



"Annu Kapoor Faces Backlash Over Derogatory Remarks on Tamannaah Bhatia's Appearance" Netizens slam the veteran actor, calling his comments inappropriate and disrespectful.

The Supreme Court on Friday declined to entertain writ petitions filed by individuals who were removed from the electoral rolls in West Bengal following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), even as they are currently serving as electoral officers in the ongoing Assembly elections.



Good morning
If you want to succeed in life, Then start from the will to succeed, That will get you to the right path of success, Always be prepared.

BRIEFS
Shah Slams Mamata Over Mosque Row

> Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday launched a sharp attack on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, alleging that the ruling Trinamool Congress had allowed construction of a mosque modelled on the Babri Masjid in the state. Addressing election rallies, Shah claimed that such a structure would not be allowed in Bengal as long as BJP workers remain active. He also accused the state government of failing on governance, law and order, and employment. The BJP leader alleged that infiltration and cattle smuggling were major concerns and warned of strict action if his party comes to power. He also promised improved security, reopening of industries, and welfare measures, including free healthcare for the poor.



3 Staff Suspended in Bengaluru CET Janeu Row

> Vikrama Vahini | B'lu
Three staff members of Krupanidhi College in Madiwala have been suspended after students appearing for the Common Entrance Test (CET) were allegedly asked to remove their sacred thread (janeu). The Karnataka Examination Authority has ordered an inquiry and written to the Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner seeking action, stating that clear instructions had been issued not to remove religious items. Officials said the act appears prima facie deliberate, despite prior guidelines. The incident has triggered political reactions, with opposition parties criticising the government, while authorities assured strict action against those found responsible.

Israel-Lebanon Ceasefire Extended by 3 Weeks

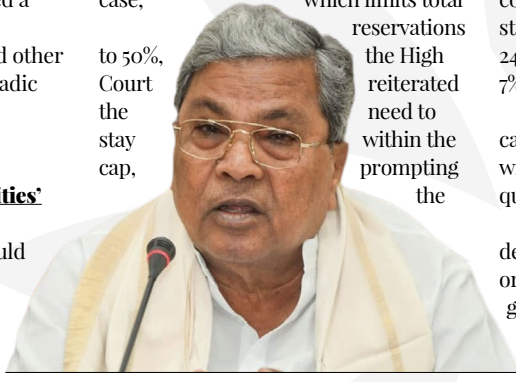
> Vikrama Vahini | Washington
The ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon has been extended by three weeks, U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Friday. The decision followed a high-level meeting at the Oval Office in the White House attended by Vice President J. D. Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and senior representatives from both Israel and Lebanon. Describing the talks as productive, Trump said the United States would continue to work with Lebanon to strengthen its security and counter threats from Hezbollah. He also expressed his intention to host Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun in the near future, though no specific dates were announced.

Cabinet Clears Internal Quota Decision

LEFT: 5.25%, RIGHT: 5.25% AND 4.5% RESERVATION FOR OTHER COMMUNITIES: CHIEF MINISTER SIDDARAMAIAH

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
In a significant move, the Karnataka Cabinet on Friday approved a revised internal reservation formula within Scheduled Castes (SC), allocating 5.25% each to Left and Right SC groups and 4.5% to other communities, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced. Addressing a press conference after the Cabinet meeting, the Chief Minister said the decision aims to ensure equitable distribution of benefits among all SC communities in line with legal guidelines. **Decision in Line with Court Mandate**
The revised formula follows the High Court's directive capping total reservation at 50%. Accordingly, the state has fixed 15% reservation for Scheduled Castes and 3% for Scheduled Tribes within the permissible limit. Earlier, under a 17% SC quota, the internal distribution was proposed at 6:6:5. However, with the revised 15% cap, the Cabinet has now adopted a 5.25:5.25:4.5 ratio for equitable allocation among Left, Right, and other SC communities, including nomadic groups such as Bovi, Lambani, Koracha, Korama, and 59 other communities. **'Equal Justice for All Communities'**
Siddaramaiah expressed confidence that the decision would ensure fair representation and justice for all communities. He said the new internal reservation structure would be

implemented in upcoming recruitment processes. He added that any allocation exceeding the 50% cap would be treated as backlog until a final verdict is delivered by higher courts. **Background and Legal Context**
The Chief Minister noted that the issue of internal reservation has been the subject of prolonged protests and discussions. He recalled that the decision was first broadly accepted during a major SC convention in Chitradurga, where representatives of over 100 SC communities supported internal quota distribution. Following the Supreme Court's observation that states can decide on internal reservation, the government constituted a one-man commission headed by retired Justice H.N. Nagamohan Das. Based on its report, the Cabinet had earlier proposed a 6:6:5 distribution under a 17% SC quota. However, citing the Indra Sawhney case, which limits total reservations to 50%, the High Court reiterated the need to stay cap, the



revised formula. **Technical Committee Review**
To address legal and administrative concerns, the government also formed a technical committee under the Chief Secretary. Based on its recommendations, the Cabinet finalized the present 5.25:5.25:4.5 structure within the permissible limit. **Recruitment Drive to Begin Soon**
The Chief Minister announced that recruitment for 56,432 government posts, as declared in the Budget, will begin soon with notifications to be issued shortly. He assured that the new internal reservation norms will be applied in these recruitments. Additionally, 20% of posts under Category C will be reserved for 59 nomadic communities, while currently, 4.5% reservation has been allocated to them under the revised structure. **Government Committed to Higher Quota**
Reaffirming the government's commitment, Siddaramaiah said the state remains dedicated to providing 24% total reservation (17% for SCs and 7% for STs). If courts permit exceeding the 50% cap in future, the earlier 6:6:5 formula will be reinstated, with the additional quota treated as backlog. He expressed confidence that the decision would be welcomed by Dalit organisations and various community groups, calling it a "historic and unanimous step" towards social justice.

