



Radhika Pandit enjoys a nature trek with her children at Kudlu Falls during the summer break, sharing serene moments from the forest trail on social media.

A Bharatanatyam arangetram of young dancer Charvi Shri Reddy will be held in the city on May 10. Charvi, a student of noted and danseuse Suparna Venkatesh, will present her debut performance at Sri Krishnadevaraya Kala Mandira in Malleswaram at 10 AM.

INSIDE

Good morning

The biggest suspense of life is that... You don't know who is 'Praying' for you and who is 'Playing' with you.

BRIEFS

Pakistan Link Suspected in Punjab Twin Blasts

> Vikrama Vahini | Chandigarh
Security agencies in Punjab are investigating twin explosions near high-security installations in Jalandhar and Amritsar on Tuesday night.

An IED blast occurred outside the BSF Frontier Headquarters in Jalandhar, while a grenade attack at an Army camp in Amritsar failed to breach the perimeter wall. No casualties were reported.

Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav said initial findings suggest possible involvement of Pakistani intelligence agencies. He added that investigations are underway and security has been tightened across sensitive locations in the state.

India Crime Rate Falls 6%: NCRB

> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi
India recorded 58.85 lakh criminal cases in 2024, marking a 6% decline compared to 62.41 lakh cases in 2023, according to the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

The crime rate, measured as cases per lakh population, also fell from 448.3 in 2023 to 418.9 in 2024, the report said.

A significant decline was seen in cases under the 'Hurt' category, registered under sections 325, 326 and 329-335 of the Indian Penal Code. These cases dropped by 30.58%, from over 6.36 lakh in 2023 to 4.41 lakh in 2024.

Officials said the overall decline in crime reflects improved reporting mechanisms and preventive policing measures across several states, though they cautioned that continued focus on law enforcement efficiency and public safety remains essential.

TRP Reporting Ban Extended by 4 Weeks

> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi
The government has extended its order suspending the reporting of Television Rating Points (TRPs) for news channels by another four weeks, officials said on Wednesday.

The move aims to curb sensationalism and speculative content amid the ongoing West Asia conflict.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had first issued the directive on March 6 to the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC), asking it to withhold TRP reporting for TV news channels for four weeks or until further orders.

The suspension was later extended till May 6, and has now been further prolonged by another month.

The decision continues to impact television news ratings transparency across the broadcasting sector. Officials said the extension will remain in force until further review of the situation.

Hungry or Strong, Politics Turns Dramatic!

TVK moves swiftly to stake claim in Tamil Nadu despite tight numbers, triggering intense negotiations. In West Bengal, the Bharatiya Janata Party gains ground post-results, raising political heat. Meanwhile, the Indian National Congress in Kerala faces internal tussles over the Chief Minister's post, with factions backing rival leaders. Across these states, government formation turns into a high-stakes contest marked by uncertainty, strategic alliances, and power struggles shaping the evolving political landscape.

CONGRESS IN KERALA TUSSELS OVER CM PICK | BJP EYES BENGAL WITH BULLDOZER PUSH

> Vikrama Vahini | Chennai
The political situation in Tamil Nadu remains fluid as the expected swearing-in of Joseph C. Vijay as Chief Minister now hangs in uncertainty, with Governor R.N. Ravi yet to extend a formal invitation for government formation. **Governor insists on clear majority support**

According to Raj Bhavan sources, the Governor has conveyed that an invitation to form the government will be issued only after the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) submits a formal letter of support proving it has the required majority of 118 MLAs in the 234-member Tamil Nadu Assembly.

The Governor has reportedly clarified that being the single largest party alone is not sufficient for staking claim to form the government, and constitutional requirements of majority support must be clearly established before any invitation is extended.

TVK short of numbers despite lead
In the recently concluded Assembly scenario, TVK has emerged as the single largest party with 107 seats. However, with the effective strength of the House at 233 (after

Vijay's victory from two constituencies), the majority mark stands at 118.

The party currently claims support from five Congress MLAs, taking its total strength to 112, but still falls short of the required majority by six seats. **Swearing-in ceremony likely postponed**

The uncertainty over the Governor's invitation has cast doubt over the scheduled swearing-in ceremony of "Vijay Sarkar," which was expected to take place on May 7 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai.

Party sources now indicate that the event may be postponed until clarity emerges on the numbers required to form the government.

Meanwhile, preparations for the ceremony had already begun, including finalisation of cabinet lists and arrangements for the oath-taking event.

Legal and constitutional consultations underway

Raj Bhavan is reportedly in consultation with legal experts and the Union Home Ministry on the appropriate course of action. **PG2**



BJP TO PICK WEST BENGAL CM ON MAY 8; SWEARING-IN 9

> Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata
The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will hold a legislative party meeting on May 8 at 4 pm to elect its leader in West Bengal, followed by a swearing-in ceremony on May 9 at 10 am, party leaders announced

on Wednesday. **West Bengal BJP President Samik Bhattacharya** said the meeting will formally elect the leader of the legislative party after the party's historic electoral performance in the state. **PG2**

Congress MLAs Meet Amid Kerala CM Race

> Vikrama Vahini | Thiruvananthapuram
The Congress high command has intensified consultations over the selection of the next Chief Minister of Kerala, despite the party securing an absolute majority in the Assembly elections.

The leadership race is understood to be between Leader of Opposition V. D. Satheesan, senior leader Ramesh Chennithala, and AICC General Secretary K. C. Venugopal, with no consensus reached so far.

Senior leaders Mukul Wasnik and Ajay Maken have been appointed as observers and are expected to meet party MLAs in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday to assess their views.

Meanwhile, discussions within the party have intensified, with leaders focusing on leadership preferences rather than seniority alone.

Chennithala is currently in Delhi meeting senior Congress leadership, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, to stake his claim.

Punjab Hit by Twin Blast Scare

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
Panic gripped parts of Punjab after suspected IED explosions were reported near key security installations in Amritsar and Jalandhar late on Tuesday, prompting a high alert and intensified security across the region.

