



Dhruva Sarja starrer KD, also featuring actress Reeshma Nanaiah, has maintained its strong box-office momentum by passing the crucial Monday test with impressive collections.

India on Monday strongly condemned the reported Iranian attack on the Fujairah Petroleum Industries Zone in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which left three Indian nationals injured.



INSIDE

Good morning

Heart is not a basket for keeping tension and sadness. It is a golden box for keeping roses of happiness and sweet memories.

BRIEFS

Bihar Cabinet Expansion: 23 MLAs Set to Join

> Vikrama Vahini | Patna
The Bihar cabinet expansion is scheduled for May 7 at Gandhi Maidan, where 12 BJP and 11 JDU MLAs, along with representatives from allied parties, are expected to be sworn in as ministers. The grand ceremony is likely to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, senior BJP leaders, Union ministers, and NDA chief ministers. Former Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is also expected to be present. Governor Syed Ata Hasnain will administer the oath of office. With the expansion, the new cabinet strength is expected to reach around 30 members.

BJP Slams Mamata Over Refusal to Quit

> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi
The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday strongly criticised West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for refusing to resign after her party's defeat in the Assembly elections, terming her stand as "constitutional blasphemy" and a "post-poll tantrum". BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla accused Banerjee of undermining the principle of peaceful transfer of power and attempting to question the electoral mandate. He alleged that her statements reflect disregard for constitutional norms. Banerjee, however, claimed that the election outcome was influenced by irregularities and alleged that nearly 100 seats were "looted" during counting.

Siddaramaiah on Mamata Poll Setback

> Vikrama Vahini | B'lu
Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's electoral setback could be due to anti-incumbency after 15 years in power, along with alleged deletion of around 91 lakh votes during Special Intensive Revision (SIR). He also noted that changing voter preferences were visible in Tamil Nadu, where many young voters supported actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, indicating a desire for change. On Kerala, Siddaramaiah said the Congress-led alliance had performed better than expected, while asserting that there is nothing wrong in leadership aspirations within the Karnataka Congress. He added that any decision on cabinet reshuffle or leadership changes would be taken by the party high command.

Govt Formation Race Heats Up!

Kerala: Congress Faces CM Choice Dilemma – Tamil Nadu: Dalapathi Scrambles for Numbers – Bengal Awaits Its Leader – Assam & Puducherry Swearing-In Dates Pending

> Vikrama Vahini | Thiruvananthapuram
With the United Democratic Front (UDF) securing a decisive two-thirds majority in the Kerala Assembly elections, internal discussions have intensified within the Congress party to decide the next Chief Minister. Satheesan Emerges as Front-Runner Among the contenders, Satheesan is currently seen as the leading candidate, with reports suggesting support from key UDF ally Indian Union Muslim League. **PG2**

Kerala CM Race: 3 Leaders in Fray

> Vikrama Vahini | Thiruvananthapuram
The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) is set to form the government in Kerala, triggering an intense internal race within the Congress party for the Chief Minister's post. **UDE Secures Strong Mandate**
In the 140-member Kerala Assembly, the UDF has secured 102 seats, comfortably crossing the majority mark and ending the decade-long rule of the Left Democratic Front. **PG2**

TVK MAJORITY PUSH BEFORE SWEARING-IN

> Vikrama Vahini | Chennai
With a possible swearing-in of Vijay as Chief Minister-designate of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) expected on Thursday, the party has intensified efforts to secure support from allies to cross the halfway mark in the Tamil Nadu Assembly. **Talks Underway with Potential Allies**
TVK's core leadership has initiated discussions with potential partners, particularly parties aligned with the DMK-led alliance, including the Congress, VCK, and Left parties, to secure additional support in the hung Assembly. **Governor Seeks Time for Majority Test**
Earlier, TVK Legislature Party leader Vijay reportedly sought two weeks' time from Governor V. R. Arlekar to demonstrate majority support in the Assembly. **Support From DMK Allies Likely**
According to political developments, Congress and VCK appear open to supporting TVK to prevent alignment with the BJP.

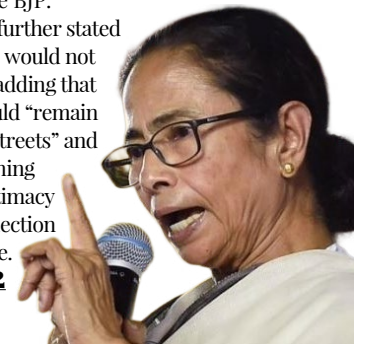


Vijay Seeks Congress Support for Govt Formation

> Vikrama Vahini | Chennai
Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay has sought support from the Congress party to form the government in Tamil Nadu, Congress MP KC Venugopal said on Tuesday. **PG2**
AICC Tamil Nadu in-charge Girish Chodankar has reportedly submitted a post-poll report to the Congress high command, indicating internal deliberations on supporting TVK. IntensifyAnalysts suggest that supporting TVK could help Congress regain political ground in Tamil Nadu while also preventing BJP influence in the state. Political observers note that the fragmented mandate signals voter preference for coalition governance. **PG2**

