

## CM M K Stalin inaugurates projects of Corporation and Metro Water



Chennai, May 13 2023: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Friday inaugurated various projects completed by Chennai Corporation and Metro Water.

The CM inaugurated as many as 14 projects completed recently by Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) at a cost of Rs 561.26 crore. The Greater Chennai Corporation also carried out several works including construction of new parks, playground and urban primary healthcare centres done at a total cost of Rs 35.79 crore.

The Metro water board carried out works

for Rs 561.26 crore at several areas in the city including the construction of a secondary sewage treatment plant in Kodungaiyur with a capacity of 120 million litres per day. The department spent Rs 170 crore for the project. To prevent mixing of sewage in Padi Kuppam canal in Ambattur zone, a sewage pumping station has been constructed and inaugurated at a cost of Rs 1.77 lakh.

A total of Rs 57.98 crore was spent for the underground sewerage project in Valliammai street and NT Patel road in Valasaravakkam zone. Works such as

pipelines, and pumping stations have been completed.

Similarly, Chennai Corporation has completed five playground works in Royapuram, Madhavaram, Alandur, Maduravoyal at an estimated cost of Rs 2.15 crore. Also, the civic body constructed Rs 10.72 crore for urban primary healthcare centres in Thiru Vi Ka Nagar, Ambattur, Royapuram Perumalpet and Kondithope, Kodungaiyur.

CM has also laid foundation stone for nine projects to be carried out by Chennai metro water board for a cost of Rs 201 crore. The department is to connect

750 mm diameter pipeline from Tondiarpet B sewage pumping station to Tondiarpet F sewage pumping station in Royapuram zone (zone 5) at a total cost of Rs 22.33 crore. Also, from Tondiarpet F pumping station to Kodungaiyur sewage treatment plant 1000 mm pipeline to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 84 crore.

Local administration minister KN Nehru, Chief Secretary V Iraianbu, Chennai Corporation commissioner Gagandeep Singh Bedi, and other senior officials were part of the event held at Secretariat.

## File report on measures to be taken to maintain Vandalur lake, WRD told

Chennai, May 13 2023: While hearing a suo motu case pertaining to degeneration of Vandalur lake due to encroachments and dumping of sewage, the Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Water Resources Department (WRD) to file a report on measures to be taken to maintain the lake after restoring it.

In an order passed on May 9, the NGT observed that the status report of the executive engineer of WRD, Kancheepuram district, states that the eviction process was taken up by the department under the supervision of the Revenue and Police



Departments. However, the report is silent about whether the process is complete and the lake is restored.

"So, let the Water Resources Department (WRD) file a detailed report about the eviction of the encroachers and restoration of the lake. Let the report also state as to how the lake is to be maintained after it is fully restored

and cleaned up," the Tribunal said.

The Tribunal also observed pointing out a report filed by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) that said Kattankulathur Panchayat Union is yet to take the unsegregated solid waste being dumped in the Kolathur Village and The Vandalur Village Panchayat is not in compliance

with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

As the notice has been issued to Kattankulathur slapping an interim compensation of Rs. 33 lakh, the Tribunal directed the TNPCB to disclose whether final compensation is arrived and whether interim compensation recovered from the pachayat, which was levied in December.

## we will definitely secure one-year imprisonment for Annamalai," - RS Bharathi

Chennai, May 13 2023: DMK organising secretary R S Bharathi on Friday said that they would secure one-year imprisonment for BJP state president K Annamalai in the defamation case.



on behalf of DMK treasurer TR Baalu."

"I would like to categorically state that we will definitely secure one-year imprisonment for him (Annamalai)," added Bharathi, who was the first to threaten legal action against the BJP state president after he levelled a series of wealth amassment allegations against the DMK and its leaders on April 14.

Talking to mediapersons at Saidapet court where a defamation suit was filed by DMK treasurer A n n a m a l a i in connection with the

allegations levelled through the DMK files video tape, Bharathi said, "Even nearly a month since sending the legal notice, he (Annamalai) has not responded to it so far. He

has issued a statement. But he has not replied to our legal notice. Therefore, a case has been filed on behalf of chief minister M K Stalin. Today, advocate Richard has filed a case

## 3 from Kolkata held for Chennai girl's suicide after Insta conning



Chennai, May 13 2023: A month after the death of a college girl by suicide after she was duped to the tune of Rs 35,000 through Instagram, the city police has arrested three person from West Bengal for duping the girl and abetting suicide.

