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Samsung Staff To Get Huge Bonuses

New Delhi: Employees at Samsung Electronics's memory chip division are set to receive huge bonuses after unions approved a landmark profit-sharing deal linked to booming AI demand. Under the agreement, Samsung will allocate 10.5% of operating profits from its semiconductor division for special bonuses to chip workers. Some employees could receive bonuses worth up to ₹3.1 lakh (around Rs 3.3 crore), mostly in stock options.



The deal ended a five-month labour dispute and helped avert

a planned 18-day strike that could have disrupted global chip supplies. The AI boom has sharply increased demand for memory chips used in data centres and artificial intelligence systems, boosting profits for major chipmakers including SK Hynix and Micron Technology. However, the agreement may trigger tensions within Samsung, as employees in other divisions are expected to receive much smaller bonuses.

Air India Cuts Domestic Flights

New Delhi: Air India will reduce domestic flight operations by 15-20% during July and August due to rising aviation fuel costs triggered by the Iran crisis. The airline said frequencies on select domestic routes will be temporarily reduced as part of efforts to manage higher operating expenses. Passengers affected by the schedule changes will be offered alternative flights, free date changes, or full refunds.



SC Backs SIR Exercise

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, calling it a legitimate exercise aimed at strengthening free and fair elections and protecting the integrity of the democratic process. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi ruled that the Election Commission of India (ECI) acted within its constitutional powers while conducting the large-scale revision of voter rolls, including the controversial Bihar SIR exercise. In a significant observation, the court said free and fair elections depend not only on polling but also on maintaining accurate and genuine electoral rolls. "The integrity, accuracy and purity of the electoral roll form the foundation of democracy," the bench observed. Rejecting allegations that the SIR exercise was a hidden attempt at citizenship screening, the Supreme Court clarified that the Election Commission has the authority to verify citizenship only for the purpose of determining eligibility for voter enrolment. The court stated that citizenship is a mandatory condition for inclusion in electoral rolls and the Commission is empowered under Article 324 of the Consti-



tution and provisions of the Representation of the People Act to conduct such verification exercises when necessary. At the same time, the apex court issued safeguards to protect genuine voters from wrongful exclusion. It directed the Election Commission to send the names of voters removed from Bihar's electoral rolls on citizenship grounds to the Centre within four weeks for proper adjudication under the Citizenship Act. The court further ordered that if such individuals are later found to be Indian citizens, their names must be restored before the next Assembly or local body elections. The judgment comes at a crucial time as the second phase of the SIR exercise covering nearly 51 crore voters across multiple states and Union Territories, including West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, is already

underway. Defending the Election Commission's decision, the court noted that the last intensive revision had taken place more than two decades ago and that rapid urbanisation, migration, duplicate entries and unreported deaths had created serious concerns regarding the accuracy of electoral rolls. The bench also rejected claims that the revision exercise lacked proper data or justification, saying such problems were part of "common administrative experience." The Supreme Court emphasized that electoral rolls cannot remain static and must be periodically updated to maintain public confidence in elections. The ruling is being seen as a major endorsement of the Election Commission's authority and could significantly influence future voter verification exercises across the country.



DK May Take Oath May 30

Bengaluru: Karnataka politics is once again witnessing intense speculation over a possible leadership transition in the Congress government, with strong buzz emerging that Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar could soon take over as the next Chief Minister of the state. According to political sources, the Congress high command is actively considering a change in leadership and may initiate the transition process within the next few days. Reports suggest Chief Minister Siddaramaiah could step down this week, while DK Shivakumar is likely to take oath as the new Chief Minister on May 30. Though there has been no official confirmation from the Congress leadership so far, developments in New Delhi have fueled speculation. Both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar were recently called to the national capital for discussions with senior party

leaders amid ongoing internal tensions over power-sharing arrangements. The leadership issue has remained a sensitive subject ever since the Congress returned to power in Karnataka with a massive victory over the BJP. While Siddaramaiah was chosen as Chief Minister, Shivakumar — widely credited for rebuilding the party organisation in the state — was appointed Deputy Chief Minister after prolonged negotiations. Political observers believe the Congress high command now wants to strike a balance between both powerful leaders while preparing the party for future electoral battles. Sources indicate that the central leadership is keen on ensuring a smooth and respectful transition to avoid any internal rebellion or political instability. The possible leadership change also comes ahead of important political events.

