

Munnuru Kapu Corp Chief Gets Grand Welcome In Karimnagar



KARIMNAGAR: Telangana State Munnuru Kapu Corporation chairman Bomma Sriram Chakravarthy received a grand welcome during his maiden visit to Karimnagar district on Monday. He was escorted in a bike rally from the NTR statue to Indra Gardens, where the Congress organised a felicitation programme. City Congress president Anjan Kumar thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and BC welfare minister Ponnambhakhar for providing leadership opportunities to district leaders, stating that the appointment reflected the government's focus on backward communities. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Later,

Ponnambhakhar chaired a District Political Affairs Committee (PAC) meeting at the DCC office to review public issues, including paddy procurement, voter list revision and drinking water supply. The minister directed party workers to monitor procurement at IKP centres and prevent exploitation by middlemen and millers under the pretext of grain shrinkage. He linked to the GPS-based truck tracking system. Revision (SIR), he alleged attempts to delete secular votes and instructed constituency coordinators to remain vigilant. He directed the appointment of Booth Level Agents (BLA-2) in all villages to assist with voter verification. Reviewing summer conditions, the minister said officials had been alerted to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply. He asked party workers, corporators and former sarpanches to identify shortage areas and set up free drinking water kiosks at key public locations.

Reunion of Friends, Colleagues: Revanth After Attending UDF Govt Oath Taking

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed confidence that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi would one day become the Prime Minister of India after attending the oath-taking ceremony of the UDF government led by V. D. Satheesan in Kerala. Sharing his experience from the event, Revanth Reddy described the occasion as "a reunion of friends and colleagues" and said the atmosphere in Kerala was filled with "hope, energy and enthusiasm." He attended the ceremony along with Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, former Chhattisgarh Chief

Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, and Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, among others. "The hope, energy and enthusiasm is palpable in the Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, air. The same energy will strengthen as we will all work together for our biggest common goal —



Revanth Reddy said in a social media post. "for the day when our leader Shri Rahul Gandhi will take oath as Prime Minister of India."

Telangana Launches Sports Drive Under 99-day Action Plan

Hyderabad: Telangana Minister Vakti Srihari on Monday said the state government is sports persons and taking measures to win gold medals at global events like the Olympics. Speaking at an event at LB Stadium here as part of the state government's 99-day special development programme, which began on March 6, he said the government had recently conducted various sports competitions under the "CM Cup," in which 3.5 lakh children from the village level participated. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in



2025 The event aimed to encourage children to take up sports and to promote talented young athletes, he said. The government is emphasising improving sports infrastructure and facilities and encouraging coaches, he added. The sports minister said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy envisions a state where children and youth steer clear

of drugs and other vices and actively pursue sports. "It is our resolve that Telangana should win gold medals at the Olympics. The government will encourage all talented and upcoming sports persons to excel not only at the national level but also at the international level," he said. Srihari alleged that the previous BRS government neglect-

Andhra CM Congratulates PM Modi On Sweden's Top Honour For Global Leaders

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday congratulated PM Narendra Modi on being conferred Sweden's 'Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree of Commander Grand Cross' in recognition of his exceptional contributions to bilateral ties and visionary leadership. Naidu noted that this was the 31st international honour conferred on PM Modi. "Heartiest congratulations to Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi ji on being conferred Sweden's highest honour for global leaders, the 'Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree of Commander Grand Cross'," Naidu said in a post on X. Modi was awarded the "highest distinction Sweden can confer" in

recognition of his contribution to India-Sweden relations and his leadership. "Heartiest congratulations to Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi ji on being conferred Sweden's highest honour for global leaders, the 'Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree of Commander Grand Cross'," Naidu said in a post on X. Several Mandals in AP The chief minister observed that the Swedish honour reflects PM Modi's remarkable leadership and his continued efforts to strengthen India's global partnerships and international cooperation. Modi was awarded the "highest distinction Sweden can confer on a Head of Government" in



recognition of his contribution to India-Sweden relations and his leadership. "My visit to Sweden was marked by several important outcomes that will add new momentum to India-Sweden relations," Modi said in a social media post. PTI STH SSK

Mallaram Wins National Award for Digital E-Panchayat Model



Karimnagar: Mallaram village in Vemulawada mandal of Rajanna Sircilla district has won first prize at the national-level 'Digital Krishi-Samridhi Gaav' competition for transforming itself into a fully digital e-panchayat. The award, organised by the Quality Council of India, was presented in April. The initiative was led by sarpanch Sangam Arpitha, who introduced digital governance measures after assuming office in December 2025. With technical support from her son, Samhith Reddy, a B.Tech student, the gram panchayat launched a dedicated website in February to streamline civic and administrative services. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 The village, with a population of around 2,500, has seen significant adop-

tion of the platform, with about 60 per cent of residents using it for civic and agricultural services over the past three months. The website, designed in Telugu, provides real-time weather updates, farming advisories and crop suggestions through an AI-based system. It also includes a slot-booking facility for farmers at procurement centres to reduce waiting time. Also Read - Munnuru Kapu Corp Chief Gets Grand Welcome In Karimnagar Officials said the platform ensures transparency by displaying details of panchayat income, expenditure, fund allocation and meetings are also live-streamed. The grievance redressal system has been integrated into the platform, with complaints resolved within 48 hours or escalated to higher authorities where required.

BRS demands resignation of Bandi Sanjay Kumar over POCSO case controversy



Karimnagar: BRS leaders and workers staged protest demonstrations demanding the resignation of the union Minister of State for Home, Bandi Sanjay Kumar owning moral responsibility of the POCSO case registered against his son, Sai Bageerath. Besides displaying placards, a 100 feet length flexic banner with a write up "Bandi Sanjay, who does not have moral values, should resign immediately. Justice

should be done to minor girl" was also displayed at Telangana chowk here on Monday. Justice would not be done to the girl if he was continued in the minister post since there was a possibility of diluting the investigation by using his powers. So, the central government should suspend him from the cabinet, they demanded. Similar protest was also held in Sircilla town. BRS leaders led by the town president Jindam Chak

rapani staged dharna and rasta roko at Chenetha Chowk, demanding the resignation of Sanjay Kumar. There was some jostling between police and BRS workers when the former forcibly vacated the agitating people from the spot. As the situation turned serious, Superintendent of Police Mahesh B Gite rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control by convincing agitating people.

Lok Bhavan's Strict Protocols Flouted at UDF Govt Oath Taking

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kerala Lok Bhavan's directive allowing only the Governor, Chief Minister-designate V. D. Satheesan, and the Ministers taking oath to occupy chairs on the stage was not followed during the ceremony. Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi shared the stage with the Chief Minister designate and Ministers' designate during the oath-taking ceremony at the Central stadium. Also Read - Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar Takes Oath as 23rd Governor of Kerala Many prominent leaders, including Opposition Leader Pinarayi Vijayan, CPI state secretary Binoy Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, from sharing the stage with the CM-designate and his Cabinet. The directive had stated that all other leaders and



guests, regardless of rank, must remain in the audience area. Congress leaders criticized the protocols as anti-democratic, pointing to oath-taking ceremonies in other states, especially those ruled by the BJP, where the Prime Minister, Home Minister, and Chief Ministers of NDA-ruled states shared the stage with the CM-designate and Cabinet. They alleged the directive was selective and reflected an undemocratic approach. Everyone took the oath in Malayalam except Muraleedharan, who did so in English. All, except Shibu Baby John and C.P. John, took the oath in the name of God. Representing the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) and the solemn affirmation of their commitment instead. The Congress has 12 members in the Cabeneral secretary (organisation) Venugopal, who lost to Satheesan for the CM post in the last round despite having a majority in the CLP, had pushed Communist Marxist Party (CMP) respectively, they made a head for more positions for his supporters.

Warangal Police Take Innovative Action Against Rowdy Sheeters

Hyderabad: In a strong and unusual crackdown on criminal activities, Warangal police conducted a public march with rowdy sheeters from Ajam Jahi Mills Colony police station to Shivanagar near the Khila Warangal Tahsildar Office under the subdivision limits. Under the scorching sun, Circle Inspector Ramesh along with Sub-Inspectors led the rowdy sheeters on foot as part of a strict law enforcement exercise aimed at sending a strong warning to habitual offenders. The rowdy sheeters were later blind-overed before Khila Warangal



Tahsildar Iqbal. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 With police personnel leading from the front, police jeeps following behind, and rowdy sheeters marching in between, the action created a powerful message against criminal activities in the city. The unprecedented initiative by Warangal police is being seen as a stern warning designed to instill fear among criminals and strengthen public confidence in policing.

