

TAMIL NADU ELECTIONS: TVK CHIEF VIJAY WINS PERAMBUR SEAT, DEFEATS R D SHEKAR

NOT A LUCKY BREAK, BUT PERSEVERANCE: OBSERVERS ON TVK VIJAY

As Monday unpacks itself, shocking even seasoned political analysts, it is clear now that people have also believed in him.

The Democratic News
Chennai, May, 04

It may look like a lucky break, but what TVK chief Vijay is achieving today is not possible without his perseverance, said people who have been watching him closely for decades now.

As Monday unpacks itself, shocking even seasoned political analysts, it is clear now that people have also believed in him.

With a lead in 100 Assembly seats of the 234, and nine seats already in pocket, around 5 pm, it is also clear that TVK's debut election has reshaped the high-stakes political landscape of Tamil Nadu by successfully disrupting the long-standing political binary of the southern state.

The Tamil Nadu Assembly elections were held on April 23.

Persisted in film industry despite criticism

"When Vijay came into the cinema there was a lot of body shaming. Because he didn't look like, you know, handsome or anything. You know, he was skinny, he was slightly dark, he didn't have great features. And when his father introduced him as a hero, obviously

a lot of people thought — How can he become a hero? How will he become a star? But Vijay never gave up. He persevered," Latha Srinivasan, a film critic, told PTI Videos.

Actor Jeeva Ravi pointed out that in his early days Vijay kept going, no matter what — if one film failed, he analysed and corrected mistakes in the next.

"He never threw directors away. He gave them more chances. Then came films like 'Thupakkki' and 'Kaththi'. His graph kept rising," Ravi said.

Almost every time he spoke to people since he turned a politician, Vijay signed off by saying, "I have come believing in you."

One of the criticisms that Vijay faced often is that he pitched himself as the "chief minister" from day one. Many believed that he was being greedy. However, actor Ravi insisted that he crossed many stages before he came to this stage. "Socially, he became a responsible man — someone who thinks for the people. Slowly, he became a people's movement leader, then a welfare association leader, and finally a political leader," Ravi said. Srinivasan pointed

out how as Vijay's popularity grew, the political messaging in his films became harder to ignore. "When he became extremely popular, and then he started mouthing political dialogues in his films... That is when he started facing issues with politicians. Because his political ambitions started coming out through his dialogues, through his

movie titles like 'Thalava'," Srinivasan told PTI Videos.



UAE Claims Iran Attack on Fujairah Oil Facilities; No Official Confirmation from Iran Yet



The Democratic News
UAE, May, 04

The United Arab Emirates has claimed that its oil installations at the Port of Fujairah were targeted in an attack, allegedly carried out by Iran in response to US movements and Emirati support. The incident reportedly triggered a major fire at the site.

However, there has been no official confirmation from Iran regarding the alleged attack so far.

Why Fujairah Port Matters
Located along the coast of the Gulf of Oman, Fujairah Port is a critical hub in the global energy network.

Unlike traditional oil centers, Fujairah is not primarily a produc-

tion site. Instead, it serves as one of the UAE's most vital energy hubs for the storage, transit, and export of oil and refined products.

The port is among the largest oil storage centers in the world, featuring:

- Hundreds of tank farms
- Capacity to store tens of millions of barrels of oil
- Participation from major international energy companies

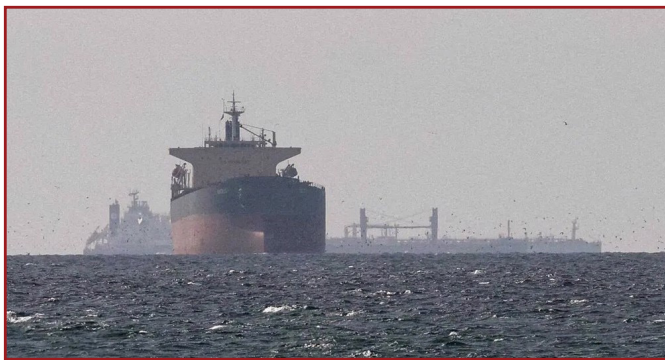
These features have transformed Fujairah into a major global energy trading hub.

Additionally, Fujairah ranks among the world's top three bunkering ports, where ships are supplied with fuel, further underscoring its strategic and economic importance.

Jordan's air raids on Syrian border highlight emergence of new breed of drug smugglers

Jordanian air raids on southern Syria are targeting a new breed of drug smuggler that emerged after the fall of Bashar Al Assad and reactivated the cross-border trade of Captagon using advanced balloon technology, sources say. The kingdom's military said its pre-dawn operation on Sunday was directed at factories, workshops and warehouses from which drugs were being sent into Jordan. Compared to previous Jordanian raids, the targets were deeper inside Syria, concentrated mainly on the Druze-majority Sweida province, parts of which lie outside the control of the Syrian government. J

No commercial ship or oil tanker transited Strait of Hormuz in past hours: IRGC



The Democratic News
Tehran, May, 04

No commercial vessels or oil tankers have transited the Strait of Hormuz in the past several hours, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

(IRGC) said Monday, dismissing recent US claims as "baseless and outright false."

In a statement issued by the IRGC's Public Relations Office, the elite force stressed that maritime movements in breach of its declared naval regulations

will face serious risks, and that any violating vessel will be stopped forcefully.

"No commercial or tanker vessels have transited the Strait of Hormuz in the past several hours," the statement read. "US officials' claims are baseless and outright false."

The US military said earlier that two US Navy guided-missile destroyers had entered the Persian Gulf and that two American ships had transited the Strait of Hormuz, after the Iranian Navy said it repelled a US warship approaching the strategic waterway, which has remained under Iranian control since the early days of the war.