NHAI Agrees To Pay Rs 1.8 Crore To Shimla Farmer



New Delhi/Shimla: The National Highways Authority of India has agreed to pay Rs 1.80 crore compensation to Shimla orchard owner Narinder Singh Rathore for losses caused by landslides linked to a highway four-laning project. Rathore had approached the National Green Tribunal after nearly 440 apple trees in his orchard were damaged during heavy rains in May 2025 near Dhalli in Shimla. Earlier, NHAI had termed the incident an "act of god" in an affidavit and denied responsibility. However, the authority later changed its stand and agreed to compensate the orchard owner, following which Rathore withdrew the case.

Prof K Nageshwar said he would continue speaking despite cases filed against him over his comments on Pawan Kalyan.

TG Speeds Up T-Fiber Expansion



Hyderabad, May 27: The Telangana government is preparing for a major digital transformation drive aimed at providing high-speed internet connectivity to every village across the State through the T-Fiber network under the Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP). Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday held a detailed video conference with Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to review the progress of the ambitious T-Fiber project and discuss steps needed for faster implementation. During the meeting, the Chief Minister stressed the need for early signing of agreements between the State and Central governments and urged the Centre to release pending funds without delay. He also sought clarity on policies related to transferring digital network assets from mandal-level infrastructure to gram panchayat-level digital systems. According to officials, the Telangana government is

planning to establish a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to oversee the project and ensure smooth execution of the statewide digital connectivity programme. Union Minister Scindia reportedly responded positively to the State's proposals and assured full cooperation from the Centre for expanding broadband connectivity across Telangana. The T-Fiber initiative aims to create a strong digital backbone connecting all gram panchayats through a ring-based network architecture. Officials said this system would help ensure uninterrupted high-speed internet services even if one section of the network develops technical issues, as alternative routes would automatically maintain connectivity. As part of the first phase, the government plans to restore and strengthen digital connectivity in over 3,000 villages spread across the erstwhile Nizamabad, Rangareddy and Khammam districts. The State government believes the project will significantly improve access to online education, healthcare, e-governance, digital payments and rural entrepreneurship while helping bridge the digital divide between urban and rural Telangana.

Jio Launches Rs 200 OTT Pack



Mumbai: Reliance Jio has launched a new Rs 200 OTT Pass offering subscriptions to 15 streaming platforms, over 1,000 live TV channels, 30GB high-speed data and unlimited 5G access for 28 days. The pack includes popular platforms like YouTube Premium, JioHotstar, Prime Video Mobile Edition, SonyLiv, ZEE5 and Discovery+ through JioTV. Users will also get access to more than 150 paid TV channels across sports, movies, entertainment and regional content. Jio said the all-in-one entertainment pack, available from May 27, offers benefits worth nearly Rs 1,500 per month. Customers must have an active base recharge plan to use the OTT Pass.

Bhagirath Taken for Scene Reconstruction

Hyderabad, May 27: Police took accused Bandi Bhagirath into custody after court approval in the sensational POCSO case that has drawn attention across Telugu states. As part of the investigation, officials shifted him to the Aranya Farmhouse for scene reconstruction and evidence collection. However, police reportedly found a private function underway at the farmhouse and conducted only limited questioning at the location. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) is expected to intensify the probe during the three-day custody period by examining forensic and technical evidence and reconstructing the sequence of events.



Rajasthan HC Upholds Asaram's Life Sentence

Jaipur: The Rajasthan High Court has upheld the life sentence awarded to self-styled godman Asaram Bapu in the 2013 minor rape case. While dismissing Asaram's appeal against his conviction, the court ruled that charges related to rape, sexual assault under the POCSO Act and offences under the Juvenile Justice Act were proven. However,

the court granted partial relief by dropping charges of gangrape and criminal conspiracy, saying there was insufficient evidence. Co-accused Sharatchandra and Shilpi were acquitted of all charges. The court also directed Asaram, who is currently on interim medical bail, to surrender despite the recent extension of his bail till July 7.

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EDITORIAL

Political Power Games
Hurt Governance

Power struggles within political parties are not new to Indian democracy. But when internal rivalries begin to overshadow governance, the real sufferers are the people. The ongoing leadership tussle in Karnataka once again highlights how political ambition can divert attention from administration, development, and public welfare.

