



BJP Striving for Double-Engine Govt in Telangana: Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Hyderabad on May 10 and hold a massive rally, Union Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy said. Reddy said that the BJP is intensifying efforts to establish a "double-engine government" in Telangana in the 2027 Assembly elections. While speaking to reporters, Reddy said, "A major rally, led by the BJP, is scheduled to take place in Hyderabad on May 10. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 A public meeting will also be held as part of the Prime Minister's visit. Furthermore, the BJP is actively striving to establish a double-engine government in Telangana. This aspi-



ration stems from the fact that over the past ten years, spanning the BRS government's tenure and the subsequent two-and-a-half years under the Congress government, not a single promise made to the public has been fulfilled. Also Read - Telangana To Be India's Aerospace & Defence Capital By 2030: Uttam Kumar Consequently, Telangana is currently grappling with a severe economic and

financial crisis. In the 2023 Assembly elections in Telangana, the Congress won 64 seats, comfortably going beyond the majority mark of 60 seats in the 119-seat Assembly. The BRS was the second largest party with 39 seats, while the BJP managed just eight seats. AIMIM, which holds a major presence in Hyderabad, won seven seats while the Communist Party of India (CPI) secured a single seat.

Revanth Reddy Vows to Transform Kodangal Into Model Constituency

Kodangal: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Friday outlined an ambitious roadmap to transform Kodangal into a model constituency, focusing on irrigation, education, infrastructure and industrial development. Addressing a public meeting in Kodangal, he said the region, known for the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple, would be developed into a prominent spiritual and economic hub. He recalled his political journey from winning as an MLA in 2009 to becoming Chief Minister, crediting party workers and the people for their support. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 The Chief Minister



announced that the Narayanpet-Kodangal lift irrigation scheme would be completed within 18 months to bring Krishna river waters to the region,

which has long faced water scarcity. He assured that there were no hurdles in funding and that the project would transform agriculture in the area.

that the projectvillage and hamlet. Also Read - Telangana To Be India's Aerospace & Defence Capital By 2030: Uttam Kumar Revanth Reddy

Highlighting welfare measures, he said the government was implementing schemes such as farm loan waiver, ration distribution, housing and education support. He also emphasised improvements in road connectivity, stating that roads had been built for every hat there were no hurdles in funding and that the projectvillage and hamlet. Also Read - Telangana To Be India's Aerospace & Defence Capital By 2030: Uttam Kumar Revanth Reddy said Kodangal would soon emerge as an education hub, with medical, engineering, nursing and polytechnic colleges, along with other institutions, being established. He added that an industrial park over 2,300 acres would be developed near Lagacharla, creating employment opportunities for locals. He further noted that railway connectivity in the region was nearing completion and a cement industry would be set up soon. The Chief Minister called for people to rise above political differences and work collectively for development, setting a target to complete key projects in Kodangal by December 2027.

28 Persons Fall Ill Due to Food Poisoning in Konaseema District

Kakinada: As many as 28 people fell ill due to suspected food poisoning at Rammo hanraopeta in Kotha peta mandal of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district on Thursday after consuming food at a wedding function. The affected persons developed symptoms of vomiting and diarrhoea and were admitted to the Government Hospital in Kotha peta for treatment. Hospital authorities said their condition is



stable. Also Read - Kurnool ACB Court Convicts Panchayat Raj AE in Bribery Case Health minister Satya Kumar Yadav directed medical officials to provide advanced treatment to the patients.

Doctors informed him that all the admitted persons were stable. Kothapeta MLA Bandaru Satyananda Rao visited the hospital and enquired about the condition of the victims, assuring them of better care and early recovery. Agriculture and Konaseema in-charge minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu reviewed the incident with the district collector and local officials.

Vijay's TVK Reaches Majority Mark With Support From INC, VCK & Left parties

Chennai: Actor-politician Vijay is likely on the brink of achieving the magic figure in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, and stake claim to form the Government with the Congress, Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi, CPI and CPI(M) parties declaring support for the Tamil Vetril Kazhagam (TVK) party on Friday. The backing follows days of tense standoff with Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar over government formation where the Governor asked him to get the majority first and stake claim to form the Government. Also Read - CPI Follows Congress, Extends Support to TVK Vijay-led TVK won 108 seats but were 10 short of a majority, and for the past few days had reached out to CPI, CPI (M) and the VCK-- all DMK allies, seeking their support to form a government after winning its maiden Assembly election in Tamil Nadu, which was held on April 23. CPI, CPI (M), and VCK won two seats each in the polls. Earlier, Congress, another DMK ally that won five seats, had extended support to Vijay. High drama unfolded outside TVK chief Vijay's residence in



Neelangarai on Friday as party workers and supporters gathered in large numbers amid continuing uncertainty over government formation. The atmosphere remained charged as supporters, some dressed in the TVK "uniform" - a beige trousers-and-white shirt combination worn by Vijay since entering politics-raised slogans hailing the actor-turned-politician as the "eternal chief minister". Loyalists raised slogans such as "Thalapathy Vaazhga" (long live Thalapathy) and "Endrethrum Mudhalvar" (eternal chief minister), expressing confidence in Vijay's eventual rise to power amidst the political deadlock, which is likely to come to an end. Arlekar on Friday evening on government formation, according to an official source.

Hyderabad: Telangana is firmly positioning itself as a national leader in aerospace and defence manufacturing, and by 2030, the state will emerge as India's undisputed Aerospace and Defence Capital, stated Dr N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Minister for Irrigation, CAD, Food & Civil Supplies. Speaking in the lines of the MSME Spark 3.0 - Aerospace & Defence Manufacturing conclave held at Hyderabad on Friday, the Minister stated that aerospace and defence are among the priority sectors identified by the State Government under its industrial policy framework. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops



Cyberabad Crime in 2025 The conclave was conducted by the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), in association with the Department of Industries & Commerce, which brought together over 400 policymakers, defence experts, industry leaders, innovators, inv-

estors, start-ups, and MSMEs to deliberate on emerging opportunities in India's rapidly expanding aerospace and defence manufacturing ecosystem. Addressing the gathering, the Minister recalled his own association with the defence services as a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force and shared his experience of serving as ADC to the President of India after retiring from active flying following a forced ejection from a fighter aircraft.

Describing Hyderabad as one of the world's most cost-effective aerospace destinations, he highlighted the city's strong ecosystem comprising defence laboratories, research institutions, advanced manufacturing facilities, and a vibrant MSME base. He informed that nearly 1,500 MSMEs in Telangana are currently part of the aerospace and defence supply chain ecosystem. He said would significantly contribute towards strengthening India's defence equipment manufacturing ecosystem and developing a skilled workforce for emerging technologies.

The inaugural session was graced by Dr. G. Sathesh Reddy, Member, National Security Advisory Board and Former Secretary, DDRD and Chairman, DRDO, and Dr. Chandrika Kaushik, Distinguished Scientist & Director General (Production Coordination & Services Interaction), DRDO, Ministry of Defence, Government of India. Also Read - BJP Striving for Double-Engine Govt in Telangana: Kishan Reddy Speaking on the occasion, where MSMEs contributed nearly 80% of the value, as proof of small industries' critical role in defence capability.

AP CM Uses Statewide Best Practices to Push Innovative Governance

Vijayawada: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday launched a new governance initiative, replicating the innovative district-level administrative models initiated by collectors across Andhra Pradesh. The CM appointed district collectors as mentors for implementing the best practices throughout Andhra Pradesh. Addressing the Seventh District Conference at the Secretariat in Vijayawada, Chandrababu Naidu appreciated collectors for moving beyond conventional governance methods and adopting innovative, low-cost solutions that improve public service delivery. Also Read - Ongole's Iconic Siren Turns 60: The Alarm That Still Runs the City The first day of the conference, chaired by Naidu, lasted nearly 11 hours and focused on governance reforms, industrial growth, innovation, land pooling, and



tourism. The government has identified nine best practices and entrusted 10 collectors with the responsibility of implementing these practices across the state. Kadapa collector Cherukuri Sridhar has been named the mentor for the "Smart Kitchens" initiative, while Chittoor collector Sumit Kumar and Palnadu collector Kritika Shukla will oversee the "Sanjeevani" project. Annamaya collector Nishant Kumar will mentor "Jaladhara" initiative. "Jaladhara" initiative, the "Jaladhara" initiative. Also Read - Government Must Combine Integration with Human Touch: Naidu Nellore collector Himanshu Shukla has been assigned the

"One Village Four Visits" concept for resolving revenue disputes, while Manyam collector Prabhakar Reddy will guide the "Mustabu" Anakapalli collector Vijaya Krishnan has been appointed the mentor for "Net Zero" initiative. Srikakulam collector Swapnil Dinakar will lead the "Swabhiman" grievance redressal programme for persons with disabilities, while West Godavari collector Nagarani will oversee "Jaladhara" initiative. e the "Circular Economy" initiative aimed at converting aqua and agricultural waste into high-value bio-products. Tirupati collector Venkateswar will "Unlocking Wealth" concept.

Congress MP Tharoor Moves Delhi HC Against Publication Of Deepfake Videos

New Delhi : Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Friday moved the Delhi High Court against the publication of AI-generated deepfake videos purportedly showing him "praising Pakistan" and making statements on such "politically sensitive" issues. Justice Muni Pushkarna issued summons to social media platforms X and Meta Platforms as well as the Centre on the lawsuit by the Thiruvananthapuram MP and current chairperson of the Standing Committee on External Affairs, and indicated she would pass an interim order in his favour. Also Read - Omar Abdullah Accuses BJP Of "Blackmail Politics" Over J&K Statehood Senior advocate Amit Sibal, appearing for Tharoor, submitted that unknown entities were repeatedly publishing fake videos by misappropriating his face, voice and other attributes of his personality, which ought



to be taken down. The senior counsel argued that the videos are detrimental to Tharoor's reputation as a patriot and chairperson of the Standing Committee on External Affairs. Also Read - Tamil Nadu: Cong Stages Statewide Protests Against Guv Over Formation "India Today and PTI have put publicly that these are fake videos, yet the public continues to have the impression that the videos are genuine and authentic," he said. "I am a former external affairs minister. It matters to India's standing as well... It is liable to be misused by foreign states," Sibal said, adding that even though the authorities took down several

offending URLs pursuant to a grievance raised by Tharoor under the IT Rules and to the police, the content keeps re-surfacing. Also Read - My Leader, Party Will Come Back : Thambidurai Sibal emphasised that Tharoor is the morning. In the maliciously depicting him making politically statements Kharge, Discusses Political Situation Making politically statements Kharge n Kerala The lawsuit contended that the unauthorised cloning and exploitation of Tharoor's likeness, voice and mannerisms infringed his personality and publicity rights and also constituted a serious violation of his right to privacy.

