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Modi Becomes Longest-Serving PM



Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has reached a very important milestone in his full career in the world of Indian politics. He has officially become the longest serving PM! On 10th June, 2026, he completed his 12 years in the office and has surpassed the record previously held by Jawaharlal Nehru. This is a very big significant moment in his political life and also, in the history of India. In order to celebrate this occasion, the leaders of National Democratic Alliance, also known as NDA, has organized special events to honor his work. BJP has praised Modi's strong leadership and have highlighted the government's work in areas like welfare schemes, digital development, economic growth etc. This achievement is a clear indication of the trust the citizens of India have in his leadership. People are saying saying that Modi's success is mostly linked to BJP's strong performance in the recent general elections of the country. His great quality of leadership Has played a big role in shaping the Indian politics and also strengthening BJP's presence across the whole country. The completion of Modi being in the office for the past 12 years has been viewed as a very big historic achievement. Many leaders and his fellow supporters have congratulated him on becoming the longest serving PM with a continuous selected term. This milestone is seen as a very important chapter in the world of Indian politics and also highlights Narendra Modi's long-lasting influence on the country's governance and development.

Pawan Kalyan praises PM Modi for being longest serving PM of the country

Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan has lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12-year leadership, highlighting key national milestones from the digital revolution and infrastructure growth to strengthening India's global presence. Discover how Andhra Pradesh is aligning with the 'Viksit Bharat 2047' vision. AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan noted that Prime Minister Modi has completed 4,399 days of service to the nation. Taking to the social media platform X, Pawan lauded Modi's contributions, describing his life as one "dedicated to the nation, with reverence for the motherland and a commitment to welfare in the land of action (Karma Bhumi)." He expressed heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Modi and the NDA government for their selfless service to the country. He stated that under Modi's leadership over the past 12 years, the NDA government has transformed India into a strong nation. The Deputy CM highlighted that national security has been significantly strengthened



and the Indian Armed Forces have gained new momentum towards modernization under Modi's leadership. He noted that India has secured a pivotal position in the global economy and that the successful hosting of the G20 Summit drew the world's attention to the country. He further remarked that India has emerged as a strong voice for the Global South. Pawan mentioned that the 'Digital India' revolution has brought services closer to the people. He stated

that transparent governance was made possible through the integration of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, and Mobile (JAM). He noted that digital payments have gained significant momentum through UPI and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) systems. He highlighted that millions of people are receiving healthcare assurance under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. Pawan also pointed out that the dream of home ownership is becoming a reality for the poor through the

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and that access to drinking water has been provided to villages through the Jal Jeevan Mission. He noted that massive development has been achieved in national highways, railways, and airports. He remarked that a new era in the transport sector has begun with the introduction of Vande Bharat trains. The Deputy Chief Minister appreciated the support extended by Prime Minister Modi for the comprehensive development of Andhra Pradesh. He stated that the state aims to transform into a \$2.4 trillion economy with the goal of 'Swarnandhra 2047'. He emphasized that Andhra Pradesh plays a pivotal role in realizing the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'. He highlighted that diversity is India's strength and that its languages are a source of national pride. He affirmed a commitment to national unity and holistic development, asserting that divisive forces would be firmly countered. Pawan Kalyan posted "Jai Hind... Jai Bharat" on X.

Enroll eligible voters and purge errors, R&B Min tells Banaganapalle booth agents

Banaganapalle: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Roads and Buildings BC Janardhan Reddy has called upon all eligible citizens to take advantage of the Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls and ensure that their names are included in the voter list. Addressing a meeting of Cluster Unit Booth Level Agents at GSS Function Hall in Banaganapalle town on Tuesday, the Minister stressed that every eligible citizen should register as a voter and actively participate in strengthening the democratic process. The minister stated that the Election Commission of India is undertaking a comprehensive revision of electoral rolls after 24 years, making it a significant opportunity to prepare an error-free and inclusive



voter list. National Politics Updates He emphasized the need for all stakeholders to utilize this exercise effectively so that the electoral database accurately reflects all eligible voters. BC Janardhan Reddy informed that from June 15 to

July 14, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will conduct door-to-door verification and collect voters' details. He urged party Booth Level Agents, BLOs, leaders, and party workers to actively participate in the process and create awareness among the public. He

also stressed the importance of registering new voters, correcting existing details, and removing the names of deceased persons or those who have become ineligible from the electoral rolls. The Minister appealed to all concerned to carefully scrutinize the voter lists in coordination with BLOs to eliminate errors. He announced that the draft electoral rolls will be published on July 21, objections and claims will be accepted until August 20, and the final electoral rolls will be released on September 22. Describing the right to vote as the cornerstone of democracy, he urged leaders, workers, and booth-level agents to work collectively to ensure that every eligible citizen's name is included in the voter list.

Death toll increases in Vizag Steel Plant accident, with one more fatality



Following the tragic ladle explosion at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (RINL) that claimed nine lives, the Andhra Pradesh government has announced a comprehensive compensation package of up to ₹1.72 crore for affected families. Learn about the ongoing industrial investigation and safety concerns. Another person has died following the horrific accident at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, bringing the total death toll from the tragedy to nine. On the evening of the 8th, eight workers lost their lives when molten steel—seething and surging like lava—spilled onto them; six others sustained severe injuries. Officials reported that among the injured, Paidiraju, who was undergoing treatment at Visakhapatnam's Seven Hills Hospital, passed away on Wednesday morning. The state government has announced compensation of ₹25 lakh for the families of the deceased and ₹10 lakh for the injured. Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan stated that the family of each deceased regular employee would receive a total of ₹1.72 crore (including all benefits), while the family of each contract employee would receive ₹45 lakh.

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy tweets on Bharat Future City, says it marks new growth in State

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday said that 'Bharat Future City' has now become a reality, and given its significance for the state's development, this day will be remembered for generations to come. In a post on 'X', he said, "Whenever some of the fortunate among us traveled abroad and saw the world's great cities, we wished that our country, too, had such a modern, well-planned, and magnificently managed city." "Bharat Future City is the answer to the collective aspiration of all Indians. To build anything, we need a strong foundation and a driving

force. Today, we are inaugurating and dedicating the headquarters of the Future City Development Authority (FCDA), which will translate our vision into reality in the days ahead," he said. CM Reddy noted that the building took shape in a record time of less than six months, thanks to the passion, attention to detail, hard work, and dedication of everyone involved. "Join me in celebrating this moment, reflecting on its significance, and gathering the strength to work towards realizing a city that will stand among the greatest cities on the globe," he said.



Char Dham Yatra 2026: 152 Devotees Die In First 47 Days; Cardiac Arrest Emerges As Leading Cause



Dehradun: A total of 152 pilgrims have died during the first 47 days of the Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand, with cardiac arrest emerging as the leading cause among health-related fatalities, according to official data. The deaths, recorded between the commencement of the annual pilgrimage on April 19 and June 4, include both medical emergencies and accidents. Health officials said a majority of those who died suffered from pre-existing illnesses, while many were elderly pilgrims undertaking the arduous high-altitude journey. Data from the State Emergency Operation Centre showed that the highest number of deaths, 74, occurred on the Kedarnath pilgrimage route. The Badrinath route accounted for 44 deaths, followed by 19 on the Yamunotri route and 15 on the Gangotri route.

Nearly 30 lakh devotees have undertaken the pilgrimage so far, with 29,92,272 pilgrims visiting the four Himalayan shrines during the period.

Kedarnath has attracted the largest number of pilgrims at 10,88,041, followed by Badrinath with 8,88,379 visitors. Gangotri and Yamunotri have recorded comparatively lower footfall. Doctors deployed along the yatra route said most of the deceased were above the age of 55 and had underlying health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes or hyperten-

sion. They said many pilgrims failed to acclimatise adequately to the high altitude and harsh weather before undertaking the trek. Officials have strengthened medical arrangements across the pilgrimage route by setting up health camps, deploying medical teams and emergency response services. In Chamoli district, authorities have also installed QR codes along

the route to enable pilgrims to quickly seek medical assistance. More than 54,000 pilgrims have undergone health screening in the district this season, including around 28,000 people above the age of 50. Six critically ill pilgrims were airlifted to hospitals in May.

Pilgrim flow and livelihood impact

The pilgrimage is witnessing a heavy rush ahead of the onset of the southwest monsoon, expected to reach Uttarakhand around June 21. Authorities expect the flow of pilgrims to slow during the rainy season before picking up again after the monsoon. The Char Dham Yatra, which covers the shrines of Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri, is a major source of livelihood for lakhs of people in Uttarakhand. With no cap on pilgrim numbers this year, officials expect the total footfall to surpass previous records as the pilgrimage season continues over the next four months.