Mamata Refuses to Resign, Sparks Constitutional Row

> Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has refused to resign despite the Trinamool Congress (TMC) losing the Assembly elections, triggering a debate over constitutional procedures in case a Chief Minister does not step down after electoral defeat. Addressing a press conference in Kolkata, Mamata Banerjee claimed that her party did not actually lose the election and alleged that around 100 seats were "stolen." She also said her fight in the elections was against the Election Commission rather than the BJP. She further stated that she would not resign, adding that she would "remain on the streets" and questioning the legitimacy of the election outcome. **PG2**



Sringeri Row: FIR Stayed, Vote Theft Alleged

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
A major political and legal controversy has unfolded in Karnataka over the Sringeri postal ballot recount case, after the Karnataka High Court granted interim relief to BJP MLA D. N. Jeevaraj by staying proceedings in an FIR related to alleged voter ballot tampering. **High Court Calls FIR 'Motivated'**
Hearing Jeevaraj's petition, the High Court observed that the criminal case appeared "motivated" and raised concerns over the timing and basis of the FIR. The court also stated that election disputes should be addressed through election petitions rather than criminal proceedings. The bench further questioned procedural lapses in the investigation and remarked that the Returning Officer should have been examined appropriately before initiating criminal action. **Vote Recount Changes Election Outcome**
The dispute stems from the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections, where Congress candidate T. D. Rajegowda was initially declared winner by 201 votes in Sringeri constituency. Following an election petition filed by Jeevaraj, the High Court ordered re-verification of 279 rejected postal ballots in April 2026. After recounting, the Returning Officer declared Jeevaraj the winner by 52 votes on May 3, 2026. **FIR Sparks Political Firestorm**
Shortly after the revised result, an FIR was registered alleging tampering of postal ballots, triggering a legal and political confrontation. **PG2**



KSRTC Staff Protest for Pay Parity, Arrears

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
Employees of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), along with affiliated unions, staged a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Tuesday demanding pay parity with state government employees and immediate release of long-pending salary arrears. Demand for Wage Revision and Arrears the protest, led by the Karnataka State Road Transport Employees League and other unions, highlighted long-standing grievances over wage revision and delayed salary payments. The employees demanded implementation of pay parity in line with the Seventh Pay Commission recommendations with retrospective effect from January 1, 2024. They also sought immediate release of 38 months of pending salary arrears, of which payments for 12 months are yet to be cleared.

Minister Zameer House Theft: Relatives Arrested!

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
Police in Shivajinagar have arrested two persons, including a relative of Karnataka Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan's family, in connection with a high-value house theft case involving gold jewellery worth ₹1.13 crore. **Gold Jewellery Missing from Minister's Residence**
According to police, the case was registered after the minister's mother, a resident of Station Road, reported on April 15 that gold ornaments kept in a cupboard had gone missing. She noted that several relatives had access to the house, as they frequently visited to assist her. **Two Accused Arrested**

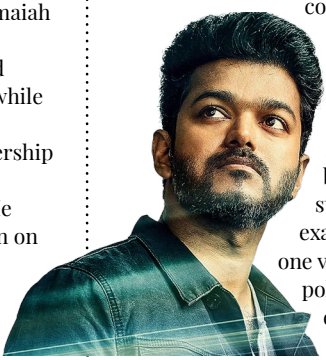


The arrested individuals have been identified as Syed Ameer, a relative of the minister's mother, and his associate Ameer Ahmed. Police said the duo allegedly stole around 1.3 kg of gold jewellery from the residence. Syed Ameer was first detained near a college in Govindapura on April 16 and later confessed to the crime during interrogation. Based on his statement, Ameer Ahmed was arrested from Mathikere on April 19. **PG2**

One Vote, Big Impact: From 'Sarkar' to Tamil Nadu Poll Shock

> Vikrama Vahini | Chennai
The principle of "every vote counts" has once again come into sharp focus, reinforcing how even a single vote can alter political destinies, both in real life and cinema. **The principle of "one vote, one impact" has come into sharp focus after a razor-thin electoral result in Tamil Nadu's Tirupattur constituency, where former minister K. R. Periyakuruppan reportedly lost by just one vote to TVK candidate Srinivasan.**

Historic One-Vote Margin
Shakes Tamil Nadu Politics In a dramatic electoral outcome, former Tamil Nadu Minister K. R. Periyakuruppan reportedly lost by a single vote to TVK candidate Srinivasan in the Tirupattur constituency of Sivaganga district. The razor-thin margin has become a striking example of how one vote can decide political victory or defeat. The result has triggered political discussions, with Deputy Chief Minister and DMK Youth Wing Secretary Udhayanidhi Stalin stating that the party will examine legal options regarding the outcome. **One Vote That Topped a Government**
The importance of a single vote is not new to Indian politics. A historic example is the fall of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government in 1999, when it lost a confidence motion in Parliament by just one vote, ending its 13-month tenure. **Cinema Reflection: 'Sarkar' and Democratic Power**
The idea of "one vote" was also powerfully portrayed in actor Vijay's political drama Sarkar. The film highlighted how a single vote can challenge corruption and reinforce democratic accountability, symbolising the strength of individual participation in elections. **Democracy's Smallest Unit, Biggest Impact**
Experts note that while a single vote may appear insignificant, it can determine governments, policies, and leadership. The Tirupattur result has once again underscored this reality, showing how closely contested elections can hinge on the smallest margin.



