



VIKRAMA VAHINI

INTERNATIONAL NURSE DAY

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Actress Trisha Krishnan is reportedly set to play the female lead in the much-awaited film starring Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan, directed by Nelson Dilipkumar. The big-budget project has already created huge excitement among fans across the country.

Emphasising that art is a vast ocean of learning and expression, S-VYASA University Professor Karuna Vijendra said that artists who effectively present their talent and connect with audiences can emerge as accomplished performers.



INSIDE

Good morning

Respect is the most important element of your personality it is like an investment whatever you give to others it will return you with profit.

BRIEFS

Supreme Court Launches AI Chatbot 'Su Sahay'

Vikrama Vahini | Delhi
Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Monday launched two major digital initiatives aimed at improving access to judicial services and streamlining case management across courts.

The Supreme Court introduced "Su Sahay," an AI-powered chatbot developed by the National Informatics Centre in collaboration with the Supreme Court Registry. The chatbot will assist citizens with front-end guidance and help users access essential Supreme Court services through a simplified interface.

The CJI also announced the "One Case One Data" initiative, which seeks to integrate case-related information from High Courts, district courts and taluka courts into a unified digital system.

The initiative is expected to improve coordination, simplify case tracking and strengthen digital case management across the judiciary.

India Plans to Expand LPG Storage Capacity

Vikrama Vahini | Delhi
India is planning to significantly expand its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) storage capacity to strengthen energy security amid rising global tensions, according to Sanjay Khanna, Chairman of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).

Khanna said the country currently holds only about 22 days of LPG reserves and is exploring multiple options to increase storage capacity within the next six months. He warned that India's heavy dependence on imports, especially from West Asia, makes it vulnerable to supply disruptions.

AIADMK Split Deepens Over Floor Leader Choice

Vikrama Vahini | Chennai
The rift within the AIADMK widened on Monday as party legislators split into two factions, each backing different leaders for the post of legislature party leader. While one group supported former Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, another faction led by former minister C Ve Shanmugam submitted a letter to Pro-tem Speaker M V Karuppiiah urging that S P Velumani be declared the AIADMK legislature party leader.

The divisions became evident during the first session of the 17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, highlighting ongoing internal differences within the party.

Party leaders' conflicting claims have deepened uncertainty over the official leadership structure in the Assembly.

Border fencing now a reality!

Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Monday announced a series of major decisions during the first Cabinet meeting of the newly formed government at Nabanna, including land transfer to the Border Security Force for border fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh border and implementation of the Ayushman Bharat health scheme in the state.

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Monday announced key decisions in the first Cabinet meeting of the newly formed government at Nabanna, including land transfer to the BSF for Indo-Bangladesh border fencing and rollout of the Ayushman Bharat health scheme in the state.

Addressing reporters after the meeting, Adhikari said the state government had initiated the process of transferring land to the Union Home Ministry for construction of border infrastructure.

He stated that the transfer would be completed within 45 days, after which the BSF would speed up fencing work to curb illegal infiltration along the

ED Arrests Ex-Minister Sujit Bose in Recruitment Scam

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday arrested former West Bengal minister and Trinamool Congress leader Sujit Bose in connection with the alleged multi-crore municipality recruitment scam.

According to the ED, Bose is accused of recommending around 150 candidates for various posts in the South Dum Dum Municipality in exchange

for monetary benefits. Investigators have also traced alleged proceeds of crime, including flats reportedly acquired as part of the deal for facilitating municipal jobs.

The agency further claimed that substantial cash deposits were found in bank accounts allegedly linked to Bose.

The former minister is expected to be produced before a special court on Tuesday morning.



border with Bangladesh.

The BJP government also announced that several Central welfare schemes, including Ayushman Bharat, Jan Arogya Yojana, Fasal Bima Yojana, Ujala Yojana and PM Shri, would now be implemented in the state.

The Cabinet also approved a relaxation of five years in the upper age limit for government recruitment, a move aimed at providing additional opportunities for unemployed youth in the state. Officials said the decision is

expected to benefit a large number of aspirants preparing for state government jobs.

Chief Minister Adhikari said the new government's focus would be on strengthening border security, improving healthcare access, and expanding welfare coverage through central schemes. He added that the decisions taken in the first Cabinet meeting reflect the administration's commitment to faster development and better service delivery in West Bengal.

PG2

Adhikari Allocates Ministerial Portfolios

Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata

Two days after the formation of the new government in West Bengal, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Monday allocated portfolios to his newly inducted council of ministers.

Adhikari, along with five other ministers, had taken oath on Saturday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and other senior BJP and NDA leaders.



According to the official notification, former state BJP president Dilip Ghosh has been given charge of the Panchayat and Rural Development Department, while Agnimitra Paul will handle Women and Child Development, Social Welfare, and Municipal and Urban Development departments.

Former Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nisith Pramanik has

been assigned Sports and North Bengal Development, Ashok Kirtania has been given Food and Supplies, and Khudiram Tudu will oversee Tribal Development.

The notification further stated that the remaining departments will be handled by the Chief Minister himself.

Party leaders said the allocation reflects an effort to balance administrative experience with regional and social representation.

PM Modi on Somnath: Patel Led Rebuild Amid Nehru Opposition

Vikrama Vahini | Gir Somnath

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the Somnath Temple stands as a "beacon of unwavering faith and India's eternal soul" as he addressed the Somnath Amrit Mahotsav at the historic shrine in Gujarat's Gir Somnath district.

Speaking at a public event near the temple, the Prime Minister recalled the repeated destruction and rebuilding of the Somnath Temple over centuries, saying it symbolises India's civilisational resilience and enduring devotion.

PM Modi also referred to the reconstruction of the temple after Independence, crediting Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for his decisive role in initiating the restoration process. He said Patel's vision was to restore Somnath as a symbol of India's cultural and spiritual heritage.

Referring to the early post-Independence period, PM Modi noted that efforts to rebuild the temple faced opposition, indirectly mentioning then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, while stating that Patel's determination ensured the temple's revival.

Recalling history, the Prime Minister said the reconstruction of Somnath was completed in 1951 after a trust was formed to oversee the restoration work initiated by Patel in 1947.

Before the public address, PM Modi performed a grand Mahapuja at the temple and described the experience as deeply emotional and spiritually uplifting.

The event also marked 75 years since the temple's restoration. The Indian Air Force's Surya Kiran aerobatic team performed a flypast, and a



commemorative stamp and coin were released to honour the temple's legacy. Somnath Temple, one of the 12 Jyotirlingas, is considered a major symbol of India's faith and heritage.

