



Kiara Advani, who plays a key role in Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups starring Yash, revealed that strict set rules by director Geetu Mohandas helped her stay in character, with even casual greetings restricted during shooting.

Malayalam cinema continues to dominate the OTT thriller space with a strong lineup of crime dramas known for their gripping narratives, complex characters and unexpected twists.



INSIDE

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**Good morning**

The most difficult task is to make everybody happy, The simplest task is to be happy with everyone.

**BRIEFS**

**Delhi Building Collapse, Many Trapped**

**> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi**  
Several people were feared trapped after a five-storey building collapsed in South Delhi's Mehrauli area on Saturday evening following heavy rain and strong winds. Fire officials said three fire tenders were rushed to the spot around 7:44 pm, and rescue operations are currently underway. Additional teams have been deployed as large amounts of debris continue to block search efforts. Police sources said the building housed a coaching centre on the ground floor, while construction work was underway on upper floors. It is suspected that students and labourers may have been present at the time of the collapse, though the exact number of trapped persons is yet to be confirmed.

**DigiYatra to Cover 27 More Airports Soon**

**> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi**  
The Ministry of Civil Aviation on Saturday announced that the DigiYatra facility will be extended to 27 more airports across the country by next year, aiming to enhance passenger convenience and reduce entry time at airports. DigiYatra, which uses facial recognition technology for contactless and seamless airport entry, is currently operational at 38 airports. The initiative has significantly streamlined passenger movement by enabling faster check-ins and security processing. According to the ministry, the DigiYatra app has already facilitated over 10 crore seamless journeys and has recorded more than 2.4 crore downloads.

**Exercise PRAGATI Ends with 72-Hour Drill**

**> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi**  
The maiden edition of multilateral military exercise 'PRAGATI' concluded with a 72-hour validation drill, highlighting enhanced coordination, interoperability and mutual trust among participating nations. The exercise, focused on counter-terrorism operations in semi-mountainous and jungle terrain, was conducted at the Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya from May 20. PRAGATI – Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region – aimed at strengthening regional cooperation to tackle common security challenges. Senior military officials and dignitaries from participating countries attended the concluding phase, which was hosted by Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, Vice Chief of the Army Staff. **PG2**

# DKS to be sworn in on 3rd

**ELECTED AS LEGISLATIVE PARTY LEADER; LOBBYING BEGINS FOR MINISTERIAL POSTS**

**> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**  
In a major political development, outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday formally proposed the name of DK Shivakumar as the leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP), setting the stage for a leadership transition in Karnataka. The high-stakes CLP meeting, held at Vidhana Soudha, briefly paused after Shivakumar's name was proposed, before resuming amid intense internal deliberations to finalise the next Chief Minister.

**Transition Gains Momentum**  
The move marks a significant step in the anticipated change of leadership within the state Congress unit, coming shortly after Siddaramaiah stepped down from the top post, stating that his resignation followed directions from the party high command. Despite stepping down, Siddaramaiah remained politically active, holding meetings and interacting with supporters at his residence even as discussions over succession continued within party circles.

**Internal Negotiations Intensify**  
Alongside the leadership transition, internal negotiations have intensified over the structure of the new government. Sources indicated that Siddaramaiah proposed a broader coordination mechanism between the party organisation and the government, similar to advisory models seen in other states. However, leaders aligned with Shivakumar are said to have opposed the proposal, citing concerns over the creation of parallel power centres. The proposal is yet to receive approval from the party leadership. **PG2..**

## DKS Elected CLP Leader, Set to Become Karnataka CM

**> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**  
DK Shivakumar was on Saturday elected as the leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) and is set to take oath as the next Chief Minister of Karnataka on June 3.

The decision was taken at a high-stakes CLP meeting held at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru. The meeting was attended by senior Congress leaders, including AICC General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Surjewala and K C Venugopal.

**Leadership Transition Confirmed**  
Outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who resigned earlier this week, had proposed Shivakumar's name for the CLP leadership, which was supported by senior party leaders.

The Congress leadership formally announced his election during the meeting.

An official communication confirming Shivakumar's appointment will be sent to Raj Bhavan, after which he will meet the Governor to stake claim to form the new government.

**Swearing-In on June 3**  
Congress leaders confirmed that Shivakumar will be sworn in as Chief Minister on June 3 at the Glass House of Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru. The



DK Shivakumar, who has been elected as the leader of the Congress Legislature Party, will be sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Karnataka on June 3 at Lok Bhavan in Bengaluru. Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot will administer the oath of office and secrecy at 4.05 pm. After his election at the CLP meeting in Vidhana Soudha, Shivakumar met the Governor at Raj Bhavan and submitted a letter seeking time for the swearing-in ceremony, which has since been approved along with his prospective Cabinet members.

party is now focused on finalising the selection of a Deputy Chief Minister to serve in the new cabinet.

**Congress High Command Role**  
Senior leaders, including Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, are said to have played a key role in finalising the leadership transition in the state.

**Siddaramaiah Steps Down**  
Siddaramaiah submitted his

resignation to the Governor earlier, stating that he was acting in accordance with the party's decision. The Governor accepted the resignation and dissolved the Council of Ministers, formally ending his tenure.

**About DK Shivakumar**  
Doddalahalli Kemppegowda Shivakumar, popularly known as DKS, began his political career in the

1980s and entered the Karnataka Assembly in 1989. Over the years, he has represented multiple constituencies and emerged as one of the Congress party's most influential leaders in the state. The transition marks a significant leadership shift in Karnataka politics, with Congress preparing for a new cabinet formation under Shivakumar's leadership.

