

# EYE SECRETS

English Daily

Spy in every blink

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## Minister Narayana Inspects Amaravati MLA, MLC quarters, says will handover to GAD



Andhra Pradesh Minister Narayana announced that the newly built buildings for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs) will soon be handed over to the General Administration Department (GAD). He stated that the construction of officials' offices and ministerial bungalows is nearing completion. On Tuesday, he inspected the MLA and MLC quarters in Amaravati, the state capital. The Minister highlighted that the residential complexes are in their final stages and instructed the contractors to expedite remaining work, including interior finishing. He also noted that the construction of residential towers for Group-1 and Group-2 officers is almost complete. Addressing the ongoing land pooling scheme, Narayana said plots have been allocated to farmers across 34,525 acres. However, he claimed that the distribution to 674 farmers has been delayed due to legal issues. The Minister accused some individuals of deliberately creating political controversy against Amaravati and advised those spreading false claims—such as “We surrendered our lands, but the government failed to give us plots”—to verify the facts. Election result analysis

## Kondagattu temple's sacred legends fascinate devotees

Karimnagar (Kondagattu): The renowned Kondagattu Anjaneya Swamy Temple in Telangana continues to inspire devotees with its rich mythological heritage, spiritual significance and centuries-old legends associated with Lord Hanuman and the Ramayana. According to temple folklore, during the battle between Lord Rama and Ravana in the Treta Yuga, Lord Hanuman carried the Sanjeevani mountain to save Lakshmana after he fell unconscious on the battlefield. It is believed that a fragment of the mountain broke off and fell in the Mutyampeta region, which later came to be known as Kondagattu hill. The temple is known for its unique idol featuring the faces of Narasimha Swamy on one side and Anjaneya Swamy on the other. Devotees believe that the deity bears the divine presence of Sita and Rama within his heart, making the shrine spiritually powerful and sacred. Legends state that sages in the region were once performing



appeared in his dream and guided him to the sacred site hidden within thorny bushes. The caves situated on the north-eastern side of the temple are also believed to have been used by sages for meditation and penance. Devotees visiting the shrine are shown spots associated with Goddess Sita's tears, adding to the spiritual aura of the temple. Meanwhile, the famous 'Pedda Hanuman Jayanthi' celebrations will be observed at the temple on Tuesday with great religious fervour. Thousands of devotees from across Telangana and neighbouring states are expected to participate in the festivities. Recently, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan visited the temple and laid the foundation stone for major development works supported by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams. The proposed projects include a guesthouse with nearly 100 rooms at an estimated cost of Rs 35 crore and a large hall capable of accommodating around 2,000 devotees for religious activities and vow ceremonies. Kondagattu Temple continues to remain one of Telangana's most revered spiritual destinations, blending mythology, history and devotion.

## Reviewed progress of India-Chile CEPA talks, discussed ways to deepen partnership: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said India and Chile reviewed the progress of negotiations for the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral trade, investment and strategic cooperation between the two countries. In a post on social media platform X, Goyal said he held discussions over breakfast with Chile's Foreign Minister Francisco Perez Mackenna and members of the Chilean delegation. “Held a delightful discussion over breakfast today with H.E. Francisco Perez Mackenna, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the

Republic of Chile, along with members of the Chilean delegation,” he said. “We reviewed the progress of CEPA negotiations and discussed ways to further deepen our trade, investment, and strategic partnership,” Goyal mentioned. The minister added that India values its longstanding partnership with Chile and remains committed to expanding economic engagement and people-to-people ties for shared growth and prosperity. “India values its warm and long-standing partnership with Chile, and we remain committed to expanding our economic engagement and people-to-people ties for shared growth and

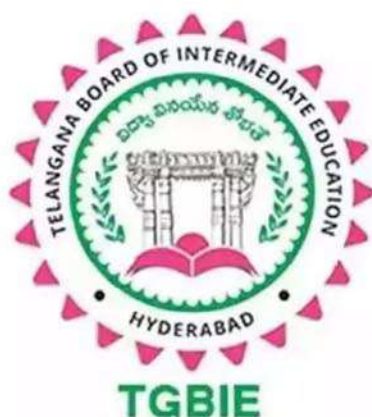
prosperity,” Goyal added. The discussions come at a time when India is actively pursuing multiple trade agreements with key global partners to strengthen exports, attract investments and diversify supply chains amid global economic uncertainties. India has been focusing on expanding its trade footprint in Latin America, with Chile emerging as an important partner in sectors such as minerals, energy, agriculture and services. The proposed CEPA is expected to further enhance market access, reduce trade barriers and boost bilateral investments between the two nations. The government has also intensified efforts to promote India as a global manufacturing and



export hub. Last week, Goyal held a series of meetings with global industry leaders and senior officials to explore new opportunities for trade and investment.

## Intermediate admissions set to begin today for 2026-27

Board of Intermediate had planned to open admissions on the 8th of this month, but stalled amid the supposed merger of Intermediate education into the School Education Department. All government, aided, and private junior colleges across the state may start admissions for the Intermediate First Year from the 12th of this month for the academic year 2026-27. Abhilasha Abhinav, Secretary of the Intermediate Board, announced a revised schedule on Monday. Initially, the Board had planned to open admissions on the 8th of this month, but the government—considering the possible merger of Intermediate education into the School Education Department—suspended that schedule the following day. Due to objections from various associations over the hurried merger plans, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy reviewed the situation and confirmed that, for this academic cycle, admissions would proceed under the existing system. The Intermediate Board subsequently issued the updated schedule, with classes set to begin on 1st June.



## NTA cancels NEET UG 2026 after paper leak allegations

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has announced the cancellation of the NEET UG 2026 examination, which was held nationwide on 3rd May. The decision follows allegations of a leak involving a “guess paper” in Rajasthan. The government has ordered an inquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to identify those responsible and uncover the root cause of the breach. In a statement, the NTA assured students that the exam would be re-conducted soon. The agency did not specify dates but said they would be announced shortly. Students who had already registered need not re-register, and their exam fees will be refunded. The investigation began after claims that a guess paper had leaked in Rajasthan. However, officials uncovered startling facts: 140 questions from the guess paper actually appeared in the final exam paper, with identical answer sequences. It was further revealed that this material, formatted as a guess paper, was circulating in Sikar, Rajasthan, on 1st May.



## Kiran Mai – V. Vilas Rao Wedding Anniversary Celebrated with Grandeur

Hyderabad, metro udayam May 12: The wedding anniversary celebrations of Mrs. Kiran Mai and Mr. V. Vilas Rao, former Joint Director of APLIG, were held in a grand and joyous manner in the presence of family members, relatives, and close friends. The event was marked by warmth, affection, and togetherness, creating a memorable occasion for everyone present.

Senior journalist Dr. Jitender Rao Tanugula attended the celebrations and conveyed his heartfelt wishes to the couple. He wished them a long, healthy, happy, and united life together for many more years. Revathi Tanugula also participated in the event and extended her blessings to the couple. Mr. Vilas Rao's mother, Mrs. Indumathi, graced the occasion and blessed the couple on their special day. The celebrations became even more special with the presence of their daughters, son-in-law, grand-



children, and other family members, who added joy and warmth to the gathering. Cake cutting, heartfelt conversations, cheerful moments, and warm greetings from loved ones made the event truly memo-

orable. The anniversary celebration beautifully reflected the values of family bonding, respect for elders, and the strength of intergenerational relationships, leaving lasting memories for all who attended.

## Low-Pressure System to Strengthen Over Bay of Bengal, rains likely in AP

A low-pressure area has formed in the southwest Bay of Bengal off northern Sri Lanka and is expected to intensify within the next 48 hours. The India Meteorological Department (IMD), disaster management agencies, and weather models predict the system will move into the southeast Bay of Bengal over the coming days, strengthening into a depression after the 16th. An ISRO weather expert noted that, driven by strong northwest winds, the system will likely track eastward within the Bay, with minimal impact on the Coastal and Rayalaseema regions, causing only isolated scattered rainfall. Once it becomes a depression, the system will foster conditions for an early Southwest Monsoon over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. From the 17th, heatwaves with temperatures around 45°C are forecast across South Coastal Andhra, Rayalaseema, Telangana, and North Karnataka.

On Monday night, the IMD announced that the Southwest Monsoon is expected to advance



into the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Andaman Sea, and the South Bay of Bengal by the end of this week, specifically by the 17th. The monsoon typically arrives at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands around May 20. The Disaster Management Agency stated that, influenced by the low-pressure system, light rains with lightning are likely in coastal districts on Tuesday. Rains accompa-

nied by thunder are expected in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Manyam, Alluri, Polavaram, Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Konaseema, East and West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, NTR, Guntur, Bapatla, Chittoor, and Tirupati. The agency also warned that heatwave conditions will persist in several mandals within Alluri and Polavaram districts.

## Deva Katta roped in for NTR-Prashanth Neel's 'Dragon' to direct few scenes?

Deva Katta roped in for NTR-Prashanth Neel's 'Dragon' to direct few scenes?

The hype around Dragon starring N. T. Rama Rao Jr. and directed by Prashanth Neel is getting bigger with every passing day. While the makers have remained tight-lipped about several details, fresh industry buzz suggests that filmmaker Deva Katta has now joined the project in a crucial role behind the scenes.