Kharge Hails Huge Mandate Ahead of VD Satheesan's Swearing-in as Kerala CM

Ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of Kerala Chief Minister-designate VD Satheesan, Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday termed the Congress-led alliance's victory in the state as "unprecedented" and expressed happiness over the mandate received. Speaking to reporters, Kharge said, "VD Satheesan is taking oath today, along with other cabinet ministers. It is an unprecedented victory. We are happy because it was such a huge mandate." Also Read - Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar Takes Oath as 23rd Governor of Kerala Earlier, the Congress National President left from his residence in Bengaluru to attend the oath-taking ceremony of the VD Satheesan-led Kerala government. VD Satheesan is set to take oath as the Chief Minister of Kerala at 10 am today, along with his full Council of Ministers. The swearing-in ceremony will be held at the Central Stadium in



the state capital after the formal announcement of the complete Cabinet list. Also Read - 10-Year-Old Girl Dies, 18 Students Hurt in Kerala School Bus Accident Earlier on Sunday, Satheesan met Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar at Lok Bhavan and submitted the list of ministers to be sworn in along with him. Addressing a press conference, Satheesan said the full Cabinet would take oath together with the Chief Minister after nearly six decades. "The swearing-in ceremony will take place tomorrow at 10 am. Along with the Chief Minister, the full Cabinet will take the oath together after nearly six decades. The Indian Union Muslim League has already

announced its nominees. Among the 63 Congress MLAs, there are many deserving leaders. Several deserving leaders have also been left out and remain outside the Cabinet. There is sadness and difficulty in that. Various limitations, criteria and social realities led to such decisions." tions. "We have 63 MLAs, some are more eligible than othwe have to consider the social and regional balance and the representation of women and Dalit representation. We are not able to include all the eligible persons in the Cabinet. We have included two members from the SC, and women's representation has been ensured," he said. Also Read - Sanatana Dharma:

Satheesan accuses CM Vijayan of attempting to favour Sangh Parivar. The 20-member Cabinet announced by Satheesan includes senior leaders such as Ramesh Chennithala, K Muraleedharan, KPCC Chief Sunny Joseph, along with IUML leaders PK Kunhalikutty, PK Basheer, N Samsudheen, KM Shaji, VE Abdul Gafoor, Mons Joseph, Shibu Baby John, Anoop Jacob, CP John, AP Anil Kumar, T Siddique, PC Vishnuunath, Roji M John, Bindu Krishna, M Liju, KA Thulasi and O J Janeesh. The UDF secured a historic and decisive victory in the 2026 Kerala Assembly elections, bringing an end to the decade-long rule of the LDF. Led by the Indian National Congress, which won 63 seats, the coalition achieved a landslide majority by capturing a total of 102 seats in the 140-member Assembly. The IUML won 22 seats, while the LDF won 35 seats, and the Bharatiya Janata Party managed to win three constituencies.

Ramesh Chennithala Confirms Home Portfolio in Kerala Cabinet

Thiruvananthapuram: Senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala on Monday said he would assume charge of the Home portfolio in the incoming VD Satheesan-led government and asserted that the new administration would fulfil the five guarantees announced by Rahul Gandhi during the Kerala Assembly election campaign. Speaking ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of the new government in Thiruvananthapuram, Chennithala said the return of the United Democratic Front (UDF) to power after a decade marked an "auspicious day" for the people of the state. Also Read - Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar Takes Oath as 23rd Governor of Kerala "Today is an auspicious day for the people of Kerala because after 10 years, the UDF is coming to power... It is our bounden duty to give



good governance to the people of Kerala. The new government is going to be sworn in today... I am going to take up the Home portfolio," Chennithala told reporters. He asserted that the new UDF administration would ensure better governance and law and order in Kerala. Also Read - 10-Year-Old Girl Dies, 18 Students Hurt in Kerala School Bus Accident "The duty of the Home Minister is to maintain the law and order situation in the state. We will try to give better admin-

istration and better law and order situation in the state of Kerala," Chennithala said. Referring to the Congress party's electoral commitments, the senior leader said the new government would implement the five guarantees announced by Rahul Gandhi during the Assembly election campaign. Also Read - Strategy to get vote bank support: BJP's V Muraleedharan slams Kerala CM's remarks on Sanatana Dharma "Our leader, Rahul Gandhi, has announced five

guarantees. We are going to implement the five guarantees," Chennithala said. The five guarantees announced by Rahul Gandhi include free bus travel for women, Rs 1,000 per month assistance for college-going girls, increasing welfare pensions to Rs 3,000, Rs 25 lakh Oommen Chandy Health Insurance coverage for every family, and interest-free loans up to Rs 5 lakh for small businesses. Also Read - Sanatana Dharma: Satheesan accuses CM Vijayan of attempting to favour Sangh Parivar. Meanwhile, Chief Minister-designate VD Satheesan arrived at the airport in Thiruvananthapuram to welcome dignitaries attending the swearing-in ceremony. Chief Ministers from Congress-ruled states and several senior leaders are expected to

Telangana DGP Appreciates Sustained Efforts of SIB Officers In Countering Left Wing Extremism

Hyderabad: Telangana DGP C.V. Anand on Monday reviewed Maoist situation in the state on Monday. During his visit to the Special Intelligence Branch (SIB) office, the DGP reviewed the present Maoist scenario in Telangana and assessed the ongoing anti-extremist operations and intelligence initiatives undertaken by SIB to address the security concerns of Telangana. He appreciated the sustained efforts of SIB officers and staff in effectively countering Left Wing Extremism and facilitating large-scale surrenders of underground CPI (Maoist) cadres. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 The DGP



commended the remarkable contribution of SIB in effectively neutralizing the armed Maoist movement in Telangana through sustained intelligence-based operations, confidence building measures and rehabilitation initiatives. He appreciated the proactive role played by SIB in motivating underground Maoist cadres to shun violence and join the mainstream. The DGP also reviewed the

rehabilitation and reintegration measures being extended to surrendered Maoists and assured that the Telangana Police Department would continue to provide all necessary support for their rehabilitation and social reintegration. Also Read - Hyderabad's Priyanka Chigurupati Makes A Powerful Debut At Cannes The SIB has to continue watching the surrendered cadre closely, ensure their reskilling

and other employment oriented training and job placement, their rehabilitation and integration into the society, he said. Advising officers on the evolving security environment, the DGP stated that the SIB should adapt to emerging challenges and assume a broader role in policing intelligence, study upcoming patterns and social media and resultant social changes impacting public order and peace, involving the youth and support the State Police in addressing future security concerns of Telangana. The DGP interacted with Vijay Kumar, Addl. DGP, Intelligence, Kartikeya, IGP Intelligence & SIB during the visit.

Telangana heatwave intensifies as temperatures soar up to 44 degrees Celsius across districts

Hyderabad: With the summer season peaking, almost all the districts in the State have continued to remain at the receiving end of a punishing heatwave, which has tightened its grip across Telangana. In the last 24-hours, between Sunday and 8.30 am on Monday, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) Hyderabad weather data, multiple districts have recorded maximum temperatures ranging between 41 degrees Celsius and 44 degrees Celsius. The relentless dry spell, marked by clear skies and zero rainfall, is also not providing the public much relief at night. The nighttime temperatures during night have remained at 3.5 degrees Celsius above normal, making it very difficult for people, who continue to remain suffocated under the heat stress. In terms of peak regional impact, the



northern and western districts of Telangana are bearing the absolute brunt of this severe spell, with maximum temperatures consistently breaching the 41 degrees Celsius mark. Adilabad emerged as the hottest district in the state, recording a maximum temperature of 44.3 degrees Celsius, closely followed by Nizamabad (43.6), Medak (42.6), Ramagundam (41.2) and

Nalgonda district recording 41 degrees Celsius. Within the Hyderabad metropolitan area, the distribution of heat showed variations across districts of Telangana are bearing the absolute brunt of this severe spell, with maximum temperatures consistently breaching the 41 degrees Celsius mark. Adilabad emerged as the hottest district in the state, recording a maximum temperature of 44.3

degrees Celsius, closely followed by different regions, with a few urban stations pushing past the 40 degrees Celsius threshold. The highest daytime temperature in the city was recorded at Rajendranagar, which hit 40.1 degrees Celsius followed by Hakimpet (39.8), Patancheru (39.2) and Begumpet recorded a maximum of 39.1 degrees Celsius.