## ISI-Dawood Terror Plot Foiled, 9 Arrested

**> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**  
In a major counter-terror operation, the Delhi Police Special Cell arrested nine suspected terrorists with alleged links to Pakistan's intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence, and fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim. **Intelligence-Based Crackdown**  
Acting on specific intelligence inputs, the Special Cell carried out coordinated operations leading to the arrests on Saturday. Officials said the suspects were part of a larger terror module operating under instructions from handlers based in Pakistan. **Multi-State Links, Foreign Nationals Involved**  
According to investigators, the arrested individuals hail from Delhi, Mumbai, and Punjab. Some of the suspects are also believed to be foreign nationals, though their identities and

nationalities have not yet been disclosed. Weapons and Explosives Seized  
A significant cache of arms and ammunition was recovered during the operation. Officials confirmed the seizure of sophisticated pistols, grenades, and other materials typically used in terror activities, indicating the seriousness of the planned attacks. **Plot to Create Panic and Disrupt Security**  
Preliminary investigations suggest that the group had been tasked with carrying out multiple attacks in key cities, including Delhi and Mumbai, to spread panic and destabilize public order. Authorities believe the module was actively engaged in reconnaissance and logistical planning. Investigators are probing suspected connections between the accused and Mumbai-based underworld networks. **PG2**

## 18,000 Litres of Adulterated Ghee Seized in Udaipur

**> Vikrama Vahini | Jaipur**  
Around 18,000 litres of suspected adulterated ghee and yellow food colour were seized during a raid in Rajasthan's Udaipur, officials said on Saturday. The action was carried out by a central enforcement team of the Food Safety Commissionerate following complaints regarding food adulteration and product quality. According to Food Safety Commissioner Dr T. Shubhamangala, inspections were conducted at Shri Madhur Dairy Farm and Food Products, where ghee was being manufactured and stored under multiple brand names. Officials suspect the use of artificial colouring in the products, and further investigation is underway to determine the extent of adulteration and ensure strict action against those responsible. **PG2**



## ONE LPG CONNECTION PER HOUSEHOLD FROM JUNE 1

**> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**  
The central government has amended the Gas Control Order to strictly enforce a "one household, one LPG connection" rule from June 1, making it illegal for families to hold multiple domestic gas connections. Following the directive, major oil marketing companies – Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, and Bharat Petroleum – have issued a joint advisory asking consumers to surrender any extra cylinders immediately. Under the revised rules, a single LPG connection will be

permitted per family, defined as members sharing one kitchen, including husband, wife, dependent parents, and married children. Households found with multiple connections risk suspension of gas supply until excess cylinders are returned. Consumers, however, may opt for a Double Bottle Connection (DBC) after surrendering additional connections to maintain a backup cylinder. Those shifting to Piped Natural Gas (PNG) must surrender their LPG connection within 30 days or request a transfer voucher for future use in non-PNG areas. **PG2**



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Panchatantra Stories

The Hermit and the Mouse

In a peaceful Shiva temple near the ancient city of Mahilaropyam, a simple hermit lived a disciplined life. Every day, he went to the nearby town to collect alms. In the evening, he returned, kept what he needed, and placed the remaining food in a bowl for poor workers who maintained the temple.

Soon, the hermit's peaceful routine was disturbed by a clever mouse living in a small hole nearby. Every day, it silently entered the temple and stole food from the bowl. No matter what the hermit tried—raising the bowl higher, guarding it, or staying alert—the mouse always found a way to escape with the food.

The hermit became frustrated and constantly worried about the mouse. He was so distracted that even during important conversations, he kept thinking about how to stop it. One day, a wandering mendicant visited the temple and noticed the hermit's disturbed state. He said the hermit seemed more focused on a small problem than on meaningful discussion.

The hermit explained his struggle. He described how the mouse jumped with unusual confidence and strength, as if it feared nothing. The mendicant listened carefully and suggested an important idea. He said the mouse might have a hidden stock of food. A creature with nothing to lose, he explained, often behaves boldly and fearlessly.

The next morning, the hermit and the mendicant followed the mouse's tracks to its hole. After digging carefully, they discovered a large hidden store of food collected by the mouse over time.

The hermit removed all the food and distributed it among the temple workers. When the mouse returned, it was shocked to find nothing left. For the first time, it felt weak and helpless. Its confidence and energy completely disappeared. That night, when the mouse tried to steal food again, it failed. It no longer had the strength or courage it once showed. As it struggled, the hermit struck it with a stick. Injured, the mouse fled the temple and never returned.

The hermit then understood the wisdom of the mendicant. The mouse's power had come from its hidden security. Once that was taken away, its strength and courage vanished. The story teaches that to solve a problem, one must remove its root cause, not just treat the surface issue.

SCHOOL BLAZE IN BENGALURU, NO INJURIES REPORTED

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

A major fire broke out at a school building in western Bengaluru on Saturday morning, triggering a swift response from the fire and emergency services. No casualties or injuries were reported as the institution was closed for summer holidays at the time.

The blaze erupted at the auditorium on the top floor of Chitrakoota School in Nagadevanahalli, officials said. Fire department sources confirmed that an emergency call was received at around 9.55 am, following which three fire tenders were rushed to the spot.

Swift Fire Response Prevents Major Damage  
Firefighters managed to contain the flames



before they could spread to nearby classrooms and other parts of the building. Officials credited the quick response for preventing a potentially major disaster.

Suspected Short Circuit

Preliminary reports suggest the fire may have been caused by an electrical short circuit, although the exact cause is yet to be officially confirmed. Authorities have launched a detailed investigation into the incident.

Property Damage, No Casualties

While no injuries were reported, several materials and items inside the auditorium were damaged. The extent of the loss is yet to be assessed.

Officials said timely intervention ensured the situation was brought under control without any loss of life, and a review of fire safety measures at the school premises is expected.

Plan to End Bannerghatta Waterlogging

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to prepare a comprehensive short- and long-term plan to permanently resolve recurring waterlogging on Bannerghatta Road under the Bengaluru South City Corporation limits.

During an inspection of flood-prone areas, Rao noted severe waterlogging near Rainbow Children's Hospital during rains, causing major inconvenience to motorists. He said the issue is linked to the road being at a lower level than the nearby stormwater drain (rajakaluve), leading to backflow during heavy rainfall. He instructed officials to ensure smooth drainage flow and complete desilting of the rajakaluve on a priority basis.

At Hulimavu Metro Station, sewage mixing with stormwater drains was observed, following which BWSSB officials were directed to identify the source and prevent contamination. Encroachments and utility lines obstructing drains were also ordered to be removed, with proper slabs to ensure uninterrupted water flow.

Officials were instructed to expedite ongoing infrastructure works, including laying of a 900 mm pipeline along a 1.5 km stretch from Vega City Mall to Arekere Signal, and complete the work within two days, followed by road resurfacing. The



second phase from Arekere Signal to Hulimavu Metro Station will be taken up subsequently.

At Silk Board Junction, where flooding is frequent, works are underway to widen the stormwater drain capacity from 1.5 metres to 3.5 metres, along with installation of steel gratings. A survey has also been ordered for a new drain to address flooding in HSR Layout.

Rao further directed Metro officials to clear encroachments and facilitate a free left turn from Bommanahalli towards BTM Layout, while expediting flyover works, lighting, and beautification under Silk Board Junction. Development works worth ₹15 crore at Madiwala Lake and the Ejjipura flyover project were also reviewed, with strict deadlines issued for completion. Senior officials, engineers, and MLA Satish Reddy were present during the inspection.