Karnataka has emerged as one of India's fastest-growing states in technology, infrastructure, and investment. Bengaluru continues to attract global companies and talent from across the country. However, instead of focusing on strengthening governance and addressing pressing public concerns, political leaders appear more occupied with discussions over power-sharing, leadership changes, and internal calculations.

Whenever political instability dominates headlines, governance inevitably takes a backseat. Important decisions get delayed, policy implementation slows down, and bureaucratic machinery becomes uncertain about leadership priorities. Ministers and officials spend more time understanding political equations than solving public issues. Development projects, welfare schemes, and administrative reforms lose momentum in such an atmosphere.

The people of Karnataka did not vote merely to witness political camps fighting for supremacy. They voted with expectations of better roads, improved infrastructure, employment opportunities, quality education, water security, and efficient administration. Rising urban challenges in Bengaluru, farmer concerns in rural regions, and demands for investment and jobs require a stable and focused government. Political distractions weaken that focus.

India has witnessed similar situations in several states where internal rivalries consumed governments from within. In many cases, energy that should have gone into governance was instead spent on protecting positions and negotiating power. Such politics may temporarily benefit a few leaders, but it damages public trust in democratic institutions.

Political parties must remember that electoral victories are not permanent licenses for internal battles. Governance is a responsibility, not a power contest. Leadership changes, if necessary, should happen through disciplined internal mechanisms without creating uncertainty in administration. Public perception matters greatly in democracy, and citizens today are far more aware and impatient with political drama than before.

At a time when states are competing globally for investments and development opportunities, political stability has become an economic necessity as well. Investors seek predictable governance, not constant speculation about leadership conflicts. Administrative continuity is essential for long-term growth and policy confidence.

Menstrual Hygiene Is a Right, Not a Taboo

Even in the 21st century, menstruation continues to be surrounded by silence, shame, and stigma in many parts of India. What should be treated as a natural biological process is still viewed by sections of society as "impure" or even sinful. On Menstrual Hygiene Day, India must look beyond awareness campaigns and confront the deep-rooted social attitudes that continue to deny dignity, health, and equality to millions of women and girls. Across villages and even urban households, many girls are taught from childhood that menstruation is something to be hidden. They are prevented from entering kitchens, temples, or family gatherings during their periods. In some places, girls are isolated from others, treated differently, and made to feel ashamed of their own bodies. Such practices are not based on science or health; they are products of out-

dated beliefs and social conditioning passed down through generations.

The consequences of this stigma go far beyond emotional discomfort. Lack of awareness and hesitation to openly discuss menstruation often lead to poor menstrual hygiene. According to several studies, many girls in India still do not have access to safe sanitary products or proper sanitation facilities. In rural areas, some continue to use unsafe materials such as old cloth, ash, or hay due to poverty and lack of awareness. This increases the risk of infections and serious health complications. Menstrual stigma also affects education. Thousands of girls miss school during their periods because schools lack clean toilets, water facilities, or sanitary pad availability. Some eventually drop out altogether. When a girl's education is interrupted because of menstruation, society loses not just a student but fu-

ture opportunities for empowerment and progress.

The irony is striking. Indian society worships goddesses as symbols of power and purity, yet often treats menstruating women as untouchable. A process that makes human life possible should never become a reason for discrimination. Menstruation is not a sin, not a curse, and certainly not something shameful. It is a sign of health and biology. Over the years, governments, health workers, and social organizations have launched campaigns promoting menstrual hygiene and affordable sanitary products. These efforts are important, but real change cannot come through schemes alone. The biggest battle is against silence and social prejudice. Families, schools, and communities must normalize conversations about periods. Boys and men should also be educated so that menstruation is understood with sensitivity

rather than mockery or discomfort.

Media and cinema too have a role in breaking myths and encouraging open dialogue. Most importantly, mothers and elders who themselves grew up under restrictive traditions must help create a more informed generation instead of continuing harmful practices unquestioningly. A progressive India cannot be built while half its population continues to face discrimination over a natural bodily process. Menstrual hygiene is not merely a women's issue; it is a matter of public health, education, dignity, and gender equality. On this Menstrual Hygiene Day, the country must pledge not only to improve access to sanitary care but also to end the stigma that has silenced women for generations.