LOTUS BLOOMING FROM GANGOTRI TO GANGASAGAR: PM MODI ON BJP'S ASSEMBLY ELECTION WIN

Modi also congratulated the Election Commission, all its employees, all the personnel involved in the voting process.

The Democratic News
New Delhi, May, 04

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, May 4, said the lotus is now blooming from Gangotri to Gangasagar with the BJP's historic victory in West Bengal and asked all parties to work for change, not revenge, and ensure that the state's future trumps over fear.

Addressing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers at the party headquarters after the win in assembly elections in West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry, Modi said it was a special day in many



The Democratic News
New Delhi, May, 04

ways as it heralds a bright future for the country. "It is a day of trust in the great democracy of India, trust in the politics of performance, trust in the resolve of stability, trust in the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shrestha

Bharat. "I bow before the people of West Bengal, Assam, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and Kerala," he said at the victory celebration event where BJP President Nitin Nabin, Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, among others, were present.

Modi said on November 14 last year, when the Bihar election results came in, he told the BJP workers from this very spot that the Ganga flows onward from Bihar all the way to Ganga Sagar (in West Bengal).

NO NUCLEAR TALKS

On agenda with US, Araghchi tells lawmakers



The Democratic News
Tehran, May, 04

A senior Iranian lawmaker has quoted Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi as saying that the Islamic Republic is not currently

engaged in negotiations with the enemy on the nuclear issue.

The chairman of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, Ebrahim Azizi, made the remarks on Monday after Araghchi appeared

before the committee to brief lawmakers on the Foreign Ministry's current activities, particularly about negotiations with the United States.

"The Foreign Minister emphasized that we are not currently negotiating with the enemy in the nuclear field and that we are prepared for any scenario, while underscoring a ceasefire in Lebanon," Azizi said.

The illegal US-Israeli aggression on Iran began on February 28 with airstrikes that assassinated senior Iranian officials and commanders. The Iranian armed forces unleashed at least 100 waves of successful, decisive retaliatory strikes against sensitive and strategic American and Israeli targets.

US CLAIM OF SINKING IRANIAN BOATS 'A LIE', senior military official tells IRIB



The Democratic News
Tehran, May, 04

A senior Iranian military official has rejected a claim by the United States military that it has sunk several Iranian boats as part of an attempt to open the Strait of Hormuz, the IRIB News reports.

The statement by the unidentified commander was cited in a Mon-

day report by the IRIB News, where the official reacted to comments by the US Central Command (CENTCOM) about an alleged confrontation between Iranian and US naval forces in regional waters earlier in the day.

"The US claim regarding the sinking of a number of Iranian combat boats is a lie," said the commander.

Head of CENTCOM Admiral Brad Cooper said earlier on Monday that the US military had destroyed six Iranian small boats and intercepted missiles and drones fired at US warships, as he acknowledged that the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) had acted to stop Washington's attempts to break Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz.



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15 crew members of US-seized Iranian ship return home

Fifteen crew members of the Iranian commercial vessel *Touska*, seized by the United States as part of Washington's illegal naval blockade against the Islamic Republic, have returned home from Pakistan.



The crew were transferred to Pakistan for repatriation and arrived in Iran on Monday via the Rimdan border terminal in Iran's south-eastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan. US forces attacked and seized *Touska* in the Gulf of Oman on April 1, detaining its 28 crew and claiming the ship had violated the so-called naval blockade. Fifteen crew members of the Iranian commercial vessel *Touska*,

seized by the United States as part of Washington's illegal naval blockade against the Islamic Republic, have returned home from Pakistan. Six crew members of the ship were previously released. Seven others are still in Pakistan.

ABC News on Sunday cited US Central Command (CENTCOM), which oversees American troops in West Asia, as saying that procedures had also begun to return the ship to its owner. Iran has vehemently denounced the naval blockade, and pledged not to rejoin talks with the United States as long as it remains in place. The Islamic Republic says the seizure of several Iranian vessels constitutes an act of piracy. Tehran says it reserves all rights to take due defensive countermeasures.

Donald Trump, the president of the United States, has admitted that the US Navy acts "like pirates" in implementing the blockade. The crew were transferred to Pakistan for repatriation and arrived in Iran on Monday via the Rimdan border terminal in Iran's south-eastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan.

HEZBOLLAH CHIEF: ISRAELI PLOTS WILL NEVER MATERIALIZE; LEBANON NEITHER WEAK NOR UNDER GUARDIANSHIP

The Hezbollah secretary general says the Israeli regime's plots will never materialize as the resistance movement is forcefully fighting them off, dismissing illusions that Lebanon is a weak county and under the guardianship of others.

Sheikh Naim Qassem made the remarks in a statement released on Monday.

He stated that the occupying Israeli regime is pressing ahead with its acts of aggression against Lebanon with the greenlight and under the aegis of Washington. Sheikh Qassem noted that while Israel's primary objectives are to deprive Lebanese nationals of their legitimate rights, occupy their territories and create a bleak future for everyone, Hezbollah's main goal is to liberate the usurped lands.

"We are at a critical juncture in the history of the region, where the Zionist enemy is waging an onslaught

against us through the support and patronage of the despotic US regime," the statement read.

The Hezbollah chief stressed that resilience is what shapes Lebanon's future, generations to come, as well as the regional future -- a future marked with dignity, glory and independence.

Sheikh Qassem noted that the Israeli enemy, no matter how arrogant and aggressive it might become, cannot materialize its plots as Hezbollah is powerfully confronting them. Elsewhere in his remarks, Sheikh Qassem highlighted that there is no ceasefire in Lebanon; but rather ongoing US-Israeli aggression.