7 AAP MPs Switch to BJP



> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
A major political development has shaken the parliamentary landscape, with seven Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) resigning from the party and announcing their decision to merge with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The move is being seen as a significant setback for AAP's strength in the Upper House. **Announcement of Merger with BJP**
Addressing a joint press conference, senior leaders including Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak, and Ashok Mittal confirmed that more than two-thirds of AAP's Rajya Sabha MPs have decided to invoke constitutional provisions to formally merge with the BJP. They stated that necessary documents had been signed and submitted to the Rajya Sabha Chairman earlier in the day. **List of MPs Who Joined the Merger**
The MPs who have reportedly left AAP and are joining the BJP include Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak, Ashok Mittal, Rajender Gupta, Harbhajan Singh, Swati Maliwal, and Vikramjit Singh Sahney. **Sharp Criticism of AAP Leadership**
Raghav Chadha, who played a key

role in the development, expressed strong dissatisfaction with the party's current direction. "The AAP, which I nurtured with my blood and sweat, has deviated from its principles, values and core morals. Now this party does not work in the interest of the nation but for personal benefits," Chadha alleged. He further stated that he had been distancing himself from party activities in recent years, adding that he did not wish to be associated with what he termed as "wrong practices" within the organisation. **Decision to Continue in Politics**
Chadha said the group had considered two options—either quitting politics altogether or continuing public service through what they described as "positive politics." He added that they chose the latter and decided to align with the BJP. **Impact on Parliamentary Balance**
According to Chadha, AAP currently has 10 Rajya Sabha MPs, and more than two-thirds of them have supported the merger, fulfilling constitutional requirements for such a move. The development is expected to significantly reduce AAP's presence and influence in the Upper House.

KARNATAKA HC QUESTIONS TUMAKURU LAND ALLOTMENT

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
The Karnataka High Court has brought the state government under scrutiny over alleged irregularities in the allotment of two acres of prime land in Tumakuru district, following a public interest litigation (PIL) that raises serious questions about transparency and procedure. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C. M. Poonacha issued notices to the state government, the Urban Development Department, and the Tumakuru district administration, seeking detailed responses to the allegations. The PIL was filed by Tumakuru-based businessman Gopalakrishnan N. N., who has alleged that government land valued at around ₹23 crore was



allotted for just ₹17 lakh to a trust linked to Congress circles. The petition describes the transaction as a significant loss to the public exchequer and alleges favouritism in the allocation process. At the centre of the controversy are multiple alleged irregularities. According to the petitioner, the land allocation process began with an application by the Rajiv Gandhi Urban and Rural Development Trust (RGURT), formed in 2023, seeking one acre of land. However, during administrative processing,

The Karnataka High Court has issued notices to the state government and key departments over alleged irregularities in the allotment of two acres of prime Tumakuru land, reportedly undervalued and granted to a trust linked to Congress circles. A PIL has raised concerns over procedural lapses, change in beneficiary entities, and violation of norms, prompting judicial scrutiny of the transaction.
the request was expanded to two acres. The plea further claims that the final allotment was made not to RGURT but to another entity, the Congress Bhavan Trust (CBT), which was registered only on August 6, 2025—after the alleged approval of the land grant. This discrepancy, the petitioner argues, raises serious concerns about the legality and timing of the decision. Additionally, the petitioner alleges that the land was allotted at just 5% of the guidance value, based on a Cabinet decision dated May 22, 2025, under the government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. It contends that the process bypassed standard norms such as public auction or market-based pricing, which are typically required for the disposal of valuable government land. The land in question is also stated to have been reserved for public utility purposes since 1942 and is reportedly involved in prior litigation, further complicating its eligibility for allotment.

Araghchi Pakistan Visit Fuels US-Iran Talks Hope

> Vikrama Vahini | Islamabad
Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi is set to visit Pakistan, Oman, and Russia, amid renewed speculation of progress in stalled US-Iran peace talks. Araghchi is expected in Islamabad on Friday for discussions with Pakistani leadership on bilateral and regional issues. His visit follows recent diplomatic exchanges in which he praised Pakistan's "constructive facilitation role." Reports suggest behind-the-scenes diplomatic activity involving US and regional stakeholders, with some sources indicating a possible breakthrough in efforts to restart ceasefire talks between Washington and Tehran, though no official confirmation has been made. The visit comes at a time of heightened tensions in the Middle East, including the Strait of Hormuz, as international actors push for renewed dialogue to ease regional instability. Pakistan's role as a regional mediator is expected to be a key focus during the talks. Officials are also likely to discuss energy security and maritime stability concerns. Diplomatic observers say the visit could help rebuild communication channels between Iran and Western powers.



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Editorial

Exam Protocols or Religious Overreach

Recent incidents during competitive examinations in Karnataka raise troubling questions about the balance between security protocols and respect for individual religious identity. Reports of students being asked to remove sacred threads (janivara), bangles, mangalsutra, and even wiping off kumkum point to a pattern that goes beyond routine frisking. While ensuring fairness and preventing malpractice—such as banning electronic devices—is both necessary and justified, equating harmless religious symbols with tools of cheating appears excessive and insensitive.

The issue becomes more concerning in light of prior judicial directions. The Karnataka High Court had reportedly clarified that sacred threads worn by Brahmin students should not be forcibly removed. Yet, recurring instances suggest either a lack of clear guidelines or poor implementation at examination centres. The argument that thin threads or small ornaments could aid cheating lacks practical grounding. Instead, such actions risk humiliating students, distracting them mentally, and adversely affecting their performance. The reported case of a girl being forced to cover her nose stud with a sticker further highlights an overzealous approach that borders on arbitrariness.

A fair examination system must inspire confidence, not fear or resentment. Authorities must issue uniform, transparent, and culturally sensitive guidelines that distinguish between legitimate security concerns and personal religious practices. Training invigilators to act with discretion and respect is equally essential. If such incidents continue unchecked, they may deepen social mistrust and undermine the very purpose of merit-based assessments. Upholding both integrity and individual dignity is not mutually exclusive—it is, in fact, fundamental to a just and progressive society.

-Editor

BENGALURU GETS ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY: BWSSB CHIEF

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Dr Ram Prasath Manohar, Chairman of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, on Thursday said that adequate drinking water supply is being ensured across the city, with contingency measures in place to address any disruptions during the summer.

The chairman visited areas along Kanakapura Road, including Banagirinagar and Bhuvaneshwarinagar, which had faced acute shortages last summer. During the visit, he interacted with residents and reviewed the current



water supply situation on the ground.

Residents expressed satisfaction over the improved supply this year,

attributing it to advance planning and infrastructure measures. Many highlighted the benefits of Cauvery water connections and the installation

of mini tanks, though some raised concerns over the lack of proper drainage facilities in certain localities.