According to circulating reports, the film has been facing scheduling delays due to its massive scale and two-part planning. To speed up the production process, Prashanth Neel is said to have delegated a few important responsibilities to Deva Katta. Interestingly, gossip in film circles suggests that Deva Katta may direct some high-voltage action sequences while also penning impactful dialogues for NTR's powerful character.



Adding to the excitement, insiders claim that NTR will be seen in multiple rugged and stylish looks designed to elevate the film's mass appeal. Fans are already expecting a larger-than-life character presentation similar to Prashanth Neel's previous blockbusters. The movie stars Rukmini Vasanth as the female lead, while music is being composed by Ravi Basrur. Interestingly, Deva Katta is also

reportedly associated with Varanasi, the much-talked-about project featuring Mahesh Babu and directed by S. S. Rajamouli.

Though no official confirmation has been made yet, these developments have already sparked huge curiosity among fans eagerly waiting for Dragon's explosive cinematic experience.

## Hanuman Jayanti Celebrated With Fervour at Tarnaka



Hyderabad, metro udayam May 12: Hanuman Jayanti celebrations were held with religious fervour at Sri Lakshmi Ganapathi Temple in Tarnaka on Tuesday. Former Mayor Banda Karthika Chandra Reddy attended the programme as the chief guest at the invitation of BJP leader Shiva Reddy and participated in special prayers.

BJP youth leader and social worker Sriram Venkat also took part in the celebrations and offered special prayers to Lord Hanuman. Speaking on the occasion, he said there was a need to strengthen spiritual awareness in society. He described Lord Hanuman as a symbol of devotion, courage and selfless service. He urged people to follow the path of righteousness and seek the blessings of God.

## The new storyteller: How AI is reshaping literature

Artificial Intelligence is transforming literature, not by replacing human writers, but by becoming their unexpected collaborator. From AI-generated poems to co-authored novels, machines are challenging traditional ideas of creativity and authorship. This evolving relationship between technology and storytelling invites us to reconsider what it means to write, feel, and connect through words—ushering in a bold new chapter in the narrative arts where human intuition meets algorithmic imagination. Once the realm of human imagination alone, literature is now witnessing the entrance of a new kind of storyteller: artificial intelligence. From algorithmically generated poetry to AI-assisted novels, the intersection of technology and literary art raises profound questions about authorship, creativity, and the future of narrative itself. In recent years, AI systems like OpenAI's GPT models have demonstrated a remarkable ability to produce coherent, stylistically diverse writing. These programs have been trained on vast libraries of human-created text, absorbing patterns of language, tone, and structure. As a result, they can now craft short stories, poems, essays, and even full-length novels with surprising fluency. Some projects, like *The Road*—an AI-written travel novel modeled after Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*—push the boundaries of what it means to "write." Elsewhere, AI tools are being used to co-author books with humans, assisting in world-building, dialogue generation, or sparking ideas when writers face creative blocks. Yet the question persists: if a machine composes a poem, is it truly poetry? Or is it merely an imitation—an echo of human sentiment without the consciousness that traditionally gives literature its soul? AI's foray into literature forces a reevaluation of the concept of creativity. Historically, creativity has been understood as the unique, often ineffable ability of humans to produce something new and meaningful. But when an AI generates a narrative that evokes emotion or thought, it challenges the assumption that creativity requires consciousness or intention. Rather than replacing human writers, AI may be better understood as a collaborator or catalyst. Authors are already using AI to explore hybrid forms of storytelling, where human intuition and machine-generated text interact in unexpected ways. In these cases, the final work becomes a dialogue—a conversation between human and machine, intuition and algorithm. Perhaps one of the most intriguing roles AI plays in literature is as a mirror. The stories AI produces, trained on the vast corpus of human writing, often reveal our cultural obsessions, clichés, and hidden biases. They can expose the undercurrents of language that human writers might miss or take for granted. Moreover, AI-generated literature invites reflection on deeper philosophical questions: What does it mean to tell a story? Is storytelling an act of connection between sentient beings, or can it exist independently of human experience? If literature has historically been a vessel for understanding the human condition, what does it mean when a non-human entity begins to produce it?

# All you need to know about Viksit Bharat-G RAM G Act

New Delhi: The government on Monday issued frequently asked questions (FAQs) on Viksit Bharat-G RAM G Act, 2025, to provide a detailed explainer on India's rural employment and development legislation aimed at aligning rural development with the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' by providing a statutory guarantee of 125 days of unskilled wage employment to rural households and promoting the creation of productive rural assets.

The Viksit Bharat-G RAM G Act will come into effect on July 1, 2026. It will replace Mahatma Gandhi NREGA scheme (MGNREGA) which will then stand repealed.

**1. Will the Viksit Bharat-G RAM G Act be implemented simultaneously across all States?**

Yes. The Viksit Bharat-G RAM G Act shall be implemented across the country from 01/07/2026, as notified by the Central Government.

**2. How many days of employment are guaranteed under the Act?**

The Act guarantees 125 days of wage employment in a financial year to every eligible rural household whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work.

**3. Are State Governments required to frame schemes under the Act?**

Yes. State Governments are required to notify schemes consistent with the provisions of the Act within the prescribed period after commencement of the Act.

**4. What happens to ongoing Mahatma Gandhi NREGA works after repeal?**

Ongoing works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA as on the date of commencement may continue as per the provisions of the VB-G RAM G Act.

These works shall be seamlessly migrated and prioritized for completion, ensuring that public assets are not left incomplete and community benefits continue.

**5. Will employment under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA continue during the transition to the Viksit Bharat-G RAM G Act?**

Yes. Employment under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA will continue in a seamless and uninterrupted manner till the commencement of VB G RAM G.

**6. What steps have been taken to ensure uninterrupted employment availability before commencement?**

Adequate labour budget has been made available to States and Union Territories in alignment with emerging demand patterns and field requirements to ensure uninterrupted employment opportunities and timely payment of wages.

**7. Can new works be opened during transition?**

Yes. Where ongoing works are insufficient to meet employment demand, new works from the shelf of works consistent with Schedule I of the Viksit Bharat-G RAM G Act may be taken up.



**8. Will workers continue to get employment guarantee under the new Act?**

Yes. Every rural household whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work shall continue to receive a statutory employment guarantee. The guarantee has been enhanced from 100 days to 125 days per financial year.

**9. Will existing Job Cards/ workers remain valid?**

Yes. Existing MGNREGA Job Cards/workers for whom e-KYC has been completed shall continue to remain valid till new Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards are issued in accordance with the provisions under the Viksit Bharat-G RAM G Act, 2025.

**10. Who is eligible for employment under this Act?**

Every rural household whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work shall be eligible for employment under this Act.

**11. How does a household register for Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Card?**

Any rural household not having a MGNREGA Job Card may apply for registration by submitting the names, ages and address details of the household through any adult member to the concerned Gram Panchayat for issuance of a Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Card.

**12. How can a household seek employment?**

Adult members of rural areas may demand employment through the Gram Panchayat. Applications can be made orally, in writing through the same form 6 as before, or through digital platforms to the Gram Panchayat, Programme Officer, or any authorized person.

**13. Within how many days must employment be provided?**

Employment must be provided within 15 days from the date of application.

**14. What happens if employment is not provided within 15 days?**

Such workers shall be entitled to unemployment allowance.

**15. What unemployment allowance is payable if employment is not provided?**

If employment is not provided within the stipulated period as per the demand for employment, unemployment allowance shall be payable by the State Government, at not less than one-fourth of the notified wage rate for the first thirty days during the financial year and not less than one-half of the notified wage rate for the remaining period.

**16. Will enhanced Wage Rates be given under the Viksit Bharat- G RAM G Scheme?**

Yes. Enhanced Wage Rates shall be provided as per the provisions of Section 10 of the Act. Until new Wage Rates are notified under the Act, the existing Mahatma Gandhi NREGA wage rates shall continue to apply.

**17. How frequently will wages be paid?**

Wages shall be paid weekly or in any case not later than a fortnight after closure of muster roll.

**18. How are wages paid?**

Wages are paid directly to the individual accounts of the workers in Banks or Post Offices through Direct Benefit Transfer.

**19. What happens if wage payment is delayed?**

If wages are not paid within fifteen days from the closure of the muster roll, wage seekers are entitled to delay compensation at a rate of 0.05% of the unpaid wages per day of delay.

**20. How will attendance be captured under the new Act?**

Attendance at worksites shall be captured through a face authentication-based attendance mechanism. However, an exception handling mechanism shall also be available for genuine cases such as poor or no network connectivity, technical issues, device-related problems or other exceptional circumstances, as per guidelines issued by the Government.

**21. Will workers receive Worksite facilities?**

Yes. Worksite facilities shall be provided at the worksite. A worksite must have safe drinking water, shade for children and rest periods, and a first aid box.

**22. Can work continue during peak agricultural seasons?**

To facilitate adequate labour availability during peak agricultural seasons such as sowing and harvesting periods, the State Governments shall notify a period covering peak agriculture seasons during which works under the Act shall not be undertaken.

