



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

VIJAYAWADA • FRIDAY • JUNE 05, 2026 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 12 • LATE CITY EDITION



MARUTI SUZUKI UNVEILS INDIA'S FIRST FLEXIBLE FUEL VEHICLE

Maruti Suzuki on Thursday launched India's first flex-fuel passenger vehicle capable of running on ethanol-petrol blends ranging from E20 to E100

CAN OPERATE ON ANY MIX OF PETROL-ETHANOL

The country's largest carmaker said the vehicle, Wagon R Flex Fuel, features an advanced engine control unit that automatically adapts to varying ethanol blends, allowing customers to operate the car on any mix of petrol and ethanol. This comes a day after Hero MotoCorp launched India's first flex-fuel motorcycles, the Splendor+ (pic) and HF Deluxe | P10



ALL MAJOR AUTOMAKERS COMING ON BOARD

Flex-fuel cars will help meet India's goal of cutting crude imports and reducing carbon emissions as dependence on imported crude can't be an option, said Hishashi Takeuchi, MD& CEO, Maruti Suzuki India
Major automakers, including Toyota Motor, Tata Motors and Hyundai Motor are also developing flex-fuel vehicles for the Indian market



₹1.84 L cr

IS FOREX SAVINGS BY MOVING TO
ETHANOL SINCE 2014, GOVT CLAIMS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURGI



SW monsoon hits Kerala 5 days late

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE Southwest Monsoon reached the Kerala coast on June 4 — three days behind its usual June 1 arrival date. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) confirmed the monsoon has set in over Kerala, Mahe, parts of Karnataka, and the Bay of Bengal.

The IMD had forecast a May 26 onset. "There is a five-day delay from the forecast date," said Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, IMD's Director General of Meteorology. The monsoon is expected to reach Delhi by June 27 and cover the entire country by July 8.

The outlook for the season is not encouraging. The IMD has predicted this monsoon season (June to September) is likely to be below normal, with expected rainfall at 90% of the Long Period Average (LPA) of 870 mm. Rainfall will be normal (94-106%) over East and Northeast.

Even the monsoon core zone, essential for rainfed agriculture, is projected to receive less than 94% of the LPA. Conversely, the South Peninsula and Central India are expected to receive less than 94% of the LPA, while the Northwest may see rainfall below 92% of the LPA.

A weak monsoon could hurt food production, as it did in 2023.

Oppn churn as DMK will skip Monday meet

Centre engaging with DMK, TMC amidst buzz on second shot at delimitation bill



PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

To honour the sentiments of party workers who are pained by the betrayal of Congress, the DMK will not participate in the INDIA bloc meeting

DMK statement

DMK silent on alliance

The DMK, however, did not spell out if it was severing ties with the INDIA bloc. Incidentally, the party also received approval from the Lok Sabha secretariat on Thursday to sit apart from Congress in the House

NDA just 42 short

NDA currently needs just 42 more votes in the LS for any constitutional amendment.

Any shift in Oppn strength could prove decisive for bills on the 'One Nation, One Election' proposal and delimitation

THE Opposition INDIA bloc appears headed for a major churn, with two of its key constituents — the DMK and the Trinamool Congress — grappling with challenges that could test the alliance's unity and future.

On Thursday, the DMK announced it would skip the INDIA bloc meeting on June 8, citing discontent over Congress "betrayal". Long-time allies Congress and DMK are at loggerheads after the grand old party joined the Vijay-led TVK government in Tamil Nadu following the DMK alliance's defeat in the assembly polls.

"While the DMK will not attend this meeting, it will continue, as always, to raise its voice on issues affecting the welfare of the nation that may be brought forward by the other parties participating in the meeting," said a party statement.

Incidentally, the DMK received approval from the Lok Sabha secretariat on Thursday to sit separate from the Congress.

Though TMC chief Mamata Banerjee and party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee are expected to attend the June 8 meeting, their party appears to be on the brink of a upheaval, with speculation on an exodus of its parliamentarians. The unrest follows a rebel faction backed by 58 MLAs claiming to be the "real TMC". At least nine TMC Lok Sabha MPs and three Rajya Sabha members are said to be negotiating with the BJP. Besides, sources said at least two Lok Sabha MPs are in touch with the Congress. With 28 MPs in the Lok Sabha and 13 in the Rajya Sabha, the TMC remains the third-largest party after the BJP and the Congress.

The developments come amid speculation that the Centre is likely to reintroduce the delimitation bill during the upcoming Monsoon Session and has been engaging with the DMK and TMC to strengthen its position. In the previous Budget session, the constitutional amendment linking delimitation to the women's reservation bill was defeated by the Opposition, though the NDA held 298 seats in the LS. With the DMK and TMC holding 22 and 28 MPs respectively, all eyes are now on the two parties.