Polavaram Tribal Oustees Fail to Get Justice from Officials

Kakinada: The Andhra Pradesh government has failed in addressing the problems of the Polavaram Project displaced families, mainly the Schedule Tribes. The tribal people of Koruturu village in Jeelugumilli mandal of Eluru district are roaming around the collector's office and the pleading with government officials to do justice, but in vain. According to them, the state government acquired the lands of tribal people at Papikondalu area for the Polavaram Irrigation Project in 2009 and built rehabilitation colonies at Koruturu and other villages. The government also has given land-to-land compensation to the displaced families of tribal communities with an extent of 188 acres. Also Read - VHP Wants Clarity on AP Scheme for Increasing Population The families came to the colonies in 2022. But the problem began at Koruturu village. The government has given pattas to their

lands for compensation. However, while they are entering the fields, a tribal person namely M Venkateswara Rao allegedly resisted them from entering their fields. His contention is that the lands are being cultivated by the local tribal people for long years -- and if the present displaced families cultivate the lands, the livelihood of the local people will be lost. Also Read - Passenger killed as pvt travels bus rams into lorry A Polavaram irrigation project-displaced family member Mule Posubabu said that when they cultivated the lands with groundnut, the local leader destroyed the crop by bringing a lot of people from Buttayigudem mandal. When they raised a Palmolive plantation, the first time, he destroyed their crop. The second time, the plants were destroyed by spraying of chemicals, he said. He said the state government left the Polavaram Project displaced families in dire



straits and nobody was now in a position to address their problems. Also Read - MLA Ganta Finds Empty Liquor Bottles In Madhurawada PHC Due to the lack of livelihood and not being able to enter their fields, the tribal people are struggling hard for their livelihood due to lack of work. They should be able to eke out a livelihood. Else, the rehabilitation will be of no use. Another victim, M Satyavathi, said all the victims approached the district collectors and revenue officials, and "they said that the government has given pattas to these tribal people as compensation of land-

to-land under Polavaram project." Also Read - Coalition Government Committed to Ambedkar's Ideals: Satya Kumar They proposed that they would go to the fields and cultivate the crop, she said, and added that though the displaced families approached the police with complaints, they could not get justice. She said local tribal leader Venkateswara Rao approached the court, claiming the lands belonged to them. But the government would not do justice to them. She appealed to all parties to address their problems. Satyavathi requested chief minister

Rahul Gandhi To Go On Two-Day Raebareli Visit From May 19

Raebareli: Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress MP from Raebareli Rahul Gandhi will arrive here on May 19 on a two-day visit, a Congress office-bearer said on Monday.

Congress district president of Raebareli Pankaj Tiwari said that on the first day, Gandhi will inaugurate a marriage hall at Thakurain Kheda in Bachhrawan. Subsequently, he will address a public meeting in Khiron. In Lalganj, he will participate in a 'mahila samvaad' programme.

He further said that on May 20, he will meet the public during a 'Janata Darshan' programme at the Bhuyemau Guest House. Following this, he will participate in the unveiling of a statue of Veera Pasi and attend a public meeting in Lodhwari. He will then depart for Amethi.

In Amethi, Gandhi will hold meetings with party



functionaries, workers and senior leaders at the party's district headquarters, Congress district unit chief Pradeep Singhal said on Sunday. According to political observers, this meeting would form a part of the

strategic preparations for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Aof party workers -- from assembly elections, alongside an organisational review. Discussions during the meeting are likely to focus on strengthening the party organisation down to

the booth level, increasing participation of youth and women workers, and accelerating public outreach campaigns across villages. According to sources, a large number of party workers -- from Gram Sabha to the district

level -- have been invited to attend the meeting. Gandhi is expected to interact directly with workers. During the one-day visit, the Congress leader will also travel to Poore Ramdeen Pandit -- the native village of late Congress district president Yogendra Mishra -- to meet his family members. Mishra, considered a close associate of the Gandhi family, passed away on March 1 following a prolonged illness.

Political activities in the district have intensified ahead of Gandhi's visit, and party workers have already started making arrangements for his reception. Kishori Lal Sharma, the Congress MP from Amethi, is also holding regular meetings with local leaders and functionaries to review the preparations.

Madhya Pradesh: One Tiger Death Every 4 Days Leaves Wildlife Experts Worried

Bhopal: In Madhya Pradesh, projects aimed at wildlife conservation and rehabilitation are being continuously advanced. Over the past 15 years, the state has also witnessed a rapid increase in its tiger population. While the forests of Madhya Pradesh are estimated to harbour around 1,000 tigers, the recent surge in reports of tiger deaths has become a cause for deep concern among wildlife experts.



In the first 135 days of 2026, the state has lost 32 tigers. This translates to the death of one tiger every four days, the highest tiger mortality rate in the state's history. Already, to curb tiger deaths in the state's reserve forests, a control room is being established at the Forest Department headquarters, to monitor all tiger reserves in the state. Samita Rajoura, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) of the Forest Department's Wildlife Wing, said the control room to monitor and manage incidents occurring within forest areas is modeled after police control rooms, and will serve as a central hub for monitoring events, including res-

cue operations. One Tiger Dying Every 4 Days The first tiger death of 2026 was recorded at the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. With the exception of the Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) infection at Kanha Tiger Reserve in May, the majority of the tiger deaths have been due to territorial fights. B a n d h a v g a r h National Park currently accounts for the highest number of tiger deaths in the country. This is attributed to the fact that the tiger population within the forest area has exceeded its carrying capacity. Consequently, the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department has now sought expert advice from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), based in Dehradun. R e c e n t l y, Subharanjan Sen, the Head of the Forest Department, request-

ed the WII to conduct an assessment of the tiger carrying capacity within designated forest areas and to develop a scientific methodology for this purpose, with the aim of preventing tiger deaths resulting from mutual conflicts. Tiger deaths in Madhya Pradesh Tiger deaths in Madhya Pradesh (ETV Bharat) Most Deaths Caused by Mutual Conflicts An analysis of data from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) reveals that over the past five years, Madhya Pradesh has recorded more than 245 tiger deaths. Territorial fights, and severe injuries and infections resulting from them, are considered the primary cause behind the deaths of around 40 per cent of these. Of the total tiger deaths recorded in 2026, 14 were the result of mutual con-

Delhi-NCR Transport Strike From May 21 May Hit Essential Supplies, Traffic Movement

New Delhi: The proposed three-day transport strike by transporters on May 21, 22, and 23 may affect traffic movement and the supply of essential goods, such as milk, medicines, fruits, and vegetables, across Delhi and the entire National Capital Region (NCR). More than 68 transport unions and associations from Delhi-NCR, under the leadership of the All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC), are set to participate in the agitation. Transport organisations said the protest is being held against policies of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), courts and the Delhi government, which they described as anti-transporter and impractical. What Are The Issues Of Transport Unions? According to the transport unions, the steep hike in the Environmental Compensation Charge (ECC), the proposed ban on the entry of BS-IV



commercial vehicles into Delhi, the imposition of ECC even on BS-VI vehicles, and toll plaza-related arrangements are putting a heavy financial burden on the transport business. The organisations alleged that, contrary to the Supreme Court's intent, ECC is now being

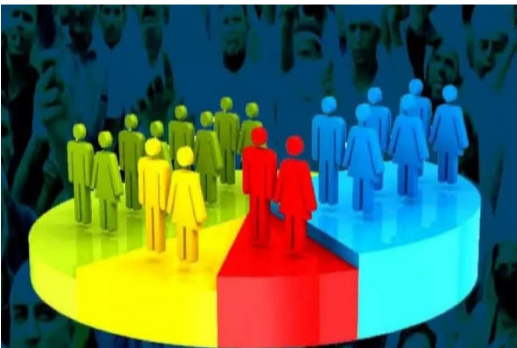
imposed on almost all goods vehicles entering Delhi, whereas earlier vehicles carrying essential commodities were exempted. L i v e l i h o o d Concerns Raised AIMTC national president Harish Sabharwal claimed that around 95 lakh truck drivers, 50 lakh bus, taxi and

maxi cab operators, and over 3,500 transport organisations across the country are associated with the sector. Nerly 20 crore people are directly or indirectly dependent on the transport industry for their livelihood. Transporters said recent government decisions are affecting the livelihood of millions. A key meeting on these issues was held in Faridabad on May 15, during which several transport organisations and representatives extended their support to the agitation. Leaders present at the meeting had warned that if the government does not reconsider the anti-transporter policies, an indefinite transport strike may also be called in the future. Key Demands Of Transport Unions Rajendra Kapoor, presi-

dent of the All India Motors and Goods Transport Association, said the key demands include withdrawal of the increased ECC imposed on all goods vehicles entering Delhi, complete exemption of BS-VI vehicles from ECC, exemption for vehicles carrying essential goods, and rollback of the proposed ban on BS-IV commercial vehicles from November 1, 2026. During the strike on May 21, 22, and 23, the supply of fruits, vegetables, milk, medicines and other essential commodities in Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, Ghaziabad and Faridabad may be affected. Additionally, the movement of heavy vehicles on major roads and at border points could be disrupted, impacting traffic management across the NCR region. Commuters and residents may also face inconvenience due to the strike.