Governance Must Combine Technological Integration with Human Touch: Naidu

Amaravati: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday stated that governance must combine technological integration with a human touch. He directed officials to ensure that public grievances resolved immediately with accountability and compassion to win confidence of people. Speaking on the second day of the seventh District Collectors' conference at Secretariat today, the Chief Minister reviewed key areas including file clearance systems, public grievance redressal, data integration, AWARE and WhatsApp Governance. He expressed concern over delay in redressal of public grievances and warned officials against negligence in grievance redressal. Also Read - Ongole's Iconic Siren Turns 60: The Alarm That Still Runs the City The Chief Minister appreciated the significant improvement in e-file clearance timelines across the state, noting that average clearance



time has reduced from nearly 10 days to about 2 days over the last three months. He congratulated ministers, Chief Secretary Sai Prasad, Collectors, SPs and Secretaries for accelerating administrative processes, with some files being disposed of within hours despite heavy workloads. He directed officials to further increase the speed of file disposal and move towards a near-complete digital governance system with minimal manual files. Also Read - 2 Women Killed as Car Overturns in Nellore Highlighting the importance of balancing technology with empa-

thy, the Chief Minister instructed officials to ensure e-files are disposed of within 24 hours wherever possible and said performance monitoring in file clearance would continue regularly. To strengthen the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS), the Chief Minister announced that a dedicated platform similar to Praja Darbar would soon be introduced. Public representatives and officials must jointly work towards resolving grievances. Also Read - 28 Persons Fall Ill Due to Food Poisoning in Konaseema District Drawing inspiration from Singapore's grievance redressal model, he emphasized the need for faster and more localised problem-solving, including at the mandal level. The Chief Minister declared that every

Friday would be observed as "Field Grievance Day," during which officials would directly visit constituencies to receive and resolve complaints. He directed Collectors to visit each constituency four times every month and treat grievance redressal as a goodwill mission to strengthen citizen confidence in government. Also Read - Man Sentenced For Cow Slaughter Case In Visakhapatnam He also instructed that all video conferences be restricted to a single day to maximize field engagement. The Chief Minister further stressed that online delivery of government services would help reduce corruption, misuse and unnecessary delays. He noted that nearly 90 percent of government services are already available through late illegal constructions in urban areas and strengthen data-driven governance through integrated dashboards and real-time monitoring systems.

Ex-IPS Officer's Wife Found Murdered in Jubilee Hills

Hyderabad: In a shocking incident, the wife of former IPS officer Vinay Ranjan Ray, Tanuja, was found murdered at their residence at Prashasan Nagar in Jubilee Hills on Friday. Ray, a DG rank officer who retired from the Andhra Pradesh cadre, was out of the station, and their children were on the upper floor of the house. Police suspect the involvement of a domestic help in the crime, while preliminary reports also indicate a possible gang link in this incident. Senior police officials, including Telangana DGP CV Anand and Hyderabad CP VC Sajjanar, visited the crime scene and reviewed the situation. Clues team and fingerprint experts were rushed to the spot to collect the scientific evidence. The accused reportedly decamped with the gold and cash after committing the crime. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in



2025 Speaking to the media, VC Sajjanar said, "Gold and property were reportedly looted from the house. We suspect the involvement of a Nepali gang and a female Nepali domestic worker who used to work in the house. Her hands were tied, and her mouth was gagged with cloths, and she was said to have suffocated and died. The stolen items

are being ascertained," he said. The Commissioner said that those who have employed people from Nepal at their homes should keep a watch on them. We have formed multiple special teams, and all angles are being probed, and an investigation is being done on priority, he assured. Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender, who

visited the crime scene, said the members of the Nepali could be involved in the incident. He assured that the police would initiate stern action against the culprits. Teams have been deployed to trace the accused, and further details are awaited as the investigation is in progress.

Special teams formed to nab suspects in former IPS officer's wife's murder

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad police have formed special teams to nab the suspects involved in the murder of Tanuja Ranjan, the wife of a former IPS officer, Vinay Ranjan Ray. Tanuja, was reportedly smothered to death by her housemaid Kalpana, who is from Nepal and a few other persons in a room on the first floor of the house before the gang decamped with valuables from the house and escaped on Friday early hours. The former IPS officer resides with his family at their residence at Prashasan Nagar, Jubilee Hills. The maid, Kalpana, was working in the house for the last eight months. At the time of incident, Vinay Ranjan Ray, was in Bengaluru on some personal work. The other



family members were on the upper floor of the building and did not know what was happening on the first floor. On coming to know about the incident, Telangana DGP, CV Anand and Hyderabad Commissioner of Police, VC Sajjanar, reached the spot and inspected the scene. "It is suspected the offence occurred in the early hours of the day.

We have collected some clues and special teams are working on the case. I request the citizens to be alert," said Hyderabad CP Sajjanar. The police suspect that Kalpana, was planning the operation for a long time and on getting an opportunity on Friday alerted her gang members who came into the house and killed the lady. Forensic science

experts have reached the spot to assist the investigators. The police believe the gang might attempt to leave the city and head to some other city before heading to Nepal through Bihar or Uttar Pradesh. The police have alerted the police in neighbouring States as well and the SSB paramilitary force that mans the Nepal border.

Telangana heatwave to return by May 10 as IMD forecasts sharp rise in temperatures

Hyderabad: Maximum temperatures have continued to remain less than normal throughout Telangana for the past 24-hours under the influence of thundershowers activity, with weather forecasts indicating that dry heatwave conditions will be back by Sunday, May 10. In the last 24-hours (between Thursday 8.30 and Friday, 8.30 am) according to IMD, Hyderabad weather data, Hyderabad recorded a maximum of 36.8 degree Celsius, which is 2.5 degree Celsius less than normal. While the mercury dipped, the average humidity in Hyderabad ranged between 47 and 50 percent, which added to the discomfort for the



general public. While the mercury dipped in the capital, the northern and eastern districts of Telangana continued to witness scorching heat. The IMD, Hyderabad data indicated that Bhadrachalam recorded the State's highest maximum at 40.2 degree

Celsius, while Khammam closely followed at 40 degree Celsius. There was a dip in mercury levels in the northern region of Telangana with Adilabad recording 39.8 and Nizamabad recording 39.4 degree Celsius. The IMD, Hyderabad

data has indicated that moisture from the thundershowers has significantly increased atmospheric humidity. In Hyderabad, morning relative humidity levels peaked at 66 percent, effectively neutralizing the cooling effect of the lower temperatures.

Census 2027 self-enumeration in Hyderabad CURE area ends on May 10

Hyderabad: With two days remaining, residents of the Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) area have to complete self-enumeration for Census 2027 within the stipulated timeframe ending on May 10, officials of the Directorate of Census Operations said. The officials said the self-enumeration window was nearing closure and advised eligible participants to ensure their details were submitted before the deadline. The process of self-enumeration started on April 26 in the CURE area comprising Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) and Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation (MMC). It will remain open till midnight on May 10. The window for the submission of Census information through 33 questions on the self-enumeration portal



(<https://se.census.gov.in>) opens at 6 am. The second step in self-enumeration is field verification, in which a Census enumerator visits the house and verifies the data. This process will start on May 11 and continue till June 9. During the process, the enumerator will ask for the Self Enumeration (SE) ID, which consists of 11 digits prefixed with H. The household receives this SE ID after submitting all details on the portal along with the mobile number and e-mail ID. The enumerator

will verify the data filled in by the household across 33 columns. If the details match, the enumerator will confirm the data. In case of any mismatch, the enumerator will collect the data again. The process takes at least 15 to 20 minutes to complete. Bharati Hollikeri, Director of Census Operations (DCO) and carrying ID cards, said the information is secure and will be used only for Census purposes and for state and Central government-related schemes. Enumerators to

wear blue attire for door-to-door visits: Households were asked to identify enumerators conducting door-to-door visits from May 11 as part of the self-enumeration verification process. They will be wearing blue attire and carrying ID cards issued by the authorities concerned stating that they are government-appointed personnel exclusively for Census enumeration and carrying ID cards. The enumerators will visit households between 10 am and 6 pm.

Ongole's Iconic Siren Turns 60: The Alarm That Still Runs the City

Prakasam: The famous 'Workers Siren' atop the hill near the R&B bungalow in Seetha Ram Puram, close to Devuni Cheruvu, in Ongole, Andhra Pradesh, marks six decades since its installation. Set up in 1966 atop the Old Filter Bed hill, the Ongole siren was built when watches were rare, and phones didn't exist. Its job was simple - tell the city's folks when to start work. Sixty years on, it still does, five times a day, making it easy for anyone to know what time it is. Sanitation workers stationed near the hill sound the first siren at 5:00 AM sharp in the morning, next at 8:00 AM, 12:00 noon, and the next two sirens are in the evening hours at 5:00 PM, and the last call at 8:00 PM. Also Read - Governance Must Combine Technological Integration with Human Touch: Naidu The dawn



call is the most iconic. "A rooster's crow might be delayed, but this siren rings with absolute punctuality at 5:00 AM," locals say. For many workers, the day truly begins only when it sounds. Times have changed. Wristwatches and alarm clocks came and went, and now it is the era of mobile phone alarms. However, the locals of Ongole insist

the siren remains the easiest, most reliable timekeeper. "We don't need a watch," one says, "The siren tells us." Also Read - 2 Women Killed as Car Overturns in Nellore Known popularly as the "Workers' Siren," it was installed to serve labourers across Prakasam district's headquarters. In the pre-digital era, the morning

blast sent workers rushing to their jobs. Today, the Municipal Corporation as the "Workers' officials still operate it on schedule. From 1966 to 2026, the siren continues to greet 'Ongolians' with the same distinct call, waking residents and marking shifts, and remains an iconic, trusted, and precise heartbeat of the city.

CPI, CPI(M), VCK Back Vijay; TVK Reaches Majority Mark In Tamil Nadu Assembly

New Delhi: The Communist Party of India (CPI), Communist Party of India (Marxist), CPI(M) and Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) on Friday extended support to actor-politician Vijay, helping Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) reach the majority mark in the fractured Tamil Nadu Assembly and strengthening its claim to form the next government.