152 DEVOTEES DIE DURING FIRST 47 DAYS OF CHAR DHAM YATRA 2026

CARDIAC ARREST TOPS CAUSES

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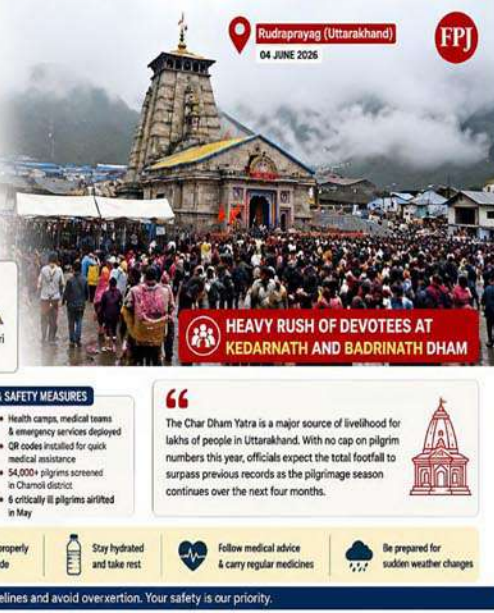
DEATHS RECORDED (19 APRIL - 4 JUNE 2026)

Route	Deaths
Kedarnath	74
Badrinath	44
Yamunotri	19
Gangotri	15

WHO ARE MOST AFFECTED?
Most of the deceased were above 55 years with pre-existing conditions like heart disease, diabetes or hypertension.

HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES
• Health camps, medical teams & emergency services deployed
• QR codes installed for quick medical assistance
• 54,000 pilgrims screened in Chamoli district
• 4 critically ill pilgrims airlifted in May

STAY SAFE, YATRA SAFE
Get health check-up before the yatra
Acclimatise properly to high altitude
Stay hydrated and take rest
Follow medical advice & carry regular medicines
Be prepared for sudden weather changes



Ladakh Sees Historic 121% Jump In Tourists In May, 72,834 Arrivals Recorded

Leh: Sustained efforts and reforms to enhance tourist-friendly infrastructure and atmosphere have resulted in a massive 121 per cent jump in tourist arrivals in Ladakh in May as compared to last year. Tourist arrivals during the first five months of 2026 - January to May - have also registered a substantial growth of 44 per cent, compared to the corresponding period in 2025. Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has attributed this significant growth to a series of reforms in the tourism sector and the creation of tourist-friendly infrastructure and amenities. Initiatives like tourism sector reforms to reduce compliance burden, simplifying the cumbersome documentation and granting "Industry" status to hotels and guest houses in Ladakh have developed confidence among tourism stakeholders, including hoteliers, guest house owners, tour operators, and others.

The most significant increase in tourist footfall has been recorded in May 2026, which has emerged as a landmark month for tourism in Ladakh. The Union Territory welcomed 72,834 tourists in May 2026, compared to 32,927 tourists during May 2025, registering an unprecedented growth of 121.20 per cent. Ladakh saw 1,17,546 tourists between January and May 2026, compared to 81,827 tourists during the corresponding period in 2025, registering a year-on-year growth of 43.65%. However, compared to the period of January to May in 2024, when 51,520 visitors arrived in



Leh, total arrivals in 2026 have marked an impressive 128% growth. Recently, the Ladakh administration has undertaken sustained initiatives to promote the Union Territory across domestic and international markets, strengthen tourism infrastructure, improve connectivity, diversify tourism products and encourage year-round tourism. This has led to an increase in footfall of foreign tourists in Ladakh by over 15%. Foreign tourist arrivals in the first five months of 2026 stood at 6,961, compared to 6,026 foreign tourists from January to May 2025. Thai-

land (1,321), Vietnam (722), and the United States (642) have emerged as leading source countries, whereas countries like Japan, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France continue to contribute significantly. "The remarkable increase in tourist arrivals in Ladakh this year reflects the success of our collective efforts to promote Ladakh as a year-round destination. We have focused on strengthening infrastructure, improving connectivity, promoting winter tourism, adventure tourism, wildlife tourism, Astro tourism, eco-tourism and cul-

tural tourism while ensuring sustainable development. This growth has brought renewed optimism and economic opportunities for tourism stakeholders across Ladakh," LG Saxena said. Saxena noted that the encouraging figures have brought significant relief and renewed confidence among tourism stakeholders, including hoteliers, guest house owners, tour operators, transport operators, homestay owners, artisans, entrepreneurs and local communities whose livelihoods are closely linked to the tourism sector.

Rajasthan Police Busts Interstate Gang Luring Poor Minor Girls With False Promises, Selling Them To Mumbai And Nagpur

Jaipur: In a major operation against human trafficking, the Rajasthan Police has busted an interstate gang that used to lure minor girls from poor families with promises of a bright future, only to sell them in major metropolitan cities like Mumbai. Under the operation, the Jhalawar Police's Special Investigation Team (SIT) has rescued 10 girls—seven of whom are minors—and arrested five accused, including a woman. Superintendent of police Amit Kumar said that following a news report regarding human trafficking, the police initiated a special investigation led by the Women's Research Cell. Police personnel associated with the Kanjar rehabilitation program spent months secretly visiting the settlements to gather information, eventually unraveling the entire network layer by layer. "The investigation uncovered an organized gang of local brokers who would lure minor girls from impoverished, debt-ridden families with promises of a better life and work, only to sell them to brokers in Mumbai and Nagpur for hefty sums. The gang used to forge the Aadhaar card and identity documents of the girls to show them adults. A network involving a female agent named Ramkanya Bai and brokers from Bundi, Rajasthan, was primarily operating this racket," said the SP.

The Many Scenarios For BJP Without K Annamalai In Tamil Nadu



Chennai: After former IPS officer K Annamalai left the BJP, many of his followers announced their resignation from the party and decided to join his volunteer movement. This has raised a question: will Annamalai's exit hurt the BJP electorally in Tamil Nadu? The BJP delivered an impressive performance in the 2022 urban local body elections by contesting independently under Annamalai's leadership. In Chennai, the party managed to finish second in more than 20 wards, pushing the AIADMK to the third place. Following the results, BJP leaders said the party's grassroots presence was steadily strengthening. The performance gave confidence to Annamalai and the BJP leadership to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections independently. Although the BJP got around 11 per cent vote share, it failed to win a single seat. However, in several constituencies, the BJP pushed the AIADMK to the third position. Now, with Annamalai's sudden exit from the BJP and reports that his supporters may contest the upcoming local body elections, concerns have emerged within the

party over the possible impact on its electoral prospects. Following his departure, several BJP state-level functionaries across Tamil Nadu have also resigned from the party. Political observers say this could weaken the BJP's grassroots structure and electoral machinery. Rejecting speculation that Annamalai's exit would disrupt the party, BJP state president Nayinar Nagen dran said, "Annamalai's exit will not have any impact on the BJP. I also urge BJP functionaries not to leave the party to join any other movement. BJP is the world's largest political party, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the tallest leader," he said. While the BJP is a dominant force in several states across India, its presence in Tamil Nadu remains limited. Despite PM Modi's successive electoral successes nationally, the party has struggled to make significant inroads in Tamil Nadu. In the early 2020s, the BJP attempted to change its strategy by promoting Annamalai's aggressive political style in the state. He was appointed state president and gained prominence beyond Tamil Nadu.

However, Annamalai also struggled to translate visibility into electoral victories. Considered by supporters to be a mass leader capable of keeping the BJP in the spotlight, he nevertheless failed to secure electoral success for the party. He lost both the 2021 assembly election and the 2024 Lok Sabha election. In 2021, as BJP state vice-president, Annamalai contested from the Aravakurichi assembly constituency in Karur district and got 68,553 votes. He lost to the DMK candidate, who polled 93,369 votes. Similarly, in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, Annamalai contested from Coimbatore constituency and secured 4,50,132 votes. He lost to DMK candidate Ganapathi P Rajkumar, who received 5,68,200 votes. Based on past electoral results, it is difficult to conclude that Annamalai's individual exit alone will significantly affect the BJP's vote share. However, the perception created by his

departure could become a challenge for the party. Political analysts also argue that BJP's traditional ideological voters won't get affected and the BJP's average vote percentage would stay the same. With actor-politician Vijay attracting a large section of young voters, Annamalai could potentially fill a political space that the BJP has struggled to occupy in Tamil Nadu for many years. Tamil Nadu has around 1.18 crore young voters. Vijay, now chief minister, has more youth followers; DMK is projecting Udhayanidhi Stalin as a next-generation leader. Amid this, 42-year-old Annamalai has left the BJP and may start his own political party. The BJP and the AIADMK without any young leader face a high risk. Tamil Nadu is expected to face the local body election in the seven-eight months. The elections may provide the first clear indication of Annamalai's independent political influence and the extent of his impact on the BJP.

