



VIKRAMA VAHINI

GOA STATEHOOD DAY

30 May, 2026 | Saturday | Shukla Paksha | Chaturdashi | Vikrama Samvata | Bengaluru | Volume: 09 | Issue: 75

Rukmini Vasanth has been roped in as the female lead for Tamil superstar Suriya's milestone 50th film, which is expected to be a high-budget project directed by Vikram with music by A.R. Rahman and produced by KVN Productions.

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Friday announced a revised allocation system for Srivani Trust Darshan tickets aimed at improving convenience for devotees and streamlining access for eligible donors.



INSIDE

Good morning

Approach your problems with a positive attitude and know that nothing lasts forever. Not even bad times.

BRIEFS

NIA Raids 12 Sites in Arms-IED Case

> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi
The National Investigation Agency on Friday carried out coordinated searches at 12 locations across four states in connection with a cross-border arms, ammunition and IED smuggling case.

Searches were conducted in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Maharashtra, during which several digital devices were seized for forensic analysis to uncover the wider terror network.

The case originated in February following the arrest of a suspect in Amritsar, Punjab, who was found in possession of an improvised explosive device (IED), a foreign-made pistol and live cartridges. Investigations revealed that the smuggled weapons were intended for planned IED blasts in Punjab, Delhi and other parts of the country to disrupt peace and cause large-scale damage.

The agency said efforts are underway to identify other individuals and cross-border links involved in the conspiracy.

Court Sets 3-Month Verdict Deadline

> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi
The Supreme Court of India has issued binding guidelines to High Courts to ensure timely delivery of reserved judgments, fixing a three-month deadline for pronouncement.

A bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi directed that High Courts must strive to deliver reasoned judgments within three months from the date of reserving orders.

The court also emphasised urgency in bail matters, stating that bail orders should normally be pronounced on the same day, or by the next day if reserved. It further ruled that if a judgment is delayed beyond four months, parties can approach the Chief Justice to seek transfer of the case to another bench.

Trump Nears Final Call on Iran Deal

> Vikrama Vahini | Washington
Donald Trump said he will soon make a "final determination" on a potential deal with Iran as efforts continue to ease tensions in the Middle East.

The statement comes amid ongoing negotiations, with Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf asserting that Tehran will judge any agreement based on actions rather than promises.

Tensions escalated following recent US-Israel operations against Iran and the subsequent closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which disrupted global oil shipments. The US has indicated that restrictions in the region may be eased depending on the outcome of talks. While reports of a draft agreement surfaced in Iranian media, the United States dismissed them as false, stating that no such framework has been finalised.

DK Set For Crown

CLP Meet Today Amid Intense Delhi Buzz

DCM Deadlock Deepens: 50:50 Formula Dominates Cabinet Talks

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
Karnataka is on the verge of a major political transition, with Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar expected to be formally elected leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) at a crucial meeting scheduled for Saturday in Bengaluru, paving the way for him to become the state's 24th Chief Minister.

The CLP meeting will be held at 4 pm at Vidhana Soudha in the presence of AICC observers KC Venuogopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala. The Congress is also expected to formally acknowledge outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, whose resignation on Thursday triggered the leadership transition.

Governor Thawarchand Gehlot has accepted Siddaramaiah's resignation and dissolved the Council of Ministers, while asking him to continue as caretaker Chief Minister until the new government assumes office.

Final consultations in Delhi
Shivakumar spent Friday in New Delhi holding discussions with Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, and Sonia Gandhi. Party sources described these meetings as "final consultations" on the structure of the new government, cabinet allocation, and swearing-in arrangements.

Swearing-in likely this weekend
The swearing-in ceremony is expected to take place either on Sunday or Monday, depending on the availability of senior leaders including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Internal negotiations over cabinet posts
The transition has involved extensive internal discussions, including allocation of key portfolios. Sources said Siddaramaiah has also been engaged in talks regarding representation for his loyalists in the new cabinet, including proposals concerning his son Yathindra Siddaramaiah. **PG2...**



CONGRESS IN TALKS TO FORM NEW KARNATAKA GOVT

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
Senior Congress leaders on Friday held intense discussions over the formation of a new government in Karnataka following the resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Governor Thawarchand Gehlot formally accepted Siddaramaiah's resignation and dissolved the state cabinet, paving the way for a leadership transition.

The Congress Legislature Party (CLP) is scheduled to meet on Saturday at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru to elect a new leader. Senior leader D. K. Shivakumar is expected to be chosen as the next CLP leader.

Siddu Seeks Bigger Role Post Resignation

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is reportedly seeking a larger role in state politics after stepping down, with suggestions of forming a coordination committee to bridge

the party and the government. According to sources, Siddaramaiah proposed reviving a coordination committee model during discussions with the Congress high command in Delhi. He had earlier headed **PG2**

Meanwhile, Siddaramaiah, along with his son Yathindra, met top party leadership in New Delhi, including

Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, to discuss the transition.

50% New Faces in Karnataka Cabinet

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
The Karnataka Congress is planning a major cabinet reshuffle with nearly 50 per cent new faces likely to be inducted, as the party prepares for the crucial Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting.

Party leaders said the final decision on cabinet composition, including regional and governance representation and possible Deputy Chief Minister posts, will be taken by the high command after the CLP meeting.

The move comes after the resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, with the party looking to reset its leadership and governance structure ahead of future elections. Senior leaders, including D.K. Shivakumar, are in discussions with the party high command in New Delhi.

CLP Meet Set Amid DK Shivakumar CM Buzz

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
The Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting in Karnataka is scheduled for Saturday at 4 pm, even as political activity intensifies over the selection of the next Chief Minister following Siddaramaiah's resignation.

CLP meeting at 4 pm on Saturday
Karnataka Minister HK Patil confirmed on Friday that the CLP meeting will be held as planned. He said discussions within the party had been settled and expressed confidence that the leadership transition would strengthen the Congress in the state.

