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the flights, up to 6,000 people have flown to Beirut over the past days.The upcoming G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Johannesburg may witness a significant diplomatic moment as India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi are expected to attend, potentially leading to discussions on resolving border tensions. The timing is particularly relevant following successful disengagement efforts in the Depsang Plains and Demchok regions along the LAC in October 2024. Both nations have maintained consistent high-level diplomatic engagement to establish a comprehensive peace framework, with current efforts focused on military de-escalation in sensitive border areas. Also Read - MyVoice: Views of our readers 19th February 2025 Recent months have seen increased diplomatic activity, highlighted by NSAAjit Doval's Beijing visit in December and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's January discussions. The December Special Representatives Meeting in Beijing proved particularly significant, demonstrating both nations' commitment to maintaining border stability. Misri's subsequent January visit yielded important agreements, including the revival of cultural exchanges, the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, and enhanced economic collaboration. The G20 summit now presents an opportunity for both nations to advance their dialogue further, with diplomatic sources indicating the possibility of reaching broader agreements on border stability as 2025 progresses. This version maintains the essential information while restructuring it for better flow and clarity, removing the advertisements and unrelated trending topics from the original text.The transgender community of Ajmer has made meticulous preparations for the All India Kinnar Mahasammelan at a private school in Vaishali Nagar of the city as community members from different states have started arriving. The maiden 10-day conference, inaugurated on Monday with the Khichdi Tulai ritual, will discuss the issues faced by the third gender.The conference is being organised in memory of Anita Bai, the mentor of Gaddipati Saloni Nayak of Ajmer's transgender community. The Guru-Shishya tradition has been going on in the transgender society from time immemorial and no one is being allowed to the conference without explicit permission of Nayak. For this purpose, founders have been deployed at the entry gates to check every guest.After crossing the gallery, a guest will hit the temple of goodness Bahuchara, considered the deity of the community, where the Kalash Puja has been performed. Several stalls including medical, banking, perfume and tour operators have been set up in the venue.A bigger pandal, specifically for the rituals of the community, has been set up 20 metres away from the temple. A giant LED for live streaming of the ritual has been set up.About 2,000 community members attended the Panch ritual performed in the Khichdi Tulai festival on Monday where rice was weighed in a weighing scale."On Monday, after the ritual of Kalash Pujan, the Kalash was taken in front of the guests on their arrival, in which the guests put the amount of shagun according to their faith. After this, the ritual of Khichdi Tulai was performed in the evening. There will also be a ritual of Chak Pujan on February 19 in the Maha Sammelan. There will also be a procession by Kinnar Samaj," Nayak said.Deepika Bai, a disciple of Nayak, said according to the tradition of saints, the community collectively performs the Khichdi Tulai ritual, the first ritual of the conference. The purpose of this ritual is to collectively express the faith of the community to the goddess Bahuchara by offering the traditional khichdi."For this, rice is weighed in the presence of the Panchs along with lentils, sugar, dry fruits, ghee are given to the confectioner for the preparation of khichdi. After offering, all eunuchs collectively eat it as prasad. This ritual not only shows the community's faith in the goddess but also increases harmony.

Deeply honoured to welcome PM at our residence: Chandrababu Naidu

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday said that he would be deeply honoured to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence in Hyderabad.Hyderabad city guide
"We are deeply honoured and delighted to welcome Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji to our residence today. This is a truly special and memorable moment for our family," Chandrababu Naidu posted on X.

The Prime Minister, who is arriving here on Sunday afternoon, is scheduled to visit Naidu's residence at Jubilee Hills. Naidu's Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is a key partner in PM Modi-led NDA government at the Centre.

PM Modi is visiting Hyderabad to launch various development projects worth over Rs. 9,000 crore and address a public meeting.

This is his first visit to Telangana after assuming office as the Prime Minister for a third term. He is also likely to visit the residence of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, who is also a partner in the BJP-led NDA.

Meanwhile, Pawan Kalyan also posted a message on X welcoming the Prime Minister. "Telangana welcomes Hon'ble Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi Ji on his visit for the foundation laying of development projects worth ?9,400 crore," posted the Jana Sena leader.

"My heartfelt gratitude to the NDA Central Government for its commitment towards strengthening infrastructure, connectivity, and economic growth in the State, creating new opportunities for youth and accelerating Telangana's progress," he wrote.

"On behalf of Jana Sena Party, I thank PM Modi Ji, for his continued focus on the development of Telangana," he added.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to lay the foundation stone, inaugurate and dedicate to the nation multiple development projects worth around Rs 9,377 crore.
He will also address a public meeting organised by the BJP at Parade Grounds, Secunderabad.

Smoke emanates from a bus on National Highway in Singarayakonda

A thick smoke began emanating from the engine of a private travel bus travelling from Vijayawada towards Bengaluru on the national highway within the Singarayakonda Mandal in the Prakasam district. The driver promptly pulled the bus over to the roadside after noticing the smoke.
ASI Ravi and Constable Rajendra, on night duty, arrived at the scene and safely evacuated all 46 passengers. The passengers, filled with panic as smoke filled the bus, remained stranded by the roadside for around five hours.
Tensions arose when the passengers argued with the bus staff over the lack of alternative arrangements, as the travel agency failed to provide another vehicle. Police intervened and organised for the passengers to be transported to their respective destinations in a different bus. The incident has been praised as a major disaster narrowly avoided thanks to the swift action of the police.