DKS to be sworn in on 3rd

From PG

Cabinet Formation Talks Underway

Discussions are also ongoing regarding cabinet formation under a Shivakumar-led government.

The Congress is reportedly considering appointing two Deputy Chief Ministers, with senior leader Satish Jarkiholi among the names under consideration.

Speculation is also growing over the possible inclusion of Yathindra Siddaramaiah in the cabinet, with indications that he could be assigned a key portfolio such as Social Welfare, though no final decision has been made.

Protests and Political Ripples

The leadership transition has also triggered reactions outside the party. Dalit organisations staged a protest at Kempegowda International Airport, demanding that former minister KH Muniyappa be appointed Deputy Chief Minister. A memorandum was submitted to AICC Karnataka in-charge Randeep Surjewala.

Awaiting Final Shape of Government

With Shivakumar's elevation as CLP leader paving the way for him to assume office as Chief Minister, suspense continues over the final composition and structure of the new Karnataka government.

ONE LPG CONNECTION PER HOUSEHOLD FROM JUNE 1

From PG

The move aims to curb misuse and black marketing of subsidised LPG cylinders, ensure equitable distribution to needy households, and promote cleaner fuel alternatives like PNG.

Consumers have been advised to comply with the new rules by contacting their local distributors or using online services to complete the surrender process.

The government said the revised rule is aimed at ensuring equitable distribution of LPG connections, particularly to households that are still without access to clean cooking fuel. By eliminating duplicate connections, authorities expect to improve availability for eligible beneficiaries under various welfare schemes.

Officials also warned that strict verification drives will be conducted using digital databases to identify multiple connections linked to a single household. Consumers have been urged to comply with the new norms promptly to avoid disruption in supply, as enforcement measures will be intensified in the coming weeks.

The move is also expected to curb misuse and black marketing of subsidised LPG cylinders, which has been a concern for authorities. By tightening regulations, the government aims to ensure that subsidies reach genuine beneficiaries and prevent diversion of domestic cylinders for commercial purposes.

Oil marketing companies have assured consumers that the process of surrendering extra connections will be simple and can be completed both online and through local distributors.

ISI-Dawood Terror Plot Foiled, 9 Arrested

From PG

Further interrogation of the arrested suspects is underway to uncover the full extent of the network and identify other operatives linked to the module. Officials believe more arrests are likely as the investigation progresses and new leads emerge.

Security agencies across multiple states have been put on high alert following the operation, with increased surveillance at sensitive locations, including transport hubs, public gatherings, and key infrastructure points.

Authorities are also coordinating with central intelligence agencies to trace the financial and communication channels

used by the group, including possible cross-border funding routes and encrypted communication platforms, to dismantle the entire network.

Officials said digital evidence, including mobile phones, laptops, and encrypted messaging applications, has been seized and is being examined by forensic teams to establish communication links with handlers abroad.

Meanwhile, security agencies have intensified border vigilance and intelligence sharing with other countries to prevent any further infiltration or coordination of terror activities linked to the dismantled module.

Exercise PRAGATI Ends with 72-Hour Drill

From PG

The final phase of the exercise showcased joint tactical operations, real-time coordination, and advanced combat strategies, reflecting the participating forces' readiness to respond effectively to complex security threats in challenging terrains.

The exercise also strengthened strategic partnerships and knowledge-sharing among participating nations.

18,000 Litres of Adulterated Ghee Seized in Udaipur

From PG

Officials said samples of the seized ghee and food colour have been sent to laboratories for detailed analysis to confirm the level of adulteration and identify harmful substances, if any.

Authorities also indicated that legal action will be initiated under the Food Safety and Standards Act against those found guilty, which may include heavy fines

and possible imprisonment.

The raid is part of an ongoing statewide drive to curb food adulteration and ensure the safety and quality of consumable products in the market.

Consumers have been advised to remain cautious while purchasing dairy products and to verify the authenticity of brands, especially during festive and high-demand seasons.

NEWS

Ballari Tense After Cow Heads Found

Vikrama Vahini | Ballari

Tension gripped parts of Ballari district on Saturday after miscreants allegedly dumped cow heads by the roadside, triggering outrage among local residents and protests by members of the Bharatiya Janata Party and various Hindu organisations.

According to reports, unidentified persons placed the animal remains along a roadside, leading to widespread anger in the area. The incident quickly drew the attention of political leaders and activists, who gathered at the spot and staged demonstrations.

Protests and Demands for Action

Protesters raised slogans condemning the act and demanded strict action against those responsible. They alleged that such incidents were aimed at disturbing communal harmony in the region and criticised authorities for failing to prevent repeated occurrences.



Police Step In, Security Tightened

Police officials rushed to the scene soon after the incident and launched an investigation to identify those involved. Security was intensified in sensitive areas to prevent any escalation of tension.

Authorities also appealed to the public to remain calm and avoid spreading rumours that could further inflame the situation. Investigations are ongoing, and officials said necessary action will be taken once the culprits are identified.

BELLAD URGES DEVELOPMENT UNDER DKS RULE

Vikrama Vahini | Dharwad

BJP leader and Deputy Leader of Opposition Arvind Bellad has expressed hope that Karnataka will witness development under the leadership of D. K. Shivakumar, while criticising the previous tenure of Siddaramaiah.

Speaking to reporters in Dharwad, Bellad alleged that the state's economy had deteriorated significantly during Siddaramaiah's three-year tenure. He said that despite the Congress securing a strong mandate of 136 seats, people had not received the expected development and governance.

Bellad further criticised the government for what he described as appeasement politics and failure to ensure inclusive development. He also alleged a rise in



corruption, claiming that the state had witnessed unprecedented levels of irregularities.

Stating that Shivakumar now has a major opportunity, Bellad urged him to utilise it effectively by ensuring equal treatment for all communities and focusing on improving the state's economic condition.

He emphasised that the mandate was given by people across all sections of society and called for governance that reflects their collective expectations.

He also reiterated that the new leadership must prioritise transparent governance and restore public trust by addressing key issues such as inflation, unemployment, and infrastructure development across the state.

HEALTH & Lifestyle

World No Tobacco Day: Hidden Risks of Vapes & Hookah Exposed

World No Tobacco Day, observed on May 31, highlights the growing concern over tobacco and nicotine use, especially among younger populations. While traditional cigarette smoking remains a major health issue, newer alternatives such as vapes, hookah and nicotine pouches are increasingly being seen as "safer" options.