The three men were identified as Amanullah Khan, (20), Mohammed Faizal, (21) and Mohammed Asif Iqbal, (22). The three allegedly duped a college student near Seven Wells to the tune of Rs. 35,000 using Instagram last month and due to the loss, the girl had died by suicide.

All the three hail

from Kolkata. The police said that they were traced with the help of bank transactions and from their Instagram accounts. They were arrested on Wednesday and were brought to Chennai on Thursday.

According to the police, a special police team which went to West Bengal traced the mobile numbers, which were obtained from Instagram and the mobile numbers, their bank accounts were traced. This led to their locations and the ATMs that they frequent.

It may be noted that victim Mahalakshmi

(19), a college student, received a message on Instagram from an unknown account saying that her investments would receive higher returns. The message said that an investment of Rs. 750 would get a return of Rs 23,500. Believing this, she had sent a total of Rs 37,500 through online transactions. After several days, when she did not receive any returns or replies, she demanded her principal amount. This time too, she did not get any replies. Dejected by this, on April 2, Mahalakshmi allegedly died by suicide at her

house.

The police had initially registered a case under section 174 (unnatural death) of the CrPC and now, after investigations, cheating charges were also added. The three have been arrested for abetting suicide.

The arrested three are college graduates and unemployed. They were indulging in these cyber crimes and other than Mahalakshmi, they had duped several people and swindled nearly Rs 15 to 20 lakh and this is the first time they were arrested, police claimed.

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## Update o-n Ernakulam Town Station Redevelopment Works

Chennai, May 13 2023: Ernakulam Town Railway station (also known as Ernakulam North Station) is the one of the busiest railway junction stations in South India. Southern Railway has taken up the redevelopment of this station so as to offer modern infrastructure and airport-like facilities for the passengers. Tender was awarded for the redevelopment work in August 2022 and now the preliminary work has begun and progressing at a steady pace.

### Recent Works done

The pile foundation works of the new Residential Tower is being done at Ernakulam Junction colony is nearing completion.

The Multi-level Car Parking (MLCP) site at Ernakulam Town station is cleared and pile load test is completed. The piling works started on 08.05.23.

The old station building dismantling required for Phase I works have been completed for 50 m duly shifting parcel office and other offices.

The dismantling of platform shelter in PF1 for FOB works has been completed.

RMC plants for the project have been commissioned.

### Works executed so far and in progress

The topographical survey, soil investigation, utility



survey, drone survey and videography are completed.

Right of way handed over for all works.

Residential Tower – Foundation work of piles is nearing completion, with 69 out of 73 piles having been

completed.

Multi-Level Car Parking – Dismantling of staff quarters (18 units) for construction of MLCP completed and alternate accommodation arranged for residents. Load test on the test pile have been completed and piling

works have commenced.

West terminal building – The revamping works for shifting of offices for Phase-I completed and Duty S M, RPF, Dy.SP/GRP, Parcel Office & HI office are shifted. Work for shifting of OFC repeater room and substation is in

the finishing stage. Load tests on the test pile have been completed and preliminary works for foundation works are in progress.

FOB 12m wide – PF shelter dismantling in PF no.1 completed. Utility shifting and other preparatory works are in progress.

PMS office, Laboratory and RMC plant commissioned.

### Ernakulam Town Station Redevelopment

The work of “Redevelopment of Ernakulam Town Railway Station” was awarded as an EPC contract to M/s RANK Projects and Development Pvt Ltd, for an amount of Rs. 150.28 Crore on 29.08.2022. The completion period of the project is 36 months. The Project Management Services for the subject work was awarded to M/s Aarvee Associates Pvt.Ltd, Hyderabad for Rs.5.92 Cr. The station building is proposed to be developed as a “green

building”, complying with the standards laid down under Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA).

As part of Station redevelopment, the newly constructed West Terminal building will come up in place of the existing buildings which will be demolished in 3 phases. The three-storey West Terminal will accommodate waiting lounges for passengers with facilities like restaurants, retail outlets and toilets with dedicated arrival and departure corridors. An air-concourse with Skywalk connectivity, a new Foot Over Bridge and Multi-level Car Parking are proposed to be constructed.