The first incident occurred around 8:15 pm outside the BSF Punjab Frontier Headquarters in Jalandhar, where a scooter exploded, leaving it completely gutted.

The impact of the blast was strong enough to trigger airbags in nearby vehicles.

Authorities are yet to confirm whether the explosive device was planted inside the scooter.

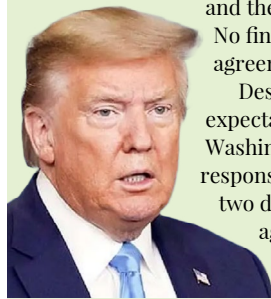
Later in the night, around 10:50 pm, another explosion took place outside an Army camp in the Khasa area of Amritsar. The blast caused damage to the tin sheeting on the outer boundary wall of the cantonment, though no casualties were reported. **PG2**

Iran Seeks Fair Terms on US Peace Plan

> Vikrama Vahini | Tehran
Iran has said it is reviewing a 14-point proposal from the United States aimed at ending the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, stressing that only terms considered "fair" by Tehran would be accepted.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said the proposal is currently under examination before being shared with Pakistan, which is acting as a mediator between Iran and the US.

No final agreement yet. Despite expectations from Washington for a response within two days, no final agreement has been



- * Iran is reviewing a 14-point US proposal to end the Middle East conflict.**
- * Tehran says it will accept only "fair" terms.**
- * Pakistan is acting as a mediator between Iran and the US.**
- * No final agreement has been reached yet, despite expected US response deadline.**
- * Proposal includes a 30-day negotiation framework.**
- * Key element: reopening of**

- the Strait of Hormuz for global oil and gas shipping.**
- * Iran may be asked to suspend nuclear enrichment activities.**
- * US could consider releasing frozen Iranian assets and easing sanctions.**
- * Reciprocal shipping arrangements are also under discussion.**
- * US President Donald Trump warned of possible military action if Iran refuses the deal.**

reached. Reports suggest the ongoing dialogue marks the closest engagement between the two sides since the conflict began on February 28.

The proposal reportedly includes

a 30-day negotiation framework involving the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, a key global shipping route for oil and gas.

Key demands under discussion
As part of the draft, Iran would be

expected to suspend its nuclear enrichment activities, while the US would consider releasing frozen Iranian assets and easing sanctions.

The plan also includes reciprocal arrangements related to shipping restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump issues warning
Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump warned that military action could resume if Iran does not agree to reopen the Strait

of Hormuz. Posting on Truth Social, he said oil and gas shipments could resume only if Iran accepts the deal, adding: "If they don't agree, the bombing starts."



Op Sindoor: India Marks 1st Anniversary



> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
Operation Sindoor, launched after the Pahalgam terror attack last year, has marked a major shift in India's national security strategy, highlighting the extensive use of drones, network-centric warfare and artificial intelligence in combat operations.

The mission, described as India's most expansive multi-domain

military operation in over five decades, was launched on May 7 last year in response to the April 22 terror attack in which 26 people were killed.

The targeted locations included major terror infrastructure sites of Jaish-e-Mohammed in Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba in Muridke, along with several camps in Muza ffarabad, Kotli and Bhimber. **PG2**

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WHERE YOUR SUCCESS MAKES HEADLINES



Editorial

Mandate and Moral Responsibility

The recent political developments in West Bengal have sparked intense debate about democratic accountability and constitutional propriety. While early trends and claims of shifting voter sentiment have been interpreted by some as a setback for the ruling Mamata Banerjee-led All India Trinamool Congress, it is essential to distinguish between political rhetoric and constitutional reality. In a parliamentary democracy, governments do not resign based on narratives or perceptions alone, but on officially declared results and legislative majority. Any assertion that a leader must step down prior to the completion of due electoral and constitutional processes risks undermining the very framework critics claim to defend.

At the same time, the opposition, particularly the Bharatiya Janata Party, has positioned itself as the beneficiary of public dissatisfaction, arguing that voter sentiment signals a demand for change. Such claims are a natural part of democratic contestation. However, framing the issue as a constitutional crisis before institutional mechanisms have run their course may deepen political polarization. Democracy thrives not only on electoral outcomes but also on respect for institutions, procedures, and the rule of law. Both ruling and opposition parties share the responsibility to uphold these principles consistently, not selectively.

Ultimately, the true test of democratic maturity lies in how political actors respond to mandates—whether favorable or adverse. If voters have indeed delivered a corrective message, it must be acknowledged with humility and addressed through governance reforms or leadership changes within the established legal framework. Conversely, overstating or misrepresenting electoral signals can erode public trust. Political steadfastness should not be confused with defiance of democratic norms, just as criticism should not devolve into premature conclusions. In a diverse democracy like India, constitutional integrity must remain above partisan impulses.

Editor

Modi to Launch Projects at Art of Living Event

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit the Art of Living International Centre on May 10, where he will launch a series of service-oriented initiatives aimed at community welfare.

The visit coincides with the 45th anniversary celebrations of the Art of Living foundation and the 70th birthday of its founder, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. The Prime Minister is expected to extend his greetings on the occasion and participate in the commemorative events.

According to officials, Modi will unveil multiple programmes focused on development and public well-being. These

initiatives are designed to support grassroots efforts and recognise individuals contributing to society through service activities, including campaigns such as "Unsung Everyday Heroes."



Over the past four decades, the Art of Living has expanded its presence globally, working in areas such as yoga, meditation, river rejuvenation, education, and disaster relief. The organisation currently operates in more than 180 countries and has been actively involved in promoting human values and community service.

The Prime Minister's visit is expected to highlight the role of voluntary organisations in nation-building and encourage further participation in social welfare initiatives.

George Sets July 15 Power Deadline

Vikrama Vahini | Mangaluru

In a major push to strengthen power infrastructure in coastal Karnataka, Energy Minister K. J. George has directed officials to complete the Kadandale 400 kV power substation project by July 15.

