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NITISH KUMAR AGREES TO LET SON NISHANT ENTER POLITICS

Eschewing aversion for "dynasty politics", Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday agreed to launch his only son Nishant in politics

JUBILATION AT JD(U) HEADQUARTERS IN PATNA

The announcement came from state Rural Development Minister and senior party leader Shrawon Kumar, who has been a close aide of the JD(U) supremo since the Samata Party days, in the 1990s. Party workers distributed sweets, smeared each other's faces with 'gulaal' and raised slogans to express delight over the political entry of their supremo's son

AN ENGINEER KEEN ABOUT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Five Rajya Sabha seats from Bihar are going to polls and the BJP and JD(U) hold two seats apiece. Nishant, known to be reticent but with a good grasp of public affairs, may replace Harivansh Narayan Singh
Former state BJP president Dilip Jaiswal said, "If Nitish Kumar's son enters politics, it's great... time for a new generation to emerge"

48-yr-old
NISHANT IS SINGLE AND HAS A DEGREE IN ENGINEERING

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



CELEBRATING TAMIL NADU'S GLORIOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE

Kashi Tamil Sangamam brings new life to the old cultural ties between Tamil Nadu and Kashi

The Kamba Ramayana Festival revives Tamil Nadu's rich literary and spiritual heritage

DEVELOPED TAMIL NADU FOR DEVELOPED INDIA
MODI GOVERNMENT'S RESOLVE



787 The latest war toll in Iran, according to the Iranian Red Crescent
153 Countries affected in some way or other by the war
1,039 Attacks by US, Israel across Iran. Qatar joined the pounding



An explosion in UAE's Fujairah after drone debris fell on a part of the oil industrial zone | AP/PTI

WEST ASIA BURNS AS BOTH SIDES GO FULL BLAST

AGENCIES @ Tehran, Tel Aviv

THE West Asia war is showing no signs of abatement. Iran stepped up its attacks on economic targets and US missions across West Asia on Tuesday as President Donald Trump warned it was "too late" for the Islamic republic to seek talks.

As drones and missiles crashed into oil facilities and US embassies in the Gulf, Israel bombed targets in Iran and pushed troops deeper into Lebanon to battle the Tehran-backed militia Hezbollah.

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday boasted of wide damage on Iran. "Just about everything's been knocked out," Trump said. Later, he said "someone from within Iranian regime might be the best choice to take over after the war."

As if to underline Trump's new stance, loud blasts echoed around downtown Tehran. According to Iranian media, US-Israeli strikes targeted the 'Assembly of Experts' building in Qom, housing the panel electing Iran's new supreme leader.

Israel's military said its air force struck industrial sites "throughout Iran" used to produce ballistic missiles, to pre-empt their use.

Iran soon struck the US Embassy in Saudi Arabia's Riyadh and in Kuwait City with a drone. The strike in Riyadh caused part of its roof to collapse. In Kuwait City, the vicinity of the US embassy was hit by two drone strikes from Iran, with no casualties.

With Iran bombing Gulf monarchies on whim, the US ambassador in Israel asked Americans to move out on their own. "The US Embassy is not in a position at this time to evacuate or directly assist Americans in departing Israel," Mike Huckabee wrote on X.

Earlier Tuesday, IAEA said Iran's Natanz site sustained "some recent damage", but "no radiological consequence was expected."

Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Saar urged foreign capitals to cut all ties with Tehran. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned Saar that Beijing opposes the strikes.

Govt sets up inter-ministerial group to monitor, manage crisis

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Commerce held a consultation meeting on Tuesday with key ministries, logistics operators, and trade facilitation bodies to assess potential risks to exports and imports due to the ongoing geopolitical turmoil. An Inter-Ministerial Group for Supply Chain Resilience has also been created to aid Indian exporters amid the growing geopolitical crisis.

The group comprises members from the ministries of finance, external affairs, shipping, and petroleum, to facilitate coordination monitoring and follow-up to ensure continuity in trade flows.

Some of the measures include flexibility in export-related authorisation and steps to prevent cargo bottlenecks.