Telangana CM, Dy CM congratulate Vijay on taking oath as TN CM

elangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Sunday congratulated C. Joseph Vijay on taking the oath as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

According to a statement from the Telangana Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Revanth Reddy extended his heartfelt felicitation and warm congratulations to Vijay on assuming office as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

The Chief Minister expressed his earnest hope that, in accordance with the aspirations and expectations of the people of Tamil Nadu, Vijay will usher in an era of progressive governance, dedicated public service, and visionary leadership, con-

tributing significantly to the state's development and the welfare of its citizens.
He further conveyed his best wishes for a successful and distinguished tenure, while expressing confidence that Vijay's leadership and commitment to public welfare will earn him an enduring and cherished place in the hearts of the people of Tamil Nadu.
Deputy Chief Minister Vikramarka also extended hearty congratulations to Vijay on taking charge as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

"Wishing you a tenure filled with monumental progress and people centric governance. Best wishes for a successful journey ahead," he posted on X.
Pawan Kalyan has also congratulated Vijay on taking oath as the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister.

"Heartfelt congratulations to Vijay on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and to all those who took oath as Ministers," the Jana Sena Party leader said.

"I wish the new government will fullfill the aspirations of the people, ensure transparent and progressive governance, and lead Tamil Nadu towards greater growth and prosperity," added the actor-politician.

Telangana Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar also congratulated Vijay.

"Wishing you strength, wisdom, and success in serving the people with dedication and vision. May your leadership bring progress and prosperity," he said.

Suvendu Adhikari Sworn in as West Bengal's First BJP Chief Minister

Suvendu Adhikari was sworn in as West Bengal's first BJP Chief Minister in a grand ceremony at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground. The event follows the BJP's significant victory over Mamata Banerjee's TMC in recent Legislative Assembly elections.

The swearing-in was attended by prominent leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, and Rammohan Naidu.

Chief Ministers Chandrababu Naidu of Andhra Pradesh and Bhupendra Patel of Gujarat, along with other dignitaries, also participated in the occasion, marking a historic moment for the BJP in West Bengal.

ISSF World Cup Shotgun: Neeru and Vivaan win trap mixed team bronze

The pair of Neeru Dhanda and Vivaan Kapoor won bronze in the trap mixed team event on Sunday, helping India conclude the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Shotgun in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on a high.
Neeru and Vivaan shot 24 out of the first 30 targets in the final and, despite matching the top Italian pair of Silvana Stanco and Mauro De Filippis, had to miss out on a better medal, having finished second to the silver-winning Italians in qualification. Chinese Taipei's Kun-Pi Yang and Wan-Yu Liu won a second World Cup gold with a world record score of 36 in the final.
Vivaan and Neeru had shot 143 in qualification, finishing just two behind Silvana, a Paris Olympic silver medalist, and Mauro, a former world champion in the event. Both shot perfect third rounds of 25 each to confirm their final spots, with Vivaan missing two out of his 75 targets.
Teammates Ahvar Rizvi and Pragati Dubey shot 130 to finish 23rd in the 31-team competition.

After the first 10 targets in the decider, Kun and Wan led the field with a perfect score. Neeru missed her third, to put India in second after Vivaan shot down all five of his targets to extend his qualification form.
Italy and China were fighting for third place, having hit five of their first 10 targets. Italy won that fight by one hit after 20 targets, as Chinese Taipei extended their lead by two over India, as Neeru missed two targets more.
The Italians then showed their class in the third series, missing none, even as Vivaan missed his first of the final on his 13th shot. In the end, both pairs ended up on the same score, with the Italians surviving because of their qualification performance.
It was still a commendable first ISSF World Cup medal for Neeru and Vivaan in the Olympic event, and India's second since it became an Olympic event last year.
Asian and National champion Neeru Dhanda made the final of the women's trap competition at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Shotgun in Almaty, Kazakhstan, finishing seventh with seven hits after the first elimination stage of 10 shots.
The Indian, despite shooting all five targets in the second five-shot series, could not recover from three misses in the first, with all three podium spots going to Olympic medalists. Australian Penny Smith, the Paris Olympics bronze medalist, won gold with a world record 30 out of 30 hits, while Spain's Tokyo Olympics Mixed Team champion Fatima Galvez won silver with 25. Women's trap legend Zuzana Rehak Stefecekova of Slovakia, a three-time Olympic medalist and former world and Olympic champion, won bronze.
Earlier, Neeru had surged up the world-class field, firing rounds of 23 and 25 to finish with a career-best qualification score in ISSF competitions. Her 116 (23,23,22,23,25) and a perfect final round helped her clinch the eighth and final qualification spot, after beginning the day in 21st position. It would be her second World Cup final in two years after finishing fourth in Lonato last year.
Teammates Manisha Keer and Pragati Dubey shot scores of 112 (24,24,21,21,22) and 111 (18,23,24,24,22) to finish 26th and 29th, respectively.

Telangana defers merger of Intermediate with school education

The Telangana government has deferred a decision on the recommendation of the Education Commission to merge Intermediate education with the school education system.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday directed officials to conduct Intermediate admissions as usual for this academic year.

In view of the availability of limited time for admissions and the 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.

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. The commission emphasized that the new

education system would significantly reduce the number of student dropouts.

The majority of states were already implementing Class 11 and Class 12 grade structures. Telangana state was still practicing the old system of intermediate education as a separate entity. As a result, the majority of students who complete their education up to 10th grade in government schools are not enrolling in the separate colleges designated for Intermediate studies, and instead, they discontinue their education.

Against this backdrop, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy suggested integrating the Intermediate education into the regular school curriculum as classes 11 and 12, rather than maintaining it as a separate entity.