- Alekya Katkam
Features Journalist

India's First Hydrogen Train Ready

New Delhi: India is set to enter a new era of green transportation as Indian Railways has approved the country's first indigenously developed hydrogen fuel cell-powered train for operations on the Jind-Sonapat route in Haryana. The 10-coach hydrogen train, fitted with a powerful 1,200 KW hydrogen fuel cell propulsion system, is expected to begin commercial operations soon. The train will run at a maximum speed of 75 kmph and marks a major milestone in India's push toward sustainable and environmentally friendly transport. Hydrogen fuel cell technology generates electricity through a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, producing only water vapour as the by-product. Railway officials said the project is a significant step towards reducing dependence on diesel-powered trains and lowering carbon emissions. With this develop-



ment, India joins a select group of countries including Germany, Japan, China and the United States that are actively developing hydrogen-powered railway systems. The Jind-Sonapat section under Northern Railway has been selected as the pilot corridor for the ambitious project. To support operations, Indian Railways has established a dedicated hydrogen storage and refuelling facility at Jind. The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) has already cleared the hydrogen storage and dispensing systems required for the project. Officials said the facility includes advanced hydrogen compression systems, backup equipment

and safety infrastructure for uninterrupted functioning. Railways has also introduced several safety mechanisms, including hydrogen leak detectors, flame detectors and continuous monitoring systems across the storage and refuelling facilities. Trained technical personnel will supervise operations during the initial phase. According to officials, operation and maintenance manuals for both the hydrogen train and hydrogen plant have been approved by the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO). Dedicated maintenance support and round-the-clock monitoring systems are also being put in place. The hydrogen train initiative is part of Indian Railways' larger vision to modernise railway infrastructure through clean energy solutions and move towards India's long-term net-zero carbon emission goals.

Vijay Meets Modi,
Signals New
Political Equation

Chennai/New Delhi: C Joseph Vijay met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi during his first official visit to the Centre after becoming Chief Minister. The meeting sparked political buzz over changing Centre-Tamil Nadu relations and Vijay's growing national role. Vijay reportedly discussed pending central funds, infrastructure projects, education support, the Meke-datu dam issue, fishermen's concerns and language policy. His Delhi visit also includes meetings with top national leaders, including Amit Shah, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

Modi Reviews Key Infra Projects

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 51st PRAGATI meeting on Wednesday, reviewing major infrastructure projects worth nearly ₹30,000 crore across the Railways, Power and Road sectors in nine States. The high-level review focused on speeding up delayed projects and improving coordination between the Centre and States. During the meeting, the Prime Minister stressed that delays in infrastructure works increase costs and directly affect public services and economic growth. He urged officials to adopt a faster and time-bound approach to remove bottlenecks and ensure timely completion of projects. A major focus of the meeting was the expansion of rooftop solar power. Modi asked States to im-

plement rooftop solar installations in "mission mode" across urban areas, residential colonies and public institutions to strengthen clean energy generation and reduce electricity costs. He also suggested installing solar panels over canals to save land and reduce water evaporation. The Prime Minister reviewed the ambitious Ken-Betwa River Inter-linking Project and said it should become a model for resolving inter-state water disputes through cooperation and technology-driven monitoring. He encouraged States to explore similar water-sharing and river-linking initiatives to improve long-term water security. On connectivity, Modi emphasised that the proposed Vadavan Port should be developed.

India Pushes AMCA Project

New Delhi: India has taken a major step towards developing its own fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft under the ambitious Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme. In a significant policy shift, the Centre has invited private sector consortiums to participate in the development of the country's next-generation combat jet. According to defence sources, the Ministry of Defence has issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to three major consortiums — one led by Tata Advanced Systems, another by Larsen & Toubro and Bharat Electronics Limited, and a third comprising Bharat Forge and BEML. The selected consortium



will work alongside the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) to build five AMCA prototypes under a project estimated at nearly ₹15,000 crore. The government aims to have the prototypes ready by 2031. The move is being viewed as a landmark shift in India's defence manufacturing strat-

egy, as state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has not been included in the prototype development phase. Defence experts believe the decision reflects the Centre's push to increase private sector participation and create a broader indigenous aerospace manufacturing ecosystem.

Africa CDC

Thanks India for
Ebola Aid

New Delhi: The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention thanked India for sending emergency medical supplies to help tackle the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The supplies, received in Uganda, include diagnostics, medicines and infection-control materials for affected regions. Africa CDC praised the Indian government's support in strengthening health security across Africa.