Health experts, however, caution that these products still carry significant risks.

Modern nicotine products gaining popularity among youth

Vapes, e-cigarettes, nicotine pouches and hookah have seen rising acceptance due to flavoured options, sleek designs and social trends. Many users assume these products are less harmful than cigarettes, contributing to their widespread use among young adults.

"Less harmful" does not mean safe, say experts

According to Dr Vishakha Panicker, Associate Consultant, Medical Oncology, SPARSH Hospital, Bengaluru, nicotine-based products continue to expose users to harmful substances.

She warns that the perception of reduced harm often masks the risk of long-term addiction and health complications.

Vapes may still damage lungs and cause dependence

Although marketed as cleaner alternatives, vapes and e-cigarettes can expose users to nicotine, chemicals and fine particles that may irritate the lungs.

Experts say prolonged use increases the risk of nicotine dependence, making quitting difficult over time.

Nicotine pouches still fuel addiction

Nicotine pouches, though smoke-free, still deliver nicotine directly into the body. Health specialists highlight risks such as gum irritation, cravings and potential effects on mood and attention, particularly among younger users.

Hookah linked to prolonged toxic exposure

Hookah is often perceived as a social activity, but experts warn that a single session can involve extended exposure to nicotine, carbon monoxide and other harmful substances. Sharing pipes also raises hygiene concerns in group settings.

Focus should shift from "safer" to "risk-free"

Doctors emphasize that the key question is not whether these alternatives are safer than cigarettes, but whether any form of nicotine use is necessary at all.

All nicotine products carry the risk of addiction and long-term health harm.

Awareness crucial on World No Tobacco Day

As World No Tobacco Day 2026 is observed, experts urge the public to look beyond marketing claims and understand the real health impacts of all nicotine products. Awareness and informed choices remain essential in reducing addiction and protecting long-term health.

SCIENCE & Technology

Meta Tightens Scam Controls Ahead of FIFA

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Meta has announced a series of enhanced anti-scam measures ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 to protect users from rising online fraud related to ticket sales, betting schemes and fake travel offers.

The company said scams typically surge during major sporting events, with fraudsters targeting fans through fake FIFA-branded websites, phishing links and fraudulent ticketing groups.

Facebook Alerts for Ticket Fraud

Meta will introduce new Facebook warning alerts that appear when users search for World Cup ticket-related terms or visit related groups. The alerts will guide users on safe purchasing practices and provide reporting tools to flag suspicious accounts and posts.

Stronger Monitoring and Enforcement

The company has deployed dedicated teams to detect and remove accounts involved in ticket scams, fake visa services and fraudulent travel listings targeting fans attending the tournament.

Meta is also working with industry partners, including Visa, and participating in global intelligence-sharing initiatives such as the Global Signal Exchange (GSE) and Fraud Intelligence Reciprocal Exchange (FIRE) to dismantle scam networks.

Scam Network Disrupted

Meta confirmed that, in collaboration with Visa's Scam Disruption team, it helped uncover and shut down a Facebook-based scam network that redirected users to phishing websites mimicking FIFA World Cup 2026 pages.

The company said it is expanding the use of artificial intelligence tools to improve scam detection and strengthen user protection systems.

## AIADMK SEEKS CBI PROBE OVER MLA DEFECTIONS

► Vikrama Vahini | Chennai

The opposition All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam on Saturday petitioned Tamil Nadu Governor R V Arlekar, seeking a CBI probe into alleged horse-trading after four of its rebel MLAs resigned and joined Chief Minister Vijay's Tamila Veltri Kazhagam.

**Petition to Governor**

AIADMK leaders, including former minister S S Krishnamoorthy and Rajya Sabha MP M Dhanapal, met the Governor at Lok Bhavan and submitted a memorandum demanding a thorough investigation into the alleged inducements behind the defections.

Krishnamoorthy alleged that the resignations and subsequent joining of the rebels to the ruling party took place under questionable circumstances, and accused the government of misusing



the State Secretariat for political purposes.

**Allegations of Horse-Trading**

The AIADMK claimed that large-scale monetary transactions could have influenced the MLAs' decision to defect. The party has urged the Centre to order a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation and also sought involvement of the Enforcement Directorate to examine financial aspects of the case.

Dhanapal questioned the timing of the resignations, noting that the

legislators joined the ruling party immediately after taking oath, and called for safeguarding democratic processes.

**TVK Rejects Charges**

The ruling TVK has strongly denied the allegations. Senior leader K A Sengottaiyan dismissed claims of horse-trading and countered that such accusations were politically motivated.

He also alleged that AIADMK leadership had earlier explored political alignments with rival parties to secure power, suggesting that the opposition's claims lacked credibility.

**Political Tensions Rise**

The episode has intensified political tensions in Tamil Nadu, with the opposition alleging unethical practices and the ruling party rejecting all charges. With by-elections on the horizon, the controversy is expected to further shape the state's political landscape.

## BJP Slams Karnataka Govt as 'Super Corrupt'

► Vikrama Vahini | Yadgir

The BJP on Saturday stepped up its attack on the Karnataka Congress government, with Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy calling it a "super corrupt" administration amid the ongoing leadership transition.

Reacting to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's resignation, he said a change in leadership would not improve governance and alleged that corruption and lack of development

would continue. He also claimed growing public anger against the government and said people, especially poorer sections, were turning towards the BJP.

His remarks come as the Congress leadership continues discussions on the next Chief Minister, with Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar in talks with senior party leaders. Siddaramaiah, who resigned on May 28, is currently serving as caretaker Chief Minister until a new leader is appointed.



## Gali Reddy Gets Relief in Mining Cases

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Former minister and Gangavathi MLA Gali Janardhan Reddy has received major relief after a special court for MPs and MLAs dropped two cases related to alleged illegal iron ore transportation filed by the Lokayukta SIT. The court allowed petitions under CrPC Section 227 and discharged Reddy along with other accused, including several businessmen and companies linked to the case. The cases pertained to alleged illegal mining activities during Reddy's tenure as Ballari district in-charge minister, including charges of transporting iron ore without proper approvals and evading royalty payments. The court's order brings relief to all accused in the case.

## Abhishek Banerjee Faces Attack in Bengal Visit

**TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee was allegedly attacked by locals during a visit to Sonarpur in West Bengal, where he had gone to meet post-poll violence victims' families.**

► Vikrama Vahini | Sonarpur

Abhishek Banerjee, Trinamool Congress national general secretary and nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, was allegedly attacked by a group of locals during a visit to Sonarpur on Saturday.

