



Anushka Sharma faces online backlash after endorsing homocopathy in a social media post, sparking debate over alternative medicine and scientific validity.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held talks with Venezuela's Acting President Deley Rodriguez and agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in key sectors including energy, trade, investment, healthcare and automobiles.

INSIDE

### Good morning

All mornings are like paintings: U need a little inspiration to get going, a little smile to brighten up and a message from someone who cares to color ur day.

### BRIEFS

## Free Bus Pass for All Students in Karnataka

**Vikrama Vahini | B'uru**  
The Karnataka government has issued an official order extending free bus pass facilities to all school and college students across the state.

The order has been issued to all four state transport corporations—KSRTC, BMTCL, NWKRTC and KKRTC—following the Cabinet decision taken on June 3.

According to the Transport Department, the scheme will cover all students studying in schools and colleges in Karnataka and will allow free travel on state-run buses.

Officials said detailed guidelines and conditions for implementation will be issued separately.

## TN BJP Denies Rumours on Annamalai's Exit

**Vikrama Vahini | Delhi**  
Tamil Nadu BJP president Nainar Nagenthiran on Thursday dismissed speculation that former state party chief K. Annamalai had resigned from the BJP or was planning to launch a new political outfit.

He clarified that no resignation has been received and there is no difference of opinion between the party leadership and Annamalai. "Reports claiming his exit are false and baseless," Nagenthiran said, also extending birthday wishes to the former IPS officer. The clarification comes amid heightened political speculation following Annamalai's recent meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, which triggered discussions about his future role within the party.

## BJP Announces Rajya Sabha Candidates

**Vikrama Vahini | Delhi**  
The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday announced its candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections in five states, including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

The party has fielded Satish Poonia and Alka Gurjar from Rajasthan, while national general secretary Tarun Chugh will contest from Madhya Pradesh. Rajneesh Agrawal has also been named from the state.

From Gujarat, the BJP has nominated Rajubhai Shukla, Mukeshbhai Rathwa, Mansingh Parmar and Jitendra Meghji from Kanchariya. In Odisha, Debashish Samantaray has been fielded, while Sharda Devi will contest from Manipur and Tai Tagak from Arunachal Pradesh.

# CM Announces New Ministries for Grievances and NRI Affairs

## Work Without Pressure: DKS Directive to Officials

**Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on June 4 announced the creation of two new ministries — one for Public Grievances and another for Non-Resident Indians (NRI) — aimed at improving governance and addressing citizen concerns more effectively.

He made the announcement while addressing a high-level meeting of senior administrative and police officials at Vidhana Soudha, followed by a press briefing.

### Dedicated Ministry for Public Grievances

The Chief Minister said a separate ministry will be established to hear and resolve public grievances in a structured manner. A dedicated minister will be appointed to handle petitions, complaints, and citizen issues on a daily basis.

He noted that frequent protests and representations from various groups require a systematic response mechanism from the government.

### NRI Ministry to Boost Investment and Support

Shivakumar also announced the creation of an NRI Ministry to facilitate investment opportunities and provide support services for Non-Resident Indians interested in Karnataka.

He said the ministry would act as a single-window system to assist NRIs in investment, documentation, and administrative support.

### Appeal to Officials: Work Without Pressure

Addressing senior officials, the Chief Minister urged them to work with transparency and without political or external pressure.

He said officers must function strictly within the legal framework and not yield to influence from politicians, ministers, or any external forces.

"All problems must be solved within the system, with a positive mindset," he said.

### Warning on Voter List Integrity (SIR Process)

Shivakumar stressed that no eligible voter should be removed from the electoral roll during the ongoing SIR (Special Intensive Revision) process.

He instructed officials to ensure that all citizens complete enumeration forms properly, warning



that failure to do so could result in loss of voting rights. He also called for awareness campaigns so that no voter is deprived of their democratic rights.

### CSR Fund Utilisation to Be Monitored

The Chief Minister raised concerns over CSR fund utilisation in the state, stating that nearly ₹8,000 crore in CSR allocations are being used without proper tracking.

He said the government will collect detailed data on how companies are using CSR funds and urged them to focus on education and healthcare.

He added that CSR funds will be used to build Karnataka Public Schools in every three gram panchayats, followed by expansion into the healthcare sector.