RBI Examining "Pros And Cons" Of Plastic Currency Notes, No Decision Yet

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is examining a proposal to introduce polymer or plastic currency notes, although no final decision has been taken yet, Governor Sanjay Malhotra has said. Malhotra has said that the proposal remains under consideration and is still at a preliminary stage. He stated that as far as polymer notes are concerned, the proposal is under consideration, adding that as soon as any decision is taken on it, we will inform you. Malhotra acknowledged that recent reports regarding polymer notes contain some truth but clarified that the central bank has not reached any conclusion so far. "We are examining the pros and cons of it and whether it would be worthwhile to implement. It is still at a preliminary stage," he said. Moreover, the central bank is currently evaluating both the potential advantages and challenges associated with polymer currency before deciding whether to proceed with its introduction. In addition, the RBI Governor assured that adequate currency is available in the banking system and said the central bank is prepared to respond quickly if localised shortages arise. "If there is a shortage, we will certainly ensure that the shortage is met," he said.

Fear, Anxiety And 'Missing' Leadership : Inside The Trinamool Mutiny

Kolkata: The troubles within Trinamool Congress are mounting by the day. The mutiny over the post of Leader of the Opposition has snowballed into an all-out meltdown, exposing the fault lines within the party ranks after the Assembly poll debacle. A majority of the Trinamool Congress' 80 MLAs appear to have turned their back on Mamata Banerjee. Conversations with several legislators reveal the behind-the-scenes maneuvering within the party.

Several "rebel" MLAs spoke to still pledge their unwavering support for Mamata Banerjee, but from a safe distance. "We have won because of Didi and we salute her fight," said a woman legislator who has gone against the party supremo's choice for Leader of Opposition to endorse expelled MLA Ritabrata Banerjee. The "rebel" MLAs also detail factors beyond the battle for the Assembly posts that have led to the mutiny. They point to growing anxiety over public sentiment that's visible on ground and the change in the political climate of the state as reasons driving their decisions to distance themselves from Kalighat (Mamata Banerjee's residence). Many of these MLAs admit that the public outrage against the Trinamool Congress is real and increasingly difficult to ignore. The headlines of National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee being attacked with eggs, shoes and bricks in South 24 Parganas during a political visit have only added to their anxieties. The "rebel" MLAs express concerns over their personal safety



and public image despite securing a seat in the Vidhan Sabha. "If Abhishek Banerjee can be attacked in that manner, then we worry for our safety too," said one MLA who didn't want to be named. "What was the need to forge signatures. I am answerable to the people who voted for me. How can I justify this signature theft?" Said another TMC Legislator who skipped the Legislative Party meeting at Mamata Banerjee's residence. Another factor contributing to the unease, according to the "rebel" MLAs, is the unprecedented police action against Trinamool Congress leaders and legislators. "CID has come to my house twice to verify my signature. I have just been elected an MLA and have never indulged in any corrupt practice. If I am arrested tomorrow, only my family will suffer. No one from the party will come to save me," said the MLA, who didn't want to be named. Legislators also pointed fingers at senior and once powerful Trinamool leaders facing police action. They cite example of Javed Khan, a close aide of Mamata Banerjee and longtime Ben-

gal minister, who also has also turned his back on Kalighat. His son has reportedly been served notices in connection with allegations concerning multiple illegal properties across Kolkata. On May 24, West Bengal Urban Development Minister Agnimitra Paul stated: "Our honourable TMC MLA Javed Khan's son Fayaz Khan had constructed illegal buildings... We will demolish these illegal flats if we don't get a response to the notice served." For many in the rebel camp, the immediate priority is political and personal survival. They feel unless they insulate themselves from legal and political attacks, sustaining their constituencies over the next five years could be tough, especially at a time when the TMC leadership has chosen to stay indoor rather than stand by the cadre in what the party claims to be post-poll violence. "When BJP offices were burnt in 2021, their leaders, MPs and now chief minister Suwendu Adhikari were seen personally going to the ransacked offices and putting up party flags. Where is the Trinamool Congress leader-

ship?" asked another TMC leader. But many in "Team Ritabrata" are waiting and watching. "My consent was only for the Leader of Opposition post over the signature scandal. No discussions were held over naming Mamata Banerjee the Chief Advisor when she's the party's chairperson. We were not given the copy of the letter that was submitted to the Speaker endorsing the Leader of Opposition. We don't know what letter had been submitted under since Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipan Saha were both expelled from the party. If I am called to Kalighat, I will definitely go," said a legislator on condition of anonymity. This internal battle has also triggered a wider organisational churn within the Trinamool Congress, prompting an overhaul aimed at consolidating authority and addressing growing discontent within a section of the party. At the National Working Committee meeting at the party headquarters in Kalighat on Friday, Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen were appointed as National Joint Secretaries to assist National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee.

In times of crisis, clean energy is the only refuge

It is known that geopolitical tensions have arisen as a result of the US-Israeli attacks on Iran. The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz is causing severe disruptions to energy supplies. As a result, oil prices are increasing unabated. The countries that are suffering the most from climate change in the world are facing another serious problem, the shock of fossil fuels. As the energy import bills of these countries are increasing drastically, they are turning their attention towards clean energy. They are reducing the use of fossil fuels and engaging in the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power. India is also leaning towards clean energy. Currently, the use of renewable energy in the country is up to 40%. Of this, hydropower accounts for 12 percent, and solar and wind power accounts for 21 percent. There are 85 million electricity consumers in the country. This number will change as the population increases. The needs increase in line with development. India is 74 percent dependent on fossil fuels for electricity generation. The government is showing interest in wind power plants as their efficiency is only 33 percent, despite solar power plants. The installed wind power capacity in the country as of June 30, 2023 was 43,773 MW, while the electricity generated from wind power in the financial year 2022-23 was 71,814 million units.

Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Telangana were the states that produced the most wind power in 2022-23. However, the government is trying to achieve a target of 99,895 MW of wind power by 2029-30. Currently, there are more than 800 wind power plants in the country. The country has the potential to install 46 GW of wind power today. This number will increase in the coming years. The Center has stated that wind power, which was only 38 MW in 1996, has now reached a capacity of 46 MW. Preparations are being made to utilize offshore wind capacity. The government is coming forward to further expand cooperation by providing funds in this regard. The National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), the nodal agency for these offshore wind projects, has installed two wind speed measuring devices called LiDARs at Tuticorin Port and another at the Yudangudi area. The LiDAR data revealed that the wind speed in these regions is 9.5 to 10 meters per second for 7 to 8 months of the year. 80 percent of the installed wind power capacity in the world comes from large offshore wind farms in the US, India, China, Germany, Denmark and Spain. In the last two decades, the global wind power capacity has increased from 7.5 GW in 1997 to 564 GW in 2018. Looking at the use of solar energy, a report by global energy think tank 'Ember' revealed that the countries most affected by climate change have already surpassed the United States in the use of solar energy.

The Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), an international partnership of countries most at risk from climate change, is trying to take urgent action to combat the climate crisis. In addition, the V20 group of finance ministers (CVF V20) is working to combat the economic losses caused by climate change and raise funds. In this context, about 46 percent of the 74 countries most vulnerable to climate change in the CVF V20 are ahead of the United States in terms of the share of solar energy in electricity demand. Africa, Asia, Latin America and small island countries, all of which have a fifth of the world's population, or 1.7 billion people. They account for less than 5 percent of global GDP. They also have less electricity demand. However, they are leading in adopting decentralized solar energy. That is, they are leading in the use of solar energy and electric technologies. However, it is noteworthy that the report states that these are not considered as significant. Eight of the 10 countries in the CVF have increased their solar deployment since 2017, importing solar panels that are three times more than their officially recorded installed capacity. This is evidenced by the rapid expansion of decentralized rooftop and off-grid systems. This trend is visible across all sectors. Namibia (35 percent) and Togo (18 percent) are leading in solar generation. Nepal (70 percent) and Sri Lanka (64 percent) are leading in electric vehicle adoption. Jordan and Kyrgyzstan are increasing their use of battery vehicles.

After Bengal Defeat, Is Mamata Banerjee Preparing For National Politics?

Mamata Banerjee has always been known as a leader who carefully calculates her political timing. She does not take steps impulsively, especially after a major electoral setback. That is why her recent shift toward more Delhi-centric politics is now becoming one of the most discussed developments in national opposition politics. The question many people are asking is simple: why is Mamata Banerjee suddenly giving so much importance to national opposition coordination and the INDIA alliance after the 2026 West Bengal Assembly election? There are several reasons behind this political repositioning.

For a long time, Mamata Banerjee had maintained a certain distance from formal INDIA alliance meetings. But now she is regularly attending these meetings again and is showing renewed interest in opposition coordination at the national level. What makes this more politically significant is the fact that during the 2026 West Bengal assembly election, there was no alliance between the Trinamool Congress and the Congress party. In fact, Congress state president Subhankar Sarkar himself later admitted publicly that he personally wanted some kind of seat adjustment or tactical understanding with Mamata Banerjee. According to him, the Congress leadership in Bengal had been willing to explore an alliance framework, but Mamata Banerjee ultimately did not show interest at that time. Perhaps she did not anticipate that the political outcome would unfold in the way it eventually did. Now, after the election setback, the political situation has changed consid-

erably. The first and most immediate reason behind Mamata Banerjee's Delhi-focused politics is the post-election reality inside West Bengal itself.