"All issues within the party have been resolved. The CLP meeting will be held tomorrow at 4 pm," Patil told reporters in Bengaluru. **PG2**

GEORGE PLAYS KEY ROLE IN SMOOTH POWER TRANSITION

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru/New Delhi
Senior Congress leader and MLA K.J. George is learnt to have played a crucial behind-the-scenes role in ensuring a smooth power transition within the ruling Indian National Congress government in Karnataka.

The prolonged tug-of-war over the power-sharing arrangement between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar had reportedly become a matter of concern for the Congress high command over the past year. Party leaders feared that any confusion or open confrontation during the transition could destabilise the government and even threaten the party's hold on power in the state.

According to sources, the Congress high



command entrusted K.J. George — considered part of its trusted inner circle — with the responsibility of ensuring that the leadership

transition took place without friction. Leveraging his close rapport with Siddaramaiah, George is said to have conveyed the high command's

message and remained actively involved until the Chief Minister agreed to step down.

George also accompanied Siddaramaiah during the crucial meetings with party leaders in New Delhi on Friday, where the transition formula was finalised smoothly.

He was again seen participating in several rounds of discussions held in Delhi on Saturday regarding the formation of the new cabinet, accommodation of fresh faces, and the broader post-transition political strategy.

Party insiders believe George's seniority, organisational skills, and ability to maintain communication between various factions played a significant role in preventing internal unrest during the sensitive phase of leadership change.

US-INDIA TRADE DEAL NEAR FINALISATION

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
The United States has indicated that a long-awaited interim trade agreement with India is nearing completion, with only minor details left to be finalised. US envoy to India, Sergio Gor, on Friday said that the India-US partnership is uniquely positioned to lead global economic and technological cooperation.

Speaking at an event in the national capital, Gor emphasised that both nations are at a "defining moment" as emerging technologies reshape global power dynamics.

He noted that areas such as trade, investment, artificial intelligence, critical technologies, pharmaceuticals, and innovation offer vast opportunities for deeper collaboration.

Highlighting the progress in negotiations, Gor revealed that nearly 99 percent of the proposed interim trade deal has been completed.

He added that an Indian delegation had recently visited Washington DC to finalise the remaining portion of the agreement, while a US team is expected to visit India next week to continue discussions. He also underscored the remarkable growth in bilateral trade, which has surged from around \$20 billion to over \$220 billion in goods and services over the past two decades.

Gor reiterated that the strengthening of economic ties between India and the US could unlock significant prosperity for both nations, further cementing their relationship as a key strategic partnership of the 21st century.

6 Killed in Vijayapura Land Dispute Clash

> Vikrama Vahini | Vijayapura
In a shocking incident, six people were brutally killed in Bhima river belt over a long-standing property dispute in Chadchan taluk of Vijayapura district on Friday.

The incident took place in Govindapur village, where members of two families allegedly clashed over a land dispute. Police said the conflict between the Nirale and Golgi families escalated, leading to the mass killing.

According to preliminary information, the victims were attacked with sharp weapons and also shot dead. The deceased have been identified as Chetan Nirale, a member of Chadchan Town Panchayat, Revansiddappa Nirale, Dundappa Revansiddappa Nirale, Shivaputra Revansiddappa Nirale, Chandrashekhhar Nirale, and Shabbir Nadaf.

"India Eyes \$150B Semiconductor Goal by 2035"

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
India should aim to build a \$120-150 billion semiconductor value chain by 2035, focusing on leadership and self-reliance rather than merely participating in the global supply chain, according to a new report by NITI Aayog.

The report, titled "Future of India's Semiconductor Industry," states that achieving this goal will require cumulative

investments of \$135-180 billion over the next decade across design, fabrication, advanced packaging, materials, and infrastructure. It recommends that the government contribute at least one-third of the total investment to reduce risks and attract private capital.

Highlighting the urgency, the report noted that India currently imports 90-95% of its semiconductor requirements despite rapidly growing demand. This dependence not only leads to large foreign exchange outflows but also exposes critical sectors to global supply chain disruptions. The domestic semiconductor market is projected to reach nearly \$200 billion by 2035, driven by strong growth in sectors such as artificial intelligence, telecommunications, electric **PG2**



Editorial

Future At Stake

The repeated controversies surrounding the NEET have once again raised serious questions about the credibility of India's examination system. The recent question paper leak and the confusion that followed have deeply disturbed lakhs of students and parents across the country. Even the Supreme Court of India has openly expressed dissatisfaction over the manner in which the issue has been handled. Yet, the silence from the Union ministry responsible for conducting and supervising such examinations has been both disappointing and worrying. What is even more unfortunate is that this is not the first such incident. Repeated leaks, irregularities, and allegations of malpractice have slowly weakened public trust in a system that is supposed to reward merit and hard work.

Only after sustained criticism from opposition parties and mounting public outrage did the concerned Union minister respond to the controversy. By then, however, the damage had already been done. The delayed reaction reflects either a lack of control over the department or a lack of seriousness toward the issue. Neither is acceptable when the future of millions of students is involved. Young aspirants spend years preparing for examinations like NEET with immense dedication, often under tremendous emotional and financial pressure. Any compromise in the fairness of the process directly affects their confidence, morale, and future opportunities.

India often speaks about its youth being the foundation of tomorrow's progress. If that vision is to be meaningful, the country must first protect the integrity of its educational system. Students deserve transparency, accountability, and a system they can trust. The Prime Minister must now step in decisively to restore confidence, whether by reshuffling responsibility within the ministry or by appointing an independent committee to reform the examination mechanism. The nation cannot afford to play with the aspirations of its young generation. Strong corrective action today alone can prevent a deeper crisis of trust tomorrow.

-Editor



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah met Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi during his visit to the New Delhi on Friday, holding discussions amid the ongoing political developments in the state. Also present on the occasion were former minister and MLA K. J. George and the Chief Minister's media advisor K. V. Prabhakar.

DKS Tribute Sparks Karnataka CM Race Buzz

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday set off fresh political speculation with an emotional tribute to outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, as the Congress leadership transition in the state gathered momentum.