Now, with the support from the Congress, CPI, CPI(M) and VCK, TVK's tally has now touched 118 in the 234-member Assembly: exactly the number required for a majority. Vijay's party has 107 MLAs, while the Congress has five legisla-



tors. CPI and CPI(M) each have two MLAs, and VCK also has two members in the Assembly. The support from the three parties comes amid an ongoing political deadlock and a standoff between TVK and Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar over government

formation. Vijay To Meet Governor According to official sources, Vijay is scheduled to meet the Governor on Friday evening to formally stake a claim to form the government. This will be his third meeting with the Governor this week amid intense politi-

cal developments in the state.

Sources in TVK said Vijay is expected to submit letters of support from alliance parties during the meeting and press his claim as the leader of the single largest party with majority backing.

The delay in inviting TVK to form the government sparked protests by party supporters outside Lok Bhavan in Chennai, where police detained several demonstrators who demanded that Vijay be sworn in as Chief Minister.

Communist Party of India (Marxist) General Secretary MA Baby criticised the Governor's handling of the situation, say-

ing the single largest party should have been invited to form the government if no alliance had secured a clear majority after the election.

"The TVK leader approached the Governor with a request, but he refused. So, the Governor has deliberately created an impasse," Baby said, adding that CPI, CPI(M) and VCK decided to support TVK to ensure that a democratically elected government could be formed in Tamil Nadu.

The latest round of support has significantly strengthened Vijay's position as the state awaits the Governor's next move on government formation.

'Enough Is Enough': SC To MP Govt On Delay In Case Against Minister Kunwar Shah For Remarks On Col. Sofiya Qureshi

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday expressed its discontent with the Madhya Pradesh government for delaying its decision on granting sanction to prosecute its minister Kunwar Vijay Shah, regarding his objectionable remarks about Colonel Sofiya Qureshi. The woman officer briefed the media during last year's Operation Sindoor. The matter came up before a bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Jyotsna Singh. The bench observed that the decision on the special investigation team (SIT)'s request for "grant of prosecution sanction against the minister was to come



two weeks back." The SIT investigated the case on the apex court's orders and sought the government's sanction to prosecute him. During the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta contended that the decision on sanction to prosecute the min-

ister was still pending. The bench orally observed, "Just comply with our order now. Enough is enough. The first thing should have been an apology. It was only after we took cognizance. List this after four weeks." Mehta said Shah's remarks might have been misread and added that what the minister said was unfortunate and possibly he intended to praise the lady officer. However, the bench said, "It was not unfortunate. It was most unfortu-

nate." Mehta said he wanted to praise the lady but could not articulate himself. However, the bench did not agree with this contention. The bench observed that as a politician, he knows how to articulately praise the lady officer. The bench said if it were a slip of tongue, he would have immediately apologised. Citing the SIT's report, Justice Bagchi observed that the report points out that Shah has a habit of making such comments. Senior advocate Maninder Singh, representing Shah, submitted that his client had publicly apologised for the statements. The CJI observed that it was not a sincere apology.

Operation Sindoor, launched a year ago on the intervening night of May 6-7, saw India carrying out decisive, technology-driven strikes against terror infrastructure in Pakistan, in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack. The operation destroyed several terror camps, killed scores of terrorists, and showcased advanced military capabilities like drones and precision-guided munitions. A year on, experts believe the Operation not only redrew red lines when it comes to India's response to acts of terrorism, but also offered some key military lessons, including joint and cohesive use of air power, bolstering of drone technology and building a robust communication system.

Who Will Form Govt In Tamil Nadu? State Sees Complex Number Game After Hung Assembly Verdict

Chennai: With Vijay-led TVK falling 10 seats short of majority in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, political parties are now weighing multiple combinations amid uncertainty over government formation in the state. Speculation over a possible post-election understanding between DMK and the AIADMK intensified after both Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam president MK Stalin and arch-rivals All India Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) made strikingly similar remarks to their respective legislators. The Number Game The dramatic developments came in the wake of the Tamil Nadu Assembly Election 2026, which shattered the state's traditional Dravidian political order, with actor-turned-politician Vijay's Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) emerging as the single largest party by winning 108 seats, despite just two years of its formation. However, the TVK remains short of the majority mark of 118 in the 234-member Assembly, forcing Vijay to initiate hectic negotiations with other parties to secure support and stake claim to form the government. While the Congress, which won five seats, has



already extended support to the TVK, discussions are still underway with the CPI(M), CPI and Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), whose combined support could become crucial in determining the next government. Amid the uncertainty surrounding TVK's efforts, political circles in Chennai were abuzz with reports that the DMK and AIADMK - bitter rivals for over five decades - could be exploring the possibility of joining hands to prevent Vijay from assuming office. The speculation gathered momentum after separate meetings of DMK and AIADMK legislators appeared to produce messaging with a remarkably similar undertone. At a meeting of DMK MLAs held at Anna

Arivalayam in Chennai, the party passed a key resolution authorising Stalin to "analyse the prevailing political and administrative situation and take urgent and immediate decisions as deemed necessary." The resolution was widely interpreted as giving Stalin a free hand to negotiate any possible post-poll arrangement. Following the meeting, DMK spokesperson TKS Elangovan told reporters that Stalin had not yet taken a decision regarding an alliance with the AIADMK, but added that if such a decision was taken, the party would abide by it. "Several resolutions were passed during today's meeting, including one thanking the people for supporting the DMK and another authorising Stalin to take necessary

steps to ensure a stable government," Elangovan said. On the AIADMK side, Edappadi Palaniswami convened a meeting of party MLAs at a luxury resort in Pudukcherry, where legislators have been housed since the election results. Addressing the MLAs, Palaniswami said, "I have taken a decision in the best interest of the party, and I expect everyone to cooperate." The similarity between Stalin's appeal for trust in his decisions and Palaniswami's declaration that he had already made a key political decision further fuelled speculation of backchannel talks between the two Dravidian rivals. The arithmetic behind such a possible arrangement is also being closely discussed in political circles. The DMK and its allies currently command around 52 members, including the PMK, BJP and AMMK. A combined DMK-AIADMK front could theoretically cross the majority mark with 120 members.

However, political observers point out that such a coalition could face immediate complications, particularly because parties like the VCK and the Left may refuse to remain aligned with any formations involving the BJP-backed AIADMK bloc. If the CPI, CPI(M) and VCK withdraw support from the DMK-led camp, the combined strength could again fall below the majority mark, complicating government formation. Meanwhile, the VCK and the two Communist parties are expected to hold crucial meetings on Friday to decide whether to support Vijay's TVK in forming the government.

Political analysts believe the decisions taken by these parties over the next 24 hours could determine whether Tamil Nadu witnesses the rise of a Vijay-led coalition government or an unprecedented political realignment involving the state's two traditional Dravidian giants.

5 Arrested So Far, DGP Assures Exemplary Action After Spot Investigation

Bhubaneswar: Following directions from Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, a team of senior police officials led by Odisha DGP YB Khurania on Friday visited the Baliaanta area on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar where a GRP constable was allegedly beaten to death by a mob yesterday following a road accident involving two young women.

The deceased has been identified as Soumya Ranjan Swain (33), a railway constable from Maujpur village under Olatpur police limits in Cuttack district. This morning, the DGP, accompanied by Bhubaneswar DCP Jagmohan Meena and Baliaanta police officials, inspected the crime spot near Ramachandrapur and reviewed the sequence of events surrounding the incident. After his visit, Khurania assured strict action against all those involved in the killing of the railway constable Soumya Ranjan Swain. "I have come here to find out about the accident that happened yesterday which led to the murder. Everything will be investigated thoroughly. I can say with certainty that exemplary action will be taken by the Commissionerate Police. Action will be taken against all those found guilty," the DGP told reporters. Two women were travelling on a scooter when Soumya and his nephew Om Prakash Raut, who were riding a bike towards Bhubaneswar, allegedly overtook them. During this, the bike reportedly hit the women, following which locals gathered at the spot and assaulted Soumya and Om Prakash. DCP Jagmohan Meena said that preliminary investigation suggests three parties were involved in the incident. He said the villagers came to the rescue of the women and later beat up the two men. "Soumya sustained critical injuries in the assault and was admitted to Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar, where he later died. His nephew Om Prakash Raut was detained at the police station," Meena said. The DCP further said one of the women filed a complaint alleging an attempt to rape. Police have registered a case based on the complaint and recorded the woman's statement. "The accused will be identified on the basis of video footage," Meena said. Two women injured in the incident were admitted to a local hospital. One of them ised tahad met with an accident. "Later we got the news that people had beaten them in presence of the police. My uncle and his nephew were Bhubaneswar when the accident took place. The locals were agitated and assaulted them. We demand strict punishment for those responsible," he said.



Operation Sindoor Anniversary: Experts Say Red Lines Redrawn, Call For Stronger Air And Cyber Warfare Capabilities

New Delhi: Operation Sindoor, launched a year ago on the intervening night of May 6-7, saw India carrying out decisive, technology-driven strikes against terror infrastructure in Pakistan, in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack. The operation destroyed several terror camps, killed scores of terrorists, and showcased advanced military capabilities like drones and precision-guided munitions. A year on, experts believe the Operation not only redrew red lines when it comes to India's response to acts of terrorism, but also offered some key military lessons, including joint and cohesive use of air power, bolstering of drone technology and building a robust communication system.