Manohar said that, following directions from Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, strict precautionary measures have been implemented to ensure uninterrupted supply.

He added that daily monitoring is being carried out, and mobile Cauvery tankers and mini tanks are being effectively deployed to meet demand.

Senior officials, including Chief Engineer Venkatesh, accompanied him during the inspection visit.

Extension of Summer Special Train Services

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Summer Special Train Services Extended Between Yesvantpur and Bikaner

South Western Railway has decided to extend the services of the Yesvantpur-Bikaner summer special trains by operating six additional trips in each direction to manage the increased passenger demand during the holiday season.



Train No. 06543 Yesvantpur-Bikaner Weekly Special, which was earlier scheduled to run up to April 29, 2026, will now be extended to operate six additional trips from May 6, 2026 to June 10, 2026.

In the return direction, Train No. 06544 Bikaner-Yesvantpur Special, which was earlier scheduled up to May 2, 2026, will also be extended to run six additional trips from May 9, 2026 to June 13, 2026.

Railway officials stated that all timings, stoppages, and coach compositions of the extended services will remain unchanged. Passengers are advised to check updated schedules and make reservations in advance, as the additional trips are expected to witness heavy demand during the peak summer travel period.

Flood Damage Control Measures: K N Ramesh

Vikrama Vahini | B'luru

Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh on Thursday inspected several flood-prone areas within the jurisdiction of the civic body and directed officials to expedite permanent measures to reduce monsoon-related damage.

The inspection covered key vulnerable locations including parts of HSR Layout, JP Nagar Sindhooa Mantapa, Bellandur Lake surroundings, and other adjoining low-lying areas.

Senior officials from the engineering and disaster management departments accompanied the Commissioner during the field visit.

During the review in HSR Layout, Ramesh instructed officials to complete the pending drainage connectivity works at 12th Main Road in Sector 7, where waterlogging has been a recurring issue.

He directed that roadside drains be constructed and linked to the primary stormwater drain



along the Outer Ring Road without delay to ensure smooth water flow during heavy rainfall.

At BTM Layout near Jakkasandra, the Commissioner inspected the Koramangala Valley (K-100) primary stormwater drain. He noted that a parallel drain already exists, but highlighted concerns regarding a diversion channel leading towards Bellandur Lake, which is currently narrower than required.

He instructed the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to immediately take up necessary

works to widen and improve the inlet to the lake, warning that inadequate capacity could lead to flooding in upstream areas during intense rainfall. He also directed removal of silt from the K-100 valley drain.

The Commissioner further reviewed the KAS Officers' Layout, where officials confirmed that flood risk has been mitigated following the construction of a parallel drain connected to the Outer Ring Road stormwater system near the Central Silk Board metro station.

K.J. George Opens Dr Rajkumar Park in Kammanahalli

Vikrama vahini | Bengaluru

Energy Minister K. J. George inaugurated the Natasaarvabhovna Dr Rajkumar Park at Kammanahalli on Wednesday and dedicated a newly constructed open-air theatre to the public.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the park developed in the name of Dr Rajkumar would serve as a vibrant community space, adding that similar parks across the constituency would be renovated and beautified. He inspected the park facilities, reviewed cleanliness, and distributed wheelchairs to persons with disabilities along with



sports equipment to local athletes.

Later, the Minister visited the Hennur Biodiversity Park, where he assessed ongoing eco-friendly development works. He directed forest

officials to implement drip irrigation systems to improve greenery and suggested installing a name board for the park dedicated to B. Basavalingappa. As part of broader infrastructure

initiatives, George also launched multiple development projects, including road works, street lighting, drainage, and drinking water facilities across areas such as Kammanahalli, HBR Layout, Kadugondanahalli, Vinobha Nagar, Nagawara, Rashad Nagar, Hennur, and Basappa Layout.

Emphasising quality and timely completion, the Minister instructed officials and contractors to maintain high standards in execution. Addressing residents' concerns over water supply, he assured that tanker services would be arranged in areas facing shortages until permanent solutions are in place.

Hebbagilu Leads Karnataka Sangha Qatar

Vikrama Vahini | Doha

Subramanya Hebbagelu has assumed charge as the President of Karnataka Sangha Qatar for the 2026-2028 term, ushering in a new phase for the Kannada community in the Gulf nation.



Expressing gratitude, Hebbagelu said it is an honour to serve the community and thanked outgoing president Ravi Shetty and the previous management committee for their dedicated service and strong foundation. He also acknowledged the contributions of former presidents and community leaders who played a key role in strengthening the organisation over the years. He emphasised that his vision is to further strengthen community bonding, promote Kannada culture, and create meaningful opportunities for members. Karnataka Sangha Qatar, functioning under the aegis of the Indian Cultural Center and the Indian Embassy, continues to play a vital role in uniting Kannadigas and promoting cultural activities in Qatar.

CET Sacred Thread Row: Nikhil Condemns

Vikrama Vahini | Ramanagara

Nikhil Kumaraswamy has strongly condemned an incident at a CET examination centre where students were allegedly asked to remove their

sacred thread (janivara), calling it "deeply unfortunate and unacceptable."

Speaking to the media at B.V. Halli village in Channapattana

taluk, Kumaraswamy said similar incidents had been reported in the past as well, and questioned the recurrence of such actions. He termed the episode a "matter of shame" for the state government.

He alleged that at least five students were forced to remove their sacred thread and stressed that no one should engage in actions that create division or hurt the sentiments of students. He urged authorities to ensure that such incidents are not repeated and that students' cultural and religious sensitivities are respected.

NEWS

"Give Safety to Farmers' Lives, Not Guarantees"



Vikrama Vahini | Channapatna

Nikhil Kumaraswamy strongly criticised the state government over alleged neglect of farmers affected by elephant menace, saying that while the government speaks of "guarantees," it has failed to ensure protection for farmers' lives and crops. Strong Attack on State Government

Nikhil Kumaraswamy, President of the JDS Youth Wing, strongly criticised the state government over alleged neglect of farmers affected by repeated wild elephant attacks. He said that while the government talks about providing "guarantees," there is no assurance for farmers' lives or crops. He accused the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister of failing to show concern for the farming community.

Demand for Permanent Solution

Speaking after meeting protesting farmers at B.V. Halli village in Channapatna taluk, he said the elephant menace has been continuing in Ramanagara district for several years. He demanded a permanent solution, including the construction of 120 km of railway barricades to prevent human-wildlife conflict. He also said that the funds allocated by the government were inadequate to address the issue effectively.