## Indian Bank rolls out Supply Chain Finance (SCF), upgrades its existing Digital services

Chennai, May 13 2023: Shri. S.L Jain, MD & CEO, Indian Bank, today launched Supply Chain Finance (SCF) facility on digital platform in the presence of Executive Directors of the Bank, Shri Imran Amin Siddiqui, Shri Ashwani Kumar, Shri Mahesh Kumar Bajaj and Shri Ashutosh Choudhury and other senior officials at Chennai. Supply Chain Finance (SCF) facility will provide short-term working capital finance to Vendors/Dealers of Corporate.

Lending through SCF platform will facilitate seamless transaction flow based on the documents on pre-agreed terms with



buyers, sellers and Bank being on the same platform. Dealers and suppliers of the large Corporates, mostly from MSME segment are expected to benefit from this digital lending platform as it will provide them easy access to working capital finance at favourable terms and pricing, boosting their business growth.

Bank also launched several other digital journeys along with SCF platform. Digital Journeys through Branches such as paperless digital SB account opening, Overdraft against Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance upto Rs.10.00 Lakhs, Jewel Loan ETB – Branch Assisted and ODAD facility to MSME

customers were launched today. Bank further enabled customers to avail PAPL (Pre-Approved Personal Loan) with Digital Document Execution upto Rs. 5.00 Lakhs, Credit Card facility upto a limit of Rs.10.0 Lakh through IndOASIS, Website and Internet Banking. TAB Banking services are further enhanced with Cheque Book Request, Term Deposit Account Opening, Form 15G/H Submission, Nomination Facility and Enrolment of Jan Suraksha Schemes. Bank also launched a portal to facilitate submission and processing of death claims.

## Fortis Malar Hospital forms a grand human chain to celebrate International Nurses Day



Chennai, May 13 2023: The nursing department of Fortis Malar Hospital, Adyar today formed a human chain to celebrate International Nurses Day and pay tribute to nurses who have always been on the forefront to duly perform their responsibilities with care, commitment, dedication, compassion, and kindness. The hospital's

staff actively took part in the formation of the human chain and encouraged people to pursue healthy lifestyle and maintain good health. Different activities including poster making, quizzes, dances, and games were also held as part of the celebration.

Mr. R Chandrasekar, Facility Director, Fortis Malar Hospital, Adyar

said, “Our nurses are our lifeline, and this was demonstrated during challenging times like the COVID-19 pandemic. Through their unwavering dedication, professionalism, bravery, and heroic deeds, nurses have saved countless lives throughout the pandemic in our nation and around the globe,

and they continue to do so on a daily basis. Frontline nurses' physical and emotional health suffered greatly because of the pandemic, yet they didn't give up. We would like to take this occasion to express our gratitude to the nursing community for their unwavering dedication to the healthcare system and society.”

## Cadbury Dairy Milk pays an Ode to Tamil Nadu and their icons with the Launch of its new campaign “Cadbury Iniya Kondattam”

Chennai, May 13 2023: Cadbury Dairy Milk, India's favourite chocolate brand announced the launch of their latest campaign Cadbury Iniya Kondattam, which celebrates the Pride of Tamil Nadu by paying an ode to its local icons. The campaign featured candid, fun and nostalgic conversations between Celebrity Chef and Food Historian Rakesh Raghunathan and 5 iconic celebrities cricketering legend Dinesh Kartik, actress Priya Bhavani Shankar, rapper and singer Arrivu, actress and singer Sivaangi Krishnakumar, and renowned chef Damu.

For the first episode, cricket sensation Dinesh Karthik shared his favourite moments from all the matches he's played. Viewers got an upclose and personal look into his life, as he got candid about his childhood and all his



special memories associated with food. He also shared his recipe for Chocolate Halwa with Cadbury Dairy Milk. Priya Bhavani Shankar in the second episode, spoke about her childhood, making her nostalgic about the good old days. She said, “Good Food is equal to Good Mood!” while Rakesh prepared one of her favourite delicacies Chocolate Paruppu Payasam infused with Cadbury Dairy Milk.

