

THE DAILY GK DOSE

C. JOSEPH VIJAY, ACTOR-TURNED-POLITICIAN & FOUNDER OF TVK, BECAME TAMIL NADU'S CM

- **Historic Disruption of Dravidian Duopoly:** TVK's stellar debut disrupted nearly half a century of bipolar political dominance held by the DMK and AIADMK. By securing 108 seats (emerging as the single largest party) and capturing a massive 34.9% vote share, Vijay positioned himself to become the state's first non-DMK, non-AIADMK Chief Minister since 1967.
- **Dual-Constituency Victory:** In a major personal and political statement, Vijay contested and won from two separate assembly seats—Perambur in Chennai and Tiruchirappalli (East).
- **Navigating a Hung Assembly to Form Government:** Because the 234-member assembly requires a simple majority of 118 seats to form a government, TVK fell just short of the magic number on its own.

Footnotes: TN's Previous CM: M. K. Stalin, Capital: Chennai, Governor: Rajendra Arlekar

KARNATAKA LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST STATE-LED COE FOR SPACE TECH

- **First-of-its-Kind Collaboration:** Launched on May 1, 2026, the CoE SpaceTech Foundation in Bengaluru is India's first state-led Centre of Excellence for space technology. It is established by the Karnataka government through the Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS) in collaboration with the Satcom Industry Association of India (SIA-India).
- **Focus on Societal Impact & Commercialization:** Operating under the theme "Space Tech for

Societal Impact," the center aims to bridge the gap between academic research and commercial market readiness.

- **Global Tech & Research Partnerships:** To accelerate cutting-edge development, the CoE signed multiple high-profile MoUs on launch day, partnering with Dassault Systèmes, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, and US-based Helogen Corporation.

Footnotes: Karnataka's CM: Siddaramaiah, Capital: Bengaluru, Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot

INDIA'S PRIVATE SECTOR LAUNCHES 'MISSION DRISHTI' EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE



- **India's Largest Privately Built Satellite:** Weighing approximately 190 kg, Mission Drishti is the largest privately developed Earth observation satellite in Indian history. It marks a significant shift for India's space ecosystem—moving from small-scale testing to robust, commercial-grade hardware developed entirely by private enterprise.
- **World's First OptoSAR Technology:** Drishti is the first satellite globally to feature SyncFused OptoSAR technology. By combining Electro-Optical (EO) cameras with Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) on a single platform, it overcomes the limits of traditional imaging. It can capture highly detailed, intuitive color photos while simultaneously using radar to peer through thick clouds, monsoonal rain, and pitch darkness.

IMPORTANT FACTS

MITOCHONDRIA

- *Mitochondria are called the powerhouse of the cell.*
- *It produces ATP for cell.*
- *Mitochondria are surrounded by a double membrane.*
- *The outer membrane is smooth, and the inner membrane is folded.*
- *The folds of the inner membrane are called cristae.*
- *It has its own DNA and ribosomes.*
- *It is a semi-autonomous organelle.*

UNION MINISTER LAUNCHES 'CELL BROADCAST SYSTEM' FOR DISASTER WARNINGS

- **Indigenous Collaboration:** The system was developed entirely indigenously by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), working in close collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Superior "No-Network-Lag" Technology:** Unlike traditional SMS-based alerts—which can suffer from severe network congestion and queuing delays during crises—Cell Broadcast technology bypasses individual phone numbers entirely. It sends localized, near-real-time messages simultaneously to all active mobile devices connected to targeted cell towers, operating seamlessly even without cellular data or active internet connections.

INDIA & CAMBODIA BEGIN JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE 'CINBAX-II' IN CAMBODIA

- **Location and Troops Deployment:** The two-week exercise (scheduled from May 4 to 17, 2026) is being hosted at the Royal Cambodian Air Force Training Centre (Camp Basil). The Indian Army has deployed a contingent of 120 personnel, primarily from a battalion of the historic Maratha Light Infantry Regiment, while the Royal Cambodian Army is participating with 160 personnel.
- **Focus on Modern Warfare & Counter-Terrorism:** Operating under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate, the exercise simulates sub-conventional, semi-urban environments typical of modern UN Peacekeeping missions.
- **First-Ever Edition in Cambodia:** This marks the first time the bilateral exercise is being hosted on Cambodian soil. It builds directly on the success of the inaugural edition, which was held in Pune, India, in December 2024, signaling a deepening of strategic and defense ties between India and the ASEAN nation.

CITI BANK INDIA APPOINTS RAJ RATHI AS HEAD OF MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

- **Background of High-Growth Leadership:** Rathi brings over 15 years of investment banking, M&A, and advisory experience to Citi. He joins the firm from Dream Sports, where he served as Head of

Strategy and Corporate Development, leading key partnerships and deploying approximately \$150 million across strategic inorganic investments.

- **Expanded Strategic Mandate:** Based in Mumbai, Rathi will not only lead Citi's M&A franchise in India but will also assume sector coverage responsibility for high-growth areas, specifically Digital Infrastructure, EMS, and select B2B commerce companies.
- **Pivotal Timing for Citi's Advisory Franchise:** His appointment comes as Citi aims to solidify its position as a leading financial advisor in the region. The firm recently advised on several major transactions in India, including the 100% stake sale of Royal Challengers Sports Private Limited for United Spirits and the 49% stake sale in Haier India for the Haier Group.

Footnotes: CBI's CEO: K Balasubramanian, HQ: Mumbai, Estd:1902

R. BALASUBRAMANIAM & JORAM ANIYA APPOINTED FULL-TIME MEMBERS OF NITI AAYOG



- **Distinguished Governance & Grassroots Expertise:** Dr. R. Balasubramanian is a highly regarded public policy expert, physician, and founder of the Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM) and the public policy think tank GRAAM.

- **Historic Representation:** Northeast Dr. Joram Aniya's appointment marks a historic milestone as she is the first person from Arunachal Pradesh to be named a full-time member of India's premier policy think tank.
- **Completion of a Revamped Core Think Tank:** These two appointments expand NITI Aayog's team of full-time members to seven. They join the newly reconstituted board—which includes recently appointed Vice-Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri and other full-time members.

OM BIRLA RECONSTITUTES PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES FOR 2026-27

- **Committee on Estimates:** BJP MP Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal was reappointed as Chairperson. This crucial panel, composed of 30 members exclusively from the Lok Sabha, reports on what economies, organizational improvements, or administrative reforms can be effected.
- **Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU):** BJP MP Baijayant Jay Panda will continue to head this 22-member committee (15 from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha) to review the working and efficiency of public sector undertakings (PSUs).
- **Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:** BJP MP Faggan Singh Kulaste was reappointed as the Chairperson of this 30-member committee (20 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha) to monitor the implementation of constitutional safeguards for vulnerable communities.

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

05.05.2026 / TUESDAY

- **World Asthma Day: May 5**
- **Theme 2026: "Access to anti-inflammatory inhalers for everyone with asthma – still an urgent need."**
- **Global health organizations are using this day to emphasize that relying solely on quick-relief "blue" inhalers only treats acute symptoms temporarily.**