Rajegowda Retains Sringeri Seat; SC Status Quo Order

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Supreme Court has ruled that Congress MLA T.D. Rajegowda will continue as the elected representative of the Sringeri Assembly constituency in Chikkamagaluru district, stating that "democracy cannot be hijacked" in the process.

A bench comprising Justice P.V. Sanjay Kumar and Justice K. Vinod Chandran made strong oral observations while hearing Rajegowda's petition, criticising aspects of the election dispute involving BJP candidate D.N. Jeevaraj.

Despite a High Court

direction for recounting postal ballots that had initially indicated Jeevaraj as the winner, the Supreme Court ordered maintenance of status quo, effectively allowing Rajegowda to continue as MLA until further orders.

PG2

Modi Calls for Reduced Imports and Fuel Savings

Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to reduce dependence on imported goods, conserve fuel, and avoid unnecessary foreign exchange spending, saying collective efforts are vital amid global economic challenges. Speaking at the Sardardham hostel inauguration in Vadodara, he also encouraged the use of local products, public transport, and electric vehicles.



Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday reiterated his appeal to citizens to reduce dependence on imported goods, save fuel, and avoid unnecessary foreign exchange expenditure, saying every individual must contribute during challenging global economic conditions.

Speaking at an event in Vadodara during the inauguration of the Sardardham hostel complex, PM Modi said India spends a significant amount of foreign exchange on imports and stressed the need to minimise such dependence. He urged people to support the economy by using locally made products and cutting down on non-essential imports.

The Prime Minister also appealed to citizens to conserve fuel by opting for public transport and electric vehicles, and suggested postponing non-essential purchases such as gold.

Highlighting global



economic disruptions and rising import costs, PM Modi said even small efforts by citizens can collectively make a major impact on the national economy. "Every drop counts in filling a pot," he said, urging people to act responsibly.

During the visit, PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation for several development projects at the Sardardham campus, which includes hostel facilities for around 2,000 students along with a library, dining hall, and auditorium.

He also received the 'Sardar Gaurav Ratna' award at the event and praised various youth-focused initiatives launched at the campus, saying they would support nation-building and future careers of students.

The Prime Minister further highlighted recent electoral performances of the BJP in various states, noting public support for political stability and economic growth.

NO FUEL SHORTAGE, GOVT URGES CALM AMID CRISIS

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Central government on Monday assured citizens that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel, LPG or crude oil in the country despite rising tensions in West Asia, and urged people not to indulge in panic buying.

The clarification came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to citizens to conserve fuel and avoid unnecessary consumption in view of the global energy situation.

During an inter-ministerial briefing in New Delhi, officials stated that India has adequate fuel reserves and that the government has already taken

precautionary measures to minimise any disruption in domestic energy supplies.

Speaking at the briefing, Pankaj Sharma said India currently has sufficient stocks of crude oil, LPG, petrol and diesel.

She noted that nearly 90 percent of India's energy imports are linked to the affected West Asian region, but the government acted swiftly to diversify supply sources and stabilise fuel availability.

"There is no shortage. Adequate measures have been taken to ensure uninterrupted fuel supply across the country," she said, while urging citizens not to resort to panic purchases.

PG2

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Editorial

Can Vijay Be a Long-Term Political Alternative?

Sunday's election verdict in Tamil Nadu has marked the beginning of a new political chapter in the state. Actor-turned-politician Vijay has achieved what many considered impossible by leading his party, TVK, to power within just two years of its formation. For decades, Tamil Nadu politics revolved around the Dravidian giants — the DMK and AIADMK. However, the latest verdict clearly indicates that voters were looking for an alternative to the traditional political order. Widespread dissatisfaction over family-centric politics, internal factionalism, and governance issues appears to have weakened the dominance of the Dravidian parties. The decline of both the DMK and AIADMK after the eras of M. Karunanidhi and J. Jayalalithaa has become increasingly evident, and this election has accelerated that transition.

The DMK government also faced criticism over what many perceived as selective political and ideological positioning, particularly in matters involving religion and identity politics. Combined with anti-incumbency sentiment after a decade of governance, the ruling party struggled to retain public confidence. In contrast, Vijay successfully projected himself as a fresh political alternative capable of challenging the old establishment. Though the Assembly delivered a fractured mandate, TVK emerged as the single largest party and managed to secure support from Congress and other smaller parties to form the government. Vijay's rise demonstrates that public sentiment can rapidly reshape political equations when voters lose faith in conventional power structures.

However, electoral success is only the beginning of Vijay's real challenge. Cinema popularity may help win elections, but governance demands administrative ability, economic discipline, and political maturity. Tamil Nadu already faces financial pressures, and implementing the welfare promises and guarantees announced during the campaign will not be easy. Employment generation, industrial growth, infrastructure, education, and social harmony will test the new government's credibility. The coming years will determine whether Vijay can truly emerge as a long-term political alternative in Tamil Nadu or remain a product of public frustration against established parties. For now, his remarkable rise has undeniably transformed the political conversation in the state.

-Editor

Tiny Hands, Big Animation Dreams

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

A vibrant world of creativity, storytelling, and animation came alive as the Param Foundation concluded its unique "Stop Motion Animation" summer camp with a grand showcase event at Vivek Auditorium, Yuvapatha, Jayanagar, on Friday evening.

The three-week summer camp, which began on April 20, introduced children aged between 6 and 16 to the fascinating world of animation filmmaking. Far from being just a holiday activity, the camp enabled children to transform their imaginative ideas into animated short films using smartphones, DIY studios, and classic stop-motion techniques.

The programme concluded with the "Stop Motion Showcase-2026," where the animated films created by the children were screened before an audience of nearly 150 to 200 parents, guests, and art enthusiasts. The event highlighted the creative abilities of young participants, who blended storytelling, technology, and visual art into compelling short films.

Learning the Art of Animation

During the camp, children learned the fundamentals of animation through traditional



techniques such as flipbooks and zoetropes, helping them understand how still images create the illusion of movement. In later sessions, participants built their own DIY animation studios and used smartphones to produce professional-quality animated films.

The students were trained in storyboarding, character design, voice recording, frame-by-frame shooting, and editing, gaining hands-on experience in the complete filmmaking process. Organisers said the camp was designed to encourage creative thinking,

teamwork, and technical skills among children.

Guidance from Film Personalities

One of the major highlights of the camp was the involvement of noted personalities from the film and music industry. Renowned music director Raghu Dixit guided children on the importance of sound and mood in cinema, while singers M. D. Pallavi and Shwetha conducted sessions on voice modulation and dubbing for animated characters.

Film director Karthik Saragur spoke about visual storytelling, while Siddharth Bharath

inspired students by explaining the connection between art, creativity, and science in filmmaking.