Hours after Siddaramaiah's resignation was accepted by Governor Thawarchand Gehlot, Shivakumar posted a message praising him as a "pillar of strength" and highlighting their long-standing political partnership.

Quoting the line, "If you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to walk far, walk together," Shivakumar's message was widely interpreted in political circles as a signal of unity amid an unfolding leadership change.

In his post, Shivakumar described

Siddaramaiah's journey from rural Mysuru to the Chief Minister's office as a strong reflection of resilience, perseverance and commitment to social justice.

"Ever since I was entrusted with the responsibility of serving as KPCC President in 2020, Siddaramaiah avaru has stood firmly beside me like a pillar of strength," he said, acknowledging their close working relationship in rebuilding the Congress in Karnataka. The message quickly gained traction across political circles and social media, with supporters of Shivakumar projecting him as a frontrunner for the Chief Minister's post. At the same time, the Congress leadership is attempting to maintain an image of unity ahead of the formal transition process.

DK Set For Crown

Balancing leadership interests

The Congress high command has reportedly worked to balance the ambitions of Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar while maintaining party unity. Since the 2023 Assembly elections, speculation has persisted over leadership arrangements and succession planning within the state unit.

Organisational role and future strategy

Shivakumar's elevation is being seen as recognition of his organisational role in strengthening the Congress in Karnataka. Known for his strategic leadership and crisis management skills, he is credited with playing a key role in the party's revival in the state.

Political observers say the transition also carries national significance, as Karnataka remains the Congress's most important government in southern India.

Focus on unity and stability

Party MLAs have been instructed to attend the CLP meeting without fail, underscoring the leadership's emphasis on unity and discipline.

If elected, Shivakumar will take charge at a politically sensitive time as the Congress seeks to maintain stability in Karnataka while preparing for future electoral challenges.

Attention is now focused on Bengaluru and New Delhi as final decisions regarding the formation of the new government are expected to be announced soon.

Siddu Seeks Bigger Role Post Resignation

a similar panel during the 2018 coalition government, and the move is seen as an attempt to retain influence in the state's political affairs.

However, senior Congress leaders are said to be reluctant to accept the proposal, citing that such a mechanism may not be necessary as the party currently enjoys a clear majority in the Karnataka Assembly.

Reports also indicate that the party leadership offered Siddaramaiah a Rajya Sabha seat and a significant role at the

"India Eyes \$150B Semiconductor Goal by 2035"

mobility, defence, and digital infrastructure.

The report emphasised that India should prioritise areas like advanced packaging, compound semiconductors, and chip design rather than competing directly in the global wafer fabrication race.

It also called for stable policies, predictable incentives, and coordinated execution to build a globally competitive

ecosystem.

Nirmala Sitharaman, while releasing the report, said it reflects India's intent to move from being a major chip consumer to becoming a key player in the global semiconductor value chain.

Meanwhile, Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said India is positioning itself as a trusted global partner by building a complete semiconductor ecosystem, including design, talent, materials, and manufacturing capabilities.

Yelahanka Celebrates Savarkar Jayanti with Grandeur

The 143rd birth anniversary of freedom fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was celebrated with grandeur by BJP workers in Yelahanka Assembly constituency on Thursday.

The programme was held near the Veer Savarkar Bridge in Yelahanka Suburban, where MLA S.R. Vishwanath offered floral tributes to Savarkar's portrait and paid homage.

Speaking on the occasion, Vishwanath said Savarkar was a great thinker who sowed the seeds of nationalism through his ideology of Hindutva, adding that his sacrifice and vision for a



united India continue to inspire the younger generation. He also criticised the Congress party, alleging disrespect towards Savarkar. The event was organised under the leadership of Yelahanka BJP youth leaders, with party workers participating in a procession carrying banners and raising slogans in praise of Savarkar. Senior party members and hundreds of workers took part in the celebrations.

Bank Shifting

Nationalised Canara Bank branch at Chikkapete to be shifted to new premises very shortly.

Present branch at Pathi Mansion, (Branch Code:10405) is going operate from new premises at AVM Square, No.135, Police Road, Arcot Srinivas Achar Street, opposite Chikkapete Metro Station, Bangalore -560053.

New branch is very convenient to Customers as it's near to Metro Station, Bank administration said in its media release.

No Cabinet Decision Yet Ahead of CLP Meet: Shivakumar

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday said that no decision has been taken yet on cabinet formation or leadership changes, ahead of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting scheduled for Saturday.

Speaking in New Delhi, Shivakumar said discussions with the Congress high command are ongoing and all MLAs have been asked to attend the meeting in Bengaluru. He added that the final decision will be taken only after consultations with central leaders.

The CLP meeting comes amid political developments following Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's resignation, which triggered discussions on leadership transition in the Congress-ruled state. Senior Congress leaders, including Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar and KJ George, held meetings in Delhi on Friday with party high command leaders, including Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, to discuss the next course of action.



CLP Meet Set Amid DK Shivakumar CM Buzz

"No personal ambition", says HK Patil

Patil also clarified that he is not seeking any position in the new government and will continue to serve in any capacity assigned by the party leadership.

He further added that Siddaramaiah's resignation has contributed to a smoother transition and credited the outgoing Chief Minister for managing the process.

Siddaramaiah resigned on Thursday following instructions from the Congress high command.

A day before his resignation, he hosted a breakfast meeting at his official residence with senior leaders, including DK Shivakumar, where he reportedly urged unity during the transition.

Following his resignation, Siddaramaiah travelled to Delhi to meet senior Congress leaders, including Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, and party president Mallikarjun Kharge.

NEWS



Karnataka Congress MPs and MLAs met Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in New Delhi on Friday and held discussions on key political developments and organisational matters.

Chikkaballapur Set for State Talent Awards



The state-level KUWJ (Karnataka Union of Working Journalists) Children's Talent Award ceremony will be held on May 31 at the Kannada Bhavana in Chikkaballapur, said KUWJ State President Shivananda Tagadur.

Addressing a press conference, he said the event will honour more than 200 children of journalists from across Karnataka who have scored over 90% in SSLC and PUC examinations. Each awardee will receive ₹3,000, along with a memento and a certificate of appreciation.