"Lebanon is the country subjected to open aggression. It demands an ironclad guarantee for its security and sovereignty. Israel has observed none of its commitments under the ceasefire, and has violated the truce more



than 20,000 times," he pointed out. The Hezbollah leader underscored that Lebanon will definitely prevail over the Tel Aviv regime through reliance on Hezbollah's capabilities and national unity. Sheikh Qassem also criticized the Beirut government for engagement

in US-brokered direct negotiations with Israel, stating that diplomacy works out once it helps cessation of aggression and implementation of agreements reached.

"Direct talks amount to freely granting concessions to the enemy," the Hezbollah leader said.

Israel occupying 62% of Gaza as it expands control beyond ceasefire limits: Hamas

A senior Hamas official has said that Israeli occupation forces are expanding their control in the besieged Gaza Strip beyond the boundaries set by the ceasefire that took effect in October 2025. On Sunday, Bassem Naim, a member of Hamas's political bureau, stated that Israel has shifted a newly imposed "orange line" by an additional 8% to 9% into Palestinian territory. This move has increased the area under Israeli control to more than 62%, leaving Palestinians with roughly 38% of the blockaded Strip. The expansion has drastically reduced living space for Palestinians and worsened an already catastrophic humanitarian crisis. It follows Israel's earlier establishment of the so-called "Yellow Line," which originally defined the limits of its military deployment under the first phase of the truce. Local sources report that Israeli markers have been gradually moved deeper into Gaza, effectively redrawing the boundaries on the ground. This advance has triggered fresh waves of displacement, especially in Khan Yunis, eastern Gaza City, and parts of northern Gaza. UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric confirmed the development, noting that Israeli authorities have introduced a new boundary beyond the "Yellow Line" -- now referred to by humanitarian teams as the "orange line." "Now there's another color line. A so-called orange line has been presented to our humanitarian colleagues," Dujarric said. He added that UN teams were informed any movement beyond this line must be coordinated in advance with Israeli authorities. Under the ceasefire agreement, the "Yellow Line" was intended to separate zones of Israeli military presence in the east from areas where Palestinians could remain in the west, originally covering about 53% of the territory. However, Palestinian sources say Israel has steadily pushed this boundary westward in recent months. Instead of withdrawing as required by the agreement, Israeli forces continue to seize more Palestinian land across Gaza. For Palestinians, these layered "lines" are shrinking their living space and reshaping life in the Strip. More than two million people are now confined to ever-narrower areas amid deteriorating humanitarian conditions and ongoing restrictions. Analysts warn that these evolving boundaries risk becoming a permanent reality on the ground. Earlier this year, Israeli army chief Eyal Zamir described the "Yellow Line" as a "new border line." In March, the Israeli regime's prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed that more than half of Gaza was already under Israeli control. Israel has repeatedly violated the ceasefire, killing hundreds of Palestinians and injuring thousands more since it took effect. The truce was intended to end a two-year Israeli genocidal war on Gaza that killed over 72,500 Palestinians, wounded 172,000 others, and destroyed nearly 90% of civilian infrastructure.

Iran warns US military of nearing strategic Strait of Hormuz

The commander of Iran's highest operational command unit has warned that the Iranian Armed Forces will target any foreign forces, particularly from the US military, that attempt to approach or enter the strategic Hormuz Strait. Commander of Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters Major General Ali Abdollahi emphasized that the security of the Strait of Hormuz is under strict control of the powerful Armed Forces of the country, so that any safe passage from the strait is carried out in cooperation with the Iranian Armed Forces. He said the criminal US leaders



and the aggressive and terrorist US army, which has recently resorted to "piracy and theft" in international waters and endangered global trade

and economy, should have realized by now that the resilient Iranian nation and the country's prepared and powerful Armed Forces have proven in practice that they would respond in a "severe and regret-inducing manner" to any threat or act of aggression by enemies at any level and in any region of Iran.

"We will manage the security of the Strait of Hormuz with all might, and inform all commercial ships and tankers to refrain from any attempt to transit without the coordination of the Iranian Armed Forces stationed in the Strait of Hormuz in order not to jeopardize

their security," he emphasized. Any foreign armed force, especially the aggressor US army, will be attacked if they attempt to approach and enter the Strait of Hormuz without coordination of the Iranian Armed Forces, the commander of Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters underlined. Major General Abdollahi also cautioned supporters of the "malicious America" against taking actions that could lead to irreversible regret, saying that any aggressive US move aimed at disrupting the current situation would only further complicate conditions and jeopardize the security of vessels in

Child among Palestinians killed as Israeli attacks continue across Gaza, West Bank

Relentless Israeli attacks continue to intensify across the besieged Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank, killing civilians and expanding arrests, raids, and bombardment.



Local sources said 15-year-old Riyadh Naji Nimr Abu Nimr was killed by shrapnel from an Israeli drone strike in the Qizan Abu Rashwan area south of Khan Yunis. Another Palestinian was killed by an Israeli army fire near the Bani Suheila roundabout east of the city.

Additional Israeli artillery shelling continued targeting the al-Tuffah neighborhood east of Gaza City, while bombardment resumed in the eastern parts of the city. Artillery bombardment and shelling also continued across Beit Lahia and eastern Khan Yunis. On Saturday,

Palestinian Mohammed al-Sayed Suleiman Sbeitan was killed in an Israeli drone strike near the al-Qastal Towers east of Deir al-Balah in central Gaza. Another Palestinian, Ammar Talal Ahmed Abu Shab, was killed by Israeli fire in the al-Satar al-Sharqi area north of Khan Yunis. The attacks come amid continued Israeli brutal military aggression despite a ceasefire agreement. The number of Palestinians killed since the ceasefire declared on October 11 has risen to 828, with 2,342 wounded. Authorities also reported the recovery of 767 bodies during the same period. Meanwhile, Israeli raids and arrests also intensified across West Bank cities of Jenin, Bethlehem, al-Khalil, Tulkarm, and Ramallah on Sunday. In the village of

Arana, northeast of Jenin, Israeli forces arrested Hamza Munther Hanani and Haitham Ahmed al-Saleh during raids. In Qabatiya, south of Jenin, troops arrested Islam Daghlas and his brother Abdullah after raiding their home. Local sources said Israeli forces also confiscated four gazelles during the raid. Additional raids targeted homes throughout the town. In Tulkarm, Israeli occupying forces raided homes in the town of Saïda north of the city and reportedly converted several houses into military barracks. In Bethlehem, Israeli troops stormed the Dheishheh refugee camp and detained journalist Islam Amarna, along with Fayeze Muhammad Rabay'a, after raiding and searching their homes.