Acting on the Minister's instructions, the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) has accelerated work on the strategically important project, which is expected to ensure reliable and uninterrupted electricity supply to Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

The substation, located in Kadandale village of Moodbidri taluk, had remained stalled for nearly three years due to land-related litigation affecting the 400 kV transmission line. Officials said the hurdles were recently resolved through coordinated efforts by the Energy Department.

KPTCL Managing Director Dr. Ram Prasath Manohar visited the



project site to review progress and emphasised the urgency of completing the works before the monsoon.

"Mangaluru is a key industrial hub and requires uninterrupted power supply. We are working to complete the project at the earliest and commence operations soon," he said. Once completed, the Kadandale substation is expected to significantly improve grid stability

in the coastal belt, which frequently faces voltage fluctuations and low-voltage issues, especially during the monsoon season.

Officials said the facility would enable better load management and quicker restoration of power in case of technical faults, providing long-term relief to both domestic consumers and industries.

To fast-track the project, KPTCL has scheduled line clearance work

on the 400 kV UPCL-Hebbanahalli transmission corridor between May 6 and May 24. During this period, alternative arrangements will be made to maintain supply, though short-duration load shedding may occur under technical constraints. Authorities have appealed to the public for cooperation during this temporary phase, stating that the project is vital for the region's long-term energy security.

Bengaluru-Kalaburagi Special Train Extended

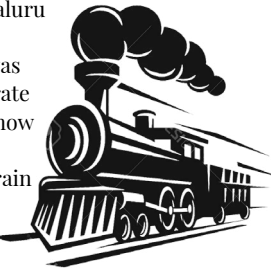
Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

To manage the extra passenger rush during the summer season, the railways have extended the operation of the Bengaluru Cantonment-Kalaburagi-Bengaluru Cantonment Express Special (Train Nos. 06207/06208), officials said.

Train No. 06207 Bengaluru Cantonment-Kalaburagi Express Special, which was earlier scheduled to operate up to April 25, 2026, will now run an additional trip on May 9, 2026. Similarly, Train No. 06208 Kalaburagi-Bengaluru Cantonment Express Special, earlier notified up to April 26, 2026, will operate one more service on May 10, 2026.

Railway officials confirmed that there will be no changes in timings, stoppages, or coach composition for the extended services. The move is aimed at ensuring smooth travel for passengers during the peak summer demand period.

Passengers are advised to check availability and plan their journey accordingly.



Hung or Strong, Politics Turns Dramatic!

From PG1

Officials are evaluating whether the support of the single largest party, along with allied backing, is sufficient or whether a formal majority must be demonstrated before invitation.

The situation is being compared by political observers to earlier constitutional precedents where Governors or the President assessed majority claims before inviting leaders to form governments.

TVK leaders are continuing efforts to secure additional support from smaller parties. Sources indicate that DMK allies such as the VCK and CPI have shown positive

indications, each holding two MLAs, which could be crucial in crossing the majority mark.

However, the CPI(M) is yet to take a clear position, keeping the final outcome uncertain. Political negotiations are reportedly ongoing behind the scenes as both TVK and rival camps attempt to consolidate numbers.

The delay in the Governor's decision has intensified political speculation across the state. While TVK remains confident of forming the government, the lack of confirmed majority support has created uncertainty over the timing of the swearing-in.

Punjab Hit by Twin Blast Scare

From PG1

Police and Army units, along with bomb disposal squads, forensic teams, and dog squads, rushed to both locations and cordoned off the areas. Security has been significantly tightened, and search operations are underway in surrounding localities.

According to Punjab Police, preliminary investigation suggests that unidentified individuals on a motorcycle hurled an explosive device towards the Army camp before fleeing the scene.

Officials suspect the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in both incidents.

BJP TO PICK WEST BENGAL CM ON MAY 8; SWEARING-IN 9

From PG1

High-profile swearing-in ceremony Bhattacharya said the swearing-in ceremony will be attended by the Prime Minister, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, senior Union ministers, BJP national leadership, and Chief Ministers from several states.

He added that the ceremony marks a significant milestone as the BJP is set to form its first government in West Bengal.

Amit Shah appointed central observer Earlier, the party appointed Amit Shah as the central observer for West Bengal, with Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan

Majhi as co-observer.

The appointments are part of the BJP's internal process to select its legislative leader.

Shah is also expected to attend related political events before travelling to West Bengal for the swearing-in ceremony. BJP claims historic mandate

According to Election Commission data, the BJP secured 206 seats in the 294-member West Bengal Assembly, a major rise from its previous tally.

The Trinamool Congress, which had won 212 seats in the last election, finished second with 80 seats.

NEWS

ASHOK TARGETS CONGRESS 'BETRAYAL'

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the Congress, accusing it of "betraying" its ally DMK in Tamil Nadu and urging parties within the INDIA alliance to introspect.

Addressing reporters, Ashoka alleged that the Congress had abandoned its pre-poll understanding with the DMK after the election results and aligned itself with the "winning side." He said the development had exposed the party's "lack of principles" and questioned its reliability as an ally.

"In Tamil Nadu, Congress has shown its true colours. The DMK, which trusted it, has been backstabbed. Other INDIA alliance partners should take note and introspect, or they may face a similar situation," he said.

Remarks on Sringeri Row

Ashoka also commented on the ongoing

Sringeri postal ballot recount controversy, asserting that "it is now clear who has stolen votes." He criticised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for alleging irregularities, stating that legal recourse should have been the first step if there were genuine concerns.

He further took aim at Congress leaders over their stance on electoral processes, alleging inconsistency in their views on institutions like the Election Commission.



Oath of MLA Jeevaraj

On the issue of administering oath to MLA D.N. Jeevaraj, Ashoka said Speaker U. T. Khader had agreed to proceed after due process, including approval from the Governor. He noted that once the Election Commission issues a certificate and the result is notified, the oath must be administered as per constitutional norms.

