



Actress Rashmika Mandanna and actor Vijay Deverakonda enjoy a romantic getaway in Japan, posing in traditional yukata attire with Mount Fuji in the backdrop during their recent trip.

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has launched a three-day food safety training programme for street food vendors and hoteliers in Tirumala to ensure hygienic food for lakhs of visiting pilgrims.



INSIDE

Good morning

A meaningful life is not being rich, being popular, being highly educated, or being perfect. It's about being real, being humble, being able to share ourselves and touch the lives of others.

BRIEFS

CBSE Chief, Secretary Transferred in OSM Row

► Vikrama Vahini | Delhi
The Centre has transferred CBSE Chairman and Secretary and ordered a high-level inquiry into the CBSE's On-Screen Marking (OSM) system following widespread complaints from students over errors in scanned answer sheets and evaluation discrepancies. The inquiry committee, headed by Capacity Building Commission Chairperson S. Radha Chauhan, will examine alleged irregularities in the procurement and implementation of the OSM system.

The controversy erupted after Class 12 students reported issues such as blurred answer scripts, mismatched sheets and marking errors, triggering nationwide concern over evaluation transparency. Meanwhile, student protests were held in Delhi demanding accountability, even as CBSE's re-evaluation portal reportedly faced cyberattacks and high traffic during submissions.

₹24 Lakh MD Drugs Seized, 3 Arrested in Nagpur

► Vikrama Vahini | Nagpur
Police seized 485 grams of mephedrone (MD) worth ₹24.25 lakh and arrested three persons in Nagpur district.

Acting on a tip-off, the Local Crime Branch intercepted an SUV near Kelwad Toll Plaza and recovered the drugs.

The total seizure, including the vehicle and mobile phones, is valued at ₹40.25 lakh. The accused, identified as Govind Pal, Lalatprasad Patel and Deepak Dethle, are from Madhya Pradesh. Investigation is underway.

Israel-Hezbollah Ceasefire After Trump Push

► Vikrama Vahini | Washington
In a significant development amid rising tensions in the Middle East, Israel and Hezbollah have reportedly agreed to halt attacks following mediation by former US President Donald Trump.

Trump said Israel has paused its planned offensive on Lebanon and recalled troops moving towards Beirut, while Hezbollah has agreed to stop firing rockets. The understanding aims to ease fears of a wider conflict in the region.

However, shortly after the announcement, reports emerged of missile launches from Lebanon towards northern Israel, indicating that the situation remains volatile.

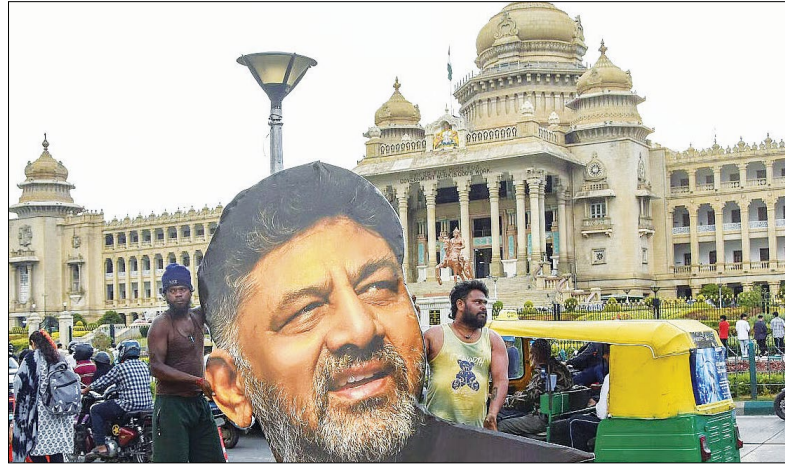
Crowning Moment for DKS? Cabinet Berths Keep Leaders Guessing

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President D. K. Shivakumar is all set to take oath as the Chief Minister of Karnataka on Wednesday. He will be administered the oath of office by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot at the Glass House of Lok Bhavan at 4:05 PM in Bengaluru.

According to reports, the number of ministers to be inducted in the first phase is yet to be finalised. However, around 12 to 14 ministers are likely to take oath along with the Chief Minister. The final decision on cabinet composition is still under discussion.

Reports suggest that the Congress high command had directed Siddaramaiah to step down to pave the way for Shivakumar's elevation.

Senior Congress leaders, including



party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and General Secretaries K. C. Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala, are expected to attend the

ceremony. Chief Ministers from Congress and INDIA bloc-ruled states, along with other dignitaries and religious leaders from major communities, have also been invited. **PG2**

Siddu Inducted into CWC

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
The Congress party has appointed Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah as a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC). The CWC is the highest decision-making body of the Congress party, responsible for taking key organisational and

political decisions. The committee comprises senior leaders from across the country. With this inclusion, Siddaramaiah has been given a key organisational responsibility within the party, seen as a significant elevation in his political role at the national level.



Cabinet List Out Today: DKS

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
CLP leader D.K. Shivakumar said the Karnataka Cabinet list will be announced on Wednesday, with the final decision by the party high command. He clarified that names in the media are not official

and the list will be released from New Delhi by morning or afternoon. He also said the Congress Bhavan foundation event has been postponed, asking party leaders to gather at Bharat Jodo Bhavan instead.

AIMPLB Opposes Vande Mataram Rule in Schools

► Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata
The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has opposed the West Bengal government's decision making the singing of Vande Mataram mandatory in school morning assemblies, calling it a "direct infringement" of constitutional and religious freedoms.

AIMPLB opposes West Bengal's order making Vande Mataram compulsory in schools, citing violation of constitutional and religious rights and seeking exemption for Muslim students. The Board has also urged legal action if students are forced to comply with the directive.

AIMPLB Raises Constitutional Concerns
AIMPLB spokesperson S. Q. R. Ilyas said forcing students to recite any song against their religious beliefs violates Fundamental Rights under Articles 19, 25 and 28(3) of the Constitution.

The Board has demanded either

withdrawal of the order or exemption for Muslim students.