### Anti-Roundism Force at Taluk Level

Shivakumar directed the police department to establish special anti-roundy squads at the taluk level to curb criminal activities. He said both existing and emerging criminal groups must be closely monitored to prevent law and order issues.

### Government Job Vacancies and Employment Drive

The Chief Minister said the government will

identify and fill around 56,000 vacant posts in a time-bound manner. A private employment exchange system will also be created to connect job seekers with employers.

### Infrastructure and Urban Development Plans

He announced ₹2,000 crore allocation for road asphalt works in Bengaluru and said responsibility for the project will be assigned to the Urban Development Minister.

He also expressed dissatisfaction with the functioning of Karnataka Bhavan in Delhi and said reforms would be initiated.

### Ganga Guarantee Schemes: No Revision Planned

Clarifying on welfare schemes, Shivakumar said there will be no revision of guarantee schemes. However, beneficiary data is being updated to ensure transparency and eliminate misuse.

He cited discrepancies in electricity usage under the Gruha Jyothi scheme and irregularities in beneficiary records as reasons for data verification.

### Opposition and Political Remarks

Responding to political criticism regarding funding for government schemes, the Chief Minister said all expenditures will be transparently shared with the public and media.

## Youth Schemes Not Election-Driven

**Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday said the government's youth-focused welfare schemes are not linked to elections, but aimed at improving living standards and ensuring quality education and support.

He said all students will be eligible for free bus passes, regardless of age or gender, as part of welfare measures.

On cabinet portfolio allocation, he said the decision would be taken soon and dismissed reports of internal disagreements, calling them rumours.

Responding to BJP criticism over funding, he said the government will maintain transparency and share all details with the public and media.

He added that every government initiative involves expenditure, but it is necessary for public welfare.

He also dismissed speculation about portfolio allocation disputes within the cabinet, stating that decisions rest with the party leadership.

### Mekedatu Project: Karnataka Will Proceed

On the Mekedatu dam project, Shivakumar said Karnataka will proceed with its plans, adding that the matter is currently before the Centre and the Supreme Court.

He said Tamil Nadu's opposition is political in nature and reiterated that Karnataka will continue pursuing the project in accordance with legal processes.

The Chief Minister's announcements mark a major administrative push focused on grievance redressal, diaspora engagement, employment generation, urban development, and governance transparency.

## DMK Skips INDIA Bloc Meet Amid Congress Row

**Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

The MK Stalin-led Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) has decided not to attend the INDIA bloc meeting scheduled to be held in New Delhi on June 8. The party cited strong resentment among its cadre over the Congress party's conduct following the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

The decision comes at a time when

opposition parties are attempting to strengthen coordination and rebuild unity after recent electoral setbacks in several states.

### Cadre Sentiment Behind the Move

In an official statement, the DMK said the decision was taken in view of the sentiments of its party workers, who continue to feel deeply hurt by what they describe as

"betrayal" by the Congress after the Tamil Nadu polls. The party added that it respects the emotions of its cadre and has chosen not to participate in a meeting where the Congress is also a key participant.

However, the DMK clarified that it will continue to raise issues related to national interest and public welfare through appropriate platforms in the future. **PG2**



Paramapoojya Sri Siddalinga Swamiji, pontiff of the revered Siddaganga Mutt in Tumakuru, called on Karnataka Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar at his official residence in Bengaluru on Thursday and offered his blessings following his assumption of office as the new Chief Minister. The Swamiji conveyed his best wishes for a successful tenure and prayed for the state's progress and prosperity.

# Ministers Get Portfolios

**Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar on Wednesday allocated portfolios to the 13 newly inducted Cabinet ministers, ending days of speculation over key departments in the new Karnataka government.

The Chief Minister retained the Finance Department, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR), and several other key portfolios. Among the major allocations, Priyank Kharge has been entrusted with the Home and IT-BT Departments, while Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara has been assigned Revenue and Youth Empowerment & Sports.

### Contest for Bengaluru Development Portfolio

The Bengaluru Development portfolio witnessed intense competition, with both Krishna Byre Gowda and Ramalinga Reddy reportedly seeking the department. The portfolio was eventually allotted to Krishna Byre Gowda, while Ramalinga Reddy was given the Water Resources Department after discussions within the party leadership.

