



VIKRAMA VAHINI

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Actress Amulya Gowda to play lead role in Sun Uday TV's new serial 'Mahalakshmi Maduve', set to premiere on June 1. The daily soap will air from Monday to Saturday at 6:30 PM, featuring a middle-class family drama.

Actor Ranveer Singh has found himself at the centre of controversy after the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) reportedly called for a non-cooperation stance against him, following his exit from the much-anticipated Don 3.

INSIDE

Good morning

With resolution each morning, and reflection each evening, we can practice embracing new thoughts, behaviour, and feelings. So that, as we change, our life changes.

BRIEFS

WB Gives 142 Acres to BSF for Border Fencing

> Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata.
The West Bengal government has handed over 142.79 acres of land to the Border Security Force (BSF) for the construction of outposts and barbed-wire fencing along the India-Bangladesh border, Chief Minister Suvenudh Adhikari said on Wednesday.

The move is part of the state government's decision, taken during its first Cabinet meeting on May 11, to transfer a total of 600 acres of land within 45 days to strengthen border infrastructure.

In a social media post, the Chief Minister stated that the government has initiated intensified measures to bolster border security by facilitating the construction of BSF outposts and fencing. With the latest transfer.

Jaishankar in Cyprus for EU Ministers' Meet

> Vikrama Vahini | Nicosia
India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday arrived in Cyprus to participate in the informal meeting of European Union foreign affairs ministers, a significant gathering set to discuss major geopolitical and strategic challenges facing Europe and the broader region.

In a social media post, Jaishankar expressed gratitude to Kaja Kallas and Constantinos Kombos for the invitation. "Arrived in Cyprus to participate in the Informal Meeting of the EU Foreign Affairs Ministers - Gymnich," he said, referring to the high-level diplomatic meeting.

Govt Eyes Private Partner for 5th-Gen Fighter Jet

> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi
The Ministry of Defence has initiated the process to select a private sector partner for developing India's fifth-generation fighter jet under the ambitious Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme, regarded as the country's largest indigenous aerospace project. As part of the selection process, the ministry has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to leading firms including Tata Advanced Systems, Larsen & Toubro and Bharat Forge.

In the evolving partnership landscape, Larsen & Toubro has tied up with Bharat Electronics Limited, while Bharat Forge has entered into an understanding with BEML. The AMCA project aims to boost India's self-reliance in advanced defence manufacturing and strengthen its capabilities in next-generation aerial combat systems.

Who Knows Siddhu's Game? CM Keeps Resignation Mystery Alive High Command Lands in Bengaluru!

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
Karnataka's political tensions intensified on Wednesday after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's reported move to seek a meeting with Governor Thaaarchand Gehlot sparked fresh speculation over a leadership tussle within the ruling Congress, prompting a swift clarification from party leadership that no formal decision has been taken. **Governor Meeting Triggers Political Buzz**
What initially appeared to be a routine appointment quickly turned into a major political signal, with reports of Siddaramaiah's proposed Raj Bhavan visit fuelling speculation about an internal power struggle. Political observers believe the move may have been intended to assert the Chief Minister's position and signal readiness to prove majority support if required.

Surjewala Counters Leadership Speculation
Within hours of the development, AICC Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala stated that no Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting had been convened and no decision had been taken regarding any leadership change. His statement significantly altered the narrative, slowing speculation about an imminent transition. **Leadership Transition Debate Intensifies**
The controversy comes amid ongoing discussions about a possible leadership shift from Siddaramaiah to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar under a reported rotational arrangement. However, the absence of a CLP meeting suggests that the Congress high command is yet to arrive at a consensus. **PG2**

K'taka Turmoil Grows; Siddaramaiah Silent

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
Political uncertainty over a possible leadership change in Karnataka intensified on Wednesday, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah maintaining silence on resignation-related speculation amid heightened activity within the ruling Congress. **Siddaramaiah avoids direct response on leadership buzz**
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, while attending an official event at Vidhan Soudha, did not respond directly to questions on his resignation. Instead, he referred to former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on his death anniversary and highlighted his contribution to nation-building. **Key leaders meet at CM residence**
The political churn escalated as Siddaramaiah's legal advisor A.S. Ponnanna and Minister K.

Venkatesh visited the Chief Minister's residence. Later, senior ministers including H.C. Mahadevappa, M.C. Sudhakar, B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, and MLC Naseer Ahmed also arrived, triggering speculation of internal consultations. **Breakfast meeting planned amid internal discussions**
Sources said Siddaramaiah is likely to host a breakfast meeting with Cabinet colleagues on Thursday morning, seen as an attempt to reinforce coordination amid ongoing political uncertainty. **Shivakumar's Delhi stay fuels speculation**
Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has extended his stay in Delhi, with his return to Bengaluru rescheduled to Thursday morning. **High command intervention expected**
AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal and

Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala are expected to visit Bengaluru amid ongoing deliberations in Delhi involving senior Congress eaders. **PG2**



Karnataka BJP Predicts Early Polls Amid Congress Turmoil Amid intensifying war of words, Karnataka BJP chief Vijayendra Yediyurappa has hinted at the possibility of early Assembly elections, citing internal rifts within the ruling Congress.