Creative Stories with Social Themes

The showcase featured several original animated films created by the children using stop-motion, clay animation, and pixilation techniques. The young filmmakers gave modern twists to traditional Panchatantra stories by incorporating contemporary social issues such as misinformation and water pollution.

Woman Dies After Surgery, Tension at Hospital

Vikrama Vahini | Chintamani

Tension prevailed at the Government Mother and Child Hospital in Chintamani after relatives of a 23-year-old woman who allegedly died due to complications following a tubectomy surgery refused to accept the body and demanded justice.

The deceased, identified as Narmada from Batlahalli village in Chintamani taluk, had undergone a family planning surgery at the hospital on April 24. Family members alleged that

complications arose after her intestine was damaged during the procedure.

According to the family, doctors later conducted another surgery and discharged her on May 7 after assuring them that her condition was stable.

However, Narmada reportedly developed severe pain after returning home and was rushed back to the hospital, where she was declared dead.

Her husband Obalesh accused the doctors of

negligence and claimed the family had been misled about her health condition.

Hospital Administrative Officer Dr. Santosh said the complication was treated immediately and that she was discharged only after recovery. He stated that the exact cause of death would be confirmed after the postmortem report. Tahsildar Sudarshan Yadav visited the hospital and held discussions with the family members and hospital authorities regarding the incident.

Rajegowda Retains Sringeri Seat; SC Status Quo Order

From PG

The court observed that democracy cannot be undermined through procedural irregularities and directed parties to maintain the existing position prior to recounting. Rajegowda had challenged the High Court order through his counsel Tushar Giri, alleging irregular inclusion of 562 valid votes in his favour during the counting process.

Meanwhile, Jeevaraj had earlier been declared the winner following recounting, and had even taken oath as MLA on May 6. The legal battle over the election result continues, with allegations and counter-allegations pending before various judicial forums. The Supreme Court has directed all parties to maintain status quo until the final disposal of the case, ensuring no further changes in representation for the constituency.

NO FUEL SHORTAGE, GOVT URGES CALM AMID CRISIS

From PG

Officials clarified that the Prime Minister's appeal was aimed at encouraging energy conservation and economic stability during a period of global uncertainty rather than indicating any immediate shortage.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chaired the fifth meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group to review possible risks to fuel supplies and availability of essential commodities arising from the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

Appealing for calm, Rajnath Singh said the government was taking all necessary steps to prevent any disruption in supply chains. He added that the Prime Minister's call to save fuel was intended to encourage public participation in strengthening India's energy security and self-reliance. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India is exploring multiple energy sourcing options from various countries to ensure long-term supply security.

K'taka Rolls Out New Liquor Tax Regime

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

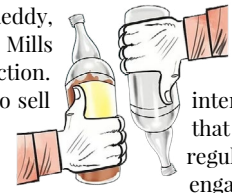
Farmers in B Bommasandra panchayat of Gauribidanuru taluk in Chikkaballapura district are getting better prices through a direct marketing initiative supported by senior bureaucrat Varaprasad Reddy, after the closure of Gowri Sugar Mills led them to shift to jaggery production.

Earlier, farmers were forced to sell jaggery at lower rates due to middlemen. To address this, a local market was organised under the "Gowri Sihi" brand, enabling direct sales to consumers at Kote School grounds.

The initiative saw strong response, with over 2.5 tonnes of jaggery sold within hours

at higher rates. Farmers are now also marketing millets, bananas and tamarind under local brands, improving rural income and market access.

Farmers said the initiative has helped them regain confidence by ensuring fair pricing and eliminating exploitation by intermediaries. Many expressed hope that such markets would be held regularly to sustain direct consumer engagement. Officials said the model is being studied for expansion to other rural areas as a way to strengthen farmer producer systems and promote self-reliant village economies through direct-to-consumer supply chains.



Border fencing now a reality!

From PG

Senior health department officials have been directed to coordinate with the Union Health Ministry to complete formalities for the rollout of Ayushman Bharat at the earliest.

In a major relief for job aspirants, the Cabinet approved a five-year relaxation in the upper age limit for state government recruitment. The Chief Minister said the move was aimed at addressing unemployment and expanding opportunities for youth.

The government further announced plans to strengthen administrative reforms by aligning state procedures with provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and connecting IAS officers with centralised training mechanisms.

Adhikari accused the previous Mamata Banerjee-led government of delaying census-related procedures and said the new administration had formally initiated the long-pending census process. He also announced that a fact-finding committee would examine alleged delays in implementing Union Home Ministry directives.

The Chief Minister assured that existing welfare schemes would continue but said stricter verification systems would be introduced to improve transparency and prevent misuse of benefits. The newly formed government also promised support to families of BJP workers allegedly killed in political violence and warned of strict action against those involved in such incidents.

NEWS

Ravi Kumar Backs PM's Fuel-Saving Call

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka Legislative Council Opposition Chief Whip N. Ravi Kumar on Monday welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to citizens to conserve fuel and adopt austerity measures in view of the international fuel crisis triggered by the ongoing Gulf conflict.



In a statement, Ravi Kumar said the current global situation demands responsible decisions and disciplined public response. "Tough conditions need tough decisions. Extraordinary situations require extraordinary responses."

The Prime Minister is absolutely right in urging people to use fuel judiciously and spend cautiously," he said.

He noted that the ongoing conflict involving the United States, Iran and Israel has severely

impacted global fuel markets, leading to uncertainty in petroleum supply and pricing.

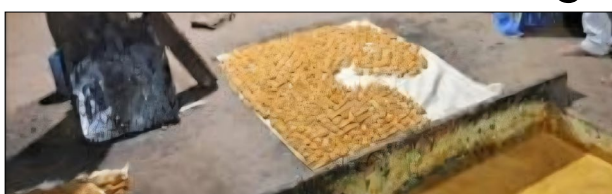
Ravi Kumar asserted that India has played no role in triggering the West Asian crisis and has no direct control over the geopolitical developments. However, he praised the Union government for ensuring uninterrupted fuel supply through effective international diplomacy and strategic planning. He further appealed to citizens across the country to positively respond to the Prime Minister's call and voluntarily adopt austerity measures in the larger national interest.

According to Ravi Kumar, conserving fuel and reducing unnecessary expenditure at this stage would help the country effectively manage the economic challenges arising from the global energy crisis.

Local Market Lifts Farmers' Earnings

Vikrama Vahini | Gauribidanuru

Farmers in B Bommasandra panchayat of Gauribidanuru taluk in Chikkaballapura district are earning better returns through a new direct marketing initiative supported by senior bureaucrat Varaprasad Reddy.