Centre Invites

Nominations for
Teachers Awards

New Delhi: Ministry of Education has opened nominations for the National Awards to Teachers 2026 for higher educational institutions and polytechnics. Applications can be submitted online through the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal till July 5. The awards, organised with All India Council for Technical Education, aim to honour outstanding faculty members for excellence in teaching, innovation, leadership and student development. Eligible applicants must have at least five years of teaching experience and should be below 55 years of age. Nominations can be submitted through self, institutional or peer recommendations.

SC Seeks Reply on
Language Policy

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought responses from the Centre, CBSE and NCERT on petitions challenging the mandatory three-language policy for students of Classes 6 to 9 under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. A bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi issued notices while observing that the implementation of the policy could involve serious logistical challenges. The court said issues such as availability of teachers, textbooks and infrastructure needed careful examination before the policy could be enforced nationwide.

Prannoy Stuns Christie, Lakshya Advances

H. S. Prannoy pulled off a major upset at the Singapore Open by defeating World No. 5 Jonatan Christie 10-21, 21-12, 21-18 to enter the Round of 16. Lakshya Sen also advanced after beating Lu Guang Zu in straight games. In mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto progressed with a hard-fought three-game win over Malaysia's Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien. Meanwhile, Malvika Bansod bowed out after losing to Lin Hsiang Ti in women's singles.



India Women Beat Australia in Shootout

The India women's national field hockey team defeated Australia women's national field hockey team in a thrilling shootout at the Perth Hockey Stadium to level the four-match series 1-1. Australia took the lead through Olivia Downes before Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam scored the equaliser in the final quarter to make it 1-1. India then dominated the shootout 4-2 with goals from Navneet Kaur, Ishika Chaudhary, Annu and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal. The third match of the series will be played on May 29 in Perth.

Vaibhav Rout Hyderabad

Teen sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi produced one of the most explosive knocks in IPL playoff history as Rajasthan Royals crushed Sunrisers Hyderabad by 47 runs in the Eliminator to storm into Qualifier 2 on Wednesday. Batting first in Mullanpur, Rajasthan Royals piled up a massive 243/8, powered by Sooryavanshi's breathtaking 97 off just 29 balls. The young opener unleashed complete destruction on the SRH bowling attack, smashing 12 towering sixes and five boundaries in a fearless innings that completely changed the course of the knockout clash. Sooryavanshi attacked from the very beginning, taking on Pat Cummins and the Hyderabad pacers with unbeliev-

able confidence. He raced to a half-century in only 15 balls and looked certain to become the youngest player to score an IPL playoff century before falling agonisingly short of the landmark. Yashasvi Jaiswal played the supporting role with 29 runs as the opening pair added a stunning 125-run partnership in less than eight overs. Rajasthan continued the assault in the middle overs with Dhruv Jurel hammering a quickfire 50 off 21 balls, while captain Riyan Parag added valuable late runs to push the total beyond 240. Hyderabad bowlers struggled badly under pressure, though Praful Hinge managed to pick up three wickets. Despite a few breakthroughs, SRH never managed to slow Ra-

jasthan's aggressive scoring rate. Chasing a daunting target of 244, Sunrisers Hyderabad began aggressively but lost momentum quickly after Jofra Archer struck early. Archer removed Abhishek Sharma for a duck and later dismissed the dan-

gerous Ishan Kishan, who had briefly threatened Rajasthan with a rapid 33 off 11 balls. Travis Head also fell cheaply as SRH collapsed to 57/4 inside the powerplay. Nitish Kumar Reddy and Salil Arora attempted a recovery with an

attacking partnership, but Ravindra Jadeja turned the match firmly in Rajasthan's favour with crucial middle-over wickets. As the required run rate kept climbing, Hyderabad's lower order failed to keep up with the pressure. Nandre Burger and Sushant Mishra cleaned up the tail as SRH were bowled out for 196 in 19.2 overs. Archer starred with three wickets, while Jadeja and Burger chipped in with disciplined spells to complete Rajasthan's dominant victory. With the emphatic win, Rajasthan Royals advanced to Qualifier 2 and remained alive in the IPL 2026 title race, while Sunrisers Hyderabad crashed out of the tournament after a disappointing finish to their campaign.