Goa CM Inaugurates Vasco RUB Project

Vikrama Vahini | Vasco da Gama

The Road Under Bridge (RUB) at Vasco da Gama was inaugurated by Pramod Sawant on Tuesday, marking a key infrastructure development aimed at improving connectivity in South Goa.

The new underpass enhances direct access between Vasco city, Dabolim Airport, and Margao, significantly easing traffic movement across the region.

With a vertical clearance of 4.0 metres, the structure allows smooth passage for ambulances, fire services, and



other emergency vehicles, eliminating the need for a 12-kilometre detour.

Speaking at the inauguration, the Chief Minister said the project reflects the government's commitment to modern infrastructure and public convenience, ensuring faster

and safer urban mobility.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including MP Sadanand Shet Tanawade, ministers Ramesh Tawadkar and Mauvin Godinho, MLAs Krishna V. Salkar and Sankalp Amonkar, and South Western Railway officials led by DRM Hubballi Bela Meena.

BSY Event Shifted; 10 Lakh Expected

Vikrama Vahini | Chitradurga

The grand Abhimanotsava marking 50 years of political life of former Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa will be held on May 9 with elaborate arrangements, BJP State President B. Y. Vijayendra said on Tuesday.

Addressing the media, Vijayendra announced that the programme, initially scheduled in the morning, has been shifted to the afternoon between 2 PM and 5 PM due to the swearing-in ceremony of the new Chief Minister in West Bengal. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to arrive at around 3:45 PM.

He said the event is being organised to celebrate Yediyurappa's five-decade-long political journey as a mass leader, farmer's representative, and champion of the poor. More than 10 lakh supporters are expected to attend the programme, making it a historic gathering.



Extensive preparations are underway, with around 10,000 buses and nearly 45,000 to 50,000 cars and other vehicles arranged to facilitate the arrival of supporters.

Religious heads, seers, and community leaders from across the state have been invited to bless the occasion. Cultural Procession on May 8

A grand cultural procession marking Yediyurappa's ceremonial entry into Chitradurga will be held on the evening of May 8, featuring participation from 24 folk troupes, organisers said.

B'luru Railways Signs MoU with AWPO

Vikrama Vahini | B'luru

The Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Army Welfare Placement Organisation (AWPO) for the engagement of 81 ex-servicemen as Pointsmen and Traffic Gatemen for a period of 32 months.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Divisional Railway Manager Ashutosh Kumar Singh, along with senior railway officials and Lt. Col. Sanjay



Thakur, Director, AWPO Karnataka and Kerala Sub Area, Bengaluru.

Under the initiative, retired Army personnel below 55 years of age will be selected based on eligibility criteria, followed by medical examination and training

before deployment.

Railway authorities said the initiative leverages the discipline and experience of veterans, strengthening safety standards and supporting their rehabilitation into civilian roles.

Op Sindoor: India Marks 1st Anniversary

From PG1

High-Level Military Response The operation triggered escalated tensions with Pakistan, which attempted retaliatory strikes that were largely neutralised by Indian forces. Hostilities later ended on May 10 following military-level communication between both sides. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier stated that India would not tolerate nuclear blackmail and reaffirmed the country's strong stance against terrorism.

Defence Modernisation Accelerates Following the operation, India has significantly upgraded its defence preparedness with a focus on unmanned systems, artificial intelligence-based targeting, and advanced surveillance technologies.

Key defence procurements cleared include additional S-400 missile systems from Russia, 14 Rafale fighter jets from France, Boeing P8-I maritime surveillance aircraft from the United States, and a proposed deal for six stealth submarines with Germany.

Nuclear and Missile Capability Boost India has also strengthened its strategic deterrence with the commissioning of the nuclear-powered submarine INS Aridaman, enhancing its sea-based nuclear capability. The country has further tested several Agni missile variants, including the Agni-5 with a range of up to 5,000 km.

Strategic Lessons Implemented Defence officials said lessons from Operation Sindoor are being actively incorporated into planning and procurement. A senior official noted that a "whole-of-government approach" has significantly enhanced India's military readiness and long-term strategic posture. The anniversary is being seen as a reflection of India's evolving doctrine of swift, precise, and technology-driven military response to emerging security challenges.

MIRROR TRICK TO STOP PUBLIC URINATION IN MYSURU

Vikrama Vahini | Mysuru
In a unique civic initiative to curb open urination, the Mysore City Corporation has installed large mirrors along a wall near the Mysuru Suburban Bus Stand. Officials said the wall had long been misused despite repeated warnings and threats of fines. The mirrors have been placed with the aim of invoking a sense of self-awareness and discouraging offenders by making them confront their own reflection. The innovative move has drawn widespread attention on social media, with many praising it as a simple yet effective solution to a persistent public nuisance. Users have described the initiative as a creative way to promote civic



responsibility and cleanliness. Civic authorities noted that several public toilets are available within close proximity of the area, but misuse of public spaces continued. They expressed hope that the mirror installation would deter such behaviour and encourage people to use proper sanitation facilities. However, some concerns have also been raised about the durability of the mirrors, with fears that miscreants could damage them. Authorities said they will monitor the situation and take further measures if required to maintain cleanliness in the area.

Yediyurappa to Tour Districts, Abhimana Utsava on May 9

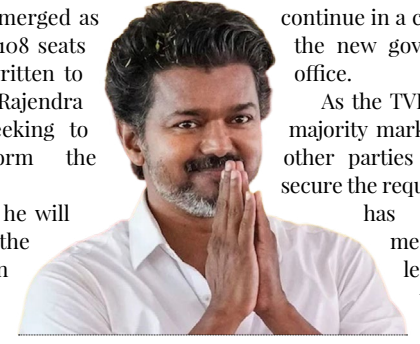
Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
Senior BJP leader and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has said that party workers are putting in dedicated efforts to organize the upcoming "Abhimana Utsava" scheduled to be held in Chitradurga on May 9. Speaking to the media, he said that several seers and senior leaders from across the political spectrum have been invited for the event, which is expected to witness a large gathering. He added that the arrival of Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the occasion makes the programme even more significant.