Operation Sindoor Anniversary Experts Say Red Lines Redrawn Calls For Stronger Air Cyber Warfare Capabilities Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during the cultural program based on Operation Sindoor at INS Vikrant, in Goa on Oct 20, 2025. (ANI) "But the enemy is smart. Next time, what they will send will be hardened drones, which will probably be more difficult to jam... have better navigation at the end, might not need GPS, (and) they might have electro-optical homing devices. However, there is no change in the have been kept unchanged as state-owned oil companies rise in global fuel prices to protect airlines and consumers. As per the norms, ATF prices are revised on the 1st of every month based on input cost. "No change in ATF prices for domestic airlines (scheduled operations). Prices of Bulk Diesel and ATF for international airline operations have been adjusted upward," IOC said in its statement.

from across the western border, from Leh to Sir Creek, in multiple waves during the nearly four-day conflict, but also countering an intense misinformation campaign that sought to damage the morale of the forces and the masses. Operation Sindoor Anniversary Experts Say Red Lines Redrawn Calls For Stronger Air Cyber Warfare Capabilities School teachers celebrate the success of 'Operation Sindoor', in Bikaner on Dec 30, 2025. (ANI) Air Commodore Gaurav M Tripathi (retired), who also played a role during the operation, while acknowledging the criticality of air power in deciding the outcome of a conflict, underlined that in any future scenario, "combined air power" of the three services should be leveraged so that it can work cohesively against a "capable adversary." "During (Operation) Sindoor, we saw a mass of drones used by Pakistan. Most of them were harmless, just to engage Indian weapons and munitions so that attack drones could come in

SC Agrees To Examine Congress Leader's Plea Challenging His Ouster As Sringeri MLA After Vote Recount

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine a plea filed by Karnataka Congress leader TD Raje Gowda, seeking relief after a recent vote recount order passed by the Karnataka High Court led to his ouster as the MLA of Sringeri constituency in Karnataka. Gowda, in his petition, challenged the April 6 order of the Karnataka High Court directing reverification and recounting of postal ballots cast in the 2023 Assembly election. Senior advocate Deva dutt Kamat, appearing for Gowda, mentioned the matter before a bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and requested to list the matter urgently on May 11. Kamat submitted that the high court erred in ordering the recount exercise, which ultimately resulted in BJP



leader DN Jeevaraj being declared as elected MLA for Sringeri. The bench said it will consider the request for an expedited hearing. "Usually, we order stay in such matters...we will examine your matter though," Justice Kant observed. The dispute originates from the 2023 Karnataka Assembly election, where Raje Gowda had originally

defeated Jeevaraj by a slender margin of 201 votes. However, the high court, acting on an election petition filed by Jeevaraj, directed court, acting on an elecreeverification and recounting of postal ballots on April 6. The recount exercise, conducted last week and continuing till midnight, dramatically altered the result. Jeevaraj's postal ballot tally reduced mar-

ginally from 692 to 690 votes and Gowda's tally fell sharply from 569 to 314 votes, resulting in a net reduction of 255 votes in his favour. The returning officer declared Jeevaraj elected under Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. It led to the unseating of the sitting Congress MLA almost three years after he entered the assembly.

Odisha Govt Orders Probe As 7 Pregnant Women Die In 6 Days At VIMSAR Hospital

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government has ordered an investigation into the death of seven expectant mothers within a span of six days at Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) in Sambalpur's Burla, a referral hospital for the entire western Odisha. Allegations of medical negligence, Director of VIMSAR, Dr Lalmohan Nayak, said the women who passed away had various pre-existing health problems. He also claimed that a preliminary investigation has found no negligence on part of the medical authorities. The deceased women have been identified as Lalita Kisan from Sambalpur district, Mamata Beh, Jayanti Meher and Alima Mahanand from Sonepur district, Suprabha Mahakud from Angul



district, Kadambini Sethi from Boudh district and Sarathi Dalpati from Kalahandi district. According to VIMSAR authorities, the woman named Lalita Kisan died due to various health complications. In addition, she had a surgery six months ago. Later, after six months of pregnancy, her uterus ruptured and she died. Another pregnant woman, Mamata Beh, died due to sickle cell anemia and jaundice, sources said. The third pregnant woman, Jayanti Meher,

had a natural delivery, but her amniotic fluid entered her chest and brain and infected her, causing her death. But her newborn baby is now healthy. The fourth pregnant woman, Suprabha Mahakud, died due to high blood pressure in the womb and the number of platelets in her blood decreased, which led to her death. The fifth woman, Kadambini Sethi, also died due to high blood pressure. The sixth woman, Alima Mahanand, was five months pregnant and she

took birth control pills and stayed at home. Later it became septic and she became seriously ill. She was first admitted to Sonepur district hospital, after which she was admitted to the Bhima Bhoi Medical College in Balangir. Since her condition deteriorated, she was taken to VIMSAR. After she was admitted to VIMSAR on April 23, she was kept in the ICU, but she died on May 4. The seventh pregnant woman, Sarathi Dalpati, gave birth in Junagadh in Kalahandi district. There, she developed serious health problems due to anemia. Hence she was first taken to Bhawanipatna and then to VIMSAR. She was kept in the ICU. However, despite all efforts, she passed away. According to officials, a joint review meeting was held on Thursday in

Sword of Eviction Hangs Over 310 Families in Delhi's Yamuna Bazar; Notice Issued To Vacate Area Within 15 Days

New Delhi: Clouds of uncertainty loom over the homes of families who have been residing for years in the Yamuna Bazar area, adjacent to the capital's Nigambodh Ghat. Adopting a firm stance, the Delhi government has issued a final notice to 310 families in the Yamuna Bazar colony, directing them to vacate the area within the next 15 days. The notice has caused a stir in the locality, sparking widespread outrage among locals. The notice was issued by Shashipal Dabas, the Additional District Magistrate (ADM) of Old Delhi. It explicitly states that this colony falls under the 'O' Zone under the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) 2021. Under the Master Plan, the Yamuna khadar (Floodplain) area has been designated as the 'O' Zone, stretching 22 km from Wazirabad to Palla, and aimed at pro-

tecting the river's ecological balance, where any form of permanent construction or residence is strictly prohibited. Acting on strict directives from the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the government is taking this step to revitalise the Yamuna's ecology by removing encroachments from water-logged areas. Over the past few days, administrative activity in this region has been intense. That included a detailed inspection of the Yamuna Bazar area jointly conducted by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Lieutenant-Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu a few days ago. The Yamuna Bazar area during floods The Yamuna Bazar area during floods (ETV Bharat) During the visit, officials prepared a report on the status of waterlogging



and encroachments. According to sources, a decision was taken in a high-level review meeting that in light of environmental conservation, it is imperative to evacuate these sensitive zones before the onset. Regarding the notice, residents of the Yamuna Bazar colony argued that they have been living here for decades and possess valid identity cards. Highlighting that they have been granted a mere 15 days, local resident Rajpal said, "Where are these 310 families

supposed to go with all their belongings on such a short notice? The government should have made arrangements for our rehabilitation beforehand." Meanwhile, Delhi government sources indicate that once the notice period expires, an anti-encroachment drive will be launched, backed by a heavy police force and bulldozers. The administration has clarified that these structures are illegal, they fall within the 'O' zone, and that safeguarding the Yamuna's floodplains is a priority.

'We Don't Abandon Each Other In Times Of Difficulty': Akhilesh Shares Photos With Mamata, Stalin

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party (SP) supremo Akhilesh Yadav on Friday said that they do not abandon people in difficult times. In a post on his X handle, Yadav shared photographs of his meeting with former Chief Ministers of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, Mamata Banerjee and MK Stalin. "We are not the ones who abandon each other in times of difficulty," the caption of the photographs read.

While he met Banerjee at her residence in Kalighat on Thursday, his meeting with Stalin took place during the INDIA Bloc meet ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. When Akhilesh reached Banerjee's residence on May 7, he was first received by TMC MP and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee and then at the door by the former Bengal CM. He presented her with a shawl and told her, "Didi you fought, you have not lost." Although Yadav had not campaigned for TMC in the elections, he has always offered his support to Banerjee on social media. This was his first meeting with Banerjee after TMC's defeat. Earlier, Yadav and Banerjee had met on January 27. Yadav's recent visit assumes significance ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. In West Bengal, TMC got 80 seats while the BJP secured 107 seats. In Tamil Nadu, actor Vijay's TVK won 108 seats while DMK and



AIADMK got 59 and 47 seats respectively.

During Yadav's visit to Banerjee's residence, interactions were held with several senior TMC leaders. Although the meeting was officially described as a mere courtesy call, a lengthy political message subsequently posted by Yadav on his X handle offered several significant indications. gan his letter with 'Dear Fellow Citizens' and, while referencing the electoral atmosphere in West Bengal, wrote that his visit had exposed him to instances of "massive electoral rigging and gross dishonesty." He asserted that the issue at hand is no longer merely about the fairness of the electoral process, but rather about safeguarding the country's democratic framework. In his letter, the SP chief hit out at the policies of the BJP and the Central government, alleging that the nation has fallen

into the hands of individuals who are actively working against the Constitution, democracy, reservation policies, social justice, and the unity and integrity of the country. letter, Yadav prominently raised the issues concerning the youth, farmers, laborers, backward classes, Dalits, minorities, and marginalised sections of society, utilising the term "Peedit-PDA" (The Oppressed PDA). According to political analysts, this move is perceived as an extension of the Samajwadi Party's original "PDA" strategy—an acronym representing the social coalition of *Pichhda* (Backward Classes), *Dalit*, and (Minorities)—which the party had previously championed in Uttar Pradesh. Yadav now appears to be making an effort to establish this brand of social justice politics on a national stage. Launching a scathing attack on the

BJP and its supporters, Yadav said, "The BJP cadre and their cohorts—their informers and associates—were adversaries of the nation even before independence, and they remain so today." He also raised a series of questions, "Why do those who advocate for 'Swadeshi' accept funds from abroad? Why has the public not been provided with an account of the COVID relief funds? Why were small businesses harmed through the policy of demonetisation? Why was the GST regime made so complex? Why was the country's developmental fra= on all three fronts—economic, social, and political. In the concluding section of his message, appealing to his fellow citizens to unite, Yadav asserted that the time has now come to save the nation and to struggle for a new freedom. He called upon the people to come forward, holding aloft the

'Single-Largest Party Must Be Invited To Form Govt In Tamil Nadu'

New Delhi/Chennai: Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Friday strongly defended the constitutional convention of inviting the single largest party to form the government in a hung Assembly, even as the Congress escalated its war of words with the DMK over the evolving political crisis in Tamil Nadu following the "fractured" Assembly poll. In a strongly worded post on X (formerly Twitter), Chidambaram argued that constitutional convention and parliamentary democracy required the Governor to first invite the leader of the largest party to form the government and prove majority on the floor of the House. "If no political alliance or political party gets a single majority in the assembly elections, what is the duty of the Governor? The leader of the primary party should be invited to form the government based on the number of legislators," Chidambaram wrote. "This is the political rule. This is the parliamentary tradition. The legislature is the arena where the leader of that party has to prove that he has majority support; not the Governor's House," he added, citing the Supreme Court's landmark 1994 judgment in the S R Bommai vs Union of India case. "I appreciate the political parties of Tamil Nadu for explaining and insisting on this rule,"



the former Union minister stated in his post. Chidambaram's remarks came amid mounting criticism directed at Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar after the latter declined to immediately invite Vijay to form the government despite his Tamil Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) emerging as the single largest party with TVK, along with the Congress' five MLAs, currently commands the support of 112 legislators in the 234-member Assembly. But Vijay's party is still six short of the majority mark of 118 as he is expected to vacate one of the two constituencies he won. The Governor reportedly sought clarity from Vijay regarding the remaining numbers needed to establish a stable government before extending an invitation. Congress Hits Back At DMK Over 'Backstab' Meanwhile, the Congress sharply reacted to accusations from

DMK leaders that the party had "betrayed" its alliance partner by extending support to Congress MP Manickam Tagore accused DMK spokespersons of using "irresponsible language" and reminded the DMK of past political decisions that strained ties between the two parties. "The irresponsible spokespersons of DMK need to be mindful of their language and refrain from speaking in such a manner," Tagore. Responding to DMK's allegation of "backstabbing", Tagore said, "They lost the election, and as a result, we also lost. It is not the case that they are suffering only because of us." He also recalled that the DMK had exited the Tamil Nadu government in 2013 and fought local body elections separately earlier despite Congress support after electoral setbacks. "In 2013, they exited the UPA government. Who then backstabbed us?"