BJP Marks Modi Milestone

New Delhi: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is preparing for grand nationwide celebrations on June 10 to mark 12 years of the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre and the beginning of Modi 3.0. The party plans to showcase the government's achievements, welfare initiatives and long-term vision for a "Developed India by 2047" through a series of programmes across the country. Although Prime Minister Narendra Modi first assumed office on May 26, 2014, the BJP has chosen June 10 — the day he took oath for a third consecutive term in 2024 — as the focal point of the celebrations. Senior BJP leaders described



the occasion as a milestone reflecting "12 years of progress, public trust and welfare-oriented governance". As part of the campaign, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers from NDA-ruled states are expected to present reports on the Centre's achievements in sectors includ-

ing infrastructure, welfare, economy, digital transformation, foreign policy and social development. Party leaders said the programmes would also highlight future goals under the "Viksit Bharat 2047" roadmap. The BJP leadership is planning seminars, press conferences, public interactions and outreach programmes in every state. Dialogues with intellectuals, professionals and beneficiaries of central schemes are also expected to be held at district and booth levels. Party workers have reportedly begun door-to-door campaigns to inform citizens about welfare schemes and flagship programmes introduced over the last 12 years.

PM Urges Heat Precautions

New Delhi: As large parts of the country continue to reel under intense summer temperatures, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged citizens to remain cautious during the heatwave and help others by offering water and support in difficult weather conditions. In a message posted on social media platform X, the Prime Minister said the scorching heat was affecting people across India and appealed to everyone to take necessary precautions. He advised people to stay hydrated, carry water while stepping outdoors and avoid unnecessary exposure to the sun during peak afternoon hours.

PM Modi also stressed the importance of compassion during extreme weather. "Offer a glass of water to others. In weather like this, such kindness goes a long way," he said, highlighting the need for community care amid rising temperatures. The appeal comes as several northern and central regions of the country, including Delhi-NCR, are witnessing severe heatwave conditions. According to the Meteorological Department, temperatures in the national capital are expected to touch around 45 degrees Celsius over the next two days, accom-



panied by strong hot winds and uncomfortable humidity levels. Authorities have issued heatwave warnings and advised people, especially children, elderly citizens and outdoor workers, to remain indoors during peak daytime hours. Health experts have also recommended frequent hydration, light clothing and avoiding prolonged exposure to direct sunlight. Weather officials, however, indicated that relief may arrive from May 28 onwards with pre-monsoon activity expected across parts of North India.

TGSRTC to Add 2,200 Electric Buses

Hyderabad, May 27: Telangana State Road Transport Corporation will soon add 2,200 electric buses to its fleet, Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar announced while flagging off 60 new EV buses in Hyderabad. The minister said around 960 electric buses are already operating across Telangana, including 545 in Hyderabad city. The government aims to strengthen public transport and reduce pollution through large-scale adoption of electric buses. He stated that deploying 3,000 electric buses could reduce carbon emissions by nearly 600 tonnes. The RTC currently operates about 10,000 buses, serving nearly 35 lakh passengers daily.

Jagan Targets SIR

Vijayawada, May 27: YSR Congress Party chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday criticised the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging that large-scale deletion of votes influenced election outcomes in several States. However, political observers noted that despite targeting the Election Commission's exercise, Jagan stopped short of directly criticising the BJP-led Central government. Addressing the media, Jagan claimed that nearly 91 lakh votes were deleted in West Bengal and around 74 lakh votes in Tamil Nadu during the voter list revision process. He suggested that these deletions played a major role in the defeat margins faced by ruling parties in those States. SIR removed 91 lakh votes in Bengal, and Mamata Banerjee's TMC lost by 31 lakh votes. In Tamil Nadu, 74 lakh votes were removed and DMK lost by 17 lakh votes," Jagan alleged. The former Andhra Pradesh Chief



Minister questioned the fairness of the electoral revision exercise and implied that the process had affected democratic outcomes. His remarks come amid increasing political debate over the Election Commission's voter verification drive in different parts of the country. However, what drew attention was Jagan's silence on the BJP and the Narendra Modi-led Centre despite making serious allegations regarding the functioning of the Election Commission.