Poll: Most Americans believe US aggression against Iran was a 'mistake'

A recent poll has found that most Americans believe that using the US military against Iran was a mistake, and that the war will make things worse in the United States. According to an ABC News/Washington Post/Ipsos poll conducted using Ipsos' KnowledgePanel, about 6 in 10 Americans say that it was a mistake to go to war against Iran, while just over one-third say it was the right decision. The percentage of Americans who say the Iran war was a mistake (61%) is far higher than the 26% of Americans who said the US going to war with Iraq was a mistake in a March 2003 ABC/Post poll shortly after the US invasion of the Arab

country, but far closer to the 64% who reached to this conclusion after it had gone on for nearly four years in January 2007. Most Americans see potential risk in the US aggression against Iran, including an increased chance of the US economy slipping into a recession (60%) and weakening relationships with US allies (56%). As gas prices have reached a four-year high because of the war, half of Americans expect gas prices to increase even more in the upcoming year, 4 in 10 say they are not as well off as they were when President Donald Trump returned to power and nearly a quarter say they are falling behind

GAZA DEATH TOLL RISES TO 72,608 SINCE OCT. 07: MINISTRY



The Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza has put the number of Palestinians martyred in the Gaza Strip since the outbreak of war between Israel and Hamas at 72,608. The ministry added that seven martyrs, including four new martyrs and three martyrs, have been pulled from the rubble, and 26 injured people have been admitted to hospitals in this area over the past 48 hours. Since the ceasefire was established on October 11, 2025, 828 people have been killed, 2,342 injured, and 767 bodies have been pulled from the rubble, the ministry added. The total number of Palestinian people martyred since October 07, 2023 has reached 72,608.

GERMANY'S VICE CHANCELLOR SLAMS TRUMP, DEMANDS SWIFT END TO IRAN WAR

Germany's vice chancellor has strongly criticized US President Donald Trump over his anti-Iran strategy and called on him to end the war of aggression against Iran as quickly as possible. Lars Klingbeil told a Labor Day event in the western town of Bergkamen on Friday that Trump had wrongly assumed the war against Iran would be over within just a few days.

"I think he really believed this would be a matter of two or three days, and then everything would be fine.

He now bears the responsibility for ensuring that this war on Iran ends quickly,"

Klingbeil said. Klingbeil held the US president directly accountable for the political repercussions and massive economic fallout resulting from the war against Iran.

He also defended Chancellor Friedrich Merz against recent criticisms from Trump. "We really don't need any advice from Donald Trump. He should take a look at the mess he's created. He should ensure that serious peace talks are now held with Iran," Klingbeil said. "And I say this especially in light of the past few days, when he has been making comments about the German federal govern-

NBA Finds A Fix For Tanking? '3-2-1 Lottery' Plan Proposed To Curb Mess - Report

For years, NBA fans have complained about 'tanking'. And now, the league seems set to draw a line in the sand and stand on business. According to ESPN's Shams Charania, the NBA has presented a new draft reform proposal, dubbed the "3-2-1 lottery," to all 30 teams in an effort to curb the growing issue. Why the League Is Stepping In Tanking (losing intentionally to secure better draft odds) has become increasingly visible, especially after the All-Star break. And this season, it reached a tipping point. Five teams — Washington Wizards, Indiana Pacers, Utah Jazz, Memphis Grizzlies and Brooklyn Nets — all posted winning percentages below .180 after the break, something never seen before. The league even fined the Jazz \$500,000 for "conduct detrimental to the league" after questionable player usage late in games. How the "3-2-1 Lottery" Works The proposed system reshapes draft odds to discourage finishing at the bottom. The lottery pool expands from 14 to 16 teams, including play-in losers All 16 teams enter the draw, rather than weighting only the worst records

Ex-Indian Cricketer Lays Down The Law Ahead Of MI Vs LSG: 'Lose Well At Least'

Former Indian cricketer Virender Sehwag has said that even the Mumbai Indians have thought they cannot qualify for the IPL 2026 playoffs, adding that even if they know their fate, they should at least try to play good cricket to give their fans some good memories. The Hardik Pandya-led team, with just two victories till now this season, are on the verge of elimination from the playoff race as they take on Lucknow Super Giants at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday. MI are on a three-match losing streak, including two heavy losses to arch-rivals Chennai Super Kings. Even if they win their remaining six matches, they would finish with 14 points, which may still fall short of a playoff spot. MI have been underwhelming at



home since their season-opening victory over Kolkata Knight Riders. Since then, they have suffered losses to Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Punjab Kings, Sunrisers

Hyderabad and CSK at their own fortress, triggering heavy backlash from fans on social media. "Even MI have thought that they can't qualify for the playoffs this season.