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
Karnataka BJP president Vijayendra Yediyurappa on Wednesday predicted the possibility of early Assembly elections in the state, alleging deepening internal power struggles within the ruling Congress. Yediyurappa said the Congress government is facing a "crisis of leadership and authority," claiming that the ongoing tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has affected governance and administrative

stability. He also pointed to frequent meetings in Delhi and discussions on Cabinet reshuffle and leadership changes as signs of internal instability within the ruling party. The BJP leader referred to reports suggesting that the Congress high command is engaged in discussions over possible political realignments in Karnataka. However, the Congress has officially denied any leadership crisis,

dismissing such reports as baseless. Former Chief Minister and BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai warned that any move to replace Siddaramaiah could have serious political repercussions. He said removing an OBC leader from the Chief Minister's post could send a "wrong message" to backward communities and impact the party's electoral prospects. The BJP accused the Congress of focusing on internal power struggles

instead of governance, alleging that the party is engaged in "Delhi-Bengaluru politics" at the cost of public administration. The Congress rejected the BJP's claims, stating that there is no leadership crisis in Karnataka and accusing the opposition of attempting to create political instability. With both parties trading sharp accusations, Karnataka's political climate remains tense amid ongoing speculation over leadership stability and future electoral developments.



SC BACKS EC'S SIR, BOOSTS FREE POLLS

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
The Supreme Court of India on Wednesday upheld the constitutional validity of the Election Commission of India's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, stating that the exercise strengthens the foundation of free and fair elections. The court ruled that the Election Commission has the authority to conduct such a revision and that the SIR process is legally valid, proportionate and backed by adequate safeguards against arbitrary exclusion of voters. It rejected claims that the exercise violates provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

Observing that the revision has a direct nexus with maintaining accurate and credible electoral rolls, the bench said the measures adopted are neither excessive nor

arbitrary. It added that the exercise serves a legitimate constitutional purpose by ensuring the integrity, completeness and accuracy of voter lists. The apex court also clarified that SIR is distinct from routine electoral roll revisions and falls within the statutory powers of the Election Commission. It further noted that while the Commission has discretion in verification mechanisms, such powers are not unlimited and must align with the objective of preserving electoral integrity. The ruling came on petitions challenging the SIR exercise in Bihar, where a large number of names were removed from draft rolls. The court's verdict is expected to reinforce the Election Commission's position in conducting similar exercises in the future.



Vijay Meets Modi, Raises Mekedatu and Fishermen Issues

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Wednesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed a range of key issues concerning the state, including the contentious Mekedatu dam project, arrest of Tamil fishermen by Sri Lanka, and the ongoing row over the Tamil invocation song. During his maiden official visit to the national capital after assuming office, Vijay also met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and submitted a memorandum seeking priority funding for critical infrastructure projects such as ports, national highways, railway networks and industrial corridors in Tamil Nadu. In his meeting with the Prime Minister, Vijay raised concerns over the sequence of rendering the "Tamil Thai Vazhthu" at official functions. Referring to recent controversies, he stressed that the state



song traditionally occupies the opening position in public events and reflects Tamil Nadu's linguistic and cultural identity. He requested the Centre to clarify existing guidelines to allow state invocation songs to be sung at the beginning of government functions. **PG2**

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Editorial

Cleansing The Rolls

Elections are the heartbeat of democracy, and in a nation like India — the world's largest democracy — the sanctity of the electoral process is non-negotiable. Just as the human body cannot function without a healthy heart, democracy cannot survive without free and fair elections. Yet, electoral malpractice and allegations of bogus voting have long haunted the country's political landscape. To address these concerns, the Centre introduced the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) system. Ironically, political parties that once benefited from the process began questioning EVM credibility after facing electoral defeats. The matter escalated from street protests to the doors of the Supreme Court of India, which repeatedly upheld the reliability of EVMs. To further enhance transparency, the Election Commission integrated VVPAT systems alongside EVMs.

Now, another routine yet significant democratic exercise — the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls — has become the latest political flashpoint. Though voter list revision is a standard and essential administrative process, certain parties have chosen to oppose it. The reasons are not difficult to understand. Over the past 75 years, millions of voters have either passed away, migrated, or changed their addresses. The Covid-19 pandemic alone claimed countless lives, yet allegations persist that names of deceased individuals continue to remain on voter rolls and are misused during elections. Added to this are concerns about illegal immigrants and duplicate entries. In such a scenario, cleansing and updating voter lists is not merely desirable but absolutely necessary for electoral integrity.

Attempts were made to stall the SIR exercise through protests and legal intervention. However, the Supreme Court has now delivered a significant verdict clearing the path for the revision process. This decision strengthens democratic credibility rather than weakening it. Political parties must rise above narrow electoral calculations and cooperate with the Election Commission in ensuring a transparent, accurate, and trustworthy voter database. A purified electoral roll is not a threat to democracy — it is its strongest safeguard.

-Editor

KARNATAKA PUSHES AI-DRIVEN WATER GOVERNANCE AT SUMMIT

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka is positioning itself at the forefront of AI-driven urban water governance, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh said on Tuesday while inaugurating the "National AI and Digital Water Summit 2026" in Bengaluru.

The summit, organised by Elets Technomedia in collaboration with KPMG and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, focused on the growing role of artificial intelligence and digital technologies in addressing challenges such as climate change, urbanisation, groundwater depletion and infrastructure stress.