The portfolio allocation list has been sent to Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot for approval, following which an official gazette notification is expected to be issued.

The allocation of portfolios comes a day after the swearing-in of the expanded Cabinet and is expected to provide administrative clarity as the new government begins implementing its policy agenda and election commitments across various sectors.

Political observers

## Key Departments Allotted

- \* D. K. Shivakumar – Finance, DPAR and other unallocated departments
- \* G. Parameshwara – Revenue, Youth Empowerment and Sports
- \* Priyank Kharge – Home, IT-BT
- \* K. J. George – Energy and Tourism
- \* M. B. Patil – Large and Medium Industries
- \* Satish Jarkiholi – Public Works Department
- \* Krishna Byre Gowda – Bengaluru Development
- \* Ramalinga Reddy – Water Resources
- \* K. H. Muniyappa – Food and Civil Supplies
- \* Bhairathi Suresh – Transport
- \* U. T. Khader – Health
- \* Yathindra Siddaramaiah – Urban Development
- \* Sharan Prakash Patil – Medical Education
- \* Eshwar Khandre – Rural Development

noted that the distribution of key departments reflects a balance between experienced leaders and emerging faces within the Cabinet. With major portfolios such as Home, Revenue, Water Resources, Industries and Bengaluru Development now assigned, ministers are expected to assume charge of their respective departments immediately after the official notification is issued.



Editorial

Promises and Pressure

The swearing-in of D.K. Shivakumar as Karnataka's new Chief Minister has begun with a flurry of decisive announcements. Within hours of assuming office, he unveiled six people-centric initiatives, convened meetings with senior bureaucrats and top police officials, and issued firm directions to curb anti-social activities. Equally noteworthy was his message to officials to function without yielding to political pressure from elected representatives. Such statements send a positive signal about the government's intent and create expectations of a more accountable and responsive administration. For a leader who has waited decades to occupy the State's highest executive office, the opening moves reflect both confidence and a desire to establish a distinct administrative identity from day one.

However, governance is often more complex than the promises made at the beginning of a tenure. Unlike leaders who built their political careers and governments primarily on personal mandates, Shivakumar heads a government under the broad umbrella of the Congress party, a large political organisation with multiple power centres, regional aspirations and competing interests. Running such a system requires constant balancing. While directing officials to resist undue political influence is a commendable principle, translating that principle into administrative reality is far from easy. Legislators and ministers naturally seek responsiveness to the concerns of their constituencies, and drawing a clear line between legitimate representation and undue pressure remains one of the most difficult challenges in democratic governance.

The true test of Shivakumar's leadership, therefore, will not be in the announcements made during his first day in office but in his ability to sustain institutional discipline while maintaining political cohesion. Tackling anti-social activities, ensuring efficient administration and delivering welfare schemes are important goals, but they must be pursued without alienating stakeholders within the ruling establishment. Karnataka's new Chief Minister has finally realised a long-cherished political dream. The coming months will reveal whether he can convert that achievement into a model of effective governance. Expectations are high, and the challenge before him is not merely to govern, but to successfully balance authority, accountability and political accommodation.

-Editor

DMK SKIPS INDIA BLOC MEET AMID CONGRESS ROW

From PGI

Strained Relations Within INDIA Bloc  
The development highlights growing friction within the opposition INDIA alliance, particularly between the DMK and Congress. Political observers say the rift reflects underlying differences over post-election strategies and coordination among alliance partners.

The tensions have emerged at a crucial time when the opposition bloc is trying to present a united front against the BJP-led central government.

Opposition Strategy Meeting in Delhi

Despite the DMK's absence, senior leaders from nearly 15 opposition parties are expected to attend the meeting at the Constitution Club of India in New Delhi.

The discussions are expected to focus on strengthening coordination among alliance partners and formulating a common strategy against the ruling BJP at the national level.

The meeting gains importance in the backdrop of recent electoral defeats suffered by key INDIA bloc parties, including the DMK in Tamil Nadu and the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal.

Key Leaders Expected to Attend

According to sources, several prominent leaders are likely to participate in the meeting, including:

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge  
Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi  
Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee  
Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav  
Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray

The meeting is expected to be a crucial platform for discussing internal coordination and addressing differences among alliance partners.