**23. What if the work is further than five kilometers?**

As far as possible, employment will be provided within a radius of 5 kilometers of the applicant's village. If provided beyond that (but within the Block), workers are paid an extra 10% of the wage rate for transport and living expenses.

**24. Who will implement the Scheme at district level?**

The District Collector or equivalent officer designated by the State Government shall function as the District Programme Coordinator (DPC).

**25. Who will function as Programme Officer?**

An officer not below the rank of Block Development Officer shall be appointed as Programme Officer at block level.

**26. What is the role of Gram Panchayats?**

Gram Panchayats shall play a central role in implementation of the Scheme, including registration of households, receiving applications for employment, execution of works, maintenance of records related to the Scheme, and preparation of Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans (VGPPs) etc.

**27. What is the fund sharing pattern under the Act?**

The fund sharing pattern is:

- 90:10 for North Eastern and Himalayan States,

- 60:40 for other States/UTs with legislature,

- 100 per cent Central funding for UTs without legislature.

**28. How are State-wise allocations determined under the Act?**

State-wise normative allocations are proposed to be determined by the Central Government based on objective parameters prescribed under the Act.

**29. How is transparency ensured at the worksite?**

A "Janata Board" must be displayed at every worksite indicating work details, estimated labour days, material quanti-

## AP EAPCET Exams Underway Smoothly

The Andhra Pradesh EAPCET, the qualifying examination for engineering, agriculture, and pharmacy courses, is proceeding without incident. The exams are being conducted in phases from today until the 20th of this month.

JNTU Kakinada is overseeing the Common Entrance Test across the state, with 355,000 students participating. The online exams are being held at 142 centres across 48 towns. Entry to examination centres is strictly restricted, with even a single minute's delay preventing entry. As a result, many students were seen rushing to reach their respective centres at the last minute. The tests are scheduled in two sessions each day: from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, and from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM.



# Assam to continue development journey under Himanta Sarma: Jyotiraditya Scindia

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday said that Assam is set to continue its development journey under the leadership of Himanta Biswa Sarma, asserting that the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government has received the people's blessings for a third consecutive term in the state.

Speaking to reporters after arriving in Guwahati to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Sarma and his council of ministers, Scindia said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" has transformed Assam and the northeastern region over the last 12 years.

"Today, for the third time, the blessings of the people are with the Bharatiya Janata Party and with the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister's ideology has always been 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas'. Based on this ideology, Assam and the eight northeastern states have



witnessed unprecedented progress in the last 12 years," Scindia said.

The Union Minister further stated that Assam would continue to move ahead on the same path of growth and development under the leadership of Sarma and the new NDA government.

"Assam will continue to march forward on the same path. I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best

wishes to Himanta ji and all his colleagues who are taking the oath today. I also offer my greetings and respect to the people of Assam," he added.

The swearing-in ceremony of the new Assam government was held at Khanapara in Guwahati in the presence of Prime Minister Modi, several Union ministers, and Chief Ministers of NDA-ruled

states. Sarma, who led the BJP-led NDA to a massive electoral victory in the recently concluded Assam Assembly elections, is taking oath as the Chief Minister for the second consecutive term. Senior BJP leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, attended the ceremony

# Prez Murmu honours nursing personnel with National Florence Nightingale Awards

President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026 to nursing personnel at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday, marking International Nurses Day to honour exceptional nursing professionals in India.

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J.P. Nadda was also present during the occasion.

The National Florence Nightingale Award, instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, honours the dedication, compassion, and resilience that define the nursing profession.

The awardees include Sub Inspector Kulwinder Parhi from Leh, Ujjwala Mahadev Soyam from Maharashtra, Lalenthangi Hnamte from Mizoram, Madhu Mala Gurung from Sikkim, Pooka Parmar Rana from Uttarakhand, Gita Karmakar from West Bengal, Poonam



Verma from Chandigarh, Deepa Biju from Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Sharwan Kumar Dhaka from Delhi, Raksha Rupo Parvatkar from Goa, Kabitha Jagannath from Karnataka, Manjumol V.S. from Kerala, Aysha Beebu K. from Lakshadweep, Dr R. Shankar Shanumugam from Tamil Nadu and Maj Gen Lissamma P.V. from Indian Army.

These prestigious awards

are presented to Registered Nurses, Midwives, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives, and Lady Health Visitors serving across Central and State Governments, Union Territories, and voluntary organisations.

Each award includes a Certificate of Merit, a cash prize of Rs 1,00,000, and a medal symbolising the nation's gratitude for the invaluable service rendered by these health warriors.

International Nurses Day is observed every year to honour the vital role nurses play in hospitals, clinics, emergency departments and community healthcare systems around the world. The date commemorates the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, whose contributions laid the foundation for modern nursing practices worldwide.

This year's theme, 'Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives' highlights the importance of supporting nurses through safer working conditions, better opportunities and stronger institutional backing to improve healthcare outcomes.

According to the campaign message, healthcare services improve when nurses receive fair salaries, adequate staffing support, leadership opportunities and access to quality education and training.

# Bharath lays foundation for Rs 6-crore C-Camp Rythu Bazaar expansion



Kurnool: In a major boost to infrastructure for farmers and urban development, Andhra Pradesh Minister for Industries, Commerce and Food Processing TG Bharath on Monday inaugurated the Rs 6-crore expansion works of the C-Camp Rythu Bazaar in Kurnool city.

The foundation stone for the project was laid jointly by the Minister and Kurnool MP Bastipati Nagaraju.

The expanded market is expected to directly benefit nearly 150 farmers by providing improved infrastructure and marketing facilities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the State Government is committed to transforming Kurnool into a smart city through a series of development initiatives. He stated that the upgraded Rythu Bazaar would include modern amenities such as a two-storey market complex, sprinkler and drip irrigation systems, and dedicated parking facilities for farmers and consumers.

The works have been targeted for completion within nine months, and officials have been instructed to ensure timely execution of the project.

Referring to the government's welfare agenda, the Minister recalled that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had earlier visited the market and assured farmers of its expansion. He said the government is now fulfilling that commitment.

He further announced that an Anna Canteen would be established at the premises after completion of the market expansion to provide affordable meals to the poor at subsidised prices.

He also revealed that plans are underway for setting up a High Court Bench and a modern Collectorate complex in the B-Camp area of Kurnool.

# BRS sniffs plot behind Modi's visit to AP leaders' residences



Expressing doubts of a conspiracy, BRS leaders have objected to Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting the houses of Andhra Pradesh leaders during his trip to Telangana. Addressing a press conference, former BC Commission Member Kishore Goud said the Prime Minister utilised Sunday's official visit for political purposes.

He stated that Modi could have inaugurated development projects from his office instead of visiting the residences of two prominent leaders from Andhra Pradesh. Kishore Goud alleged that by visiting these homes, Modi engaged in political conspiracies against Telangana.

The BRS leader questioned why the Prime Minister did not visit any Telangana-based BJP leaders, focusing only on Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan. BRSV President Gellu Srinivas Yadav added that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy displayed excessive enthusiasm during the visit. He further criticised the police for failing to respond promptly when a minor girl filed a case against the son of Bandi Sanjay Kumar recently.

# AP farmer held for illegal sale of banned BT-3 cotton seeds

The Malkajgiri Special Operations Team, along with Shamirpet police and Agriculture Department officials, seized 100 kg of banned BT-3 cotton seeds worth Rs 2 lakh. Police arrested a 58-year-old man from Guntur involved in the illegal transport and sale of contraband near Shamirpet ORR exit number seven. The arrested person was identified as Dasari Srinivasa Rao, a farmer and native of Chebrolu village in Andhra Pradesh. He was apprehended while attempting to sell the prohibited variety to farmers and fertiliser shops. Two bags containing 50 kg each of the banned seeds

were seized. Police stated the seeds were procured at a low price from a supplier in Andhra Pradesh and transported for illegal sale to earn higher profits.

The accused was previously involved in similar cases in Vikarabad district last year. During the enquiry, the accused disclosed that he, along with associate Dasari Suri Babu, procured the seeds from one Srinivas Rao. Both Srinivas Rao and Dasari Suri Babu are currently absconding. Police warned that prohibited seeds lead to crop failure, soil pollution, and severe financial losses for farmers throughout the region.



SANGAREDDY

## 2 Sangareddy residents die

Two Sangareddy residents died in a road accident after a reckless Karnataka RTC bus driver hit an oncoming two-wheeler on the Telangana-Karnataka border on the outskirts of Shamshapur on Tuesday. The motorcyclists, Narsimulu (48) and his nephew Arun Kumar (22) of Bandla Mirzapur, were heading to Bidar to attend the wedding of close relatives. The bus, which was bound for Hyderabad, hit them and later plunged into a roadside gorge on the Bidar-Zaheerabad road. The duo died on the spot, while 15 passengers, including driver Srimanth and conductor Ravi, sustained serious injuries. Some of them were rushed to the government hospital in Zaheerabad, while the remaining were shifted to the government hospital in Bidar. The Bidar Market police registered a case.