Vijay Swearing-In Today

Vijay set to take oath as Tamil Nadu CM tomorrow, as TVK races to secure majority support amid ongoing political negotiations.

Vikrama Vahini | Chennai
TVK chief Vijay is set to be sworn in as the 14th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on May 7 at 11 AM at the Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai. Around 21 ministers are expected to take oath along with him in a grand ceremony. Vijay, whose party emerged as the single largest with 108 seats in the Assembly, has written to Acting Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar seeking to stake claim to form the government. He has assured that he will prove his majority on the floor of the House within two weeks. Preparations for the



swearing-in are in full swing, with several top leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, likely to attend the event. Meanwhile, the Governor has accepted the resignation of outgoing Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and asked him to continue in a caretaker role until the new government assumes office. As the TVK falls short of the majority mark, discussions with other parties are underway to secure the required support. Vijay has also held key meetings with party leaders to finalise the list of ministers for his cabinet.

Charvi Shri's Arangetram in City on May 10

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
A Bharatanatyam arangetram of young dancer Charvi Shri Reddy will be held in the city on May 10. Charvi, a student of noted and danseuse Suparna Venkatesh, will present her debut performance at Sri Krishnadevaraya Kala Mandira in Malleswaram at 10 AM. Daughter of R.K. Shilpa and Channa Keshava Reddy, Charvi began learning dance at the age of six and, after nearly a decade of rigorous training, is set to showcase her talent through this arangetram. The event will be attended by eminent guests including Prof. Karuna Vijendra of S-VYASA University, ICCR Regional Director Pradeep Kumar, H.N. Engineering College Chairman Venkata Shivareddy, and classical vocalist Vidwan Vinay Sharma. The performance will feature nattuvangam by Guru Suparna Venkatesh, vocal support by Vidwan Bala Subrahmanya Sharma, flute by Vidwan Raghu Sinha, and veena accompaniment by Vidwan Prashanth, organisers said. Organisers said the programme will highlight a traditional repertoire showcasing Charvi's command over rhythm, expression and classical technique. The arangetram marks an important milestone in her artistic journey, reflecting years of dedication and disciplined training in Bharatanatyam.



SHAH TO RELEASE BSY SPEECHES

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
Union Home Minister Amit Shah will release two books documenting the political journey and legislative speeches of veteran BJP leader and former Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa during the upcoming 'BSY Abhimanotsava' event in Chitradurga on Saturday. **Two Books on Political Journey**
The first book, "Kendavare - Kamala Aralida Katha", traces Yediyurappa's rise from humble beginnings to becoming one of Karnataka's most prominent political leaders, highlighting his organisational work and grassroots mobilisation. The second publication, "Sadana Shikari - Yediyurappanavara Gudugina Nudigalu", compiles his speeches in the Karnataka legislature over several decades, focusing on his strong interventions on farmers' issues, governance, and development. **10-Volume Compilation Planned**
According to BJP leaders, more than 15,000 pages of Yediyurappa's legislative speeches have been compiled and are being edited for publication in 10 volumes. The first volume will be released by Amit Shah at the event. **Party leaders said the books reflect**
Yediyurappa's combative legislative style and his long-standing role in shaping Karnataka's political discourse. Political observers view the high-profile event and Shah's participation as a reaffirmation of Yediyurappa's continued significance in the state's political landscape.



40 Child Labourers Rescued in Mandya, 14 FIRs Filed

Vikrama Vahini | Mandya
Forty child labourers were identified in Karnataka's Mandya district during 2025-26, with authorities registering 14 FIRs against employers for violating child labour laws, officials said on Wednesday. According to Deputy Commissioner Kumar, a total of 951 inspections were carried out between April 2025 and March 2026 under the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, leading to the identification and rescue of 40 children. He said strict action is being taken against those employing children below 14 years in garages, hotels and factories. While 14 FIRs have been registered, 26 cases are currently pending before the JMFC court. The Deputy Commissioner stressed that rescued children must be ensured compulsory education and directed officials to closely monitor school attendance, particularly absenteeism.



From Domestic Help to MLA: Kalita Majhi's Inspiring Rise

Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata
Kalita Majhi, who once worked as a domestic help, has scripted an inspiring political journey by winning the Ausgram Assembly seat in West Bengal on a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ticket. Her victory has drawn widespread attention as a powerful story of determination, hardship, and social mobility. Majhi, who hails from the Guskara region, defeated poverty and social



barriers to emerge as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. Her win in the recent West Bengal elections has been hailed as a symbol of hope, especially for women from economically weaker backgrounds. After her victory, Majhi said the mandate reflected the people's anger against corruption and neglect of basic facilities. "This is a win for the people of Ausgram who were tolerating corruption. It is also a result of the fight for women's safety, better schools, colleges, and hospitals. I will continue to work for the development of Ausgram," she said. Her life journey has been marked by struggle. Married to a plumber in 2006, Majhi continued to work in multiple households in Guskara, earning around ₹4,500 per month to support her family. Despite financial hardships and household responsibilities, she remained active in politics and participated in BJP programmes, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speeches.