BJP 'BRAHMASTRA' WINS BENGAL

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) attributed its sweeping victory in the West Bengal Assembly elections to a combination of governance-focused messaging, organisational strength and what party insiders described as "five Brahmastra" strategies that helped it penetrate strongholds of the Trinamool Congress (TMC). The BJP secured a landslide mandate by winning 207 seats in the 294-member Assembly, ending the 15-year rule of the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC. **Governance Issues at Core of Campaign**
According to party sources, the BJP's campaign focused heavily on issues such as governance failures, alleged syndicate raj, corruption, infiltration concerns and women's safety. The party deliberately avoided personal attacks on rival leadership, instead emphasising development and administrative accountability. **Amit Shah's 'Micromanagement' Key Factor**
Party insiders credited Union Home Minister Amit Shah with "micromanagement" of the election strategy, which they said played a crucial role in expanding the party's reach across the state, including regions with significant Muslim populations. **'Five Brahmastra' Strategy**
Sources described the BJP's key strategies as "five Brahmastra", which included

countering what it called the TMC's "false narrative" on cultural identity, highlighting issues of non-vegetarian food politics, focusing on women's safety, and intensifying action against alleged illegal infiltration. The fifth pillar, according to sources, was intensive organisational outreach and booth-level mobilisation across all constituencies. **Strong Electoral Performance**
The BJP reportedly achieved significant gains even in constituencies long considered TMC strongholds. Party data suggested a sharp rise in vote share and seat conversion, with gains across multiple phases of polling. In the first phase, the party reportedly won 117 out of 152 seats, while in the second phase it saw a major surge compared to its 2021 performance. **Breakthrough in Minority-Dominated Areas**
Party sources claimed that the BJP made significant inroads in districts with high minority populations, including North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Murshidabad, Birbhum, Malda and Uttar Dinajpur, winning 56 out of 118 seats in these regions. They also claimed the party performed strongly in North Bengal and several districts in South Bengal, achieving clean sweeps in some areas. **Modi-Shah Leadership Credited**
The BJP attributed the electoral success to the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, along with what it described as strong voter aspiration for change. **Extensive Campaign Groundwork**
Party leaders said Shah's 15-day campaign presence in West Bengal energised party workers and strengthened booth-level outreach across nearly 80,000 polling stations, contributing significantly to the election outcome. The BJP described the result as a "one-sided mandate" reflecting a strong wave of public support across the state. Party leaders said the mandate reflects a decisive shift in voter sentiment towards development-oriented governance and organisational discipline. They added that the results would strengthen the party's focus on grassroots mobilisation in future elections.



Editorial

Grace in Defeat

The latest round of Assembly election results across five Indian states once again underscores the dynamic nature of democracy. While West Bengal witnessed a significant shift in political momentum, Tamil Nadu saw the emergence of a new political force claiming victory. In Kerala, the Congress wrested power from the Left, while the BJP-led NDA retained control in Puducherry and Assam as widely anticipated. These outcomes reinforce a fundamental truth: electoral victories and defeats are never permanent. Political fortunes can change dramatically over time, as seen in the remarkable rise of a party that once held just a couple of seats in the 1980s but now stands as a dominant national force. Such transitions highlight the resilience and unpredictability of democratic systems.

In this context, political leaders must treat both victory and defeat with a sense of maturity and sportsmanship. Accepting the people's mandate—whether favorable or not—is essential to preserving the integrity of democratic institutions. Defeat should ideally trigger introspection rather than denial. Leaders and parties that fail to reflect on their shortcomings risk losing touch with the electorate. Resigning from positions of responsibility after a clear rejection by voters is not merely symbolic; it demonstrates accountability and respect for public opinion. Democracy offers every political entity an opportunity to regroup, reconnect with citizens, and return stronger in future contests.

However, a troubling trend in Indian politics is the tendency to deflect blame onto voting mechanisms or allege electoral malpractice without substantial evidence. Claims of "vote theft" may attract attention, but they undermine public trust in democratic processes. Similarly, dismissing the electorate's verdict or forming opportunistic alliances purely to counter a victorious party can appear as a disregard for the people's will. While free speech allows politicians to voice dissent, they must remember that voters are observant and discerning. Genuine self-assessment, rather than rhetoric, paves the way for renewal. Ultimately, the strength of democracy lies in its ability to correct itself—and in the willingness of its participants to evolve.