Celebrity Chef Rakesh Raghunathan welcomed Rapper Arrivu for the third episode where he reminisced about his

favorite native sweets such as Thaan Mithai, Kamarkattu, and Soan Papdi. In this episode, the viewers watched him breaking into an impromptu rap while preparing a sweet delicacy Chocolate Kamarkattu Truffles infused with Cadbury Dairy Milk.

For the fourth episode, the iconic Sivaangi Krishnakumar treated viewers to her infectious enthusiasm as she shared her childhood memories associated with food. She delighted viewers with stories about the first time she had Kakhra, to the pani poori she savored in her

college canteen, and regaled everyone with her fondest memories. Fans were also in for a sweet surprise as they watched her skilfully prepared a sweet delicacy, Choco Nut Mittai, with Cadbury Dairy Milk.

Tamil Nadu's favorite Chef Damu appeared in the final upcoming episode where viewers got to know their favorite chef up close right from his life experiences to inspirational fragments from his lifestyle. That's not all! The revolutionary chef also shared his innovative recipe Chocolate Pongal infused with Cadbury Dairy Milk.

These special Cadbury creations will be available for consumption across 50 outlets in Chennai including Writer's Café, French Loaf, Hot Breads, Ganga Sweets and Sangeetha Veg Restaurant.

## CM inaugurates renovated Corporation Schools

Chennai, May 13 2023: Chief Minister Stalin also inaugurated building of Greater Chennai Corporation schools, branded Chennai Schools, that were newly built or restored under the City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain (CITIIS) project.

The new buildings



have modern, colourful desks and wall paintings of animals inside the classrooms, and purified drinking

water among other facilities.

The works were undertaken at a cost of Rs 12.99 crores in

Tondiarpet, Royapuram, Anna Nagar and Adyar. Chennai Mayor R Priya, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Minister K N Nehru, Corporation Commissioner Gagandeep Singh Bedi and other officials were present at the function.

## AM Jain College secures top corporate jobs for 800+ students through campus placement

### Students were placed across various domains including IT, Banking, Insurance, Finance, NBFCs, KPOs, BPOs

Chennai, May 13 2023: Agurchand Manmull Jain College in Chennai recently completed its placement drive for the year 2022-23. More than 800 students have been recruited from the campus in various leading MNCs and Indian companies. Over 40 companies on various domains including IT, ITES, Banking, Insurance, Finance, NBFCs, KPOs, BPOs, Electronics Design

were part of the campus drive.

Some of the prominent companies include Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, HDFC Bank, Accenture, ICICI Lombard Insurance, L&T infotech, All Cargo Logistics, CSS Corporation, Deloitte, Ecom Express, Econ Systems, HCL Technologies, Intellect Design Arena, Integrated Enterprises, RR Donnelley, Sanmar,

Sutherland Global Services, Limited and more.

Speaking about the placement, Dr. M M Ramya, Dean, Agurchand Manmull Jain College, said, "The campus recruitment drive in the year 2022-2023 saw the participation of top companies to recruit from our diverse pool of students from the passing out batch. We were able to successfully complete

this placement season, but are still supporting students who were lately decided to join employment from their earlier career choices."

"This was possible only because of the continuous support of our recruiters and faith on our talent pool. The management also offered a soft skill development course to all final year students to upskill and be prepared for the interview," DR. MM Ramya added.

## Uлага Nayagan Kamal Haasan launches dance-fitness app JOOPOP, a new initiative by popular choreographer Sherif

### JOOPOP can be used by children to adults and can be utilised in schools and other places

Chennai, May 13 2023: Popular dance master Sherif, who has choreographed for hundreds of chartbuster songs in various blockbuster films starting with 'Soodhu Kavvum', is now one of the leading choreographers in Tamil film industry. He has started a new initiative with the help of technology to help maintain physical fitness through simple dance exercises.



Uлага Nayagan Kamal Haasan launched JOOPOP, a dance education and exercise app created by Sherif through his JOOPOP Pro Studio with investment from Vincent Adikalaraj.

A walkthrough of the app will be held tomorrow (May 12) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Alwarpet, Chennai.