ENTERTAINMENT

OTT This Week: Top Picks Across Platforms

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
OTT platforms are gearing up for a high-voltage week of entertainment, with a diverse slate of releases across genres such as action, thriller, romance, comedy and crime. From global blockbusters to regional storytelling, streaming giants are rolling out fresh content between May 4 and May 10, offering viewers a wide range of binge-worthy options. **Big-Ticket Releases Lead the Week**
The most anticipated release this week is Citadel Season 2, which premieres on Amazon Prime Video on May 6. Starring Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Richard Madden, the series continues its high-stakes espionage narrative. The new season focuses on rebuilding the fallen spy agency while introducing fresh threats and characters, promising intense action sequences and global intrigue. Adding to the excitement is the latest episode of The Boys Season 5, also streaming on Prime Video. Known for its gritty and unconventional take on superheroes, the show is expected to deliver more explosive confrontations and dramatic twists, particularly in the ongoing conflict involving key characters like Homelander. **Netflix Brings Thrillers, Drama and Reality Content**
On Netflix, viewers can expect a mix of dark storytelling and emotional drama. Worst Ex Ever Season 2 returns with real-life stories of toxic and dangerous relationships, delving into themes of betrayal, violence and psychological trauma. Crime thriller enthusiasts can look forward to The Chestnut Man: Hide and Seek, a Danish series that follows a complex murder investigation linked to a disturbing past case. With its eerie narrative and layered storytelling, the show is expected to appeal to fans of suspense-driven content. Fantasy romance also finds space this week with My Royal Nemesis, which blends reincarnation with modern-day drama,



while Remarkably Bright Creatures offers a touching story about loneliness, healing and unexpected companionship. **Prime Video Expands with Regional and Action Content**
Apart from its flagship series, Amazon Prime Video is also featuring regional and action-packed content. Dacoit: A Love Story is a gritty crime drama centred on betrayal and revenge, following a man who turns to crime after personal heartbreak. In contrast, Love Insurance Kompany presents a futuristic concept where relationships are determined by data and algorithms, raising questions about the role of technology in human emotions. Music and biographical storytelling come together in Song Sung Blue, which traces the journey of a tribute band inspired by legendary singer Neil Diamond, highlighting themes of passion, resilience and artistic pursuit. **Wide Range of Genres Attract Viewers**
This week's OTT lineup reflects the growing diversity of digital entertainment, with content spanning multiple languages and storytelling styles. From hard-hitting crime dramas and

psychological thrillers to light-hearted romances and experimental narratives, platforms are catering to varied audience preferences. The inclusion of international series, regional cinema and documentary-style storytelling indicates the continued evolution of OTT platforms as a dominant force in the entertainment industry. **Binge-Watch Season Continues**
With major releases dropping almost every day, viewers have a packed schedule ahead. Industry experts note that such consistent content flow is key to retaining audience engagement in an increasingly competitive streaming market. Overall, the week promises a strong mix of star power, compelling narratives and genre variety, making it an ideal time for audiences to explore new shows and films across platforms. This week's OTT lineup highlights the growing dominance of streaming platforms in global entertainment, with a strong mix of international franchises, regional films, and experimental storytelling formats aimed at engaging diverse audiences across the world.

BUSINESS

India Economy Wins Global Praise

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
India's economy has received strong global recognition, with rating agency Moody's and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) praising its steady growth despite a global economic slowdown. Both institutions highlighted India's resilience, driven by strong domestic demand, infrastructure expansion, manufacturing growth, and rapid digital transformation. Moody's Ratings has maintained India's long-term local and foreign currency issuer rating at 'Ba3', while upgrading its outlook from 'Stable' to 'Positive'. The agency projected India's real GDP growth to remain robust in the range of 6.5% to 7% in the coming fiscal years. According to Moody's, sustained government spending on infrastructure, expanding manufacturing capacity, and a strong digital economy are key drivers supporting India's stable economic trajectory. The Asian Development Bank, in its latest report, also lauded India's economic performance, stating that its growth momentum is stronger compared to several other emerging Asian economies. ADB emphasized that rising domestic consumption and investment continue to act as major growth engines for the country. The report further noted that initiatives such as 'Make in India' and the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes have significantly boosted manufacturing output and exports, contributing positively to GDP growth. Banking Strength and Policy Stability Moody's also pointed to improvements in India's banking sector, noting stronger balance sheets and improved credit flow to industries. The Reserve Bank of India's effective control of inflation has further strengthened macroeconomic stability, according to the report.

Kangana Film to Release June 12

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
Actor-politician Kangana Ranaut's upcoming thriller "Bharat Bhagya Viddhaata" is set to release in theatres on June 12, the makers announced on Wednesday. The film is inspired by the real-life bravery of hospital staff who saved nearly 400 lives during the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks and is set inside Cama Hospital during the night of the 26/11 attacks. Written and directed by Manoj Tapadia, the film portrays how nurses, ward boys, cleaners, lift operators, security personnel and administrative staff continued to protect patients while terror unfolded outside. **Story of Quiet Heroism**
The makers described the film as a tribute to "unsung heroes" who displayed courage without recognition. It highlights acts of resilience, humanity and unity in the face of extreme violence. They added that while society often celebrates dramatic acts of bravery, real heroism often lies in silent sacrifice and duty performed under fear and uncertainty. **Focus on 26/11 Cama Hospital Incident**
The narrative specifically focuses on the events at Cama Hospital, where staff members reportedly played a crucial role in safeguarding patients during the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. The film aims to bring forward an untold perspective of the tragedy, focusing on medical and support staff who stood firm during the crisis.



SPORTS

India Exit World TT After Women's Round of 32 Loss

► Vikrama Vahini | London

India's disappointing campaign at the World Table Tennis Team Championships came to an end after the women's team suffered a 1-3 defeat against the United States in the round of 32.

Earlier, the men's team had also bowed out at the same stage after losing their round of 32 clash against Austria on Tuesday, marking a double early exit for India from the prestigious tournament.

In the women's tie, India's only win came through star paddler Manika Batra, who produced a fighting performance to defeat USA's Reyes Jessica 11-2, 11-8, 8-11, 11-4. However, her effort was not enough to turn the match in India's favour as the remaining ties went against the Indian team.

Delhi to Host Commonwealth Table Tennis

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Delhi will host the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026 at the Thyagraj Stadium, with participation expected from more than 35 countries. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced on Wednesday.

The prestigious championship will be held from July 27 to August 2, jointly organised by the Delhi Government and the Table Tennis Federation of India. Major International Sporting Event Speaking at the Delhi Secretariat, the Chief Minister said the city has a strong legacy of hosting major international sporting events and the upcoming championship will further strengthen Delhi's position on the global sports map.

She added that the event will provide a platform for international athletes to compete at a high level while also promoting sports culture among youth in India.