Tagore asked, "At least in Tamil Nadu there are two main secular spaces. We respect DMK's secular credentials," he added, while also defending 'decision to support TVK. DMK Lashes Out Says Congress Cannot Be The political confrontation intensified after DMK spokesperson Saravanan Annadurai described the Congress move as "short-sighted" and warned that it would damage opposition unity ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. "The perception that is out in the entire country is that Congress cannot be trusted," Annadurai said. The deepening rift between the Congress and the DMK has dramatically altered Tamil Nadu's political landscape after the election delivered one of the most fractured verdicts in the state's history, ending the decades-long of the DMK-AIADMK bipolar system.

US Isn't Looking At Imminent Military Action In Cuba Despite Trump Threats, Ap Sources Say

Washington: The United States is not looking at imminent military action against Havana despite President Donald Trump's repeated threats that "Cuba is next" and that American warships deployed in the Middle East for the Iran conflict could return by way of the island, U.S. officials say. The officials involved in preliminary discussions with Cuban authorities also told The Associated Press that they are not optimistic the communist government will accept an offer for tens of millions of dollars in humanitarian aid, two years of free Starlink internet access for all Cubans, agricultural assistance and infrastructure support.

But they say Cuba has not yet outright refused the offer, which comes with conditions that the government has long resisted, even after the Trump administration imposed new sanctions Thursday on Havana. The largest of those sanctions is against GAESA, or Grupo de Administración Empresarial S.A., a business conglomerate operated by the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private talks, say there is still time for the government to accept the offer. They cautioned, though, that Trump could change his mind at any time and that military options are still on the table.

The Treasury and State departments announced the sanctions after Trump signed an executive order last week expanding the administration's authority to impose penalties on Cuba. Cuban Foreign



Minister Bruno Rodríguez described the measures as "collective punishment" and denounced the U.S. government's "genocidal intent" against Cuba. "These actions rely on the assumption that the United States can impose its will on the world while threatening foreign citizens and businesses with illegitimate coercion," Rodríguez wrote on X. Trump has suggested possible action against Cuba shortly after signing the order Friday. Trump gave a speech mentioning that "Cuba's got problems" and suggesting that a military show of force may be in the offing. He said one of the U.S. aircraft carriers on its way back from the Middle East could "come in, stop about 100 yards offshore, and they'll say: 'Thank you very much. We give up.'" One official involved in the discussions said the new sanctions authority was intended, however, to make clear to the Cubans that the Trump administration's immediate goal is "not regime change, but changing the regime's failed policies." Secretary of State

Marco Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants who has long taken a hard line against Cuba's leadership, has said repeatedly that the country's government has failed. He said this week that Cuba's economic model doesn't work and those in power "can't fix it." "And the reason that they can't fix it is not just because they're communist. That's bad enough," he told reporters Tuesday at the White House. "But they're incompetent communists. The only thing worse than a communist is an incompetent one." Rubio is visiting Rome and Vatican City, meeting Pope Leo XIV on Thursday in part to discuss Cuba, where the Catholic Church has significant influence. US officials don't know if Cuba will accept conditions but say dialogue is open. One U.S. official said it is an open question as to whether Cuba's leadership is willing to meet U.S. conditions, which include the release of political prisoners, an end to political and religious repression, and an opening to American private sector investment. At the same time,

the official said the door has not closed to dialogue that could help both countries given Cuba's proximity to the U.S. The United States sees a national security threat in what the official called increasing influence on the island by China and Russia, including intelligence and logistics cooperation. Cuban officials are adamant, though, that Cuba's internal governance is not up for negotiation. "Negotiations on issues like regime change or removing the president are out of the question," Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations Ernesto Soberón Guzmán told reporters last week. "No internal affairs of Cuba are on the table." Guzmán also told The Associated Press last month that Havana will not abide by any American "ultimatums" to release political prisoners and that Cuba's leaders are "preparing for all scenarios" if Trump makes good on threats to intervene. The White House didn't immediately respond to a request for comment about military action in Cuba. AP reveals State Department officials

Trump Says EU Has Until July 4 To Approve Last Year's Trade Deal Or It Will Face Higher Tariffs

Washington: President Donald Trump said in a Thursday social media post that goods from the European Union would face higher tariff rates if the 27-member bloc fails to approve last year's trade framework by July 4. The announcement appeared to be a deadline extension after the president said last Friday that EU autos would face a higher 25% tariff starting this week.

Trump made the updated announcement after what he described as a "great call" with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. Still, the U.S. president was displeased that the European Parliament had yet to finalize the trade arrangement reached last year, which was further complicated in February by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that Trump lacked the legal authority to declare an economic emergency to impose the initial tariffs used to pressure the EU into talks. "A promise was



made that the EU would deliver their side of the Deal and, as per Agreement, cut their Tariffs to ZERO!" Trump posted. "I agreed to give her until our Country's 250th Birthday or, unfortunately, their Tariffs would immediately jump to much higher levels." It was unclear from the post whether Trump was

implying that the tariff rates would jump on all EU goods or the increase would only apply to autos. His latest statement indicates he might be backing away from his earlier threat on EU automobiles indicates he might s by givment indicates he might g the European Parliament several more weeks to approve the agreement.

Under the original terms of the framework, the U.S. would charge a 15% tax on most goods imported from the EU. But since the Supreme Court ruling, the administration has levied a 10% tariff while investigating trade imbalances and national security issues, aiming to put in new tariffs to make up for lost revenues.

Prejudiced And Partisan Opinion: Indian Envoy On NYT Article On IT Rules

New Delhi: India's envoy to the US, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, on Tuesday dismissed an article in The New York Times on India's IT Rules as "prejudiced and partisan opinion." "Describing well-intentioned efforts aimed at protecting against viral misinformation and possible harm to the Indian society under India's IT Rules as 'censorship' makes for a catchy headline, but a lazy argument in the op-ed piece by Arman Khan in @nytimes," Kwatra said in a post on X. "India takes pride in its credentials as the world's largest democracy, with a written constitution, an independent judiciary, a vibrant English and vernacular



press, and a long history of rights-based litigation," Kwatra said. The Indian ambassador said framing what is essentially about platform accountability as "free speech vs censorship" deliberately and disingenuously conflates different issues. "Always welcome an exchange of views on

finding the right balance between free speech and accountability to further strengthen India's cherished democracy. Unfortunately, prejudiced and partisan opinion is not a constructive starting point," Kwatra said. An opinion piece in The New York Times characterised India's IT Rules as an extension of

government control over digital speech designed to throttle criticism by targeting ordinary users and independent creators. The article alleges these rules weaponise legal liability for tech platforms and lack sufficient judicial oversight to prevent government-led censorship.

US Will Start Revoking Passports For Thousands Of Parents Who Owe Child Support, AP Learns

Washington: The U.S. State Department will begin revoking the U.S. passports of thousands of parents who owe a significant amount of unpaid child support. The department told The Associated Press on Thursday that the revocations would begin Friday and be focused on those who owe \$100,000 or more. That would apply to about 2,700 American passport holders, according to figures supplied to the State Department by the Department of Health and Human Services. The revocation program, plans for which were first reported by the AP in February, soon will be greatly expanded to cover parents who owe more than \$2,500 in unpaid child support — the threshold set by a little-enforced 1996 law, the State Department said. It was not clear on Thursday how many passport holders owe more than \$2,500 because HHS is still collecting data from state agencies that track the figures, but it could encompass many more thousands of people, officials said.

only those who applied to renew their passports were subject to the penalty. Under the new policy, HHS will inform the State Department of all past-due payments of more than \$2,500 and parents in that group with pass-



ports will have their documents revoked, the department said. "We are expanding a commonsense practice that has been proven effective at getting those who owe child support to pay their debt," Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs Mora Namdar said. "Once these parents resolve their debts, they can once again enjoy the privilege of a U.S. passport." "Since the AP reported the expansion of the program on Feb. 10, the department said it had "seen data that hundreds of parents took action and resolved their arrears with state authorities since news broke that the State Department would start proactively revoking passports." "While

we can't confirm the causation in all of those cases, we are taking this action precisely to impel these parents to do the right thing by their children and by U.S. law," the department said. Even before the policy was expanded, the department said the program had been a "powerful tool" to get parents to pay what they owed. It said that since it began in earnest in 1998, states had collected some \$657 million in arrears, including more than \$156 million in over 24,000 individual lump-sum payments over the past five years. Those whose passports are revoked under the program will be notified that they will not be able to use their docu-

India's Approach To Migration Grounded In Dignity, Respect For Rights: MoS Kirti

United Nations: India's approach to migration remains people-centric and grounded in dignity, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said, underlining that mobility will remain an integral feature of a dynamic global economy. "India's approach to migration governance is holistic and pragmatic. It is driven by coordinated institutional efforts and broad societal engagement," Singh said here Tuesday. He emphasised that "welfare and protection of our people" remains central to India's approach. "We have strengthened mechanisms to support migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, through initiatives such as the Indian Community Welfare Fund and the MADAD portal," he said. "Our responsive consular services also provide timely assis-



tance, legal, financial, and insurance coverage to our nationals overseas," he said. Singh, who arrived here Sunday, is leading the Indian delegation for the Second International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), being held under the auspices of the UN General Assembly from May 4-8. He addressed a round table at the UN headquarters on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. In a post on X, Singh said that at the round table, he outlined measures taken by India

to facilitate safe and regular migration through leveraging Digital Public Infrastructure, strengthening consular services, concluding migration and mobility agreements, while upskilling, training and providing pre-departure training of the country's skilled labour. "Highlighted that our approach to migration remains people-centric - grounded in dignity, inclusion, and respect for rights," he said. India's experience underscores the importance of leveraging technology, strengthening

partnerships, and adopting a holistic lifecycle approach to migration governance, Singh said in his remarks. "We are also aware that challenges remain, especially when it comes to strengthening social protection, addressing vulnerabilities, and improving data systems," he said. Singh stressed that India recognises that mobility will be a part of an increasingly interconnected and dynamic global economy. India's policies remain closely aligned with the objectives and principles envisaged in the Global Compact, while evolving in response to emerging global dynamics. "With the objective that migration should be a choice, supported by opportunity and dignity, we have invested in inclusive growth, livelihood and financial inclusion," he said.