State's Directive in Schools and Madrasas

The West Bengal government had recently directed that singing of Vande Mataram be made compulsory in all government and government-aided schools, as well as madrasas, during morning assemblies.

Legal and Religious Arguments

The Board cited the Supreme Court's ruling in Bijoe Emmanuel vs State of Kerala, which held that no student can be forced to participate in practices against their sincerely held beliefs. It also argued that certain stanzas of the song conflict with Islamic monotheistic principles.

Call for Legal Remedies

AIMPLB has urged affected students, parents and teachers to be aware of their rights and seek legal remedies if compelled to comply with the directive.

The issue has added a fresh dimension to the ongoing debate over cultural practices in educational institutions and constitutional freedoms.

Annamalai Quits BJP, Plans New Party

► Vikrama Vahini | Chennai
Former Tamil Nadu BJP president K. Annamalai has resigned from the party and is reportedly preparing to launch a new political outfit, marking a major shift in the state's political landscape ahead of his birthday on June 4.

Annamalai Quits BJP

According to party sources, Annamalai submitted his resignation after meeting senior BJP leaders in New Delhi, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah and national leadership. He is said to have also declined a Rajya Sabha offer, signalling his intent to pursue an independent political path.

New Party with Tamil Identity Pitch

Sources indicate that the proposed political outfit will blend Tamil identity politics with a softer Hindutva ideology, aiming to appeal to OBC communities and position itself as an alternative to both the DMK and AIADMK, as well as the rising Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK). **PG2**



Pick of the Day

Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Swamy, adorned in majestic Srinivasa Darbar Alankaram, blessed devotees in royal splendour atop the sacred Gaja Vahanam during the annual Brahmotsavams at Narayanavanam.



DRDO, IAF TEST RUDRAM-II MISSILE SUCCESSFULLY

DRDO and the Indian Air Force successfully tested the indigenously developed Rudram-II air-to-surface missile, demonstrating precise target accuracy under complex conditions.

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (Indian Air Force) have successfully conducted flight tests of the indigenously developed Rudram-II air-to-surface missile from an airborne platform.

The missile was tested under complex release conditions and demonstrated precise trajectory control, successfully striking a pre-designated target with pinpoint accuracy. All mission objectives were achieved, according to data recorded by the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur.

Rudram-II has been developed by the Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad, as the nodal DRDO laboratory, in collaboration with several other defence research units and industry partners, including HAL and various production and quality assurance agencies.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the successful tests, stating that the achievement reflects the growing maturity of India's indigenous defence capabilities and supports the goal of self-reliance in advanced weapon systems.

Officials from DRDO and the



defence research community have congratulated all teams involved in the successful demonstration.

Rudram-II is part of India's growing family of stand-off air-to-surface weapons designed to enhance the Indian Air Force's ability to neutralise high-value enemy targets from long distances without entering hostile airspace.

The missile is equipped with advanced guidance systems that enable high precision strike capability even under challenging flight conditions.

It is designed to engage both fixed and mobile targets with improved accuracy and reliability.

Officials indicated that further trials and integration tests will be carried out before the missile is inducted into full operational service with frontline aircraft of the Indian Air Force.

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SPIRITUAL

Early Rise Edge: Success Starts Before Sunrise

In Indian tradition, Brahma Muhurta is considered one of the most auspicious periods of the day, especially for learning and self-development. This time occurs during the last phase of the night, usually about one hour and 36 minutes before sunrise, and has long been recommended by ancient scholars for study, meditation, and spiritual practices.

References to Brahma Muhurta are found in several Puranic texts. The Skanda Purana describes it as a sacred time in the final part of the night, while the Agni Purana identifies it as the last phase, or "yama," ideal for intellectual and spiritual activities. It is also known as "Saraswati Yama," symbolising knowledge and wisdom, making it especially significant for students.

Experts believe that the mind is naturally calm and free from distractions during this early hour. With minimal noise and a peaceful environment, students are able to focus better on studies. This heightened concentration is said to improve memory retention, understanding, and overall academic performance.

In addition to traditional beliefs, modern studies on productivity also highlight the benefits of early rising. The quiet morning hours allow students to plan their day effectively and engage in uninterrupted learning. Many educators suggest that studying during this time can lead to better results compared to late-night study sessions.

Health benefits are also associated with waking up during Brahma Muhurta. According to Ayurveda, the early morning air is fresh and energising, helping to refresh the body and mind.

Regularly waking up before sunrise is believed to improve physical health, regulate sleep patterns, and enhance overall well-being.

Activities such as yoga, meditation, and light exercise are often recommended during this time. These practices not only boost physical fitness but also help reduce stress and improve mental clarity. For students, combining these habits with regular study routines can create a disciplined lifestyle.

Overall, Brahma Muhurta offers a valuable opportunity for students to maximise their potential. By utilising this peaceful and productive time, they can strengthen both their academic performance and personal growth.

Parameshwara Discontent Clouds Congress Shift

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Fresh signs of internal unease have emerged within the Karnataka Congress even before the leadership transition settles, with senior leader and Home Minister G. Parameshwara reportedly expressing disappointment over being overlooked once again for the Chief Minister's post.

Party sources indicate that the veteran Dalit leader has conveyed his concerns to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and has also sought a change in his portfolio, signalling dissatisfaction with continuing in the Home Department. He is also said to be uninterested in taking up the Speaker's post, which has been discussed internally as part of balancing power equations.

Parameshwara's discontent comes at a crucial time as the Congress high command works on forming a new cabinet following the appointment of D. K. Shivakumar as the next Chief Minister.

Key decisions regarding ministerial berths, deputy chief ministerial positions and portfolio allocation are still under deliberation amid intense lobbying by various factions and caste



Discontent brews in Karnataka Congress as G. Parameshwara expresses disappointment over missing the CM post, adding pressure on the high command amid intense cabinet negotiations.

groups.

A prominent Dalit face in Karnataka politics, Parameshwara has long harboured ambitions of becoming Chief Minister.

His name had figured prominently during the recent leadership discussions that concluded with Shivakumar replacing Siddaramaiah. Several leaders had also advocated for a Dalit Chief Minister if a leadership change was to take place.