SANGAREDDY

## Woman electrocuted

A woman was electrocuted while drying clothes on a wire at her residence in Narregudem in Ameenpur division on Tuesday. Yellamma (45), a resident of the single-bedroom house colony in Narregudem, washed her clothes and hung them on a wire for drying. However, the wire somehow came into contact with a live electric wire, resulting in her electrocution. BRS leader Manik Yadav visited the family, comforted them and assured support to the bereaved family.

# Mines revenue falls despite tech push

## Illegal mining, unauthorised crushers remain a concern

S SANDEEP KUMAR  
HYDERABAD

Despite the tall claims being made by the Department of Mines and Geology over introducing reforms in utilisation of technology to curb illegal mining and continuous surveillance at sites, the revenue generation is still sluggish.

In 2022-23 financial year, revenue realised by the Department of Mines and Geology and Telangana Mineral Development Corporation Limited was Rs 7,705.53 crore. In 2024-25 financial year, revenue realisation declined to Rs 5,507.72 crore, reflecting the state of affairs.

In the last financial year (2025-26), up to January 2026, total revenue was Rs 3,998.51 crore. Considering the sluggish revenue generation, it appears to be a challenge for the department to achieve the previous financial year's revenue figures.

Since 2022-23 financial year, the Department of Mines and Geology and the Telangana Mineral Development Corporation's revenue realisation has been steadily declining.

At present, there are 198 mining leases and 1,644 quarry leases under minor

### STEADY DECLINE

REVENUE REALISED BY DEPT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY, TELANGANA MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



minerals category in the State. The Department of Mines and Geology handles both promotional and regulatory functions for overall development of mineral sector and mineral revenue collections.

In the major minerals category, the department conducted auction for three limestone blocks as mining leases in November 2024. One limestone block was annulled due to lack of technically qualified bidders. An amount of Rs 12.55 crore was received towards first instalment of 20 per cent of upfront payment during 2024-25.

In the second phase, the department conducted auc-

tion for two limestone blocks as composite licences on September 19 and 23, 2025. Preferred bidders submitted performance security in the form of bank guarantee of Rs 12.93 crore and Rs 4.49 crore respectively.

Similarly in the third phase, auctions were conducted for two limestone blocks as mining leases on January 28 and 29, 2026. The expected revenue was Rs 12.26 crore by March end 2026.

This apart, the department had proposed mines surveillance system, mineral resource information system, GIS platform, AI and satellite imagery-based

change detection system for detecting illegal mining.

Furthermore, the department had empanelled agencies for supply, installation and integration of 140 GPS tracking system for mineral transporting vehicles. Likewise, more surveillance cameras and advanced system and weigh bridges were also planned at crusher and quarry lease areas.

The Telangana Mineral Development Corporation had also established 19 sand bazaars across the State, including four such bazaars around HMMA limits. The move was aimed at supplying sand transparently and conveniently to consumers.

The corporation has also undertaken API integration of surveillance systems to enhance real-time visibility and streamline operations at sand stockyards and active sand mining locations.

Despite all these measures and claims, the Department of Mines and Geology and the Telangana Mineral Development Corporation Limited's revenue realisation is not encouraging. Complaints of illegal sand mining and unauthorised crusher operations are being reported from several parts of the State.

## KRMB approves drinking water allocations

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

The Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) on Tuesday approved the release of water from the Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar reservoirs to meet the drinking water requirements of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh till August 15. The Board is scheduled to meet again on May 14 to discuss pending issues and take further decisions on water releases.

At a meeting of the KRMB's three-member committee held at Jala-soudha in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh was permitted to utilise 10 TMCft of water from Nagarjuna Sagar, while Telangana was allowed to draw 16 TMCft from Nagarjuna Sagar and another 6 TMCft from Srisailem during the same period.

During the discussions, Telangana representatives argued that Andhra Pradesh had already utilised more water than its allocated share. They asserted that after the allocation of 10 TMCft to Andhra Pradesh from Nagarjuna Sagar, the remaining available water should be reserved for Telangana.

Telangana had sought 18 TMCft of water, while Andhra Pradesh placed an indent for 10 TMCft. It was also decided that the available water in the Srisailem reservoir would be allocated to Telangana.

## Cotton prices hit Rs 10k mark, but growers lose out

SANTOSH PADALA  
Adilabad

The price of cotton produce has drastically gone up. However, the considerable spike failed to cheer farmers as most of them had already sold their produce.

The price of cotton, commonly referred to as white gold, reached the Rs 10,000 mark per quintal in the last few days. Ironically, the price shot up after a major portion of farmers sold their produce and could not reap the benefits. Except for a few, 98 per cent of the farmers had already sold their cotton produce either to the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) or private traders at an average price of Rs 7,000 per quintal.

Private traders reasoned that the prices of cotton bales, seeds and oil had gone up in the international market, resulting in a spike in cotton prices. They stated that a bale was now priced at Rs 70,000 as against Rs 55,000 earlier. Similarly, seeds were being purchased at Rs 4,500 per quintal compared to Rs 4,000 per quintal earlier. The price of cotton seed oil has also gone up.

The CCI commenced procurement of cotton produce by fixing a minimum support price of Rs 8,110 per quintal containing 8 per cent moisture content at agriculture market yards across

Nearly 98% had already sold their produce at lower rates, leaving them unable to benefit from the surge

the district in October. Cotton farmers staged protests requesting the CCI to increase the price of cotton. They were left with no option but to sell the cotton at around Rs 7,000 per quintal as the produce had moisture content of more than 8 per cent.

Barely a small section of farmers, who managed to store cotton produce in their houses, are now able to make profits with the price of cotton reaching Rs 10,000 per quintal. A major chunk of farmers suffered losses in the cultivation of the commercial crop even as the price continued to skyrocket. They regretted that they were unable to earn adequate income as the cotton market remained volatile.

The erstwhile Adilabad district, comprising Adilabad, Mancherial, Kumram Bheem Asifabad and Nirmal districts, is regarded as one of the largest producers of cotton. The area under cotton cultivation is 12.60 lakh acres. The expected cotton yield was 80 lakh quintals.

## Women hit streets for drinking water

STATE BUREAU  
Mancherial

Carrying empty vessels, women staged a rasta roko seeking supply of drinking water to their colony in Thandur mandal centre. Women from Medariwada complained that they were not getting drinking water every day and that even when supplied, it was erratic. A borewell was dug in the colony, but an electric motor was not installed, reflecting official apathy.

They claimed that they had informed officials several times, but no action was taken. They lamented that they were forced to buy water from mineral water plants. On receiving information about the protest, officials assured them that drinking water supply to the colony would be restored. The women withdrew their protest after the officials promised to provide a permanent solution to the problem within a day or two.

## Farmer protests expose govt's tall claims

### Gunny bag, transport shortages trigger protests in several parts of State

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

It has been over a fortnight since the paddy procurement commenced in the State. Yet, farmers continue to stage protests demanding supply of sufficient gunny bags, arrangement of trucks to shift stocks to mills and warehouses and more importantly delay in procurement.

On Tuesday, farmers in Yadadri Bhongir and Nalgonda burnt paddy sacks over the delay in procurement, reflected the gravity of the situation in the season.

Farmers squatted on the Nirmal - Mancherial road and staged a protest over the delay in procurement.

On April 25, Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy had stated that the department had geared up to procure 90 lakh metric tonnes of paddy this season.

He had announced that 16 crore gunny bags had been distributed to all procurement centres. Further assurances were made that arrangements were in place for smooth transport of stocks to mills.

Despite these assertions, farmers complain of shortage of gunny bags and trucks to shift the stocks. Due to the delay in procurement, they are forced to sleep at the procurement



Farmers set their paddy produce on fire at several places across erstwhile Nalgonda district.

centres and wait for their turns.

**Maize farmers' plight** Maize farmers have been complaining that the government was not procuring their stocks despite pleading with the officials.

In a video, which is circulating on social media, a maize farmer complained that since 25 days they have been waiting for procurement to commence. Due to unseasonal rains, the farmers suffered additional losses. There were no tarpaulins at the procurement centres, they charged.

In the Yasangi season, maize was cultivated in 11.21 lakh acres in the State. Agri-

culture department estimated the total yield to be 29.79 lakh metric tonnes.

Since March third week, farmers have been carrying their stocks to the market yards. The Minimum Support Price announced by the Central government was Rs.2,400 per quintal but traders were offering only Rs.1,700 per quintal, resulting in a loss of Rs.600 per quintal, farmers complain.

They are appealing to the State government to procure their stocks and bail out them from crisis. However, the State government is appealing to the Central government to procure at least 50 per cent of the 29.79 lakh metric tonnes of stocks.

## Anger spills over as farmers burn paddy

STATE BUREAU  
Nalgonda

Raising strong objection over the Congress government's negligence in procuring their stocks and transporting them to warehouses, farmers in erstwhile Nalgonda burnt the paddy stocks on roads at different locations.

Farmers staged a protest at the IKP procurement centre in Mallapuram village of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri on Tuesday. They charged that the Congress government was delaying the paddy procurement since last one month, for reasons better known to the officials.

Later, they raised slogans against the government and

set fire to sacks of paddy. They demanded that the government immediately intervene and commence the procurement of paddy.