Rajneesh said AI-based systems are no longer optional for water utilities but essential for real-time monitoring, predictive analytics, demand forecasting and data-driven governance.

She highlighted Karnataka's initiatives in establishing AI Centres of Excellence and adopting digital frameworks to improve transparency, accountability and efficiency in public service delivery.



BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar said Bengaluru's rapid growth has necessitated a shift from traditional management to intelligent utility systems.

He noted that BWSSB currently serves over 14 million people and has implemented Asia's largest city-level SCADA system, GIS mapping, IoT monitoring, automated leak detection and smart metering pilots.

He added that digital transformation has helped reduce non-revenue water from 50% to 26.5%, saving nearly 200 million

litres of water daily. AI-driven energy optimisation systems have also enabled annual electricity savings worth around ₹42 crore.

Officials said the board aims to expand smart metering across the city in the next five years, further reduce water losses, and emerge as a national model for intelligent urban utilities.

The summit brought together global water experts, AI specialists, policymakers, startups and urban governance professionals.

AI Needs Human Collaboration to Succeed: Tushar Girinath

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department Tushar Girinath on Tuesday said artificial intelligence can deliver meaningful results only when supported by strong institutions, government systems and human collaboration.

Speaking at the "National AI & Digital Water Summit 2026" in Bengaluru, he said technology alone cannot solve governance challenges and stressed the need for coordinated efforts among government, startups, academia and industry.

He cited Israel as a global example in water management, noting that the country recycles nearly 90% of wastewater and has reduced water losses through smart grids and



AI-driven systems.

Israel's Consul General in Bengaluru Orli Weitzman said Israel is ready to share its advanced water technologies and expertise with Karnataka and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board to strengthen urban water management.

Officials said the collaborative model demonstrated by Israel highlights the importance of integrating policy, innovation and public participation in building sustainable water systems.

Surjewala to Clear K'taka Confusion

Amid rising speculation, a crucial breakfast meeting between Siddaramaiah and D. K. Shivakumar has drawn attention, with G. Parameshwara indicating that clarity may emerge after Randeep Singh Surjewala visits the state, even as Congress denies any leadership crisis.

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Political speculation over a possible leadership change in Karnataka intensified on Wednesday as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar prepared for a closely watched breakfast meeting at the CM's official residence in Bengaluru.

Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara said clarity on the issue is expected after AICC Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala visits the state, adding that internal discussions held in New Delhi have not been fully disclosed to most state leaders.

Parameshwara stated that "Surjewala will come and clear the confusion," while noting that only limited information from the party high command had been shared so far regarding the outcome of the recent Delhi meeting.

The issue follows a high-level Congress meeting in New Delhi attended by party president

Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar, and senior leaders. After the meeting, Congress leaders dismissed speculation of a leadership change, saying discussions were focused on organisational matters and upcoming Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council elections.

Despite official denials, political uncertainty continues within the Karnataka unit of the Congress, with the Siddaramaiah-Shivakumar breakfast meeting now being closely watched for signals on unity and leadership stability in the state.

The outcome of the meeting is expected to play a crucial role in shaping the political narrative in Karnataka, as both leaders hold significant influence within the party. Any indication of consensus or discord could impact not only governance but also the Congress party's strategy ahead of upcoming electoral challenges in the state.



Vijay Meets Modi, Raises Mokedatu and Fishermen Issues

► From PG1

The Chief Minister also strongly objected to Karnataka's proposed Mokedatu balancing reservoir project across the Cauvery river, stating that it violates the final award of the tribunal and Supreme Court directives. He urged the Centre not to grant approval for the project without the consent of all riparian states, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.

Highlighting the plight of fishermen, Vijay sought immediate intervention

from the Prime Minister to secure the release of Indian fishermen currently in Sri Lankan custody along with their seized boats. He noted that several incidents of arrests have been reported this year, causing concern among coastal communities.

Additionally, Vijay requested the establishment of key defence and research facilities in Tamil Nadu, including the Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS), and pushed for setting up Institutes of National Importance in

the state.

In his meeting with Sitharaman, the Chief Minister also emphasized the need for financial assistance for metro rail projects in major cities such as Coimbatore, Madurai and Erode to boost urban mobility and economic growth.

The meeting underscored Tamil Nadu's push for infrastructure development, cultural recognition and resolution of inter-state and international issues affecting the state.

K'taka Turmoil Grows; Siddaramaiah Silent

► From PG1

Home Minister G. Parameshwara said clarity on the issue would emerge after Surjewala's visit. He added that Congress leaders would abide by the decision of the party high command and that an official communication would be conveyed through Surjewala.

Delhi meetings fuel speculation Reports suggest that senior Congress leaders held nearly seven hours of discussions in Delhi, officially described as routine consultations but believed to focus on managing a possible leadership transition in Karnataka.

Political uncertainty continues With speculation of a leadership announcement gaining momentum, Karnataka's political atmosphere remains tense, with both the Chief Minister's camp and the party leadership awaiting a final decision from the high command.

Resignation Buzz: Siddaramaiah Silent: H.K. Patil

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Speculation over Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's possible resignation has triggered concern among close aides and ministers, with senior leader H. K. Patil stating that the CM remained silent when the issue was raised during a recent meeting.