Census 2027 Begins In Jammu Kashmir With Digital Self-Enumeration

Srinagar: Census 2027 began on Sunday with digital self enumeration of citizens, house listing and housing census (HLO) operations in the union territory of Jammu Kashmir. Several citizens and officials registered themselves on the census website of the government of India. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha completed his self-enumeration on the day, marking the beginning of the House listing and Housing Census (HLO) operations in the UT of Jammu Kashmir. Sinha said that census is India's first fully digital and paperless Census integrating advanced digital technologies, mobile-based data collection systems and self-enumeration mechanisms. He said the exercise is aimed at ensuring greater efficiency, transparency, accuracy and real-time monitoring of operations. Sinha said the census carries special significance for the UT in view of urban expansion, migration trends, expansion of municipal jurisdictions and evolving developmental priorities. "The Census will generate reliable and granular datasets essential for evidence-based governance, targeted welfare delivery and long-term planning," he said. According to Census officials, the self-enumeration period from 17 May 2026 to 31 May 2026 will collect information regarding several key aspects of the



housing and conditions of buildings. Self-enumeration represents one of the most important and citizen-centric innovations in Census 2027 and is expected to transform public participation in the Census process. Through this facility, households will be able to directly submit their Census information digitally through a secure online portal during the notified period. Questions in this phase will cover aspects such as housing conditions, household assets, amenities and facilities, access to sanitation and drinking water, type of construction, communication and transport facilities, availability of electricity and internet. The second phase which is the Enumeration will be conducted in February 2027 in normal areas while in snow-bound and non-synchronous areas of Jammu & Kashmir will be conducted earlier in September 2027 as per notified timelines with separate operational arrangements and logistics planning. This phase will collect demographic and socio-economic

information relating to population, age, gender, literacy, occupation, migration, marital status, disability, fertility and other demographic indicators. Census officials said extensive preparatory activities have already been initiated across the Union Territory in coordination with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India. More than 27,000 field multi-tier training framework has been put in place for effective capacity building of Census National Trainers have trained Master Trainers, who subsequently conducted training of Field Trainers across districts. Training programmes for Enumerators and Supervisors through trained Field Trainers are being organised in phased batches with focus on Census concepts and definitions, field protocols, use of mobile-based applications, digital data capture systems, household engagement techniques, facilitation of self-enumeration and adherence to data confidentiality provisions. Special operational planning is also being undertaken for

CBSE Introduces Three-Language Rule For Classes IX, X From July 1, 20

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced a major change in language studies for students of Classes IX and X. According to a new circular issued by the board, language education will be aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the updated National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) curriculum from the academic session 2026-27.



Under the revised structure, students from Class IX onwards will have to study three languages, at least two of which must be Indian languages. The new system will come into effect from July 1, 2026. CBSE said the decision has been taken in line with the NEP 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE 2023). The board noted that the newly released NCERT curriculum includes the study of three languages: R1, R2 and R3, at the secondary level. In accordance with this

framework, CBSE has decided to revise its academic structure. The board clarified that students can opt for a foreign language only as the third language if the other two are Indian languages. A foreign language may also be chosen as an additional fourth language. CBSE's new language rules. CBSE's new language rules. (ETV Bharat) No Board Exam For Third Language in Class X To reduce examination pressure on students, CBSE has decided not to conduct a board examination for the third language (R3) in Class X.

The assessment for the subject will be carried out internally by schools. However, the student's performance will still be mentioned in the CBSE certificate. The board also clarified that no student will be prevented from appearing in the Class X board examinations due to the third-language requirement. CBSE has directed all school principals to begin preparations for implementing the new language structure. Schools must update details related to the R3 language for Classes VI to IX on the Online Affiliated School

Information System (OASIS) portal by June 30, 2026. The board said schools can choose languages based on available resources and feasibility, but they must ensure that at least 2 of the 3 languages are Indian languages. What Happens If Schools Face Teacher Shortage? The circular also acknowledged that some schools may not have enough language teachers. In such cases, schools may temporarily take support from teachers of schools may not have other subjects who have adequate knowledge of the concerned Indian language. Schools may also adopt cluster-based teaching models, online or hybrid classes, seek assistance from retired language teachers, or engage qualified postgraduate students. CBSE clarified that these measures are meant only for the transition period. CBSE stated that until new R3 textbooks become available, Class IX students will use Class VI language textbooks. Schools may also include

local literature, poems, stories and other reading material to strengthen students' language abilities. The board said detailed guidelines regarding the implementation will be issued by June 15, 2026. Relief For Special Category And Foreign Students CBSE said Children with Special Needs (CwSN) will continue to receive exemptions as per existing rules. Certain relaxations may also be provided to students returning from abroad and those studying in CBSE-affiliated schools outside India. In its circular, CBSE stressed that the objective of the changes is not to increase academic pressure but to promote multilingual learning among students. The board urged schools to positively communicate the new system to parents, teachers and students. According to CBSE, the revised policy will help students develop a better understanding of Indian languages while strengthening cultural connections.

Pak Minister Naqvi Hold Talks With Iranian President Pezeshkian In Tehran

Islamabad: Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday held high-level talks with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran, focusing on regional security, recent hostilities, and efforts to consolidate a fragile ceasefire, according to media reports. Naqvi landed in Iran on Saturday on an unscheduled trip apparently to make efforts for a negotiated solution of the conflict. The Express Tribune reported quoting Iran's state-news agency that Naqvi on Sunday held high-level talks with Pezeshkian in Tehran. Quoting a statement from the Pakistani embassy in Tehran, the Iranian news agency said Naqvi spent nearly 90 minutes in a private meeting with the Iranian president at the Presidential Administration, with his total visit to the complex lasting around three hours. Pezeshkian praised what he described as the responsible corporation of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq in preventing their territories from being used as bases for armed operations against Iran. He said solidarity among Islamic nations was essential for regional peace and reduced the scope for external intervention, including what he referred to as "adventurism by extra-regional powers and the Israeli regime." The Iranian president also praised Pakistan's diplomatic efforts during recent tensions, particularly the role of its political and military leadership in supporting ceasefire stabilisation efforts. "President Pezeshkian



highly commended the active diplomacy of the Pakistani government—particularly Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Asim Munir—in facilitating and stabilising the recent ceasefire," the statement said. Naqvi, for his part, highlighted Pakistan's continued diplomatic engagement aimed at de-escalation and ending hostilities, noting that recent events had clarified regional alignments and "provided a vital baseline for future strategic decisions." The meeting also addressed wider regional developments, with Pezeshkian condemning recent military actions against Iran and describing them as unlawful and aimed at destabilisation. He said such efforts had failed due to national unity and resilience. "The adversaries' primary objective was to trigger domestic instability and dismantle the Islamic system," he added. On bilateral relations, the Iranian president expressed interest

in expanding trade, academic exchange, and scientific cooperation, saying recent developments had created "an ideal opportunity" to deepen ties. Naqvi underscored the "deep historical, cultural, and grassroots ties" between Pakistan and Iran, expressing optimism that political will on both sides would elevate cooperation. Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also attended the meeting. Momeni praised what he described as Iran's Interior Minister Pakistan's constructive role in promoting regional peace, including efforts attributed to Iran's Interior Minister and Pakistan's military leadership. Naqvi arrived in Tehran on a two-day visit and was received by Momeni, marking the start of discussions aimed at facilitating dialogue and reviewing evolving regional developments. On Saturday, the interior minister and his Iranian counterpart reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening

bilateral engagement and addressing shared regional challenges, as Pakistan continued efforts to mediate between Tehran and Washington amid ongoing tensions in the region. The visit comes at a critical time as Pakistan remains engaged in diplomatic efforts to help revive direct talks between Iran and the United States following months of conflict and failed negotiations. Separately, Dawn reported quoting Iran's IRNA news agency that Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also met with Iran's Parliamentary Speaker Bagher Ghalibaf. No more details of the meeting have been provided. Meanwhile, Iranian envoy to Pakistan, Reza Amiri Moghadam, appreciated Pakistan's mediation efforts in the US-Iran war, Pakistan's Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan. In a post on X, Khan said, "Iranian Ambassador called upon, appreciated Pakistan's role in mediating and facilitating the parties to solve the current conflict".