-Editor

Anveshana 2026: History Camp for Kids

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

In an effort to spark curiosity and cultural awareness among children, Param History Centre is set to organise a unique summer camp titled 'Anveshana 2026' in the city. The week-long programme will be held from May 11 to May 17 at Yuvapath, 4th Block, Jayanagar, in collaboration with a youth organisation.

Designed for children aged between 6 and 16 years, the camp aims to take participants beyond textbook learning and immerse them in the fascinating world of history through interactive and experiential activities. The initiative seeks to nurture a deeper understanding of heritage while making learning engaging and enjoyable.

The camp will feature a variety of hands-on sessions, including archaeology simulations where children can experience excavation activities, workshops on ancient art and craft such as pottery and jewellery making, and storytelling sessions that bring historical legends to life. Participants will



also explore historical sites through digital tools, along with indoor games and creative exercises aimed at building historical awareness.

Organisers say the focus is on "learning by doing," allowing children to connect with history in a practical and memorable way rather than through conventional classroom methods.

The sessions will be conducted daily from 10:00 AM to 1:20 PM. Parents interested in enrolling their children can contact the organisers at 9035034728 or via email at events@paramexp.org.

With its blend of education and entertainment, Anveshana 2026 promises to offer a meaningful and enriching summer experience for young learners.

Minister Zameer House Theft: Relatives Arrested!

From PGi

Stolen Gold Pledged in Shops

Investigators said the accused had pledged the stolen jewellery at shops in Mathikere and Kammagondanahalli. Acting on their leads, police recovered 759 grams of gold jewellery, valued at ₹1.13 crore.

Financial Distress Behind Crime

Preliminary investigation suggests that the accused were facing financial difficulties after losses in their travel business during the COVID-19 pandemic. Police said they conspired to commit the theft to raise funds for real estate investments.

Probe Underway

Further investigation is in progress, and both accused have been remanded to judicial custody. Authorities are examining whether more individuals were involved in the crime.

Police are also verifying the involvement of local jewellery shop owners in the pledging process. CCTV footage and digital transaction records are being analysed to trace the complete money trail linked to the case.



Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti V. Somanna flags off Train No. 12614 KSR Bengaluru-Mysuru Wodeyar Express with additional stoppage at Ramanaagaram Railway Station. The event was attended by Ramalinga Reddy, Minister of Transport & Muzarai and District In-charge Minister of Bengaluru South, Govt. of Karnataka; Dr. C. N. Manjunath, MP, Bengaluru Rural; Iqbal Hussain, MLA, Ramanaagara; K Sheshadri, President, City Municipal Council, Ramanaagara; Yeshvant B Gurukar, Deputy Commissioner of Ramanaagara; and Praveen Kataraki, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, along with senior railway officials.

High Command to Pick Kerala CM

From PGi

Party insiders say the leadership decision is expected within the next few days and is likely to be smooth without internal conflict. In the 140-member Kerala Assembly, the United Democratic Front won 102 seats, while the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front secured 35 seats and the BJP-led NDA won 3 seats, marking a strong mandate for the opposition alliance.

Vijay Seeks Congress Support for Govt Formation

From PGi

Venugopal said TVK, which emerged as the single largest party with 108 seats, is short of the majority mark by 10 seats in the 234-member Assembly. He added that the Congress, which won five seats, is yet to take a final decision on extending support.

He stated that the Congress leadership has directed the Tamil Nadu unit to decide on Vijay's request, keeping in mind the mandate for a secular government and the sentiments of the people reflected in the election outcome.

TVK MAJORITY PUSH BEFORE SWEARING-IN

From PGi

The election has resulted in a hung Assembly, with no single party securing a majority.

TVK emerged as the single largest party but remains short of the required numbers to form government independently.

YCK Signals Conditional Support

YCK has indicated openness to a coalition arrangement, stating that the election outcome reflects voter rejection of communal politics and supports the idea of a coalition government.

Sringeri Row: FIR Stayed, Vote Theft Alleged

From PGi

Siddaramaiah alleged that the recount process itself was manipulated, calling it "organised manipulation of democracy" and raising concerns over invalidation of previously accepted ballots.

D. K. Shivakumar went further, describing the episode as "the biggest

criminal conspiracy in Indian political history," alleging irregularities in the storage and handling of election materials. Congress leaders have raised questions about the integrity of strong rooms and supports the idea of a coalition government. He demanded forensic examination of ballots and storage records.

Opposition Seeks Governor to Oath MLA Amid Speaker Delay

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Opposition Leader R. Ashok has urged the Governor to administer the oath of office to Sringeri MLA D. N. Jeevaraj, alleging delay and obstruction by the Speaker.

Addressing reporters after meeting the Governor, Ashok said that Jeevaraj, declared winner after a recount in the Sringeri Assembly constituency, has already received his election certificate from the Election Commission and the gazette notification has also been issued. Despite this, he alleged that



Speaker U. T. Khader has not administered the oath.