AAP Likely to Stay Away

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is also expected to skip the meeting, having already distanced itself from the INDIA bloc in recent months. Its absence further highlights the challenges faced by the opposition alliance in maintaining unity.

Political Significance

Analysts say the DMK's decision underscores growing internal differences within the INDIA bloc at a time when unity is seen as critical for countering the BJP. The outcome of the June 8 meeting is likely to shape the future direction of the opposition alliance in the coming months.



KPCCC President B.K. Hariprasad, who has recently been appointed as the new President of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee, visited the residence of senior Congress leader and Cabinet Minister K.H. Muniyappa in Sanjaynagar and held discussions with him today.

Portable RPF office inaugurated

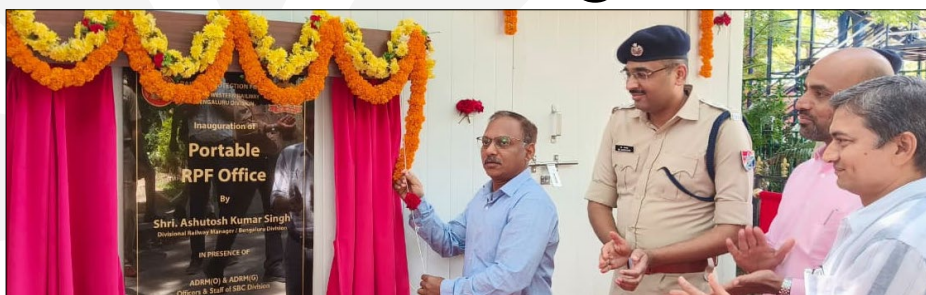
Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

In a significant move to strengthen railway security infrastructure, Bengaluru Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Ashutosh Kumar Singh inaugurated a newly commissioned Portable Railway Protection Force (RPF) Office at KSR Bengaluru Railway Station on Thursday.

The initiative is aimed at enhancing field-level security operations and improving the operational efficiency of the RPF across Bengaluru Division. As part of the project, seven portable RPF office units have been procured and installed at strategic RPF posts in the division.

The container-based portable units are equipped with facilities comparable to regular RPF posts and can be customized to meet operational requirements.

Besides serving as RPF offices, the units can function as temporary accommodation for personnel, command and control centres, medical aid facilities, and operational hubs



during emergencies, special security arrangements, and disaster response situations.

Officials said the portable offices would provide flexible and rapid-deployment infrastructure support for RPF personnel engaged in protecting railway assets and ensuring passenger safety, particularly at vulnerable and wayside railway stations. The units will also serve as transit and mobilization facilities for RPF staff undertaking field duties

and train escort operations.

Speaking on the occasion, Ashutosh Kumar Singh lauded the efforts of the Railway Protection Force in adopting innovative solutions to strengthen security infrastructure and improve operational effectiveness across the division.

Senior Divisional Security Commissioner Dr. Shreyans Chinchawade, along with other senior railway officials and RPF personnel, attended the inauguration ceremony.

Ernakulam-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express, Coimbatore-Hazrat Nizamuddin Express, Chennai Central-Hubballi Express, Chennai-Mysuru Vande Bharat Express, and Chennai Central-KSR Bengaluru Express.

Railway authorities stated that diverted trains will operate through alternative routes including Bengaluru Cantonment, Baiyyappanahalli, Yelahanka, Chikkaballapur, Kolar, Hosur, Salem, Dharmavaram, and Bangarapet, depending on the service.

Passengers have been advised to verify train timings, routes, and boarding stations before commencing their journeys. The Railways has urged commuters to check the latest updates through railway enquiry services and station announcements to avoid inconvenience.

The temporary diversions are expected to remain in force until the completion of the scheduled engineering works, after which normal train operations will resume.

Diversion of trains

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Due to a line block undertaken for engineering works between Krishnarajapuram and Whitefield Panel Cabin, the South Western Railway has announced the diversion of 17 trains on June 7 and 8, affecting services on several key routes passing through Bengaluru.