Speaking to reporters, Patil said ministers conveyed their concern over media reports but received no response from the Chief Minister. Meanwhile, MLA K.Y. Nanjegovda said Siddaramaiah would abide by the Congress high command's

decision. Amid the uncertainty, AHINDA leaders have warned of protests if any move is made to replace Siddaramaiah, asserting that the community's support was crucial to the Congress coming to power and should not be ignored.

The development has further intensified political uncertainty within the ruling party, with leaders awaiting clarity from the high command. Observers say the coming days will be crucial in determining the stability of the government and its leadership direction.



NEWS

WIND TUNNEL UNDERPASS WORK TO BE SPEEDED UP: MAHESHWAR RAO

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to expedite the construction of the Wind Tunnel underpass by deploying additional manpower and machinery to ensure timely completion of the project.

During an inspection visit to the Wind Tunnel Junction near the UR Rao Satellite Centre on Old Airport Road, he instructed officials to complete the project within the stipulated timeframe and intensify work using extra resources wherever required.

He reviewed ongoing utility shifting works, including water pipelines, sewage lines, BESCOM cables and optical fibre cables.

Officials were asked to complete all shifting works within 10 days and begin retaining wall construction immediately thereafter.

Rao also directed authorities to ensure smooth vehicular movement by constructing temporary roads on both sides of the junction in coordination with Defence, ISRO, NAL and private landholders. He stressed that traffic



congestion must be avoided and strict safety measures must be followed during construction. According to officials, around 70% of the work on the ₹19 crore project has been completed. The 300-metre-long underpass, featuring a six-lane structure with 7.5-metre-wide carriageways on both sides, is currently in an advanced stage of construction.

The remaining work includes completion of utility shifting, retaining wall construction, placement of precast boxes, and development of service roads. Senior civic officials, including Bengaluru Central City Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan and executive engineers, were present during the inspection.

Who Knows Siddhu's Game?

► From PG1

Strength on Assembly Floor Key Factor

Political analysts point out that any leadership change would ultimately depend on majority support in the Assembly.

Siddaramaiah is believed to enjoy considerable backing among legislators, particularly from backward classes, minority groups, and sections aligned with his AHINDA base, strengthening his position within the party.

Congress Faces Delicate Balancing Act

The situation has placed the Congress

leadership in a challenging position, as any abrupt move could trigger internal dissent, while delaying a decision may deepen factional divisions. For now, the developments indicate a cautious approach by the high command amid rising political pressure.

Uncertainty Continues

With no official decision announced and internal consultations ongoing, Karnataka's political landscape remains tense, with Siddaramaiah's move widely seen as a strategic assertion in the evolving leadership battle within the Congress.

HEALTH & Lifestyle

Smart Tattoo May Enable Early Skin Cancer Detection

Scientists in Canada have developed an advanced "smart tattoo" technology that could enable the early detection of skin cancer by measuring subtle temperature variations on the skin's surface. The innovation, developed by researchers from the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique (INRS) and Université de Montréal, aims to identify melanoma at its earliest stages, significantly improving survival rates.

What is a Smart Tattoo?

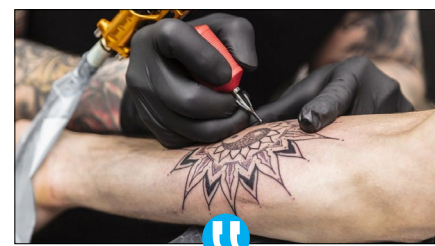
The "smart tattoo" is not a traditional tattoo but a temporary, painless skin patch embedded with microscopic needles. These micro-needles deliver special nanoparticles just beneath the skin's surface, where they function like ultra-sensitive digital thermometers.

How It Detects Cancer

Cancer cells consume higher levels of oxygen and nutrients compared to normal cells, causing slight but measurable increases in local skin temperature. When exposed to a specific light source, the nanoparticles in the patch emit signals that are captured using high-speed cameras. These signals help identify areas with abnormal temperature variations, indicating potential cancer cell growth.

Key Advantages of the Technology

Unlike conventional diagnostic methods that detect skin cancer only after visible tumors or lesions develop (usually around 5 mm in size), the smart tattoo can detect cancerous changes as early as four days after abnormal cell formation. It is painless, non-invasive, and offers more precise



Scientists in Canada have developed a "smart tattoo" technology that could revolutionize early detection of skin cancer. The temporary, painless skin patch uses microscopic needles and nanoparticles to detect subtle temperature changes linked to cancer cell growth. Unlike traditional methods, it may identify melanoma just days after abnormal cells form, well before visible symptoms appear. Early tests on mice have shown promising results, and human clinical trials are expected soon. The innovation could also pave the way for detecting other diseases in the future.

thermal mapping compared to infrared imaging systems. Successful Early Trials and Future Scope

The technology has already shown successful results in laboratory tests on mice, with biological responses similar to human melanoma. Researchers are now preparing for clinical trials in humans. If successful, the innovation could extend beyond skin cancer detection to monitor other health conditions, including pH levels and various metabolic disorders, potentially transforming early disease diagnosis in the future.

SCIENCE & Technology

AI Powers India GCC Innovation Boom

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Artificial intelligence is transforming India-based Global Capability Centres (GCCs) into major innovation hubs, with global companies increasingly using AI tools to accelerate research, patent creation, and product development.

Executives from firms such as Daimler Truck, Kimberly-Clark, and Publicis Groupe's Epsilon said AI is reducing routine workloads and enabling engineers in India to focus more on high-value innovation, including patents, trade secrets, and proprietary technologies.