He accused the Speaker of creating an "unnecessary precedent" by

delaying the process, claiming that all other MLAs, including the Chief Minister, were sworn in under similar procedures. Ashok further alleged that attempts to contact the Speaker were unsuccessful and that legal explanations were being used to justify the delay.

Citing constitutional provisions under Article 188, Ashok said the Governor has the authority to ensure the oath-taking process if the Speaker is unavailable. He stated that a request has been made for the Governor to

step in and administer the oath.

Drawing parallels with similar instances in other states, he said the Opposition would take further steps if the issue remains unresolved and warned of a political fight against the Speaker if necessary.

Ashok also made broader political allegations against the ruling government, claiming irregularities in the election process and questioning the conduct of officials. He demanded accountability and called for a deeper investigation into the matter.

NEWS

RKU 'Go Green' Initiative Launched



Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Rotary Kengeri Upanagara (RKU) has launched a unique eco-friendly initiative titled "Go Green Project" at Sheshadripuram Academy of Business Studies, aimed at reducing the use of plastic and paper through the promotion of reusable steel utensils.

The project, sponsored by RKU President Dr. Anupama Panchakshari, encourages residents of Kengeri and nearby areas to adopt sustainable practices during social functions and events. Under this initiative, steel plates and water

tumblers will be provided on a returnable basis, offering an effective alternative to disposable plastic and paper items.

The programme was formally inaugurated by Udaya Bhaskara, Past District Governor (PDG), who lauded the effort as a significant step towards environmental conservation.

The initiative has received widespread appreciation from the community. RKU has urged citizens to actively utilise this facility and contribute towards building a cleaner, greener environment by reducing single-use waste.

Mamata Refuses to Resign, Sparks Constitutional Row

From PGi

Constitutional Provisions on Resignation

As per constitutional norms, a Chief Minister is expected to resign if the ruling party loses majority in the Assembly.

The Chief Minister must submit the resignation of the Council of Ministers to the Governor. Under Article 164(1) of the Constitution, ministers hold office during the "pleasure of the Governor." If a government loses majority support, the Governor has the authority to dismiss the Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers.

Governor's Role Now Crucial

In the current situation, constitutional experts say the responsibility lies with the Governor C. V. Ananda Bose to take appropriate action if the government is deemed to have lost majority support.

The developments have triggered political uncertainty in West Bengal, with legal and constitutional scrutiny expected in the coming days. Constitutional experts say the Governor may step in if it is established that the government has lost majority support in the Assembly.

HEALTH & Lifestyle

FOOD SUPPORT COULD SAVE 120,000 TB LIVES YEARLY IN INDIA

Providing nutritional support in the form of food baskets to nearly 2.8 million tuberculosis patients across India could avert more than 120,000 deaths every year, according to a new study published in BMJ Global Health.

Cost-Effective Life-Saving Intervention

The study highlights that nutritional assistance is a highly cost-effective strategy compared to many conventional biomedical interventions. Lead author Pranay Sinha, an assistant professor at Boston University School of Medicine and infectious disease specialist at Boston Medical Center, stated that a relatively low-cost intervention like food support could save over 100,000 lives annually.

Collaboration with National Programme

The research was conducted in collaboration with India's National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP). Using multiple simulation models, the study found that in 94% of scenarios, nutritional support significantly improved treatment outcomes and survival rates among TB patients.

Addressing Malnutrition and TB Link

Experts have long established a strong link between malnutrition and tuberculosis outcomes. Undernourished patients are more vulnerable to severe disease progression and lower recovery rates. By ensuring consistent access to



nutritious food, patients are better equipped to respond to treatment and recover faster.

Rising Need for Holistic TB Care

India continues to bear a significant burden of Tuberculosis globally. The findings reinforce the need for a more holistic approach to TB care—combining medical treatment with nutritional and social support—to achieve better public health outcomes.

Policy Implications

The study's findings could influence future public health policies by encouraging the integration of food support into national TB control strategies. With relatively modest investment, the intervention has the potential to save thousands of lives and reduce the overall disease burden in the country. The study also underscores the importance of early diagnosis and timely nutritional intervention to maximise survival benefits among TB patients. Experts believe scaling up such support nationwide could accelerate India's progress towards its TB elimination goals while reducing healthcare costs in the long run.

Kerala CM Race: 3 Leaders in Fray

From PGi

The Congress alone has won 63 seats, emerging as the single largest party within the alliance.

Three Leaders in Fray

The top contenders for the Chief Minister's post are Leader of Opposition in the outgoing Assembly V. D. Satheesan, AICC general secretary K. C. Venugopal, and former Leader of Opposition Ramesh Chennithala.

Satheesan Seen as Front-Runner

Satheesan is currently viewed as a strong contender due to his grassroots connect, leadership during the election campaign, and role as Opposition Leader. His political outreach, including the recent Kerala Yatra, has been widely acknowledged within the party.