Talking about JOOPOP, Sherif said, "We all know the importance of physical exercise. But in today's world, everyone from

children to adults are busy with their work and are not able to spare enough time for fitness. Keeping this in mind, we have developed this app to maintain physical health through simple dance exercises in just five to ten minutes a day," he said.

Speaking further, he said, "This app is divided into three categories for school children, adults and those who want to take

up dance as a career. Users can choose their desired section and take their appropriate dance exercises very easily."

Explaining the use of the app by schools, Sherif said, "We have already tested the app successfully in around 450 schools. All of those schools have welcomed the JOOPOP dance app. Five to ten minutes of dance lessons tailored to the needs of each class of students will give the

students an exciting opportunity to workout before the commencement of classes everyday. This will keep them energised, both physically and mentally."

Sherif said that Uлага Nayagan Kamal Haasan was very appreciative when he explained him about JOOPOP dance app and thanked Kamal Haasan for launching the app.

## Odisha assembly speaker, two ministers resign amid buzz of cabinet reshuffle

Chennai, May 13 2023: The two ministers of state who resigned are Samir Ranjan Dash (School and Mass Education) and Srikant Sahu (Labour)



Odisha assembly speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha and two other state ministers resigned on Friday.

This development comes in wake of speculations that chief minister Naveen Patnaik is contemplating a reshuffle of his cabinet.

The two ministers of state who resigned are Samir Ranjan Dash (School and Mass Education) and Srikant Sahu (Labour). After submitting his resignation letter, Arukha cited personal reasons as grounds for resignation.

Arukha, who was

appointed Speaker in June last year, said, "I have always carried out every responsibility assigned to me by the party and will continue to do so in the future. I will discharge every responsibility assigned to me by the party or in the government. I have sent my resignation to the Deputy

Speaker." After resigning, both Dash and Sahu said they will shoulder whatever responsibilities the party gave them.

CM Patnaik is currently in the national Capital and will return to his state on Sunday.

In June last year, Patnaik had effected a major reshuffle in the cabinet after all the 20 ministers had resigned.

In the last reshuffle, ministers Dibya Shankar Mishra, Arun Sahoo and Pratap Jena were axed from the cabinet.

## No shell company in Mauritius; Hindenburg allegations 'false, baseless': Mauritius Minister tells Parliament

Chennai, May 13 2023: Mauritian Financial Services Minister Mahen Kumar Seeruttun has told the nation's Parliament that Hindenburg Research's allegations of the presence of 'shell' companies in the Island nation are 'false and baseless' and that Mauritius was in compliance with the tax rules mandated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

US short seller Hindenburg on January 24 alleged that billionaire Gautam Adani used shell companies based in Mauritius to manipulate stock prices of his Indian-listed companies.

When a Member of Parliament (MP) through a written notice question asked the Minister about Hindenburg's allegation of use of Mauritius-based entities as conduits for money laundering and share price manipulation for the Adani Group, the minister said the nation's law does not allow shell companies.

"At the outset, I wish to inform the House that



the allegations of the presence of shell companies in Mauritius are false and baseless," he said. "According to the law, shell companies are not allowed in Mauritius." "So far, there has been no breach that has been found," he said.

He said the Financial Services Commission has taken note of the Hindenburg report but the regulator is bound by the confidentiality clause of the law and cannot disclose details.

"The Financial Services Commission can neither deny nor confirm whether an investigation has been and/or is being conducted" he said.

Dhanesswurnath Vikash Thakoor, chief executive officer, of FSC, had previously stated that an initial assessment of all the entities related to the

OECD standards," the Mauritian minister told the Parliament.

He said the Financial Services Commission monitored the Adani issue closely. "The commission is pursuing its actions within the ambit of the relevant legislations and in line with its current supervisory process. It has been carrying out reviews of all the companies cited in the Hindenburg report."

When the MP asked how he arrived at the conclusion that allegations made in the report are 'false and baseless', the minister said he was referring to the statement made the report with regard to shell companies being registered in Mauritius.

"And this is, like I said in my reply, to be able to be licensed in Mauritius, there are conditions and requirements that need to be satisfied. And those conditions, I have spelled out all those conditions, and based on the fact that these companies adhere to those conditions, then it is unfounded to say that those companies are shell companies" he said

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## Update on Rameswaram Station redevelopment works

Chennai, May 13 2023: Southern Railway has taken up Rameswaram Station redevelopment in order to offer a world-class ambience, futuristic infra and airport-like facilities for passengers. Tender was awarded for the redevelopment work in September 2022 and the work has begun and progressing at a steady pace.