Criticism Over Administrative Inaction

Nikhil Kumaraswamy further stated that local representatives were helpless in controlling the situation and alleged that even though the district is represented by the Deputy Chief Minister, farmers

have not received adequate protection. He added that the Forest Minister has not visited the affected area and has not taken the concerns of farmers seriously.

HD Kumaraswamy Assures Intervention

He said Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has assured that the Union Forest Minister will be brought to Karnataka to find a permanent solution to the issue. Nikhil Kumaraswamy also extended full support to the farmers' protest, calling it a justified struggle.

Farmers Withdraw Protest After Assurance

The overnight protest by farmers in B.V. Halli against the elephant menace came to an end following the intervention of Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

The Union Minister spoke directly to the protesting farmers via loudspeaker after being connected through Nikhil Kumaraswamy's mobile phone. He appealed to the farmers to withdraw their protest, saying their concerns were understood and would be addressed.

He assured that the Union Forest Minister would soon be brought to Karnataka for detailed discussions on the issue and stated that interim instructions had already been given to the Forest Department for immediate measures.

Respecting the minister's assurance, the farmers temporarily withdrew their agitation, bringing the overnight protest to a close.

Stop Forcing Janivara Removal in CET Exams: R. Ashok

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Opposition Leader R. Ashok on Friday strongly condemned incidents of students being allegedly forced to remove their Janivara (sacred thread) during CET examinations, claiming that such actions are taking place with the backing of the Congress government.

Speaking to reporters after meeting the Police Commissioner, Ashok demanded the immediate arrest of staff involved in the incident and strict action against those responsible.

Students Harassed, Religious Sentiments Hurt

Ashok alleged that a student from Padmanabhanagar constituency was forced by examination staff to remove his sacred thread despite explaining its religious significance. He said such actions cause mental distress to students, especially during crucial examinations. He further claimed that around 20 students faced similar issues, with at least six filing complaints.

"A student who scored 96% in PUC could not write the exam due to this harassment. Who will compensate for

this loss?" he questioned.

Delay in Police Action Alleged

The Opposition leader also accused the police of delaying action, alleging that complaints were not immediately registered and that the student's family had to wait for hours at the police station. He claimed that intervention was required before an FIR was issued.

Criticism of State Government

Targeting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Ashok alleged that the government has been "hurting Hindu sentiments" over the past three years.

He claimed that religious symbols such as Janivara, Kumkum, and other traditional practices are being targeted.

He further alleged selective enforcement of rules in examination centres and demanded a fair and impartial investigation into the incidents. Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya also reacted strongly to the issue, condemning the alleged actions and demanding accountability from the authorities. He said the matter reflects serious concerns about examination protocols and respect for religious practices.



SCIENCE & Technology

India AI Hiring Surges 59.5%: LinkedIn

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

AI engineering hiring in India has recorded a sharp 59.5 percent year-on-year growth, the highest among major global markets including the United States, United Kingdom, France and Germany, according to LinkedIn's AI Labor Market Report 2026. The report highlights that India's artificial intelligence hiring growth is no longer concentrated only in major technology hubs such as Bengaluru, as demand is now spreading to other cities as well.

While Bengaluru continues to remain a leading AI hub, Hyderabad has registered 51 percent growth in AI engineering hiring. Cities such as Vijayawada have also shown strong momentum with 45.5 percent growth, indicating that AI-related job opportunities are expanding beyond traditional metro centres. LinkedIn notes that companies are increasingly looking at emerging cities as demand for applied AI skills rises across industries.

The report further states that the growth is being driven by wider AI adoption across sectors. Large enterprises continue to account for a significant share of AI hiring as they invest in infrastructure, governance, and large-scale deployment of artificial intelligence systems. At the same time, small and medium-sized businesses are rapidly moving from experimentation to actual implementation of AI solutions, increasing demand for professionals who can build and deploy practical AI systems.

In the manufacturing sector, AI engineering talent has expanded fourfold in India, reaching 2.0 percent in 2025.

Bengaluru-Malda Special Train

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Special One-Way Summer Train from Bengaluru Cantonment to Malda Town on April 27 South Western Railway will operate a one-way special express train from Bengaluru Cantonment to Malda Town on April 27, 2026, to manage the extra passenger rush during the summer season. Train No. 06247 Bengaluru Cantonment-Malda Town One-Way Special Express will depart from Bengaluru Cantonment at 12:15 a.m. on April 27, 2026 (Monday) and will arrive at Malda Town at 7:30 p.m. on April 28 (Tuesday).

En route, the train will halt at Krishnarajapuram, Bangarapet, Jolarpettai, Katpadi, Renigunta, Gudur, Nellore, Ongole, Vijayawada, Rajahmundry, Kottavalasa, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam Road, Palasa, Brahmapur, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Bhadrak, Baleshwar, Kharagpur, Dankuni, Bardhaman, Bolpur (Shantiniketan), and Rampur Hat stations.



Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Shri D. K. Shivakumar met Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh in New Delhi and discussed the height restrictions being imposed around defence airports in Bengaluru. He raised concerns about the impact of these restrictions on development in several parts of the city and urged the Defence Minister to consider a balanced approach that ensures aviation safety while supporting Bengaluru's growth.

13 NEW VEHICLES FOR HASSAN ELEPHANT TASK FORCE

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

In a significant initiative to control rising human-wildlife conflict in Hassan district, 13 new vehicles were inducted into the district elephant task force on Thursday. Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre flagged off the vehicles at a programme held at Aranya Bhavan in Malleshwaram, Bengaluru.

The new fleet includes one Scorpio vehicle, two camper vehicles, and 10 two-wheelers. The minister personally flagged off the vehicles and also rode one of the bikes during the event.

The initiative aims to strengthen rapid response mechanisms to manage elephant movement in human settlements and agricultural areas, and guide them back into forest regions safely.

According to the minister, all vehicles are equipped with walkie-



talkies and public address systems. Task force personnel will use these vehicles for patrolling and will alert villagers through loudspeakers whenever elephants approach farmland or residential areas.

The vehicles have been provided to the Forest Department under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the minister said.

During the event, Eshwar Khandre also interacted with

members of the elephant task force and reviewed operational challenges in managing human-wildlife conflict.