Akanksha Exits, Other Seeds Advance in Tumakuru Open

► Vikrama Vahini | Tumakuru

The exit of eighth seed Akanksha Dileep Nitture was the only setback for Indian players on the second day of the ITF W15 Tumakuru Open, while several other seeded players progressed comfortably in their respective matches.

Akanksha suffered a straight-sets defeat in the women's singles Round of 32, going down 6-1, 6-1 to Arina Arifullina in a one-sided contest. She struggled to find rhythm throughout the match against her aggressive and consistent opponent.

Despite Akanksha's early exit, the day remained largely positive for Indian players, with other seeded competitors advancing into the next round, maintaining strong local representation in the tournament.

AIADMK Split: 30 MLAs Back Vijay

► Vikrama Vahini | Chennai

A major political rift appears to be brewing within the AIADMK as more than 30 MLAs are reportedly backing senior leader C.V. Shanmugam's move to support Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) in forming the government in Tamil Nadu.

The internal divide comes at a crucial time when TVK, which emerged as the single largest party with 108 seats in the recently concluded Assembly elections, is seeking additional support to cross the majority mark of 118 in the 234-member House.

Split Within AIADMK

Sources indicate a growing disagreement between AIADMK chief Edappadi K. Palaniswami and C.V. Shanmugam over extending support to TVK.

The situation escalated after a late-night meeting led by Shanmugam, where over 30 MLAs reportedly expressed willingness to back Vijay.

The development is said to have caught Palaniswami off guard, prompting him to cancel a scheduled meeting of AIADMK MLAs

AIADMK faces an internal crisis as over 30 MLAs reportedly back C.V. Shanmugam's move to support Vijay's TVK, intensifying the race for majority and adding fresh uncertainty to Tamil Nadu's government formation.

at the party headquarters.

Numbers Game Intensifies

With Vijay having won from two constituencies, the party's effective strength is expected to reduce further after one resignation and the appointment of a Speaker, bringing its tally to around 106. The party requires the support of at least 12 more MLAs to prove a majority.

The Congress, which has five seats, has indicated support to TVK, albeit with conditions. It has reportedly conveyed that it would not back a coalition involving parties aligned with the BJP-led NDA.

Strategic Outreach

Facing limited support from smaller parties, TVK leaders are said to have directly

engaged with AIADMK leaders, viewing Shanmugam as a key figure capable of mobilising legislative backing. Discussions involving senior leaders, including K.A. Sengottaiyan and S.P. Velumani, are believed to have played a role in shaping the current developments.

Political Uncertainty

The unfolding situation has added a new layer of uncertainty to Tamil Nadu's post-poll scenario. With shifting loyalties and intense negotiations underway, the coming days are expected to be crucial in determining whether Vijay can successfully form the government.



BJP JIBE ON TMC SPARKS KHER'S WITTY REPLY

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

A political remark by West Bengal BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya has triggered a mix of political debate and social media humour, with actor Anupam Kher responding wittily to the comparison made during a post-election interaction.

Remark Sparks Controversy and Laughter

Speaking a day after the BJP's sweeping victory in the West Bengal Assembly elections, Bhattacharya dismissed any possibility of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) returning to power. Using a striking analogy, he said that such a comeback was as unlikely as Anupam Kher regrowing hair, calling it "beyond imagination."

The comment quickly gained attention, drawing reactions from both political circles and the public.

Anupam Kher's Humorous Reply

Reacting to the remark, Anupam Kher took to social media platform X with a light-hearted response. In a humorous tone, he questioned why his baldness was being used in political comparisons and joked that he would not wish for hair growth "even in a hundred lifetimes" under the current circumstances.



BJP leader Samik Bhattacharya's sharp jibe at TMC sparked a viral moment as actor Anupam Kher responded with humour, even as political tensions rise following BJP's historic Bengal victory.

His response went viral, adding a lighter moment to the otherwise intense political discourse.

The BJP registered a historic win in the West Bengal Assembly elections, securing 207 seats in the 294-member House—its first-ever government in the state. The victory marks a significant political shift, ending the long-standing rule of the TMC led by Mamata Banerjee. Despite the defeat, Mamata Banerjee has refused to step down, alleging irregularities in the electoral process. She claimed that the mandate in several constituencies was "looted" and termed the outcome a result of a "conspiracy" rather than a genuine public verdict.

CM-Linked Vehicle Booked for 18 Violations

► Vikrama Vahini | Thiruvananthapuram

A vehicle reportedly linked to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has come under scrutiny after official records showed 18 traffic violations since 2024, with pending fines totaling ₹13,750.

According to Motor Vehicles Department data, the vehicle—registered under the Kerala unit of the Communist Party of India (Marxist)—was allegedly part of the Chief Minister's convoy.

The violations include over-speeding, signal jumping, and non-use of seat belts, most

of which were detected through AI-based traffic surveillance systems.

The report has triggered public concern over

compliance with traffic rules by vehicles associated with high-level security convoys. Questions have also been raised about the delay in clearing pending penalties and accountability within convoy management systems.

Opposition parties have demanded transparency and strict enforcement of rules, stating that no exemptions should undermine road safety regulations.



Siddaramaiah Signals Full Term Amid Leadership Buzz

► Vikrama Vahini | Mysuru

Amid speculation over leadership changes in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday asserted that the Congress high command alone will decide on his continuation, while expressing confidence that he would complete a full five-year term if permitted. Addressing reporters in Mysuru, Siddaramaiah said he would abide by the decision of the party leadership and remain Chief Minister

for the entire tenure if directed. His remarks come amid ongoing political discussions regarding a possible power-sharing arrangement with Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar.

He clarified that neither he had sought a meeting with senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi nor had he been called to Delhi, adding that the Congress government in Karnataka remains stable.

"If the high command asks me to continue, I will remain Chief Minister for five years. The final decision rests with them," he said.