### Works executed Recently

Project Management Site Office commissioned.

Shifting of PRS counters and parcel office from existing Terminal building has been done to accommodate the commencement of revamping work of existing waiting hall

Temporary road diversion work completed in order to carry out widening work of existing road

Site lab installation completed

### Other work in progress

Demolition of existing terminal building in progress.



New Parcel office foundation work in progress.

Revamping of existing Multi-Functional Complex (MFC) building in progress

Revamping of existing waiting hall is in progress

### Works Executed So far

Preliminary works such as Mapping and Topographical survey, soil investigation, Traffic survey, tree inventory, joint inventory of movable and immovable assets and Master plan validation completed.

Project management Services have commenced work.

Right of way, which is a legal right to enter and carry out the

work, has been provided to the EPC contractor for Revamping of existing waiting hall building, Revamping of Existing MFC building, Parcel office and substation, Residential tower, Desalination plant, Sewage treatment plant, FOB, Platform shelter works, Platform flooring and other works, Construction of East terminal building, and Pedestrian plus departure forecourt.

Materials Testing completed.

A series of meetings are held with the stakeholders of the project

### Rameswaram Station Redevelopment

The work of Redevelopment of Rameswaram Railway station was awarded as EPC contract to M/s

Sabari URC JV, Coimbatore at a cost of Rs.90.20 Crores, setting a time frame of 18 months for completion of the project. M/s TUV India Private Limited, Mumbai have been tasked with the work of Project Management services (PMS) at a cost of Rs.4.41 Crore.

Two terminals are proposed to be constructed, one at the East and one at the North side. The East Terminal Building is proposed as a G+2 structure, with G+6 foundation, accommodating world class amenities like waiting lounge, ticketing area, commercial area, Railway offices and Roof plaza etc. Segregation of departing and arrival passengers, adequate Lifts and escalators are planned in this building. The proposed North Terminal building houses prepaid taxi counter, Railway offices and various help line centres. Surface Parking planned with separate driveway to parking.

## Rs.42.55L fine imposed on contractors for delaying road construction work



Chennai, May 13 2023: The Chennai Corporation imposed a fine amount of Rs 42.55 lakh against eight contractors for not starting new road construction works for more than five days, said municipal administration and water supply department additional chief secretary Shiv Das Meena during the review meeting held at Ripon Building on Friday.

The civic body carries out construction

of new roads in the city, and the officials have instructed to complete the works at the earliest. Also, the quality of the roads has been monitored by the concerned zone officials. "The contractors should completely excavate the old road and lay the new ones, the work has not been commenced for more than five days in various areas in Tondiarpet zone (zone 4), Thiru Vi Ka Nagar zone (zone 6), Alandur zone (zone 12), Adyar

zone (zone 13) and Perungudi zone (zone 14)," stated Shiv Das Meena.

As the eight contractors failed to start the road project work within the given time. A fine amount of Rs 42.55 lakh imposed against the contractors. The officers are advised to take appropriate action to start the road works on time and complete them carefully and expeditiously. In the places where road construction work is

being undertaken, they should keep a notice board for the safety of the public when the road works commence.

The Greater Chennai Corporation commissioner Gagandeep Singh Bedi, additional commissioner (health) Shankar Lal Kumawat, joint commissioner (works) Dr GS Sameeran, deputy commissioner (education) Sharanya Ari, and other senior officials were present in the review meeting.

## The Arangetram function of AIADMK Headquarters Chief Secretary Mahalingam's daughters Dr Sneha and Dr Manisha



The Arangetram function of AIADMK Headquarters Chief Secretary Thiru Mahalingam's daughters Dr Sneha and Dr Manisha happened on a grand scale at Narada Gana Sabha. AIADMK General Secretary and Former CM Edappadi K Palaniswami was the chief guest. Music director Deva who was the guest of honour was seen thoroughly enjoying the divine performance choreographed by Kalaimamani Krishnakumari Narendran. The show was hosted by party spokesperson Apsara Reddy. It was one of its kind with a transwoman hosting an Arangetram in Tamil Nadu.