The Telangana Education Commission also highlighted the importance of the merger of Intermediate education with school education.

An announcement was also made of suspending admissions to the Intermediate course, which created anxiety among students and their parents.

In light of the present situation, the Chief Minister held a meeting with MP Vem Narender Reddy, State Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, CM's Principal Secretary Seshadri, Special Secretary Ajith Reddy, Secretary Manik Raj, and Education Department Commissioner Yogita Rana.

The Chief Minister reviewed several technical issues and challenges associated with the proposed merger and decided to postpone the process temporarily. CM Revanth Reddy directed officials to conduct extensive consultations with all stakeholders regarding the merger and also suggested that the committee constituted to formulate the Telangana Education Policy should study the issue and submit its recommendations.

The Chief Minister clarified that a final decision would be taken only after holding a debate in the Legislative Assembly.

A mammoth Trishul with Damuru inaugurated at Kailasagiri

Visakhapatnam: Kailasagirihilltop has become an emerging tourism hub poised to attract scores of visitors from across the country, said Minister of Municipal Administration and Urban Development P Narayana. Inaugurating a majestic 65-foot Trishul at the iconic Kailasagiri here on Saturday, the minister said that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is giving top priority to tourism development. He emphasised that the sector would not only generate substantial revenue for the state but also create large-scale employment opportunities for the youth.

He stated that the government is committed to transforming Visakhapatnam into a world-class destination through ambitious infrastructure and tourism initiatives. MSME Minister Kondapalli Srinivas stated that thousands of crores worth of investments is being channelled into the development of Visakhapatnam with the vision of elevating the city into one of the finest

urban centres in the country. Terming the Trishul project as the dream project of VMRDA chairperson M.V. Pranav Gopal, the minister said it has now become a reality.

Speaking on the occasion, Visakhapatnam MP M Sribharat said the giant Trishul, visible from all corners of Kailasagiri, would serve as a special attraction for tourists and devotees alike. The MP informed that plans are underway to prepare a comprehensive master plan for the further development of Kailasagiri. The Trishul has been engineered to withstand high wind intensity, ensuring both safety and durability, he added. Marking the inauguration of the project, special prayers were offered to Lord Shiva before the newly-installed Trishul in the presence of MLC Vepada Chiranjeevi Rao, TDP state president and Gajuwaka MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao, MLAs CH. Vamsi Krishna Srinivas Yadav, Panchakarla Ramesh Babu, P Vishnu Kumar Raju, among others.

Three Dead, Multiple Infected in Rare Hantavirus Outbreak Aboard MV Hondius

The World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed an outbreak of the Andes virus, a rare and severe strain of hantavirus, linked to the Dutch expedition cruise ship MV Hondius. As of May 8, 2026, the outbreak has resulted in eight cases of illness and three deaths.

The cruise began its journey in Ushuaia, Argentina, on April 1, 2026. It followed an extensive itinerary across the South Atlantic, stopping at remote locations including Antarctica, South Georgia, Saint Helena, and Ascension Island.

* Initial Case: The first symptoms were reported on April 6, 2026, by a male passenger who later died on board on April 11.
* Total Affected: There are currently six laboratory-confirmed cases (identified via PCR testing) and two probable cases.
* Casualties: Three deaths have been reported so far, including a Dutch couple and another passenger who died in South Africa.
* Current Status: The ship is currently en route to Tenerife in Spain's Canary Islands, where passengers are expected to disembark.

About the Andes Hantavirus—

The specific strain identified is the Andes virus, which is typically found in South America.

* Transmission: While most hantaviruses are spread strictly through contact with infected rodent droppings, urine, or saliva, the Andes virus is unique because it can spread through human-to-human transmission. Health officials believe close contact between passengers likely contributed to the spread on the ship.
* Incubation Period: Symptoms generally appear 2 to 4 weeks after exposure, though they can manifest as early as 1 week or as late as 8 weeks after infection.
* Risk Level: The WHO assesses the global risk as low, but the risk to those remaining on the ship is considered moderate.

Symptoms and Severity—

The infection typically causes Hantavirus Cardiopulmonary Syndrome (HCPS), a severe respiratory disease that can rapidly progress to life-threatening conditions.

The Andes virus,typically causes symptoms to appear within an incubation period of 2 to 4 weeks after exposure. However, the onset of the illness can be quite variable, with symptoms manifesting as early as 1 week or, in some cases, as late as 8 weeks following the initial infection. This window of time is critical for monitoring those on the MV Hondius as they travel toward their destination.

Passengers and Crew—

The MV Hondius is carrying 147 individuals, consisting of 88 passengers and 59 crew members representing 23 different nationalities.

* Repatriation: Some passengers have already been medically evacuated to South Africa, Germany, and the Netherlands.
* U.S. Involvement: The CDC is monitoring 17 American citizens on board and plans a medical repatriation flight to Omaha, Nebraska.
* Indian Nationals: Two Indian crew members are among those currently on the ship.

PM Modi opts for alternate route in Hyderabad to avoid inconvenience to wedding guests

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's power-packed Sunday, with multiple programmes and events slated in three states – Karnataka, Telangana and Gujarat, grabbed extra attention mid-way in HITEC City (Hyderabad), where he broke the protocol for the convenience and comfort of a wedding party and guests.

The Prime Minister's compassionate and warm-hearted gesture won the hearts of those present and drew praise from legislators and public representatives, belonging to rival parties. The Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC), the place where PM Modi's helicopter was to land from Bengaluru, was also the wedding venue where BRS MLC MC Koti Reddy's son was to get married tonight.