He also appears to have backing from the Indian Union Muslim League, a key UDF ally, which has publicly supported his leadership role. Party leaders say this factor strengthens his claim for the top post.

Chennithala's Experience Factor

Ramesh Chennithala is seen as a seasoned leader with strong organisational experience. Although the Congress lost power during his previous tenure as Opposition Leader, he continues to command significant support within sections of the party. Chennithala has stated that the final decision should be left to the Congress high command, adding that criteria such as seniority and legislative strength must be considered.

K. C. Venugopal is considered close to the Congress national leadership, including senior leaders in the party high command. However, his selection as Chief Minister could trigger by-elections in both the Lok Sabha and Assembly, making the decision politically sensitive.

₹300 Cr Land Scam Rocks Bengaluru

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

A massive land scam worth over ₹300 crore has come to light in Bengaluru's Sahakar Nagar area, where alleged fake revenue and survey records were created to encroach upon prime land, including the residence of a retired Supreme Court judge, public parks, playgrounds, and a BBMP office.

The land in question, measuring around 1 acre 19 guntas, reportedly includes properties linked to retired Supreme Court judge V. Gopala Gowda, along with several residential houses and public-use spaces.

Serious allegations have surfaced that officials from the revenue and land survey departments colluded with land mafia to manipulate records and facilitate the illegal encroachment.

According to reports, the original Survey No. 13/1 in Kothi Hosahalli of Yelahanka hobli, which had already undergone legal land conversion in 1987, was allegedly tampered with.

A new survey number, 13/3, was fraudulently created decades later by a private individual identified as N. Balaram, who is accused of forging

A ₹300+ crore land scam has surfaced in Bengaluru's Sahakar Nagar, involving alleged fabrication of revenue and survey records to encroach on prime land, including property linked to retired Supreme Court judge V. Gopala Gowda. The fraud, reportedly enabled by collusion between officials and land mafia, has raised serious concerns over land governance, with growing demands for a CBI probe.

revenue documents despite having no legal ownership over the land.

Based on these allegedly fabricated documents, Balaram applied for land conversion, and shockingly, approval was granted by the Bengaluru Deputy Commissioner's office within just three days. Sources indicate that neither the authenticity of the documents was verified nor was any site inspection conducted before issuing the order.

The land had originally been acquired and developed by the Defence Employees Housing Cooperative Society in the 1980s after obtaining all necessary approvals under the Karnataka Land Revenue Act and the Urban Land Ceiling Act. The society had formed residential layouts and allotted sites to its members, many of whom later constructed houses or sold them to third parties.

It is also reported that the disputed land includes a residential property belonging to the family of Justice V. Gopala Gowda, highlighting the scale and sensitivity of the encroachment.

Despite the availability of detailed records and the issue being brought to the notice of senior officials in the revenue and land survey departments, no action has been taken so far against those allegedly involved.

Residents and the public have demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the matter, citing the involvement of multiple officials and the magnitude of the fraud.

The case has raised serious concerns about land governance in Bengaluru, especially amid increasing instances of land fraud and illegal encroachments in recent years.

AP: 10 Held in Cricket Betting Bust

► Vikrama Vahini | Anantapur

Police in Anantapur district have busted an international online cricket betting racket operating from Kalyandurg town, arresting 10 persons and seizing ₹19.70 lakh in cash along with laptops, mobile phones, SIM cards, and other electronic devices worth over ₹60 lakh.

According to Superintendent of Police P. Jagadish, the gang had links with the Philippines and used mule bank accounts and multiple SIM cards to run illegal betting operations through online platforms.

A police team led by DSP P. Ravibabu and Inspectors V. Harinath and K. Venakata Ramana raided a house on Siddapavanka Street and uncovered the betting network. Officials also froze ₹18.20 lakh in bank accounts linked to the racket.

The kingpin, identified as Shiva, is absconding along with another accused Sachin. Police said the gang had involved around 70 local account holders by paying them ₹10,000 each to route illegal transactions.

Investigations revealed that 60% of the illegal proceeds were sent to the overseas handler, while the remaining 40% was distributed among local operators.

17 MEASLES DEATHS IN A DAY IN BANGLADESH

► Vikrama Vahini | Dhaka

Bangladesh has reported 17 deaths linked to measles and suspected measles-related complications in a single day, marking the highest daily toll since the outbreak began in March, according to media reports on Tuesday.

Bangladesh is witnessing a severe measles outbreak, with 17 deaths reported in a single day—the highest daily toll since March. According to the Directorate General of Health Services, the surge includes both confirmed and suspected cases, with a sharp concentration in Dhaka.

Data released by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) stated that, as of 8 a.m. on Monday, two of the deaths were officially confirmed as measles-related, while the remaining 15 were classified as suspected cases.

Among the suspected fatalities, Dhaka district alone accounted for 10 deaths, indicating a severe concentration of cases in the capital region.

Since March 15, the total number of confirmed measles-related deaths has risen to 52, while suspected deaths have reached 259.

