

EXPRESS special

10 AIADMK MLAs likely to switch as Vijay's TVK nears majority mark

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, July 12

WHAT BEGAN inside the Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay-led TVK in Tamil Nadu as a discreet political exercise — informally referred to by party insiders as "Operation L" — now appears to be entering its decisive phase.

According to sources involved in ongoing negotiations between TVK leaders and dissident AIADMK MLAs, around 10 MLAs of the Opposition party are likely to resign their Assembly seats and join the ruling outfit before August 15.

If that timetable holds, such resignations may coincide with the Election Commission (EC)'s expected announcement of the next round of Assembly by-polls. "This process will largely be completed before Independence Day," said a senior leader involved in the negotiations. "The objective is to finish the political transition before the bypolls schedule begins."

The latest phase follows a steady stream of resignations over past several weeks. Of the 25 AIADMK MLAs who had defied the party whip and backed Vijay's bid to form government in May, nearly half have either crossed over to TVK or are possibly in the process of doing it.



C. Joseph Vijay-led TVK ally in the Assembly stands at 107.

In the 234-member TN Assembly, seven seats are vacant now, reducing its strength to 227. The TVK's tally is 107.

Former AIADMK ministers C. Vijayabaskar and M. R. Vijayabaskar joined the TVK recently after resigning as MLAs, alongside former ministers MS. M. Anandan, S. Valarmathi and several former MLAs and district-level functionaries.

Earlier, four AIADMK MLAs had resigned and crossed over to TVK, reducing the Opposition's numerical strength and taking the ruling party closer to a majority mark. Senior leaders said the next batch is expected to include MLAs politically aligned with influential AIADMK figures such as S. P. Ve-

luman and C. Ve. Shanmugam, both of whom are regarded as among the party's strongest regional power centres. As per TVK and AIADMK sources, both leaders themselves are expected to join TVK before July-end or early August.

The negotiations, sources said, extend well beyond simple defections. Those looking to quit their seats are being assured opportunities to reconstruct upcoming bypolls on TVK tickets. Senior leaders are understood to have been promised Cabinet positions if re-elected, while others may be accommodated in TVK as district secretaries and office-bearers, sources said.

A senior AIADMK leader, widely believed to be preparing to switch sides, said the exodus reflected years of frustration rather than sudden political opportunism. "It was EPS's wish to remain general secretary until his last day," the leader said. "Many of us waited even after losing district secretary posts. There was no meaningful attempt to resolve the crisis."

The removal of district secretaries loyal to influential leaders, particularly Velumani, had accelerated internal dissatisfaction within AIADMK, several party leaders said.

For many MLAs, the calculations are also practical. With AIADMK reduced to 41 MLAs following resignations and TVK steadily consolidating power, many MLAs fear uncertain electoral prospects if they remain in AIADMK.

A senior TVK functionary said at least five heavyweights from AIADMK are expected to find places in Vijay's Cabinet, including Velumani, Shanmugam, C. Vijayabaskar and M. R. Vijayabaskar. If realised, the exercise would reduce Vijay's dependence on post-politician allies while simultaneously transplanting experienced district-level political machinery into a party that remains organisationally young.

What appears different this time is the scale and sequencing. Rather than attempting a major political coup, the TVK has chosen inductions in phases.

The insistence on resigning before crossing over appears to have been a consistent feature of Vijay's strategy. MDMK general secretary Vaidya said Vijay had requested him to persuade two of his MLAs elected on DMK's symbol to resign their seats before aligning with TVK, promising to campaign during bypolls. The MLAs, however, chose to remain with DMK.

Why BJP candidate switch in Nabin's seat can give ammo to Kishor's bid in Bihar bypoll

Santosh Singh
Patna, July 12

THE BJP's decision to replace its candidate in the high-profile Bankpur seat bypoll has added a new dimension to an already closely watched contest.

While the Jan Suraj Party (JSP) founder Prashant Kishor's decision to enter the Bankpur fray has already drawn attention, the withdrawal of BJP's original nominee over his father's conviction in the fodder scam has provided the Opposition, particularly Kishor, with a campaign issue.

BJP had initially fielded Abhishek Kumar, considered close to the party president Nitin Nabin, for the bypoll. Soon, Kumar withdrew his nomination, citing "family reasons". The party then named Neeraj Kumar Sinha, a first-time, who is seen as close to Nabin.

The Bankpur contest has now evolved into a triangular fight with BJP fielding Rekha Gupta, the runner-up in 2025 Assembly election. Kishor has sought to project this bypoll as a "referendum" on the political choices of Bihar's current electorate. Calling Bankpur "the political and administrative heart of Bihar", he said the constituency should vote beyond caste considerations.