Officials said the strengthened mobility and communication support is expected to improve early warning systems and reduce damage to life and property in elephant-prone regions.

The minister also stressed the need for coordinated efforts between forest staff and local communities to ensure timely reporting of elephant sightings.

"Environmental Damage in Name of Development Alarming"

Vikrama Vahini | Tumakuru

Chief Minister's Media Advisor K.V. Prabhakar has said that environmental destruction carried out in the name of development is a serious concern, adding that encroachment of traditional wildlife habitats is a major reason behind rising human-wildlife conflict.

journalists should act as voices of the people rather than merely informing them. He urged media students to understand both challenges and opportunities in environmental reporting and to highlight local environmental issues at national and international levels, thereby connecting local struggles with global movements.

He was speaking at the valedictory



session of the two-day "Environmental Journalism Celebration" seminar organised by the Siddhartha Media Study Centre in Tumakuru.

He said the programme was not merely academic but an important platform to remind the media of its

responsibility in the current era of environmental crisis.

Prabhakar stressed that perception and observation are crucial for journalists, as the way an event is seen and understood defines professional journalism.

Sambhrama Wins Gold at Youth Boxing Nationals

Vikrama Vahini | B'luru

Karnataka's promising young boxer Sambhrama emerged victorious at the 8th Youth National Boxing Championship, which concluded in Guwahati on Sunday.

Competing in the girls' 45-48 kg category Sambhrama secured the gold medal, delivering Karnataka's only medal in the tournament. With this win, she has also qualified for the Youth Asian Games to be held in Bali. In the final, the Bengaluru-based boxer dominated Haryana's Gunjan with a convincing 5-0 verdict. Gunjan is an Asian Youth silver medallist. Earlier, in the semi-final, Sambhrama defeated Manipur's Lanchalu Gangmei to secure her place in the title clash.

Sambhrama trains at the Inspire Institute of Sport in Ballari. While five other Karnataka boxers, including three boys, reached the quarterfinal stage in different weight categories, she was the only one to advance further and bring home a medal for the state.



Karnataka Fuel Supply Stable



Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Fuel supply in Karnataka remains stable and uninterrupted despite ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia, senior officials from Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) assured on Thursday.

At a joint press conference organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) Bengaluru and OMCs including Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL), and GAIL India, officials confirmed that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel, or LPG in the state.

Indian Oil Corporation Executive Director and Karnataka Nodal Officer Siddhartha Agarwal said the petroleum supply chain in Karnataka is robust and functioning smoothly, with refineries, depots, and retail outlets operating without disruption.

He added that the state's refinery capacity of 15 million

metric tonnes per annum is supporting steady fuel availability.

On LPG supply, officials said Karnataka continues to receive adequate stock, and the situation has stabilised after a temporary spike in bookings during March 2026 due to panic buying. Daily bookings, which had reached 3.75 lakh, have now reduced to around 3.06 lakh, with delivery timelines improving.

Agarwal also highlighted that digital adoption in LPG services has reached 94.5 percent, improving transparency through the Delivery Authentication Code system.

He said commercial LPG supply is being prioritised for essential services such as hospitals, schools, and transport systems as per government guidelines.

He further said that 5 kg LPG cylinders are proving beneficial for economically weaker sections and migrant workers, and awareness campaigns are being conducted across the state.

Anti-Hindu Bias Has Reached Lower Officials: Ravi Kumar

Vikrama Vahini | B'luru

Chief Whip of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Council N. Ravi Kumar on Friday alleged that what he termed the "innate anti-Hindu attitude" of the Congress government has now "percolated down to junior

officials and private educational institutions."

In a press statement, Ravi Kumar said officials at lower levels of the administration feel "protected" under the present government and



are therefore acting in a "heinous anti-Hindu act."

He further argued that the sacred thread worn by students does not interfere with the sanctity of examinations, and alleged that such actions are being carried out to "please political bosses."

ENTERTAINMENT

Centre Halts OTT Release of 'Lawrence of Punjab' Docuseries

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Centre has stopped the scheduled OTT release of the controversial docuseries "Lawrence of Punjab", which was set to premiere on April 27, 2026, following its intervention and directive to streaming platform Zee5.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) directed Zee5 not to release the series, a decision that was also placed before the Punjab and Haryana High Court. Following this development, the court disposed of a petition filed by Punjab Congress president and Ludhiana MP Amarinder Singh Raja Warring.

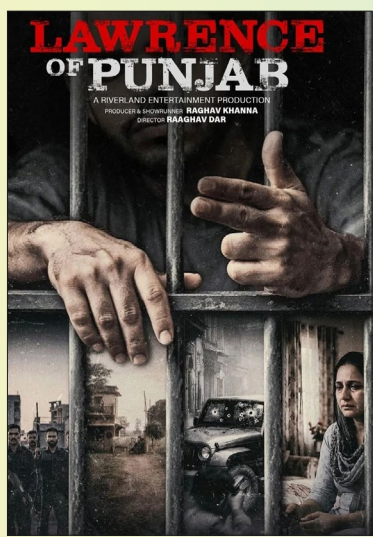
The issue came under scrutiny after the Punjab Police wrote to the Union Ministry seeking immediate restraint on the release of the docuseries, citing concerns over public order and possible social impact.

In an official communication shared on social media platform X, the Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) stated that the Special DGP Cyber Crime unit had taken up the matter with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on April 22, 2026, under relevant provisions of the Information Technology Act. Acting on the request, the ministry issued an advisory to Zee5 instructing it not to stream the content.

The DGP office also acknowledged the Centre's swift response, stating that the intervention would help ensure responsible content dissemination and safeguard social harmony in Punjab.

The docuseries had already triggered a political controversy in the state, with leaders from the BJP, Congress, and Shiromani Akali Dal demanding a ban on the series. They alleged that it could glorify gangster culture and potentially disturb peace and order.

According to reports, "Lawrence of Punjab" is based on jailed gangster



Lawrence Bishnoi and his alleged criminal network. The makers of the series, however, have stated that it is designed as a case study examining the rise of a criminal identity, shaped by factors such as student politics, ideology, music, and media influence, rather than glorifying criminal activities.

The matter continues to draw public and political attention, with debates intensifying over the regulation of sensitive content on OTT platforms and its impact on society.