After the 2026 defeat, there is no immediate assembly election ahead, nor is there any realistic possibility of an instant change of government in Bengal. But at the same time, the BJP's political campaign against the Trinamool Congress has intensified almost every single day. Corruption allegations against Trinamool leaders continue to dominate political discourse. Several MLAs have left the party. In many ways, the legislative structure of the Trinamool Congress has weakened internally. Inside the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, too, several councillors have either resigned or openly revolted against the leadership.

In such a politically defensive situation, Mamata Banerjee appears to be trying to shift the centre of political debate away from Bengal-specific anti-incumbency and toward larger national issues where the BJP-led central government can be targeted more aggressively. That is a strategic political move. At the all-India level, the opposition still believes there are several issues on which the Narendra Modi government remains vulnerable. Unemployment, rising prices of cooking gas and fuel, economic uncertainty, foreign policy criticism, and delays in key international trade agreements, especially with the United States, are all issues being raised repeatedly by opposition parties. Questions are also being raised over what many opposition leaders describe as inconsistency or "topsy-turvy" trends in foreign

policy management. Mamata Banerjee now appears to be repositioning herself within this broader anti-BJP national campaign narrative.

Another important factor is the experience of Bengal itself during the recent election. There is now a growing feeling within sections of the opposition that whatever administrative, electoral, and political challenges Bengal witnessed during the election period, including controversies surrounding voter management, administrative handling, and electoral processes, should be presented nationally as a larger democratic concern. Until now, opposition parties across India had not fully used the Bengal experience as a common reference point. But discussions have now started about turning Bengal into a "model case" to strengthen coordinated opposition attacks against the BJP nationally. At the same time, Mamata Banerjee's relationship with the Congress party is also entering a new phase. During the Bengal Assembly election, there was a visible political distance between the Congress and the Trinamool. But after the election, Mamata Banerjee has gradually started rebuilding communication with Congress leaders and other opposition parties. However, one important thing must be understood clearly. At this moment, Mamata Banerjee is not aggressively trying to project herself as the undisputed leader of the entire opposition bloc. Earlier, there had been intense debate within opposition circles over whether Mamata wanted to lead the anti-BJP front nationally. That debate had also created tensions among several



regional parties. Now, at least for the time being, Mamata appears to be avoiding that direct leadership contest. Instead, her present strategy seems to be centred around creating broader solidarity among opposition parties rather than competing openly for national leadership. She is trying to position herself as a cooperative and active participant in the anti-BJP platform rather than immediately projecting prime ministerial ambitions. The timing is also politically important because the Monsoon Session of Parliament is approaching. Opposition parties believe that if coordination inside Parliament improves, they may be able to corner the government more effectively on economic issues, foreign policy questions, inflation, unemployment, and governance-related controversies.

The strategy is clear: increase parliamentary pressure, build political narratives jointly, and gradually create a larger anti-incumbency environment at the national level. Even though the next Lok Sabha election is still some distance away and 2029 remains the real political target, Mamata Banerjee has already started preparing now. That is why her politics is no longer confined only to Bengal at this moment.

After facing a difficult election at home, Mamata Banerjee seems to have understood that rebuilding political momentum inside Bengal alone may not be enough. Expanding her relevance once again at the national level, reconnecting with opposition parties, and participating actively in Delhi-centric politics may now become equally important for her political survival and future strategy.

How A Photograph in Delhi Says Something Important About Trump's America

During her visit to New Delhi this week, Venezuela's acting president, Delcy Rodríguez, met US Ambassador Sergio Gora. Had the meeting taken place in Washington or Caracas, it would have attracted little attention. In Delhi, however, it carried a different significance. Rodríguez had come to India seeking investment, energy cooperation, and commercial partnerships. Yet the image suggested a deeper reality. Venezuela's leaders may travel the world in search of opportunities, but the country's economic future increasingly operates within a framework shaped by Washington. For example, recent US sanctions have restricted Venezuela's access to international financing and targeted the state-owned oil company PDVSA, dramatically limiting the government's ability to generate revenue and engage with global markets. The photograph captured more than a diplomatic encounter. It revealed a changing relationship between a weakened state and a dominant power.

It also revealed something troubling about America itself. For decades, successive American administrations justified their policies towards Venezuela using the language of democracy, human rights, and constitutional governance. Critics often questioned those motives, but the rhetoric remained consistent. American power was presented as an instrument of universal principles. Donald Trump has adopted a strikingly different approach.

The Return of Colonial Logic

Rather than disguising the centrality of oil, he has repeatedly emphasised it. He has spoken openly about Venezuela's

vast energy reserves, described Venezuelan oil in terms suggesting American entitlement, and supported arrangements under which the future of Venezuelan oil production and revenue flows would be shaped under strong American



influence. The remarkable feature is not that a great power pursues its interests. Great powers have always done so. The remarkable feature is the disappearance of embarrassment. Trump appears willing to say aloud what previous administrations preferred to imply. While leaders like Obama or Bush focused their public statements on the promotion of democracy, human rights, and constitutional order, often framing interventions in terms of universal values, Trump has spoken with unusual directness about oil, power, and strategic advantage. Where past rhetoric wrapped interests in the language of democratic idealism, the priorities now are openly transactional. Oil matters. Power matters. Strategic advantage matters. The language of democratic idealism has increasingly given way to the language of ownership and control. That shift is important because it exposes the underlying logic of the relationship. No American governor resides in Caracas. No American flag

flies over Venezuelan government buildings. Venezuela remains a sovereign state in the formal legal sense. Yet colonial relationships have evolved. They no longer require occupation or direct administration. They operate through financial

moment so revealing. If a foreign government exercised similar influence over American oil production, energy exports, or resource revenues, the reaction would be immediate and furious. Americans would rightly regard such interference as an assault on national sovereignty. Politicians would denounce it. Commentators would condemn it. Citizens would reject it. Yet many of the same people appear remarkably unconcerned when comparable principles are applied elsewhere. This is particularly evident among Trump's political base. Few political leaders speak openly unless they believe their supporters will tolerate or even reward them for doing so. Trump's confidence reflects the knowledge that many of his most enthusiastic supporters will view such rhetoric not as imperial overreach but as evidence of national strength. That fact should trouble Americans far more than it troubles Venezuelans. Many of those supporters present themselves as the strongest defenders of freedom, sovereignty and self-government. They condemn foreign influence in American affairs and invoke the nation's anti-colonial origins with understandable pride. Yet when another country's sovereignty becomes constrained by American power, the principle suddenly appears less important. The contradiction is difficult to ignore.

The Freedom Exception

The United States occupies a unique place in modern history because it was founded in opposition to an empire. The American Revolution transformed resistance to external control into a defining national principle. Liberty, self-government and sovereignty became central elements of American identity. Generations of Americans were taught that freedom was not merely a national possession but a universal ideal. That is what makes the current

defended universally. Sovereignty becomes a right for the powerful and a privilege for the weak. Liberty remains celebrated in speeches while becoming increasingly conditional in practice. History suggests that this process carries dangers far beyond foreign policy. The founders of the American Republic understood that imperial power could corrupt republican institutions. Their concern was not merely what power would do to foreign peoples. It was what the exercise of power would do to Americans themselves. A republic depends upon citizens who believe that principles apply consistently. Once exceptions become routine, cynicism follows. The language of freedom survives, but its substance gradually weakens.

The photograph from New Delhi will soon be forgotten. Diplomats will move on. Oil contracts will be negotiated. Venezuela's future remains uncertain. Yet the image captured something larger than a diplomatic meeting. It showed a republic founded in opposition to an empire that was growing increasingly comfortable exercising imperial influence over another nation's most valuable resource. More troublingly, it suggested that millions of Americans no longer regard that contradiction as particularly troubling. Americans, and Indians, should pay attention. History repeatedly demonstrates that the habits developed abroad rarely remain abroad. A society that becomes comfortable making exceptions to its principles overseas eventually begins making exceptions at home. A nation that learns to tolerate the erosion of freedom abroad may one day discover that the habit has returned home.