Indian Investments In US On Rise, Creating American Jobs: Official

Washington: Foreign direct investment from India to the United States was approximately USD 16.4 billion, which supported about 70,800 jobs, a senior US official said. Addressing CII India Reception on the sidelines of the SelectUSA Investment Summit at National Harbour in Maryland on Monday evening, US Deputy Undersecretary (Policy and International Trade Administration) in the Department of Commerce, Brandon Remington, said Indian firms also spent USD 330 million on research and development in America to welcome your investment from India. According to available cumulative data, the total stock of foreign direct investment from India to the United States was approximately USD 16.4 billion, which supported approximately 70,800 jobs, USD 313 million in research and development spending and USD 1.5 billion worth of exports," Remington said, without any reference to the period under



review. A CII report released in 2023 had pegged Indian investments in the US in the range of USD 40 billion, which had led to the creation of 4.25 lakh jobs. According to the 'Indian Roots, American Soil' report released by CII in 2023, Indian companies invested USD one billion in US-based research and development projects and also contributed USD 195 million to corporate social responsibility projects. Last week, India's Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd announced a USD 12 billion deal to acquire New Jersey-based Organon &

Co. Nearly a dozen Indian companies are scheduled to make fresh investment announcements at the SelectUSA Investment Summit on Tuesday. Delaware Governor Matt Meyer, Guam Governor Loun Leon Guerrero, Maryland Lt Governor Aruna Miller and a host of US officials and business leaders attended the CII India reception at National Harbour. Indian companies are also making a growing contribution to the US economy, bringing in capital, supporting jobs, strengthening supply chains, and contributing to communities across

states," Namgya Khampa, Deputy Chief of Mission in the Indian Embassy here, said. She said in areas like advanced manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, energy, and many more sectors, Indian companies were supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs across the US, including in the Maryland-DC area.

According to the CII report, the top three states with the most reported FDI from Indian companies were Texas (USD 9.8 billion), Georgia (USD 7.5 billion) and New Jersey (USD 4.2 billion).

One Indian Among Four Killed In Ukrainian Drone Strikes On Russia

New Delhi: An Indian worker was killed and three others injured in a drone attack in the Moscow region, the Indian embassy said Sunday. One of Ukraine's largest drone strikes on Russia killed at least four people, including three near Moscow, and wounded a dozen others, AP reported, citing local authorities. Debris fell on Russia's largest airport without causing damage, it added. The incident comes amid escalating hostilities between Russia and Ukraine. Ukraine carried out overnight attacks targeting installations in Moscow. "One Indian worker has lost his life and three others have been injured in a drone attack in (the) Moscow



region earlier today. Embassy officials have visited the location and met the injured workers in the hospital," the Indian Embassy in Russia said on X. "The Embassy condoles the loss of life and is working with the company management and local authorities to provide necessary assistance to the workers," it said, even though it did not disclose the identities of the deceased or the injured persons. Russia and Ukraine have stepped up long-range drone and missile attacks in recent months, even as diplomatic efforts to find a negotiated settlement to the more than three-year-old

conflict have continued. 8 wounded in Russian drone strikes on Ukraine. Russia attacked Ukraine with 287 drones overnight into Sunday, 279 of which were shot down or jammed, the Ukrainian air force reported. The strikes wounded 8 people in Ukraine's central Dnipropetrovsk region:

White House Fact Sheet On Trump's China Visit Cites Iran Agreement; Omits Taiwan

Washington: The US and China have agreed to set up boards on trade and investment and build a constructive relationship of strategic stability based on fairness and reciprocity, according to a fact sheet by the White House on President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing. The fact sheet, issued on Sunday, said China will address the United States' concerns regarding supply chain shortages related to rare earths and other critical minerals, including yttrium, scandium, neodymium, and indium. It also said that Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed that Iran cannot possess a nuclear weapon, called to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, and agreed that no country or organisation can be allowed to charge tolls. The fact sheet also mentioned that Trump will welcome Xi for a visit to Washington this fall, and both countries will support each other as hosts of the G20 and APEC summits later this year. "President Trump and President Xi confirmed their shared goal to denuclearise North Korea," the fact sheet said, without making any mention of Taiwan. In media interviews after talks with Xi, Trump described a potential multibillion-dollar weapons sale to Taiwan as a "negotiating chip" with China, raising concerns in Taiwan. As the cornerstone of this historic agreement, Trump and Xi chartered two new institutions to



optimise the bilateral economic relationship; the US-China Board of Trade and the US-China Board of Investment. "The Board of Trade will allow the United States Government and the Government of China to manage bilateral trade across non-sensitive goods. The Board of Investment will provide a government-to-government forum for discussing investment-related issues," the fact sheet said. It further stated that President Trump negotiated a broad package of commitments aimed at creating high-paying American jobs and opening new markets for US goods. The fact sheet also noted that China will address US concerns regarding prohibitions or restrictions on the sale of rare earth production and processing equipment and technologies. "China approved an initial pur-

chase of 200 American-made Boeing aircraft for Chinese airlines," the fact sheet said, adding that China's commitment will drive high-paying, high-skilled US manufacturing jobs. It highlighted that China will purchase at least USD 17 billion per year of US agricultural products in 2026 (prorated), 2027, and 2028, in addition to the soybean purchase commitments that it made in October 2025. The document also said that China restored market access for US beef by renewing and expanding the listings of more than 400 US beef facilities, and will work with US regulators to lift all suspensions on these facilities. China also resumed imports of poultry from US states determined by the USDA as free of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

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 assistance,



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.

From stardom to statesmanship — what sets Vijay apart in politics



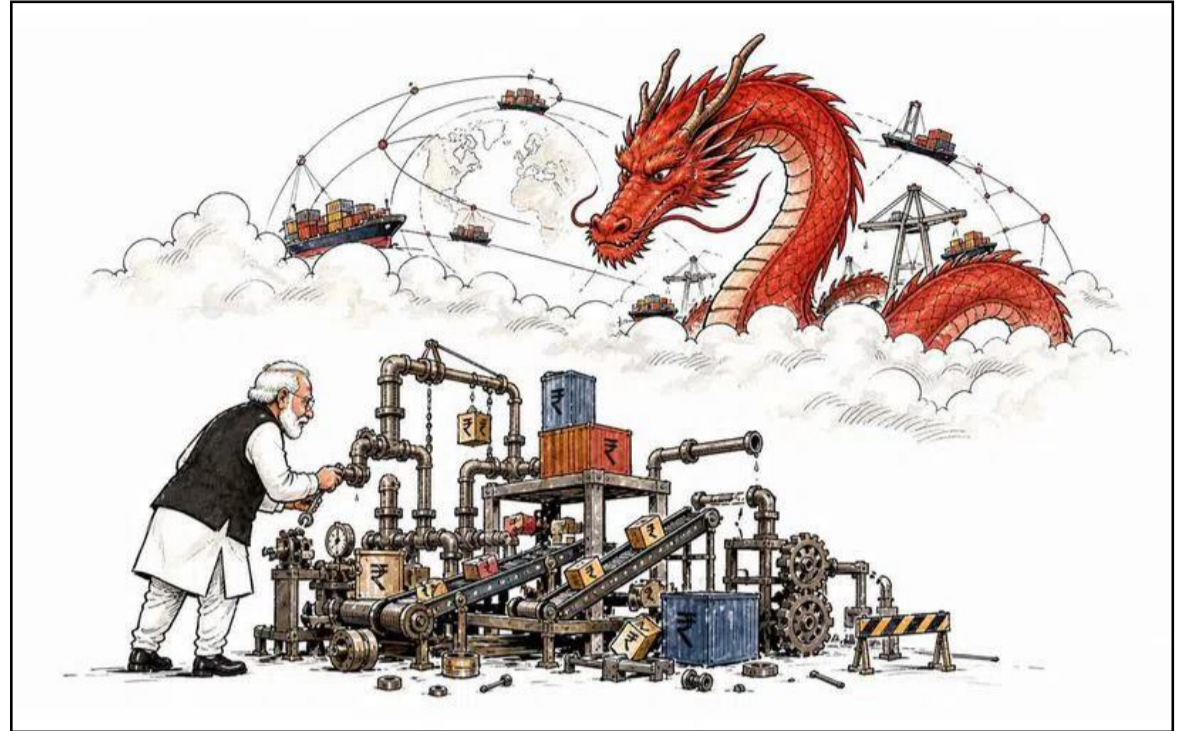
The relationship between cinema and politics in India has always been deeply fascinating. Over the decades, several film stars have attempted to transform cinematic popularity into political success. Some emerged as extraordinary political figures, while many others failed despite possessing immense fan followings and unmatched celebrity status. These failures are often explained through political factors such as weak organisation, lack of strategy, or electoral miscalculations. However, the deeper reason may lie in the psychological consequences of stardom itself. Interviews: How Vijay's strategy delivered big impact TVK's rise sparks NTR-MGR comparisons in south politics. Fame has a profound ability to reshape human psychology. An actor who spends years receiving constant admiration, applause, and public worship inevitably undergoes a gradual transformation in self-perception. This process is rarely sudden or deliberate. It develops silently through repeated exposure to unconditional praise and carefully cultivated celebrity culture. Admiration Trap. Over time, the individual begins to exist within an environment where criticism becomes limited and admiration becomes permanent. Every public appearance is celebrated, every statement receives exaggerated importance, and every gesture is treated as extraordinary. Such continuous reinforcement slowly creates a psychological distance between the celebrity and ordinary social realities. The real danger of this condition is not visible arrogance alone. The deeper issue is psychological insulation. The actor gradually becomes disconnected from ordinary life without even recognising it. A subtle sense of superiority begins to emerge because society itself repeatedly places the individual on a pedestal. In cinema, this distance is often accepted and even encouraged because superstardom depends upon creating an aura larger than life. The film industry thrives on this carefully constructed image. Elevated stages, dramatic entries, controlled interactions,