A senior BJP leader acknowledged that the party had "misjudged" its initial candidate selection in Bankpur. "BJP's confidence comes from the fact we have retained this seat since 1995. Nabin has won it comfortably since 2005. But the party erred in screening Kumar. His father, Ravindra Prasad, is among those convicted in the fodder scam, and it was only a matter of time before the issue surfaced," the BJP leader said.

"When BJP leadership realised Kishor was preparing to campaign aggressively on the issue, a decision was taken to replace the candidate. We remain confident, but the controversy is likely to remain part of the campaign," the leader added.



BJP's Bankpur candidate Neeraj Kumar Sinha in Patna, Sunday.

RJD national spokesperson Subodh Kumar Mehta said, "Our candidate secured over 46,000 votes in 2025 polls against Nabin. Every party works on its own social coalition alongside the development agenda. A three-cornered contest gives us an opportunity." Kishor has tried to frame the contest in broader political terms. "This election is a test for Bihar's urban voters and whether they are willing to embrace an alternative political narrative," JSP leader Kishor Kumar Munn said the BJP would have to answer questions over its claims of "chaal, charitra aur chehra (conduct, character and leadership)".



Special Mention in Auckland

UNION MINISTER Hardeep Singh Puri found a special mention in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the Indian Diaspora in Auckland on Saturday. This was in relation to the sacred Jore Sahib, the footwear of Sikh Guru Gobind Singh and Mata Sahib Kaur, preserved by the former diplomat's family over generations. Inviting the Sikh community to pay homage to the relics at Patna Sahib, the Guru's birthplace where they are currently placed, the PM also underlined their journey to Delhi from Punjab with his Cabinet colleague's family, until the final hand-over to the Sikh Sangat.

Hooked and Booked

THE PAWAR family has another reason to celebrate. After the recent wedding of Supriya Sule's daughter Revati, preparations are now on for Rajya Sabha MP Parth Pawar's engagement. Parth, son of former deputy Chief Minister Aji Pawar and Minister Pawan, the current deputy CM, is set to get engaged to Kanyan Dhar later this month. Family friends say the match had Aji Pawar's blessing long before it was finalised. Kanyan's appearance alongside Parth at Revati's wedding had already set off whispers in political circles. Those whispers are now set to end with a low-key engagement ceremony in Pune. Only close family and friends are expected to attend the function.

True or False

THREE IPS officers of AGMUT cadre, who avoided reporting for their new posts following for a year, underwent medical examinations at AIIMS after the Union Ministry of Home Affairs ordered checks to verify their health claims. A nine-member AIIMS medical board interviewed and examined the three on July 7. The board's findings will now be sent to the ministry. The board's report will determine whether their absence was medically justified or whether they overstated health issues to avoid their postings.

Central Vista should be called Kartavya Bhawan area: Minister

Express News Service
New Delhi, July 12

UNION MINISTER for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal on Sunday said the Central Vista area, which covers the stretch from Rashtrapati Bhawan to India Gate, should now be called the "Kartavya Bhawan area", named after the new secretariat buildings.

Speaking at the CPWD's 172nd foundation day event, he said that like Vice-Regal Lodge and Council House built by the British were renamed Rashtrapati Bhawan and Parliament after Independence, the entire area should now be called Kartavya Bhawan area.

The government is in the process of redevelopment of the area, with 10 new secretariat buildings proposed. So far, the government has completed three of the buildings and named them Kartavya Bhawan 1, 2 and 3, while also renaming Rajpath as Kartavya Path. "So far we have been calling it Central Vista, from now on please call it Kartavya Bhawan area," the Minister said, adding that this should be reflected in documents as well.

Speaking of the new transfer policy, he said some officials welcomed it as they did not have to see references from seniors.

Satljy saga: How a film shining light on a tragedy cannot reignite militancy



BY MANRAJ GREWAL
SHARMA

A WEEKLY DISPATCH ON THE POLITICS AND IDEAS SHAPING NORTH INDIA

IT TOOK barely two days for the film "Satljy", marking its release and removal on the OTT platform ZEE5, to drag Punjab's "dark decade" back into everyday conversations. In the border belt of Malwa, which bore the brunt of both militancy and police action, elders still recall that pain with a single Punjabi word: *Santapa*. Suffering. That memory, more than any film, explains why Punjab is unlikely to revisit those years.

Militancy did not emerge in Punjab because of one film, one speech, one leader or any one event. It grew over years on account of accumulated political grievances. The reorganisation of Punjab in 1966 left several contentious issues unresolved — from sharing of river waters and Chandigarh to the question of greater autonomy. These grievances did not automatically produce violence, but they created fertile ground for alienation.