According to railway officials, the temporary traffic arrangement has been made to facilitate infrastructure maintenance and operational improvements on the busy Bengaluru-Chennai corridor. Several long-distance express trains, Vande Bharat services, and special trains will run on alternative routes, resulting in the skipping of scheduled stoppages at stations such as Krishnarajapuram, Whitefield, Malur, Bangarapet, Kuppam, Jolarpettai, Katpadi, Renigunta, and others.

Among the major trains affected are the KSR Bengaluru-Kanniyakumari Express, Chamarajanagar-Tirupati Express,

CM Announces New Ministries for Grievances and NRI Affairs

From PGI

He said the new grievance redressal ministry will help reduce delays in addressing public complaints and improve accountability across departments by ensuring direct monitoring at the ministerial level.

On the NRI Ministry, the Chief Minister said Karnataka aims to strengthen ties with its global diaspora by offering structured support for investments and welfare services. He added that the initiative will help attract foreign capital and simplify administrative procedures for NRIs.

Shivakumar also reiterated that governance reforms will focus on transparency, efficiency, and citizen-centric administration.

He said all departments have been instructed to prepare action plans within 15 days to ensure speedy implementation of government priorities.

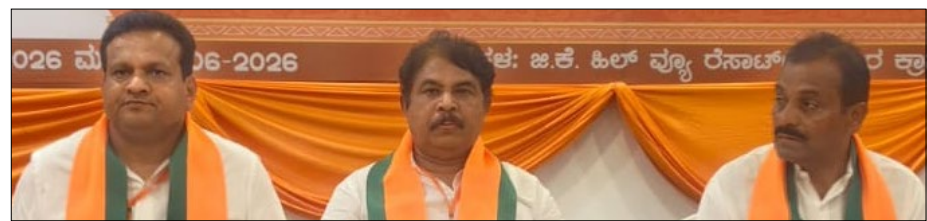
He further instructed senior officials to regularly review district-level performance and ensure that development works are executed without delay, stressing that accountability at every administrative level is essential for effective governance.



Newly appointed KPCCC President B.K. Hariprasad called on Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at the Government Guest House in Kumara Park on Thursday and extended his congratulations following Shivakumar's elevation as Chief Minister.

NEWS

'DK HAS NO FREE HAND': ASHOK



Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, R. Ashoka, and BJP leader Batarangegowda participated in the BJP Prashikshan Abhiyan (Training Campaign) programme held in Chikkaballapur district on Thursday.

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Leader of Opposition R. Ashok on Wednesday alleged that the new government headed by D. K. Shivakumar was being run through the "remote control" of Rahul Gandhi and Siddaramaiah, claiming that people had received "nothing new" despite the change in leadership.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Ashok said the transition was like "an old film with a new poster," arguing that only the nameplate at the Chief Minister's office had changed while issues such as farmer distress, unemployment, corruption allegations, poor infrastructure and financial challenges remained unresolved.

He also criticised the composition of the

new Cabinet, alleging a lack of fresh faces and questioning the absence of women ministers in the first phase of expansion. Ashok further expressed doubts over the government's announcements on filling 56,000 vacancies, youth associations and statewide property regularisation measures.

Demanding greater transparency, the Opposition leader urged the government to present a financial white paper detailing Karnataka's fiscal condition, debt burden and treasury position.

He said the public had the right to know the economic legacy left behind by the previous administration and called on the new government to place the facts before the Legislature.

Ravi Kumar Seeks White Paper on State Finances

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

BJP leader Ravi Kumar has urged Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to follow the example of Kerala and release a white paper on the state's financial condition.

He alleged that Karnataka's finances are in a distressed state due to the implementation of the five guarantee schemes, leaving limited funds for development works.



Ravi Kumar further claimed that the previous government mismanaged state finances, resulting in a severe fiscal crisis.

He said the public has the right to know the true financial position of the state and demanded full transparency through an official white paper. He also called upon the government to present clear fiscal data in the upcoming Assembly session to ensure accountability.

HEALTH & Lifestyle

Chia Seeds: Small Superfood, Big Health Benefits

Chia seeds are rapidly gaining popularity among people focused on weight loss, fitness, dieting, and healthy living. With increasing lifestyle-related diseases such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and heart disorders, people are turning towards natural and nutrient-rich foods like chia seeds.

What Are Chia Seeds?