The farmers expressed their anguish, noting that under the previous BRS government, paddy procurement was conducted on a daily basis, without any hardships to the community. At Nakkalapalli village in Nalgonda, distressed farmers staged a protest by burning their paddy stocks on the road. The farmers complained that the government officials were delaying the procurement at the local market.

They charged that officials failed to make arrangements to shift the procured stocks to warehouses.

## Two burnt alive in fierce collision on NH in Khammam

STATE BUREAU  
Khammam

Two persons were burnt to death as two trucks collided head-on on Khammam-Warangal national highway near Mekala thanda of Tirumalayapalem mandal in the district on Tuesday.

A coal-laden truck going to Maharashtra from Vizag in AP collided with a truck coming towards Khammam from Maripeda in Mahabubabad, carrying a potato load. The high-speed collision caused a fire in a coal truck, as a result of which the driver of that truck and another person were burned alive. On receiving information, Tiru-



The mishap occurred on Khammam-Warangal national highway near Mekala thanda of Tirumalayapalem mandal on Tuesday.

malayapalem SI, K Jagadish and staff, along with fire personnel, rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire. The accident caused a five-

kilometre-long traffic jam on either side of the highway. The identity of the deceased persons was yet to be ascertained.

## Free POLYCET coaching initiative helps 150 aspirants

STATE BUREAU  
Kumram Bheem Asifabad

A month-long free coaching programme for aspirants of Telangana Polytechnic Common Entrance Test and competitive exams concluded on the premises of the Divisional Resource Centre (DRC) in Kagaznagar. The programme was conceived and conducted by District Science Officer Katakam Madhukar.

Katakam Madhukar said the coaching began on April 15 and concluded on May 12. He said subject experts and government teachers namely Madhukar, Shabir, Mohan, Shyamsundar, Thriveni and Shanti Kumari offered coaching to 150 students. Financially poor students, who studied Class X in government schools from different parts of the district, availed the initiative held between 8 am and 1 pm.

Madhukar, a government teacher at a school in Vempalli of Kagaznagar, said the teachers taught various subjects, helping students easily crack TG POLYCET. They also empowered aspirants of various government jobs by teaching different subjects during the programme. He added that snacks sponsored by private colleges and gruel supplied by Koneru Trust were provided to the students.

## Rasta-roko stalls traffic on Nirmal-Mancherial route

STATE BUREAU  
Nirmal

Traffic on Nirmal-Mancherial route came to a standstill for a long time following a rasta-roko staged by farmers on a road at New Sangvi village in Mamada mandal on Tuesday. Farmers from different villages gathered at the village and sat on the road demanding that the government expedite the procurement of paddy produce.

They blocked the traffic moving on the busy route. Traffic on the route came to a grinding halt due to the protest. Motorists ex-



Farmers block the road in protest against delayed procurement.

pressed displeasure over the delay in reaching their destinations.

The farmers regretted that they were forced to wait to sell their produce at procurement centres due to a shortage of bags and vehi-

cles to transport the grains. They wanted the government to address the challenge immediately and to avoid inconvenience. They stated that the produce shifted to centres was prone to get damaged by rains.

## Unseasonal rain threat raises alarm among jowar ryots

**NIRMAL:** Jowar farmers from Kubeer mandal expressed concern that their produce shifted to market yards might be drenched if the region witnesses unseasonal rains. Farmers from Malegaon, Pardi (B), Chata, Palsi and Jangaon villages shifted jowar produce to procurement centres. However, they feared that the produce would be damaged if unseasonal rains occurred. They urged officials to expedite the procurement process by ensuring sufficient gunny bags and vehicles for transportation.

The farmers said that 56,000 bags of jowar produce were stored at different procurement centres in Kubeer mandal, one of the largest producers of the grain in the district.

## Austerity call rings alarm bells

With United States President Donald Trump rejecting Iran's proposals to end the 10-week-long war, there are ominous indications of an escalation of the conflict with serious global implications. Amid reports that America is preparing to resume combat operations against Iran, there are growing concerns across the world over disruptions to their economies. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's austerity call reflects this anxiety. In a rare public appeal, he urged citizens to cut down on the use of vegetable oils, reduce fuel consumption, avoid unnecessary foreign travel and defer gold purchases. Clearly, it was an acknowledgement that the Iran war has evolved from a distant geopolitical crisis into a domestic economic emergency with the potential to touch every Indian household. It has forced policymakers to confront the bitter reality of the country's dependence on oil imports. India imports roughly 85% of its crude oil requirements. Nearly half of these pass through the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow maritime choke point now overshadowed by missile attacks, naval deployments and insurance chaos. The country also depends heavily on Gulf states for liquefied natural gas and LPG supplies. As attacks and disruptions spread across the region, India's energy security assumptions began collapsing simultaneously. India imported vegetable oils worth \$19.5 billion in 2025-26. That is a massive outflow of foreign exchange for something used daily in millions of kitchens. Reducing this import bill can directly help narrow the current account deficit. And when the deficit narrows, the pressure on the rupee eases.

For decades, the country's economic rise was directly linked to a silent bargain with the Gulf. Tankers would keep arriving through the Strait of Hormuz; liquefied petroleum gas would continue flowing into Indian kitchens; refineries would hum uninterrupted; diesel would power trucks carrying everything from wheat to smartphones across a continental-sized economy. In return, India could sustain growth, keep inflation manageable and postpone hard political choices about energy vulnerability. That bargain is now under severe strain. India's foreign exchange reserves as of May 1 were down to \$690.69 billion as against \$728.5 billion before the Iran war broke out on February 28. India is the world's third-largest oil importer after China and the US. From April 2025 to March this year, the country imported crude oil worth \$123 billion. That is the single-largest contributor to India's import budget. The first signs of distress, following fuel supply disruptions, were seen in restaurants and commercial establishments across cities and towns which were forced to ration usage, alter menus or temporarily shut operations due to shortage of commercial LPG supply. Modi's warning against gold imports reveals the government's deeper anxiety. Indians buy gold not merely as ornamentation but as a parallel savings system. However, gold imports drain precious foreign exchange at precisely the moment oil imports are becoming more expensive.

**Modi's appeal reflects growing concern that the Iran conflict is emerging as an economic threat that could hit household costs**



ASADUDDIN OWAIISI  
AIMIM president

“ Was PM asking for votes without telling people that they are going to raise petrol, diesel and aviation fuel prices after the polls? And now he is presenting this as patriotism



JITU PATWARI  
Madhya Pradesh Congress president

Modi should first follow his own message and ensure that BJP leaders also follow it. Crores of rupees worth of petrol and diesel were spent on his roadshow. Why is the PM's message only for the public?



MANOJ JHA  
RJD Rajya Sabha member

“ Dismantle NTA, NEET. Have you ever thought about the impact on students coming from ordinary backgrounds? Democracy is not just fighting and winning elections

# Floor test and Guv's powers

**In a parliamentary democracy, the legitimacy to govern is determined on the floor of the House, not through political speculation**



Dr AHMED RAZA

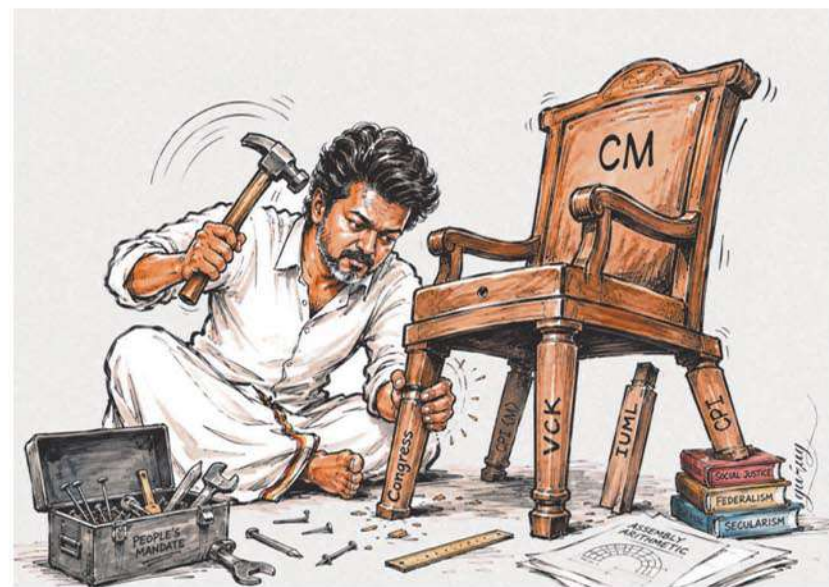
The recent Tamil Nadu Assembly election has triggered an important constitutional debate regarding the powers of the Governor in a hung Assembly. The controversy arose when Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), led by Vijay, became the single largest party with 108 seats in the 234-member Assembly but was not immediately invited to form the government.

The Governor insisted that the party furnish proof of support from at least 118 MLAs, the majority mark, before the swearing-in of the Chief Minister. This development revived the long-standing debate over the Governor's discretionary powers, democratic mandate, and constitutional morality in India's parliamentary democracy.

A hung Assembly occurs when no single political party or pre-poll alliance secures an absolute majority in the legislature. In such circumstances, the Constitution entrusts the Governor with the responsibility of ensuring that a stable government is formed. However, the Constitution does not clearly define how the Governor should exercise this discretion, leading to repeated controversies across Indian States.