The situation worsened with a series of political and administrative missteps. The 1978 Niran-kari clash in Amritsar on Basakhi,

in which 13 Sikh protesters — who were led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale — were killed and their bodies later acquired. The incident catapulted Bhindranwale, the 1971 war hero who helped Bhindranwale fortify the Golden Temple complex, was dismissed from the Army shortly before retirement on what were widely seen as trumped-up corruption charges. Gurcharan Singh Manochahal — who would later become one of Punjab's most dreaded terrorists after floating a militant outfit called BTFK — had been dismissed from the army after he broke the nose of an officer who had hurled an abuse at him for coming late from leave.

Once violence had taken root, arms, training and logistical support flowed freely from across the border. The late Kanwar Pal Singh Dhami, president of Akal Federation, who crossed over to Pakistan after fleeing from the Golden Temple complex during Operation Blue Star, later recounted his shock when an ISI brigadier showed him a model of Golden Temple and its exact location inside it.

The years that followed plunged Punjab into an abyss of violence and fear. Militants unleashed waves of assassinations, bombings, massacres, and Talibani dictates on what to wear and how to celebrate, while the state's counter-insurgency drew allegations of excesses. Many Hindu traders fled Punjab. Ordinary Punjabis bore the brunt of the conflict as ideologues such as the London-based Sohan Singh exploited the turmoil to advance the cause of Khalistan, aided by the Pakistani networks.

The botched up talks between the Centre and the Akalis proved to be the last straw. The subsequent fortification of the Golden Temple complex in 1983 (DIGAS Atrial was shot dead moments after stepping out of the complex), June 1984 Operation Blue Star, the assassination of Indira Gandhi in October 1984 and subsequent horrific anti-Sikh

massacres, transformed a political crisis into a full-blown insurgency. Longside political concerns were intensely personal grievances. Maj Gen Shabeg Singh, hero of the 1971 war who helped Bhindranwale fortify the Golden Temple complex, was dismissed from the Army shortly before retirement on what were widely seen as trumped-up corruption charges. Gurcharan Singh Manochahal — who would later become one of Punjab's most dreaded terrorists after floating a militant outfit called BTFK — had been dismissed from the army after he broke the nose of an officer who had hurled an abuse at him for coming late from leave.

Once violence had taken root, arms, training and logistical support flowed freely from across the border. The late Kanwar Pal Singh Dhami, president of Akal Federation, who crossed over to Pakistan after fleeing from the Golden Temple complex during Operation Blue Star, later recounted his shock when an ISI brigadier showed him a model of Golden Temple and its exact location inside it.

The years that followed plunged Punjab into an abyss of violence and fear. Militants unleashed waves of assassinations, bombings, massacres, and Talibani dictates on what to wear and how to celebrate, while the state's counter-insurgency drew allegations of excesses. Many Hindu traders fled Punjab. Ordinary Punjabis bore the brunt of the conflict as ideologues such as the London-based Sohan Singh exploited the turmoil to advance the cause of Khalistan, aided by the Pakistani networks.

Prove '25,000 missing or illegally cremated' claim: Minister Bittu to Satljy makers

Ludhiana: The makers of the film *Satljy* cannot use "creative freedom" as shield to present "disputed claims as established history", Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu on Sunday said.

He said he would consider all available constitutional and legal options "to ensure that historical facts are not misrepresented before the nation". "I challenge the producer and director of *Satljy* to place before the people of Punjab the complete documentary evidence, official records, judicial findings and authenticated legal options "to ensure that historical facts are not misrepresented before the nation".

"If the figure is based merely on an estimate or allegation, why has it been projected as an established historical fact?" said Bittu, the grandson of Beant Singh, then Punjab CM who was assassinated in 1995. ENS

UCO BANK
Honour your trust

Zonal Office: 75/4, Siddhi Sadan, Halsey Road
Near Badshahi Naka Police Station, Kanpur - 208001
E-mail: zokanpur.rec@ucobank.co.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES [See proviso to Rule - 8(6)]
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to UCO Bank Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of UCO Bank Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 29.07.2026, for recovery of Bank's Dues from Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) to UCO Bank Secured Creditor. The details are described as below:

Sr. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demanded Notice Date / Possession Notice Date	Description of Immovable Property(ies) with known encumbrances, if any	Bank's Dues	Reserve Price / Expected Money Deposit
Branch: Auraiya (2954); Contact Number(s): 8679280377, E-mail: auraiya@ucobank.co.in					
1.	Borrower: M/s. Shri Kuberji Supplier & Distributor (Prop. Smt. Sushma W/o Rishi Pandey) Guarantor: 1. Shri. Rishi Pandey S/o Shri. Santosh Kumar 2. Smt. Sushma W/o Rishi Pandey All Address: 398, Mauza Kasba Kanpur, Tikla Nagar Auraiya - 208122	14.07.2021 08.10.2021 (Symbolic Possession)	All that part and parcel of the property consists of land and building measuring area 85.50 Sq. Mtrs. As per Bani No. 1, 2id No. 7376, Page No. 131 to 190, S. No. 2406 registered on 05.03.2019 at Sub-Registrar Auraiya situated at Plot No. 398 Mauza Kasba Kanpur (Tikla Nagar), Pargana and Distt. Auraiya. Property standing in the name of Shri. Rishi Pandey S/o Shri. Santosh Kumar resident of Mohalla Badanpur Auraiya Pargana & Distt. Auraiya. Details of Boundaries (As per Deed): East: 5.79M (19 Feet) Road, West: Plot of Abhishek Pandey, North: Plot of Gupta, South: Plot of Vandana Agnathi. Known Encumbrances, if any-NIL	Rs. 24,11,063.32 as on 07.07.2026 plus unpaid interest, charges, cost and expenses etc	Rs. 14,50,000/- Rs. 14,50,000/-
Date :- 08.07.2026 Place: Auraiya Authorized Officer (UCO Bank)					
Branch: Halsey Road (0180); Contact Number(s): 8269372838, E-mail: kanpur@ucobank.co.in					
2.	Borrower: Smt. Shabnam Parveen w/o Shri Jamaluddin Co-Borrower: Shri Jamaluddin s/o Shri Jamaluddin Address: 9/142-42-B, Peeli Building, Benarhabad, Idgha, Kanpur-208017	18.07.2024 19.10.2024 (Symbolic Possession)	All that part and parcel of the property consists of land & Building measuring area 73.45 Sq. Mtrs. per Total area 175.73 Sq. Yards or 146.91 Sq. Mtrs. As per Bani No. 1, 2id No. 1106, Pages: 141 to 200, Serial No. 488 registered on 04.14.1998 at Sub-Registrar Kanpur Nagar situated at 9/141-42, Idgha colony, Benarhabad, Kanpur Nagar. Property standing in the name of Shri. Jamaluddin s/o Shri Jamaluddin R/o 9/141-42 B, Peeli Building Idgha, Nawabganj Kanpur, Benarhabad, Kanpur Nagar, U.P.-208002. Details of Boundaries: East: Door of House & chabutra thereafter 20 feet wide road, West: Wall of House thereafter house of others, North: 20 feet wide road, South: Wall of House thereafter house of others. Known Encumbrances, if any-NIL	Rs. 24,32,985.74 as on 08.07.2026 plus unpaid interest, charges, cost and expenses etc	Rs. 39,95,000/- Rs. 3,99,500/-
Date :- 09.07.2026 Place: Kanpur Authorized Officer (UCO Bank)					
Branch: Midl Corporate Triljion (0744); Contact Number(s): 7623860785, E-mail: triljion@ucobank.co.in					
3.	Borrower: Mr. Saurabh Singh S/o Ram Krupal Singh Address: 4/74/17, Awas Vikas Hanspuram Naubasta Kanpur - 208021 Co-Borrower: Mr. Sumit Singh S/o Ram Krupal Singh Address: 24/2002, Awas Vikas Hanspuram Naubasta Kanpur - 208021 Guarantor: Mrs. Smita Singh W/o Sumit Singh Address: H. no. 12 A N 166 Mangalvihar 2, 60 ft. road tiranga chauraha, New PAC line Kanpur - 208015	17.10.2025 21.02.2026 (Symbolic Possession)	All that part and parcel of the Residential Free Hold Plot No. E-154 EWS, Yojana Swam Jyanti Vihar, Extension Part-I Mohalla Swam Jyanti Vihar measuring area 30.00 Sq. Mtr. Within Sub Registrar's Office, Kanpur Nagar as per Bani No. 1, Volume No. 13432, Page No. 95 to 114 Sr. No. 8275 registered on 29.07.2024 at Sub-Registrar Office Kanpur Tehsil & District Kanpur. Property standing in the name of Mr. Saurabh Singh S/o Ram Krupal Singh. Details of Boundaries (As per Deed): East: 6 Mtr. Road, West: H.No.E-192, North: H.No.E-153, South: H.No.E-155 Known Encumbrances, if any-NIL	Rs. 23,09,187.39 as on 07.07.2026 plus unpaid interest, charges, cost and expenses etc	Rs. 20,52,000/- Rs. 2,05,200/-