heavy security, and choreographed appearances all help preserve the mystique of celebrity. Fans themselves strengthen this process because admiration often transforms into emotional devotion. Political Realities. Politics, however, operates on entirely different principles. Unlike cinema, politics cannot survive on glamour, illusion, or emotional fantasy alone. Political legitimacy depends upon trust, accessibility, patience, and emotional connection with ordinary citizens. A political leader cannot psychologically position himself above society. He must remain among the people and connected to their lived realities. This is precisely where many actors struggle after entering politics. The psychological effects of prolonged celebrity worship often become visible in subtle ways. It may appear in body language, public conduct, speech, or an inability to engage naturally with ordinary citizens. Sometimes these reflect entitlement, while at other times, they emerge as emotional distance or excessive self-importance. Even when these traits are not openly visible, people instinctively recognise them. Voters may admire an actor as a performer, celebrate his films, and enjoy his cinematic persona, but political trust is fundamentally different from cinematic admiration. Citizens can distinguish between genuine humility and rehearsed simplicity because politics ultimately demands authenticity. If Vijay resists political arrogance and stays emotionally authentic, the actor-turned-politician could emerge as a rare example of humility, successfully bridging cinema and public service. This perhaps explains why several immensely popular stars across Indian cinema could not successfully sustain political careers. Their failure was not simply organisational or electoral. In many cases, it was psychological. They found it difficult to transition from being worshipped by the people to becoming accountable to the people. Politics demands emotional synchronisation with society. It requires the ability to listen patiently, absorb crit-

icism, understand suffering, and remain grounded in social realities. A leader who loses touch with ordinary life eventually loses touch with public sentiment itself. Vijay's strength is where Vijay appears different. From what one observes publicly, Vijay seems to possess a noticeable sense of groundedness. His public demeanour appears calm and measured. There is very little trace of exaggerated self-importance in the way he presents himself. His body language reflects simplicity rather than superiority. Most importantly, he does not appear psychologically trapped within the bubble of celebrity worship that has affected many stars before him. There is a natural ease and accessibility in his public presence that creates a perception of authenticity. This psychological simplicity may become his greatest political strength. Vijay appears to recognise that cinematic popularity alone cannot guarantee political legitimacy. Fan following may create attention, but political trust must be earned through humility, credibility, patience, and sustained public engagement. At the same time, entering politics above society. He must remain among the people and connected to their lived realities. This is precisely where many actors struggle after entering politics. The psychological effects of prolonged celebrity worship often become visible in subtle ways. It may appear in body language, public conduct, speech, or an inability to engage naturally with ordinary citizens. Sometimes these reflect entitlement, while at other times, they emerge as emotional distance or excessive self-importance. Even when these traits are not openly visible, people instinctively recognise y citizens. Sometimes these reflect entitlement. Voters may admire an actor as a performer, celebrate his films, and enjoy his cinematic persona, but political trust is fundamentally different from cinematic admiration. Citizens can distinguish between genuine humility and rehearsed simplicity because politics ultimately demands authenticity. If Vijay resists political arro-

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China+1 strategy — less windfall, more a test for India



The 'China+1' strategy has become a defining feature of global trade in recent years. As multinational firms reassess their dependence on China, they are diversifying production across alternative locations. Rising labour costs in China, geopolitical tensions such as the US-China trade war, and supply chain disruptions during Covid-19 have accelerated this shift. India's foreign policy faces tougher tests ahead. Opinion: India needs a supply chain strategy amid Hormuz, Red Sea crises. For India, this moment appears to offer a historic opportunity. Yet the reality is more complex: India is gaining, but not as much as it could. At first glance, the optimism is justified. India has made visible progress in attracting global manufacturing. The government's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has played a catalytic role, particularly in electronics. Mobile phone exports have surged from roughly \$11 billion in FY23 to over \$15 billion in FY24, indicating that global firms are beginning to shift parts of their supply chains toward India. Electronics Sector: The experience of Apple Inc illustrates this shift. iPhones now account for nearly two-thirds of India's mobile phone exports, and production has expanded rapidly over the past two years. Even more significant is the emergence of component exports: Apple's suppliers in India are increasingly exporting intermediate goods, suggesting that the country is moving, albeit gradually, beyond simple assembly. More broadly, India's electronics sector has expanded dramatically over the past decade, with production rising several-fold and exports growing even faster. India is now the world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer. These trends indicate that India is, at least partially, integrating into global manufacturing networks. Only part of the story. Despite rapid growth, India's global position remains modest. Its share of smartphone exports remains 2-3%, far below China's dominance and trailing competitors like Vietnam, which has steadily increased its share to 10-12%. In labour-intensive sectors, Bangladesh continues to dominate textiles, while Mexico has benefited

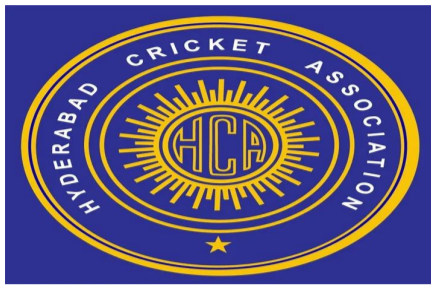
from nearshoring due to its proximity to the United States. Even in electronics, India's strongest performing sector, the depth of integration remains limited. Domestic value addition is estimated at just 18-20%, compared to roughly 40% in China. This implies that India continues to rely heavily on imported components, capturing only a small portion of the value chains. China+1 is not an automatic windfall. It is a competitive race. Countries that are already embedded in global value chains have a clear advantage. The shift underway is not about building entirely new supply chains, but about relocating segments of existing ones. In this context, Vietnam's success is not accidental; it reflects years of integration through trade agreements and export-oriented policies. India, by contrast, has historically been more inward-looking, limiting its participation in cross-border production networks. Major Bottleneck. Structural constraints further weaken India's position. Logistics remains a major bottleneck. While improvements have been made, costs are still significantly higher than in competing economies. Delays at ports, inefficiencies in transport, and fragmented supply chains raise operational costs for firms that operate on thin margins. Labour presents another paradox. India has an abundant workforce, but skill availability remains uneven. Modern manufacturing requires precision, consistency, and technical capability, areas where gaps persist. The issue is not the quantity of labour, but its readiness for complex production processes. Policy uncertainty adds another layer of friction. Frequent tariff changes and evolving compliance requirements create unpredictability for global firms. While some of these measures aim to promote domestic industry, they can inadvertently discourage integration into global value chains, which depend on seamless cross-border flows of inputs. Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Mexico advanced rapidly in global supply chains through consistent policies and strong ecosystems; India must shift focus from protection toward competitiveness now. Perhaps the most

critical limitation is the absence of a deep industrial ecosystem. China's dominance is not simply about low costs; it reflects decades of coordinated investment in supplier networks, infrastructure, and logistics. Even today, China accounts for most of the global smartphone production. Replicating such an ecosystem is not a matter of short-term incentives, but of long-term institutional alignment. None of this negates India's progress. In fact, recent trends are encouraging. India's role in global electronics manufacturing is expanding, and there are signs of deeper integration. A growing share of exports is now linked to global firms, and the country is increasingly seen as a viable alternative production base. Beyond Schemes. But early gains should not be mistaken for structural transformation. The assumption that global firms will automatically shift to India as they diversify away from China is flawed. The evidence suggests otherwise. Countries like Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Mexico have moved quickly to position themselves within global supply chains, often with greater policy consistency and stronger ecosystem support. For India, the policy implication is clear: the focus must shift from protection to competitiveness. Incentive schemes like PLI can attract investment, but they cannot substitute for deeper reforms. Reducing logistics costs, improving skill development, ensuring policy stability, and expanding trade integration are essential. India's cautious approach to trade agreements has limited its access to global markets, particularly when compared to Vietnam's aggressive strategy of signing multiple free trade agreements. Equally important is . Manufacturing competitiveness does not depend on a single policy lever; it requires alignment across infrastructure, labour markets, trade policy, and governance. Fragmented reforms will deliver incremental gains at best. The China+1 moment represents a rare window of opportunity. Global supply chains are being reconfigured in real time. But such windows do not remain open indefinitely. As firms establish new production bases, the scope for late india can move from potential to performance, from promise to delivery. The country has secured a foothold, but not yet a leading position. India has a seat at the table. But it must still compete for it.