### Constitutional Position

The Governor's powers regarding the appointment of the Chief Minister are derived from Article 164(1) of the Constitution. It states that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor, and other ministers shall be appointed on the advice of the Chief Minister. Although ministers hold office during the "pleasure of the Governor," this phrase does not imply personal or arbitrary authority. In a parliamentary democracy, the Governor is expected to function according to constitutional conventions and democratic principles.



Normally, the Governor acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers. However, in situations where no party secures a majority, the Governor exercises discretionary power in deciding whom to invite to form the government. This discretion is expected to be neutral, constitutional, and guided by established conventions rather than political preferences.

The primary aim of the Governor's role in a hung Assembly is administrative rather than political. The Governor's duty is to ensure that the State does not remain without an elected executive and that a stable government commanding the confidence of the House is formed at the earliest.

### Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions

To reduce ambiguity in such situations, the Sarkaria Commission (1983) and the Punchhi Commission (2007) laid down guidelines regarding the order of preference the Governor should follow in inviting parties to form a government. The recommended order is: A pre-poll alliance commanding a majority, the single largest party with support of others, a post-election coalition where all partners join the government and a post-poll alliance with outside support. These commissions also emphasised that majority support should always be tested on the floor of the House and not decided privately by the Governor. The recommendations sought to minimise arbitrariness and preserve democratic legitimacy. In the Tamil Nadu case, constitutional scholars argued that the TVK, as the single largest party, should have been invited first and allowed to prove its majority through a floor test within a short period.

### Importance of Floor Test

The floor test has become the most accepted constitutional mechanism for determining majority support. It ensures transparency, legislative accountability, and democratic legitimacy. Instead of subjective assessments by Governors, the elected

Assembly itself determines whether the government enjoys majority confidence. The Supreme Court has repeatedly reinforced the principle that majority should be tested only on the floor of the House.

### Karnataka Crisis (2018)

One of the most important precedents was the Karnataka political crisis of 2018. In that election, the BJP emerged as the single largest party but lacked a majority. The Congress and the JD(S) formed a post-poll alliance and claimed majority support. Governor Vajubhai Vala invited BS Yediyurappa to form the government and granted 15 days to prove majority. The Congress-JD(S) alliance approached the Supreme Court, alleging that the long period would encourage horse-trading and defections. The Supreme Court, led by then Chief Justice Dipak Misra, refused to stay the swearing-in but drastically reduced the time for the floor test to 36 hours.

Eventually, the BJP failed to prove majority and resigned, allowing the Congress-JD(S) alliance to form the government. The case established an important constitutional principle: delays in floor tests may encourage political manipulation, and quick floor tests are essential for preserving democratic integrity.

### Uttarakhand Crisis (2016)

Another important precedent emerged during the Uttarakhand constitutional crisis of 2016. The Supreme Court declared that the floor test is the "ultimate constitutional mechanism" to de-

**The recommendations of Sarkaria and Punchhi panels on non-partisan appointments and limited discretionary powers must be implemented in letter and spirit**

termine majority support. The court ordered then Chief Minister Harish Rawat to prove majority on the Assembly floor. This judgment strengthened the constitutional convention that Governors should avoid subjective determination of majority and instead rely on legislative procedures.

### Constitutional Concerns

The controversy also highlights several structural issues in Indian federalism.

- First, the Constitution does not clearly define the precise limits of gubernatorial discretion. This ambiguity often leads to conflicting interpretations.
- Second, Governors are frequently accused of acting in favour of the union government or particular political parties, thereby weakening federal balance.
- Third, delays in government formation can create political instability, administrative paralysis, and encourage unethical political practices such as defections and inducements.
- Finally, repeated controversies involving Governors weaken the spirit of cooperative federalism and erode public trust in constitutional institutions.

### Course Correction

To prevent such controversies, several reforms have been suggested. There should be clearer constitutional conventions or even codified guidelines regarding the order of preference in inviting parties to form governments in hung Assemblies. Mandatory and time-bound floor tests should become standard practice.

Governors must function as politically neutral constitutional heads and avoid any appearance of partisanship. The recommendations of the Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions regarding non-partisan appointments and limited discretionary powers should be seriously implemented. Judicial oversight must also continue to ensure that constitutional morality prevails over partisan politics. The Tamil Nadu controversy once again demonstrates the delicate balance between constitutional discretion and democratic legitimacy in India's parliamentary system. While the Governor possesses certain discretionary powers, these powers are not unlimited and must operate within constitutional morality, democratic conventions, and federal principles.

The consistent position of the Supreme Court has been clear: the true test of majority lies not in Lok Bhavan but on the floor of the legislature. In a democracy, elected representatives assembled in the House, and not constitutional speculation, determine who has the confidence to govern. The Tamil Nadu episode, therefore, serves as an important reminder that constitutional offices must uphold democratic values above political considerations.

(The author is Assistant Professor, Department of Public Administration MANUU, [A Central University], Hyderabad)

## Letters to the Editor

### Go for Badlav

West Bengal's new government, led by Suwendu Adhikari, must follow Prime Minister Modi's call for Badlav instead of Badla. Since the 1960s, people have witnessed political violence that has brought nothing but polarisation. Adhikari must remember that religious and communal polarisation will only aggravate tensions. Bengal has important tasks ahead: ensuring stability, peace, prosperity, and balanced demographic development. Mere generalities will achieve little; democracy and progress can flourish only if the State is governed impartially, with

a commitment to development and human welfare. Let someone repeat Gopal Krishna Gokhale's famous words: "What Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow."

PARTHASARATHY SEN,  
New Delhi

### Good gesture

That the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Joseph Vijay, has begun meeting opposition leaders such as MK Stalin, Vaiko, and Anbumani Ramadoss to seek their blessings heralds a breather and a whiff of fresh air in the State's politics, often marked by hatred and animosity. This mutual goodwill and the explicit display of love and respect, will certainly take Vijay places.

VAITHIANATHAN  
SUBRAMANIAN, Madurai

## Cartoon Today



## India in the hotspot

■ Daily Mirror

### India-Lanka bridge: Gateway to threat?

The Palk Strait Bridge and Tunnel is a proposed 23-kilometre link across the Palk Strait between Dhanushkodi in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu and Talaimannar on Mannar Island off the northwestern coast of Sri Lanka.

■ The Japan Times

### Indian firms shy away from India

Indian business rarely does exactly what the government wants it to. For the past decade or so, for example, it has obdurately refused to invest as much as officials think it should.

■ The Washington Times

### From cricket's capital to Olympic

India is preparing to expand its influence in international sport. The 2030 Commonwealth Games are already locked in for Ahmedabad, and there's high expectations for India's bid to host the 2036 Olympics.

TIRUPATI

**Rs 1 crore donated: TTD**

A Mumbai devotee donated over Rs 1 crore to TTD Sri Venkateswara Pranadana Trust on Tuesday. The donation demand draft was handed over to TTD Additional Executive Officer Ch Venkaiah Chowdary at his camp office in Tirumala. "Vijay Ramesh Chandra from Mumbai donated Rs 1.03 crore to the TTD Sri Venkateswara Pranadana Trust," an official press release from temple body said.

MALAPPURAM(KERALA)

**Lightning kills four**

Four people died due to a lightning strike at a hilltop near Mankada in this district on Tuesday evening, police said here. All four, aged between 18 and 20 years, were part of a group of seven youths who went to the hill, which is a popular viewpoint of the area, an officer of Mankada police station said. The incident occurred around 6 pm and lightning reportedly struck all seven of them. Police said that seven people were taken to the hospital. PTI

# AIADMK rebels to back Vijay on floor

**30 MLAs question Palaniswami's leadership over poll debacle**

PTI CHENNAI  
The opposition AIADMK appeared headed for a split on Tuesday after a group of MLAs revolted against party chief Edappadi K Palaniswami, accusing him of seeking an alliance with archrival DMK, and announced support for the Vijay-led government ahead of the floor test on Wednesday.

About 30 MLAs, led by senior leaders SP Velumani and C Ve Shanmugam, are believed to be in the rebel camp that has questioned Palaniswami's leadership following the party's debacle in the April 23 assembly polls, where it won only 47 out of the 164 seats it contested.

Speaking to reporters, Shanmugam said they would meet C Joseph Vijay to provide a letter supporting his government. He also alleged that party general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami wanted to form a government with the DMK's support.

Pointing out that the AIADMK was floated to oppose and "uproot" the DMK, Shanmugam said all the party members opposed Palaniswami's proposal to form a government with the support of the MK Stalin-led party. He added that any such proposal contradicted the AIADMK's fundamental principles. The party needs



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay felicitating newly elected Legislative Assembly Deputy Speaker M Ravi Shankar. — Photo: PTI

a "new life now," and the "Ammu (Jayalalithaa) rule" should return, and therefore, he added, they should support TVK. The AIADMK leadership, however, dismissed the allegations as "rumours" and accused the dissident leaders of "unleashing a bag of lies" after failing to secure victories in their own districts.