The outbreak has also seen a sharp rise in infections, with 1,302 new suspected cases reported recently, pushing the cumulative figure to 41,793.

Health officials further confirmed 154 new measles cases during the same period, bringing the total number of confirmed infections to 5,467.

Hospitalisation rates have also been significant, with 28,832 suspected measles cases requiring medical attention since mid-March.

However, authorities noted that 25,151 patients have recovered successfully so far.

Army Gets ₹1,476 Cr BEL Boost

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Ministry of Defence has signed a ₹1,476 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the procurement of five Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Systems for the Indian Army, aimed at enhancing indigenous defence capability and strengthening India's military manufacturing ecosystem.

Deal Signed Under 'Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured) Category in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh at Kartavya Bhawan-2 in New Delhi.

The systems will feature a minimum 72 per cent indigenous content, aligning with the government's push for self-reliance under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.

Boost to Army's Electronic Warfare Capability

According to the Defence Ministry, the newly procured systems will significantly enhance battlefield awareness and electronic warfare



The Ministry of Defence has signed a ₹1,476 crore deal with Bharat Electronics Limited for five Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Systems for the Indian Army under the Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured) category. With 72% indigenous content, the systems are aimed at boosting battlefield awareness and electronic warfare capability, while further strengthening India's push for defence self-reliance under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

capabilities of the Indian Army. The mobile platforms are expected to improve operational mobility, responsiveness, and effectiveness in modern technology-driven combat environments.

Strengthening Defence Modernisation

Officials said the induction of these systems will modernise frontline formations and support India's evolving defence requirements. The deal further strengthens BEL's position as a key supplier of radar, communication, and electronic warfare technologies to the armed forces.

BEL's Growing Defence Order Book Bharat Electronics Limited has recently secured several major defence contracts, including:

- ₹2,000 crore air defence radar systems contract for the Indian Army
- ₹593.22 crore deal for maintenance of the Akash Missile System
- ₹847.70 crore joint contract with Larsen & Toubro for electronic warfare sensors for training ships

Most of these projects fall under the indigenous procurement category, reinforcing India's focus on domestic defence production.

Push for Defence Self-Reliance

The Defence Ministry continues to prioritise indigenous procurement through dedicated policy measures and indigenisation lists, aiming to reduce import dependence and strengthen India's defence industrial base.

Torchlight Delivery Tragedy: Mother, Newborn Die

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

In a shocking incident highlighting lapses in healthcare infrastructure, a woman and her newborn died at a Community Health Centre (CHC) in Jharkhand's Seraikela-Kharsawan district after an alleged power outage disrupted the delivery procedure.

The deceased, identified as Binita Banra from Hathisiring village and a health sahiyya, was reportedly undergoing delivery at the Rajnagar

CHC when electricity supply failed.

According to family members, the hospital had no power backup, forcing doctors and nursing staff to continue the procedure using mobile phone torchlight. Family members alleged that Banra's condition worsened during the delivery, but she was neither provided adequate treatment nor referred to a higher medical facility in time, ultimately leading to the death of both mother and child.

The incident has triggered political outrage in the state, with BJP leaders accusing the government of negligence and a collapse of the healthcare system.

Responding to the tragedy, State Health Minister Dr. Irfan Ansari termed the incident "shameful" and a "grave lapse." He confirmed that the medical officer in charge has been suspended, while senior officials have been directed to initiate strict action.

TRUMP CONGRATULATES MODI ON BJP BENGAL WIN

► Vikrama Vahini | Washington

Former US President Donald Trump has congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi following the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) decisive victory in the West Bengal Assembly elections 2026.

A White House spokesperson said Trump expressed admiration for Modi during a recent phone call and described India as "lucky" to have him as its leader.

The statement added that Trump



congratulated Modi on what he termed a "historic and decisive election victory."

The BJP registered a landslide win by securing over 200 seats in West

Bengal, marking a major political shift in the state and ending years of opposition rule. The result is being seen as one of the party's strongest regional performances in recent years.

The congratulatory message follows a recent phone conversation between the two leaders, during which they reviewed bilateral relations and reaffirmed commitment to strengthening the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership between India and the United States.

ENTERTAINMENT

Shruti Haasan's Special Song Boost for Peddi

► Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai

Actress Shruti Haasan has been roped in for a special song sequence in the upcoming film Peddi, starring Ram Charan in the lead role.

The film, which has been generating significant buzz across the industry, boasts a strong ensemble cast including Janhvi Kapoor, Shiva Rajkumar, Divyendu Sharma and Jagapathi Babu in key roles. With its music already delivering chartbuster hits, the film has steadily built high expectations among audiences.

According to sources, Shruti Haasan will feature in a high-energy dance number that is currently under production. Known for her strong screen presence and versatility, her inclusion is expected to add further appeal to the film's commercial prospects.

Her growing presence major pan-India projects also underlines her continued demand in the industry.

Peddi is written and directed by Buchi Babu Sana and produced by Venkat Sathish Kiluru under the banner of Vriddhi Cinemas, in association with Mythri Movie Makers.