The move comes after the closure of Gowri Sugar Mills, which had forced many sugarcane growers to shift to jaggery production through cooperative units known as "Alemane."

Earlier, farmers were struggling to get fair prices

and were forced to sell a 60-kg jaggery bag for around ₹3,600 due to the presence of middlemen. To resolve this, a local market was organised at Kote School grounds under the brand "Gowri Sihi," enabling farmers to sell directly to consumers.

The initiative saw strong response, with over 2.5 metric tonnes of jaggery sold within two hours at around ₹4,800 per 60-kg bag. Encouraged by

the success, farmers have also begun marketing millets, bananas and tamarind under brands like "Gowri Siri" and "Gowri Phala," ensuring better income and direct market access.

Officials said the model is being considered for replication in other rural regions to strengthen farmer-led supply chains and reduce dependency on intermediaries.

NEED MORE PROMISING YOUNG ARTISTS



Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Emphasising that art is a vast ocean of learning and expression, S-VYASA University Professor Karuna Vijendra said that artists who effectively present their talent and connect with audiences can emerge as accomplished performers.

She was speaking as the chief guest at the "Udayanmukha Pratibhe - Charvi Sri Reddy Rangarohana" programme organised by Sai Arts International at Sri Krishnadevaraya Kalamandira in Vyalikaval Park Extension, Malleswaram.

Prof. Karuna Vijendra said confidence is essential for young artists before stepping onto the stage. "If artists believe in their learning and presentation, their performance becomes meaningful and impactful. More such promising artists should emerge," she said.

She praised young dancer Charvi Sri Reddy, daughter of R.K. Shilpa and Channa Keshava Reddy, who is training under noted Vidushi Venkatesh, and said the youngster has a bright future in the field of classical dance.

Speaking on the occasion, Karnataka classical vocalist Vidwan Vinay Sharma urged students not

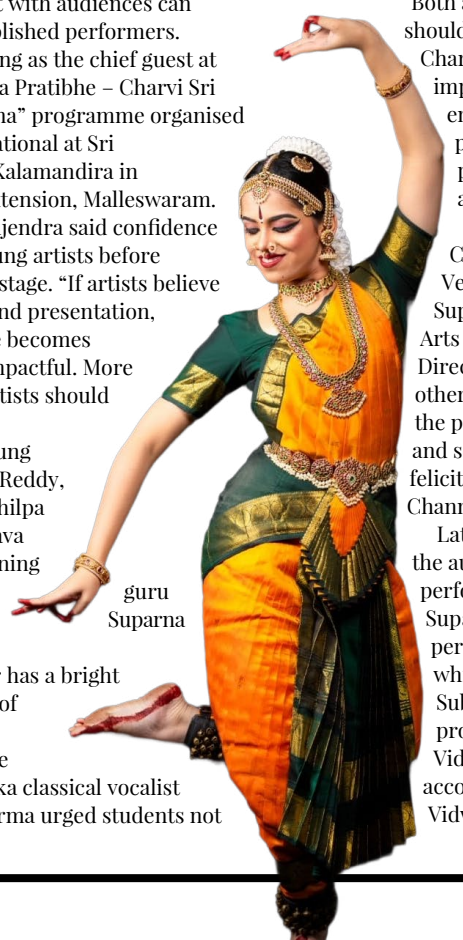
to distance themselves from music and dance education in the name of academic studies. He said arts complement formal education and help in building a balanced and strong personality.

"Both academics and arts should go hand in hand. Charvi's performance was impressive and

entertaining. She has the potential to grow into a promising artist," he added.

H.N. Engineering College Chairman Venkata Shivareddy, Guru Suparna Venkatesh, Sai Arts International Technical Director Sai Venkatesh and others were present during the programme. The guests and senior artistes were felicitated by R.K. Shilpa and Channa Keshava Reddy.

Later, Charvi enthralled the audience with her dance performance. Vidushi Dr. Suparna Venkatesh performed nattuvanga, while Vidwan Bala Subrahmanya Sharma provided vocal support. Vidwan Raghu Simha accompanied on flute and Vidwan Prashanth on veena.



SCIENCE & Technology

PM Salutes Scientists on National Technology Day

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday greeted the nation on National Technology Day and hailed Indian scientists for their contribution to the country's scientific and technological progress.

Recalling the successful Pokhran nuclear tests conducted on May 11, 1998, during the government of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Modi described the event as a landmark moment in India's scientific journey and a symbol of the nation's commitment to self-reliance.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister said the dedication and hard work of Indian scientists had demonstrated the country's scientific excellence before the world.

Emphasising the role of innovation in national development, Modi said technology has become a major pillar in building an "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" and is helping expand opportunities across sectors. He added that the government remains committed to promoting research, empowering talent and encouraging solutions that support national growth.

National Technology Day is observed every year on May 11 to commemorate Operation Shakti, the series of nuclear tests carried out in Pokhran, Rajasthan, in 1998. The day also celebrates India's achievements in science, innovation and technology. The Centre has in recent years intensified its focus on digital infrastructure, semiconductor manufacturing, artificial intelligence, indigenous production and startup-led innovation as part of its self-reliance mission.

GOVT DROPS PROBE IN FAKE TEACHERS' SALARY SCAM

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

RTI documents have revealed that the Karnataka government allegedly dropped departmental inquiries against several officials accused in the fake teachers' salary scam in Ramanagara district and later cleared them of charges.

The scam involved fraudulent salary payments to fake teachers through the HRMS system between 2011 and 2014, causing losses to the state exchequer.

Documents accessed by The File show that the Law Department had advised the School Education and Literacy Department to initiate fresh disciplinary proceedings against accused officials, including former education officer M.P. Madegowda and others linked to assistant teachers' recruitment irregularities.

The records indicate that disciplinary action was initiated

RTI disclosures have sparked controversy in Karnataka after departmental inquiries against officials accused in the fake teachers' salary scam were allegedly dropped despite legal advice for fresh action. The CID probe into recruitment irregularities and fraudulent HRMS salary payments across multiple districts is still ongoing.

against 10 accused officials.

While inquiries against two officials were conducted at the Commissioner's level, proceedings against Group-A officers were handled by the government. Four officials had retired before completion of the inquiry, while the remaining four were eventually exonerated.

In one related case, First Division Assistant D.V. Manjumath was dismissed from service.

The Karnataka Administrative Tribunal (KAT) and later the Karnataka High Court upheld the dismissal order.

The controversy deepened after

internal departmental notes reportedly proposed reinstating accused officials such as M.P. Madegowda, Geetha and B.K.S. Vardhan soon after they obtained bail, despite the CID investigation continuing.

Officials allegedly argued that reinstatement would not affect the probe and was necessary in "administrative interest."