Separately, Siddaramaiah also accused the previous BJP government of irregularities in postal ballots during the Sringeri by-election, alleging manipulation in collusion with officials and BJP leader D. N. Jeevaraj.



Congress Switches DMK to TVK in Tamil Nadu

► Vikrama Vahini | Chennai

In a significant political development, the Congress party has reportedly shifted its alliance in Tamil Nadu from the DMK to actor Vijay's newly formed party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK). The move comes in the backdrop of TVK's strong performance in the recent assembly elections, which has reshaped the state's political dynamics.

TVK's Rise and Election Impact

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) made a strong entry into Tamil Nadu politics by securing 108 seats in the 234-member Assembly, emerging as a key force in the state. The party's performance has been widely seen as a turning point, challenging the traditional dominance of established Dravidian parties.

Congress Conditions Support to TVK

Congress has extended conditional support to TVK, stating that the party must maintain distance from "communal forces" that do not uphold constitutional values. The alliance, according to Congress leaders, will not be limited to government formation but will also extend to local body elections and upcoming parliamentary polls, including Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha elections.

Break From DMK and Political Tensions

Congress is reportedly shifting its alliance in Tamil Nadu from DMK to actor Vijay's TVK, marking a major political realignment in the state. TVK's strong electoral performance has positioned it as a new emerging force in Tamil Nadu politics. The Congress move comes with conditions, including distancing from communal forces and expanding the alliance beyond government formation.

The break with DMK follows rising tensions over seat-sharing and political differences. The development is expected to significantly impact the state's future electoral and governance landscape.



The decision marks a clear break from the DMK, which has been Congress's long-standing ally in Tamil Nadu.

DMK has strongly reacted to the development, terming it a "blatant betrayal." The rift reportedly deepened after disagreements over seat-sharing and power-sharing arrangements during the election process.

Behind-the-Scenes Political Strategy

According to reports, the shift was not abrupt. Some Congress leaders had earlier expressed doubts about DMK's electoral prospects and had reportedly suggested aligning with TVK. Leaders

such as MP Manickam Tagore and Praveen Chakraborty were said to have played a role in advocating this strategic change within the party leadership.

High-Level Congress Meetings and Decisions

Following DMK's setback, senior Congress leadership, including Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, and K.C. Venugopal, held discussions in Delhi to finalise the new alliance strategy. Rahul Gandhi also reportedly congratulated actor Vijay over the phone and extended political support.

Government Formation Equation

With TVK falling just short of a clear majority,

BENGAL POST-POLL VIOLENCE ERUPTS



► Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata

West Bengal has witnessed post-poll tension and violence following the BJP's electoral victory after nearly 15 years, with reports of clashes, vandalism, and multiple incidents from several districts.

At least four people were reported killed after the results, while complaints of forced slogan chanting and threats to political leaders have also surfaced.

Several incidents, including alleged attacks on TMC offices and

demolition of shops in Kolkata's New Market area, have triggered political outrage. Videos of alleged violence circulating online have further escalated concerns.

Amid the unrest, BJP leaders have appealed for peace, urging party workers to avoid violence and maintain law and order.

The West Bengal DGP said over 200 FIRs have been filed and more than 1,500 people have been arrested in connection with various incidents, adding that the situation is now under control.

BNP Hails BJP Bengal Win, Eyes Teesta Deal Progress

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has welcomed the BJP's landslide victory in the West Bengal Assembly elections, expressing hope that the political change will strengthen India-Bangladesh ties and revive progress on the long-pending Teesta water-sharing agreement.

BNP information secretary Azizul Barea Helal said the party was surprised by the defeat of the Trinamool Congress (TMC), which had been in power in the state for several years. Congratulating the BJP leadership, he voiced optimism that bilateral relations would remain stable and improve further under the new dispensation.

Helal noted that the BJP's victory could create a conducive environment for resolving key bilateral issues, particularly the Teesta pact, which has remained stalled for over a decade. He alleged that previous opposition from the West Bengal government had hindered progress on the agreement.

The Teesta river, originating in Sikkim and flowing through West Bengal into Bangladesh, is a critical water source for agriculture and livelihoods in both regions. Efforts to finalise a comprehensive water-sharing deal have faced political hurdles, despite earlier proposals on allocation between the two countries.

CM Mann, BJP Trade Charges Over Punjab Blasts

► Vikrama Vahini | Chandigarh

A sharp political confrontation has broken out between Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and BJP leaders following IED explosions near security installations in Jalandhar and Amritsar.

Speaking at a 'Shukrana Yatra' in Sri Anandpur Sahib, CM Mann alleged that the blasts were part of a "conspiracy" by the BJP to create fear ahead of elections. He also claimed that such incidents are used to influence voters and create unrest. Mann has postponed his scheduled visit to Jalandhar in view of the security situation.

The BJP strongly rejected the allegations. Union Minister of State Ravneet Singh Bittu termed the Chief Minister's remarks "absurd" and "disgraceful", stating that security agencies have pointed to a possible Pakistan link instead. BJP National Secretary Tarun Chugh also criticised the statement, calling it a political tactic.

Meanwhile, security has been tightened across Punjab, including at sensitive installations in Chandigarh. Investigations into the blasts and alleged cross-border involvement are ongoing.

Turkish Club President Shot at Café

► Vikrama Vahini | Istanbul

Almedag Sports Club President Tuncay Meric was shot in a targeted attack while sitting at a café in Istanbul, Turkey, on Tuesday, according to reports. The incident, which has been widely circulated on social media, has triggered shock and concern among the public.

Eyewitnesses said unidentified assailants opened fire, reportedly aiming at Meric's head, before fleeing the scene immediately.

He sustained serious injuries and was rushed to a nearby hospital, where his condition is said to be critical.

However, officials have not yet released an updated statement on his health.

The incident, which took place in a public space, has sparked panic in the area. Police have launched a manhunt for the attackers and initiated a detailed investigation to determine the motive behind the shooting.

Authorities have also increased security in and around public establishments following the incident, as concerns grow over rising gun violence in urban areas.