He said this is the first time Chikkaballapur district is hosting the prestigious event, and preparations are in full swing by the district unit of KUWJ.

The district, known as the "land of fruits and hill stations," has a rich cultural and

scientific legacy, having produced eminent personalities such as Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya and renowned scientist C.N.R. Rao.

Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will deliver the keynote address. The programme will be inaugurated by former Higher Education Minister Dr. M.C. Sudhakar, while MP Dr. K. Sudhakar will deliver the felicitation address. Media advisor to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, K.V. Prabhakar, will present the awards.

District KUWJ President V. Ravikumar said special exhibitions of products made by women self-help groups and media-related stalls will also be set up during the event.

State and district office bearers of KUWJ were present at the press briefing.

HEALTH & Lifestyle

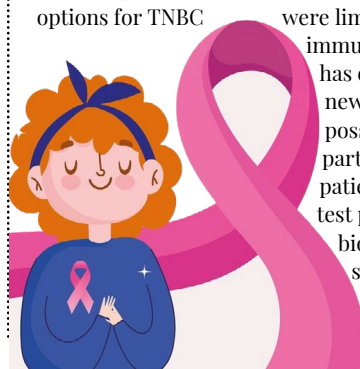
Immunotherapy Boosts Breast Cancer Survival Rates

Immunotherapy is emerging as a major advancement in breast cancer treatment, significantly improving survival rates and offering better chances of cure in selected patients, according to cancer specialists. The treatment, which strengthens the body's immune system to fight cancer cells, is showing promising results, especially in aggressive forms of breast cancer.

Traditionally, breast cancer treatment has relied on surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy. While these methods remain important, doctors say they often have limitations in advanced and aggressive cases. Immunotherapy is now being added as a new treatment approach, marking a significant shift in oncology care.

Medical oncologist and Director at H.O.P.E Oncology Clinic, New Delhi, Dr. Amish Vora, said immunotherapy has shown the most impact in triple negative breast cancer (TNBC)—a subtype that lacks ER, PR, and HER2 markers and is known to be highly aggressive.

He explained that earlier treatment options for TNBC were limited, but immunotherapy has opened new possibilities, particularly in patients who test positive for biomarkers such as PD-L1 or MSI.



Doctors highlight that immunotherapy does not just improve response rates but also extends the duration of response.

"In advanced (Stage 4) breast cancer, chemotherapy typically works for about seven to eight months," Dr. Vora said. "With immunotherapy, responses can last two to three years in some patients due to immune memory, where the body continues to attack cancer cells even after treatment."

However, he noted that not all patients respond equally, but those who do often experience longer-lasting benefits compared to chemotherapy alone.

One of the most significant developments is the use of immunotherapy in early-stage breast cancer, particularly Stage 2 and Stage 3 cases where surgery can still offer a cure.

Doctors are now combining immunotherapy with chemotherapy before surgery, leading to improved outcomes and higher cure potential.

Studies show that adding immunotherapy to chemotherapy before surgery increases pathological complete response rates by 25-30 percent. This means no active cancer cells are found during surgery, which is considered a key indicator of successful treatment.

Experts believe immunotherapy is reshaping the future of breast cancer care, particularly for aggressive subtypes. While it is not suitable for all patients, its growing success in selected cases is offering new hope for improved survival and potential cure.

SCIENCE & Technology

Anthropic Unveils Claude Opus 4.8 for Coding Tasks

Artificial intelligence company Anthropic has launched Claude Opus 4.8, the latest version of its flagship AI model, featuring improved performance in coding, reasoning, computer use, and financial analysis tasks.

The company announced the release on May 29, 2026, stating that the new model builds on Opus 4.7 and offers better benchmark scores while maintaining the same pricing structure. Anthropic described the update as a more reliable and efficient "collaborator" for professional and technical work.

According to the company, Claude Opus 4.8 shows significant improvements across multiple tests. In SWE-Bench Pro, which evaluates coding abilities, the model scored 69.2%, compared to 64.3% for Opus 4.7.

In Terminal-Bench 2.1, focused on terminal-based coding tasks, the model scored 74.6%, while in OSWorld-Verified computer use tests, it achieved 83.4%, slightly higher than its predecessor.

Anthropic said one of the key improvements in Opus 4.8 is its ability to recognize uncertainty and reduce unsupported claims. The company claims the model is significantly less likely to present incorrect code or overconfident answers.

Early testing suggests the model is about four times less likely than Opus 4.7 to leave errors in its generated code unflagged, improving reliability for developers and researchers.

The updated version introduces several new features, including dynamic workflows in Claude Code for handling complex coding tasks, effort control options in Claude.ai and Cowork, and enhanced API flexibility for developers.

SIDDARAMAIAH'S DELHI RETURN SPARKS KARNATAKA POWER TALKS

Siddaramaiah's back-to-back Delhi visits signal intense Congress deliberations over Karnataka's leadership transition, with talks on cabinet formation, his future role, and D.K. Shivakumar's likely elevation as Chief Minister.

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
Outgoing Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was in Delhi on Friday for the second time in four days, as the state's political transition gathers pace within the Congress party.



Siddaramaiah, accompanied by his son and Karnataka Legislative Council member Yathindra Siddaramaiah, met Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge during his visit. Party leaders Priyank Kharge and KJ George were also present at the meetings, along with senior Karnataka leader DK Shivakumar.

The discussions are believed to have focused on the ongoing leadership transition in Karnataka, following Siddaramaiah's resignation on Thursday in line with instructions from the Congress high command. His resignation was accepted by the Governor on Friday morning.

Sources said Siddaramaiah is seeking accommodation for his son in the upcoming state Cabinet, while Congress leaders reportedly urged him to reconsider his decision to decline a Rajya Sabha seat and instead take up a role in national politics.

Party insiders also indicated that the leadership change in Karnataka is likely to pave the way for DK Shivakumar as the next Chief Minister, although an official announcement is still awaited.