Chia seeds come from the plant Salvia hispanica, native to Mexico and Central America. Used for centuries as a food source, these tiny seeds are known for forming a gel-like texture when soaked in water, which helps improve digestion and promotes a feeling of fullness.

Nutritional Value

Chia seeds are rich in Omega-3 fatty acids, protein, fiber, calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc, and antioxidants. These nutrients support overall health, including heart, bones, and digestive system.

How to Consume

1. Chia seeds can be consumed in multiple ways:
2. Soaked in water (1-2 teaspoons in a glass, soaked for 1-2 hours)
3. With lemon and honey as a detox drink
4. Added to milk, yogurt, or buttermilk
5. Mixed into smoothies and juices
6. Sprinkled over oats, salads, or soups
7. Prepared as chia pudding with milk and fruits

Key Health Benefits

Chia seeds help in weight management by reducing hunger due to high fiber content. They improve digestion, support heart health by reducing bad cholesterol, help regulate blood sugar levels, and



strengthen bones due to high calcium and magnesium content. They also improve skin, hair health, and provide long-lasting energy.

Recommended Intake and Safety

Experts recommend consuming only 1-2 teaspoons per day. Overconsumption may cause bloating, gas, and digestive discomfort. Adequate water intake is essential while consuming chia seeds.

Precautions

People with low blood pressure, those on blood-thinning medication, or individuals with allergies should consult a doctor before use. Children can consume chia seeds only in small quantities after proper soaking.

Though small in size, chia seeds are a nutrient-dense superfood offering multiple health benefits. When consumed in moderation, they support weight management, digestion, heart health, and overall wellness.

Nutrition experts emphasize that chia seeds should be seen as a supplement to a balanced diet rather than a replacement for regular meals. For best results, they should be combined with fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and adequate physical activity to achieve overall health benefits.

SCIENCE & Technology

Google Launches Gemma 4 12B Multimodal AI for Laptops

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Google has launched Gemma 4 12B, a new multimodal artificial intelligence model capable of processing text, images and native audio inputs, designed to run efficiently on laptops with as little as 16GB memory.

The model sits between Google's lightweight Gemma E4B and the larger 26B Mixture-of-Experts model, offering a balance of performance and efficiency for developers and everyday users.

Google said Gemma 4 12B is optimised for local execution on standard consumer devices, reducing dependence on cloud computing. Despite its compact size, the company claims it delivers performance comparable to larger models in several benchmark tasks.

The model is designed for developers building AI agents, multimodal applications and reasoning-based workflows that require lower latency and offline capability.

A key highlight of Gemma 4 12B is its encoder-free design. Unlike traditional multimodal systems that rely on separate vision and audio encoders, the new model integrates image and audio processing directly into the language model.

Google said this approach reduces memory usage and improves processing speed. Visual inputs are converted through lightweight embeddings, while audio signals are mapped directly into token space for unified processing. Gemma 4 12B introduces native audio understanding, enabling direct voice input processing for tasks such as transcription, translation and formatting. Google has also demonstrated offline applications through its AI Edge tools.

# Bengaluru Eyes Global Water Hub Status

**Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

In a major step towards strengthening Bengaluru's global profile in sustainable urban development, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is exploring the establishment of the Bengaluru Global Water Innovation Network (BGWIN), an ambitious international platform aimed at positioning the city as a global hub for water innovation, urban water security and future-ready infrastructure.

The initiative is aligned with Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's vision of creating a world-class "Brand Bengaluru" and is expected to bring together global water utilities, universities, research institutions, government agencies, startups, investors, industry leaders and civil society organisations on a single collaborative platform.

## Global Platform for Water Solutions

BWSSB officials said BGWIN is being conceptualised as a first-of-its-kind international network focused on addressing emerging challenges in water supply, wastewater management, climate resilience and resource sustainability.

The initiative aims to accelerate technology adoption, foster innovation, encourage international partnerships and strengthen Bengaluru's position as a global leader in urban water management.

## Centre of Excellence to Drive Innovation

A key component of BGWIN will be the establishment of a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence featuring a dedicated Technology



"A secure water future is the foundation of a resilient global city. The establishment of BGWIN marks a historic step towards transforming Bengaluru into a global centre for water innovation and advancing our vision of Brand Bengaluru. Through cutting-edge technologies, international collaboration, and sustainable urban planning, we are building a future-ready city capable of meeting the challenges of the coming decades."  
**D.K. Shivakumar Hon'ble Chief Minister**

Innovation Hub.

