

UNTOLD STORIES  
A GUERRILLA WHO BECAME CM

M.J. AKBAR ON WEST BENGAL  
BJP VS CPI(M) IN 2031 POLLS

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LIFE AND LENS OF MY  
FATHER RAGHU RAI

MAY 17, 2026

# THE WEEK

## ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS WAVE RIDERS



EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEWS

DILIP GHOSH  
BJP LEADER

V.D. SATHEESAN  
CONGRESS LEADER

Vijay  
Tamil Nadu

V.D. Satheesan  
Kerala

Suvendu Adhikari  
West Bengal

Himanta Biswa Sarma  
Assam

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COVER  
STORY

## EASTERN CHEER, SOUTH NOT NEAR

The BJP and its allies now have 22 chief ministers across 31 states and Union territories, covering over 70 per cent of the country. Yet, Tamil Nadu and Kerala remain difficult terrain. For the opposition, Kerala and Tamil Nadu offer solace.

### INTERVIEWS

- "People across the country have faith in Narendra Modi"  
—Dillip Ghosh, BJP leader
- "We analysed every variable, and turned it into a meticulous, evidence-based exercise"  
—V.D. Satheesan, Congress leader

### PLUS

**Tamil Nadu:** Duopoly fatigue, cult worship and a silent anger have translated into a massive mandate for Vijay. The real test begins now: forming a stable government and turning promises into delivery

**West Bengal:** India-Bangladesh border did not merely frame the election; it shaped its outcome

**Kerala:** Amid an anti-Pinarayi Vijayan wave, V.D. Satheesan was among the few to read the dissent within the left, and convert it into an electoral strategy

**Assam:** The Congress is facing existential crisis

TVK chief Vijay with party supporters



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How the guerrilla fighters of Mizoram lived underground for 20 years with hope and humour, until the signing of the Mizo peace accord



Former Mizoram chief minister Zoramthanga during his guerrilla days

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SALIL BERA

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Navtej Sarna



The White House Correspondents' Association (WHCA) could have covered itself in glory had they the courage to cancel the dinner in protest against the media killings. But the Washington Beltway is insulated from war crimes and addicted to anaemic jokes. So they dine on.

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Hydrogen buses are pushing India's ambitious clean transport future

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The lasting legacy of Ratnam Pen Works that once impressed Mahatma Gandhi



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"Papa always preferred being in nature; rather than at fancy parties": Nitin Rai, on his father Raghu Rai

COVER IMAGING BINESH SREEDHARAN

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