**AIADMK to vote against Vijay**

Meanwhile, the AIADMK has decided to vote against the confidence motion scheduled for May 13, senior party leader Agri S S Krishnamurthy said here on Tuesday. He also warned that potential cross-voting will face legal consequences. Addressing a press conference, Krishnamurthy along with O S Manian and

other MLAs from the faction supporting Edappadi K Palaniswami, stated that the decision was taken by the party's general secretary.

"The General Secretary has decided that AIADMK will vote against the confidence motion tomorrow," Krishnamurthy said, adding that all party MLAs have been formally instructed to follow the directive.

Responding to queries regarding potential cross-voting or any "drama" aimed at securing support for the motion, the leader issued a stern warning of legal consequences. "Legal action will be taken," he said, specifically noting that proceedings would be initiated under the anti-defection law if necessary. Meanwhile, Manian dismissed claims of a split within the party.

## Liquor shops near schools, temples closed

CHENNAI: In a move that could strike a chord with women of the state, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Tuesday ordered the closure of 717 state-run retail liquor outlets, including those near places of worship.

While the DMK mocked the move as a "PR" initiative, the PMK, a strong votary of prohibition, not only welcomed Vijay's announcement, but also batted for the gradual implementation of a dry regime in the state. Further, in his first missive to the Centre after taking over as CM, Vijay raised the emotive issue of arrest of Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan navy and the repatriation of the fishers and the boats.

Also, with a focus on public welfare, Vijay's party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) banned its cadre from erecting banners and placards in public spaces.

Closing down of liquor shops has been a demand from women in the state, besides the Pattali Makkal Katchi. The move was done keeping in mind the welfare of people, an official release said.

# NEET re-exam process to begin in 7-10 days: NTA

**No additional fee will be charged**

NEW DELHI

Taking responsibility for the cancellation of the NEET UG 2026 over allegations of paper leak, the Director General of the National Testing Agency, Abhishek Singh, on Tuesday said the schedule for the re-examination would be announced within the "next seven to 10 days".

The NTA on Tuesday cancelled the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate) held on May 3 for medical admissions amid allegations of paper leak, with the government asking the CBI to carry out a comprehensive inquiry into the "irregularities".

"For the re-examination date, I will sit with my team and, in the next few days, announce the complete exam schedule and dates. Our effort will be to conduct the exam in the shortest possible time so that the academic calendar and admission schedule of medical colleges are not disrupted. The process will begin within the next seven to 10 days," Singh said.

No additional fee will be charged from the candidates for the re-examination, and

the fees paid earlier will be refunded, he said.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, meanwhile, refused to respond to questions from the media on the cancellation of NEET-UG 2026.

Calling the incident "distressing", Singh said, "Paper leaks must end with immediate effect. It is unfortunate that we are at this stage. This is a matter of concern for the children of our country, for their parents, and for the entire ecosystem. I understand that more than two lakh people were involved in the examination process," he said.

"This is distressing for everyone involved. We take responsibility for what has happened; it was wrong. We are cancelling it and preparing to conduct it again with the assurance that such incidents will not be repeated," Singh added.

Some questions circulating in PDF format among students before the examination matched the actual question paper, prompting the agency to recommend cancellation of the medical entrance test, he said.

"The entire paper was not leaked. The CBI will probe the number of questions

leaked. We will appeal to the agency to nab the culprits and take strong action," Singh said.

"The test conducted on May 3 had four code versions. None of the papers was found in the market, and no leak has been established. There were many questions in the PDF that circulated, and some of them looked similar to questions from the exam paper," the NTA DG said.

"So, I would not say that the entire paper was leaked. But I will definitely say that even if a single question matches our question paper, our commitment to zero tolerance and zero error is violated, and our entire process is compromised. We will take responsibility for it and take action accordingly," he added. Singh also said that strict action would be taken against those attempting to mislead students or exploit the examination process.

"I want to assure all that we will take strict action against anyone attempting such mischief. Wherever we receive reports that someone is selling question papers or misleading students, we will act against them," he said. PTI

# Himanta takes oath as CM

GUWAHATI

The BJP-led NDA assumed the mantle of power for the third term on Tuesday when Himanta Biswa Sarma was sworn in as the chief minister of Assam for the second time in a row, cementing the saffron party's dominance in the state.

Four MLAs of the BJP and its alliance partners AGP and BPF also took oath as ministers in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered the oath of office to Sarma and the four legislators at a 25-minute grand ceremony held at the Veterinary Ground in Khana-para area in Guwahati.

Besides Modi and Amit Shah, Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Sarbananda Sonowal, Pabitra Margherita, chief ministers and deputy chief ministers of BJP-ruled states and BJP president Nitin Nabin were present at the swearing-in ceremony. The PM said that the NDA government assuming office for the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with newly sworn-in Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. — Photo: PTI

third consecutive term was a "great day for Assam" and congratulated Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on taking oath for the second time. In a post on X, the PM said that Sarma has made a mark as a "wonderful administrator and has done pioneering work for the state. My best wishes to him for the tenure ahead". Sarma said that it was an extremely emotional moment for him as he took oath as the CM for the second consecutive term and "with all humility I bow down to the people of

Assam". He said this would not have been possible without the PM's guidance which has been the "biggest motivating factor for our government". It is his "leadership and vision which has guided us in our path of Sewa (service) and Samarpan (dedication)", he added.

Sarma also thanked party president Nitin Nabin for his leadership that galvanised all NDA workers in Assam to take the message of good governance to every household. PTI

# Suvendu aide killing: CBI takes over probe

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered an FIR in the alleged murder of West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari's aide Chandranath Rath, taking over the investigation from the state police, officials said. The CBI action came following a request from the state government, they said.

The agency has formed a seven-member special investigation team under a DIG of Special Crime from Delhi, comprising some of the best investigators drawn from various units of the agency, officials said.

The team will report to the Joint Director, Kolkata. The officers of the CBI will also join the team for investigation, they said. PTI

# SC upholds women's career rights

NEW DELHI

In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court held on Tuesday that a qualified woman's decision to pursue her career, and ensure a stable and safe environment for her child cannot be branded as "cruelty" or "desertion".

The top court said the "feudalistic" approach of a family court in holding a woman's pursuit of her professional career as a dentist as "cruelty" and "desertion" was "regressive" and "ultra-conservative". The family court's decision was upheld by the Gujarat HC. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta set aside the "regressive" findings of the courts below.

## KEEPING COOL



A farmer pours water from a tube well to beat the heat at a paddy field, in Morigaon district of Assam on Tuesday. — Photo: PTI

# Retail inflation edges up to 3.48% in April

NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation rose slightly to 3.48 per cent in April, mainly due to higher prices of gold and silver jewellery as well as some kitchen items, according to government data released on Tuesday.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation, with base year 2024, was 3.40 per cent in March, 3.21 per cent in February, and 2.74 per cent in January. The data released by NSO showed that inflation in the food basket was at 4.20 per cent in April, up from 3.87 per cent in the preceding month. The pace of price hike was the highest in silver jewellery at 144.34 per cent. PTI

# AP urged to set up visa centres

AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers) on Tuesday requested the state government to establish full-fledged VFS Global VACs in Amaravati and Visakhapatnam, owing to growing international travel and visa service requirements in the state.

In a representation to chief secretary G Sai Prasad, AP Chambers president P Bhaskara Rao highlighted that the southern state lacks a VFS global centre, despite Andhra Pradesh having a large number of international travellers. "The Andhra Pradesh Chambers

of Commerce and Industry Federation has urged the Government of Andhra Pradesh to establish full-fledged VFS Global Visa Application Centres in Amaravati/Capital Region and Visakhapatnam to address the growing international travel and visa service requirements of the state," said a press release from the trade body, quoting Rao.

He underscored that the state has a large number of students, NRIs, IT professionals, exporters, entrepreneurs, tourists and migrant workforce travelling regularly to countries such as the USA, UK, Canada, Australia, UAE, Singapore, Gulf countries, and Europe. PTI

# Centre, RBI to tackle cyber fraud, mule accounts

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday announced that the country's anti-cyber crime agency I4C signed an MoU with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) to curb the menace of mule accounts used by cyber criminals to cheat unsuspecting victims.

In a message posted on X, he said mule accounts are a

major hurdle in curbing cyber crimes.

"Today, the I4C under MHA signed an MoU with Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), unleashing the power of Artificial Intelligence to combat cyber fraud. The move will swiftly detect and eliminate hidden mule accounts by feeding data from the I4C's Suspect Registry to the AI-driven fraud detection system and

serve citizens as a next-generation shield against cyber crime," Shah said.

Mule accounts are bank accounts used by criminals to illegally receive, transfer and launder the proceeds of cyber crimes, with or without the knowledge of account holders. According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre

(I4C), which functions under the ministry, and RBIH will strengthen collaboration in combating cyber-enabled financial frauds and curtailing mule accounts across the banking and digital payments ecosystem.

The collaboration reflects a broader regulatory push to safeguard digital payments infrastructure, which has become both a symbol of fi-

nanial inclusion and an increasingly attractive target for organised cybercriminal networks.