Active citizens key to Viksit Bharat 2047: Vijender Gupta



Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta emphasizes the vital role of civic participation and modern legislatures in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Delhi Legislative Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta called for a strong partnership between an informed and vigilant citizenry and modern, future-ready legislatures, saying both are indispensable for realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Addressing the second plenary session of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Zone-II (North Zone) Conference at the Haryana Legislative Assembly, Gupta said India's development journey must be driven not only by economic growth but also by robust democratic institutions and a deep sense of civic responsibility. Speaking on the theme, "Role of Aware Society and Legislators in Realising Future Challenges and the Goal of Viksit Bharat 2047," Gupta said the success of a developed India would depend on how effectively citizens and lawmakers work together to transform aspirations into outcomes. "If citizens provide democratic vigilance, legislators must provide democratic direction. If society generates aspirations, institutions must convert those aspirations into outcomes," he said, stressing that democratic progress requires both public participation and responsive governance. Gupta said India is entering a decisive phase of its development journey with confidence, backed by its emergence as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

Peddi Continues Strong Box Office Run!



The Box office of India has announced that the collection for the movie, Peddi, has continued to grow really well as the film is performing strongly in theaters across India and overseas. Peddi has become one of the biggest successes in the Telugu cinema this year. This film has attracted a large amount of audience even since it had been released and has also received a very strong support from fans. According to the information given by the Box office of India, the collection on day 6 for Peddi was around Rupees 6.67 crores in India even after the slowdown during the weekdays. To total it up, the film has collected about more than Rupees 176 crore in India, while if we look at it from a view of India with overseas countries, then it has moved closer to the Rupees 300 crore mark. If the performance for the movie remains like this, it may even achieve a big milestone! Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the film features Ram Charan alongside Janhvi Kapoor and several well-known actors. The sports drama opened with impressive collections and maintained strong momentum throughout its first week. Although there was a drop in collections after the weekend, audience interest has remained high, especially in Telugu-speaking regions. Due to the strong collection in the box office for the movie highlights the growing popularity of the Telugu cinema not only in South India, but also across the whole country. Ram Charan's position has also been strengthened by this movie by a lot as he is one of the leading stars in the film industry of India. Fans have praised the awesome action, sequences and the emotional storyline of the movie. To sum it all up at the very end, Peddi has continued its successful run in the box office of India. The film has become one of the biggest box-office performers of the year in the Indian film industry.

Bandi Sanjay announces outreach programmes to mark 12 years of Modi government



Karimnagar: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Tuesday unveiled a series of outreach programmes across the Karimnagar Parliamentary constituency to commemorate 12 years of the Narendra Modi-led BJP government at the Centre. Addressing a meeting of BJP district and mandal presidents at Chaitanyapuri in Karimnagar, Bandi Sanjay reviewed the activities planned as part of the celebrations and called upon

party workers to actively participate in initiatives aimed at strengthening government school education. With government schools scheduled to reopen on June 15, he urged party cadres to ensure that school premises were cleaned and made ready for students. As part of the constituency-wide 'Swachh Pathshala' campaign on June 13, BJP workers will clean government primary, upper primary and high schools across all villages in the seven Assembly segments.

The Minister directed party leaders to hold mandal-level meetings on June 10 and appoint in-charges for individual schools. He also asked workers to organise 'Tiffin Baithak' meetings in villages on June 11 and 12 to mobilise public participation. Volunteers have been advised to clean classrooms, improve school surroundings and create a welcoming atmosphere for students ahead of the new academic session. Bandi Sanjay further announced

that free branded bicycles would once again be distributed to Class 10 students studying in government schools under the 'Modi Gift' programme. He said efforts would be made to conduct the distribution simultaneously across the constituency and on a scale large enough to seek recognition in the Guinness World Records. To mark the occasion, he will also offer special prayers at the Mahashakti Temple in Karimnagar on Wednesday.

Andhra Premier League 2026: A Grand Celebration of Talent and Culture

Catch the action of the Andhra Premier League 2026! Discover how the ACA is bringing top-tier cricket, cultural festivities, and new opportunities for young talent to Visakhapatnam, Kadapa, and Mangalagiri. The wait is finally over for cricket fans across Andhra Pradesh. The Andhra Cricket Association (ACA) has officially pulled back the curtain on the 2026 Andhra Premier League (APL), promising an action-packed tournament that goes far beyond just cricket. ACA Secretary and Rajya Sabha Member, Sana Satish Babu, joined ACA President Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) in Vijayawada to announce that all preparations are complete. This year's league is designed to be a massive celebration of the sport, spanning three major cities to ensure fans across the state can join the excitement. A Three-City Cricket Carnival To bring top-tier cricket closer to the people, the tournament will travel through three venues: ? Visakhapatnam (June 9-14): The action kicks off in the coastal city. ? Kadapa (June 17-21): The league moves inland to ignite the passion of local fans.

Building a Path for Young Stars At its core, the APL is about discovering the next generation of cricket heroes. The organizers are laser-focused on giving talented players from small towns and cities a professional stage to shine. The success of Guntur's own cricketer, Rashid, who recently earned a spot



in the India-A team, stands as a proud example of what this league aims to achieve. By prioritizing local talent, the ACA is actively building a bridge for these players to eventually reach the national stage. More Than Just Cricket The APL 2026 is designed to be a festival for everyone, not just sports enthusiasts. The ACA is blending the high-energy matches with the rich cultural heritage of Andhra Pradesh. Fans attending the games will enjoy: Cultural Performances: Traditional arts like Tholu Bommalata (shadow puppetry) and Kolatam will take center stage. ? Entertainment: The event will feature lively music and cinema-inspired shows to keep the crowd cheering. ? Student Access: Education is a key focus. The ACA

is providing free match passes to students from government schools and colleges, ensuring the next generation can experience the game live. Future-Ready Infrastructure The matches will be played under high-quality floodlights, offering a premium experience for those in the stands and those watching from home. Looking to the future, the ACA has a clear vision: developing Mangalagiri into a major hub for Andhra cricket, complete with world-class facilities for training and professional play. For fans who cannot make it to the stadium, the entire tournament will be broadcast live on Jio Star Sports, ensuring that the spirit of the APL reaches every corner of the globe.

TCS to match AI agents with human workforce in 3 years: N Chandrasekaran

Mumbai: Tata Consultancy Services expects a major transformation in the coming years, with artificial intelligence (AI) becoming deeply integrated into its workforce and operations, its Chairman N Chandrasekaran said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the 31st Annual General Meeting here, he said that over the next three years, the company could have as many AI agents as human employees, marking a major shift in how work is done at TCS.

He said the company is building what he called "the most consequential work" in its history, as AI reshapes the global technology services industry.

"Some say AI poses a fundamental threat to that model. I see it differently: far from being a mortal threat, AI is the most significant



opportunity yet for enterprise IT," he said.

According to him, nearly three-fourths of enterprises worldwide expect their technology spending to rise in the next two years, driven largely by AI adoption. "Globally, three-quarters of enterprises expect technology spend to increase over the next two years, largely thanks to AI," he added.

Chandrasekaran also pointed to strong momentum in TCS's AI business. He said that in the last quarter of FY26, the company recorded an annualised AI revenue of \$2.4 billion, which is growing at a compound quarterly growth rate of 22.4 per cent.

He noted that despite investor concerns and recent pressure on the broader IT sector, the company's fundamentals remain

strong, with stable margins, rising revenues and a strong deal pipeline.

"Today, AI primarily exists in the world of software and computers, but soon it will make inroads into the physical world: stores, factories, warehouses, energy networks, vehicles and supply chains. This will require experts who understand how to link IT, AI and physical equipment and infrastructure," he explained.

Addressing concerns about AI replacing jobs in the IT services industry, he acknowledged that a key question has emerged: if AI can perform much of the work, what happens to a sector built around delivering those services?

However, he argued that the fear is based on a misunderstanding of how AI will interact with enterprise systems.

Congress unveils '12 years, 12 failures' report to target Modi Govt

On employment, the party claimed that promises of transforming India into a global jobs hub remained unfulfilled. AICC Research Department Chairman Rajeev Gowda said unemployment among educated youth continues to be a serious challenge and warned that India's demographic dividend could become a demographic burden if sufficient quality jobs are not created. Launching a sharp attack on the Narendra Modi government after 12 years in power, the Congress on Monday released an "accountability report" highlighting what it described as the Centre's major failures across the economy, employment, agriculture, governance, education and social welfare. The party alleged that while government publicity campaigns have intensified over the years, the actual condition of citizens has deteriorated on several key indicators. AICC Research Department Chairman Rajeev Gowda and Communication Department Research and Monitoring In-charge Amitabh Dubey said the government had failed to deliver on promises relating to economic growth, job creation, farmers' welfare, gov-



ernance reforms and social development. "Propaganda has replaced performance," Gowda remarked, accusing the BJP-led government of prioritising image-building over addressing the challenges faced by ordinary citizens. Questioning the government's economic narrative, Gowda criticised repeated claims that India is on track to become the world's third-largest economy. He argued that despite such assertions, India had slipped from fourth to sixth place in global economic rankings due to the depreciation of the rupee against the US dollar. He also pointed to recent foreign investment trends, claiming that international investors had withdrawn significant capital from Indian markets, contradict-

ing the government's portrayal of economic stability. Inflation and the rising cost of living were major concerns raised in the report. Gowda alleged that prices of essential commodities and services, including LPG cylinders, petrol, diesel, milk and pulses, had increased substantially during the BJP's tenure, placing a heavy burden on household budgets. The Congress also criticised the reduction in subsidised LPG cylinders under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, arguing that it would adversely affect women and economically weaker families.