NDA reaches pact on RS seats; TDP gets 3, JSP 1

S VISWANATH @ Vijayawada

BESIDES finalising a joint action plan to take the achievements of the Central and State governments to the people as part of a statewide campaign marking two years of NDA governance in Andhra Pradesh and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12-year reign, the NDA meeting has decided that TDP will contest three of the four Rajya Sabha seats that fell vacant from Andhra Pradesh, leaving the fourth seat to JSP

Apart from Chief Minister and

TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister and JSP chief Pawan Kalyan, JSP PAC chairman and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar, TDP and BJP State presidents Palla Srinivasa Rao and PVN Madhav attended the meeting held at the CM's camp office on Thursday.

Addressing the media after the meeting, NDA leaders said a series of public meetings and outreach programmes will be held across the State to highlight the achievement of the coalition government in the last two years.



India, Venezuela agree to deepen ties



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Rodriguez at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi on Thursday | P11

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA and Venezuela on Thursday agreed to deepen co-operation in energy and explore a broader economic partnership spanning critical minerals, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, automobiles and mining, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held extensive talks with Venezuelan acting President Delcy Rodriguez.

The meeting came at a time when India is seeking to diversify crude oil supplies follow-

Preferred energy partner

Rodriguez said her country views India as a "preferred energy partner". India imported around 427,000 barrels per day of Venezuelan crude in May, making it the second-largest buyer after the United States

ing disruptions in global energy markets caused by the West Asia crisis, while Venezuela is looking to expand export markets and attract investment after years of the US

sanctions-related isolation.

The focal point of the talks was on long-term energy partnership, with both sides highlighting their natural complementarity. "They see India as a stable demander for many years to come. Therefore, there exists a perfect complementarity for India and Venezuela to work in the energy sector, in both upstream and downstream," Secretary (East) in the External Affairs Ministry Rudrendra Tandon told reporters after the meeting.

SUICIDE

NOTE OF NEET-ASPIRANT SAYS NO COURAGE

MP's Akanksha Chaturvedi, 18, who died by suicide on May 20, said in a note that there was "no guarantee" she would score good marks in the NEET-UG retest | P8

Monsoon set to enter AP

Visakhapatnam: Conditions are favourable for further advancement of monsoon over parts of AP during the next two to three days | P3

Nod to 'Amaravati Eye'

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet meeting cleared 'Amaravati Eye' project and a comprehensive Aviation Policy for 2026-31 | P4

AP invites Russian firms

Vijayawada: IT Minister Nara Lokesh has invited Russian space, aerospace and technology companies to make AP their investment destination | P4

Lonely life of a champ and more

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Oslo

IT'S great when sportspersons talk about processes. Methods. It's a rare peek into their rarified air where only excellence is allowed. Sometimes, it's better when sportspersons allow themselves to be vulnerable in the company of travelling journalists. It's a glimpse into the life of an elite athlete, someone who left school to chase greatness as a child.

Before the ninth round at Norway Chess, R Praggnanandhaa, once the world's youngest IM, is pouring his heart out. In a very candid interview, something very rare by the standards of Indian sportspersons, the 20-year-old admits to burnout because of a very punishing 2025.

Before that, he also concedes that he would have liked some school or college friends to hang out with whenever he's in Chennai. But he has none.

It's basically a look into the somewhat lonely life of an elite chess player.



SIKSHA 'O' ANUSANDHAN

Empowering students for a brighter future

APPROVAL & RECOGNITIONS

- Approved by UGC and AICTE
- Re-accredited by NAAC with A++ Grade
- Granted with Category-1 Graded Autonomy by UGC
- NBA Accredited Programmes

B.TECH PROGRAMMES IN CORE COMPUTING

- Computer Science and Engineering
- Computer Science and Information Technology

NIRF INDIA RANKINGS 2025

- 15th Best in University Category
- 22nd Best in Engineering Category

INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS 2026

- Ranked in QS World Rankings 2026
- Ranked in Times World Rankings 2026

To apply for admission through JEE-Main, Please visit: www.soa.ac.in



भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Har Pal Aapke Saath

SPOT THE LIC AGENT IN THIS PICTURE



WE BET YOU CAN'T BECAUSE HE IS ONE OF THE FAMILY...

Connect with our agent today, who is your family friend, and discuss how life insurance can help you in meeting your financial goals and planned retirement.



Scan the QR code and Download My LIC App

Visit: licindia.in

Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827

Our WhatsApp No. 8976862090

Say 'Hi'

Follow us:  LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512