Broken Promises, Denied Rights — how Modi government has failed Telangana



The recurring rhetoric from top BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi's repeated assertions that the "mother was killed to save the child" and Tejasvi Surya's recent comparison of bifurcation to the Partition, constitutes a systematic assault on Telangana's dignity. By labelling the State's formation as "arbitrary" or "haphazard," these leaders consistently undermine the constitutional legitimacy of a State born from decades of democratic struggle and immense sacrifice. This narrative is a direct attack on the self-respect of the Telangana people for their hard-won identity for self-governance. These remarks cannot be viewed as isolated incidents but rather as the ideological justification for a decade of perceived systemic injustice, in which the Union government consistently sidelined the State's developmental needs and financial rights. When the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act was signed into law in 2014, the people of Telangana were told that their long wait was finally over. A decade later, the Central government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reduced those promises to hollow words, dry ink on unread paper. What was supposed to be a new dawn has become a decade of deliberate neglect. The Broken Covenant The AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, was not merely a political document; it was a covenant between the Indian state and the people of Telangana. It listed specific assurances: a Bayyaram Steel Plant, an IIM, a Rail Coach Factory, and dedicated institutions for a newly carved State that deserved its fair share of national resources. Despite AP getting numerous institutions like the IIT, NIT, IIM, IIIT-DM, IISER, IPE, Tribal University, Central University, NID, IIFT, ICI, NIOT and NIDM in a decade, Telangana was awarded just one — a Tribal university in 2023 with no permanent buildings yet in more than two years. The Bayyaram Steel Plant, promised under the 13th

Schedule of the Act, remains a distant dream, with no clear timeline or commitment from the Centre, which has stuck to a technical argument citing low-quality iron ore. While many steel plants, such as Vizag Steel Plant, JSW Steel Plant (Dolvi Plant), Durgapur Steel Plant (WB), and Essar Steel (Gujarat), operate on imported raw materials from other States, the central government refuses to treat Bayyaram on similar lines. Denying a rail coach factory to Telangana, the Prime Minister established one in Gujarat at a cost of Rs 21,000 crore. This was not a policy decision but political favouritism carved in stone. Regional development packages for backward districts like Khammam and Mahabubnagar are gathering dust while the Centre as usual looks the other way. The Water War is life. In Telangana, it is also politics, history, and survival. The demand for national status for irrigation projects like the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme or the Palamuru-Rangareddy LIS remains unanswered, while Polavaram in AP and the upper Bhadra in Karnataka have got national status. The bifurcation Act mandated the formation of the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) and the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) to ensure equitable sharing of river waters between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The boards were constituted in 2014. But their operational jurisdiction was notified only seven years later, in October 2021, which means seven years of inaction, during which Andhra Pradesh undertook unilateral projects, drew water outside its allocated share, and left Telangana scrambling for relief. After a decade of broken promises and perceived neglect, Narendra Modi and the BJP have lost the moral authority to seek another mandate from Telangana. Five years have passed since 2021, and even today, both boards that were supposed to manage 36

projects in the Krishna basin and 71 in the Godavari basin are stuck to a limited capacity, monitoring reservoir levels and holding meetings with no conclusions. The Centre's inaction has a human cost. Drought-prone districts of erstwhile Nalgonda, and Khammam, among the most water-stressed in the country, continue to suffer while New Delhi fiddles with procedural delays and political calculations. The BJP's treatment of Telangana, a net contributor to the national exchequer, is not federalism but a financial extortion dressed as governance. A State is punished for its democratic choice by being denied its constitutional entitlements. In a true federal democracy, central funds follow constitutionally mandated formulas, not political loyalty tests. Under Modi, that principle has been systematically violated. Over six financial years (2019-25), Finance Ministry data reveals that Telangana contributed roughly 3.87% to India's total tax collections during this period, but it received only about 2.45% of the total Union transfers. In sharp contrast, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, which have BJP governments, get 15.82% and 8.66% of the total Union transfers despite contributing to just 4.6% and 0.68%. Hyderabad Metro Rail Since 2014, 38 metro rail projects with a total length of 1,051 km at an estimated completion cost of about Rs 3.44 lakh crore have been sanctioned by the Government of India to different States. Hyderabad Metro Rail has received just Rs 1,639 crore as Viability Gap Funding for phase 1. Phase II, a Rs 24,269 crore expansion of 76.4 km across five corridors, has been stuck in "active consideration" and "technical evaluations" for years. Budget after budget has passed without a specific allocation for this critical urban infrastructure project. Meanwhile, Chennai Metro Phase II was approved as a central sector project in October 2024, with the Centre financing nearly 65% of

its estimated cost. Why is the same political will not extended to Hyderabad? Why does a city of over 10 million people, India's fourth largest, have to watch neighbouring cities receive central approvals while its own expansion sits in ministerial in-trays? Hyderabad is India's IT and pharma capital. It drives significant national export revenue. Yet when it comes to funding the infrastructure that keeps this engine running, the Centre looks the other way. The disparity in treatment is not accidental. It is a policy of punishment. Modi, the modern-day Kaikeyi! To facilitate the Polavaram irrigation project, the central government passed an ordinance in July 2014 transferring seven mandals from Telangana's Khammam district to Andhra Pradesh. This legal move, later ratified by Parliament, was intended to prevent administrative hurdles since the project's submergence zones fell within these specific areas. The transfer shifted the mandals Vararamachandrapuram, Bhadrachalam (partial), Kukunoor, Velairpadu, and Burgampahad into the residuary State. While the Bhadrachalam temple structure remained in Telangana after the 2014 reorganisation, the transfer of seven mandals to Andhra Pradesh created a major geographical split. This shift resulted in a "peculiar situation" where the temple's historic land assets, including over 1,000 acres, now fall under the territorial jurisdiction of Andhra Pradesh. Key areas like which hold significant endowment lands, were part of the villages moved to facilitate the Polavaram project. This makes Modi the modern-day Kaikeyi who separated Lord Rama from rightfully owning his assets. Legislative Changes The promise to increase the number of Assembly seats in Telangana from 119 to 153 as per the AP Reorganisation Act has not been implemented, citing legal and technical reasons. Uppal Flyover, Downgraded RRR

India's Budget still undervalues orange economy



All Union Budgets speak the language of growth, innovation and jobs. The 2026 Union Budget has gone further by explicitly mentioning the so-called orange economy. This is a unique occasion when culture, creativity, and content creation are recognised as economic forces rather than ornamental accessories. However, more broadly, India's fiscal policy still underestimates the creative economy as a legitimate source of growth and job creation (Government of India, 2026). Previously regarded as soft power or leisure activity, creative industries are now being marketed, at least rhetorically, as engines of growth, jobs and global competitiveness. Over — Safeguard or setback for India's gamers? Opinion: Hollywood bends to Beijing, K-dramas go global — How South Korea beat China at soft power The orange economy broadly encompasses domains in which value is created through creativity and intellectual property: film, music, animation, gaming, design, fashion, publishing, advertising, and digital content (UNESCO, 2022; UNCTAD, 2024). Globally, these industries have proven to be resilient and fast-growing, especially in digital-networked economies. The promise is particularly high for India, given its demographic dividend and rich cultural capital. The cultural and creative industries, including arts and crafts, design, media, heritage, fashion, gaming, and digital content, employ millions silently, generate soft power, and sustain local economies. Yet, they continue to remain on the margins of fiscal policy and economic planning. As India emerges as a global cultural and digital powerhouse, there is a striking lack of a coherent vision for the creative economy in the Budget. The orange economy is no soft sector, but a serious economic force, which should be supported with hard policy. Why it Matters Now Unemployment and automation-induced disruptions are putting pressure on India's growth (Government of India, 2025). In contrast, creative industries are labour-intensive and youth-driven. They offer employment across a wide range of skills — from artists and writers

to coders, editors, sound engineers, designers and platform managers. These industries rely on talent, ideas and networks, unlike capital-intensive manufacturing. The prioritisation of Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) in Budget 2026-27, including the development of creative technology labs in schools and colleges, indicates the efforts to build a future-ready talent pipeline (Government of India, 2026; FICCI-EY, 2023). Government projections suggest that the AVGC sector alone may require about two million professionals by the end of the decade. Creativity, therefore, is no longer a niche aspiration but a mainstream employment strategy. Culture as Economic Infrastructure The orange economy also generates significant spillover effects. Tourism depends on film and music, manufacturing and export benefit from design, and platform economies and advertising revenues depend on digital content. Cities with thriving creative clusters often experience urban regeneration and enhanced global visibility. Creative industries thus can be seen as economic infrastructure, less visible than a road or a port, but equally catalytic. Besides, cultural exports promote India globally in ways traditional trade cannot. Creativity in the form of soft power, with real economic payoff, can be seen in the cinema and streaming content, and even gaming stories rooted in local mythology. The 2026 Budget is only a beginning. Without credit access, social protection, IP safeguards, and export support, India's creative workforce will remain economically insecure. However, this potential cannot be realised through budgetary recognition alone (UNCTAD, 2024; UNESCO, 2022). Much of India's creative workforce is informal, lacking contracts and social security as well as regular income. Access to funding remains limited, as creative projects do not conform to the standard lending procedures. Regulatory complexities, fragmented data and inadequate measurement systems imply that the real contribution of the orange economy has been underrated in national accounts.