Revanth Pushes Tummidihatti Talks

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanthy Reddy has initiated fresh efforts to revive the long-pending Tummidihatti Barrage project by seeking discussions with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis over the proposed height of the barrage across the Godavari River. The move is being seen as a crucial step in the Congress government's renewed push to strengthen irrigation and drinking water infrastructure in North Telangana. In a letter to the Maharashtra Chief Minister, Revanthy Reddy requested that a meeting be scheduled with a Telangana delegation to resolve pending issues related to the project. The proposed barrage forms a key component of the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Pranahita-Chevella Sujala Sravanthi Project, which the present government aims to revive after years of delay and redesign. The Tummidihatti Bar-

rage was originally planned with a Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 152 metres. However, during inter-state discussions held in 2016, Maharashtra agreed only to a reduced FRL of 148 metres due to concerns over submergence in its territory. Telangana officials now argue that the reduced height may not adequately meet the irrigation and drinking water requirements of districts such as Adilabad, Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Medak. After conducting a series of reviews with irrigation experts and senior officials, the Telangana government reportedly concluded that a higher FRL is necessary to ensure sufficient water storage and gravity-based flow into the state. Officials believe that even a slight increase in the barrage height would significantly improve water availability without causing major submergence issues in Maharashtra.

Sensex, Nifty End Lower Amid Banking Drag



Mumbai: Indian benchmark indices BSE Sensex and NIFTY 50 closed lower on Wednesday amid weakness in banking and financial stocks and concerns over the US-Iran geopolitical situation. The Sensex fell 141 points to settle at 75,867, while the Nifty ended marginally lower at 23,907. Banking stocks including HDFC Bank and HDFC Life Insurance remained under pressure. However, broader markets outperformed, with midcap and smallcap indices ending in the green. Stocks such as NTPC, Power Grid Corporation of India and Tata Steel posted gains.





Tanya Hope

Bhagyashri Thanks Kamal Haasan

Actress Bhagyashri Borse has expressed her gratitude to veteran actor and producer Kamal Haasan after joining the cast of the upcoming Tamil film *Seyon*. Sharing a heartfelt post on Instagram, the actress said meeting Kamal Haasan and receiving his wishes was a dream-like moment for her. She also promised to make him proud through her work in the film. Seyon stars Sivakartheeyan in the lead role and is directed by Sivakumar Murugesan. The film is being produced by Kamal Haasan's production banner Raaj Kamal Films International along with Turmeric Media. Bhagyashri was officially welcomed into the project on her birthday earlier this month. The movie has already created strong buzz among fans after the release of its glimpse video titled The Celebration. Set against the backdrop of the Maasi Kalari festival in Madurai, the teaser showcased intense rural drama, village traditions, and Sivakartheeyan in a fierce and spiritual avatar. The video hinted at a powerful commercial entertainer rooted in rural culture. The film is also special because it marks another collaboration between Sivakartheeyan and Raaj Kamal Films International after the success of Amaran. Music for the project is composed by Santhosh Narayanan, making this his first collaboration with Sivakartheeyan under the RKFI banner. With strong expectations surrounding the project, Seyon is currently gearing up for a grand theatrical release in October this year.



Aish Stuns Cannes Again

Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan once again grabbed attention at the 2026 Cannes Film Festival with her graceful second appearance on the red carpet. After impressing fashion lovers with a bold midnight-blue outfit designed by Amit Aggarwal, the actress chose a softer and more elegant style for her next look. Dressed in a beautiful pink ensemble, Aishwarya brought charm, sophistication, and timeless glamour to Cannes. Her latest appearance quickly became a major talking point on social media, with fans praising her royal presence and effortless beauty. Over the years, Aishwarya has become one of India's most celebrated faces at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. Ever since making her debut at Cannes in 2002 as a L'Oréal ambassador, she has consistently delivered memorable fashion moments on the global stage. Her 2026 appearances once again proved why many fans consider her the true "queen of Cannes," effortlessly balancing bold fashion with classic elegance.



Chiru Resolves Peddi Release Issue

With Ram Charan's upcoming film Peddi set for release on June 4, tensions within the Telugu film industry over the exhibitor-producer revenue model had raised concerns about the film's smooth release. The dispute revolved around exhibitors demanding a percentage-sharing system instead of the current rental basis model. Amid the uncertainty, veteran actor Chiranjeevi reportedly stepped in and helped ease the situation. Following discussions, exhibitors are said to have agreed to continue with the existing rental system for now, allowing Peddi to release without hurdles. Reports suggest that the new percentage-sharing model may be implemented only from July onwards. Industry circles believe Chiranjeevi's intervention played a key role in avoiding last-minute complications for the makers of Peddi. His involvement reportedly helped both sides reach a temporary understanding ahead of the film's release. Meanwhile, another topic creating discussion is the Telangana Film Chamber's meeting with Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Producers are believed to have discussed issues related to ticket price hikes and revenue-sharing concerns in Andhra Pradesh. However, many are curious why a Telangana-based film body is approaching an Andhra Pradesh leader regarding these matters. More details about the purpose and outcome of the meeting are expected to emerge in the coming days.