Siddaramaiah, however, has stated that he will continue in active politics at the state level and focus on his constituency Varuna for the next two years. He also

confirmed that he declined the offer of a Rajya Sabha seat, saying he is not interested in national politics at this stage.

The developments mark a crucial phase in Karnataka politics as the Congress party finalises its leadership structure in the state.

The developments also underscore the Congress party's effort to strike a balance between experience and generational change as it prepares for upcoming political challenges.

With leadership discussions intensifying and key decisions expected after the CLP meeting, the transition phase is likely to shape the party's strategy, governance priorities, and internal power structure in Karnataka in the coming months.

Monsoon Weakens, June Heats Up

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

India is likely to experience a weaker southwest monsoon in 2026, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting seasonal rainfall at about 90 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA). The agency has also projected an 84 per cent probability of below-normal or deficient rainfall between June and September.

According to IMD, the LPA for seasonal rainfall—based on data from 1971 to 2020—is 87 cm. The forecast indicates that rainfall may remain uneven and below normal across large parts of the country, raising concerns for agriculture, water storage, and power generation.

Below-normal rainfall likely across most regions



IMD's updated model suggests a 60 per cent probability of deficient rainfall and a 24 per cent chance of below-normal rainfall. Only limited pockets in northwest, northeast, east-central and parts of peninsular India are expected to receive normal to above-normal rainfall.

Impact on agriculture and water resources

A weaker monsoon could affect key sectors

such as farming, drinking water supply, hydropower generation, and groundwater recharge. Experts warn that poor rainfall distribution may also increase drought risk in several regions if conditions persist.

Hotter June and heatwave warning

IMD has also indicated that June 2026 rainfall may remain below normal at less than 92 per cent of LPA. At the same time, several regions—including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Haryana, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh—are likely to witness above-normal heatwave days.

Isolated heatwave conditions may also affect parts of Maharashtra, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, increasing health risks during peak summer.

SC QUESTIONS NTA ON NEET LEAK

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday raised serious concerns over the NEET-UG paper leak controversy and questioned the National Testing Agency (NTA) on how such a major security lapse occurred despite existing monitoring systems and oversight committees.

A bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe observed that similar breaches have not been reported in the UPSC examination system and suggested that the NTA should learn from more robust institutional practices.

Justice Narasimha questioned the committee on monitoring mechanisms and how effectively recommendations were being implemented. Dr Radhakrishnan informed the bench that 101 recommendations had been made, including 60 short-term measures for the 2025-26 examination cycle, most of which have already been implemented.

TTD Introduces Donor Darshan Quota

Vikrama Vahini | Tirumala

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Friday announced a revised allocation system for Srivani Trust Darshan tickets aimed at improving convenience for devotees and streamlining access for eligible donors.

As per the current system, TTD releases 1,500 Srivani Darshan tickets daily online. Of these, 500 tickets are made available under advance booking three months in advance through the official portal, while 200 tickets are issued under the current booking quota at Tirupati Airport.

New donor-specific quota introduced

Under the revised arrangement, TTD

has earmarked 300 tickets daily from the existing 800 current booking tickets exclusively for devotees who have donated ₹10,000 or more to the Srivani Trust and are awaiting Darshan.

The facility will apply to devotees who have contributed

to the trust on or after May 1, 2025.

Booking and Darshan schedule

The dedicated quota tickets will be released daily at 9 am. Devotees who complete booking before 1 pm will be allotted Darshan on the same day at 4 pm.

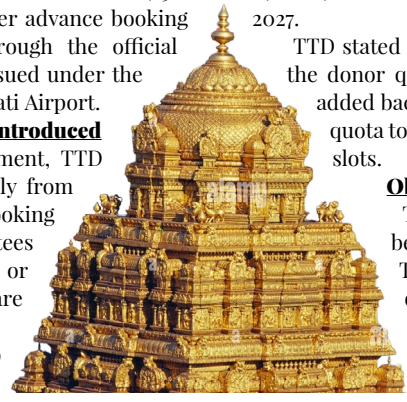
Implementation period

The new system will come into effect from June 10, 2026, and will remain in force until March 31, 2027.

TTD stated that any unutilised tickets under the donor quota on a particular day will be added back to the general current booking quota to ensure full utilisation of available slots.

Objective of the move

The initiative is expected to benefit a large number of Srivani Trust donors awaiting Darshan opportunities, while also improving the efficiency of ticket allocation for pilgrims visiting Tirumala.



Global Air Demand Drops 3.4%

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Global air passenger demand fell by 3.4% in April amid ongoing tensions in West Asia, according to data released by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

The report said international demand declined by 5.3% year-on-year, while domestic demand remained largely flat compared to April last year. Excluding the Middle East, global demand showed a modest growth of 1.9%.

IATA noted that overall passenger



traffic was affected by a sharp 46.6% drop in demand for Middle Eastern carriers due to regional conflict. As a result, total global demand declined by 2.9% year-on-year, with the average load factor standing at 83.1%, down

slightly from last year.

The association also highlighted that rising jet fuel prices, which more than doubled in April, have contributed to higher airfares and weaker demand outlook.

It added that forward booking trends indicate reduced airline capacity in the coming months.

Regionally, North America recorded flat demand growth, while Latin America saw an 8.9% increase and Africa registered a 2.2% rise in passenger traffic.

Ajay Kochhar Named 48th Vice Naval Chief

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar, held several key command, PVS, AVSM and NM, assumed charge as the 48th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS) on May 29, 2026. The Indian Navy confirmed the appointment in an official statement.

On assuming office, he paid tribute to fallen soldiers by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial in New Delhi.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune, Vice Admiral Kochhar was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1988.

With over 37 years of service, he has held several key command, operational and staff appointments, specialising in gunnery and missile systems.

He has commanded major frontline warships including INS Nashak, INS Vibhuti, INS Kirpan, INS Trikand, and later the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, overseeing critical operational deployments of its air wing.

At Naval Headquarters, he served in senior roles such as Joint Director (Naval Plans), Director of Staff

Requirements, and Principal Director DSCT. After being promoted to Flag Rank in 2018, he held posts including Assistant Controller of Carrier Projects and Warship Production and Acquisition.