The threat of over-concentration also exists: prioritising the most noticeable industries such as gaming and digital content over traditional arts, local crafts, publishing, and local cultural ecosystems that support livelihood beyond metropolitan centres. Budget Optics versus Structural Support Recent Union Budgets have acknowledged culture and creativity more through visibility-driven interventions than structural economic planning. For example, the 2024-25 Budget increased allocations for museum development, cultural digitisation and heritage tourism, while the 2025-26 Budget continued investments in tourism circuits and global cultural showcases. Quantifying innovative output Broader initiatives, such as increased investment in digitising innovative output public infrastructure, the PM Vishwakarma scheme for traditional artisans, and MSME credit programmes, indirectly support the creative industries. However, a key gap remains: the lack of clear recognition of creative work as productive labour, situated at the intersection of culture, business, and technology. What is still missing: Dedicated credit lines for creative businesspersons and freelancers Social security and insurance for gig-based cultural workers Skill and upskilling programmes in line with new-age creative roles Export facilitation for creative goods and digital content Without these, the orange economy will remain an aesthetic supplement rather than a true growth engine. The Digital Turn: Opportunity Without a Safety Net India's digital expansion has created more room than ever for creators through OTT platforms, gaming, animation, podcasts, and influencer economies. However, monetisation remains uneven and unstable. Creators are subject to algorithmic dependence, lack formal contracts, and often have limited awareness of intellectual property rights. A forward-looking Budget should invest in: creator awareness and legal support to intellectual property; public digital infrastructure for content distribution, and incubation

centres focused on local language and local content. A serious approach to the orange economy would involve: Recognising creative industries as a distinct economic sector Integrating culture with MSMEs, start-ups, and skilling missions Ensuring social protection for informal creative workers Promoting State- and city-level creative clusters Quantifying innovative output beyond tourism footfalls These would bring economic growth and cultural vitality into co-existence — an area where India is naturally comparatively advantaged. Investing in Imagination Budgets are moral documents. They reflect national priorities. India runs the risk of underestimating imagination, diversity, and cultural labour by not supporting and not realistically framing the orange economy. In a world where narrative, design, and creativity shape global influence as much as steel and silicon do, investing in the orange economy is not indulgence but a strategy. The 2026 Budget is a starting point, and not a sol economy also generates significant spillover effects. Tourism depends on film and music, manufacturing and export benefit from design, and platform economies and advertising revenues depend on digital content. Cities with thriving creative clusters often experience urban regeneration and enhanced global visibility. Creative industries thus can be seen as economic infrastructure, less visible than a road or a port, but equally catalytic. Besides, cultural exports promote India globally in ways traditional trade cannot. Creativity in the form of soft power, with real economic payoff, can be seen in the cinema and streaming content, and even gaming stories rooted in local mythology. Without credit availability, social protection, IP safeguards and export assistance, creative workers will remain vulnerable. Until future Budgets move beyond symbolism to provide economic security and sectoral integration, the orange economy will fall short of its potential as a driver of inclusive growth. India's creative workers will continue to enrich cultural capital, but

Marsh, Prince Shine As RCB Falls

Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) slipped to their second successive loss, as an excellent spell from Prince Yadav and a century from Mitchell Marsh helped Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) beat them by nine runs at Ekana Stadium in Lucknow on Thursday. With this win, LSG has secured its third victory of the season, with seven losses to go with it. They remain at the bottom of the table. RCB has slipped to third spot, losing their fourth game of the competition. Put to bat first,



a century from Marsh (111 in 56 balls, with nine fours and nine sixes) powered LSG to 209/3 in 19 overs in a rain-truncated innings. RCB was given 213 to chase by the DLS method and lost their openers within nine runs. However, a 95-run stand between Devdutt

Padikkal (34 in 25 balls, with three fours and a six) and skipper Rajat Patidar (61 in 31 balls, with three fours and six sixes) helped RCB fight back. Knocks from Tim David (40 in 17 balls, with four boundaries and three sixes), Krunal Pandya (28* in 16 balls, with two fours and two sixes) and Romario Shepherd (23* in 15 balls, with three fours and a six) kept RCB in the hunt, but the defending champions

fell nine runs short. In the run chase of 213 runs in 19 overs, RCB had a horror show. In the first over, Mohammed Shami got Jacob Bethell for just four in five balls, with Prince Yadav stationed in the deep taking a catch. In the next over, Prince rattled Virat Kohli's stumps for a two-ball duck. RCB was 9/2 in 1.2 overs. Devdutt Padikkal and skipper Rajat Patidar had the onus on them to put on a partnership. At the end of the six-over power-play, RCB was 45/2, with Patidar (14*) and Padikkal (22*) unbeaten. The seventh over by

Holder PSG Edge Bayern Munich To Reach Champions League Final

Holder Paris Saint-Germain set up a Champions League final against Arsenal after a 1-1 second-leg draw at Bayern Munich secured a 6-5 aggregate victory on Wednesday. PSG exploded on the counter less than three minutes in and Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele put Luis Enrique's visitors ahead on the night and two goals up in the tie. PSG largely succeeded in subduing Bayern's attacking threat, despite Harry Kane's stoppage-time goal. "It was an exceptional match, another magical night in Munich against a great team," PSG forward Desire Doue told Canal Plus. "These are the kinds of matches we've dreamt of playing since we were little. Now, we're going to enjoy this as a team. On their return to Munich's Allianz Arena, the scene of their greatest triumph against Inter Milan in last year's final, PSG once again emphasised their excellence in a competition



they coveted without success for so long. The French giants will be favourites to lift the trophy for a second successive season when they face Premier League leaders Arsenal on May 30 in Budapest. They are hoping to become only the second back-to-back winners since 1990, after Real Madrid. Bayern were angered by some first-half refereeing decisions but lacked the potency they showed in their 5-4 first-leg loss in Paris. The six-time European champions have still not reached the final since beating PSG in the 2020 showpiece in Lisbon.

"I don't have the ability to be disappointed for long," said Bayern coach Vincent Kompany. "Of course, in the end, we lost two very, very tight games against a very good opponent." Both sides were playing their 52nd match of the season in all competitions -- not even counting last summer's Club World Cup -- but only the hosts looked weary. So dangerous in the first leg, Bayern were surprisingly stodgy, with Michael Olise in particular having an off night. In the midst of a record-breaking season, Bayern's fourth defeat in all competitions will

sting for a club set to wonder what might have been. Bayern strikes early. With Bayern already Bundesliga champions and PSG also on track for the Ligue 1 title, both sides heavily rotated their line-ups in the weekend's league fixtures. But both teams only made one change to their starting XIs compared to last week's spectacle in Paris. Only PSG's was forced, with Fabian Ruiz in for the injured Achraf Hakimi. The high-octane first leg was widely lauded as among the best matches in the competition's history and Wednesday's game offered more of the same early. Ruiz, starting his first European match since January, set Khvicha Kvaratskhelia down the left flank with an excellent through ball. The Georgian latched onto the pass, blazed past his marker before cutting back for the perfectly placed Dembele to slam home. Bayern conceded after just 36 seconds against Real

Skyroot Aerospace becomes India's first space-tech unicorn, raises \$60 million



Hyderabad-based private space launch startup Skyroot Aerospace on Thursday said it has raised \$60 million in a fresh funding round led by existing investors Sherpaloo Ventures and Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC, becoming India's first space-tech unicorn. The latest investment round also saw participation from BlackRock, the founders of Greenko Group, Arkam Ventures, Playbook Partners, Shangvi Family Office and several other investors. While Playbook Partners and Shangvi Family Office joined the company as new investors, Sherpaloo Ventures, GIC, BlackRock, Greenko Group and Arkam

Ventures were existing backers of the space-tech startup. Following the fresh capital infusion, Skyroot Aerospace's valuation has climbed to \$1.1 billion, more than doubling from its previous valuation of nearly \$519 million in 2023. Lt Gen AK Bhatt (Retd.), Director General of the Indian Space Association (ISpA), described the development as a landmark moment for India's private space ecosystem. He said Skyroot's unicorn status reflects the growing technological and commercial capabilities of Indian space startups and signals rising global investor confidence in the country's space sector. According to him, the

milestone could further strengthen India's ambitions of increasing its share in the global space economy by 2033. Meanwhile, Skyroot co-founder and CEO Pawan Kumar Chandana said the company is preparing for the launch of Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital rocket, in the coming weeks. He added that the latest funding round reflects strong investor confidence in the company's long-term vision and launch capabilities. The company said the fresh capital will be used to increase launch frequency for Vikram-1, expand manufacturing capabilities and support the development of Vikram-2, a next-gener-

ation launch vehicle with a one-tonne payload capacity and an advanced cryogenic upper stage. Skyroot noted that its 2022 Vikram-S mission successfully demonstrated the company's launch technology, while Vikram-1 is designed to carry payloads into orbit. Sherpaloo Ventures Founder and Managing Partner Ram Shriram said he has backed Skyroot since its early days and expressed confidence in the startup's progress towards the Vikram-1 mission. The latest round has taken Skyroot Aerospace's total funding to more than \$160 million, or around Rs 1,500 crore.

Sensex, Nifty trade higher as hopes of US-Iran deal lift market sentiment



The Indian equity markets traded higher on Thursday in morning trade amid hopes of the US-Iran peace deal. Sensex climbed as much as 0.48 per cent, or 380 points, to hit an intraday high of 78,339.24 in early trade, while Nifty traded at 24,423.35, up 0.37 per cent or 92 points. Meanwhile, from the Nifty pack, Tata Consumer, Power Grid, Hindustan Unilever, TCS, HDFC Bank, Titan, NTPC, and Sun Pharma were among the top losers. Sectoral indices — Nifty Realty, Nifty FMCG, Nifty Consumer Durables, and Nifty Private Bank — declined up to 0.7 per cent. In contrast, Nifty

Auto and Nifty Metal gained up to 0.78 per cent. Market sentiment turned positive after Iran said it is examining a US peace proposal, which, according to sources, would formally end the conflict while leaving unresolved key US demands for Tehran to halt its nuclear programme and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Market experts said that rising concentration risk in the AI segment, warning that valuations have reached elevated levels and a sharp correction cannot be ruled out. According to them, a reversal in FPI flows into India may depend on any cooling in the AI trade or a correction in

AI-related valuations. On geopolitical developments, they said the West Asia situation continues to be volatile, leading to a see-saw movement in crude oil prices. They further added that markets are currently swinging between hope and fear, and this trend may persist until there is greater clarity on the crisis. On earnings, market is rewarding strong Q4 results while punishing misses, with positive performance trends seen across market capitalisations, according to them. Reports suggested that an Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson said Tehran would communicate its response to the

proposal. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump said he believes Iran is interested in reaching an agreement. In commodities, the international oil benchmark Brent crude was trading at \$102.50 per barrel, up 1.21 per cent, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) was trading 1.47 per cent higher at \$96.48. In Asian markets, major indices — the Nikkei, Hang Seng, and KOSPI — were trading up to around 6 per cent higher. Similarly, in the US markets, Wall Street ended higher, with the S&P closing 1.46 per cent up and the Nasdaq settling 2 per cent higher.