With the ongoing Iran-Israel conflict, exporters fear severe disruptions in logistics, spike in freight cost and longer transit time. As a big share of India's crude oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz, fuel prices can rise.

However, government sources said India has crude oil reserves and refined petroleum products that could weather disruptions for up to eight weeks.

WAR WATCH

SAUDI ARABIA

US embassy hit by drones

An attack from two drones on the US Embassy in Riyadh caused a "limited fire". The embassy urged Americans to avoid the compound

ISRAEL

Tel Aviv hit injures 7

At least seven people were seriously wounded after a salvo of missiles fired from Iran hit the capital city Tel Aviv

QATAR

Loud blasts heard in Doha

AFP journalists in the Qatari capital of Doha heard more explosions on Tuesday, as Iran carried out a fourth day of attacks in Gulf countries

UAE

Intercepts 11 missiles

UAE said it intercepted 11 ballistic missiles and 123 drones Tuesday, while one missile landed within the country sans any casualties

IRAN

Urges UNSC to stop the war

Iran urged the United Nations Security Council to take action to stop the war. "If UNSC wishes, it can certainly act to stop the war"

Thoughts on education, public service, dissent and AI enliven TNIE's conclave

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

WEST BENGAL Governor Dr CV Ananda Bose on Tuesday recalled a quote from the Kothari Commission Report, "destiny of India is being shaped in her classrooms", to underscore the relationship between education, public service, and nation-building at the ThinkEdu Conclave 2026 held in Chennai on Tuesday.

Speaking on the second day of the event presented by the Tata Group and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) with Rajalakshmi Group of Institutions as title sponsor, Dr Bose said that Viksit Bharat 2047 mission can be achieved only through the path of education.

Bihar Governor Arif Mohammed Khan reflected on the controversial Shah Bano case, and spoke on what it means to be a "Liberal Muslim" in India today.

Swami Suddhidananda, president of Advaita Ashrama, initiated the day's discussions with a reminder that education must also enrich the spiritual and moral centres within students. Dr Sudha Seshayyan, former



TNIE Editorial Director Prabhu Chawla and Editor Santwana Bhattacharya presenting a memento to West Bengal Governor Dr CV Ananda Bose at ThinkEdu Conclave; (right) Bihar Governor Arif Mohammed Khan | P JAWAHAR, ASHWIN PRASATH

V-C, MGR Medical University, also highlighted the need for value-driven education.

Dr Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, Vice-Chancellor of JNU, Dr Sunaina Singh, former V-C of Nalanda University, and Dr Thangam Meganathan, Chairperson, Rajalakshmi Group of Institutions, stressed on the importance of responsible dissent.

Sachin Pilot, senior Congress leader, commented on the fleeting nature of political ideologies in India. Senior BJP leader Dr Tamilisai Soundarajan and DMK MP Dr Kanimozhi Somu

brought the discussion closer home, highlighting the power, pains, and representation of youth in TN's charged political landscape.

Advocating for the 'Dravidian Model', Tamil Nadu School Education Minister Dr Anbil Mahesh highlighted the state's strides in inclusive education, while IT Minister Dr Palanivel Thiyaga Rajan outlined its economic success story.

Driving the importance of self-reliance in emerging technologies, Prof V Kamakoti, Director of IIT Madras, explored India's roadmap to AI sover-

eighty. Prof Pawan Goyal of IIT Kharagpur, and author Sairam Surenderasan explained how AI is already disrupting education.

Senior BJP leader K Annamalai called for a major overhaul in the civil services, while former TN chief secretary V Irai Anbu batted for purpose-driven public servants.

ThinkEdu 2026, with over 30 riveting sessions and 45 speakers across two days, represented the continuation of a 14-year legacy of championing the excellence of Indian thought.

FULL COVERAGE: P4, P5

CM continues cash blitzkrieg, gives ₹2,000 each to 40 lakh beneficiaries

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

NEARLY three weeks after crediting ₹6,550 crore to 1.31 crore women beneficiaries under the Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thittam (KMUT), the DMK government on Tuesday extended similar assistance amounting to ₹1,387 crore to 39.57 lakh beneficiaries.