Sure, you can't qualify, but you will have to leave some memories for the fans as well. At least lose after playing some good cricket, then it's understandable," Sehwag said while speaking on Cricbuzz. "There have been a lot of problems, in my opinion. The batting and bowling problems happen, it comes and goes, but even the ground fielding doesn't look good and the atmosphere in the dressing room also doesn't seem right," former Indian cricketer Manoj Tiwary said. MI are on the brink of missing the playoffs for the fourth time since their IPL 2020 title triumph. Pandya (146 runs and 4 wickets) and Suryakumar Yadav (186) have endured underwhelming campaigns till now, hampering MI's progress, in the absence of former skipper

Rohit Sharma, who is still on the comeback trail after a hamstring injury earlier this season. Virender Sehwag questions Mumbai Indians' IPL 2026 playoff hopes, requests Hardik Pandya-led team to play good cricket for fans despite poor season. The Hardik Pandya-led team, with just two victories till now this season, are on the verge of elimination from the playoff race as they take on Lucknow Super Giants at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday. MI have been underwhelming at home since their season-opening victory over Kolkata Knight Riders. Since then, they have suffered losses to Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Punjab Kings, Sunrisers Hyderabad and CSK at their own fortress, triggering heavy backlash from fans on social media.

MUMBAI INDIANS LEAVE ROHIT SHARMA'S AVAILABILITY TO HIM AHEAD OF LSG CLASH: REPORT

ROHIT SHARMA WEIGHS RETURN FROM HAMSTRING INJURY FOR CRUCIAL MUMBAI INDIANS CLASH WITH LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS AS HARDIK PANDYA FACES CAPTAINCY SCRUTINY.

Star India batter Rohit Sharma's availability for the Mumbai Indians' match against the Lucknow Super Giants has been left to him, according to a report in Cricbuzz. Rohit, who has been sidelined since Sunday, April 12, spent almost an hour batting at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday evening after completing a series of fitness drills. Although it was a travel day for the Mumbai Indians, Rohit arrived at the ground with head coach Mahela Jayawardene and underwent an extended batting session. A hamstring injury has sidelined Rohit for five games, four of which the Mumbai Indians have lost. With Monday night's match carrying significant importance, he could opt to return, though the final decision rests with him. Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya (146 runs and 4 wickets)



and Suryakumar Yadav (186) have had forgettable campaigns till now, which has hampered MI's journey, more so in Rohit's absence, who remains on a comeback trail after a

hamstring injury earlier this season. Only two victories in nine games have consigned the five-time IPL winners, the Mumbai Indians, to the penultimate spot in the points table.

While their hopes to remain in contention for the IPL playoffs are all but over, there remains an outside chance of qualification. But before all that, MI will have

to have their Indian stars doing the heavy lifting, which hasn't been the case till now. Pandya's captaincy has come into focus as MI have endured a hard campaign. Tactically, he has been way off the mark. The batters have struggled and the bowlers have not fared much better, with Pandya's underwhelming performances with both bat and ball, along with some on-field decisions that did not pay off, adding to their woes. With the ball, Pandya has been inconsistent in his execution, but it is his batting that has been more disappointing, given the responsibility he carries in a depleted lower order. Rohit Sharma weighs return from hamstring injury for crucial Mumbai Indians clash with Lucknow Super Giants as Hardik Pandya faces captaincy scrutiny.

D GUKESH'S GIDDY REACTION TO VAISHALI'S CANDIDATES TRIUMPH: 'I

When two of India's brightest chess stars share a moment, it's bound to feel special. Reigning World Champion Gukesh D stated that he couldn't hide his excitement after R Vaishali clinched the 2026 Women's Candidates Tournament, booking her place at the Women's World Championship later this year. "I Just Screamed" Vaishali's win in Cyprus was a breakthrough moment, and Gukesh was glued to it. "I was following Vaishali Akka's game and I just screamed when she won," he said during a felicitation event in Chennai. He didn't stop there. "Huge congrats to Vaishali Akka. Since the 2024 Candidates, I've always been amazed by the character she

shows in any tournament. And I'm really glad that we both can fight for the World Championship." Vaishali, calm as ever, had a light response ready. "I hope we both will win (the World Championship) and we'll have yet another celebration," she said, drawing laughter and applause from the crowd. A Title Sealed Under Pressure By Vaishali-Facing a must-win situation in the final round of the 2026 Women's Candidates, Vaishali delivered with the white pieces, defeating Kateryna Lagno in the final round. She finished on 8.5 points, edging Bibisara Assaubayeva by half a point in a tight finish. And by doing so, she booked herself a clash with reigning champion Ju Wenjun for the world title.

NEYMAR UNDER FIRE AGAIN: SANTOS STAR GETS INTO PHYSICAL FIGHT WITH ROBINHO JR - REPORT

Neymar clashes with Robinho Jr in Santos training before apologising, as pressure mounts on the Brazilian star ahead of what he says could be his final World Cup.



Neymar would be feeling at his most 'Taylor Swift' right now — he could swear he doesn't love the drama, but it just loves him. The Santos star, who has been in the spotlight for better or worse lately, has now made the headlines for

what is reported as a physical tussle with Robinho Jr, son of former Brazil international Robinho, during a training session. The Whole Debauch, As It Unfolded According to Brazilian outlet Globo Esporte, tensions flared during a Sunday session at the Rei

Pele Training Center. The clash occurred during drills involving players who didn't feature in Santos' recent league game against Palmeiras. Things reportedly escalated after Neymar was dribbled past by the youngster. Frustrated, the veteran forward allegedly told Robinho Jr to "take it easy" before reacting with a trip that sent the teenager to the ground. What followed was a brief but intense exchange, one that quickly turned physical before teammates and staff stepped in to defuse the situation. Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed. Reports suggest both players settled the matter shortly after, dismissing it as a momentary flare-up. Neymar, who is said to view Robinho Jr as something of a godson, later apologised personally. Santos, however, have

remained tight-lipped and declined official comment. Neymar's Tumultuous Stretch The incident comes at a delicate moment in Neymar's career. Now 34 and dealing with recurring injuries, the former FC Barcelona and PSG star is fighting to secure a place in Carlo Ancelotti's Brazil squad for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, a tournament he has already hinted could be his last. "This is my last World Cup... I don't even know if this will be my last year with the national team," Neymar admitted recently. "My career is coming to an end, and I have to know that." Nehal Wadhwa Hopes To Make India Call-Up And Excited To Play With Shreyas Iyer | Interview | NewsSouth Africa Suffer Huge Setback as David Miller Gets Injured Ahead of Champions Trophy 2025

From Survival To Celebration: Spurs Escape Drop Zone; Man United Seal UCL Return

Tottenham climb out of the relegation zone with a vital win, while Kobbie Mainoo's late strike sends Manchester United back to the Champions League after a derby thriller.