In 2021, he took charge of the Western Fleet and later served as Commandant of the National Defence Academy, focusing on training and infrastructure development.

He also served as Chief of Staff of the Western Naval Command during a sensitive maritime security phase.



ENTERTAINMENT

Ranveer Singh's 'Pralay' Stays on Track Amid 'Don 3' Row

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Amid the ongoing controversy surrounding Don 3 and the non-cooperation directive issued against actor Ranveer Singh by the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE), reports indicate that his upcoming film Pralay is not facing any delay and is progressing as planned.

The buzz around the project's possible disruption began after industry speculation linked the FWICE directive to Ranveer Singh's professional commitments. However, latest reports suggest that the situation has not affected the production timeline of the film.

According to a report by

Bombay Times, Pralay is currently in its advanced pre-production stage.

Key work including scripting, production design, visual effects planning, location scouting and

technical preparations is underway to mount the film on a large scale. The report further states that the shoot is scheduled to begin in August this year.

Sources close to the project have clarified that there has been no operational impact on the film. A source was quoted as saying, "Everything is in order and running as planned. FWICE's directive has had no impact on the film whatsoever. Pralay will go on floors in August."

Directed by Jai Mehta, Pralay is being produced by True Story Films, Maa Kasam Films and Applause Entertainment. The film is said to be mounted on a massive budget of around ₹300 crore and will be a post-apocalyptic zombie survival thriller. International technicians are reportedly involved in the project to help create a detailed and expansive visual universe.

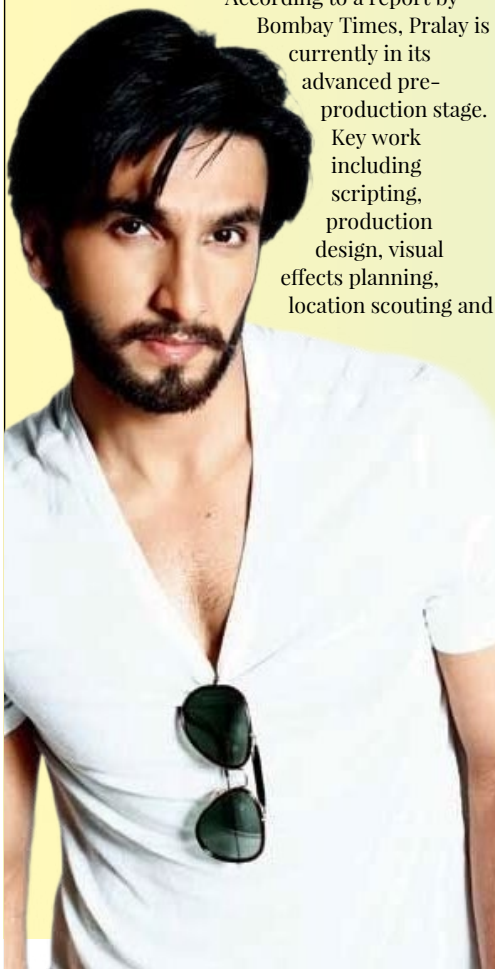
Ranveer Singh is also expected to undergo a complete transformation for his role, including a new look and physically demanding preparation, as the film is positioned as a high-concept commercial entertainer.

Meanwhile, the controversy surrounding Don 3 reportedly stems from Ranveer Singh's exit from the project, which allegedly resulted in financial losses for producer Excel Entertainment. Following this development, FWICE issued a non-cooperation directive against the actor, restricting its affiliated members from working with him.

Despite the controversy, industry insiders maintain that Pralay remains unaffected and is moving forward as per its original production schedule.

Apart from Pralay, Ranveer Singh will also be seen in Aditya Dhar's upcoming historical epic based on Emperor Chandragupta Maurya, which is currently in development.

At present, there is no official confirmation of any delay or disruption to Pralay, and the film continues to be one of Ranveer Singh's most ambitious upcoming projects.



Rashmika in Dual Ghost Roles

Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai

Pan-India star Rashmika Mandanna is set to explore the horror genre further as she takes on ghost characters in two upcoming films, marking another shift in her diverse acting career across Indian cinema.

Rashmika, one of the most prominent actresses in the country and part of several ₹1000-crore blockbuster films, is currently juggling multiple high-profile projects across languages including Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu. She is now set to appear in two separate horror-themed films, where she will be seen portraying supernatural roles.

The actress is not new to the horror space. She earlier played a vampire-like character in the film Thama, which went on to become a box office success. Her performance in the film was widely noted for its glamorous yet intense portrayal of a supernatural role.

One of her upcoming projects is Kanchana 4, the latest installment in the popular Tamil horror franchise. The film is directed by Raghava Lawrence, who also plays the lead role.

Reports suggest Rashmika will appear in a ghost role, likely featured in flashback portions of the story, while actress Pooja Hegde plays the female lead.

In addition to this, Rashmika is also expected to feature in the sequel to Thama, which is currently in early development stages and is likely to be officially announced soon. The sequel is expected to continue her supernatural character arc, further strengthening her association with the horror genre.

Apart from horror films, Rashmika is also working on Mysa, a suspense thriller, and has multiple projects lined up in Hindi and South Indian cinema. She is also part of several pan-India collaborations that are in different stages of production.

Industry sources say Rashmika's growing inclination towards experimental

and genre-based roles is helping her expand her audience base across regions. Despite a busy schedule, she continues to balance commercial entertainers with content-driven cinema.

With this new phase of horror-centric roles, Rashmika Mandanna is further consolidating her position as one of the most versatile and in-demand actresses in Indian cinema.



BUSINESS

June Bank Holidays Up to 12 Days

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Banks across India are set to remain closed for up to 12 days in June 2026, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) holiday calendar. The schedule includes six weekend holidays and several state-specific festivals and observances.

Key holidays in June include Moharram, Maharashtra Pratap Jayanti, Guru Arjan Dev Martyrdom Day, Kabir Jayanti and other regional festivals. However, these holidays will vary from state to state based on local notifications and cultural observances.