Responding to requests for additional aid for the elderly, widows, aged transgenders, and persons with disabilities, the state has provided ₹2,000 over and above their existing monthly pensions, Stalin said on X.

"As part of the state's development journey, the DMK government will not allow anyone to be left behind. We shall win together," he said, adding that the special grant of ₹2,000 had been credited along with the March pension.

According to official data, 29.29 lakh beneficiaries, including senior citizens and widows under various social security

1,387 cr
Govt extended ₹1,387 crore to 39.57 lakh by crediting ₹2,000 over and above the quantum of fund credited for March pension

₹3,200 for elderly, widows; ₹3,500 for disabled persons

According to official data, 29.29 lakh beneficiaries, including senior citizens and widows under various social security schemes, were provided ₹3,200 each. As many as 5.92 lakh persons with disabilities received ₹3,500 each, while 2.58 lakh families of persons with disabilities received maintenance assistance of ₹4,000 each

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In addition, 1.62 lakh fishermen families were provided ₹8,000 per family as fishing ban period assistance for April to June. In Nilgiris, 14,870 tea growers were extended assistance totalling ₹8.53 crore as a support price of ₹2 per kilogram for green tea leaves procured through 15 co-

operative tea factories.

Criticising the move, former minister and AIADMK women's wing secretary B Valarmathi alleged on X that the ruling party's "sudden display of compassion" was driven by electoral considerations. She claimed that representations from the elderly, widows and persons with disabilities had allegedly gone unanswered for years, and that the present disbursement reflected "fear of defeat" rather than genuine welfare intent.

Meanwhile, CPI state secretary M Veerapandiyan welcomed the initiative.

Nod to plan for 60 transport aircraft for IAF

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

THE Defence Procurement Board (DPB) has cleared the acquisition of 60 medium transport aircraft for the IAF, setting in motion a long-pending plan to renew its tactical airlift fleet. Sources said the DPB, chaired by Defence Secretary R K Singh, met on Monday and cleared the proposal. The board vets capital acquisition proposals before they move to the Defence Acquisition Council for Acceptance of Necessity, following which the process moves to tendering, trials, negotiations and contract award.

The acquisition, estimated at around ₹1 lakh crore, will be pursued under the 'Buy and Make' route, with 12 aircraft to be acquired in flyaway condition and the remaining 48 to be manufactured in India in partnership with the domestic industry, sources said.

The requirement centres on replacing the An-32 fleet. The new aircraft are also expected to take on some roles of the ageing Il-76. The aircraft being sought must be capable of operating in high-altitude environments and from short, semi-prepared or unprepared surfaces, including Advanced Landing Grounds in Ladakh and the Northeast.

Sources said the contest is between Embraer's C-390 Millennium, Lockheed Martin's C-130J Super Hercules and Airbus' A400M Atlas.

DMK offers 29 seats, 2 RS slots to Cong after CM-PC meet

Chennai: After senior Congress leader P Chidambaram and TNCC president K Selvaperunthagai met DMK president and Chief Minister M K Stalin at his residence on Tuesday to end the stalemate in seat-sharing talks, the DMK is believed to have offered 29 seats and two Rajya Sabha seats to the Congress. A Congress leader confirmed that the DMK had raised its offer from 25 and can go up to 29 seats and said the party was "working out the numbers" and awaiting approval for the final shape of the deal from the Delhi high command | P6

HIT-WAVE

Today's Match

(1st Semi-Final)

7pm: South Africa vs New Zealand (Kolkata)

SA vs NZ: FIRST SEMIS

On Wednesday, South Africa face New Zealand in the first semifinal of the T20 World Cup. Proteas have an advantage over their opponents after remaining unbeaten until now. They even got the better of the Kiwis in the group stage as well. P17

Seven youth arrested in Tirunelveli gang attack

Tirunelveli: Nanguneri police on Tuesday arrested seven youth, including two allegedly involved in a 2024 caste attack, in connection with the sickle attack on Monday night that left two dead and six others injured at Perumpathu village in Tirunelveli. Villagers suspected that the attack could be the result of a long-standing caste rivalry between Backward Caste and MBC communities. Residents continued their protest for the second day on Tuesday | P6