Officials also indicated that the decision is part of a broader push to strengthen oversight of digital streaming content under existing IT Rules, especially in cases where narratives involve real-life criminal figures or have the potential to influence vulnerable audiences.

The Ministry is expected to review the content internally before allowing any future release, with possible edits or disclaimers being considered to ensure compliance with legal and ethical broadcasting standards.

'KD' Trailer Pulled Down; Fresh Trouble for KVN Productions

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The trailer of KD: The Devil, starring Dhruva Sarja, has been removed from YouTube just two days after its grand launch, creating fresh uncertainty around the film's release.

The trailer, unveiled at a star hotel in Bengaluru in the presence of the cast and crew, had received mixed responses from audiences. However, it is now no longer visible on YouTube, adding to a series of setbacks faced by KVN Productions.

In an official statement, the production house clarified that the trailer was taken down due to the inclusion of certain unapproved elements during the certification process. It said a revised version complying with guidelines will be uploaded soon and expressed regret over the lapse.

The film, directed by Prem, has already faced multiple issues, including earlier controversy over a song and reported censor-related concerns. Despite preparations for its scheduled release on April 30, the removal of the trailer has raised doubts among fans.

Apart from Dhruva Sarja, the film features actors like Reeshma Nanaiah, Ramesh Aravind, Sanjay Dutt, Shilpa Shetty, Ravichandran and P. Ravi Shankar in key roles.



'The Kerala Story 2' OTT Release Date Announced

A controversial sequel tackling sensitive socio-religious themes, The Kerala Story 2 heads to OTT after a moderate theatrical run, aiming to reach a wider audience and reignite debate.



Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The controversial film The Kerala Story 2: Goes Beyond is set to make its digital debut on ZEE5 on May 8, following its theatrical release in February this year.

The film, directed by Kamakhya Narayan Singh and produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah, had sparked considerable debate and opposition on social media ahead of its release. Despite the controversy, it managed a moderate run at the box office, reportedly earning around 350 crore.

Released in theatres on February 27, the film is arriving on OTT nearly 10 weeks later and will be available in multiple languages, aiming to reach a broader audience across regions.

The story revolves around three Hindu women who, after entering into relationships with Muslim men, allegedly get drawn into a network involving religious conversion. Similar

to its predecessor The Kerala Story, the sequel deals with sensitive socio-religious themes, though it did not generate the same scale of nationwide debate as the first installment.

Before its theatrical release, the film had faced legal hurdles, including a temporary stay order from the Kerala High Court. However, the makers secured clearance after legal proceedings, allowing the film to hit screens.

The cast includes Ulka Gupta, Aditi Bhatia, Aishwarya Ojha and Alka Amin in key roles.

The music for the film has been composed by Manan Shah and Rahul Suhas.

While the sequel did not replicate the massive commercial success of the original, it maintained steady performance in theatres. With its OTT release, the film is expected to attract fresh viewership and continue discussions around its subject matter.

BUSINESS

Adani Green Q4 Profit Jumps; Stock in Focus

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Adani Green Energy has reported a strong set of financial results for the fourth quarter of FY2025-26, with consolidated net profit rising over 34 percent year-on-year to ₹514 crore, compared to ₹383 crore in the same period last year.

According to a regulatory filing, the company's total income increased to ₹3,727 crore during the January-March quarter, up from ₹3,278 crore in the corresponding period of the previous financial year. For the full financial year 2025-26, the company posted a consolidated net profit of ₹1,087 crore, slightly lower than ₹2,001 crore in FY25, while total income rose to ₹13,819 crore from ₹12,422 crore.

Adani Green Energy shares closed at ₹1,227 apiece on April 24, 2026, and are expected to remain in focus when markets reopen on Monday. The stock has gained nearly 46 percent over the past one month.

On the operational front, revenue from power supply increased 16 percent year-on-year to ₹3,094 crore in Q4 FY26 from ₹2,666 crore in Q4 FY25. For the full year, revenue from power supply rose 22 percent to ₹11,602 crore. Energy sales also surged 34 percent year-on-year to 37,567 million units in FY26.

The company attributed its strong performance to robust greenfield capacity additions of 5.1 GW during FY26, implementation of advanced renewable energy technologies, and improved output from key projects in Khavda, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Executive Director Sagar Adani said the company commissioned 5.1 GW of greenfield capacity, taking total operational capacity to 19.3 GW. He added that the Khavda project, described as the world's largest renewable energy plant, continues to progress significantly. The company also highlighted the installation of 1.4 GWh battery storage capacity, one of the world's largest single-location BESS deployments, along with progress in its pumped hydro storage project in Andhra Pradesh.

Adani Green Energy is engaged in developing, owning, and operating utility-scale solar, wind, hybrid, and energy storage projects across India.

SPORTS

India Eyes Hosting 2038 Asian Games

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
India has expressed interest in hosting the 2038 Asian Games, marking a potential return of the continental sporting event to the country for the first time since 1982.

The proposal was discussed during the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) executive board meeting in Sanya, China. India has previously hosted the Asian Games twice—in 1951 and 1982, both in New Delhi.

With the 2026 edition scheduled in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, and the 2030 and 2034 Games already awarded to Doha and Riyadh respectively, India is now targeting the 2038 slot. The move aligns with the country's broader ambition to host the 2036 Olympic Games.

Indian Olympic Association President P. T. Usha recently met OCA chief Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani to discuss sports development and regional cooperation. The IOA said India highlighted its long-term vision to promote sports and Olympic values across Asia.

India has also been actively pursuing major global sporting events. The country is set to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad and the 2028 World Athletics Indoor Championships at the Kalinga Indoor Stadium.

CSK Confirms Key Update on MS Dhoni's IPL 2026 Role

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have provided an important update on MS Dhoni's role in IPL 2026, confirming that the veteran cricketer is yet to feature in the tournament due to a calf injury sustained ahead of the season.

Dhoni, who was expected to join the squad from the start, has not played any match so far in the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League. CSK have played seven matches, winning three and losing four, and currently stand fifth on the points table.

Despite a slow start, the five-time champions have shown signs of recovery in recent matches. However, the franchise believes Dhoni's return could be crucial at a decisive stage of the tournament as they aim to strengthen their playoff chances.