Meanwhile, Parameshwara is among the senior leaders being considered for a deputy chief ministerial role, along with Priyank Kharge, as the party attempts to strike a balance among regional and social groups.

'BACKSTAB' ROW: MALLIKARJUN HITS OUT AT ZAMEER

Vikrama Vahini | Davanagere

A political controversy has erupted within the Congress in Karnataka after an alleged audio clip of former minister Zameer Ahmed Khan went viral, prompting sharp criticism from senior leader and former minister S S Mallikarjun.

The audio, purportedly featuring a conversation between Zameer and his associate Siraj, has triggered internal debate within the party. In the clip, Zameer is allegedly heard urging that votes in the Davanagere by-election be diverted away from the Congress candidate and instead cast in favour of an independent candidate.

The reference to "cooker" (a symbol associated with an independent candidate) has further intensified the controversy.

According to the contents of the viral audio, there are claims that sections of voters, particularly from the Muslim community, were

being encouraged not to support the official Congress candidate. It is also alleged that efforts were made to reduce the vote share of the party by discouraging active voter mobilisation.

Reacting to the development, S S Mallikarjun said the matter has



come to the notice of the Congress high command, which will take an appropriate decision. He accused Zameer of indirectly helping the BJP and termed the act as "backstabbing" the party.

"Our own people should not act against the party's interests. This is like stabbing from behind. The high command will examine the issue and take a suitable decision," he said, while refraining from directly demanding disciplinary action.

Meanwhile, Mohammed Siraj, a close associate of Zameer, has filed a complaint at the CEN police station in Davanagere, alleging that the audio clip is fabricated and intended to defame them.

Chalavadi Urges Governor to Stall Riot Case Withdrawal

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Leader of the Opposition in Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy on Tuesday urged Governor Thavarchand Gehlot not to give assent to the cabinet's decision to withdraw cases against Aland Rioters.

"The rioters in Aland in Kalaburgi district desecrated the 800-year old Shivalinga and also attacked the priests as well as the devotees. Even the police personnel have been attacked. We have requested the Governor not to give assent to the cabinet's decision to withdraw the cases,"



Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said while speaking to reporters outside Lok Bhavan.

According to Chalavadi Narayana swamy, the cabinet's decision to withdraw cases is the height of minority appeasement politics of the Congress party.

"This minority appeasement has potential to embolden anti-social elements in different parts of the state. The Congress government has set a dangerous precedent," the Leader of the Opposition in Legislative Council added.

"While desecration of the temple was most heinous, the withdrawal of cases against the rioters is equally outrageous," Chalavadi Narayanaswamy added.

Annamalai Quits BJP, Plans New Party

From PG

Internal Party Discontent Reports suggest Annamalai expressed dissatisfaction over being sidelined within the BJP and cited organisational differences following the party's poor electoral performance in Tamil Nadu.

His resignation is seen as the culmination of growing friction within the state leadership.

Political observers say his exit could significantly reshape Tamil Nadu politics, especially in regions like the Kongu belt.

Analysts believe his move may create a new political contest alongside emerging forces in the state.

The development comes at a time when Tamil Nadu politics is witnessing major realignments, with new leaders and parties reshaping traditional vote dynamics.

NAGENDRA HIT BY VALMIKI SCAM CHARGE SHEET

Vikrama Vahini | B'uru

In a major development, Nagendra, a ministerial aspirant, has suffered a significant setback as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed charge sheets against him in connection with the multi-crore Valmiki Corporation scam.

According to officials, the CBI has submitted three separate charge sheets naming Nagendra as a prime accused in

the case. The investigation pertains to an alleged financial irregularity amounting to ₹89 crore, in which

Nagendra is said to be directly involved.

Probe findings reveal that a fake account under the name "Sadhguru Trust" was allegedly created to divert funds. Authorities

claim that a substantial portion of the misappropriated money was siphoned off and used for personal purposes.



Half-Day Holiday Near Vidhana Soudha for DKS Swearing-In

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Karnataka government has declared a half-day holiday on June 3 for employees working in government offices located in and around Vidhana Soudha, Vikas Soudha and the Multi-storeyed Building, in view of the swearing-in ceremony of Chief Minister-designate D.K. Shivakumar.

According to a notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) in the name of the Governor of Karnataka, the oath-taking ceremony will be held at 4:05 PM on the premises of Vidhana Soudha.

The event is expected to witness the presence of several dignitaries, elected representatives, party leaders and members of the public.

The government stated that the decision to declare a half-day holiday has been taken to facilitate security arrangements, traffic management and the smooth



Half-day holiday declared for government offices around Vidhana Soudha on June 3 as Bengaluru gears up for D.K. Shivakumar's swearing-in amid tight security and traffic arrangements.

conduct of the high-profile event. A large gathering and heavy vehicular movement are anticipated in and around the Vidhana Soudha, which could disrupt normal functioning.

As a result, government offices in the vicinity of the Assembly and surrounding areas will remain closed for the second half of the day on June 3.

Meanwhile, ahead of the swearing-in ceremony, D.K. Shivakumar travelled to New Delhi to meet Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and other senior leaders.

The meeting is focused on finalising the composition of the new Karnataka Cabinet, including ministerial berths, the Deputy Chief Minister's post, and key organisational appointments within the state unit.

The Congress high command is actively involved in finalising the structure of the new government. Shivakumar is scheduled to take oath as Chief Minister at Lok Bhavan in Bengaluru at around 4 PM on June 3.

NEWS

ASHOK SLAMS SIDDARAMAIAH OVER 'FINANCIAL MISMANAGEMENT'

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, accusing him of leaving behind a financially strained state while prioritising his son's political future ahead of the leadership transition.

In a strongly worded statement, Ashoka alleged that the Congress government had pushed Karnataka into a debt trap and was handing over a financially burdened administration to incoming Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar. He claimed Siddaramaiah stepped down without resistance as he was aware of the deteriorating fiscal condition.