The TMC leader had visited the area to meet families affected by post-poll violence when he was reportedly surrounded and attacked. According to visuals circulating on social media, stones, eggs, and shoes were hurled at him, while some people shouted slogans accusing him of wrongdoing. He was later escorted out of the area with security assistance.



**TMC Alleges Political Conspiracy**

Banerjee alleged that the attack was "BJP-sponsored" and criticised the absence of adequate police deployment in the area. He claimed the incident appeared pre-planned and raised concerns over law and order.

**'They Want to Kill Me': Banerjee**

Speaking after the incident, he said the attack was a serious failure of security and alleged that the police were not present at the spot when the incident occurred.

He further demanded immediate protection for victims' families and stronger deployment of police forces in the area.

**Police Response:**

Police officials stated that a group of agitated locals allegedly manhandled the TMC leader and that an investigation has been initiated into the incident. Authorities are also reviewing video footage and eyewitness accounts to identify those involved.

## Devotees Flock Tirupati for Grand Rathotsavam

► Vikrama Vahini | Tirupati

Thousands of devotees gathered in Tirupati on Saturday to take part in the grand Rathotsavam of Sri Govindaraja Swamy Temple, a highlight of the ongoing Brahmotsavams.

The Rathotsavam, held on the eighth day of the annual festival, witnessed devotees pulling the majestic temple chariot through the streets amid chants of "Govinda, Govinda," creating a deeply spiritual atmosphere across the temple town.

**Grand Procession and Devotion**

The chariot procession drew massive participation as devotees offered coconuts and performed camphor harathi along the route, seeking the blessings of the deity. The ritual is considered one of the most significant events of the Brahmotsavams celebrations.

**Spiritual Significance**

The Rathotsavam carries a symbolic message, portraying the human body as a chariot and the soul as its master, emphasising the path of devotion and self-realisation.

**Rituals Continue**

Following the procession, Snapana Tirumanjanam was performed to the processional deities amid Vedic chants and traditional rituals. Temple officials stated that the Lord will bless devotees during the evening procession on the Ashwa Vahanam.

**Festival to Conclude**



The Brahmotsavams will conclude on Sunday with the sacred Chakrasnamam ceremony at Kapila Theertham, marking the culmination of the annual festivities.

## Heavy Rain Alert in 19 States for Next 2 Days

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning of heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning across 19 states over the next two days, until May 31.

The weather department said pre-monsoon activity is intensifying, with the southwest monsoon expected to reach Kerala within a week. Meanwhile, coastal regions along the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal are likely to witness increased rainfall activity in the next 2-3 days.

States expected to receive heavy rain include Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, and Goa.

The IMD has advised residents to remain cautious, particularly in areas prone to lightning and strong winds, as weather conditions may turn severe in several regions. Authorities have urged people to avoid open areas during thunderstorms and follow safety advisories to minimise risks from lightning strikes and strong winds.

## MODI PLANS CABINET RESHUFFLE AFTER RAJYA SABHA POLLS

**A major Cabinet reshuffle is expected as the Centre looks to strengthen governance and political strategy ahead of key elections, with possible changes across multiple ministries and inclusion of NDA allies.**

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Union Cabinet led by Narendra Modi is likely to undergo a major reshuffle between June 15 and 18, following the Rajya Sabha elections, as the BJP prepares for crucial upcoming Assembly polls.

According to sources, the reshuffle is part of a broader political and organisational strategy aimed at strengthening the party's position ahead of key state elections. More than a dozen ministers, including several Ministers of State, may be dropped or reassigned as part of the exercise. The revamp is expected to involve leadership changes across 10 to 12 ministries, with some ministers likely to be shifted to new portfolios. The move is also seen as an attempt to balance regional representation and enhance administrative efficiency within the government.

Sources further indicated that

NDA allies such as Janata Dal (United) (JD(U)), Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) could be accommodated in the Cabinet, reflecting coalition dynamics at the Centre.

In related developments, Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary is expected to take over as BJP president in Uttar Pradesh, while Harsh Malhotra, Minister of State handling Corporate Affairs and Road Transport, may be appointed as the Delhi BJP chief. These organisational changes are likely to open up ministerial positions for new entrants, possibly including first-time MPs from both Houses of Parliament.

The anticipated reshuffle signals a significant recalibration within the Modi government as it gears up for the next phase of political challenges.



### ENTERTAINMENT

## Top Malayalam Crime Thrillers on OTT

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Malayalam cinema continues to dominate the OTT thriller space with a strong lineup of crime dramas known for their gripping narratives, complex characters and unexpected twists. Films such as Drishyam, Lucifer, and Abraham Ozler remain among the most widely watched titles on streaming platforms.

**'Drishyam' Sets Benchmark for Crime Thrillers**

Directed by Jeethu Joseph, Drishyam stars Mohanlal in a career-defining role. The film follows a family caught in a police investigation after a missing-person case, unfolding into a tense psychological thriller. It is widely regarded as a benchmark in Indian crime storytelling and remains one of the most popular OTT titles.

**'Lucifer' Blends Politics and Crime**

Lucifer, directed by Prithviraj Sukumaran, features Mohanlal as Stephen Nedumpally in a political thriller centered around power struggles following the death of a chief minister. The film, which also stars Vivek Oberoi and Manju Warrier, became a major commercial success and expanded into a franchise universe.

**'Abraham Ozler' Explores Serial Crime Investigation**

Directed by Midhun Manuel Thomas, Abraham Ozler follows ACP Abraham Ozler as he investigates a series of murders linked to a serial killer known as the "Birthday Killer." The film blends emotional depth with investigative tension, making it a notable addition to recent Malayalam thrillers.

**New-Age Thriller 'Rekhachithram' Gains Attention**



Rekhachithram, starring Asif Ali and Anaswara Rajan, follows a police investigation into an old mystery revived by a new suicide case. The narrative connects a long-buried crime to a missing girl, unfolding through layered storytelling.

**'Thudaram' Expands Thriller Lineup**

Thudaram, directed by Tharun Moorthy and starring Mohanlal and Shobana, is among the recent additions to the Malayalam crime thriller genre, further strengthening its OTT presence.

**Growing OTT Popularity**

Industry observers note that Malayalam thrillers have gained national and international attention due to their realistic storytelling, strong screenplays and character-driven narratives. Platforms such as JioHotstar, Prime Video, Sony LIV and Aha continue to showcase these films to a growing digital audience.

With a steady stream of high-quality content, Malayalam cinema remains a dominant force in the OTT crime thriller space, attracting viewers across India and abroad.