A recent Nasscom-Zinnov report showed that GCCs in India generated nearly \$9.4 billion in revenue in the last fiscal year, while patent filings in the country rose by 11.3% to over 90,000 in FY24, with nearly half attributed to multinational companies.

Industry leaders said India's GCCs are no longer limited to back-office operations but are increasingly involved in designing new products, software systems, and internal technologies for global markets.

However, much of the intellectual property created in India is still formally filed in the US or Europe, meaning India's contribution is often underrepresented in official data.

Daimler Truck's Innovation Centre India head Radhakrishnan Kodakkal said AI will further accelerate patent creation and innovation output from Indian centres.

Despite rising innovation, companies cited delays and procedural challenges in India's patent filing system. Kimberly-Clark executives said filing in India can take up to six months, compared to shorter timelines in the US, while approvals may take several years.

ED Raids Pinarayi Vijayan's Home in CMRL Case

> Vikrama Vahini | Thiruvananthapuram
The Enforcement Directorate (Enforcement Directorate) on Wednesday carried out searches at multiple locations in Kerala, including the residence of former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in connection with a money laundering investigation linked to the Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited (CMRL) case.
Officials said the probe centres on allegations that CMRL made payments of around ₹1.72 crore to Exalogic Solutions, a company owned by Vijayan's daughter T. Veena, without receiving any corresponding services. Searches were conducted at around 10 locations, including premises linked to individuals connected to the case.
The ED also questioned Veena as

part of the ongoing investigation, while other individuals linked to CMRL management were also being interrogated. The agency action follows earlier investigations by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) and the registration of a Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) case in 2024.
According to officials, the case revolves around alleged financial irregularities involving CMRL and Exalogic Solutions, making it one of the most politically sensitive probes in Kerala in recent years.
The Kerala High Court had earlier declined to stay the investigation, allowing the Enforcement Directorate to proceed with its probe. The matter continues to be under active investigation.

Padmanabhaswamy Temple Gold Missing Row Sparks Row



> Vikrama Vahini | Thiruvananthapuram
A controversy has erupted over alleged missing gold and diamond ornaments from the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, raising concerns about security and inventory management of the temple's valuables.
Reports said around 78 grams of gold donated by devotees and a diamond-studded ornament called "Vaira Nama" are missing from temple records. A gold lamp taken for repair several months ago has also not been returned.
Police officials have reportedly submitted a report to the Home Department highlighting serious lapses and recommending stronger security measures, including shifting valuables to secured strong rooms and tightening entry protocols within the temple premises.
The issue has triggered renewed scrutiny over the temple's asset management system, with officials expected to review existing procedures and strengthen monitoring of valuable offerings and stored ornaments.

works are underway at Vasco-da-Gama and Ballari.
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Dr. Karthik V. Hegadekatti highlighted enhanced safety measures, including strengthened CCTV surveillance and efficient deployment of RPF and GRP personnel.

Hubballi Railway Meeting on Station Development

> Vikrama Vahini | Hubballi
The 40th Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee (DRUCC) meeting of Hubballi Railway Division was held at the Railway Workshop seminar hall, focusing on passenger amenities, safety, and station redevelopment under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS).
Chairing the meeting, Divisional Railway Manager Smt. Bela Meena said several stations are being redeveloped under ABSS with emphasis on local identity, heritage, and tourism potential. She said passenger-friendly facilities remain a top priority, with rapid progress reported at Alnavar, Badami, Koppal and Hosapete stations, while modernization



Members raised issues including rising ticketless travel, demand for improved goods shed facilities at Gadag, and additional stoppages for trains between Hubballi and Vijayapura. Representatives from trade bodies, passenger associations, and railway officials attended the meeting.

"Farmers' Fight Is My Fight": Nikhil Backs Land Protest

> Vikrama Vahini | Ramanagara
JD(S) Youth Wing President Nikhil Kumaraswamy extended strong support to farmers protesting against the proposed GBA land acquisition, declaring that the agitation is not just the farmers' struggle but his own as well.
Addressing farmers at Byramangala village, where protests have been ongoing for over a year, Nikhil assured them that he would stand firmly with their cause. "As the son of H. D. Kumaraswamy, I give you my word—this is no longer just your fight, it is my fight too. My goal is to find a logical



solution to the crisis created by the government," he said.
He conducted a "reality check" of the lands identified for acquisition and criticised the government for attempting to proceed without taking farmers into confidence. Nikhil accused the authorities of trying to displace farmers unjustly and vowed to resist any such move.
Calling the protest a "battle for self-respect," he noted that people

from 26 villages under two gram panchayats have been agitating for 436 days.
"This is not just about land; it is about the dignity and survival of farmers," he said, urging them not to lose courage and assuring that they were not alone.
He further alleged that the government was planning to acquire around 9,600 acres of land in the region and warned against what he termed as "coercive measures." Emphasising the emotional and economic bond between farmers and their land, he said, "For farmers, land is everything—their parent, their livelihood, and their identity."
He urged farmers to continue their agitation within the legal framework and warned against misinformation campaigns that allegedly portray the protesters as non-farmers.
"I have not come here for political gain or show. I am here to support you and to caution the government," he said.
Several JD(S) leaders, local representatives, and farmer activists were present during the protest, reaffirming their collective stand against the proposed land acquisition.