The BJP leader further alleged that development works had slowed and

financial stress had mounted across sectors due to pending government dues. According to him, contractors are awaiting payments, electricity supply companies are facing a cash crunch, and several welfare schemes have been impacted by fund shortages.

Ashoka also pointed to alleged delays in payments under major schemes such as Gruha Lakshmi, Shakti and Anna Bhagya, and claimed that employees of state-run transport corporations are yet to receive certain dues.

Criticising Siddaramaiah's recent visits to New Delhi, Ashoka alleged that the former Chief Minister was focused on securing a political role for his son rather than addressing the state's financial challenges.



Crowning Moment for DKS? Cabinet Berths Keep Leaders Guessing

From PG

Final preparations are underway in the state capital. The event is expected to remain relatively low-key due to concerns over peak-hour traffic congestion in Bengaluru, as a large number of Congress workers and supporters from across Karnataka and other parts of the country are expected to arrive. Party flags and large banners featuring leaders including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Shivakumar, K. C. Venugopal, Randeep Singh Surjewala, and outgoing Chief

Minister Siddaramaiah have been put up around Vidhana Soudha and the Lok Bhavan area.

A meeting between the Congress high command, D. K. Shivakumar, and Siddaramaiah was held on Tuesday regarding the formation of the Council of Ministers. As per the Constitution, the sanctioned strength of Karnataka's Council of Ministers is 34, and discussions are ongoing regarding the distribution of portfolios and inclusion of ministers.

HEALTH & Lifestyle

Mental Illness Tops Global Disability List

Mental disorders have emerged as the leading cause of disability worldwide, surpassing major physical illnesses such as heart disease, cancer and musculoskeletal conditions, according to a major global study published in The Lancet.

Mental Illness Tops Global Disability Chart

The findings, part of the Global Burden of Disease 2023 study, reveal that nearly 1.2 billion people were living with mental health conditions in 2023—almost double the number recorded in 1990. Mental disorders now account for over 17 per cent of all years lived with disability (YLDs), making them the single largest contributor to global disability.

Experts say this marks a significant shift in global health priorities, as mental health issues increasingly affect education, employment and daily life.

Teenagers and Women Hit the Hardest

The study highlights that adolescents aged 15–19 are the most affected group, with rising cases of anxiety and depression. Girls and young women are particularly vulnerable, with higher rates of mental health conditions compared to males.

Researchers attribute this trend to a mix of biological, social and economic factors, including academic pressure, social media exposure and changing lifestyles.

Anxiety and Depression Lead the Surge

Among mental health

conditions, anxiety disorders and major depressive disorder are the biggest contributors to disability. These conditions often lead to long-term impairment, affecting an individual's ability to function in school, work and social settings.

Neurodevelopmental disorders such as ADHD and autism also contribute significantly, especially among younger populations.

Rising Burden Since 1990

The study notes that the burden of mental disorders has nearly doubled since 1990 due to population growth, longer life expectancy and increasing social stress. Urbanisation, economic pressures, weakening community ties and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic have further worsened the situation.

Experts also point to the role of technology and social media, which have intensified stress levels, particularly among young people.

Call for Urgent Action

Health experts are now calling for urgent global action to address the growing mental health crisis. They stress the need for better awareness, early diagnosis, improved access to treatment and stronger support systems, especially for young people.

The report underscores that mental health is no longer a secondary concern but a central global health challenge requiring immediate attention.



SCIENCE & Technology

'BOMB' Device Triggers Mid-Air Return

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

A United Airlines flight from Newark to Spain was forced to return mid-air after a Bluetooth device labelled "BOMB" triggered a security alert, causing major disruption and over 10 hours of delay for passengers.

Flight UA236, bound for Palma de Mallorca, turned back to Newark while flying over the Atlantic Ocean after a passenger noticed the suspicious Bluetooth name and alerted the cabin crew. Following standard aviation safety protocol, the pilots declared an emergency using the 7700 transponder code and decided to return as a precaution. The aircraft was carrying around 200 passengers at the time.

Upon landing, security agencies conducted a thorough inspection of the aircraft. Investigations later revealed that the device was a portable Bluetooth speaker belonging to a 16-year-old passenger. No explosives or dangerous materials were found onboard.

Authorities are now examining whether the device name was set as a prank or intentionally altered, as such labels can cause serious alarm in sensitive environments like aircraft.

The incident caused significant inconvenience to passengers, who had already faced a prior delay due to technical issues before departure. After landing, all passengers were deboarded, screened again by security agencies, and later reboarded, leading to missed connections and disrupted travel plans.

Officials said the incident highlights the importance of responsible use of personal electronic devices, as even harmless actions can trigger strict security responses in aviation.

Cabinet Race Heats Up in Delhi



Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The race for cabinet berths in Karnataka has intensified, with over 40 Congress MLAs camping in New Delhi to secure a place in the new ministry ahead of Chief Minister-designate D. K. Shivakumar's swearing-in on June 3.

With only eight to ten ministerial positions likely in the first phase, the high command is facing mounting pressure as aspirants lobby aggressively for inclusion. The national capital has turned into the political nerve centre, with hotels and residences of senior leaders

witnessing hectic consultations and closed-door meetings.

The competition has brought factional dynamics to the fore. Supporters of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah are pushing for representation of their camp, while Shivakumar's supporters are advocating for fresh faces and loyalists who backed his elevation.

Several former ministers are seeking re-entry into the cabinet citing experience, while long-serving MLAs who have not yet been accommodated are demanding their turn. At

Siddaramaiah Key in DK's Cabinet Formation

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Even as D. K. Shivakumar prepares to take oath as Karnataka Chief Minister, outgoing CM Siddaramaiah continues to play a central role in shaping the new cabinet, highlighting his enduring influence within the Congress.

With the swearing-in just a day away, New Delhi has become the hub of intense political activity, with senior leaders and cabinet aspirants holding crucial consultations with the high command. Siddaramaiah's meeting with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has gained significance amid ongoing discussions on ministerial berths, deputy chief minister

posts and key organisational roles.