TFI at Crossroads

The Telugu film industry is going through a downturn that can no longer be dismissed as a temporary slump or post-pandemic aftershock. What is unfolding today is deeper, structural, and largely self-inflicted. The warning signs are not subtle anymore—they are loud, visible, and being acknowledged even by those who once benefitted from ignoring them. From small-town exhibitors struggling to fill even basic seats to top producers like Dil Raju publicly admitting that audiences are not turning up, the message is clear: the theatrical ecosystem is losing its grip. Yet instead of introspection, the industry continues to lean on denial, distraction, and damage control. Director Sai Rajesh's recent remarks have only exposed what audiences have long suspected but rarely heard from insiders. Films are increasingly being propped up by aggressive marketing, inflated hype cycles, and manufactured online buzz, while the actual theatrical experience is often underwhelming. The gap between expectation and



reality is widening dangerously—and audiences are no longer willing to overlook it. Even more troubling is the growing suspicion around the credibility of digital promotion itself. Allegations of manipulated ratings, paid reviews, artificial engagement, and engineered public perception have created an environment where trust is eroding. When audiences begin to question not just the film, but the very feedback surrounding it, the industry enters a credibility crisis. And once trust collapses, recovery is slow and painful. But blaming marketing gimmicks alone is convenient. The real failure lies in the consistent erosion of storytelling standards. The industry that once produced rooted, emotionally resonant cinema for all sections of society is

now increasingly obsessed with star combinations, opening-day collections, OTT pre-sales, and trend-chasing content designed for short-term buzz. Story has been pushed to the background. Substance has been replaced by strategy. Films are no longer built as narratives—they are engineered as business packages. Social media has only worsened the problem. Instead of guiding creative direction, it now dictates it. Meme culture, viral trends, and algorithm-friendly writing are shaping scripts more than lived experiences or strong storytelling instincts. This has led to a factory-line approach to cinema that may generate initial curiosity but rarely sustains audience interest. Adding to the burden is the rising cost of theatrical entertainment. Families are increasingly unwilling to risk high ticket prices on uncertain content. When combined with inconsistent quality, this has created a simple equation in the audience's mind: wait for OTT, avoid theatres. The consequences are now visible at the box office.

Sonakshi Says Acting Lets Artists Live Different Lives



Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha, who is receiving appreciation for her performance in the OTT film System, recently spoke about what makes acting such a unique profession. During the film's promotions, the actress said actors have the rare opportunity to experience different worlds through the characters they portray. Speaking alongside co-star Jyothika, Sonakshi explained that people outside a profession rarely understand the hard work and preparation involved in it. She said films help audiences get a closer look at professions and lifestyles they may never personally experience. In System, a courtroom drama, Sonakshi plays the role of a determined lawyer named Neha, while Jyothika appears as a stenographer. The actress said stepping into the shoes of a lawyer allowed her to explore an entirely different world, making the experience exciting and enriching. The film also stars Ashutosh Gowariker and marks Sonakshi's second OTT release after Kakuda.

Arjun Das Quashes Rumours

Actor Arjun Das's team has strongly denied rumours about his engagement and wedding that were circulating widely on social media. The actor's publicist clarified that there was no truth in the reports and urged media platforms to verify facts before publishing such news. Speculation had surfaced online claiming that Arjun Das was set to get engaged in a private ceremony attended only by close family members and friends. Rumours also suggested that his wedding would be a low-key affair. However, the actor's team dismissed the claims as baseless. Meanwhile, Arjun Das is busy preparing for the release of his upcoming film Con City, which is scheduled for a worldwide release on June 26. Directed by Harish Durairaj, the film is said to be a comedy family entertainer featuring Anna Ben as the female lead. The teaser of the film has already created excitement among fans. It showcases Arjun Das playing a man chased by a moneylender before stumbling upon a mysterious machine that starts printing currency notes after being struck by lightning. The fantasy-comedy concept has generated curiosity among audiences.