The CID continues to investigate recruitment irregularities across districts including Kolar, Vijayapura and Tumakuru. Several candidates and officials have already been arrested in connection with the alleged scam.

Karnataka Govt Raises DA by 1.5%

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

The Karnataka government has announced a 1.50 percent increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for state government employees.

According to the official order, the revised DA will be implemented retrospectively from January 1, 2026. The allowance has been increased from the existing 14.25 percent of the basic salary to 15.75 percent.

The decision comes amid repeated demands from government employees for constitution of a new pay commission and revision of salary structures. Employee associations had recently appealed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking wage revision measures.

The Karnataka State Government Employees' Association welcomed the government's decision. Association president C.S. Shadakshari expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar and senior Finance Department officials for approving the DA hike.

Fake Cop Gang Busted in Delhi

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

Delhi Police have busted a gang of fake police officers accused of cheating a Rajasthan-based man by posing as policemen and robbing him of cash in the national capital.

Delhi Police have busted a fake police gang involved in robbing a Rajasthan-based man by impersonating officers in the national capital. Two main accused and a juvenile were arrested from Haryana, with ₹33.5 lakh cash, mobile phones, a bag, and a motorcycle recovered.

The Outer District Police arrested two accused, identified as Vinay alias Monty and Kuldeep, along with a juvenile from Haryana. Police recovered ₹33.5 lakh in cash, two mobile phones, a bag and a motorcycle allegedly used in the crime.

According to Deputy

Commissioner of Police Vikram Singh, the accused intercepted the complainant near Pitampura while pretending to be police officials.

On the pretext of checking the bag, they allegedly took away the cash and escaped on a motorcycle.

Police said the complainant, a resident of Rajasthan, had come to Delhi with a friend to deliver cash on behalf of his employer.

Based on CCTV footage, technical surveillance and secret information, police teams traced the accused to Gohana in Sonapat district of Haryana and arrested them on May 10.

Police recovered ₹33.5 lakh from the accused along with two Apple iPhone 17 mobile phones allegedly purchased using the cheated money.

Delhi Police said further investigation is in progress to trace other accused involved in the case and recover the remaining amount.

Guarantee Panels' Honorarium Pending in GBA

Honorariums for committees implementing the state government's guarantee schemes under the Greater Bengaluru Authority have reportedly been pending for nearly a year, leading to discontent among members.

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Allegations have surfaced that honorariums for committees formed to implement the state government's flagship guarantee schemes have not been paid for the past one year, particularly within the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits.

According to reports, chairpersons and members of these committees have been awaiting payments since June last year. Opposition parties have alleged that the Congress government created posts for its workers under the guise of guarantee scheme implementation and is now unable to release funds due to alleged financial strain in the GBA.

Officially, the implementation structure was expanded from a party-level setup into government committees with appointments at various levels, including chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, and members, who were earlier receiving monthly honorariums. Reports suggest that over ₹17.30 lakh was being spent monthly on these committees, with chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, constituency heads, and members receiving fixed payments. However, the non-payment of dues for the past year has triggered dissatisfaction among committee members. It is also alleged that the annual expenditure on these committees, including administrative and operational costs, exceeds ₹2 crore.

HC Orders Reward for 72 Veerappan STF Personnel

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

The Karnataka High Court has directed the state government and the Forest Department to release the promised reward amount within three months to 72 personnel who were part of the Special Task Force (STF) operations against forest brigand Veerappan.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadam, in an order issued on April 21, instructed the government to distribute the benefits in accordance with the Government Order dated July 8, 2005.

The beneficiaries include retired forest guards, watchers, drivers, deputy conservators, assistant forest guards and range forest officers who participated in STF operations to capture Veerappan, who was killed in an encounter on October 18, 2004.

The court observed that the petitioners were equally entitled to the reward benefits already extended to others involved in the operation. It stated that denying the reward to the petitioners would amount to perpetuating an illegality that had already been corrected through judicial intervention.

The High Court further remarked that once relief had been granted in similar cases, the government had a constitutional responsibility to extend the same benefits to similarly placed



The Karnataka High Court has directed the state government to release pending reward amounts within three months to 72 STF personnel who participated in anti-Veerappan operations. The court criticised the government for denying benefits to several officers despite years of risky service in the mission against the forest brigand.

personnel without forcing them to approach the court separately.

Referring to an earlier coordinate bench order dated August 12, 2024, the court noted that there could be no discrimination between those who had already received compensation and the present petitioners. Earlier, the High Court had directed release of compensation to 17 personnel in a similar case.

The court had previously criticised

the state government for restricting rewards to only a few personnel despite the fact that many officers and staff had risked their lives over several years in the anti-Veerappan operations.

The judgment observed that Veerappan was not eliminated by a handful of personnel on a single day, but through years of coordinated efforts, intelligence gathering and dangerous field operations by numerous STF members.

The court also referred to recommendations made by the Director General of Police on January 24, 2005, proposing rewards for STF personnel involved in the mission. The state government accepted the proposal on July 8, 2005.

Under the reward scheme, personnel who served in the STF for more than three years were to receive ₹3 lakh, those serving between two and three years ₹2 lakh, personnel serving between one and two years ₹1 lakh, and those serving for less than one year ₹50,000.

The government had earlier argued that only six STF personnel who were present during Veerappan's killing were eligible for the reward due to limited funds. Rejecting the contention, the High Court termed the government's stand discriminatory and insensitive.

INDIA, US GEAR UP FOR FRESH TRADE TALKS

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

India is preparing for the next round of trade negotiations with the United States under the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement framework, with a US delegation expected to visit India soon.

Officials said discussions are focused on market access, customs procedures, digital trade, investment and economic cooperation, though dates for the talks are yet to be finalised. The Centre also clarified that there



is no proposal to increase import duties on gold and silver despite speculation following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent appeal to avoid non-

essential gold purchases.

Meanwhile, India has opposed allegations raised by the US Trade Representative regarding unfair production practices and urged closure of the investigation launched against several trading partners, including India.

The developments come amid ongoing efforts by both countries to finalise an interim trade agreement and strengthen bilateral economic ties.

ENTERTAINMENT

Dhurandhar Scripts ₹3100 Cr Box Office History

► **Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai**

The Dhurandhar franchise has scripted a new chapter in the history of Indian cinema by becoming the first Indian movie franchise to cross the remarkable ₹3100 crore mark at the worldwide box office. With its massive theatrical success and global popularity, the franchise has emerged as one of the biggest cinematic achievements ever produced in India.