India Continue Ban On Bilateral Sporting Ties With Pakistan, Open Doors For Global Events In India

The Sports Ministry announced India's policy towards international sporting events on Wednesday, and the ban on bilateral sporting ties with Pakistan will continue. They also made it clear that Pakistani athletes will be allowed to compete in the multi-national events hosted by India. An official circular issued to National Sports Federations, the Indian Olympic Association and the Sports Authority of India mentioned the details. The ministry also added in their statement that the country will continue to follow the Olympic Charter and international sporting guidelines as India are preparing to host major global events in the future, like the 2030 Commonwealth Games and the 2036 Olympics. The release from the Sports Ministry clearly mentioned that bilateral engagement with Pakistan is off the table, but the multina-



tional tournaments will be hosted in India under international norms. "In so far as bilateral sports events in each other's country are concerned, Indian teams will not be participating in competitions in Pakistan. Nor will we permit Pakistani teams to play in India," the ministry stated. "With regard to international and multi-lateral events, in India or abroad, we are guided by the practices of international sports bodies and the interests of our own sportspersons.

"Accordingly, Indian teams and individual players will take part in international events that also have teams or players from Pakistan. Similarly, Pakistani players and teams will be able to participate in such multilateral events hosted by India." The policy was first arrived upon in August after criticism around India taking part in cricket's Asia Cup in the UAE, where Pakistan was also one of the participants after the Pahalgam terror attack

that killed the lives of 26 people. No bilateral sporting ties with neighbours. The sports ministry decided to continue its existing policy with Pakistan. This means that India will not play any bilateral sporting series against arch-rivals, either hosted in India or Pakistan, for the foreseeable future. The circular was sent to all major sporting bodies in the country to officially formalise the country's stance. Can Pakistani athletes

Why Did Priyanka Chopra, Kylie Jenner, Taylor Swift Suddenly Lose Millions Of Instagram Followers?



Celebrities and influencers were left shocked after millions of followers suddenly disappeared overnight on Instagram. The unexpected drop in follower counts has now sparked massive discussions online, with many calling it the "Great Purge of 2026." According to multiple online reports, Instagram's parent company, Meta Platforms has reportedly begun a large-scale crackdown on fake, inactive and bot accounts across the platform. While the company has not officially confirmed the exact numbers, users around the world noticed dramatic changes in follower counts within just a few

hours. Among the most famous celebrities whose number of followers dropped is Kylie Jenner, losing more than 14 million followers. Another one who suffered losses was Cristiano Ronaldo, one of the most successful football players, whose number of followers fell by nearly 8 million. Several other global stars were also reportedly impacted by the purge, including Ariana Grande, Beyoncé, Taylor Swift and Justin Bieber. Indian celebrities were not spared either. Cricketer Virat Kohli and global actor Priyanka Chopra also reportedly lost a huge

number of followers during the clean-up drive. Fans of K-pop sensations BTS and BLACKPINK also noticed sudden drops in the groups' follower count. The reported purge is believed to target accounts linked to spam activity, fake engagement and third-party follower boosting services. Many social media users feel the move is part of Instagram's effort to make the platform more authentic and reduce artificially inflated follower numbers. At the same time, several users on Threads have also complained about accidental bans and sudden account restrictions.

Some influencers and smaller creators claimed that even genuine followers may have been removed by mistake during the process. Reports suggest that millions of accounts were deleted within a span of just six hours. While smaller creators allegedly lost around 2 to 5 per cent of their followers, celebrity accounts witnessed much bigger drops because of their massive follower bases. Even though many stars lost millions of followers, fans online pointed out that the purge may ultimately help reveal the real organic reach and popularity of celebrities on social media.

Nora Fatehi apologises to NCW over 'Sarke Chunar' song row



Actor Nora Fatehi on Thursday appeared before the National Commission for Women in connection with a controversy surrounding the song 'Sarke Chunar' and apologised, saying there was "no intention anybody." Speaking to reporters after the hearing, Fatehi said she had been put in a situation unintentionally but acknowledged her responsibility as an artist. "I definitely apologise, we have done everything in writing. They have been so kind and helpful," she said. The actor also said she has decided to sponsor the education of orphan girls. It is important for us

to give back to society. So, I decided that we should sponsor a few orphan girls, their education, so that is the goal after this matter," she said. In a statement, the commission said that Fatehi submitted a written unconditional apology. According to the commission, Fatehi said she was not well-versed in Kannada and was unaware of the objectionable message conveyed in the Hindi-dubbed version of the song. She expressed regret over the impact caused by the song and assured the commission that she would exercise greater caution while associating with future projects. During the hearing, NCW chairperson Vijaya Raghav expressed concern over

the vulgarity and societal impact of such content and said artistes and public figures cannot evade social responsibility by citing contractual limitations or lack of awareness. Raghav said celebrities wield significant influence over society, particularly the youth, and must remain conscious of the messages they convey. "As a gesture of social responsibility and atonement, Fatehi also committed to sponsoring the education of 100 orphan girls and requested the Commission to consider her apology sympathetically," the statement read. It took the apology on record while firmly reaffirming that entertainment content must uphold the dignity of women, preserve cul-

tural and societal sensitivities, and refrain from promoting obscenity or the derogatory representation of women in any form," it added. Earlier, Fatehi distanced herself from the Hindi version of the song, saying she had shot the Kannada version and that her permission was not taken for its use in Hindi. The Hindi version of the song, released on March 15 on YouTube, triggered outrage among a section of the public over its allegedly explicit lyrics. He backlash, the makers removed the Hindi version from YouTube, though it continued to circulate across platforms. 'KD The Devil' is a Kannada film, dubbed in four languages, includ-

Dhurandhar 2 OTT Release Plan Surfaces During Copyright Battle Over Tirchi Topiwale Song



Fans eagerly waiting for the OTT release of Dhurandhar 2 may finally have an idea of when the blockbuster spy thriller could begin streaming. While the makers have not officially announced a digital premiere date yet, details shared during an ongoing Delhi High Court case suggest the film is unlikely to arrive on OTT platforms before mid-May. Directed by Aditya Dhar and headlined by Ranveer Singh, Dhurandhar 2 has been enjoying a dream run in theatres for the past seven weeks. The action-packed spy thriller has broken several box-office records and emerged as one of the highest-grossing Indian films of all time. Naturally, anticipation around its streaming

release has been growing rapidly. The update about the OTT timeline surfaced during court proceedings linked to a copyright dispute involving the iconic song Tirchi Topiwale from Rajiv Rai's 1989 film Tridev. Rai, who directed and produced the cult action film, has accused the makers of Dhurandhar 2 of using the song without proper authorisation. In Dhurandhar 2, the song appears in a recreated form during the climax sequence. The remixed version, titled Rang De Lal, was composed by Shashwat Sachdev and is also included in the film's soundtrack. Rajiv Rai and his production banner Trimurti Films alleged that the use of the original composition and sound recording

amounts to copyright infringement. The Delhi High Court had earlier advised both parties to settle the matter through mediation. However, during the latest hearing, the court was informed that the case will now move towards trial, with the next hearing scheduled for May 8. During the proceedings, B62 Studios reportedly informed the court that the film was unlikely to be released on OTT before mid-May. The film could arrive on streaming platforms shortly after completing its theatrical window. The timeline also matches the standard eight-to-10-week gap followed by many major theatrical releases before moving to OTT. Dhurandhar 2 completes eight weeks in cinemas on May 14.

Interestingly, the first film in the franchise had arrived on Netflix after a similar theatrical run. However, reports suggest the sequel is expected to stream on JioHotstar this time, though an official confirmation is still awaited. Apart from Ranveer Singh, the film also stars Akshaye Khanna, Arjun Rampal, R Madhavan, Sanjay Dutt, Rakesh Bedi, and Sara Arjun in key roles. Produced by Jio Studios and B62 Studios, the film follows an Indian spy operating in Karachi and has been praised for its scale, action sequences, and performances. The Dhurandhar franchise has now reportedly crossed Rs 3,100 crore worldwide, with Dhurandhar 2 alone earning nearly Rs 1,800 crore globally.

Who Plays What In Christopher Nolan's Epic And Key Moments From The New Trailer



Christopher Nolan is heading into mythological territory with his next big film, The Odyssey, and the newly released trailer has given audiences their first proper look at the director's ambitious take on Homer's ancient Greek epic. Known for films like Oppenheimer, Interstellar and Inception, Christopher Nolan is now tackling one of the oldest and most influential adventure stories ever written. The film follows Odysseus, the king of Ithaca, as he struggles to return home after the Trojan War. His journey, which lasts 10 years, is filled with monsters, storms, temptations and divine interferences. At its heart, though, the story is about family, survival and the need to reclaim home after years of loss. The trailer opens with dark ocean visuals and a tense atmosphere, immediately setting a serious tone. Unlike many fantasy epics

that focus only on spectacle, Nolan appears to be building a more emotional and character-driven story. Matt Damon leads as Odysseus. Matt Damon takes on the role of Odysseus, the legendary warrior and strategist trying to return to Ithaca after victory at Troy. In the trailer, Damon appears rugged, battle-worn and physically transformed for the role. One of the trailer's standout moments features him declaring that nothing, "not even the Gods," will stop him from returning home. The "not even the Gods," line has already sparked major discussion online. Tom Holland plays Telemachus, the son of Odysseus and Penelope. He has grown up without knowing his father and is determined to believe that Odysseus is still alive. The trailer hints at Telemachus having a big-

ger role than some earlier adaptations. He is shown confronting enemies inside the palace and defending his father's legacy. His emotional scenes suggest Nolan is placing strong focus on the father-son relationship. Anne Hathaway as Penelope. Anne Hathaway reunites with Nolan as Penelope, the queen of Ithaca and Odysseus' wife. Penelope is shown as strong, patient and politically sharp. She is trying that nothing, "not even the Gods," hold her household together while fending off powerful suitors who believe Odysseus will never return. Robert Pattinson Takes Antagonist Role. Robert Pattinson appears as Antinous, one of Penelope's most aggressive suitors. His brief scenes already suggest he could be one of the film's standout characters. Antinous is portrayed as arrogant, dangerous and eager to seize control of Ithaca.