Tottenham Hotspur fans can finally breathe, at least for now. Spurs delivered their most spirited performance in months, edging past Aston Villa 2-1 to climb out of the relegation zone. After going 118 days without a league win, Spurs had only just broken their drought against Wolves last weekend. Now, back-to-back victories have flipped the script. Against Unai Emery's Villa, they capitalised on a heavily rotated side — Emery made seven changes with one eye on a crucial Europa League semi-final. Still, Spurs did what they had to — It wasn't pretty for long stretches this season, but when it mattered, Roberto De Zerbi's side showed up. The win lifts them just above the drop zone, one point clear of West Ham United, who now slip into the bottom three with only three games left. It might not be convincing, but survival rarely is. United Deliver Derby Drama If Spurs brought relief, Manchester United delivered pure chaos. In a pulsating clash at Old Trafford, United



edged Liverpool 3-2, and in doing so, punched their ticket back into the UEFA Champions League. Just days after signing a new five-year deal, the youngster stepped up with a stunning late winner, rifling home from distance in the 77th minute to send the Stretford End into meltdown. Liverpool had fought back from 2-0 down, but Mainoo had the final say. All of this only goes on to strengthen Michael Carrick's case to become the first-choice manager for the Red Devils, who look reborn

under his tutelage. The win marked 10 victories in 14 games, alongside two draws and just two defeats — a stark contrast to their struggles earlier in the campaign under Ruben Amorim. Champions League qualification, secured with games to spare, only strengthens Carrick's claim to keep the job long-term. Adding an emotional layer, news emerged that Sir Alex Ferguson had been hospitalised as a precaution. The club later confirmed he is out of danger.

Former World Champion Backs F1's Return To India: 'Real Shame It Was Cancelled'

There's been plenty of noise around Formula 1 potentially returning to India. Timelines like 2027 have been floated, though they feel optimistic at best. Still, the conversation refuses to die. And now, a former world champion has weighed in. Jenson Button is firmly in favour of seeing F1 back in India. And his reasons are simple: he's been there, raced there, and remembers it fondly. "The Track Was Awesome" India hosted just three Grand Prix between 2011 and 2013, all dominated by Sebastian Vettel during his peak Red Bull Racing years. For Button, the debut race in 2011 still stands out. He shared the podium with Vettel and Fernando Alonso, finishing second in what felt like a landmark moment for Indian motorsport. Looking back, he didn't hold back. "I think I finished second in one of the years," Button recalled, according to Sportstar. "The track itself that I drove on was awesome. It was fast, it was flowing, it was a real shame when it was cancelled. Because I really enjoyed it." "It was one of the really interesting new tracks on the calendar. I really enjoyed my time there. So it would be great to see it back on the calendar for sure." Why It Disappeared The race, held at the Buddh International Circuit, started with promise. Big crowds, strong interest, and a growing motorsport base. But it didn't last. Tax disputes, bureaucratic hurdles, and logistical issues ultimately forced F1 out after 2013, and it hasn't returned since. Why A Quick Comeback Is Not Feasible As much as Button and many fans would like a comeback, the road isn't straightforward.

40 India Boxers Left Out Of SAI Sanction, CWG And Asian Games Trials Delayed

SAI sanction letter has omitted 40 boxers from national camp and with BFI seeks resolution the assessment has been delayed to May 6.

As many as 40 boxers are facing uncertainty after being left out of the sanction letter issued by the Sports Authority of India for the national camp, casting doubt over their participation in the selection assessment process for this year's Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. According to the selection policy of the Boxing Federation of India,

the top two finishers across 20 weight categories — 10 each in the men's and women's sections — at the Chief of Army Staff Cup (COAS), held from March 30 to April 5, were to be included in the national camp scheduled to begin on April 25. The policy, released in December last year, states that these 40 boxers would be eligible for the assessment trials, which will

determine India's squads for the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, and the World Boxing Cup 2. However, the sanction letter received by the BFI on April 29 did not include the names of these boxers. "The sanction was received on 29th April 2026, and 40 names are currently missing from the list," the federation said in a notification on Friday.

It is understood that the BFI has been in constant communication with the Sports Authority of India to resolve the issue but has yet to receive a response. The assessment process, originally scheduled to begin on May 5, has now been delayed by a day and will commence on May 6 due to the uncertainty surrounding the missing names.

TWO FARMERS DIE AT PROCUREMENT CENTRES IN TELANGANA, BRS ALLEGES 'MURDER'



The Democratic News Hyderabad, May, 04

Two farmers died at procurement centres in Telangana on Sunday, May 3, leading the Opposition Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) to hit out at the ruling Congress, accusing them of negligence and delaying pro-

urement. According to local reports, a farmer identified as Venkanna died at a procurement centre in Sudhanapally village of Kuravi mandal, Mahabubabad, after being struck by lightning while he was trying to protect his crop from rain. On the same day, another farmer named Gaurayya died of a

suspected heat stroke at the Rayapol Grain Procurement Centre in Ibrahimpatnam constituency. He had reportedly been drying his paddy stock for the past three days after officials informed him of the moisture content. BRS working president KT Rama Rao has termed the deaths as "murders" caused by the Congress government's negligence. "Not waiving loans, no proper electricity, not even providing Rythu Bandhu, when they bring the crop painstakingly grown to the market. Due to the Congress government's negligence, there is no purchase. Just yesterday in Rangareddy district, Gaurayya, in Mahabubabad, Venkaiah, two farmers died. These are definitely murders committed by the Congress government!" he said.