Adding to the political buzz, Siddaramaiah was seen interacting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in the national capital. Meanwhile, statements by Yathindra Siddaramaiah claiming assurance of a cabinet berth from Rahul Gandhi have fuelled speculation over new entrants in the ministry.

Congress MLA Priyank Kharge also met the party leadership, intensifying the race for key portfolios. Behind closed doors, the leadership is working to balance regional, caste and factional interests, with indications that cabinet expansion may be carried out in phases.

The transition also involves organisational changes, as Shivakumar is set to vacate the KPCC president post, prompting discussions on his successor, likely from the OBC community.

While Shivakumar expressed gratitude to the Gandhi family for their support, the BJP, led by R. Ashoka, criticised the transition as merely a "change of driver," questioning the prospects of governance under the new leadership.

As Karnataka awaits the formal swearing-in, Siddaramaiah's continued involvement underscores the delicate balance of power within the Congress as it shapes its new government.

the same time, leaders from minority, Dalit, OBC and regional groups are pressing for balanced representation.

The responsibility of finalising the cabinet composition rests with Congress president

Mallikarjun Kharge, along with senior leaders, as they work to balance caste equations, regional interests and internal power equations.

With crucial decisions pending on deputy

chief minister posts and key portfolios, the cabinet formation has emerged as a major internal test for the Congress, even before the new government formally takes charge.

VIJAY SURGE LEAVES DMK ISOLATED; MDMK EXIT LOOMS

Vikrama Vahini | Chennai

The rapid political rise of actor-turned-politician Vijay has significantly altered Tamil Nadu's political landscape, leaving the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance increasingly isolated, with key ally Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam now contemplating an exit.

Following the recent Assembly elections, several long-time allies—including the Congress, VCK and IUML—have distanced themselves from the DMK and extended support to Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam government, contributing to the formation of Tamil Nadu's first coalition-style governance. The Left parties, CPI and CPI(M), have also offered outside support to the new regime.

Amid this shifting political alignment, MDMK Principal Secretary and Lok Sabha MP Durai Vaiko has indicated that the party is reconsidering its position within the DMK alliance.

Speaking in Tiruchirappalli after receiving Chief Minister Vijay during his post-election visit, Durai Vaiko said a final decision would be taken at the party's General Council meeting scheduled for June 27.

He acknowledged internal



Actor-turned-politician Vijay's political surge reshapes Tamil Nadu's power dynamics, isolating the DMK-led alliance as MDMK weighs exit and opposition forces realign. The June 27 General Council meeting of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam is set to be crucial in determining the future of the alliance.

dissatisfaction over the party's inability to support the TVK government, noting that MDMK had contested the elections under the DMK symbol.

However, he added that the upcoming General Council meeting would deliberate on all key issues, including alliance dynamics, election strategies and the party's future course.

Durai Vaiko also pointed out that other parties supporting the TVK government did so to respect the people's mandate and prevent political instability, dismissing criticism over shifting loyalties. He further defended MLAs switching sides, stating it was within their democratic rights.

If MDMK decides to exit, the DMK's position could weaken further, leaving it with limited support, including its relatively new ally, the DMDK. Reports

also suggest that the Left parties may reassess their stance, potentially triggering further realignments in the state's political equations.

Meanwhile, political observers note that the emergence of Vijay as a dominant force has disrupted the traditional two-party dominance in Tamil Nadu, creating a new power centre that is attracting both allies and independent legislators. His appeal among youth and first-time voters is also seen as a key factor behind the shifting political loyalties.

The coming weeks are expected to be crucial, as the decisions taken by Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and other alliance partners could redefine coalition equations, potentially leading to a broader political realignment ahead of future elections in the state.



Sri YOGI Madhava Theerthara Adhika Masada Aradhane was celebrated on Tuesday, along with Sri Veera Rama Devvara Samsthana Pooja at Sri Raghavendra Swamigala Matha in N R Colony, Bangalore.

NIA Charge Sheets 31 in Bengal SIR Road Blockade Case

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed charge sheets against 31 individuals in connection with road blockade incidents and the alleged illegal detention of judicial officials during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process in Malda district of West Bengal.

The charge sheets, filed before the NIA Special Court in Kolkata, pertain to four separate cases. The agency said the action is based on digital, technical, documentary and oral evidence, along with statements of several witnesses examined following incidents that occurred ahead of the Assembly elections.

According to the NIA, the accused were involved in organised unlawful assemblies, blocking public roads, obstructing the movement of government officials, and wrongfully confining judicial officers engaged in the SIR exercise.

The investigation was taken over by the NIA following directions from the Supreme Court. Officials stated that the charge sheets clearly outline the specific roles played by each accused in the incidents.

ENTERTAINMENT

No Right to Ban: Aggarwal Moves Court

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Former Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association (IMPPA) president T. P. Aggarwal has moved court challenging the Federation of Western India Cine Employees' (FWICE) non-cooperation directive against actor Ranveer Singh, arguing that no film body has the legal authority to impose a ban.

Petition Challenges FWICE Directive

Aggarwal's petition, filed against FWICE and IMPPA, contends that no individual, association or trade body can legally restrict members of the film fraternity from working with any actor or professional. Court notices have reportedly been issued to both organisations.

The controversy stems from FWICE's directive against Ranveer Singh after he exited filmmaker Farhan

Akhtar's upcoming project Don 3, a move that allegedly caused financial implications for the production house. **"No One Has the Right to Ban": Aggarwal**



Speaking on the issue, Aggarwal asserted that such bans are unlawful and unjustified. He cited a 2017 ruling by the Competition Commission of India, which had clearly stated that film associations cannot enforce restrictive practices.

He argued that disputes between actors and producers should be resolved mutually or through legal channels, not through industry-wide bans. "If I want to sign an actor and hear he is banned, it directly affects my work," he noted.

CCI Ruling on Film Bodies

The petition references a landmark order by the CCI, which found several film bodies—including FWICE and producer associations—guilty of violating provisions of the Competition Act, 2002.

The ruling came after a complaint by filmmaker Vipul Shah, challenging clauses in a 2010 Memorandum of Understanding that mandated hiring only registered members and imposed restrictive conditions on employment.