CSK coach Mike Hussey, speaking after the team's win over Mumbai Indians, said that when Dhoni returns, it will be a full-fledged comeback and not as an impact player. He indicated that Dhoni is expected to resume wicketkeeping duties, which could require adjustments in the playing XI.

Hussey explained that the main concern remains Dhoni's calf injury, particularly his ability to handle running between the wickets during long innings. He added that while Dhoni's wicketkeeping and batting skills remain intact, the focus is on ensuring full recovery and confidence in his fitness.

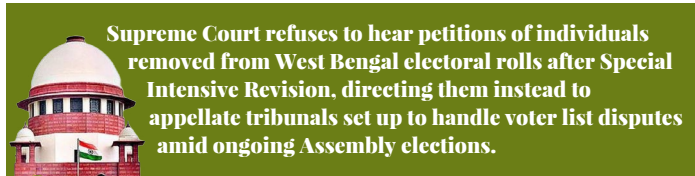
In recent days, visuals of Dhoni participating in practice sessions, including batting and wicketkeeping drills, have circulated on social media, raising hopes among fans about his return to competitive action soon.

SC REJECTS VOTER ROLL PLEAS

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday declined to entertain writ petitions filed by individuals who were removed from the electoral rolls in West Bengal following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), even as they are currently serving as electoral officers in the ongoing Assembly elections.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi directed the petitioners to approach the appellate tribunals constituted



under the court's earlier orders to hear challenges related to voter list deletions.

The petitioners, represented by Senior Advocate M.R. Shamshad, argued that several officials had their names arbitrarily struck off the voter list without any stated reason.

The Court noted that around 19 appellate tribunals have been made functional to hear such cases arising from objections against voter list revisions.

Earlier, on April 13, the Supreme Court had ruled that voters cleared by appellate tribunals at least two days before polling would be eligible to vote in the West Bengal Assembly elections.

The first phase of polling in West Bengal was held on Thursday, while the second phase is scheduled for April 29.

India's Seafood Exports Hit Record ₹72,000 Cr

> Vikrama Vahini | Chennai

India's seafood exports reached an all-time high of ₹72,325.82 crore (USD 8.28 billion) in FY 2025-26, with total volumes touching 19.32 lakh metric tonnes, according to provisional data released by the Marine Products Export Development Authority.

Frozen shrimp remained the key driver, contributing ₹47,973.13 crore (USD 5.51 billion) and accounting for over two-thirds of total export earnings. Shrimp exports grew by 4.6% in volume and 6.35% in value, maintaining their dominance in the export basket. The United States continued as the largest market, importing seafood worth USD 2.32 billion, though shipments declined due to tariff impacts. The dip was offset by strong growth in alternative markets, with China, the European Union, and Southeast Asia recording significant increases in both value and volume.

Exports to China rose by over 22% in value, while the



European Union and Southeast Asia posted gains of nearly 38% and 36% respectively. Japan also saw moderate growth, while West Asia recorded a slight decline amid regional instability. Among products, frozen fish, squid, cuttlefish, dried items, and live products showed positive trends, while chilled products declined. Surimi, fishmeal, and fish oil exports also improved.

Key ports including Visakhapatnam, JNPT, Kochi, Kolkata, and Chennai together accounted for nearly 64% of total export value, underlining their importance in India's marine export supply chain.

Meta, Microsoft Cuts Threaten 23,000 Jobs

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Tech giants Meta Platforms and Microsoft have announced workforce reductions and voluntary buyout programmes that could put up to 23,000 jobs at risk, as both companies seek to streamline operations and fund heavy investments in artificial intelligence.

Meta is planning to cut around 10 percent of its workforce, affecting approximately 8,000 employees starting May 20. The company said the move is part of efforts to improve efficiency and balance rising spending, particularly in AI development.

Microsoft, meanwhile, has introduced voluntary buyouts for thousands of its US employees, with about 7 percent of its US workforce eligible for the programme. This translates to roughly 8,750 employees, based on the company's reported staffing levels as of June 2025.

This marks the first time Microsoft has implemented buyouts on such a large scale. The company currently employs around 125,000 people in the United States.



Both companies are significantly increasing investments in artificial intelligence. Meta alone is expected to spend around USD 135 billion this year on AI-related infrastructure and development, nearly matching its total AI spending over the past three years combined.

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has repeatedly emphasized the company's goal of becoming a global leader in artificial intelligence, focusing on generative AI tools and large-scale machine learning systems.

Meta's Chief People Officer Janelle Gale said the layoffs are part of efforts to run the company more efficiently and balance new investments. She acknowledged the decision would impact employees who have made significant contributions to the organisation.

LPG, PNG Supply Stable; 81,000 Small Cylinders Sold

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The government on Friday said that fuel supply, energy distribution, maritime operations, and the safety of Indian citizens in West Asia remain stable despite ongoing geopolitical tensions, assuring that essential services across the country are functioning normally.

Addressing a briefing at the National Media Centre, officials from multiple ministries said coordinated efforts are underway to maintain energy security, ensure uninterrupted supply chains, and support Indian nationals abroad.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said supplies of LPG, petrol, and diesel are being closely monitored, with priority given to domestic

consumption and essential sectors. It added that over 81,000 five kg Free Trade LPG cylinders were sold across the country in the last 24 hours, taking total sales since April 1 to

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Government says fuel supply, energy distribution, maritime operations and citizen safety in West Asia remain stable despite geopolitical tensions
- LPG, petrol and diesel supply being closely monitored; priority given to domestic and essential sectors
- Over 81,000 five kg LPG cylinders sold in 24 hours; total sales since April 1 exceed 17.83 lakh
- No LPG stock-outs reported; digital booking nearly universal across the country
- Commercial LPG supply prioritised for hospitals, schools and key industries; alternative fuels like kerosene and coal being used to balance demand
- Expansion of PNG network continues: 5.27 lakh new connections activated since March, with more in pipeline
- Retail fuel outlets across India operating normally; refineries running at high capacity with adequate crude reserves
- All Indian seafarers in Gulf region reported safe; no incidents involving Indian-flagged ships in last 24 hours
- MEA operating 24x7 helplines and control room for citizen support and coordination abroad
- Air connectivity improving; over 12.38 lakh passengers travelled from West Asia to India since February

more than 17.83 lakh cylinders.

Officials said there have been no reports of LPG stock-outs at distributorships and that digital booking has reached near-

universal adoption. Commercial LPG supply has been rationalised for essential services such as hospitals, educational institutions, and key industries.