The agreement seeks to strengthen preventive mechanisms by enabling faster detection of suspicious transactions and improving the identification of mule accounts, bank accounts used by fraudsters to siphon off and layer stolen money, it said. PTI

## Nick Jonas calls his 'Jaan' Priyanka Chopra as the 'wind beneath his wings', pens heartfelt Mother's Day note

Mumbai: Singer-actor Nick Jonas paid an adorable tribute to superstar wife Priyanka Chopra Jonas on the occasion of Mother's Day. The singing icon Nick took to his social media account, and penned an emotional note for Priyanka.

He wrote, "You are the wind beneath our wings. Happy Mother's Day my Jaan. We love you so much..."

Along with the message, he also shared a carousel of heartwarming moments of his own little family.

In one of the pictures, Priyanka is seen holding her little daughter Malti Marie Jonas in her arms, with both of them in matching braided hairstyles with pink extensions.

Another candid picture cap-

tured the family of them three with Priyanka leaning affectionately on Nick's shoulder as he holds their daughter close. Nick also shared a social media story dedicated to Priyanka's mother, Madhu Chopra. In the picture, Nick was seen posing with Madhu Chopra and Malti in front of a beautifully decorated Christmas tree. He captioned it as, "Happy Mother's Day Madhu. Love you so much."

For the uninitiated, Nick has always spoken about his close bond with his daughter and his obsession for his little girl.

On his appearance on the On Purpose podcast, he had said, "She came to the world under, sort of, very intense circumstances. We were expecting her to arrive in April of the year she was born, and we get a call that



it's going to be sooner."

He added, "We basically, you know, went into action and she was born via surrogate. We got to the hospital, and she came out. She was 1 pound, 11 ounces and

purple basically."

For the uninitiated, Nick and Priyanka tied the knot in December 2018 at Umaid Bhawan Palace after dating for a few months.

## Trisha gets emotional as Vijay takes oath as Tamil Nadu CM

Several videos circulating online showed Trisha smiling emotionally as Vijay spoke about ushering in a "new era" of governance in Tamil Nadu.

Chennai: Trisha Krishnan turned emotional while watching actor-turned-politician Vijay take oath as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, with videos of her reaction quickly going viral on social media.

Trisha was among the prominent guests who attended Vijay's swearing-in ceremony held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai. During Vijay's first address as Chief Minister, the actress appeared teary-eyed while listening to his speech, a moment that soon became



one of the most talked-about highlights of the event.

Several videos circulating online showed Trisha smiling emotionally as Vijay spoke about ushering in a "new era" of governance in

Tamil Nadu. Fans flooded social media platforms with reactions, praising the bond shared by the two stars, who have worked together in multiple Tamil films over the years.

Earlier in the day, Trisha

arrived at the venue in a traditional saree alongside her mother, Uma Krishnan. Briefly interacting with the media, she described it as a "big day" and said she was "looking forward" to the ceremony.

Vijay officially took oath as Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister after his party secured victory in the 2026 Assembly elections, marking a major shift in the state's political landscape. Election result analysis

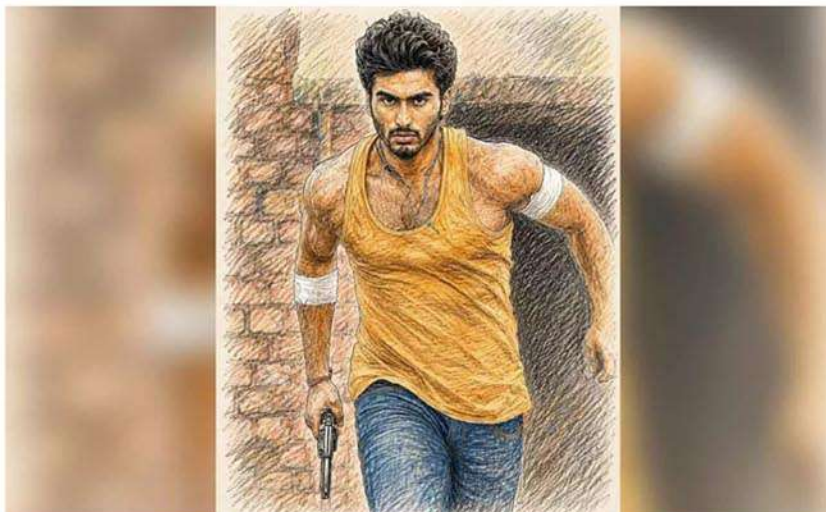
The swearing-in ceremony witnessed the presence of several celebrities, political leaders and members of the Tamil film industry. Trisha's emotional reaction, however, emerged as one of the defining viral moments from the historic occasion.

## Arjun Kapoor marks 14 years in Bollywood with Ishaqzaade: Parma still feels like the beginning

Mumbai: Actor Arjun Kapoor celebrated 14 years in Bollywood as his debut drama "Ishaqzaade" completed one more year of being released on Monday. Dropping a few sketches of his popular scenes from the drama, Arjun claimed that his character Parma still feels like the beginning of his cinematic journey, which he intends to take forward with exciting projects ahead.

Arjun penned on his official Instagram handle, "14 years later, Parma still feels like the beginning of everything. #Ishaqzaade was the start of my journey as an actor, in cinema and with all of you...And it continues (red heart emoji) (sic)."

Helmed and directed by Habib Faisal, "Ishaqzaade" has been backed by Aditya Chopra under the banner of



Yash Raj Films. With Parineeti Chopra as the female lead, the romantic actioner further starred Gauahar Khan, Natasha Rastogi, Anil Rastogi, and Shashank Khaitan in ancillary roles, along with others. Ishaqzaade is an official remake of the 2009 Bengali drama "Dujone".

Set against the backdrop of a fictional town of Almor in Uttar Pradesh, the drama shares the journey of Parma Chauhan (Played by Arjun) and Zoya Qureshi (Played by Parineeti), who belong to rival political families. Their passionate romance ends up shaking the deeply rooted religious

divides in the society.

Election result analysis

While the film marked Arjun's primary appearance on the big screen, it was Parineeti's second project after her debut with "Ladies vs Ricky Bahl" in 2011.

Shifting our focus to Arjun's recent projects, he last appeared in the romantic comedy "Mere Husband Ki Biwi", co-starring Rakul Preet Singh and Bhumi Pednekar. The movie failed to perform well at the box office.

Arjun has yet to announce his next project.

Additionally, he was also recently seen as the primary antagonist in Rohit Shetty's "Singham Again".

He ended up receiving a lot of acclaim for his performance in the cop drama.

## What's brewing between Chiranjeevi and Tharun Moorthy?

A surprise meeting between Chiranjeevi and Malayalam filmmaker Tharun Moorthy has now become the latest hot topic in film circles. The director recently visited Chiranjeevi's residence in Hyderabad, and ever since pictures and updates from the interaction surfaced online, speculation about a possible collaboration has gone into overdrive.

Interestingly, many initially assumed the meeting was connected to a Telugu remake of the Malayalam hit Thudarum. However, Tharun quickly denied those rumours through social media, clarifying that the discussion was not about remaking the film. But despite the clarification, gossip around the duo has only intensified further.

What caught everyone's attention was Tharun Moorthy revealing how deeply Chiranjeevi discussed scenes from all his films in detail. The director admitted he was completely overwhelmed by the superstar's passion and knowledge of cinema. According to Tharun, Chiranjeevi still watches films with the enthusiasm of a newcomer, something he found truly inspiring.

Now, industry insiders believe there could be something bigger quietly taking shape behind the scenes. Fans are convinced that Chiranjeevi would not invite a director personally unless there was genuine interest in working together. With Tharun known for his emotionally intense storytelling and realistic filmmaking style, many are already wondering whether the Megastar is planning a fresh and unconventional project.

While no official announcement has been made yet, the unexpected meeting has definitely sparked curiosity, and fans are eagerly waiting to see if this exciting combination eventually turns into a big-screen reality.

## Jennifer Lopez: These past 18 years, I've learned that being a mom is a series of ebbs, flows



Mumbai: Hollywood star-singer Jennifer Lopez wrote a note filled with gratitude for her mother Guadalupe Rodríguez for raising "three independent daughters" and described her mother as the person she turns to in her darkest moments.

Lopez posted a series of photos on Instagram, featuring herself and her mother, Rodríguez. In the caption section, Lopez wrote: "Your favorite color is purple. You love eating pastries and anything sweet. You laugh and it lights up the whole room with that loud and boisterous tone. When you dance, everybody has to stop and stare."

Tagging her mother as the "lightning bolt", Lopez added: "You're the person I call in the middle of the night when I'm too lost and scared to admit it to anyone else and I can't find my way out."

Lopez also shared her understanding of motherhood. "These past 18 years I've learned that being a mom is a series of ebbs and flows where you're closer to your child in a way that you've never felt with any human, and at times you feel so far away that you could die from heartache."

She concluded: "It must not have been easy all those years with three independent daughters that you nurtured to be so strong and smart, and willful. But we love you, Mommy. I love you, Mommy. I cherish you today and every day. Happy Mother's Day."

The 56-year-old actress-singer is known for breaking barriers for Latino Americans in Hollywood and helping propel the Latin pop movement in music. She is also known for her cultural impact through fashion, branding, and shifting mainstream beauty standards. The actress is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film "Office Romance," a romantic comedy film directed by Ol Parker. The film also stars Brett