The CCI held that such clauses were anti-competitive and directed the associations to cease these practices. It also clarified that trade unions are not exempt from competition law.

Legal and Industry Implications

The current petition could have wider implications for the film industry, particularly regarding the powers of trade bodies and unions. If upheld, the court's decision may redefine the limits of authority exercised by such organisations over artists and producers.

CBFC ORDERS 11 CUTS IN VARUN DHAWAN FILM

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has cleared Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai, starring Varun Dhawan, with a UA certificate after ordering 11 modifications, mainly aimed at reducing sexually suggestive content, gestures and visual references.

CBFC Clears Film with UA Certificate

The film, directed by David Dhawan, is scheduled for theatrical release on June 5, 2026, with a runtime of around 2 hours and 25 minutes. The censor board approved the film after several edits to ensure it is suitable for family viewing under the UA category.

11 Cuts Ordered by CBFC

According to certification details, most of the changes focus on toning down explicit or suggestive material. Key modifications include:

- Removal or modification of sexually suggestive visuals
- Editing of hand gestures deemed inappropriate
- Blurring or muting references to condom brands and flavours
- Replacement of certain dialogues with milder words
- Reframing of dance sequences where undergarments were visible

undergarments were visible

The CBFC also ordered a brief visual change of around six seconds involving references to sports personalities, including Jos Buttler and Ben Stokes.

Focus on Tone-Down Content

Officials reportedly ensured that while sensitive content was edited, the overall storyline and narrative flow of the film remained intact. The UA certification allows children to watch the film under parental guidance.

Cast and Production

The film features an ensemble cast including Mrunal Thakur, Pooja Hegde, Maniesh Paul, Chunky Panday, Jimmy Shergill, Mouni Roy and others. It is produced by Ramesh Taurani under Tips Films.

Legal Controversy Around Songs

Meanwhile, the film is also facing legal challenges over the use of popular tracks from Biwi No. 1, including Chunnari Chunnari and Ishq Sonai Hai. Production house Pooja Entertainment has filed a ₹400 crore lawsuit in the Bombay High Court, seeking an injunction against the use of the songs and additional damages of ₹100 crore.

The film now moves towards release amid both censorship edits and ongoing legal disputes.



BUSINESS

RBI Gold Move to Shield Rupee

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), may have sold nearly \$12 billion worth of gold in the two weeks ending May 22 to protect the rupee and strengthen foreign exchange reserves amid escalating tensions between the United States and Iran, according to a report by Bloomberg Economics.

The move comes as India faces mounting economic pressure due to rising crude oil prices linked to the West Asia conflict. Being the world's third-largest oil importer, India's external position has been strained, with higher energy costs weakening the rupee and widening the current account deficit. In response, the government has already increased fuel prices and raised import duties on precious metals.

Gold Holdings Decline

Analysis suggests the RBI reduced its gold reserves by around \$12 billion, even as it added approximately \$7.5 billion to its foreign currency assets. Economists noted that such a decline is unusual, especially during a period of high import duties, which typically boost bullion value. The step indicates a strategic shift towards maintaining liquid foreign currency reserves to counter external shocks. A portion of India's gold reserves continues to be held overseas with institutions such as the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements.

Rupee Under Pressure

The Indian rupee has remained under pressure amid global uncertainties, though recent market interventions by the RBI have helped stabilise it. The currency was trading slightly weaker at around ₹95.17 against the US dollar, after hitting a record low earlier in May. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra is reportedly considering additional measures, including possible interest rate adjustments and steps to attract dollar inflows.

Energy Concerns Rise in Asia

The ongoing geopolitical tensions have also raised concerns across Asia over potential disruptions in oil supply, particularly through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global shipping route. Crude oil prices have already shown an upward trend, with analysts warning of further increases if the situation escalates.



SPORTS

India's Upcoming Cricket Schedule Revealed

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
India and Afghanistan are set to face each other in a multi-format cricket series beginning June 6 in India, featuring one Test match followed by a three-match ODI series.

Series Begins After IPL Season
With the Indian Premier League (IPL) concluding recently, Team India players are now preparing for international duties. The upcoming series against Afghanistan will include one Test match and three One-Day Internationals (ODIs), making it a crucial early-summer contest for both sides.

Full India vs Afghanistan Schedule
The series will begin with the only Test match on June 6 at New Chandigarh, followed by the ODI leg:

- * June 6 – Test match – New Chandigarh (09:30 AM IST)
- * June 14 – 1st ODI – Dharamshala (01:30 PM IST)
- * June 17 – 2nd ODI – Lucknow (01:30 PM IST)
- * June 20 – 3rd ODI – Chennai (01:30 PM IST)
- * Return of Test Cricket Against Afghanistan

India and Afghanistan have played only one Test match so far, back in 2018, which India won by an innings and 262 runs. The upcoming fixture marks their second Test encounter after an eight-year gap.

Notably, the New Chandigarh stadium will host its first-ever Test match, adding significance to the historic fixture.

Kohli and Rohit Set for Return
The ODI series will also mark the return of senior Indian players Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, who are expected to feature for India again after their last appearance in October.

Their comeback is expected to boost India's experience and strength as the team builds momentum for upcoming international assignments.

ICC Suspends Cricket Canada Board!

> Vikrama Vahini | Ahmedabad
The International Cricket Council (ICC) has suspended Cricket Canada's membership with immediate effect over allegations of corruption, administrative failures and governance violations.

The decision was taken at the ICC Board meeting held in Ahmedabad on May 31, following reports of alleged match-fixing, selection interference and financial irregularities within the Canadian cricket administration.

A CBC investigation had earlier flagged possible corruption and misconduct, while a leaked audio of former coach Khurram Chohan reportedly indicated interference in team selection. The ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit also reviewed the matter.

Despite the suspension, the ICC clarified that Canada's men's and women's teams will continue to participate in international tournaments, with financial and operational support from the global body.

An ICC-appointed "Normalisation Committee" will soon oversee reforms and restore proper governance in Cricket Canada.