ENTERTAINMENT

Ranveer Singh's Shelved Film Projects List

> Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai
Actor Ranveer Singh has found himself at the centre of controversy after the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) reportedly called for a non-cooperation stance against him, following his exit from the much-anticipated Don 3. The move has triggered fresh debate in the film industry over stalled projects and uncompleted collaborations involving the actor.
FWICE controversy over 'Don 3' exit
The issue began after Ranveer Singh stepped away from Don 3, a decision that reportedly did not go down well with FWICE, which has now announced that its members will not work in any film featuring the actor. The federation's stance has added to the growing discussion around professional commitments in the industry.
Not the first stalled project
While the Don 3 exit has drawn attention, Ranveer Singh has earlier also been associated with several

high-profile projects that never went on floors or were later shelved.
Sanjay Leela Bhansali collaborations
Ranveer's successful collaborations with director Sanjay Leela Bhansali in Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela and Bajirao Mastani led to further announcements, including Bajju Bawra. However, the project was reportedly put on hold before production began.
Karan Johar's 'Takht' shelved
Karan Johar had announced the historical drama Takht with Ranveer Singh in a lead role.
Despite initial buzz, the project did not materialise. However, Ranveer later worked with Johar in Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani.
Other high-profile collaborations that didn't take off
Reports also suggest that a Hindi remake of Anniyan, to be directed by S. Shankar with Ranveer in the lead, was planned but did not progress beyond early discussions and photo shoots.
Similarly, Telugu filmmaker Prasanth Varma had reportedly developed a script for Ranveer Singh, but the actor later opted out. The project is now believed to have evolved into Jai Hanuman with a different lead actor.
'Shaktimaan' project also delayed
Malayalam filmmaker Basil Joseph had also worked on a Shaktimaan adaptation involving Ranveer Singh, reportedly spending months on discussions and script development in Mumbai. However, the project did not move forward and is now said to be reworked with another actor.
Industry debate continues
With multiple stalled collaborations now resurfacing in discussions alongside the Don 3 controversy, Ranveer Singh's career choices have once again become a topic of debate in Bollywood circles.

OTT WEEK: NEW MOVIES & SERIES LINEUP

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
The last week of May brings a diverse lineup of OTT releases across major platforms, including Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, JioHotstar, Apple TV+ and ZEE5. The week features films, series and documentaries spanning multiple genres such as action, thriller, comedy, drama and reality entertainment.
Multi-Genre Digital Lineup
Streaming platforms continue to expand their content mix with both Indian regional titles and international productions, offering viewers a wide range of entertainment options for the week.
JetLee (JioHotstar, May 25): A Telugu action-comedy about a banker involved in financial fraud who returns to India, leading to a series of unexpected events and mysteries.
Spider-Noir (Prime Video, May 27): A 1930s New York-based noir crime drama featuring Ben Reilly, who gets drawn into a dark world of crime and investigation.
Roommates (ZEE5, May 27): A Kannada coming-of-age drama exploring friendship and ego clashes among four bachelor roommates.
The Four Seasons - Season 2 (Netflix, May 28): A continuation of the emotional story of friends dealing with loss and changing relationships.
Calabasas Confidential (Netflix, May 29): An eight-episode reality series focusing on friendships, breakups and rivalries among young adults.
Rafa (Netflix, May 29): A documentary on tennis legend Rafael Nadal's final season, highlighting his career journey.
Star City (Apple TV+, May 29): A sci-fi spin-off exploring an alternate history of the space race between the US and Soviet Union.
Propeller One-Way Night Coach (Apple TV+, May 29): A family drama following a transformative cross-country journey of a mother and son.
Cousins & Kalyanams (JioHotstar, May 29): A family entertainer tracking six cousins over multiple weddings and evolving relationships.
Jolly LLL 3 (JioHotstar, May 29): A courtroom drama starring Akshay Kumar and Arshad Warsi, centred on a land dispute case inspired by real events.
Industry experts note that the increasing volume of simultaneous multi-platform releases reflects the growing competition among streaming services, as they aim to capture audience attention during weekends and holiday periods with high-impact content drops. Analysts say such clustered releases are also helping platforms boost subscriber engagement and viewing hours across regions.



BUSINESS

Inflation May Hit 5%; RBI to Hold Rates

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
Retail inflation in India is expected to rise to around 5% by June due to recent fuel price hikes and higher import duties on gold and silver, according to economists.
Prices of petrol and diesel have increased by nearly ₹7.5 per litre over the past 11 days, adding pressure on transport, logistics, and power costs. The government's decision to raise import duties on precious metals to 15% has further contributed to inflationary pressures.
Experts say the Consumer Price Index (CPI) may rise to 4-5% in the coming months, though it is still likely to remain within the Reserve Bank of India's tolerance band. The Wholesale Price Index has already touched a 42-month high of 8.3% in April.
Despite rising inflation, most economists expect the Reserve Bank of India to keep interest rates unchanged at its upcoming monetary policy meeting, as the price rise is largely driven by supply-side factors rather than demand pressures.
Analysts added that the central bank is likely to wait and assess the full impact of fuel price adjustments before considering any monetary tightening in the second half of the fiscal year. Rising fuel costs are expected to have a cascading effect across essential sectors, including food supply chains, transportation services, and electricity generation. Experts warn that even a moderate increase in input costs could gradually push up retail prices in urban and rural markets.
Market observers also note that global crude oil volatility and geopolitical tensions could keep inflationary pressures elevated in the short term. However, they maintain that stable domestic demand conditions may help prevent a sharp spike beyond the projected range. Economists say the coming CPI readings will be closely watched for signs of sustained inflationary momentum in the economy.