The centre will focus on advanced research in artificial intelligence-based predictive analytics, smart metering systems, decentralised water treatment technologies, water reuse solutions and next-generation utility management practices.

Researchers, global experts, government agencies and industry partners will collaborate to develop and validate innovative solutions for drinking water treatment, wastewater recycling and climate-resilient infrastructure.

## Pilot Projects Before Large-Scale Deployment

One of the defining features of BGWIN will be its emphasis on testing emerging technologies through pilot-scale projects before implementing them citywide.

BWSSB believes this approach will reduce investment risks, improve adoption rates and enable more efficient and cost-effective utility operations.

The platform is also expected to create opportunities for intellectual property generation, technology licensing and

commercialisation of innovations developed through collaborative research.

## Bengaluru as a Global Testbed

Officials said BGWIN will position Bengaluru as a preferred destination for global technology companies seeking to enter the Indian market.

The network will facilitate international collaborations and provide access to cutting-edge technologies while helping BWSSB modernise its operations and improve service delivery.

The initiative will also support policy development and regulatory reforms through partnerships with international universities, development agencies and innovation ecosystems.

## Focus on Capacity Building

Apart from technology development, BGWIN will place significant emphasis on workforce development.

BWSSB employees and water-sector professionals will receive specialised training, certification programmes, workshops and knowledge-sharing opportunities in areas such



"Under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri D.K. Shivakumar, our objective is to position Bengaluru as a global model for urban water security. BGWIN will provide a world-class platform for startups, researchers, technology companies, and water utilities to collaborate and innovate. This is not merely a technology initiative; it is our commitment to creating a secure, sustainable, and resilient water future for generations to come while contributing to the global Sustainable Development Goals."  
**V. Ram Prasath Manohar Chairman and (BWSSB)**

as climate adaptation, digital transformation, circular economy practices and future utility management.

A dedicated digital platform will enable real-time collaboration, project monitoring and continuous knowledge exchange among stakeholders.

## Supporting Sustainable Development Goals

The initiative is closely aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, and sustainable cities and communities.

Officials said BGWIN is expected to enhance Bengaluru's visibility in international water forums, conferences and industry platforms while helping transform BWSSB into a data-driven and technology-enabled "Utility of the Future."

## Sustainable Funding Model

To ensure long-term sustainability, BGWIN is being designed with a diversified financial model that includes government support, international grants, philanthropic funding,

private-sector partnerships, membership programmes, training revenues and innovation-based income streams.

Inspired by successful global organisations in the water sector, the network aims to create a self-sustaining ecosystem for continuous innovation and global knowledge exchange.

## CM Highlights Vision for Water Security

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said a secure water future is essential for building a resilient global city and described BGWIN as a historic step toward transforming Bengaluru into an international centre for water innovation.

He said the initiative would combine advanced technologies, global collaboration and sustainable urban planning to create a future-ready city capable of meeting the challenges of rapid urbanisation and climate change.

BWSSB officials added that BGWIN represents not just a technology initiative but a long-term commitment to ensuring a sustainable, secure and resilient water future for Bengaluru and future generations.

## Monsoon Reaches Kerala, Rainfall Outlook Weak

**Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

The southwest monsoon officially arrived in Kerala on Thursday, marking the beginning of India's four-month rainy season, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced.

According to the IMD, the monsoon has advanced across the entire Kerala coast, Lakshadweep, and parts of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, the Arabian Sea, and the Bay of Bengal.

Despite the onset, the weather department has warned that rainfall during the 2026 monsoon season is likely to remain below normal. The latest forecast suggests that the country may receive around 90 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA) rainfall.

Meteorologists attribute the expected rainfall deficiency to the possible development of El Niño conditions over the Pacific Ocean. The IMD said the phenomenon



is likely to remain weak during June but may strengthen to moderate or strong levels by September, potentially affecting rainfall patterns across the country.

The department further stated that favourable conditions exist for the monsoon to advance into Goa, parts of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, additional regions of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, and several northeastern states over the next two to three days.