The first installment of Dhurandhar, directed by acclaimed filmmaker Aditya Dhar, was initially released with moderate expectations. However, the film witnessed an extraordinary surge in collections due to strong word-of-mouth appreciation from audiences across the globe. The action-packed entertainer went on to deliver a phenomenal performance at the box office and collected an impressive ₹1354.84 crore worldwide, surprising trade analysts and cinema lovers alike. Follo wing the

unprecedented success of the first film, anticipation surrounding Dhurandhar 2 reached exceptional levels, turning the sequel into one of Bollywood's biggest event films.

Riding high on the goodwill created by its predecessor, the second installment opened to record-breaking collections and continued its dream run in theatres for more than 50 days.

According to the latest box-office estimates, Dhurandhar 2 has earned a staggering ₹1831.38 crore globally by day 52 of its theatrical run. Combined with the earnings of the first film, the total worldwide gross collection of the Dhurandhar franchise now stands at an astounding ₹3186.22 crore.

With this milestone, Dhurandhar has officially become the only Indian movie franchise to surpass the ₹3100 crore mark globally.

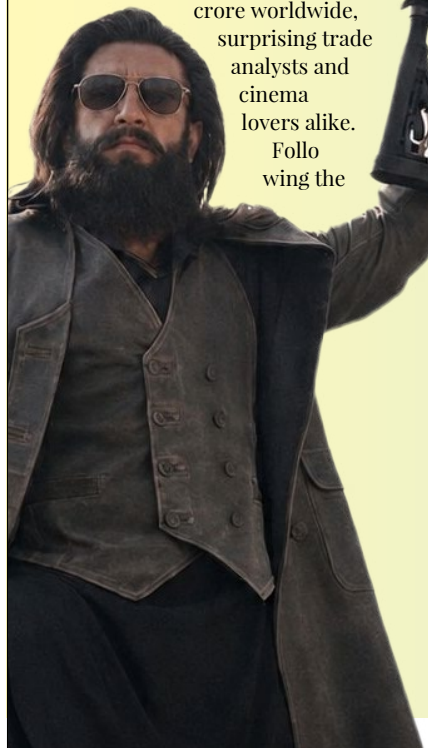
The franchise has comfortably overtaken several iconic Indian film series in terms of worldwide collections.

The second-highest Indian franchise remains Baahubali, which reportedly grossed around ₹2450 crore worldwide.

Produced under the banners of Jio Studios and B62 Studios, the Dhurandhar franchise has been mounted on an estimated combined budget of ₹450 crore. The films were produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Aditya Dhar, and Lokesh Dhar.

The star-studded cast includes Ranveer Singh, Akshaye Khanna, Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Rampal, R. Madhavan, Rakesh Bedi, Sara Arjun, Gaurav Gera, and Danish Pandor in pivotal roles.

Trade experts believe the franchise's success reflects the growing global reach of Indian cinema and the audience's increasing appetite for large-scale cinematic spectacles. With its historic earnings and widespread acclaim, Dhurandhar has firmly established itself as a landmark franchise in Indian film history.



ALLU CINEMAS ADOPTS SOLAR POWER

► **Vikrama Vahini | Hyderabad**

Allu Cinemas has partnered with Freyr Energy to install a 727kW solar power system at its Kokapet cineplex in Hyderabad with an investment of ₹2.27 crore.

The solar project, one of the largest renewable energy installations for a cinema complex in the region, is expected to meet nearly 60 per cent of the theatre's energy requirements and drastically reduce annual electricity expenses from about ₹52 lakh to nearly ₹5 lakh.

According to the companies, the project is expected to generate annual savings of around ₹77-80 lakh while reducing nearly 750 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year.

The solar facility has also



been equipped with an automated high-pressure sprinkler system for cleaning solar panels to ensure better efficiency and lower maintenance requirements.

Speaking on the initiative, Allu Aravind said the move was aimed at integrating clean energy into cinema operations and improving long-term operational efficiency.

Radhika Choudary said solar adoption was becoming increasingly important for energy-intensive sectors such as movie theatres due to rising power costs and sustainability goals. The collaboration is expected to encourage wider adoption of renewable energy solutions across commercial and entertainment infrastructure in Hyderabad.

Kiara Opens Up on Emotional Postpartum Journey

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

Bollywood actress Kiara Advani became emotional while speaking about her postpartum journey, motherhood and personal transformation during a recent podcast interview.

The actress, who welcomed her daughter Saraayah Malhotra in 2025 with actor Sidharth Malhotra, said motherhood had completely changed her personality and outlook on life.

Speaking candidly about postpartum challenges, Kiara said the experience affected her both emotionally and physically and stressed the need for greater public discussion around postpartum health.

She revealed that the phase brought a major "identity shift" and taught her the importance of self-care, emotional balance and setting personal boundaries.

Kiara also praised Sidharth Malhotra for supporting her during difficult moments after childbirth. She recalled how he regularly took

her out for late-night drives on the advice of their daughter's pediatrician to help her cope emotionally.

Talking about parenting, the actress said she wants her daughter to grow up confident, curious and emotionally secure enough to freely communicate with her parents without fear.

Kiara's honest remarks on postpartum struggles and motherhood have received widespread appreciation on social media for highlighting mental and emotional health challenges faced by new mothers.



BUSINESS

Jewellery Stocks Slide After PM's Gold Appeal

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

Shares of major jewellery companies fell sharply on Monday after Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to citizens to avoid unnecessary gold purchases for one year and adopt austerity measures amid rising global uncertainty linked to the West Asia crisis.

In a message aimed at conserving foreign exchange reserves and reducing import pressure, the Prime Minister urged people to avoid non-essential foreign travel, destination weddings abroad and excessive fuel consumption.

He also encouraged citizens to use public transport, adopt work-from-home practices where possible and reduce the use of edible oil and chemical fertilisers.

Following the appeal, shares of leading jewellery firms witnessed heavy selling in early trade.

Titan Company fell nearly 7 per cent on the Nifty, while Kalyan Jewellers and Senco Gold dropped around 9 per cent each on the BSE. PC Jeweller also declined by nearly 5 per cent.

The Prime Minister said India must conserve foreign exchange reserves amid rising international prices triggered by tensions in the Middle East.

Referring to practices adopted during the Covid-19 pandemic, he asked citizens to resume virtual meetings, video conferencing and remote working wherever feasible.

Meanwhile, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi criticised the Prime Minister's remarks, calling them a reflection of policy failure. In a post on X, Rahul Gandhi said the government was shifting the burden of the economic situation onto ordinary citizens.

Global gold prices also remained elevated, crossing \$4,720 per ounce last week amid continued geopolitical tensions and uncertainty over the US-Iran situation.