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cated youth continues to be a serious challenge and warned that India's demographic dividend could become a demographic burden if sufficient quality jobs are not created. He also highlighted the difficulties faced by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), linking their struggles to policy decisions such as demonetisation and alleging that thousands of small businesses had shut down over the years. The report further questioned the government's performance in agriculture, noting that the promise of doubling farmers' incomes remains unrealised. It cited continuing agrarian distress and farm-related suicides as evidence of unresolved rural challenges. The Congress also raised concerns over foreign policy, democratic institutions and education. Gowda criticised changes in the Election Commission appointment process and referred to reports of voter deletions in several states. He further highlighted repeated examination paper leaks, cancelled tests and re-examinations, saying such incidents had undermined trust in the education system.

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Minister Bharath hands over Rs 1.85 crore total CMRF cheques



Kurnool: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Industries, Commerce and Food Processing, TG Bharath, on Tuesday distributed financial assistance cheques sanctioned under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to 16 beneficiaries from the Kurnool Assembly constituency. The cheques were handed over at the Minister's office, where he reiterated the government's commitment to extending timely support to people facing financial hardships. Addressing the beneficiaries, the Minister said the Chief Minister's Relief Fund has become an important source of relief for families struggling with medical emergencies and other unforeseen crises. He emphasized that the State Government is implementing welfare measures without any political bias and is ensuring that deserving individuals receive assistance whenever they are in need.

According to him, the scheme reflects the government's people-centric approach and its dedication to social welfare. The beneficiaries received financial aid ranging from several thousand rupees to over Rs 7.5 lakh, depending on their respective cases. Among those who received assistance were Ramakrishna Reddy, Madhura Mani, Swapna, Mounika, Madhava Krishna, Padmasri, Manohar, Srinivasa Rao, Mohammed Shabaz Khan, Malan Bee, Chakali Chandrasekhar, Sudheer Kumar, Uday Kumar, Shaik Badrunnisa, Vijaya Bhaskar Raju, and Bachala Uma (Bachala Sunil Kumar Reddy), with the sanctioned amounts determined under the provisions of the CMRF scheme. Highlighting the broader impact of the initiative, Bharath stated that 188 beneficiaries from the constituency have so far received financial assistance amounting to Rs.1,85,29,563 through the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The recipients expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Minister TG Bharath for providing timely financial support, stating that the assistance would significantly ease their burden during difficult times.

Firing on peaceful protesters in PoJK similar to Jallianwala Bagh'

Former J&K DGP S P Vaid has strongly condemned the violent crackdown on protesters in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), describing the firing on civilians as a tragedy akin to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. Learn about the ongoing civil unrest and the demands for basic necessities currently fueling the protests. Jammu: Former Director General of Police of Jammu and Kashmir, S P Vaid, strongly condemned the violence in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), accusing Islamabad of using excessive force against civilians and peaceful protesters. "The situation in PoJK is extremely serious. Many people have been killed and several others have been injured due to indiscriminate firing. According to reports, Pakistan Rangers, the Pakistan Army, and local police have opened fire, resulting in multiple casualties," Vaid said. He asserted that the ongoing unrest has exposed Pakistan's "false narrative" on Jammu and Kashmir, arguing that the people of PoJK themselves are now challenging Islamabad's policies. "The firing on peaceful protesters is similar to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre," Vaid said, claiming that citizens demanding their rights were met with bullets instead of dialogue. He further alleged that Pakistan has never genuinely cared for the welfare of Kashmiris and has repeatedly used force to suppress dissent. Vaid claimed that the protesters were seeking basic necessities, including food, flour, and other essential services. "Instead of addressing their demands, Pakistan is declaring ordinary people terrorists," he said.

Cops save man in 8 mins after suicide alert on Insta



The incident came to light under the coordination mechanism between the Uttar Pradesh Police and Meta, which flags posts indicating possible self-harm and shares alerts with authorities. Meerut: A 25-year-old man's life was saved after Meerut Police acted on a suicide alert received from Meta following an Instagram post, reaching him within eight minutes and getting him admitted to a hospital, officials have said. The incident came to light under the coordination mechanism between the Uttar Pradesh Police and Meta, which flags posts indicating possible self-harm and shares alerts with authorities. According to a police statement, the youth, a resident of Sardhana area in Meerut, had posted a video on Instagram on June 7 in which he appeared to be consuming a white-coloured liquid. The video carried the message, "Ab tum khush rehna apni life mein (Now you stay happy in your life)". Police said Meta sent a suicide alert regarding the post to the Social Media Centre at the police headquarters at 6.53 pm. Acting on the directions of the Director General of Police, the centre immediately informed Meerut Police based on the available mobile number and location details. Under the supervision of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Sardhana police reached the youth's residence and found his condition critical. A bottle containing a suspected liquid substance was also found near him, officials said. Police personnel, with the help of family members, rushed him to a nearby hospital where his condition improved after treatment. During questioning, the youth said he was under stress and depression following the end of a relationship, which led him to attempt the extreme step. Police said counselling was provided to the youth and his family members and necessary guidance was given.

PoK Erupts Over A Ban: 30 killed as Pak forces fire at protesters

Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) faces a surge in deadly violence following the government's ban on the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC). Discover the roots of the unrest, from demands for economic reform to the contentious debate over refugee legislative seats. Rawalakot/Srinagar: Pakistani security forces opened fire on protesters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), killing over 30 people and injuring scores more in a crackdown that sources described as among the territory's most violent in recent memory. The immediate trigger was the banning of the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) on June 6 under anti-terrorism legislation. This move, sources said, amounted to criminalising a civil rights movement. Founded in September 2023, the JAAC is a coalition of traders, transporters, lawyers and student groups that has become the most credible grassroots platform in PoK.



Apple Unveils AI-Powered Siri and Major Software Upgrades at WWDC 2026

Apple opened its Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) 2026 with one of its biggest software announcements in recent years, placing artificial intelligence at the centre of its ecosystem. The company revealed a redesigned Siri powered by an upgraded Apple Intelligence framework developed in partnership with Google's Gemini AI models. The keynote showcased Apple's renewed push into AI alongside updates for iOS 27, macOS 27 "Golden Gate," iPadOS 27, watchOS 27, tvOS 27, and visionOS 27. While previous WWDC events focused heavily on design changes, this year's announcements concentrated more on intelligence, performance improvements, and deeper integration across devices. The biggest highlight was the launch of "Siri AI," a significantly enhanced version of Apple's digital assistant. Apple said the assistant is now more conversational, context-aware, and capable of understanding on-screen information while carrying out actions across apps. Siri can also maintain context during longer conversations, enabling users to complete more complex tasks without repeating commands.

During demonstrations, Apple showed Siri drafting emails, retrieving details from messages, planning

events, and performing tasks across apps without forcing users to switch manually between applications. The company also introduced a new "Ask Siri" interface that supports both text and voice interactions in a more immersive full-screen layout. Another major addition is a standalone Siri app designed to make the assistant a persistent AI companion rather than a simple voice tool. The app stores conversation history, allowing users to continue previous chats seamlessly across Apple devices through iCloud syncing. At the core of these capabilities is Apple Intelligence, which now combines on-device processing with cloud-based computing through Apple's Private Cloud Compute system. Apple confirmed that Google's Gemini models are integrated into its foundation AI layer to improve text, image, and speech understanding while maintaining a strong privacy-focused approach.

Apple also introduced "Visual Intelligence," enabling Siri to understand visual inputs from the Camera app, screenshots, and desktop tools. Users can point their iPhone camera at objects or text and receive contextual information or suggested actions instantly. Several AI-powered features are now embedded throughout



Apple's ecosystem. Writing Tools can assist users with drafting and editing text, Safari can organise tabs by topics, and Messages, Mail, and Calendar now provide contextual suggestions. Apple also upgraded Shortcuts with natural language automation features. The Passwords app received agentic AI capabilities as well. Apple demonstrated how the app can automatically navigate websites, sign users in, and update passwords in the background without requiring manual input. Image Playground and Photos also gained major AI enhancements. Users can generate more realistic images using text prompts, edit selected portions of images, expand photos beyond their original frame, and even adjust perspective after a picture has been captured.

Alongside AI updates, Apple announced performance improvements across its operating systems. Apps on iPhone and iPad are expected to launch up to 30 per cent faster, while file transfers and AirDrop speeds have also been improved. Apple confirmed that iOS 27 will support devices as old as the iPhone 11. The company additionally announced new safety tools for children and families, including stronger parental controls, safer browsing approvals, and improved communication safety protections. Developer beta versions of the new software updates are available immediately, while public beta releases are expected in July. Apple plans to roll out the final versions later this year alongside its next generation of hardware.