The moment when it was brought to the notice of the Prime Minister that the wedding of BRS MLC M.C. Koti Reddy's son, Ajith Reddy, with Laxmi Sowjanya, IPS Karaikal, was scheduled at the same venue, he instructed the officials for alternate landing arrangements.

From there, the Prime Minister chose an alternative road route and travelled nearly 18 km by road to launch projects worth Rs 9,400 crore in Telangana.

Notably, the wedding arrangements were made well in advance, with invitations already distributed to nearly 5,000 guests.

The change in the Prime Minister's landing arrangements came on his instructions, as he sensed the inconvenience and trouble that the last-minute security arrangements could have caused, to an auspicious and special occasion for the family.

With PM Modi choosing a longer route for his convoy and facilitating a comfortable and memorable marriage to the couple, it has become a talking point in the HITEC city.

This compassionate, considerate gesture of PM Modi and also his humane leadership reinforce the principle that putting people above self and beyond any political differences remains his guiding mantra.

Among the major projects worth Rs 9,400 crore that PM Modi launched in Telangana included 'PM MITRA Park' in Warangal, also known as the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park. Built at an estimated cost of around 1,700 crore rupees, it is the country's first fully operational PM MITRA Park and is aimed at creating an integrated textile ecosystem under the Centre's "5F" vision – spanning farm, fibre, factory, fashion and foreign markets.

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for the four-laning of National Highway-167 between Gudebellur and Mahabubnagar as part of the Hyderabad-Panaji Economic Corridor, and the development of the Zaheerabad Industrial Area in Sangareddy district.

Ministers inspect Pranahita barrage site

Excise Minister and District In-charge Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, along with Labour Minister Vivek Venkataswamy, visited the proposed Pranahita Barrage site at Thummidi Hetti village in Koutala mandal on Friday.

During the visit, the Ministers inspected the project site and reviewed details related to the proposed barrage height and canal capacity with Irrigation department officials. Later, they paid floral tributes to the statue of B R Ambedkar at the Thummidi Hetti Pushkar Ghat.

Addressing a press conference organised at the venue, the ministers stated that Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy had written to Devendra Fadnavis on behalf of the Telangana government.

They said a meeting with the Maharashtra Chief Minister is expected next week to finalize the height of the barrage.

The ministers also stated that compensation would be provided for submergence-affected areas in Maharashtra and that farmers in those regions would be supported. Criticising the previous BRS government led by K Chandrashekar Rao, they alleged that the Pranahita project was shifted to Medigadda in a misleading manner, causing irreparable injustice to Telangana. Later, at a programme held at the SPM Club in Kagaznagar town, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao distributed allotment documents to beneficiaries of the Indiramma double-bedroom housing scheme.

The minister also visited the Sirpur Paper Mills in Kagaznagar and inspected various departments of the factory.

Sirpur MLA Palvai Harish Babu, MLC Dande Vittal, Municipal Chairperson Shaheen Sultana, Collector Haritha, SP Nitika Panth, Sub-Collector Shraddha Shukla, Additional Collector David, irrigation officials, and others participated in the programme.

PM Modi seeks blessings from senior BJP leader at West Bengal CM Swearing-In

During the swearing-in ceremony of Suvendu Adhikari as West Bengal's new Chief Minister, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a notable gesture by bowing to an elderly man to seek his blessings. The man was revealed to be Makhanlal Sarkar, a senior BJP leader and veteran of India's independence movement. Makhanlal, aged 98, has been a prominent figure within the BJP in West Bengal. He participated in the national movement alongside Syama Prasad Mookerjee in Kashmir in 1952, and was imprisoned for his involvement in hoisting the Indian flag there. Since the formation of the BJP in 1980, he has held key roles, including district organisational coordinator for West Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, and Darjeeling, and successfully recruited 10,000 members in one year. He served as the party's District President for seven consecutive years. As the BJP formed its first government in West Bengal, the party honoured Makhanlal by inviting him to the ceremony. During the event, Prime Minister Modi felicitated him with a shawl and bowed to seek his blessings. Following the swearing-in, Modi expressed gratitude to the people of Bengal for their support, kneeling in appreciation.

Bhopal's 90-degree overbridge controversy takes a new turn, all engineers reinstated

The controversy surrounding the Bhopal 90-degree overbridge has taken a new turn with the reinstatement of all seven engineers who were suspended last year.

Among them are two Chief Engineers, and following their reinstatement, they have been posted to the Engineer-in-Chief's office.

The decision, approved by Public Works Department Minister Rakesh Singh, has stirred political and administrative discussions across Madhya Pradesh.

While the engineers have returned to duty, the departmental inquiry into the matter is still ongoing, and officials have stated that appropriate action will be taken once the inquiry is complete.

The Ashbagh railway overbridge, constructed at a cost of Rs 18 crore, was completed in June 2025. Preparations for its inauguration were underway when photographs and videos of

the structure surfaced, revealing its sharp 90-degree turn.

Public safety concerns led to the immediate closure of the bridge before it could be opened to traffic. The unusual design quickly became a subject of ridicule on social media and even drew international attention, causing embarrassment to the government.

In response, the Public Works Department suspended seven engineers and issued charge sheets. Those associated with the design wing denied any wrongdoing, and after reviewing their replies, the government reinstated them without punitive action. The reinstatement has sparked debate, with critics questioning the timing of the decision while the inquiry is still pending.

The incident continues to highlight lapses in planning and oversight within the department, and the government remains under pressure to ensure accountability.