SPORTS

India Stay No.1 in ICC ODI Rankings

► Vikrama Vahini | Dubai

India have retained their position as the No.1 team in the ICC Men's ODI Team Rankings following the annual update released by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday. Despite holding on to the top spot, India's lead over second-placed New Zealand has narrowed from eight points to five.

According to the updated rankings, India now have 118 rating points, slipping by one point from their previous tally of 119. New Zealand gained two points to move to 113, strengthening their hold on the second position.

World champions Australia continued to occupy the third spot with an unchanged rating of 109 points. The latest update saw South Africa rise to fourth position with 102 points, overtaking Pakistan, who slipped to fifth with 98 points.

The ICC annual update recalculates rankings by removing matches played more than three years ago and reducing the weighting of games played between one and two years ago. The revised rankings reflect team performances over a recent cycle of international cricket.

The top 10 rankings largely remained unchanged apart from South Africa's rise above Pakistan. Bangladesh retained the ninth position, but the gap between them and the West Indies widened significantly to 10 rating points.

Among other notable changes, Ireland moved ahead of Zimbabwe to claim the 11th spot, while the United States overtook Scotland to move into 13th place. The United Arab Emirates also climbed above Canada to occupy the 19th position.

India's continued dominance in the ODI rankings comes alongside their strong performances across formats. The Rohit Sharma-led side also remains at the top of the ICC Men's T20I rankings following last week's annual update.

RCB Climbs to 4th in IPL Last-Ball Wins List

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have climbed to fourth place in the IPL history list of most last-ball victories after their thrilling win against Mumbai Indians at Raipur.

The nail-biting finish at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Stadium saw RCB seal victory on the final delivery of the match, marking another dramatic chapter in their IPL journey.

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) lead the chart with nine last-ball wins, followed by Mumbai Indians with seven victories.

Rajasthan Royals stand third with five such wins, while RCB now share the fourth spot with Gujarat Titans, each having four last-ball triumphs.

CSK's last-ball victories span from 2008 to 2023, while Mumbai Indians have delivered similar finishes across multiple seasons including 2011, 2012, 2019, 2021, and 2023. Rajasthan Royals' five wins include key moments in 2008, 2015, and 2024.

RCB's latest win adds to their previous last-ball victories recorded in 2012, 2019, 2021, and 2026, underlining their reputation for producing high-pressure finishes. Other teams such as Punjab Kings (4), Kolkata Knight Riders (3), Sunrisers Hyderabad (2), Lucknow Super Giants (2), and Deccan Chargers (1) also feature in the list.

INDIA GROWTH SEEN SLOWING TO 6.7% AMID IRAN CRISIS

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

India's economic growth is expected to moderate to 6.7 percent in the current financial year due to rising geopolitical tensions and higher oil prices linked to the Iran conflict, according to a report by BMI.

The report stated that India's GDP growth is projected to decline from 7.7 percent in 2025-26 as uncertainty in global markets and increasing input costs could affect investments and economic momentum.

BMI noted that escalating tensions involving Iran and the United States pose a major downside risk to India's growth



outlook, especially as the country balances fuel price stabilisation, defence spending and fiscal consolidation efforts.

The agency said earlier tax reforms in GST and income tax, along with supportive

monetary policy, may partly offset inflationary pressures and support capital expenditure. However, higher crude oil prices and global uncertainty are likely to impact business confidence and private investment.

The report also highlighted slowing electricity demand growth in recent months as an indicator of moderating economic activity. Meanwhile, the report referred to a recent United Nations study which stated that India remained the world's top recipient of remittances, receiving over 137 billion US dollars in 2024.

Tanikella Bharani's Emotional Post After Meeting PM

► Vikrama Vahini | Hyderabad

Telugu actor Tanikella Bharani shared an emotional message on social media after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the latter's visit to Hyderabad on Sunday. Posting a photograph with the Prime Minister, Bharani expressed admiration for Modi and described the interaction as a blessed moment in his life.

In his social media post, the actor compared Modi's qualities



to revered spiritual and historical personalities, including Lord

Rama, Lord Krishna, Adi Shankaracharya and Swami Vivekananda. He wrote that meeting and greeting the Prime Minister in person was a memorable experience.

Prime Minister Modi had visited Hyderabad on Sunday and met several dignitaries and personalities during his brief stay in the city. Bharani reportedly met the Prime Minister at the airport during the visit.

Yesvantpur-Udhna Special Train

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

South Western Railway will operate a one-way special train from Yesvantpur to Udhna to clear summer rush.

Train No. 06577 will depart Yesvantpur at 12:00 hrs on May 13, 2026, and reach Udhna at 16:30 hrs the next day.

It will halt at major stations including Hubballi, Belagavi, Pune and others en route.

Ashok Slams Govt Over MM Hills Leopard Attack

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok has criticised the state government following a leopard attack at Male Mahadeshwara Hills that claimed the lives of innocent devotees, calling it a reflection of administrative failure and negligence.

In a post on social media platform X, he said devotees are being forced to risk their lives to seek darshan, and urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the Chamara



nagar district in-charge minister to take immediate corrective measures to ensure permanent and strict safety arrangements for pilgrims.

Ashok also alleged that while the government collects crores in the name of temple administration and entry fees, it has failed to provide adequate security for devotees.

He questioned the functioning of the district administration and the development authority, stating that safety measures, emergency medical facilities, and wildlife control mechanisms are lacking despite repeated incidents of animal attacks. Ashok further demanded a detailed inquiry into the incident and accountability from the concerned officials responsible for the management of the hill shrine area.

TTD Gears Up for Hanuman Jayanthi in Tirumala



► Vikrama Vahini | Tirumala

Special religious ceremonies will be held in Tirumala Temple on Monday in connection with Hanuman Jayanti celebrations.

According to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), silk vastrams will be offered to Sri Japali Hanuman as part of the annual tradition observed during the auspicious occasion.

Special pujas will also be performed at Sri Bedi Anjaneya Swamy temple in Tirumala and at Prasanna Anjaneya Swamy temple located near the Seventh Mile on the Down Ghat Road.

TTD has arranged free bus services for devotees and local residents to travel to the Seventh Mile temple and back to Tirumala during the celebrations.

Nida Khan Sent to 14-Day Judicial Custody

► Vikrama Vahini | Nashik

A Nashik court has sent Nida Khan to 14-day judicial custody till May 14 in connection with the alleged sexual harassment and religious coercion case involving employees of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in Nashik.

Nida Khan was arrested from Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar on May 7 after reportedly remaining absconding since the case surfaced.

She has been booked under provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections related to sexual harassment and defamation.

Police said employees had alleged exploitation, religious coercion and attempts at forced conversion. The court had earlier rejected Khan's anticipatory bail plea, observing that there appeared to be a "systematic plan" to brainwash individuals.