While some states such as Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh will witness a higher number of bank holidays due to additional regional festivals, Karnataka will have seven bank holidays during the month.

In Karnataka, banks will remain closed on June 7, 13, 14, 21, 26, 27 and 28. These include four Sundays, two Saturdays and Moharram. Despite the physical closure of bank branches, most banking services will continue uninterrupted through digital platforms.

Customers can still carry out transactions using UPI, net banking, mobile banking and ATMs, which will remain operational round the clock. However, services requiring branch visits such as account opening, cash deposits above limits, and RTGS-related assistance may be affected on holiday days.

The RBI releases a state-wise holiday list every year to ensure uniform banking operations while accommodating regional festivals and national observances.

Banks also advise customers to plan their financial transactions in advance to avoid last-minute inconvenience during consecutive holiday periods. Large cash withdrawals, cheque clearances and RTGS transactions may face delays due to non-working days at branches.

Financial experts say that increasing dependence on digital banking has significantly reduced the impact of such extended holiday schedules. However, they also caution users to remain vigilant against online fraud and phishing attempts during peak digital transaction periods.

SPORTS

Vaibhav Suryavanshi Hits Slowest IPL Fifty

> Vikrama Vahini | Ahmedabad
Rajasthan Royals batter Vaibhav Suryavanshi produced a record-breaking performance against Gujarat Titans in the Qualifier 2 of IPL 2026, reaching several major milestones despite scoring what turned out to be the slowest half-century of his career.

Suryavanshi completed his fifty in 31 balls, marking a relatively subdued innings by his standards, but one that still proved significant in terms of records. With this knock, he crossed the 700-run mark in the ongoing IPL season, becoming the first uncapped player to achieve this feat in a single edition.

He also became the first player in IPL history to score 500 runs in the powerplay phase, setting a new benchmark for aggressive starts at the top of the order. The left-hander now leads the list ahead of players like David Warner, Travis Head and Adam Gilchrist in powerplay scoring.

In the same match, Suryavanshi went on to complete 1,000 IPL runs, achieving the milestone in just 23 innings, making him the fastest Indian to reach the landmark in the tournament's history. He surpassed the previous record held by Yashasvi Jaiswal, who had reached 625 runs in the 2023 season.

Suryavanshi narrowly missed out on a century, getting dismissed for 96 off 47 balls. His innings included 8 boundaries and 6 sixes, once again highlighting his ability to score quickly under pressure.

Despite the "slowest" half-century of his career, the innings stood out for its impact, as Suryavanshi continued to rewrite IPL record books with consistent performances throughout the season.

Sindhu Out, Satwik-Chirag in Singapore Open Semis

> Vikrama Vahini | Singapore
Indian badminton star PV Sindhu bowed out of the Singapore Open after losing to world No.1 An Se Young in the women's singles quarterfinals on Friday, while men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty advanced to the semifinals with a strong comeback win.

Sindhu showed glimpses of her aggressive game but struggled with consistency against the top-ranked Korean, who dominated key points with precision and control. An Se Young secured a straight-games victory, continuing her dominant record against the Indian shuttler and extending her unbeaten run against Sindhu.

In the opening game, Sindhu fought back from a mid-game deficit but failed to convert crucial points as An maintained pressure with sharp placement and strong defence to take the lead.

Meanwhile, Satwik and Chirag delivered a spirited performance in the men's doubles quarterfinal, overcoming Malaysian pair Khai Xing Kang and Aaron Tai 19-21, 21-17, 21-13 in a one-hour, five-minute contest. After losing the first game, the Indian duo bounced back strongly to dominate the next two games.

The pair will now face top-seeded Korean duo Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae in the semifinals.

KVIC Hits Record ₹1.87 Lakh Crore Turnover

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has achieved historic growth, crossing ₹1.87 lakh crore in total turnover for the first time in 2025-26 (provisional data).

KVIC Chairman Manoj Kumar announced the figures at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat in New Delhi, highlighting record performance in production, sales, and employment generation across the sector.

Record Turnover and Strong Growth
KVIC reported a total turnover of ₹1,87,105 crore in 2025-26, marking the highest ever for the sector. Compared to 2013-14, sales have grown by 501% and production by 380%, reflecting strong expansion in rural industries.

Over the past 12 years, employment in the sector has increased by 56%, providing jobs to more than 2.04 crore people.

Khadi Becomes a Symbol of Self-Reliant India

KVIC said khadi has evolved from a traditional product into a symbol of "self-reliant India", driven by initiatives like "Vocal for Local" and "Local to Global". The organisation credited national campaigns such as Atmanirbhar Bharat for boosting rural entrepreneurship and demand.

Khadi Textile Sector Shows Sharp Rise



Khadi textile production increased from ₹811 crore in 2013-14 to ₹3,974 crore in 2025-26, a rise of nearly 390%. Sales grew even faster, from ₹1,081 crore to ₹7,869 crore, a 628% increase.

Village Industry Sector Expands Strongly
Village industries also witnessed major expansion, with production rising from ₹25,298 crore to ₹1,21,322 crore, and sales growing to ₹1,79,236 crore.

Employment in this segment increased significantly, reaching nearly 1.99 crore workers.

PMEGP Drives Entrepreneurship

Under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), 66,494 new units were established in 2025-26, generating employment for over 7.31 lakh people.

Since inception, the scheme has supported over 10.84 lakh units, creating nearly 97.95 lakh

jobs.
Women Empowerment Through KVIC Schemes

KVIC reported strong participation of women, with 47,382 women trained in 2025-26 alone, making up about 59% of trainees. Under PMEGP, over 3.09 lakh women were provided employment opportunities.

More than 80% of khadi workers are women, highlighting strong female participation in rural livelihoods.

Higher Wages and Government Demand Boost Sector

Wages for artisans have increased by 275%, rising from ₹4 to ₹15 per hank. Government procurement of khadi products also rose to ₹92.08 crore, while flag sales under the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign increased significantly.