Meanwhile, the bridge itself, which has remained closed for nearly a year, is now set to undergo rectification. After 10 months of a standoff between the Public Works Department and the Railways, a breakthrough was achieved in April during a high-level meeting. Approval was granted to redesign the curvature of the bridge, and technical modifications will soon begin.

Once rectification work is completed, the bridge will finally be opened for public use, ending months of inconvenience for commuters in Bhopal.

MITS NCC cadets conquer national mountaineering camp

Madanapalle: Ina significant achievement for the NCC wing of Madanapalle Institute of Technology & Science (MITS), three cadets—Gangarapu Jyotheeswar, Ramireddy Laxman, and M Bhargavi—successfully completed the National Level Adventure and Mountaineering Camp.

The prestigious programme was conducted by the Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism (IHCAE) in the rugged Himalayan region.

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted that the camp provided specialized training in high-altitude activities, including mountaineering, rock climbing, trekking, river rafting, and paraglid-

ing.

These exercises were designed to test the limits of physical endurance while fostering essential qualities such as teamwork, self-confidence, and leadership among the participants.

Notably, the MITS trio were part of a select group of only 15 cadets representing the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana regions. Telangana local news

The camp was held under the expert supervision of the IHCAE Training Officer and Course Director.

Upon their return, the successful cadets were honored by MITS Founder and Chancellor, the Executive Director, and NCC Officer Captain. The management praised the students for their determination, noting that such national-level exposure significantly enhances the professional and personal growth of the cadets.

Tharoor moves HC against publication of deepfake videos

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Friday moved the Delhi High Court against the publication of AI-generated deepfake videos purportedly showing him praising Pakistan and making statements on such "politically sensitive" issues. Justice Mini Pushkarna issued summons to social media platforms X and Meta Platforms as well as the Centre on the lawsuit by the Thiruvananthapuram MP and current chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, and indicated she would pass an interim order in his favour.

Senior advocate Amit Sibal, appearing for Tharoor, submitted that unknown entities were repeatedly pub-

lishing fake videos by misappropriating his face, voice and other attributes of his personality, which ought to be taken down. The senior counsel argued that the videos are detrimental to Tharoor's reputation as a patriot and chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs.

"India Today and PTI have stated publicly that these are fake videos, yet the public continues to have the impression that the videos are genuine and authentic," he said. "I am a former external affairs minister. It matters to India's standing as well... It is liable to be misused by foreign states," Sibal said, adding that even though the authorities took down several offending URLs pursuant to a grievance raised by Tharoor under the IT Rules and to the police, the content keeps re-surfacing.

RCB to bowl against MI as both teams remain unchanged

Royal Challengers Bengaluru won the toss and elected to bowl first against Mumbai Indians here at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium, RCB's new home ground for the remainder of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, in Raipur on Sunday.

There had been uncertainty around Suryakumar Yadav's availability after he travelled home for the birth of his daughter, but he continues to lead the five-time champions in the absence of regular skipper Hardik Pandya, who continues to be monitored for a back issue.

RCB arrive in Raipur looking to arrest a worrying dip in form. Consecutive defeats against GT and LSG have pushed them down to fourth place, tightening the race for the playoff spots. Phil Salt's return is timely for RCB, but concerns linger about their bowling attack, especially with Josh Hazlewood struggling recently. Rain limited team training, but a win tonight could boost their top-four position as rivals close in.

Mumbai Indians, meanwhile, head into this contest with little margin for error. Placed ninth on the table, every game from here feels like a knockout fixture for MI, who will once again lean heavily on the opening partnership of Rohit Sharma and Ryan Rickelton, especially with the middle order struggling to deliver consistently this season.

Historically, Mumbai have dominated this rivalry with 19 wins in 35 meetings, though RCB have had the upper hand in recent encounters.

Winning the toss, RCB skipper Rajat Patidar said, "We will bowl first. Pretty obvious, the surface is good and pretty hard. But we will try to get them as early as possible and go on the chase. Conditions are not unfamiliar, to be honest. It's a new stadium, good supporters, and a great outfield, I would say, and everyone is looking forward to the game. We are going with the same team. Yes, we had a couple of losses, but it's important to be in the present and play on your strengths. So we will be focusing more on ourselves rather than on other teams. I don't think that there are one or two particular areas. Wherever it is. If we play in the Power-play or if we play after the Power-play, we will look to do whatever best we can do."

MI's stand-in captain Suryakumar, meanwhile, said, "We are pretty confident to bat first. Big ground, black soil wicket, and runs on the board will always put pressure on the other team. We are going with the same team. We have always had a good chat around the bowling. It's harsh on the bowlers. We keep trying to improve and get better each day."

Playing XIs:
oyal Challengers Bengaluru: Virat Kohli, Jacob Bethell, Rajat Patidar (c), Jitesh Sharma (wk), Tim David, Romario Shepherd, Krunal Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Josh Hazlewood, Suyash Sharma, Rasikh Salam Dar
Impact substitutes: Devdutt Padikkal, Jordan Cox, Mangesh Yadav, Suyash Sharma, Venkatesh Iyer
Mumbai Indians: Rohit Sharma, Ryan Rickelton (wk), Naman Dhir, Suryakumar Yadav (c), Tilak Varma, Will Jacks, Raj Bawa, Corbin Bosch, Deepak Chahar, Jasprit Bumrah, AM Ghazanfar
Impact substitutes: Raghu Sharma, Mayank Rawat, Robin Minz, Shardul Thakur, Trent Boult

Kerala Blasters surge past Mohammedan Sporting, extend unbeaten run

Kerala Blasters FC produced a dominant second-half display to secure a 3-1 victory against Mohammedan SC at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Kochi, extending their unbeaten run to five matches in Indian Super League 2025-26 on Sunday.