CM Revanth Reddy Congratulates Rahul Gandhi, Kharge on UDF Victory in Kerala

Revanth Reddy congratulates Rahul Gandhi, Kharge and Congress leaders on UDF victory in Kerala; recalls verbal clash with Pinarayi Vijayan.

The Democratic News Hyderabad, May, 04

In Hyderabad, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday congratulated senior Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, along with party activists, over the victory of the United Democratic Front (UDF) in Kerala CM also referred to his campaign in Kerala, his remarks against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, and the subsequent verbal exchange between the two leaders. The political developments are ongoing following the UDF victory. Revanth Reddy Congratulates Congress Leadership on UDF Win



A Revanth Reddy posted on X

"I join all Congress party leaders and cadre to congratulate our leadership, especially Shri Rahul Gandhi ji, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge ji, Smt Priyanka Gandhi ji, Shri KC Venugopal ji and Deepa

Dasmunsi Ji for leading to this historical win." Thanks to UDF Supporters and People of Kerala

Reddy, who campaigned in favour of Congress candidates in Kerala, said:

"On a personal note, I thank all supporters of the

UDF and the people of Kerala who showered their heartfelt affection on me during my campaign in Kerala. I shall always be grateful and thank you on behalf of all people of #Telangana."

He added that Telangana and Kerala are two great

states with progressive values and democratic ethos, believing in development, and said that after a decade of disappointment and betrayal, they are set for a great future under the Congress government. Campaign Remarks Against Pinarayi Vijayan Spark Verbal War During his campaign on April 1, Revanth Reddy launched a sharp attack on Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan using a dialogue from the Malayalam film Narasimham starring Mohanlal. He said: "Nee po mone Dinesha" Adapted it to: "Nee po mone Vijaya" He alleged: Vijayan's "time is over" His "expiry date has passed" Vijayan Responds, Verbal Clash Escalates

PM IS COMPROMISED: Indian Youth Congress takes protest to IPL match in Hyderabad

Workers of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) staged a demonstration inside the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium here on Sunday during the IPL match between Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), holding up placards reading "PM is compromised" in a coordinated flash protest targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Rows of IYC workers in the stands unfurled large letter cards spelling out the slogan twice over in full public view, in what the organisation described as part of its ongoing campaign demanding accountability from the Prime Minister over the recent trade deal between India and the US



and what Congress has been calling the secret of "16." The protesters demanded to know why Modi had "surrendered" before US President Donald Trump, what transpired in what they referred to as the "secret of 16," and whether the PM had compromised national interests in his dealings with Washington. "Modi ji,

ab toh bata dijiye — desh ka sauda kyun kiya? Trump ke saamne surrender kyun kiya? Ye '16' ka kya mamla hai?" the IYC posted on social media, adding, "Nation wants answers." What is '16'? The number traces back to a riddle Rahul Gandhi posed on the floor of Parliament on April 16. Wrapping up a debate on

delimitation and the women's reservation Bill, he told the House that he had a puzzle to share, and that "everything is in the number 16." The Congress subsequently made the subtext explicit on social media, posting, "Yesterday, the Prime Minister was low on energy. Suddenly, I noticed it was the 16th of April. My God, how crazy! The number: Sixteen. (Sixteen sounds a lot like Epstein, doesn't it?)" The Jeffrey Epstein reference was to at least 16 files that disappeared from the US Justice Department's website relating to the disgraced financier and registered sex offender, including, reportedly, a photograph featuring Donald Trump.

Telangana Additional CEO directs expedition of mapping in SIR

He directed all BLOs to conduct door-to-door visits and expedite the completion of mapping process.

The Democratic News Hyderabad, May, 04

Ahead of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Telangana Additional Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Venkateswar Reddy, on Monday, May 4, held a video conference with Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers of 28 Assembly Constituencies. The video conference was specifically held with the EROs and AEROs of six districts, Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Sangareddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Nizamabad, and Khammam, where mapping of electors was found to be below 50 per cent. Convened

from the Telangana CEO Office in Hyderabad, the Additional CEO reviewed the preparedness for the upcoming SIR. He issued instructions to the officials on electoral mapping, disposal of demographically similar entries (DSE), and pendency of Forms 6 (inclusion of name in electoral roll), 6A (inclusion of an NRI's name in electoral roll), 7 (deletion of name in electoral roll), and 8 (correction of entries). Additional CEO Reddy stated that every eligible voter in the 2025 electoral roll must be mapped with the existing 2002 voter list. He directed all Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to conduct door-to-door visits, collect details

from voters and expedite the completion of the mapping process. Emphasising the role of Booth Level Agents (BLAs), Reddy said their assistance should be utilised for efficiency, and EROs and AEROs should organise meetings with Residential Welfare Associations (RWAs). The officers were asked to identify the dead, multiple, and shifted voters and take necessary action as per the Standard Operating Procedure. VVIP and VIP electors should be appropriately marked in the electoral roll, Reddy added. He directed all BLOs to conduct door-to-door visits and expedite the completion of mapping



process. The Additional CEO reiterated that the AEROs must expedite the mapping process according to the action plan and achieve the recommended daily targets.

TELANGANA CREDITS 1.4L CR TO FARMERS

In Tandur, the Telangana government has deposited ₹1.40 lakh crore into farmers' accounts to strengthen them economically, as Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao participated in the Rythu Varotsavalu (Farmers' Festival) programme held at SVR Function Hall. The event, conducted under the aegis of the Agriculture Department as part of the 99-day Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika initiative, is ongoing across the district until May 9.