Toolkits and Rural Empowerment Initiatives

Under Gramodyog Vikas Yojana, KVIC distributed over 3.23 lakh toolkits and machines including pottery wheels, beekeping boxes, tailoring kits, and other vocational equipment to strengthen rural self-employment.

KVIC said these achievements align with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, positioning India's rural economy as a key driver of national growth.

Netanyahu Praises India's Strong Israel Support

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has praised India's growing support for Israel, describing the country as a "huge power" and saying that backing for Israel in India is "truly extraordinary."

Speaking at a conference in the West Bank on Thursday, Netanyahu said Israel faces "delegitimisation in much of the world, but not in India." He added that support from India stands out globally, remarking that it is "absolutely crazy" in its intensity.

Highlighting bilateral ties, Netanyahu called India a "huge power" and described the relationship between the two countries as "unique." He also said he believes Israel has more followers from India

than from any other country. Netanyahu further recalled his 2018 visit to India with his wife Sara, describing it as a "love fest," and praised the warmth extended during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel.

India and Israel have in recent years deepened cooperation across key sectors including defence, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, semiconductors, agriculture, biotechnology, water management, fintech and space technology, further strengthening their "Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation and Prosperity."

The remarks come at a time when Israel continues to face criticism in parts of the United States and other regions, even as ties with India remain strong and steadily expanding.



West Asia Deal Near, Hormuz Reopening Likely: JD Vance

> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi
US Vice President JD Vance has said that Washington is "very close" to reaching a broader strategic agreement in West Asia that could lead to the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and significantly alter the regional security landscape.

Speaking to reporters at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland on Thursday, Vance said the proposed deal would mark a major strategic gain for the United States and its allies.

"If you look at what we've already accomplished here, assuming that we're able to get to a final agreement here, we're reopening the Strait of Hormuz... we're very close. We're going to keep on working at it," Vance said, while noting that negotiations are still ongoing and no final agreement has been reached.

Analysts say a formal reopening of the strait under a peace framework could ease



US Vice President JD Vance said Washington is "very close" to a major West Asia deal that could reopen the Strait of Hormuz and reshape regional security dynamics. He said the proposed agreement could weaken Iran's military capabilities and impact its nuclear programme, though he stressed that negotiations are still ongoing.

global supply pressures and benefit oil-importing countries like India, which have faced rising fuel costs and currency pressure in recent months.

However, officials have stressed that talks remain incomplete, and the situation continues to evolve as diplomatic efforts are ongoing.

UK MP Sparks Row Over Migrant Jobs Remark

> Vikrama Vahini | London
A British parliamentarian has triggered controversy after making remarks against Indian and Pakistani immigrants, saying the UK should not "import millions" of migrants for jobs that unemployed Britons could do.

Independent MP Rupert Lowe made the comments on social media platform X, stating that if his remarks are considered racist, he "stands by them." According to official data, his constituency of Great Yarmouth has a very small Indian and Pakistani-origin population, accounting for less than 1% of

residents, while the area also reports an unemployment rate higher than the national average.

Meanwhile, data from the Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford shows that migrant workers play a key role in the UK labour market, particularly in sectors facing staffing shortages. Non-UK nationals currently hold a significant share of jobs, with numbers increasing over the past decade.

A large proportion of migrant workers are employed in the health and care sectors, where the UK continues to face acute workforce shortages.



Disciples of Shriman Madhav Teertha Matha, including students of Sri Guru Sarvabhooma Gurukula, offer Guru Vandana to Peethadhipati Sri Sri 108 Sri Vidyalabha Madhava Teertha Sripadangelavaru at Sri Mukhya Pranadevar Temple. The programme featured Padapuja to Sripadangelavaru, Madhu Abhisheka to Sri Mukhya Pranadeva, and Samsthana Puja to Sri Veera Ramadevar, followed by blessings and Tulabhara. The event was led by former Gurukula students Kanakachalacharya, Saneelacharya, Purushothamacharya, Dwarakanathacharya, Badariacharya and Hariprasadacharya, in the presence of Matha Secretary Sri Bhadravathi Krishnamurthy.

VIKRAMA VAHINI | INFO GRAPHICS

JUNE 2026

MAJOR HINDU FESTIVALS & OBSERVANCES

The Hindu calendar outlines several important festivals, vratas, and religious observances scheduled for June 2026, which falls in the Jyeshtha month. Devotees across the country are expected to observe a series of rituals and fasting days throughout the month.

KEY FESTIVALS AND OBSERVANCES IN JUNE 2026		
JUNE 1	ADHIKA JYESHTHA KRISHNA PAKSHA BEGINS	
JUNE 3	SANKASHTI CHATURTHI	
JUNE 5	SHRAVAN AHORATRA	
JUNE 8	MIRGASHIRA NAKSHATRA	
JUNE 11	PARAMA EKADASHI	
JUNE 12	PRADOSH VRAT	
JUNE 13	MASA SHIVARATRI	
JUNE 15	MITHUNA SANKRANTI / KARAVEERA VRATA / SOMAVATI AMAVASYA	
JUNE 16	JYESHTHA SHUKLA PAKSHA BEGINS	
JUNE 17	MUHARRAM BEGINS	
JUNE 18	UMA PUJA VRAT	
JUNE 19	SHRUTA PANCHAMI	
JUNE 21	DAKSHINAYANA BEGINS	
JUNE 22	ARDRA NAKSHATRA	
JUNE 25	NIRJALA EKADASHI	
JUNE 26	MUHARRAM	
JUNE 27	PRADOSH VRAT	
JUNE 29	VAT SAVITRI VRAT / KABIR DAS JAYANTI	
JUNE 30	JYESHTHA KRISHNA PAKSHA RESUMES	

RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE

June is considered a spiritually active month with important Ekadashi fasts, Shivaratri observances, and Sankranti transitions. Devotees observe fasting, prayers, and temple rituals seeking prosperity, health, and spiritual growth.

Religious scholars note that such calendars help devotees plan rituals in accordance with traditional Hindu Panchang systems, ensuring timely observance of sacred events.