Goals from Francisco Feuillassier, Víctor Bertomeu, and Sreekuttan M S ensured all three points for the hosts, after Mahitosh Roy had briefly put the visitors ahead. Feuillassier was named the Player of the Match for his influential performance.

The result sees Ashley Westwood's side move up to eighth in the standings with 14 points from 12 matches, while Mohammedan SC remain rooted to the bottom with just three points from 11 games. Mehrajuddin Wadoo's team's fate now hinges on Chennaiyin FC's result later today, with even a single point for the latter confirming Mohammedan's relegation to the Indian Football League for next season.

Kerala Blasters began on the front foot, dominating possession and probing the Mohammedan defence from the outset. Midfielder Kévin Yoke was particularly influential down the left flank, repeatedly driving into attacking areas and creating opportunities.

The visitors, however, held firm early on, with goalkeeper Padam Chettri producing a string of impressive saves, including a sharp one-handed stop to deny Yoke's header midway through the half.

Despite Kerala's control, Mohammedan struck against the run of play in the 42nd minute. Mahitosh Roy won possession in midfield, surged forward, and unleashed a powerful effort from almost 20 yards that flew into the top corner, giving the visitors a surprise lead.

The advantage was short-lived. Just two minutes later, Kerala responded through Feuillassier, who latched onto a perfectly weighted through ball from Yoke and finished calmly into the bottom corner to restore parity before the break.

Kerala Blasters resumed the second half with renewed intent, continuing to dictate the tempo. Their persistence paid off in the 58th minute when Yoke once again turned provider, delivering a precise cross for Bertomeu, who guided a composed header into the net to put the hosts ahead.

With momentum firmly on their side, Kerala continued to press for a third. Substitute Sreekuttan came close soon after, forcing a deflected effort onto the crossbar, while Mohammedan struggled to create meaningful chances at the other end.

The decisive moment arrived in the 74th minute when Kerala extended their lead. A well-worked move saw Feuillassier lift a clever ball into the box, where Sreekuttan was perfectly positioned to tap home and make it 3-1.

Mohammedan's hopes of a comeback were effectively ended in the 86th minute when Amarjit Singh was sent off after receiving a second yellow card. Reduced to ten men, the visitors found it increasingly difficult to break down a well-organised Kerala defence.

The hosts managed the closing stages comfortably, maintaining possession and controlling the pace of the game to see out the victory.

Italian Open: Zverev eases past Blockx, Ruud beats Lehecka to enter Rd 4

Alexander Zverev continued his steady progress at the Italian Open after defeating Belgium's Alexander Blockx 6-1, 6-4 to book a place in the fourth round of the Masters 1000 event in Rome on Sunday.

The victory marked the second time in just over a week that Zverev had beaten the 21-year-old Belgian, having also overcome him in straight sets during the semi-finals of the Madrid Open 2026 earlier this month.

Playing on the windy courts of the Foro Italico, the German produced a composed display and controlled most of the baseline exchanges to complete the win in 74 minutes.

"I was much better than I was two days ago. I think it was difficult to play pretty tennis from the baseline today because the conditions were not easy; it was very windy. But overall, I am very happy," Zverev was quoted by ATP.

The two-time Rome champion looked sharp from the outset and dominated the opening set with clean hitting and consistent depth from the back of the court. Zverev struck more winners and kept his unforced error count low, leaving Blockx struggling to find rhythm in the early stages.

The Belgian showed more intent in the second set and attempted to play with greater aggression, but Zverev continued to absorb pressure effectively and closed down angles with precise hitting through the middle of the court. One of the highlights of the contest came midway through the second set when the German produced a delicate drop volley to hold serve during a key moment of the match.

The result extended Zverev's strong record in Rome, where he has now registered 29 career victories. The German is still searching for his first title of the 2026 season after finishing runner-up to Jannik Sinner in Madrid last week. He will next face either American Tommy Paul or Italy's Luciano Darderi for a place in the quarter-finals.
Despite the defeat, Blockx continued to underline his growing promise on clay. The young Belgian had reached the third round in Rome after wins over Federico Cina and Tallon Griekspoor, adding to an encouraging clay-court season that has already included a run to the final of the Next Gen ATP Finals 2025.

Elsewhere, Casper Ruud maintained his unbeaten head-to-head record against Jiri Lehecka with a 6-3, 6-4 victory to move into the next round. The Norwegian, a three-time semi-finalist in Rome, will next take on either Lorenzo Musetti or Francisco Cerundolo.The Norwegian has advanced to the Round of 16 at a clay-court Masters 1000 event once more, marking this stage in nine of his last ten clay-court tournaments in this category. Additionally, he achieved his second victory over a top 20 player in 2026 by defeating world No. 6 Alex de Minaur of Australia at the United Cup.

Ruud will face the winner of the Lorenzo Musetti vs Francisco Cerúndolo clash in his next game.