entrants narrows. In the end, China+1 is less a windfall than a test. It tests whether India's matter of short-term incentives, but of long-term institutional alignment. None of this negates India's progress. In fact, recent trends are encouraging. India's role in global electronics manufacturing is expanding, and there are signs of deeper integration. A growing share of exports is now linked to global firms, and the country is increasingly seen as a viable alternative production base. Beyond Schemes. But early gains should not be mistaken for structural transformation. The assumption that global firms will automatically shift to India as they diversify away from China is flawed. The evidence suggests otherwise. Countries like Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Mexico have moved quickly to position themselves within global supply chains, often with greater policy consistency and stronger ecosystem support. For India, the policy implication is clear: the focus must shift from protection to competitiveness. Incentive schemes like PLI can attract investment, but they cannot substitute for deeper reforms. Reducing logistics costs, improving skill development, ensuring policy stability, and expanding trade integration are essential. India's cautious approach to trade agreements has limited its access to global markets, particularly when compared to Vietnam's aggressive strategy of signing multiple free trade agreements. Equally important is . Manufacturing competitiveness does not depend on a single policy lever; it requires alignment across infrastructure, labour markets, trade policy, and governance. Fragmented reforms will deliver incremental gains at best. The China+1 moment represents a rare window of opportunity. Global supply chains are being reconfigured in real time. But such windows do not remain open indefinitely. As firms establish new production bases, the scope for late india can move from potential to performance, from promise to delivery. The country has secured a foothold, but not yet a leading position. India has a seat at the table. But it must still compete for it.

HCA launches sweeping measures for league and player development

The Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) annual league season will start from May 12, featuring the A-Division and B-Division T20 Championship, according to HCA Secretary M Jeevan Reddy. "Detailed schedules, team registrations and playing conditions will be communicated to all affiliated units well in advance to ensure smooth conduct of the league," he said on Tuesday. The HCA Secretary also informed that a POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) committee will be constituted shortly to ensure a safe and inclusive



environment for all stakeholders. The committee will comprise members as mandated under the POSH Act, 2013, and will establish a strictly confidential and sensitive mechanism for reporting and addressing complaints, ensuring that no com-

plaintant faces retaliation or bias. Reddy added that the HCA Academy will undergo comprehensive revamping to enhance player development, infrastructure and training standards. The revamped Academy will focus on structured age-group programs, qualified coaching staff, modern training equipment and regular assessment systems to identify and nurture talent at the

grassroots level. "The whole objective is to build elite-level cricketers through scientific training, provide year-round coaching and performance programmes, and establish Hyderabad as a high-performance cricket hub," the HCA official said. "These initiatives reflect the commitment of the Apex Council to promote transparency, professionalism and the overall growth of cricket in Hyderabad," he added. "A redressal process to protect the identity and interests of the complainant," Reddy explained.

Jannik Sinner wins Italian Open, joins Djokovic with Career Golden Masters

Jannik Sinner continued to soar higher and higher as he became the first Italian champion at the Italian Open since Adriano Panatta in 1976 when he defeated Casper Ruud 6-4, 6-4 to win his sixth consecutive ATP Masters 1000 title in Rome on Sunday. With a comprehensive win in one hour and 44 minutes, the World No. 1 also joined Novak Djokovic as just the second player to complete the Career Golden Masters in series history, having now captured all nine ATP Masters 1000 titles. Djokovic achieved the feat in 2018 after winning Cincinnati. "I think this year was the 50th year since an Italian won and I am really, really happy," Sinner said in his on-court interview. "There was a lot of tension on both sides; it was not perfect tennis from both of us, but I am really happy. [It has been] an incredible past two and a half months. I try to put myself in the best possible position every time



and do the best I can. Not every day is simple, but I am really, really happy." Egged on by a packed crowd, Sinner recovered from a slow start to secure his 10th Masters 1000 crown and first in Rome. After weathering an early wave of Ruud aggression, the Italian gradually imposed himself with relentless depth and precision from the baseline to take control of the final and triumph. The 24-year-old raised his arms aloft after sealing victory, soaking in the atmosphere before embracing his team

courtside. It has been a testing last few days for the home favourite as he had faced question marks over his physical conditioning heading into the final after the 24-year-old's demanding semifinal win against Daniil Medvedev, which began on Friday but was completed on Saturday following a late-night rain suspension. Sinner appeared fatigued at times during that clash, bending over between points, but he moved freely and confidently against Ruud, who had booked his place in the champi-

onship match on Friday with a comfortable 6-1, 6-1 win against Luciano Darderi. "It was physical and very tough, but I am very happy," Sinner added. "I give big thanks to my physical team, who I have had all year long, trying to keep up my body, which is as important as the tennis coaches, so I am really happy." Ruud praised Sinner for his success this year. "I have to congratulate Jannik for his first title here," Ruud said during the trophy presentation. "What you are doing this year is hard to describe with words. As someone who is also playing tennis at the highest level, to realise what you are doing is hard to describe. "It is an honour to watch you play and to be able to share the court with you today in a beautiful arena at your home Masters 1000. Congratulations to you for making history for yourself, your country, and your team. It is fantastic to witness."

FDI Easing Under FEMA For Foreign Companies

The decision to ease foreign direct investment norms for overseas companies with up to 10 per cent stake in Chinese companies will be notified soon under the FEMA law, a senior government official said on Thursday. After that, the changes will come into effect. In March, the Union Cabinet approved amendments in the press note (PN) 3 of 2020 under which foreign companies having a Chinese shareholding of up to 10 per cent will be eligible to invest in India under the automatic route across sectors. However, the relaxed FDI rules will not apply to entities registered in China/Hong Kong or other countries sharing land borders with India. The government has also decided that FDI proposals in specified sectors/activities of manufacturing in capital goods, electronic capital goods, electronic components, polysilicon and ingot-wafer or any other sector/activity added by the committee of secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary will be processed within 60 days. Though the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has notified these changes, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) has not yet noti-



fied them. "The DEA will have to issue the notification under FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act). It will be notified very soon. It requires a lot of fine-tuning," DPIIT Joint Secretary Jai Prakash Shivahare told reporters here. He added that the department is working to bring during April-February 2025-26 against USD 959 million in the full fiscal year of 2024-25, the media, DPIIT Secretary Amardeep Singh Bhatia said the investment (FDI) is likely to reach USD 90 billion in the full 2025-26 fiscal. He said that reform measures, free trade agreements and fast-growing economic growth are helping the country to attract healthy investments. The depart-

ment also informed that Invest India, the national investment Promotion and facilitation agency, has facilitated the grounding of 60 projects worth over USD 6.1 billion during 2025-26. These investments span 14 states and are estimated to generate more than 31,000 potential jobs. About 42 per cent of the total grounded investment value originates from European nations. Continued participation from the United States, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and other key source markets affirms broad-based international confidence in India's regulatory environment and manufacturing capabilities. Emerging source nations such as Brazil, New Zealand, and Canada indicate diversi-

fication in the country's investment base. "India's investment momentum is a direct outcome of policy clarity, institutional commitment, and the trust global investors place in our systems," Bhatia said. Invest India MD and CEO Nivrutti Rai said chemicals, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and food processing sectors account for about 65 per cent of grounded investments, driven by high-value projects. The agency, she said, key emerging sectors such as electronics system design and manufacturing, aerospace and defence, and auto/EV have recorded significant activity. She added that the agency is focusing on 11 countries for attracting greater inflows.