Date :- 08.07.2026 Place: Kanpur Authorized Officer (UCO Bank)					
Branch: Etawah (0509); Contact Number(s): 8177000479, E-mail: etawah@ucobank.co.in					
4.	Borrower: M/s. Jagati Trading Company Address: 190, Katra Sahab Khan, Etawah, UP-206001 Proprietor: Sh. Panjag Gupta S/o Sh. Suresh Chandra Gupta Address: 29, Katra Sahab Khan, Etawah, UP-206001 Guarantor 1: Smt. Kusuma Devi W/o Sh. Suresh Chandra Gupta Address: 1, 185, Katra Sahab Khan, Etawah, (U.P.) 206001 Address 2: 190, Katra Sahab Khan, Etawah, (U.P.) 206001 Guarantor 2: Smt. Jagati Gupta W/o Sh. Panjag Kumar Gupta Address: 1, 185, Katra Sahab Khan, Etawah, (U.P.) 206001 Address 2: 190, Katra Sahab Khan, Etawah, (U.P.) 206001	07.09.2020 13.03.2026 (Symbolic Possession)	All that part and parcel of the property consists of residential plot measuring 112.45 Sq. Mtr. As per Bani No. 1, 2id No. 5486, Page No. 343-366, Sr. No. 4788 registered on 14.06.2013 at Sub-Registrar Etawah situated at part of Arzi No. 314, Mouza Alampur Huz, Pargana & Etawah standing in the name of "Smt Kusuma Devi Gupta W/o Sh. Suresh Chandra Gupta and Smt. Jagati Gupta W/o Sh. Panjag Gupta" both standing in the name of 190, Katra Sahab Khan, City and District Etawah. Details of Boundaries (As per Deed): East: Field (farm) land, West: Wall Khum 20 ft. Wide, North: Plot of Laxmi Devi, South: Plot of seller Known Encumbrances, if any-NIL	Rs. 25,41,179.90 as on 07.07.2026 plus unpaid interest, charges, cost and expenses etc	Rs. 11,39,000/- Rs. 1,13,900/-
Date :- 08.07.2026 Place: Etawah Authorized Officer (UCO Bank)					
Branch: Jammu (1148); Contact Number(s): 885858686, E-mail: jammu@ucobank.co.in					
5.	Borrower: Mr. Rajendra Rajpoot S/o Mr. Raj Kishore Rajpoot Co-Borrower: Mr. Raj Kishore Rajpoot S/o Mr. Anil Prasad Both Address: H. No. S-1, F-Block, Karrahi Road, Barra, Kanpur - 208027 Guarantor: Shivali W/o Mr. Raj Kishore Rajpoot Address: H. No. S-1, F-Block, Karrahi Road, Barra, Kanpur - 208027	19.01.2026 27.04.2026 (Symbolic Possession)	All that part and parcel of the property (Residential Plot) measuring area 506.43 Sq. Mtr. as per Book No. 1, Volume No. 3914, Page No. 87 to 104 at Sr. No. 901 registered on 13.03.2024 at Sub-Registrar Office Barra, Ballia, situated at Arzi No. 733, Mouja- Chandrawar, Durgaili, Pargana-Sikandarpur Garwi, Tehsil-Razra, Dist.-Ballia, Pin 221712. Property standing in the name of Mr. Rajendra Rajpoot S/o Mr. Raj Kishore Rajpoot R/O H. No. S-1, F-Block, Karrahi Road, Barra, Kanpur - 208027. Details of Boundaries (As per Deed): East: Road, West: Land of Seller, North: 15' 0" Road, South: Land of Arvind etc. Known Encumbrances, if any-NIL	Rs. 16,76,768.90 as on 07.07.2026 plus unpaid interest, charges, cost and expenses etc	Rs. 30,35,250/- Rs. 3,03,250/-
Date :- 08.07.2026 Place: Ballia Authorized Officer (UCO Bank)					

Date & Time of Inspection: 20.07.2026 11.00 AM to 28.07.2026 12.00 PM | Last Date for submission of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) for sale: 28.07.2026 12:00 PM (as per IST) Date & Time of E-Auction: 29.07.2026 from 01:00 PM to 5:00 PM as per (IST) with unlimited extension of 10 minutes each with Bid Incremental Amount of Rs. 10,000/-

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit the websites: <https://banknml.com>

Note:- Hindi & English versions of this Notice are being published in Hindi & English Newspapers respectively. It is clarified that in case of any contradiction in Hindi and English version of the Notice, the English version of the Notice will prevail.