Second single from 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' turns out to be an instant chartbuster; film to release on March 28

Hyderabad: The much-awaited second single from power star Pawan Kalyan's upcoming magnum opus 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' has just been released, and it has become an instant chartbuster, further raising expectations for the film.From the very first note, the song, titled 'Kollagottinadhiro', hooks listeners with its high energy beats and electrifying vibe. Pawan Kalyan's unmatched screen presence after a long time adds to the excitement, keeping fans glued to their screens.Nidhhi Agerwal, who is paired opposite the power star brings a refreshing charm to the visuals making their on screen chemistry a delight to watch. The song also features Anasuya Bharadwaj and Pujitha Ponnada, adding grace and elegance with their dance moves.Composed by Oscar-winning music director MM Keeravani, the song is an absolute earworm, enchanting listeners from the very first play. The track features an ensemble of powerhouse singers across multiple languages — Mangli, Rahul Sipligunj, Ramya Behara, Yamini Ghantasala, Airaa Udupi, Mohana Bhogaraju, Vaishnavi Kannan, Sudeep Kumar and Aruna Mary, each bringing their unique touch to this mesmerising composition.The soulful and impactful lyrics penned by Chandrabose, Abbas Tyrewala, PA Vijay, Varadharaj Chikkaballapura and Mankombu Gopalakrishnan add another layer of magic, making this track even more special.Directed by Jyothi Krishna and Krish Jagarlamudi, and backed by AM Ratnam under Mega Surya Production, 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' is set to be the first major release of summer 2025, as it is gearing up to hit the big screens on March 28. This larger-than-life spectacle promises to take the box-office by storm.

Blockbuster 'Chhaava' set to roar in cinemas in Telugu, to premiere on March 7

Hyderabad: Riding high on an unprecedented wave of admiration and fan fervour, 'Chhaava', the historical epic chronicling the valiant life of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, is all set to make its grand debut in Telugu.Responding to the overwhelming audience demand, the filmmakers have now decided to dub and theatrically release the film in Telugu on March 7. 'Chhaava' was originally released in Hindi. The Telugu release of the movie will be helmed by Geetha Arts Distributions.Produced by Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films and directed by Laxman Utekar, 'Chhaava' stars Vicky Kaushal in the lead role, with Rashmika Mandanna as Yesubai Bhonsale, Akshaye Khanna as Aurangzeb, Diana Penty as Zinat-un-Nissa Begum, Ashutosh Rana as Hambirrao Mohite, and Divya Dutta as Soyarabai.Since its release on February 14, the film has been on a record-breaking spree, surpassing Rs 417.20 crore GBOC in India in just 11 days.With its gripping storytelling, stellar performances, and a powerful tribute to the legacy of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, 'Chhaava' continues to reign supreme in the hearts of audiences.

Shruti Haasan's international debut project 'The Eye' to open 5th Wench Film Festival

Mumbai: The British psychological thriller 'The Eye', which stars Shruti Haasan, is set to have its India premiere as the opening feature of the 5th Wench Film Festival, founded by Sapna Bhavnani.The film festival is dedicated to horror, sci-fi, and fantasy films, and will be held from February 27 to March 2.'The Eye' marks Shruti's international debut as a leading lady, and is directed by Daphne Schmon. The film tells the haunting story of Diana (played by Shruti Haasan), who journeys to the remote island where her husband Felix (Mark Rowley) drowned, seeking closure by scattering his ashes.However, her grief soon turns to intrigue when she learns of the mysterious 'Evil Eye' ritual, an ancient practice that might bring Felix back but demands a dark and unsettling sacrifice. The film has been shot in Athens and Corfu.Talking about the film's Indian premiere, Shruti shared, "Psychological thrillers have always been a genre that fascinates me. To be part of a story that dives deep into human emotions, grief, and the supernatural is incredibly exciting. Besides the fact that the film has a riveting storyline and top-notch production quality, what makes this project even more special is that it was created under an all-women-led production house, which aligns with my passion for supporting women in the film industry.""Furthermore, this film champions a sustainable way of film making, something that the world desperately needs. If we want to continue telling our stories, we must be able to tell them in a manner that is conscious of our impact," she added.Director Daphne Schmon said, "'The Eye' is both a love letter to Corfu, the island where my family is from, and an exploration of the dark psychological impulses surrounding grief. The story demanded an actor who could embody its emotional depth and complexity, and Shruti Haasan was the perfect fit. Her ability to navigate Diana's grief, paranoia, and resilience with such authenticity is truly remarkable. It was only an artiste of Shruti's calibre who could do justice to this role, and she has delivered a stellar performance that will leave a lasting impact."

The film has been produced by Fingerprint Content.Looks like love is still in the air! With the release of 'Nadaaniyan' inching closer, the excitement surrounding the film is only intensifying.The latest reel featuring Ibrahim Ali Khan and Khushi Kapoor grooving to 'Ishq Mein' has set the social media on a buzz, offering fans a playful glimpse into their chemistry. The video captures the duo vibing to the track, but the real twist comes when Ibrahim amusingly chooses Khushi's dog over her, perfectly captioned as "When Ishq takes a paws."This light-hearted moment has sparked speculation amongst the audience, could this reflect their dynamic in the film, where love comes with unexpected distractions? Or, is it simply a fun nod to their off-screen camaraderie?