North America, NE Asia, Latin America Account For Over 35 Pc Of India's Exports In FY26



North America, North-East Asia, and Latin America together accounted for over 35 per cent of India's merchandise exports, which stood at USD 441.78 billion in 2025-26, reflecting a gradual shift towards a more diversified and resilient global trade structure, according to commerce ministry data. Exports to East Africa increased 13.7 per cent to USD 12.6 billion, accounting for 2.9 per cent of India's exports, while North Africa rose 14.8 per cent to USD 8 billion with a 1.8 per cent share. "India's exports in 2025-26 reflected increasing geographic diversification, with strong growth across Asia, Africa, and Latin America even amid global trade disruptions," an official said. According to the data, while North America continued to dominate India's export basket with exports of

USD 97.7 billion accounting for 22.1 per cent of total exports, growth remained relatively moderate at 1.3 per cent year-on-year, which indicates a mature but resilient demand base. The strongest momentum came from North-East Asia, where exports surged 21.6 per cent to USD 41.6 billion, raising the region's share to 9.4 per cent of India's total exports. In this region, there is a rising demand for Indian electronics, engineering goods, chemicals, and industrial products. The countries in this region include China, Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Mongolia, and Taiwan. These countries have advanced manufacturing industries. Latin America maintained healthy expansion as exports rose 7.8 per cent to USD 16.4 billion, contributing 3.7 per cent to India's total exports. Meanwhile, exports to

West Africa and Other West Africa remained relatively stable around 3 per cent and 2 per cent shares, respectively. Smaller regions such as Central Africa and Central Asian Republic countries also posted steady double-digit growth, albeit from a lower base. EXPORT PRODUCT DIVERSIFICATION India's export diversification in FY26 was marked by a significant widening of its product-market footprint, with Indian exporters penetrating 1,821 new principal commodities products. "The trend highlights a gradual shift from traditional commodity-led expansion toward broader participation across high-value manufacturing, engineering, agri-processing, and technology-intensive sectors," the official said. The strongest value contribution came from advanced engineering and industrial sectors.

Ship, boat and floating structures emerged as the single largest contributor, generating USD 57 million across 19 new markets, reflecting India's growing competitiveness in specialised maritime manufacturing. Similarly, nuclear reactors, industrial boilers and parts recorded a USD 14.3 million across 13 new markets, while telecom instruments expanded into 20 new markets with exports of USD 5.8 million, indicating increasing integration into global industrial and technology supply chains. Further, several emerging sectors also gained traction in new markets, including aircraft and spacecraft parts, railway transport equipment, graphite and explosives, and consumer electronics, pointing toward a gradual broadening of India's advanced manufacturing export base.

Mitchell Starc's four-wicket haul

The 2026 IPL season commenced on March 28. Since then, the participant teams have travelled hundreds of thousands of kilometres by both air and road. Given the teams' schedules and the matches slated across various cities, such extensive travel is to be expected. However, the prevailing geopolitical situation—specifically the conflict between the United States and Iran—has altered the circumstances; consequently, the air travel undertaken during the IPL could place additional pressure on the Government of India. Against this backdrop, Brijesh Goyal—President of the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI), the apex body representing traders and entrepreneurs in Delhi and across the country—has written to Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, urging him to issue a revised sched-

ule for the remaining IPL matches with a view to minimising air travel. IPL matches to be played without spectators? Brijesh Goyal has requested the Sports Minister to organise the remaining matches on a limited number of venues, without spectators. He pointed out that even during the COVID-19 pandemic, organisers had successfully conducted the IPL across a limited number of venues. He noted that, on average, a single match is attended by approximately 50,000 spectators, which results in the consumption of thousands of litres of petrol and diesel. Consequently, organizing the IPL without spectators could lead to a saving of that amount of fuel. How much fuel do IPL teams consume on air travel? According to the CTI, chartered aircraft typically utilized by IPL teams—such as the Boeing 737 or Airbus



A320—consume an average of 2,400 to 3,000 litres of fuel per hour. Consequently, if a flight lasts approximately two hours, roughly 5,000 to 6,000 litres of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) are consumed. He noted that if the aircraft is larger, or if it carries a heavier payload over a greater distance, this figure could rise to between

7,000 and 8,000 litres. When this fuel consumption is extrapolated across a team's estimated 10 air travel legs, it can be concluded that each team consumes approximately 50,000 to 70,000 litres of aviation fuel. Demand to save petrol and diesel at a time when every government department, politician, official, and ordinary cit-

Mouni Roy, Hansika Motwani To Vijay: Celebrity Couples Who Parted Ways In 2026

The year 2026 has turned out to be a difficult one for several celebrity couples. From quiet separations to shocking divorce petitions, many relationships in the entertainment industry have come under public attention this year. The separation announcement made by actor Mouni Roy and businessman Suraj Nambiar has once again sparked conversations about celebrity marriages and the pressure of life in the spotlight. While neither Mouni nor Suraj has shared details, their separation talk has quickly become one of the biggest headlines of the year. But they are not the only famous couple whose relationship hit rough waters in 2026. Here's a look at some celebrity splits that surprised fans. Mouni Roy and Suraj Nambiar tied the knot in a dreamy wedding ceremony in January 2022. Their social media posts and public appearances often gave fans major couple goals. However, rumours about trouble in paradise started after the two unfollowed each other on Instagram. Soon after, Suraj reportedly deactivated or deleted his account. The couple later released a statement confirming their separation. It read, "We note with dismay the unnecessary and intrusive attention into our personal lives by certain quarters of the



media. We would like to state that we have decided to part ways and are taking the necessary time to address matters privately and amicably." The news came as a surprise to many fans who had admired their bond over the years. Hansika Motwani and Sohael Khaturiya Actor Evelyn Sharma and Tushaan Bhindi Actor Evelyn Sharma's divorce announcement left many fans emotional. The Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani actor confirmed that she and Australian dental surgeon Tushaan Bhindi had decided to separate after five years of marriage. The former couple share two children daughter Ava Rania Bhindi and son Arden. Despite ending their marriage, Evelyn made it clear that both remain parents. Speaking about the separation to a news portal, Evelyn said, "Yes, we have decided to go separate ways roman-

public figures, Hansika and Sohael mostly kept their married life private and stayed away from discussing personal matters publicly. It was also reported that Hansika chose not to seek any maintenance or alimony after the divorce. Evelyn Sharma and Tushaan Bhindi Actor Evelyn Sharma's divorce announcement left many fans emotional. The Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani actor confirmed that she and Australian dental surgeon Tushaan Bhindi had decided to separate after five years of marriage. The former couple share two children daughter Ava Rania Bhindi and son Arden. Despite ending their marriage, Evelyn made it clear that both remain parents. Speaking about the separation to a news portal, Evelyn said, "Yes, we have decided to go separate ways roman-

tically but are very focused on raising our children together. We would appreciate privacy and assure that this is as amicable as it can be. We are building this new chapter on a lifelong friendship and co-parenting." Her statement was appreciated online for its maturity and warmth. Mahhi Vij and Jay Bhanushali Television actors Mahhi Vij and Jay Bhanushali also confirmed their separation in January 2026 after months of rumours. The couple had been married for 14 years and were considered one of television's most loved pairs. In a joint statement, the duo said their decision was mutual and that there was "no villain" in the story. They added that they would continue to co-parent their children with love and respect. Jay and Mahhi are parents to foster children Khushi and,

Cannes Film Festival 2026: John Abraham's Cult Classic 'Amma Ariyan' Returns After 40 Years



Four decades after it redefined independent political cinema in India, 'Amma Ariyan' (Report to Mother), the legendary Malayalam film directed by John Abraham, had its world premiere in a restored 4K version at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival on Saturday under the Cannes Classics section. The restored version of the film, undertaken by the Mumbai-based Film Heritage Foundation (FHF), marks the only Indian feature film selected for a world premiere at Cannes this year. The screening is being widely seen as long-overdue global recognition for one of the most influential and radical films in Indian cinema history. Released in 1986, 'Amma Ariyan' occupies a unique place in Indian

film history. Blending documentary realism with fiction, the black-and-white road movie follows a young man, Purushan (played by Joy Mathew, who too attended the premiere with the film's editor Beena Paul across Kerala to inform a mother about the death of her son Hari, a percussionist and political activist. Through encounters across villages, campuses and political circles, the film became a powerful portrait of a generation shaped by the ideological turbulence, student movements and Left politics of the 1970s and 1980s. The film was revolutionary not only in content but also in the way it was made. After struggling to secure conventional financing, John Abraham and the Odessa Film Collective adopted

an alternative production model that would later become legendary in Indian parallel cinema. Members of the collective travelled across Kerala staging street plays, screening films and collecting small public donations, sometimes as little as one rupee, from ordinary people to finance the project. The film thus became one of India's earliest and most celebrated crowd-funded or people-funded film movements, produced collectively by students, workers, activists, cinephiles and common people outside the mainstream. Although 'Amma Ariyan' never had a conventional theatrical release, its reputation steadily grew over the decades, earning cult status among filmmakers, critics and film students. Restoration Wi

thout Original Negative Restoring the film proved extraordinarily difficult because the original camera negative had disappeared long ago. According to the Film Heritage Foundation, only poor-quality, damaged prints of the film survived. After an extensive search by the National Film Archives of India, two 35mm prints were eventually located -- one subtitled and another without subtitles. Both had severe deterioration, including scratches, broken splices, sound damage and loss of emulsion. The restoration project, initiated in 2023, involved painstaking frame-by-frame correction and soundtrack reconstruction in collaboration with Italian restoration lab L'Immagine Ritrovata and Digital Film Restore