## RANVEER'S PEACE BID REJECTED

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The reported fallout between Ranveer Singh and the makers of Don 3 continues to make headlines, with fresh claims suggesting attempts at reconciliation and behind-the-scenes mediation involving industry figures. According to industry sources, Ranveer Singh has reportedly tried to repair ties with filmmaker Farhan Akhtar after stepping away from the project.

The actor is said to have proposed collaborating on a different film, either with Farhan Akhtar or Zoya Akhtar. However, reports suggest that the proposal was not accepted.

**Ranveer's reported proposal rejected**

Insiders quoted by media reports claim that Ranveer offered to work on a mutually agreed project with Farhan Akhtar or even collaborate with Zoya Akhtar, with whom he previously worked in Gully Boy. However, sources allege that both Farhan and Zoya were not inclined to take the collaboration forward.

**Salman Khan reportedly steps in**

Amid the ongoing tension, actor Salman Khan is said to have intervened informally to help resolve the dispute.

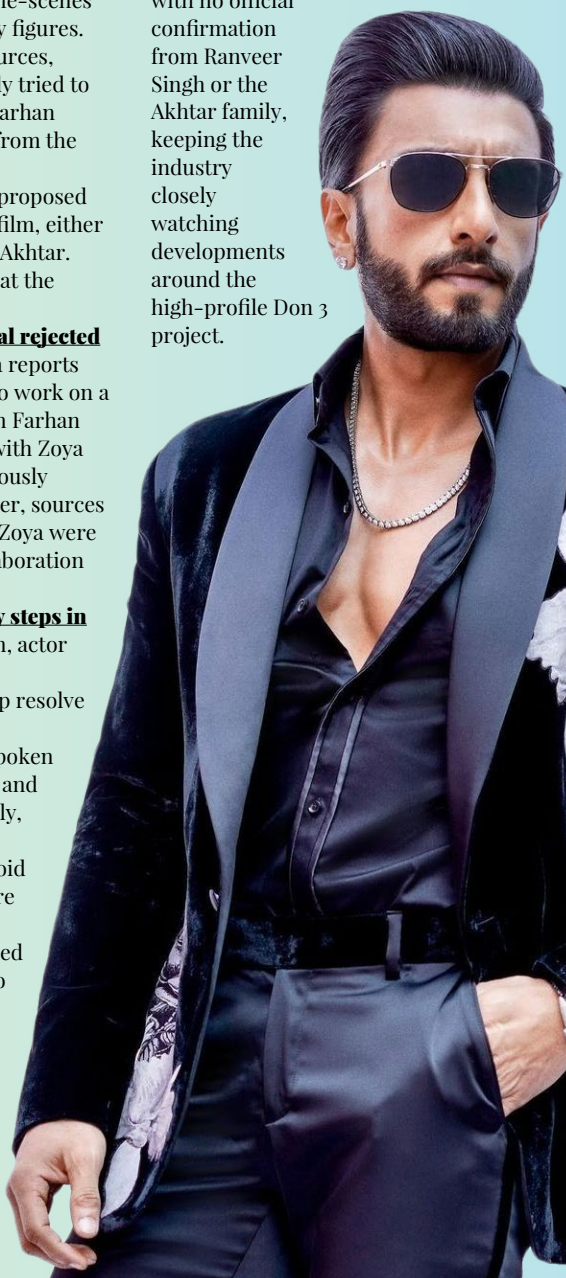
Reports suggest he has spoken separately to Ranveer Singh and members of the Akhtar family, urging them to resolve differences amicably and avoid impacting ongoing and future projects.

An industry source claimed Salman advised both sides to treat the issue as a creative disagreement and encouraged dialogue to prevent further escalation.

**Conditions set for further talks**

While mediation efforts are reportedly ongoing, sources further claim that

Farhan Akhtar and producer Ritesh Sidhwani are open to discussions only if all key stakeholders are directly involved in the resolution process. The situation remains unresolved, with no official confirmation from Ranveer Singh or the Akhtar family, keeping the industry closely watching developments around the high-profile Don 3 project.



### BUSINESS

## Moody's Upgrades Reliance to Baa1

► Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata

Global ratings agency Moody's has upgraded Reliance Industries' credit rating from Baa2 to Baa1, placing it two notches above India's sovereign rating, citing the company's strong financial profile, diversified business operations, and disciplined balance sheet management.

According to Moody's, the upgrade reflects Reliance's "fundamentally strong and resilient credit profile" supported by its large scale, leadership positions across oil-to-chemicals, telecom, and retail sectors, and steady earnings diversification.

The agency noted that Reliance's rating continues to benefit from its robust liquidity position, including cash holdings of around \$25 billion, along with stable cash flows and moderate debt levels. It also highlighted the company's strong access to both domestic and global capital markets.

Moody's further stated that Reliance Industries has been among the first Indian corporates to achieve a net debt-zero position, where its cash and liquid assets fully offset total debt, while maintaining conservative financial policies.

The rating agency, however, said the company's rating is capped at two notches above India's sovereign rating due to its significant exposure to the domestic economy through its telecom and retail businesses.

Baa1 is classified as an upper-medium-grade rating, indicating moderate credit risk and strong repayment capacity, according to Moody's rating framework.

Market analysts said the upgrade is likely to strengthen investor confidence in Reliance Industries and could improve its borrowing terms in global markets. They also noted that the higher rating underscores the company's growing financial stability at a time of global economic uncertainty, potentially supporting further expansion across its core business segments.

Analysts further said the upgrade could enhance Reliance Industries' appeal among global institutional investors, particularly those with strict investment-grade mandates.

SPORTS

**IPL 2026 Final: RCB on Verge of Historic Back-to-Back Title**

> **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

The IPL 2026 final will see Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) take on Gujarat Titans (GT) on May 31 in a high-stakes clash as both teams aim for their second IPL title. The summit clash marks the 74th and final match of the season.

Defending champions RCB, led by Rajat Patidar, will look to retain their crown and join an elite list of teams that have won back-to-back IPL titles. If successful, RCB will become only the third franchise after Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians to achieve consecutive championships in IPL history.

CSK achieved the feat in 2010 and 2011 under MS Dhoni, while Mumbai Indians lifted back-to-back trophies in 2019 and 2020 under Rohit Sharma's leadership.

Gujarat Titans, champions of the 2022 season, are also chasing their second title. The Hardik Pandya-led side had reached the final again in 2023 but fell short against Chennai Super Kings, missing the chance to secure consecutive trophies.