The Nashik Police SIT is currently investigating the matter, with multiple cases registered at different police stations.

Meanwhile, action may also be initiated against AIMIM leader Matin Patel, who has been accused of sheltering Nida Khan. Civic authorities said his corporatorship could be cancelled if violations are confirmed.

Olectra Powers EV Shift Digitally

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi/Hyderabad

Olectra Greentech Limited, one of India's leading electric bus manufacturers, has announced a strategic collaboration with Dassault Systèmes to adopt the advanced 3DEXPERIENCE platform for digital product development in the electric mobility sector.

The partnership marks a major step toward building a globally benchmarked and digitally integrated engineering ecosystem for electric vehicles (EVs) in India.

Under the collaboration, Olectra will transition to a model-based and platform-driven product development system aligned with global automotive standards.

The 3DEXPERIENCE platform integrates design, simulation, manufacturing and data management into a unified digital environment, enabling real-time collaboration across the entire product lifecycle.

The move is expected to help Olectra



accelerate innovation, reduce development timelines, improve virtual testing capabilities and strengthen scalability for future electric mobility platforms, including buses and trucks.

Speaking on the development, Mahesh Babu said the company is making major

investments in next-generation electric bus and truck platforms as part of its commitment to transforming mobility through innovation and digital engineering.

He stated that the collaboration with Dassault Systèmes would help Olectra build products that meet global benchmarks while enabling faster development and world-class engineering precision.

Deepak NG said the future of mobility would increasingly be engineered in the virtual world before reaching roads. He noted that the partnership reflects a shift toward integrated and platform-driven innovation for smarter and more sustainable EV development.

Industry experts believe the collaboration reflects the growing trend among global automotive companies to adopt platform-based engineering systems to simplify development processes and support next-generation vehicle architectures.

Iran FM to Visit India for BRICS Talks Amid Crisis

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi is expected to visit India on May 14-15 to participate in the BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting amid escalating tensions in West Asia.

The meeting will serve as a precursor to the upcoming 18th BRICS Summit scheduled to be held in New Delhi later this year.

Araghchi has reportedly held multiple discussions with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar since tensions between Iran, the US and Israel intensified earlier this year.

During recent interactions, the Iranian minister is said to have briefed India on the evolving situation in West Asia following joint US-Israel airstrikes on Iran and stressed the need for stronger coordination among BRICS nations to maintain global stability.



He also reiterated Iran's position regarding its "legitimate right of self-defence."

Araghchi had last visited India in May 2025 for a two-day official trip, his first since assuming office as Iran's Foreign Minister in August 2024. The visit coincided with the 75th anniversary of the India-Iran Friendship Treaty.

Officials said the upcoming discussions are expected to focus on regional security, geopolitical developments and strengthening bilateral political and economic cooperation between India and Iran.

4 Ministers to Join Sarma in Assam Cabinet Swearing-in

► Vikrama Vahini | Guwahati

Assam is set for the swearing-in of its new government on Tuesday, with Bharatiya Janata Party leader Himanta Biswa Sarma taking oath as Chief Minister for a second consecutive term.

Along with the Chief Minister, four ministers will also be sworn in—two from the BJP and one each from its alliance partners, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and the Bodoland People's Front (BPF).

This marks the formation of the third NDA government in Assam, with Sarma becoming the only non-Congress leader in the state to serve a second consecutive term as Chief Minister.

Senior BJP leader and former minister Ranjeet Kumar Dass has been named the NDA's nominee for the post of Speaker of the

Assam Legislative Assembly. Sarma announced in a post on social media platform X.

The new council of ministers is expected to focus on continuing development initiatives and strengthening governance in the state.

The swearing-in ceremony is expected to be attended by senior leaders of the BJP and allied parties, along with chief ministers from several NDA-ruled states. Tight security arrangements have been put in place in and around the venue in Guwahati.

Party leaders said the new government will prioritise infrastructure development, employment generation, and welfare schemes, while also focusing on strengthening law and order and accelerating ongoing projects across Assam.

Security Lapse During PM Visit; Top Cops Face Action

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The alleged security lapse during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bengaluru on Sunday has triggered serious concern within the Karnataka government, with disciplinary action likely against several senior police officers.

According to official sources, the government has treated the incident seriously after gelatin sticks and explosive materials were reportedly found near Oderahalli Lake close to Kaggalipura in Bengaluru South district during the Prime Minister's visit.

Sources indicated that the incident is being viewed as a possible organised conspiracy targeting the Prime Minister, and suspension of senior officers is under consideration. Senior officials reportedly facing possible action include State Intelligence ADGP Labhu Ram and Bengaluru South SP Srinivas Gowda, among others responsible for security arrangements.

Multiple central agencies, including the National Investigation Agency (NIA), National Security Guard (NSG) and Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), have reportedly launched parallel investigations into the matter.

The alleged security lapse during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bengaluru has triggered serious concern in the Karnataka government after gelatin sticks and explosive materials were reportedly found near Oderahalli Lake in Bengaluru South district. Security agencies have launched a probe into the suspected security breach during PM Modi's Bengaluru visit.

Three separate teams have visited the spot where the gelatin sticks and matchbox materials were recovered and are gathering information from local police officials.

Investigators are probing whether the suspect detained by police has links with any terror outfit, whether he was instigated by external elements, and if there are any connections to international extremist organisations.

Central agencies are also said to be examining possible lapses in police security arrangements and may recommend suspension of senior officers if negligence is established.

Officials pointed out that elaborate security deployment had already been made ahead of the Prime Minister's programme, raising concerns over how explosive materials could still be found within the secured zone.

Authorities have intensified surveillance and security checks in the surrounding areas as part of precautionary measures following the incident. Meanwhile, a detailed report on security deployment and possible lapses is expected to be submitted to the state government in the coming days.

NIA Probes Gelatin Recovery During PM Visit

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has launched an investigation into the recovery of two gelatin sticks near Prime Minister Narendra Modi's route during his Bengaluru visit, treating the incident as a serious security concern.

The explosive materials and matchbox items were found near Odeyarahalli Gate at Tataguni on Kanakapura Road while the Prime Minister was in the city on Sunday.

Police have detained a suspect and are questioning him in connection with the case.

NIA officials visited the spot and collected information from Bengaluru South district police, while officials from the state intelligence wing and internal security division also briefed investigators.

Sources said teams from the National Security Guard (NSG), RAW, Bengaluru city police and Ramanagara police are jointly probing whether the act was deliberate, linked to extremist elements, or intended to threaten the Prime Minister's security.

Investigators are also examining the source of the explosive materials.