Rythu Varotsavalu Launched Under 99-Day Governance Initiative

The programme was held on Monday at SVR Function Hall in Tandur, Vikarabad district. Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao attended as the chief guest and addressed the gathering. ₹1.40 Lakh Crore Deposited, ₹90 Crore Sanctioned for Kothapally Project Addressing farmers, the Minister said that the State Government has deposited ₹1.40 lakh crore into farmers' accounts to strengthen them economically. He also credited A. Revanth Reddy for sanctioning ₹90 crore for the Kothapally project. Focus on Organic Farming and Soil Health

The Minister warned that agricultural land may lose productivity if farmers do not take proactive steps.

He advised: Adoption of low-investment, high-yield farming

Centre reviews implementation of welfare schemes in Telangana

The Democratic News Hyderabad, May, 04

Union Secretary Sudhanshu Pant reviewed the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes at the Secretariat on Monday, May 4, and appreciated the progress while also calling for deeper impact, a release stated. The meeting focused on key welfare initiatives aimed at marginalised communities upliftment, including pre-matric and post-matric scholarships, the protection of a civil rights framework, the construc-



tion of SC/BC hostels, a comprehensive rehabilitation of transgender persons, and the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation

Ecosystem (NAMASTE). Pant expressed confidence that enhanced financial support would be extended in the future, enabling broader

coverage and greater benefits to eligible beneficiaries. The Union Secretary appreciated the state government's efforts in effectively implementing centrally sponsored schemes. The meeting focused on key welfare initiatives aimed at marginalised communities upliftment, including pre-matric and post-matric scholarships, the protection of a civil rights framework, the construction of SC/BC hostels, a comprehensive rehabilitation of transgender persons, and the National Action for Mechanised

Kavitha slams Telangana CM for exorbitant hike in private school fees

Kavitha reminded CM Revanth Reddy of his promise of restraining schools from collecting exorbitant fees and demanded the government to issue orders in this regard.

The Democratic News Hyderabad, May, 04

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) founder K Kavitha on Saturday, May 2, hit out at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for allowing arbitrary fee hikes in private schools and creating a burden on parents. Speaking at her first "meet the press" programme after the announcement of her political party, Kavitha reminded Revanth Reddy of his promise of restraining schools from collecting exorbitant fees and



demanding the government to issue orders in this regard.

On February 26, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who

is also the Education Minister, had instructed officials to cancel the recognition of institutions if found charging fees beyond the prescribed norms.

He had also directed the creation of a committee headed by a retired judge or chief secretary be formed to regulate fees at private schools in Telangana. He had asked for a draft on the matter to be placed in the public domain to seek the views of parents, intellectuals and civil society members on the matter.

TELANGANA IS NEXT TARGET: BJP LEADERS AFTER STUNNING PERFORMANCE IN BENGAL



Elated over the BJP wresting West Bengal from Trinamool Congress and retaining power in Assam, the party leaders in Telangana on Monday declared that the Telugu state is the party's next target. Celebrations erupted in the BJP camp in Telangana as it became clear that the saffron party is winning big in both West Bengal and Assam. The party leaders celebrated the victory by bursting crackers and distributing sweets at the party's state headquarters here. BJP leader in Telangana Assembly, Alleti Maheshwar Reddy, told media persons that whenever elections are held in Telangana, the BJP flag will fly high. He believes that vexed with the failures of both BRS and Congress, the people of Telangana are ready for a definitive change. "The BJP is capturing one state after the other. Whenever elections are held in Telangana, the saffron flag will fly high," he said. Maheshwar Reddy said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Telangana on May 10 is a clear sign that the BJP will form the next government in Telangana. He claimed that people of Telangana want a double-engine government for the state's real progress. Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao congratulated the people of Bengal on the BJP's historic victory and exuded confidence that the BJP will storm to power in Telangana in the next elections.

Only 25 lakh of 45 lakh farmers got loan waiver: Bandi Sanjay jabs Telangana CM

The BJP leader said fixing MSP was a central subject and that the state government could not shed its own responsibility by pointing fingers at the Centre.

The Democratic News Hyderabad, May, 04

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Sunday, May 3, wrote to Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, accusing state Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao of misleading farmers and deflecting attention from the Congress government's unfulfilled election promises. In the letter, Bandi Sanjay said that while Congress had promised a complete loan waiver for farmers who had borrowed up to Rs 2 lakh, the state government's own figures showed only 25 lakh of an estimated 45 lakh eligible farmers had received relief, leaving nearly 20 lakh farmers without the



promised benefit. Taking aim at Tummala Rao's claim that minimum support price (MSP) legislation was within the state's purview, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said fixing MSP was a central subject and that the state government could not

shed its own responsibility by pointing fingers at the Centre. He noted that the Modi government had been procuring 23 varieties of crops at MSP and questioned why the Agriculture Minister was unaware of this. On the Pradhan Mantri Fasal

Bima Yojana, Bandi Sanjay rejected allegations that the scheme benefited private insurers at farmers' expense, pointing out that both BJP-ruled and non-BJP states had implemented it successfully, with crop-loss farmers receiving compensation.

He also countered the claim that the Centre had given a bonus of Rs 500 per quintal only for fine paddy, noting that coarse paddy farmers had been left out, and demanded the state implement its own manifesto commitments before attacking central schemes. The BJP leader said fixing MSP was a central subject and that the state government could not shed its own responsibility by pointing fingers at the Centre. He also countered the claim that the Centre had given a bonus of Rs 500 per quintal only for fine paddy, noting that coarse paddy farmers had been left out, and demanded the state implement its own manifesto commitments before attacking central schemes.