SPORTS

Vaibhav Suryavanshi Shatters Gayle's Sixes Record

> Vikrama Vahini | Hyderabad
In a sensational display of power-hitting during the IPL Eliminator between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Rajasthan Royals, Vaibhav Suryavanshi stole the spotlight with a blistering knock of 97 runs off just 29 balls, hammering boundaries and sixes at will. Suryavanshi fell agonisingly short of a record-breaking century, missing out by just three runs. Had he reached the milestone in 29 balls, he would have surpassed Chris Gayle's long-standing record of the fastest IPL century, which came in 30 balls during the 2013 season at the Chinnaswamy Stadium. Although he missed the fastest century record, Suryavanshi achieved a historic milestone in six-hitting. He surpassed Gayle's previous record for most sixes in a single IPL season. Gayle had smashed 59 sixes in the 2012 season, a benchmark that stood for over a decade. With more than 60 sixes in the 2026 IPL season, Suryavanshi now holds the record for the most sixes in a single edition of the tournament, cementing his place among the most explosive hitters in IPL history. Despite missing the century, his explosive innings has drawn widespread attention and is being hailed as one of the most destructive knocks of the season.

IPL Finals Records: CSK Top, RCB Enters Top Three

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have moved into third place in the list of teams with the most IPL final appearances after defeating Gujarat Titans by a massive 92 runs in Qualifier 1 of IPL 2026. With this win, RCB secured their fifth entry into an IPL final, overtaking Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), who have reached the final four times. The victory also marked a strong turnaround for the defending champions, as they continue their push for another title. **CSK Lead, MI Second in Final Appearances**
Chennai Super Kings (CSK), led by MS Dhoni, remain the most successful team in terms of final appearances, having reached the IPL final a record 10 times. They have won 5 titles and finished runners-up on 5 occasions. Mumbai Indians (MI) stand second on the list with 6 final appearances, winning 5 of them, making them one of the most efficient teams in IPL history. **KKR and SRH in Top Five**
Kolkata Knight Riders occupy fourth place with 4 final appearances and 3 titles. Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) are fifth with 3 final appearances so far, with a chance to add another if they progress further in the tournament. RCB's latest achievement strengthens their place among the league's most consistent performers in reaching the IPL summit clash. RCB's rise into the top three highlights their growing consistency in reaching the IPL's biggest stage.

Cyberabad Police Bust 6 Cyber Frauds, Arrest 10

Cyberabad Police have cracked down on organised cyber fraud networks, arresting 10 accused across multiple states in six cases involving trading scams, impersonation, job fraud, and vishing calls. In a major breakthrough, a fake stock trading app scam was busted, while ₹1.39 crore has been cleared for refund to victims, highlighting both enforcement action and recovery efforts.

> Vikrama Vahini | Hyderabad
The Cyberabad Police have detected six cybercrime cases and arrested 10 accused across multiple states between May 20 and May 26, in a major crackdown on organised cyber fraud networks. According to police, the accused were involved in various frauds, including trading scams, impersonation, digital arrest fraud, job fraud and vishing calls. Of the total arrests, four were linked to trading fraud cases. The cases include two trading frauds (four arrests), one impersonation fraud (one arrest), one digital arrest fraud (one arrest), one job fraud (one arrest) and one vishing call fraud (three arrests). Police also processed 440 refund



orders in 70 cases and secured court approval to refund ₹1.39 crore to victims. In a major breakthrough, the cybercrime unit busted an online stock trading and IPO scam operated through a fake app named "ACEFD." A victim was cheated of ₹7.19 lakh after being lured via social media

advertisements and added to a WhatsApp group promising high returns through stock trading and IPO investments. The fraudsters allegedly used fake profit displays to gain trust, collected money through multiple bank accounts and later blocked withdrawals while demanding additional payments. Three accused from Delhi were arrested for providing bank accounts used to route the defrauded money for commission. Police have urged citizens to remain cautious, avoid trusting social media investment schemes promising guaranteed returns and report cyber frauds immediately through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal or helpline 1930.

Bar Shut Over Illegal Use of Residential Land

> Vikrama Vahini | Koppal
The district administration has cancelled the CL-07 licence of Ajay Tourist Home Bar & Restaurant in Gangavathi for allegedly operating on land designated for residential use using forged documents. Following a complaint, an inquiry revealed that the establishment had secured permission by submitting false records and misrepresenting the land's purpose. The land, originally allotted for housing in 1967, was later used for commercial purposes in violation of regulations.