The film is slated for a theatrical release on June 4, 2026, and is expected to be one of the major pan-India releases of the year, further intensifying anticipation among cinema lovers.

Ranveer Behl Chooses Filmmaking Over Acting

► Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai

Ranveer Behl, son of actress Sonali Bendre and filmmaker Goldie Behl, is set to carve his own niche in the Hindi film industry by choosing filmmaking over acting.

Unlike many star kids who opt for on-screen careers, Ranveer is inclined towards the creative aspects behind the camera. According to his father, he is currently studying filmmaking and has a keen interest in editing, indicating a strong foundation in the technical side of cinema.

Speaking about his son's aspirations, Goldie Behl said that Ranveer is still exploring his creative direction and should be allowed the time to complete his



education and understand his audience before taking up major projects. He emphasised that the young aspirant's priority should be to enjoy the creative process rather than focus solely on commercial success.

Goldie also hinted that Ranveer's

interests may extend beyond traditional filmmaking, with possibilities ranging from creating films and web series to experimenting with formats like live-action, anime, or even augmented reality content.

Industry observers note that a strong grasp of editing often plays a crucial role in shaping successful filmmakers, and Ranveer's early inclination towards this craft could prove advantageous in his journey.

At just 20 years old, Ranveer Behl represents a new generation of creators who are exploring diverse storytelling mediums, reflecting the evolving landscape of the Indian entertainment industry.

GERA REVEALS 'DOODH SODA' DIALOGUE ORIGIN

► Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai

Actor Gaurav Gera has revealed the interesting creative process behind one of the most talked-about dialogues from the film Dhurandhar, saying that the popular "Doodh Soda" line was selected after several humorous alternatives were considered by director Aditya Dhar.

Multiple Creative Options Tested

Gera shared that the final dialogue was not written in one go, but chosen from a list of quirky and rhyming options developed during the film's pre-production stage.

He said the team experimented with several playful versions to find the most impactful line for his character, Indian spy Mohammad Aalam.

Final Dialogue Locked After Selection Process

According to Gera, several humorous and rhythmic lines were discussed before the team finalized the now-viral dialogue:

"Darling Darling, Dil Kyu Toda, Pecho Pecho Aalam Doodh Soda."

He credited Aditya Dhar for encouraging creative experimentation and refining the final version used in the film.

Fans React to Viral Dialogue

The actor's revelation sparked strong reactions online, with fans sharing their favourite alternate versions and praising the creative writing process.

The final dialogue continues to trend among audiences for its comic timing and catchy delivery.

Performance Praised in Dhurandhar

Gera's portrayal of Aalam in Dhurandhar has received appreciation for its humour and screen presence.

The actor, known for his roles in television and digital platforms, remains popular for his earlier

character roles like Nandu in Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahin.

Dhar Defamation Case Closed

► Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court has closed a defamation case filed by filmmaker Aditya Dhar against Santosh Kumar after the latter tendered an unconditional apology in a dispute over allegations related to the script of Dhurandhar: The Revenge.

The case stemmed from Kumar's public claim that Dhar had allegedly used his script idea without permission. Dhar had moved the court, stating that the remarks had damaged his professional reputation.

During the hearing, the court recorded the apology and noted that Dhar did not wish to pursue damages further, leading to the disposal of the suit.

However, the court clarified that Kumar is free to pursue any independent legal claim regarding script ownership if he chooses.

The dispute had attracted attention due to the commercial success of the Dhurandhar franchise, which has performed strongly at the global box office.

BUSINESS

Bengaluru Tops Global Growth by 2035

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

India's Silicon Valley, Bengaluru, is set to emerge as the world's fastest-growing major city by 2035, according to a new report by global real estate consultancy Savills. The ranking is based on an extensive study of 245 cities worldwide, evaluated across key economic and social indicators.

The report highlights that the rapid expansion of Global Capability Centres (GCCs), a strong pool of skilled IT talent, and increasing migration for employment are the primary drivers behind Bengaluru's projected growth.

Multinational corporations are increasingly establishing technology, finance, and operations hubs in the city, further strengthening its global economic position.

Bengaluru's growth is also fueled by a rising population of high-income households and a steady influx of young professionals from across India. This demographic shift is expected to significantly boost both consumption and investment trends in the coming years.

The report underscores the dominance of Asia-Pacific cities, which account for 85% of the top 20 fastest-growing urban centres globally. Indian cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata have also secured prominent positions, reflecting India's growing economic strength.

Bengaluru's real estate sector is poised for a major transformation over the next decade. Demand for Grade-A, sustainable office spaces is rising sharply due to corporate expansion.

At the same time, private equity investments in India's real estate sector have surged by 66%, indicating strong foreign investor interest.

The residential segment is also witnessing rapid growth, driven by increasing migration of IT professionals. This has led to the expansion of housing projects, luxury apartments, and urban infrastructure developments across the city.