Both teams enter the final with one IPL title each, setting the stage for a closely contested battle as they aim to create a new chapter in IPL history.

Fans and experts expect a closely fought final given the balanced squads and recent form of both sides. RCB's strong batting lineup and GT's disciplined bowling attack are likely to play a decisive role, while match conditions and pressure of the big occasion could ultimately determine which team lifts the trophy.

**RCB vs GT IPL 2026 Final: Head-to-Head & Title Battle Preview**

> **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Gujarat Titans (GT) are set for a high-voltage IPL 2026 final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on May 31, with both teams eyeing a second IPL title. The match, starting at 7:30 pm, promises a thrilling contest between two in-form sides. RCB enter the final with momentum after defeating GT in Qualifier 1, while Gujarat Titans booked their spot by overcoming Rajasthan Royals in Qualifier 2, setting up a revenge opportunity for the Hardik Pandya-led side.

**Head-to-Head Record**

In IPL history, RCB and GT have faced each other nine times, with Bengaluru winning five matches and Gujarat securing four, reflecting a closely fought rivalry. Their recent qualifier clash further adds intensity to the final showdown.

**Ahmedabad Record**

At the Narendra Modi Stadium, both teams have shared an even record with limited encounters, where chasing sides have dominated, indicating the possible importance of the toss in the final outcome.

**Team Balance**

RCB will rely on the experience of Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar, and Josh Hazlewood, while GT will depend on Shubman Gill, Rashid Khan, and Kagiso Rabada in their quest for glory. The stage is set for a tightly contested final that could go down to the wire.

**CHINA EXPANDS NUCLEAR NETWORK IN XINJIANG**

> **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

China is undertaking a large-scale expansion of military infrastructure in its northwestern desert region of Xinjiang, potentially strengthening the survivability of its nuclear forces, according to a report by Reuters based on satellite imagery reviewed by security analysts.

The development comes amid growing global concern over China's rapid military buildup. Pete Hegseth recently urged Asian allies to boost defence spending, citing the need to counter China's expanding capabilities.

**Massive Military Build-Up**

Satellite images reveal that China is constructing an extensive network of launch pads, bunkers, communication systems, and support facilities near key missile bases in Xinjiang. Experts believe these facilities are designed to enhance China's ability to protect its nuclear arsenal and ensure a credible retaliatory capability in the event of an attack.

**Strategic and Unusual Expansion**



Hans Kristensen of the Federation of American Scientists described the scale of the development as unprecedented, calling it an "extraordinary effort."

The infrastructure includes hardened bunkers, weapons storage units, accommodation facilities, airfields, and rail links connecting remote missile bases, indicating a highly coordinated military expansion.

**Sites Near Key Missile Fields**

The newly developed sites are located near major missile fields, including areas close to Hami and the Lop Nur nuclear testing region. Some facilities appear to be octagon-shaped complexes, while others may serve as target ranges or advanced communication hubs.

China maintains a "no first use" nuclear policy, pledging not to initiate nuclear conflict. However, analysts suggest that the expanded infrastructure could be aimed at deterring foreign intervention in sensitive geopolitical situations, including tensions over Taiwan.

**Role in Nuclear Strategy**

The scale and speed of the construction have raised concerns among global security analysts, who see the move as part of China's broader effort to modernize and strengthen its military capabilities. Further analysis of the satellite imagery and intelligence inputs is ongoing to assess the full scope and intent of the expansion.

**Global Security Implications**

The scale and speed of the construction have raised concerns among global security analysts, who see the move as part of China's broader effort to modernize and strengthen its military capabilities. Further analysis of the satellite imagery and intelligence inputs is ongoing to assess the full scope and intent of the expansion.

**Army Ready for 'Sindoor 2.0'**

> **Vikrama Vahini | Pune**

Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday said that Operation Sindoor remains active despite a temporary pause in hostilities, and the armed forces are fully prepared to respond to any future developments.

Addressing the passing-out parade of the 150th course at the National Defence Academy, the Army Chief emphasized that the military continues to stay operationally alert and ready for any contingency.

General Dwivedi indicated that preparations are already underway for a possible "Operation Sindoor 2.0" if the situation demands. He said the Indian Army, along with the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy, is working in close coordination to tackle emerging challenges.

Highlighting the changing nature of warfare, the Army Chief noted that advancements in surveillance and intelligence have made battlefields increasingly transparent.

"Round-the-clock surveillance means that every movement is visible to the adversary," he said, stressing the need for greater



**Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi said Operation Sindoor remains active despite a temporary pause and stressed that the armed forces are fully prepared for any future contingencies, including a possible "Operation Sindoor 2.0." Speaking at the NDA passing-out parade in Pune, he highlighted tri-service coordination, modern warfare challenges, and the growing importance of surveillance, intelligence, and information warfare in national security.**

caution in troop deployment and operational planning, especially in sensitive border areas.

General Dwivedi also underlined the growing role of information warfare in modern conflicts. He stated that success in this domain depends on national unity, public trust, and credible communication.

**No Proposal on Cow as National Animal or Slaughter Ban: Centre**

> **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

The Central government has clarified that there is currently no proposal under consideration to declare the cow as the national animal or to impose a nationwide ban on cow slaughter, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said.

Responding to queries, the minister stated that while various groups and organisations have been raising demands on the issue, no such proposal is presently before the Union Cabinet. He added that if any such matter reaches a stage requiring government decision or Cabinet approval, it will be communicated accordingly.

Meghwal emphasised that laws related to cow slaughter vary from state to state, and individual states take decisions based on their specific circumstances and legal frameworks.

He noted that several memorandums have been submitted by different groups urging the Centre to grant national animal status to the cow and enforce a countrywide ban.

The minister also



acknowledged that the issue continues to be widely discussed in public and on social media, with ongoing advocacy from multiple sections. However, he reiterated that, as of now, no formal process has been initiated at the government level to take a decision on the matter.

The minister further said that the Centre respects the federal structure of the country, where states have the authority to legislate on matters such as animal slaughter.

He also noted that while the debate over granting national status to the cow or enforcing a nationwide ban continues in political and social circles, any such move would require extensive consultation and consensus among stakeholders before being taken up for formal consideration by the government.

**Rahul Targets Modi Over NEET Row, BJP Hits Back**

> **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

A sharp political exchange broke out after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the ongoing investigation into the NEET-UG paper leak case.

The controversy began after the Supreme Court of India was informed that the Prime Minister was personally supervising issues related to the probe. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the court that the PM was closely monitoring developments in the matter.