Iran And US Trade Strikes Following Apache Helicopter Downing

As the US starts retaliatory airstrikes in southern Iran and Tehran retaliates with drone assaults on US regional bases, military tensions rise close to the Strait of Hormuz. The downing of a US Army Apache helicopter has sparked a risky military escalation close to the Strait of Hormuz. American forces launched three rounds of precision airstrikes against Iranian radar systems, air defense units, and ground control stations in southern regions such as Jask, Bandar Abbas, Sirik, and Qeshm Island after a US probe revealed that an Iranian drone had struck the helicopter. According to local sources, the strikes reportedly destroyed water utilities and a telecommunications tower, despite US Central Command's (CENTCOM) declaration that these self-defense operations are already concluded. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that the US was testing Tehran's resolve in reaction to the US operation, stating that the



nation would not tolerate any danger and urging US forces to withdraw from the area. Simultaneously, a joint operation by the Iranian military and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) retaliated with drone and missile strikes targeting the US Navy's Fifth Fleet in Bahrain as well as other

American bases. In the midst of continuous regional conflicts, Bahraini authorities have advised civilians to seek refuge, but US military officials insist they are still in a strong position to stave off more aggression.

YS Jagan to visit victims of Vizag steel plant accident

Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is set to visit Visakhapatnam to console the victims of the tragic accident at the steel plant and the families of the deceased workers. He will personally meet the family members of the workers who lost their lives and reassure them of the party's support. Additionally, he will

visit the injured undergoing emergency treatment at various hospitals in the city to offer them moral support. Political circles indicate that he is likely to announce ex-gratia payments to the victims on behalf of the YSR Congress Party during this visit. Party cadres in Visakhapatnam have completed all arrangements for YS Jagan's visit. Politics Y.S. Jagan's tour will begin at 10:00 AM from his residence in Tadepalli. He will travel by



road to Gannavaram Airport and arrive at Visakhapatnam Airport via a special flight at 11:20 AM. From the airport, he will proceed directly to Seven Hills Hospital in Ramnagar, arriving at 11:40 AM to console the victims undergoing treatment there. He will then depart at 1:10 PM and reach KIMS Icon Hospital in Sheelanagar at 1:50 PM, where he will inquire about the health condition of the injured patients.

Revanth Reddy, Chandrababu and Pawan Kalyan and YS Jagan mourns over death of film director Bharathiraja

Telangana Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy expressed deep sorrow over the passing of actor and film director Bharathiraja. The Chief Minister recalled that Bharathiraja left an indelible mark on the film industry over nearly four decades, earning great acclaim as a prominent director and actor. The Chief Minister noted that Bharathiraja's death is an irreparable loss to the film industry, acknowledging his significant contributions to Indian cinema through the creation of diverse and socially conscious films across various languages. Conveying his condolences, the Chief Minister expressed his deepest sympathies to the family members and fans of the late filmmaker. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister also expressed



condolences over the demise of popular director Bharathiraja. "The passing of renowned film director Bharathiraja is deeply saddening. He delivered memo-

orable films to both the Telugu and Tamil film industries. His death is an irreparable loss to the Indian film fraternity. I pray for his soul to rest in peace and

extend my deepest condolences to his family members." Naidu wrote on X.

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan responded to the news via the social media platform 'X', praising the unique mark Bharathiraja left on Tamil and Telugu cinema. He remarked that the Telugu film Seethakoka Chiluka, directed by him, remains a must-watch even today. Pawan stated that he is praying to God for the peace of the departed soul. Telangana News App YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan expressed deep shock over the passing of legendary director Bharathiraja. He was praised as a director who portrayed human relationships on the silver screen with remarkable authenticity. It was

remarked that his passing is an irreparable loss to the South Indian film industry and the world of art. Reacting to the news of his death, Y.S. Jagan stated, "Bharathiraja earned a unique identity in the history of Indian cinema by authentically portraying rural life and human relationships on screen; as both a director and an actor, he influenced generations of film enthusiasts. He left a distinct mark not only as a director but also as an actor, recently winning audience acclaim for his remarkable performances in several films. His death is an irreparable loss to the South Indian film industry and the arts. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, fans, and the film fraternity, and pray for his soul to rest in peace."

Sonali Bendre says 'Raakh' gave her reassurance as an actor

Mumbai: Actress Sonali Bendre revealed that her role in "Raakh" made her realise that protecting yourself as a person and being open as an actor are not mutually exclusive. She added that playing Mona Arora in the OTT series gave her the opportunity to explore some uncomfortable and complex emotions. Sonali's role, shaped by grief, loss, and resilience in the aftermath of a massive tragedy, marked her return as an actor into the emotionally demanding territory. Sharing the impact the project had on her on a personal level, Sonali said, "Over the last few years, I found myself naturally gravitating towards stories that felt lighter emotionally. So when Raakh came along, I did wonder what it would be like



to spend so much time in such an intense emotional space. What surprised me was realising that I was able to engage with those emotions without carrying them home with me. As an actor, that was reassuring."

Sonali further stated that the experience reminded her that one can go to diffi-

cult places at work and still continue to remain grounded in themselves. Speaking about the personal take-aways from working on "Raakh", Sonali shared that the project made her rethink something she hadn't consciously examined earlier. "I realised that protecting yourself as a person and

being open as an actor are not mutually exclusive. Raakh allowed me to explore emotions that are uncomfortable and complex, while also trusting that I could step away from them when the work was done. That was an important discovery for me," revealed Sonali. Starring Ali Fazal, Sonali Bendre, and Aamir Bashir as the core cast, "Raakh" has been directed and executive produced by Prosit Roy. The show has been created, written, and co-directed by Anusha Nandakumar and Sandeep Saket. Backed by Endemol Shine India, along with BhaDiPa, the series is expected to premiere on Prime Video on June 12 in India and also across more than 240 countries and territories worldwide.

'Dhurandhar' fame Danish Pandor opens up on working with Imtiaz Ali in 'Main Vaapas Aaunga'

Mumbai: Actor Danish Pandor has opened up about working with filmmaker Imtiaz Ali in his upcoming film "Main Vaapas Aaunga." In an exclusive quote shared with IANS, Danish, who is set to make a special appearance in the film, shared that he auditioned for the role just before the release of Dhurandhar and had already wrapped up shooting for the film prior to its theatrical release. Speaking about performing in front of Imtiaz, Danish stated, "So, whenever I used to perform or any other actor used to perform, he was right there, standing in front of you and seeing you as if he's watching a play. And yeah, so that was a different feeling and an experience for me as well." Talking about working with the filmmaker, Pandor added, "Extremely humble soul, very polite, very, very calm, and he knows exactly what he wants from an actor. And he'll make sure that he takes that thing out. And he doesn't look at the monitor. He looks at the actor performing. Yeah. So, that's a That's a different thing, yeah." Danish Pandor, who received widespread appreciation for his strong performance in 'Dhurandhar 2', has kept details about his character under



wraps, but hinted that even though it is a special appearance, the role plays an important part in the story. On a related note, "Main Vaapas Aaunga" also features Diljit Dosanjh, Naseeruddin Shah, Sharvari Wagh, and Vedang Raina in important roles. The musical score is composed by

A.R. Rahman, with lyrics penned by Irshad Kamil. The project is jointly produced by Birla Studios, Applause Entertainment, and Window Seat Films' Mohit Choudhary and Shibasish Sarkar. The film is scheduled to release in cinemas worldwide on June 12, 2026.

Nayanthara celebrates another year of marital bliss with Vignesh Shivan with perfect family pics



Mumbai: Power couple Nayanthara and Vignesh Shivan completed 4 years of marital bliss on Tuesday. Commemorating the special occasion, Nayanthara treated the netizens with some rare family photos of the lovebirds and their twin boys - RudroNeel N Shivan and Ulag Daiwik N Shivan. One of the pics from the album which seems to be from their recent vacay to the Vatican City shows the two giving a romantic pose in front of a bridge. In another picture, Nayanthara and Vignesh were seen locking lips, with one of the boys sitting on the director's shoulders. From simply walking the streets of the Vatican with their two boys to flaunting their infectious smile for the camera, the post included many heartwarming moments of the cute little family. "Happy Anniversary to Us (sic)," Nayanthara captioned the post.