Ashok Slams CM Over 'Escape Formula' on Quota

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Opposition Leader R. Ashok on Friday alleged that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has adopted an "escape formula" in distributing internal reservation, which, he said, would not benefit any community.



Speaking to reporters, Ashok claimed the government had failed to effectively implement internal reservation, despite ongoing protests by youth seeking jobs and Scheduled communities demanding fair allocation.

He questioned the reduction of reservation from 17% to 15% and criticised the government for not consulting community leaders or stakeholders before taking the decision.

He added that the issue would continue to see protests as communities seek justice. He urged immediate review to ensure fairness and justice for all.

Opposition Moves to Remove CEC

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

A group of 73 Opposition Members of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha has submitted a notice of motion seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging "proven misbehaviour" and accusing him of undermining constitutional principles.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the notice was submitted to the Secretary General of the Upper House, calling for an address to the President of India regarding the CEC's removal.

The motion invokes provisions under Article 324(5) of the Constitution read with Article 124(4), along with relevant provisions of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, and the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.

ED Raids 12 Locations in AP Liquor Case

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday carried out search operations at 12 locations in connection with the alleged Andhra Pradesh liquor scam case.

According to officials, the raids were conducted at 11 locations in Hyderabad and one in Tirupati, targeting multiple individuals linked to the ongoing investigation.

In Tirupati, searches were carried out at the residential premises of Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy and Chevireddy Mohith Reddy. In Hyderabad, properties linked to several individuals, including Kessireddy Raja Shekhar Reddy, Dontireddy Vasudeva Reddy, Venumbaka Vijaya Sai Reddy, Sajjala Sreedhar Reddy, Talla Avinash Goud, Booneti Chanakya, Kalva Dhananjaya Reddy, Muppidi Avinash Reddy, Pellakuru Krishna Mohan Reddy, and Balaji Govindappa were searched.

Officials also confirmed that PLR Projects Pvt. Ltd., a company linked to PV Midhun Reddy, was covered under the search operation.

Further details regarding the investigation are awaited.

8,000 Russian Civilians Killed Since 2022: Envoy

> Vikrama Vahini | Moscow

More than 8,000 Russian civilians have been killed and nearly 20,000 injured in attacks by Ukrainian armed forces since February 2022, according to Rodion Miroshnik, Russia's special envoy on alleged crimes of the Kyiv regime.

Quoting official data, Miroshnik said the total number of civilian casualties has reached 27,872, including 8,012 deaths. He added that at least 1,725 civilians were injured in the first 90 days of 2026 alone.

The envoy also alleged that Ukrainian forces have fired over 400,000 rounds of ammunition at civilian targets in Russia since the conflict began, including more than 43,000 in early 2026. He accused Western countries and international bodies of ignoring or downplaying these figures and claimed that Kyiv is escalating attacks on civilian areas, worsening the humanitarian situation.

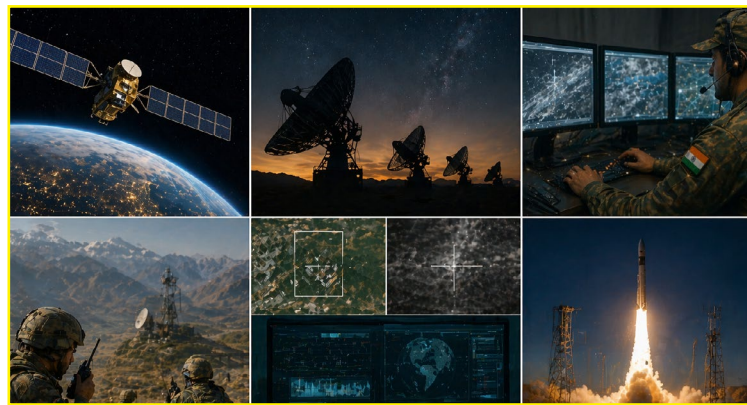
Army Flags Gaps in Space Intelligence After Op Sindoor

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Senior Indian Army commanders have highlighted urgent gaps in India's space-based intelligence capabilities and called for faster technological integration, stronger industry collaboration, and improved operational readiness, warning that future warfare will depend heavily on space-enabled systems.

Lessons from Operation Sindoor Highlight Capability Gaps

Director General of Military Intelligence Lt Gen RS Raman pointed to operational lessons from Operation Sindoor, stating that while multiple agencies provided inputs, there remains significant scope for improvement in satellite revisit rates, image resolution, and real-



time availability of intelligence, both during day and night operations.

He noted that even commercial satellite service providers were overwhelmed during sudden surges in demand, exposing limitations in

current capacity and stressing the need to expand data sources and systems.

Need for Integrated Tech Ecosystem in Defence

Lt Gen Raman underlined the

importance of integrating advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, cyber systems, and space capabilities.

Call for Industry Support and Long-Term Procurement

Highlighting the role of startups and private industry, Lt Gen Raman called for assured long-term government contracts instead of subsidies alone. He said India must ensure its platforms are globally competitive, warning that otherwise it would lead to "subsidising obsolescence."

He added that while indigenisation is important, immediate operational readiness must be prioritised through existing and hybrid satellite constellations.

Space Data as a Force Multiplier

Engineer-in-Chief Lt Gen Vikas Rohella described space-based data as a major force multiplier in modern military operations.

He said satellite imagery and Geographic Information System (GIS) tools have significantly reduced project costs, citing an example where estimated earthwork costs dropped from ₹240 crore to ₹80 crore using space data analysis.

Lessons from Global Conflicts

Referring to the Russia-Ukraine war, Lt Gen Rohella said frequent satellite imagery has proven critical in modern warfare, with over 70 percent of artillery accuracy improvements attributed to satellite-based targeting and navigation support.

Global Steel Output Falls; India Shines with Growth

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Global crude steel production declined by 4.2% in March 2026 to 159.9 million tonnes, according to the World Steel Association.

While China saw a 6.3% drop in output, India registered a strong 9.4% growth to 15.3 million tonnes, retaining its position as the second-largest producer.

The United States also recorded growth, while countries like Japan and Russia reported declines, reflecting a mixed global trend.

The data highlights a mixed global trend, with growth in select economies like India offsetting declines in others, particularly China, amid ongoing economic uncertainties.