EU-Pak Talks Spark Kashmir Row

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
The eighth round of the EU-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue has sparked controversy after a joint communiqué made a reference linking Jammu and Kashmir with the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, drawing sharp attention in diplomatic circles.

The dialogue, held in Islamabad, was co-chaired by European Union's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas and Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. The discussions included high-level meetings with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Asim Muneer, focusing on evolving geopolitical dynamics in South Asia and global uncertainties.

However, the controversy stems from the official joint press communiqué issued after the talks. In a key section, the document mentioned Jammu and Kashmir and Russia's



EU-Pakistan talks trigger controversy after a joint statement places Jammu and Kashmir alongside the Russia-Ukraine conflict, raising concerns over diplomatic "hyphenation" and India's long-held stance on the issue.

UN Charter. This formulation has been viewed as placing the two issues side by side, effectively drawing a parallel between the Kashmir issue and the Ukraine conflict. Critics argue that such "hyphenation" could be interpreted as equating the two situations in terms of international law and territorial sovereignty.

India has consistently maintained that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the country and that all related matters are strictly bilateral between India and Pakistan. New Delhi has also opposed any attempts at internationalising the issue.

Apart from the contentious reference, the dialogue also covered trade and economic cooperation, including Pakistan's efforts to secure an extension under the European Union's GSP+ framework, which allows duty-free access to European markets.

invasion of Ukraine in consecutive lines, stating that both sides were briefed on the respective issues and supported peaceful resolution through dialogue in line with the

TMC Protest Flop: Low Turnout for Mamata Rally

> Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata
West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress (Trinamool Congress) chief Mamata Banerjee faced an embarrassment during a protest held in Kolkata against the Union Government over alleged withholding of central funds for state welfare schemes.

Mamata Banerjee strongly attacked the Centre, saying West Bengal would "fight till the end" for its rightful dues. However, despite the scale of the rally, only 5 MLAs and 3 MPs from her party were reportedly present, leading to visible political discomfort.

The low participation has triggered discussions in political circles about internal unity within the ruling party, with observers noting that the turnout fell far short of expectations for a major statewide protest.



BJP Shuts Door to TMC Defectors in Bengal

The West Bengal BJP has decided to shut its doors to Trinamool Congress defectors, prioritising ideology and cadre strength over political opportunism. The party aims to prevent "Trinamoolisation" and focus on long-time and young leaders for future elections.

> Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata
The West Bengal unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (Bharatiya Janata Party) has reportedly shut its doors to leaders defecting from the Trinamool Congress (Trinamool Congress), signaling a major shift in its political strategy ahead of future elections.

Party leaders said the BJP will not allow "Trinamoolisation" of its organisation and has decided to prioritise ideology over political opportunism. The move comes amid growing internal discussions over the influx of leaders from rival

parties seeking entry into the BJP for electoral gains.

According to senior party sources, the decision was influenced by strong opposition from grassroots BJP workers who have long opposed the Trinamool Congress's political culture in the state.

The leadership has now decided to strengthen the party using its own cadre instead of relying on defectors.

BJP leaders further stated that politicians switching parties for power often bring their old political culture with

them, which could dilute the party's ideological discipline.

The party will now focus on promoting long-time workers and young leaders for future electoral responsibilities.

The decision marks a significant shift in the BJP's West Bengal strategy as it attempts to

rebuild organisational strength independently.

The move is seen as an attempt by the BJP to consolidate its core support base and reduce internal friction caused by frequent political realignments.



Pawan Kalyan to Take Jana Sena to Telangana Polls

> Vikrama Vahini | Hyderabad
Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan has sparked a political storm in Telangana with a strong assertion that his party will contest the upcoming elections in the state, directly challenging the Congress leadership.

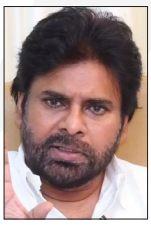
Addressing a public interaction, Pawan Kalyan alleged that Congress leaders were attempting to prevent him from entering Telangana politics. He questioned whether the state belonged to any single family and asserted that Jana Sena would firmly establish its presence in Telangana.

He further said that if national leaders like Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi can contest elections in South India, there is no reason why Jana Sena cannot

expand into Telangana.

Recalling past political incidents, Pawan Kalyan said that his first legal case was filed in Telangana and accused certain Congress leaders of issuing threats, including controversial remarks about his tongue. Responding sharply, he said he was unafraid of intimidation and would continue his political journey without compromise. The Jana Sena chief also claimed that the party has a strong cadre base in Telangana with over one lakh supporters, describing the state as a natural ground for the party's expansion.

His remarks are being seen as a direct challenge to the Congress (Indian National Congress), intensifying political activity in Telangana ahead of the next electoral cycle.



Fazilnagar to be Renamed Mahavir Nagar: Yogi

> Vikrama Vahini | Lucknow
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced that Fazilnagar in Kushinagar district will be renamed, stating that the town will now be known as Mahavir Nagar in honour of Lord Mahavira.

The Chief Minister also referred to a government proposal to rename Fazilnagar as "Pavagarh", linking the change to religious and cultural significance associated with Lord Mahavira. The announcement was made during an event in Kushinagar where development projects worth over ₹424 crore, covering 278 initiatives, were inaugurated and foundation stones were laid.

"We have sent a proposal for renaming. It will no longer be called Fazilnagar; it will be

known as Pavagarh and will be identified in the name of Lord Mahavira," CM Yogi said while addressing the gathering.

Fazilnagar Assembly constituency is currently represented by BJP MLA Surendra Kushwaha. Earlier, BJP leader Ganga Kushwaha had won the seat in both 2012 and 2017.

Criticising previous governments, CM Yogi said that before 2022, regions like Tamkuhira and Fazilnagar were often neglected and associated more with ridicule than development.

He added that the development projects worth over ₹424 crore, covering 278 initiatives, were inaugurated and foundation stones were laid. "We have sent a proposal for renaming. It will no longer be called Fazilnagar; it will be



ILAIYARAJA TURNS 83: WISHES POUR IN

> Vikrama Vahini | Chennai
Music maestro Ilaiyaraaja turned 83 on Tuesday, with wishes pouring in from across Tamil Nadu, India and the global music fraternity, celebrating a legacy that has shaped generations of listeners and filmmakers.