Parineeti Chopra begins shooting for her OTT series debut

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra has officially started shooting for her highly anticipated series OTT debut with a Netflix project. On Tuesday, the Kesari actress took to her social media handles and shared a note that read, "Some mysteries don't just unfold - they pull you in, keep you guessing, and refuse to let go". Anew mystery thriller series is in the making! Can't wait for you all to see this labour of love from Team Netflix and us, when it's ready! Shooting had begun .. Marking my OTT series debut!" Also Read - Airtel Introduces Apple TV+ and Apple Music for Home Wi-Fi and Postpaid Users She also posted photos of other cast members, including Tahir Raj Bhasin, Anup Soni, Jennifer Winget, Chaitannya Choudhry, Harleen Sethi, and Soni Razdan. Parineeti is all set to make her digital debut with a thrilling drama for Netflix. Set against the scenic backdrop of Shimla's hills, the upcoming yet-to-be-titled project is poised to deliver an intense mix of mystery and suspense. Produced by Siddharth P. Malhotra and Sapna Malhotra, the series will be directed by Rensil D'Silva. Also Read - Two Thrilling Web Series to Stream on OTT Platforms on Feb 28 ADVERTISEMENT Speaking about the show, creators Siddharth Malhotra and Rensil D'silva shared, in a statement, "We are thrilled to collaborate on this Noir Mystery Thriller with Netflix, a platform that celebrates storytelling in its most diverse and compelling forms.

Sanjay Dutt's next titled 'The Bhootnii' is to release on this date

Mumbai: As promised, Sanjay Dutt has revealed the name of his forthcoming action-horror comedy on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri.The makers of 'Sanam Teri Kasam', Soham Rockstar Entertainment, and Three Dimension Motion Picture shared that their next has been titled "The Bhootnii". They further revealed that the project will be hitting the theatres on 18th April 2025.Dropping the announcement on his IG, Sanjay Dutt wrote, "This Good Friday, fear gets a new date "#FridayThe18th! Get ready for horror, action, and comedy like never before! #TheBhootnii machayegi taandav in cinemas on April 18th!" For the unversed, the film was earlier titled "The Virgin Tree", but has now been renamed.The makers also shared a small teaser of the drama which gives us an insight into the mystical world where 'love turns into darkness'. Made under the direction of Sidhaant Sachdev, the film brings together a star-studded cast featuring Sanjay Dutt, Mouni Roy, Palak Tiwari, Sunny Singh, Beyounick and Aasif Khan in key roles, along with others.Soham Rockstar Entertainment and Three Dimension Motion Pictures are presenting "The Bhootnii", which has been produced under the banner of A Soham Rockstar Entertainment Production by Deepak Mukut, Sanjay Dutt, Hunar Mukut, and Maanayata Dutt.Yesterday, the makers shared an eerie poster from the upcoming drama on social media, announcing that the title and release date for the project will be unveiled during Maha Shivratri on February 26.The post was captioned, "Mahadev ki bhakti main shakti hai! Bohot hua wait! Baba is locking the date! ("There is power in the devotion to Mahadev! Enough waiting! Baba is locking the date!)"Additionally, Sanjay Dutt's lineup includes the much-awaited sequel 'Welcome to the Jungle.' The Ahmed Khan's directorial enjoys an ensemble cast with Akshay Kumar, Raveena Tandon Disha Patani, Suniel Shetty, Lara Dutta, Bobby Deol, Jacqueline Fernandez, Paresh Rawal, Arshad Warsi, Rajpal Yadav, Johny Lever, Shreyas Talpade, and Tusshar Kapoor.Furthermore, Sanjay Dutt will also be seen playing a crucial role in 'Son of Sardaar 2' . The drama has Ajay Devgn and Mrunal Thakur as the lead pair. Directed by Vijay Kumar Arora, Ajay Devgn has produced the film under the banner of Devgn Films in collaboration with Jio Studios.Bollywood actor Preity Zinta expressed her frustration over misinformation and irresponsible reporting. In a strongly worded post, Zinta criticised newspeople who, according to her, fail to verify facts before publishing stories. On Tuesday, the actor took to her social media handle to voice out her annoyance regarding the matter.Taking to the microblogging site X (previously known as Twitter), the Dil Hai Tumhaara actor wrote, "So much misinformation going around but thank god for social media and thank god for X!" She highlighted her long-standing concerns about the lack of accountability in the media, claiming that respected journalists often publish incorrect stories without issuing corrections or apologies."All through my career I have seen so many respected journalists get so many stories completely wrong & never have the decency to correct the story or apologise," she wrote.The actor also revealed her personal struggles with false reporting, stating that she has had to take legal action multiple times, incurring significant expenses in prolonged court battles. "I have also gone to court and spent a tonne of money fighting cases that go on & on & on," she said.Bollywood actor Preity Zinta expressed her frustration over misinformation and irresponsible reporting. In a strongly worded post, Zinta criticised newspeople who, according to her, fail to verify facts before publishing stories. On Tuesday, the actor took to her social media handle to voice out her annoyance regarding the matter.Taking to the microblogging site X (previously known as Twitter), the Dil Hai Tumhaara actor wrote, "So much misinformation going around but thank god for social media and thank god for X!" She highlighted her long-standing concerns about the lack of accountability in the media, claiming that respected journalists often publish incorrect stories without issuing corrections or apologies.Zinta then called for greater accountability in journalism, announcing her intentin to publicly name reporters who fail to verify information before publishing. Her post specifically mentioned a journalist, urging her to cross-check facts before writing stories that involve her."I think it's time we start holding them responsible right here so there is some accountability in the future. I'm definitely going to start naming all these journalists who write articles without following up or investigating the stories. If you don't value my reputation then sorry I don't value yours. Next time pls call me and find out if the story is true or not before mentioning my name," she wrote."Just like you, I have spent years working hard and building a reputation so if you don't care about mine I don't care about yours" she asserted, making it clear that she would no longer remain silent.Bollywood actor Preity Zinta expressed her frustration over misinformation and irresponsible reporting. In a strongly worded post, Zinta criticised newspeople who, according to her, fail to verify facts before publishing stories. 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