Reacting to the submission, Rahul Gandhi posted on X, alleging that "PM Modi also personally



supervised the NEET paper leak," intensifying the political row. The Congress leader has been consistently attacking the government over the controversy and demanding accountability from Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

**BJP Hits Back Strongly**

The Bharatiya Janata Party

**A political row erupted after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of personally supervising the NEET-UG paper leak probe, following a Supreme Court submission that the PM was monitoring the case. The BJP strongly rejected the claim, calling it misleading and "outrageous," and accused Gandhi of misrepresentation and sensationalism, further intensifying the political confrontation over the ongoing investigation.**

strongly condemned Gandhi's remarks, accusing him of misrepresenting the government's statement before the court.

BJP leader Amit Malviya termed the comment "outrageous" and said it was unreasonable to suggest that the Prime Minister personally supervised the paper leak. He accused Gandhi of resorting to

sensationalism instead of engaging constructively on issues affecting students.

Party spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi also criticised Gandhi, stating that he had misread the context of the court proceedings and misinterpreted the word "issue" mentioned in the submission.

**Five Drown in Tungabhadra Near Mantralayam**

> **Vikrama Vahini | Raichur**

In a heart-wrenching incident, five people drowned while swimming in the Tungabhadra River near Mantralayam on Saturday, casting a pall of gloom over the region.

The victims have been identified as Chandra and Satish (35) from Hyderabad, Raghavendra (25) from Mantralayam, Dhanush (23), and Sandhya (22) from Uravakonda. The group had arrived in Mantralayam to attend a Satyanarayana puja at a relative's residence.

According to police, the tragedy occurred after the pooja, when the group went to the Tungabhadra River for a swim.

Unaware of the sudden depth and strong currents, they ventured into deeper waters and were swept away. Eyewitnesses said the incident unfolded rapidly, leaving little time for rescue.

One member of the group, Aparna, narrowly escaped and survived the incident. Her alertness helped raise the alarm, prompting immediate response from locals.

Police personnel and local fishermen rushed to the spot and launched an intensive search and rescue operation. So far, the body of Dhanush has been recovered, while efforts are continuing to trace the remaining victims.

Authorities have urged visitors to exercise caution while entering rivers, especially during periods of fluctuating water levels, and warned against swimming in unfamiliar or unsafe zones.

**US-Iran Talks Stall, Fuel Price Fears Rise**

> **Vikrama Vahini | Washington**

A high-level meeting led by Donald Trump to address escalating tensions with Iran ended without any agreement, raising fresh concerns over global energy prices and regional stability.

The talks, held at the White House, were aimed at exploring the possibility of a ceasefire and resolving key disputes between the two sides.

However, differences over critical issues, including Iran's nuclear programme, maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz, and the release of frozen Iranian funds, prevented any consensus.

The United States maintained a firm stance that Iran must not possess nuclear weapons and demanded the removal of naval mines allegedly placed by Iran in the Strait of Hormuz to ensure safe passage for international shipping. Washington also ruled out releasing billions of dollars in frozen Iranian assets until further progress is made in negotiations.

In a post on his social media platform, Trump outlined conditions for any future agreement, including the destruction of highly enriched uranium stockpiles and assurances on maritime security. He



reiterated that economic concessions would not be made without concrete steps from Tehran.

Responding to the developments, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said that no agreement had been finalised and that only preliminary exchanges had taken place so far. He added that Iran's immediate priority remains de-escalation and cessation of hostilities, rather than discussions on uranium enrichment.

Baghaei also asserted that the

management of the Strait of Hormuz is a matter concerning Iran and Oman, rejecting external pressure on the issue. The continued deadlock reflects deep-rooted mistrust and rigid positions on both sides.

With no immediate resolution in sight, the ongoing standoff has heightened fears of disruption in global oil supply chains, potentially triggering a spike in fuel prices worldwide. Analysts warn that prolonged uncertainty in the region could have far-reaching economic implications.

**Cong Unity on Display as Shivakumar Elected Unopposed**

> **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Senior Congress leader K. C. Venugopal on Saturday dismissed speculation of internal rifts in the Karnataka unit, stating that the unanimous election of D. K. Shivakumar as Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader reflects party unity.

Addressing the media in the presence of Randeep Singh Surjewala and outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Venugopal said the leadership transition was smooth and widely accepted by party legislators.

He noted that Siddaramaiah himself proposed Shivakumar's name, which was unanimously supported, countering claims of factionalism within the party.

The Congress leadership described the development as a sign of strong organisational discipline and unity, adding that the seamless transition strengthens the party's position ahead of future political challenges in the state.

**Fair Rolls Key to Fair Polls, Says CEC**

> **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Saturday said that "fair rolls lead to fair polls," asserting that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists has successfully met its constitutional mandate.

His remarks came after the Supreme Court of India upheld the validity of the SIR exercise. Addressing a conference of legal counsels representing the Election Commission in various courts, Kumar said the revision process has withstood judicial scrutiny and strengthened electoral integrity.

He emphasised that accurate voter rolls are essential for conducting free and fair elections, adding that the SIR initiative has reinforced transparency and credibility in the electoral system.

Kumar further noted that continuous updating and verification of electoral rolls remain crucial in a dynamic democracy like India, where population shifts and new voter registrations are frequent. He stressed that the Election Commission will continue to adopt technology-driven processes and rigorous checks to maintain the accuracy and inclusiveness of voter lists.

**61-Day Fishing Ban Along Karnataka Coast from June 1**

> **Vikrama Vahini | Karwar**

The Fisheries Department has imposed a 61-day ban on mechanised fishing along the Karnataka coast, including Uttara Kannada district, from June 1 to July 31, in view of the monsoon season and fish breeding period.

Officials said the restriction is enforced annually to protect marine life during its peak breeding cycle. As per the order, all mechanised fishing boats and vessels fitted with inboard or outboard engines above 10 horsepower are prohibited from operating during the ban period.

The department has clarified that no fishing activities using nets or other equipment will be allowed on such boats.

However, traditional boats and small motorised vessels with engines below 10 horsepower have been permitted to operate, subject to strict safety measures, including the use of life-saving equipment.

Authorities have warned that strict action will be taken against violators.

Boats found engaging in illegal fishing during the ban will face legal consequences, and government benefits such as subsidised diesel and other support schemes will be withdrawn.

The Uttara Kannada District Fisheries Joint Director has urged all fishermen to cooperate and strictly adhere to the regulations in the interest of marine conservation and sustainable fishing practices.

Fishermen have been advised to use this period for boat maintenance and net repairs ahead of the new fishing season.