TTD Gets Silver, Gold Offerings from Devotees



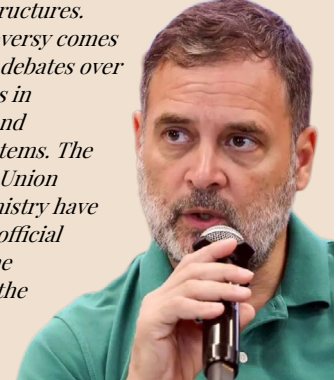
> Vikrama Vahini | Tirumala
Devotees continued to make generous offerings to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, presenting silver and gold items to Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy. According to TTD officials, devotees Gopala Krishna and Purushottam from Chennai donated silver Nakshatra Haratis weighing 4.5 kg on Wednesday. The offerings were handed over to the temple's Deputy Executive Officer at the Ranga Nayakula Mandapam within the temple premises. In another significant contribution, an anonymous devotee from Mysore donated five gold medallions worth approximately ₹1.10 crore on Tuesday. The temple continues to witness a steady flow of donations from devotees as a mark of faith and devotion.

CONGRESS ALLEGES CBSE RESULT IRREGULARITIES, SEEKS PROBE

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
The Congress on Wednesday launched a strong attack on the Centre and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), alleging "massive manipulation" and irregularities in the Class 12 examination results following the rollout of a new digital evaluation system. The party demanded a judicial probe, formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT), and the resignation of the Union Education Minister. **Rahul Gandhi alleges "systemic manipulation"**
Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi alleged that lakhs of students were affected due to alleged flaws in the on-screen marking (OSM) system introduced this year. In a post on social media platform X, he accused the government of failing to address growing concerns and termed the issue a "well-planned conspiracy." He further alleged that a private company, COEMPT (earlier known as Globarena), with a controversial background, was assigned responsibility for the evaluation process involving nearly 18.5 lakh students. Gandhi

questioned the selection process, background verification, and alleged procedural lapses in awarding the contract. **Demand for judicial probe and SIT**
Gandhi demanded an independent judicial inquiry and constitution of an SIT to investigate what he described as a "scam." He also sought answers on how the firm was selected and whether due diligence was followed. He said students should not suffer due to administrative failures and asserted that accountability must be fixed in the matter. **Congress questions CBSE evaluation reforms**
The Congress also cited reports claiming that members of the CBSE governing body had recommended pilot testing of the new system before nationwide implementation, which was allegedly ignored. According to the party, the abrupt rollout of the digital evaluation process has created confusion and concerns over result accuracy, impacting students across the country. **Jairam Ramesh targets Education Ministry**
Congress general secretary, Jairam

Ramesh termed the controversy a reflection of "centralised decision-making" and lack of consultation with expert bodies. He alleged that key advisory institutions in the education system have not been functioning effectively in recent years. He also criticised the functioning of bodies such as the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (NITSER) council, and others, alleging long gaps in meetings and weakened governance structures. The controversy comes amid ongoing debates over digital reforms in examination and evaluation systems. The CBSE and the Union Education Ministry have not issued an official response to the allegations at the time of reporting.



Air India Flight Turns Back After 8-Hour Mid-Air Ordeal

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
An Air India flight en route to San Francisco was forced to return to Delhi after encountering a technical malfunction mid-air, causing significant disruption to its journey. The AI173 flight, carrying around 230 passengers, departed from Delhi on May 27 for San Francisco. According to airline officials, the aircraft had been airborne for nearly three hours when a technical issue was detected. As a precautionary measure, the pilots decided to turn the aircraft back while it was flying over Chinese airspace. The flight remained in the air for a total of nearly eight hours before safely landing back in Delhi. Air India confirmed that the aircraft landed without any incident and that all passengers and crew members were safe. In an official statement, Air India expressed regret over the



inconvenience caused to passengers and assured that immediate steps were taken to address the situation. Passengers have been provided with necessary support, including meals, hotel accommodation, and ground assistance during the delay. Airline staff have been deployed to assist travellers and manage rescheduling of flights. The incident once again highlights the importance of stringent safety protocols in aviation, with airlines prioritising passenger safety by taking precautionary decisions even at the cost of delays and operational disruptions.

SC SEEKS REPLY ON CBSE THREE-LANGUAGE POLICY

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought responses from the Centre, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) over a plea challenging the board's new three-language policy for Class IX students, scheduled to come into effect from July 1, 2026. **Bench Issues Notices**
A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joydip Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi issued notices to the respondents and directed them to file their replies within two weeks. The court also asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati to submit a report on the CBSE's preparedness for implementing the policy. The matter has been listed for hearing in the second week of July. **Petitioners Raise Constitutional Concerns**
Appearing for petitioner Yashica Bhandari Jain and others, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi argued that the CBSE circular mandating the study of three languages for Class IX students raises significant constitutional concerns. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing other petitioners, contended that the policy involves issues related to federalism and the right of educational choice. **CBSE Circular Details**



According to the CBSE circular, students will be required to study three languages, of which at least two must be Indian languages. The board stated that the framework aims to enhance competencies at the secondary stage and will be supported with supplementary local or state literary materials such as short stories, poems, and non-fiction works selected by schools. The circular further stated that detailed implementation guidelines will be issued by June 15. Until dedicated textbooks for the third language are available, students will continue using Class VI R3 textbooks (2026-27 edition) for instruction.

VIKRAMA VAHINI | INFO GRAPHICS

WhatsApp to introduce usernames, bringing phone number privacy

Here's how

- WhatsApp is adding usernames so you can connect without sharing your phone number.**
- A cleaner, safer system for more privacy.**
- Clean & Safe System**
- Notifications for Username Updates**
- Check Availability on the Web**
- In Development - Coming Soon**

Choose your username

@ yourname_123 ✓

Your phone number stays private

Here's how

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