A Living Legacy in Indian Music
Widely revered as "Isaignani,"

Ilaiyaraaja has spent over five decades redefining Indian film music. His compositions span more than a thousand films, blending classical ragas, folk traditions and Western

orchestration into a unique musical language that continues to influence composers today.

From emotional melodies in classics like Nayagan, Payanangal Mudiavathillai and Mouna Ragam to devotional and symphonic works, his music has become deeply embedded in popular memory.

Music That Transcends Generations

Fans and musicians describe Ilaiyaraaja's work as timeless. Many say his songs are not just compositions but emotional experiences that accompany different phases of life — love, loss, joy and reflection.

Even younger audiences continue to discover his

music, with many calling it "forever music" that remains relevant across eras.

Global Recognition and Influence
Ilaiyaraaja's international acclaim includes orchestral performances such as works with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, reinforcing his status as a global music icon.

Filmmakers and music directors across generations credit him with transforming background scores into a powerful storytelling tool in Indian cinema.

Wishes from Across the State
On his birthday, greetings poured in from political leaders, film personalities and fans. Chief Minister and actor-turned-leader Vijay, former Chief Minister M. K. Stalin, and several others extended their wishes on social media and in person.

A Timeless Maestro
As celebrations continue, admirers say Ilaiyaraaja's true legacy lies beyond numbers and awards — in the emotions his music continues to evoke. For millions, his compositions remain an "eternal symphony," quietly playing through memories, homes and hearts across generations.



No Third-Party Role in India-Nepal Row

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
India has firmly ruled out any third-party mediation in its border dispute with Nepal, asserting that all outstanding issues will be resolved strictly through bilateral dialogue and existing diplomatic mechanisms.

The Ministry of External Affairs (Ministry of External Affairs) made it clear that border-related matters between India and Nepal cannot involve any third country or international body.

The statement comes after remarks from Nepal's leadership suggesting possible international involvement to settle the long-pending dispute.

India reiterated that such issues are best handled directly between the two neighbouring countries, in line with established diplomatic practice.

Officials noted that nearly 98% of the 1,751 km-long India-Nepal border has already been successfully demarcated through mutual agreement. Only a small portion of sensitive stretches



India has firmly rejected any third-party involvement in its border dispute with Nepal, reiterating that all outstanding issues will be resolved strictly through bilateral dialogue and established diplomatic mechanisms. Officials emphasized that nearly 98% of the India-Nepal border has already been demarcated, with only minor stretches pending resolution through joint technical discussions.

remains unresolved, which is being addressed through bilateral technical and diplomatic mechanisms.

The government emphasized that both sides have long-standing institutional arrangements in place to manage border-

related concerns without external intervention.

The clarification follows recent comments from Nepal's Prime Minister suggesting that unresolved border issues, including Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh regions, could require international mediation involving third countries such as the UK and China.

These remarks sparked concern in diplomatic circles, prompting India to reiterate its position on sovereignty and bilateral resolution.

The India-Nepal border issue dates back to the 1816 Treaty of Sugauli between the British East India Company and the Kingdom of Nepal. Differences in interpretation, particularly regarding the origin of the Mahakali River, have continued to fuel disagreements over certain border areas.

Officials also highlighted that India's position is consistent with its broader foreign policy, where third-party mediation is not accepted in territorial disputes.

Madras HC Dismisses Plea Against Vijay

> Vikrama Vahini | Chennai
The Madras High Court on Tuesday dismissed as withdrawn a petition seeking directions to register an FIR and initiate proceedings under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) founder Joseph Vijay over alleged income suppression.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice S.A. Dharmadhikari and Justice G. Arul Murugan permitted the petitioner, M. Rajkumar of Chennai, to withdraw the plea and accordingly closed the case.

The petition had sought investigation into alleged undisclosed earnings from the film Puli, along with scrutiny of income tax records. It also requested that materials be forwarded to the Enforcement Directorate for examination under PMLA provisions.

The plea had further sought action based on alleged discrepancies in affidavits filed by Vijay during his election nominations in Tiruchy East and Perambur constituencies.

The court order comes amid earlier controversies surrounding declaration of income details, though it is noted that Vijay had subsequently submitted a corrected affidavit updating his financial disclosures.

TTD Trains Vendors on Food Safety

> Vikrama Vahini | Tirumala
The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has launched a three-day food safety training programme for street food vendors and hoteliers in Tirumala to ensure hygienic food for lakhs of visiting pilgrims.

TTD Additional Executive Officer C. Venkaiah Chowdary urged all food establishments to strictly follow hygiene norms and undergo regular food safety audits. He stressed that maintaining cleanliness in food preparation is essential for protecting devotees' health.

The programme is being jointly organised by the TTD Health Department, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), and Nestlé India under its CSR initiative. Around 325 food establishments and 1,300 workers are participating in the training sessions.

Officials highlighted that the training includes statutory food safety guidelines, practical demonstrations, and safe food-handling methods. The initiative aims to improve awareness and ensure consistent hygiene standards across Tirumala's food outlets.

As part of the programme, food safety kits containing caps, gloves, aprons and soaps were distributed to participants.

Yellow Line Metro: 2 More Trains from Tomorrow

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
Commuters on the Yellow Line Metro are set to benefit as the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) has announced the addition of two extra trains from Wednesday.

With this enhancement, the frequency during peak hours will improve significantly, with trains now available every 7 minutes, compared to the earlier interval of 9 minutes.

During non-peak hours, the headway has been reduced from 14 minutes to 10 minutes, ensuring faster and more convenient travel for passengers.

With the introduction of the two additional trains, a total of 10 trains will now operate daily on the Yellow Line Metro, enabling better service frequency and reduced waiting time for commuters, BMRL said.

The move is expected to ease congestion and improve overall passenger experience on one of Bengaluru's key metro corridors.