Nayanthara and Vignesh came close while working on the 2015 Tamil film, "Naanum Rowdy Dhaan". After being in a relationship for many years, the lovebirds finally tied the knot on June 9, 2022, in a grand ceremony in Mahabalipuram. The traditional nuptials were attended by many prominent names from the entertainment industry, such as Shah Rukh Khan, Rajinikanth, AR Rahman, Suriya, Vijay Sethupathi, and Atlee. Taking the next step, the couple welcomed twin boys, Uyir RudroNeel N Shivan and Ulag Daiwik N Shivan, via surrogacy on September 22, 2022. Work-wise, Nayanthara will soon be seen in Geetu Mohandas's eagerly awaited action entertainer 'Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups', which will see 'KGF' actor Yash as the lead. Earlier, talking about casting Nayanthara as Ganga in the movie, director Geetu Mohandas said, "I wanted to portray Nayan in a way that she's never been showcased before. But as the shoot progressed I began to see how closely her own personality echoed the soul of the character. It wasn't imitation, it was alignment. The depth, the honesty, the restraint, and the emotional clarity she brought were not performances layered on top of the character, they were qualities she already possessed."

Suryakumar responds to captaincy axe with message for Team India, congratulates Vaibhav

New Delhi: India's T20 World Cup winner Suryakumar Yadav has broken his silence after being removed as the men's T20I captain, extending his best wishes to the national team and congratulating teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi on earning his maiden international call-up. National Politics Updates Hours after the BCCI announced Shreyas Iyer as India's new T20I captain and left Suryakumar out of the squads for the upcoming tours of Ireland, England, and the Asian Games, the 35-year-old took to social media for the first time. In an Instagram story, Suryakumar shared a photograph of the Indian team and wrote, "Wishing this highly skilled group all the best for the challenges ahead." The brief message came shortly after chief selector Ajit Agarkar



described the decision to move on from Suryakumar as captain as a "tough one", despite him leading India to the T20 World Cup title earlier this year.

"With regards to Surya, obviously, it's a tough one, having just won the World Cup. Someone who's led you to the World Cup, it's not the easiest thing to try and change," Agarkar said in the press conference. Suryakumar's recent

struggles with the bat also influenced the decision. The 35-year-old endured a lean T20 World Cup campaign and followed it up with a disappointing IPL 2026 season, scoring 270 runs in 13 innings as the Mumbai Indians finished ninth. Suryakumar also reserved special praise for 15-year-old batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who was named in India's T20I squad on Saturday following a sensational IPL

campaign. Sharing a separate message on social media, Suryakumar wrote, "You have earned it and how. Super excited to follow your journey." Sooryavanshi's selection caps a remarkable rise for the Rajasthan Royals opener, who emerged as one of the breakout stars of IPL 2026. The left-handed batter amassed 776 runs during the season, including a century and five half-centuries, and finished as the tournament's Most Valuable Player. The teenager is now on the verge of creating history. If he makes his international debut during the upcoming series, Vaibhav could become India's youngest-ever international cricketer, surpassing the record held by legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar, who made his Test debut at the age of 16 years and 205 days in 1989.

Pakistan women to tour Sri Lanka for white-ball series in July

Karachi: The Pakistan women's cricket team will travel to Sri Lanka next month for a six-match white-ball series, comprising three ODIs and as many T20Is, said the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Wednesday. PCB added that all matches will be played at the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket Stadium in Hambantota. The ODIs, scheduled for July 23, 25 and 28, respectively, are a part of the ICC Women's Championship 2025-29 cycle. Pakistan currently occupies second place in the standings with eight points from six matches, having won four games. New Zealand lead the table with 13 points, though they have played



three more matches than Pakistan. Sri Lanka, meanwhile, are at the third spot with eight points from six games and also have four wins but are placed behind Pakistan due to differences in net run rate.

The tour will conclude with three T20Is to be played

on July 31, August 2 and August 4, respectively. Both Pakistan and Sri Lanka are presently in the United Kingdom to participate in the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup, starting on June 12 and ending on July 5. Pakistan are in Group A of the com-

petition alongside India, six-time winners Australia, Bangladesh, South Africa and the Netherlands. Sri Lanka, meanwhile, are in Group B alongside hosts and 2009 winners England, defending champions New Zealand, the West Indies, Ireland and Scotland. National Politics Updates In 21 T20Is between the two sides, Pakistan have won 11 matches while Sri Lanka have claimed nine wins, with one match ending in no result. In ODIs, the teams have met 34 times, with Pakistan winning 11 of them and losing 22 games, while one game was abandoned. The series in Hambantota will give both teams chances to clinch valuable ODI

Mixed fortunes for Indian men's doubles

Sydney: India's M R Arjun and Hariharan Amsakarunan cruised into the second round of men's doubles at the Australian Badminton Open after beating the American duo of Arden Quan Lee and Stanley Xing. The Indians registered a 21-13, 21-13 win in their opening round match here at Olympic Boulevard. Arjun and Hariharan Amsakarunan led the first game from start to end and won it comfortably. The American duo put up a fight early in the second game and went into the break trailing by a single point. After the restart, the Indian duo scored the next 10 points quickly while conceding just two and closed out the match in straight games.

Meanwhile, India's other men's doubles pair in the tournament - Achutaditya Rao Doddavarapu and Arjun Reddy Pochana suffered an exit after losing 21-15, 21-15 to the local pair of Kanki Igawa and Ooi Ye Hern in the opening round.

Doddavarapu and Pochana's exit leaves Arjun-Amsakarunan as the only Indian challenge remaining in the men's doubles in the tournament. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty, India's top-ranked doubles team, skipped the BWF Super 500 meet on account of the shoulder injury Satwik suffered last week in Indonesia. Earlier in the day, India's Saneeth Dayanand, appearing in



his maiden Super 500 badminton tournament, made the cut for the men's singles main draw after winning two qualifying matches. Dayanand and Tharun Manneppalli will be carrying Indian hopes in the men's singles as Lakshya Sen,

who won the Australian Open men's singles title last year, isn't defending his crown this year, while Ayush Shetty and HS Prannoy withdrew at the 11th hour after appearing in the entry list initially.

Chota Nagpur Royals takes on Ranchi Titans in Jharkhand T20 League opener, Dhoni to attend opening ceremony



Ranchi: Virat Singh led, Chota Nagpur Royals will take on Rajandeep Singh's Ranchi Titans in the opening match of the Jharkhand T20 League starting from June 10 at the JSCA International Stadium Complex. The opener will be followed the opening ceremony for the Jharkhand T20 League which will be attended by the pride of Jharkhand, MS. Dhoni, one of the most internationally respected cricketers India has produced. National Politics Updates The second match of the day will be played between Koylanchal Super Kings and Jamshedpur Steelers, captained by Utkarsh Singh and Kumar Deobrat, respectively. The Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) have announced the final fixtures for the twenty-seven matches to be played at the JSCA International Stadium Complex, including the two semi-finals and the final. Six franchises i.e. Ranchi Titans, Jamshedpur Steelers, Chota Nagpur Royals, Koylanchal Super Kings, Dhanbad Diamonds and Santhal Strikers will be fighting for the coveted trophy of the inaugural Jharkhand T20 League.

"This league marks a significant milestone in Jharkhand cricket. We are excited to witness the best talent from the state compete at a professional level and inspire the next generation of cricketers and wish all the teams and the cricketers the best of luck," said Ajay Nath Shah Deo, President, JSCA. "The response from players, franchises and supporters has already been phenomenal. We are confident that the inaugural edition will set a strong benchmark for the future" stated by Sanjay Pandey, Vice President, JSCA. "The Jharkhand T20 League will create immense opportunities for young players to showcase their abilities alongside experienced campaigners. We look forward to an exciting season ahead" said Saurabh Tiwary, Honorary Secretary, JSCA. "We are confident that the Jharkhand T20 League will provide fans with two weeks of thrilling and highly competitive cricket while creating valuable opportunities for emerging talent" said Shahbaz Nadeem, Joint Secretary, JSCA. The core aim of the league is to create a platform enabling cricketers to showcase their talent and excel at the state, national and international level. Ishan Kishan, Robin Minz, Kumar Kushagra, Anukul Roy, Sushant Mishra, Utkarsh Singh and Virat Singh are amongst the key players that will be seen in action at the inaugural Jharkhand T20 League.

Kerr No 1 all-rounder; Kaur returns to top 10

Dubai: New Zealand star Melie Kerr dethroned West Indies skipper Healy Matthews to regain the top spot in the T20I all-rounders chart as the International Cricket Council (ICC) released the updated women's rankings on Tuesday. Kerr returns to the top position just days before the start of the T20 World Cup, with West Indies skipper Hayley Matthews dropping back to the No.2 slot after she sat out her side's final fixture of the recent tri-series in Ireland. Despite New Zealand's skipper claiming the throne, the race at the top of the all-rounders chart remains tight, with Kerr's lead sitting at just five rating points as the two influential skippers jostle for positions at the upcoming T20 World Cup in England and Wales that commences on June 12. While the Australian duo of Georgia Voll and Beth Mooney has continued to remain at top two positions in the batters ranking and will head to the tournament as number one and two batters. Indian skipper Harmanpreet Kaur has improved her position by one spot and is back in the top 10 list following her unbeaten half-century in the recent series decider against England in Taunton. National Politics Updates