## Anxious night before Karnataka poll results for 'confident' BJP, Cong and JDS

Chennai, May 13 2023: The results of the hotly contested Karnataka assembly elections 2023 will be declared on Saturday.

The counting of votes for the hotly contested Karnataka assembly elections 2023 will be held on Saturday. The election witnessed a fierce battle between long-standing rivals, the Bharatiya Janata Party, Congress, and the Janata Dal (Secular). With the possibility of a hung assembly, all parties and many pollsters are anxiously anticipating the outcome, holding their breath to discover their fate.

While chief minister Basavaraj Bommai exuded confidence in the BJP's return to power in Karnataka, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said his party would win a "thumping majority".

Former chief minister and JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy has said his party will be the 'King' in the Karnataka polls.

With most exit polls giving the Congress an edge over the BJP in the Karnataka assembly election, Bommai said that the ruling party will come to power with a "comfortable majority" as he was confident with the party's ground reports.

Congress Karnataka president DK Shivakumar said he did not believe in the exit poll results, which predicted a hung assembly while putting his party ahead, adding that they will



cross the 146-seat mark. the race.

While the election campaigns saw the BJP and the Congress trading fire over the promise in the latter's manifesto to proscribe the Bajrang Dal, polling went off peacefully on May 10, with the eventual turnout recorded at a robust 73.29 per cent.

A party needs to win 113 seats to reach the majority mark and stake a claim to forming the government in Karnataka.

Though top leaders of the state have exuded confidence about their party winning comfortably in the polls to the 224-member assembly, the exit polls have certainly made them anxious to an extent. No one wants a 2018-like scenario to unfold this time too.

The JD(S) will be the key factor in case of a hung verdict, and may emerge as a 'king' or 'kingmaker', as in 2018.

In the exit poll results announced on Wednesday, India Today-Axis My India predicted a clear majority for the Congress with 122-140 seats in the 224-member assembly and gave the BJP 62-80 seats. It gave 20-25 seats to the JD (S), the third major player in

Times Now-ETG exit polls gave 113 seats to the Congress and 85 to the BJP. It predicted 23 seats for JD (S).

Key contests that will decide the battle

After a high-decibel campaign during which all three key players in the fray - the BJP, Congress and JD(S) - went at each other and pulled out stops and heavy weight campaigners to woo voters, the verdict in the battle for the Karnataka assembly now rests with the people's court. The key constituencies to watch out for on result day are Varuna, Kanakapura, Shiggaon, Hubli-Darwad, Channapattana, Shikaripura, Chittapur, Ramanagara, and Chikmagalur.

The results in these seats could well sway the eventual outcome of the polls.

Also, the Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities, accounting for 17 and 11 per cent of the state's population, will also play a key role in deciding the eventual poll outcome.

Bommai is seeking a fresh mandate from the Shiggaon constituency from where he has won three consecutive terms in the assembly.

There is also a lot of curiosity around the battle for the Varuna constituency where Congress stalwart and former chief minister Siddaramaiah is pitted against the BJP's V Somanna, a state minister and Bharathi Shankar of the JD(S).

News 24-Today's Chanakya also forecast a majority for the Congress with 120 seats as against 92 seats for the BJP and 12 for the JD(S).

While the ABP News-C Voter exit poll predicted that the Congress would get 100-112 seats, BJP 83-95, JD(S) 21-29, the Republic TV-P MARQ forecast that the Congress will get 94-108 seats, the BJP 85-100 and JD(S) 24-32.

The India TV-CNX exit polls gave the Congress 110-120 seats and the BJP 80-90 seats. They predicted 20-24 seats for the JD(S).

The TV 9 Bharatvarsh-Polstrat exit poll stated that the Congress is likely to get 99-109 seats, the BJP 88-98 and the JD(S) 21-26 while the Zee News-Matrize Agency predicted that the Congress would get 103-118, the BJP 79-94 and the JD(S) 25-33.

The News Nation-CGS poll said the BJP would get 114 seats, the Congress 86 and the JD(S) 21. The Suvarna News-Jan Ki Baat forecast that the BJP was likely to win 94-117, Congress 91-106 and the JD(S) 14-24.