## KIIFB Debt Trap Leaves Kerala Facing ₹56,000-Crore Burden

**Vikrama Vahini | Thiruvananthapuram**

A Kerala government white paper has raised concerns over the financial health of the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), stating that the agency has accumulated debt obligations of nearly ₹56,000 crore and requires major restructuring.

The report, tabled in the Assembly by Chief Minister V. D. Sathesnan, said KIIFB had evolved into a "parallel fiscal authority" operating outside normal budgetary controls. As of March 2026, the agency had received inflows of ₹74.17 crore, including ₹42.05 crore through borrowings and ₹26.497 crore from government contributions.

The white paper noted that KIIFB carries loan liabilities of about ₹21,000 crore, while projects worth another ₹35,000 crore remain unfunded. It also highlighted finance costs of ₹10,198 crore, nearly equal to the principal amount repaid so far.

While recommending that KIIFB's independent borrowing activities be brought under the state Finance Department, the report stopped short of calling for its closure. Instead, it suggested retaining the institution's technical expertise in project evaluation and infrastructure development. The report also called for a forensic audit of KIIFB's accounts, including its Masala Bond transactions and other financial operations.



At the Nanjangud Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt in Pavamana Pura, under the direction of Parama Poojya Sri Sri Subudhendra Theertha Sripadagalavaru, and under the leadership of mutt inquiry officer Sri Girirajachar and newly appointed administrator Sri Nandakishorachar, a special 108 tender coconut abhisheka and mango fruit abhisheka were performed to the Brindavana of Sri Raghavendra Swamy on Thursday for "Lokakalyana" (welfare of mankind) during Adhika Masa, along with Guru Stotra Parayana by the priests. Film actor and disciple Deepak visited the shrine, offered prayers, and lit a ceremonial lamp. Hundreds of devotees participated in Haribhajana, offered prayers to Sri Guru Rayaru, lit lamps, and received tirtha-prasada and mantrakshata, seeking blessings and fulfillment of their wishes.

### ENTERTAINMENT

## Netflix Unveils 50-Title June Line-Up Packed with New Releases

**Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

Streaming giant Netflix has announced an extensive content slate for June 2026, featuring around 50 movies, web series, documentaries and returning franchises aimed at catering to a wide range of audiences. The June catalogue includes highly anticipated originals, blockbuster films, popular television dramas and sports documentaries.

Among the major highlights are "Office Romance" starring Jennifer Lopez and Brett Goldstein, "Avatar: The Last Airbender - Season 2," "Maa Behen," "Grey's Anatomy - Season 22," and "Sweet Magnolias - Season 5." The platform will also release several documentaries and true-crime titles throughout the month.

## Popular Franchises Return

Netflix will begin the month by adding several fan-favourite film franchises on June 1, including the Rocky and Creed series, The Karate Kid collection, Scooby-Doo, Bee Movie, The Big Lebowski, and The Fault in Our Stars.

The addition of these classic titles is expected to attract both long-time subscribers and new viewers seeking nostalgic entertainment.

## New Originals and International Content

One of the most anticipated releases is "Office Romance," arriving on June 5. The romantic comedy features Hollywood stars Jennifer Lopez and Brett Goldstein and is expected to be one of the platform's biggest releases of the month.

Other original productions include "Mexico 86," "The Marked Woman," "Teach You a Lesson," "Maa Behen," and "Night Shift For Cuties." Netflix is also expanding its international content library with several new foreign-language dramas and documentaries from Europe, Latin America and Asia.

## Strong Line-Up of Series

Television viewers can look forward to the latest seasons of several popular shows. "Grey's Anatomy - Season 22" and "Resident Alien - Season 4" arrive on June 6, while "Sweet Magnolias - Season 5" premieres on June 11. The much-awaited "Avatar: The Last



Airbender - Season 2" will premiere on June 25, making it one of the most anticipated releases of the month.

Other series joining the platform include "Shrill," "My Family - Season 2," "Rosario Tijeras - Season 5," "I Will Find You," and "The Last Ship."

## Documentaries and Sports Content

Netflix has also strengthened its documentary portfolio with releases such as "The Murder of Rachel Nickell," "USA 94: Brazil's Return to Glory," "The American Experiment," "Chris & Martina: The Final Set," and "André Is an Idiot."

Sports enthusiasts can look forward to documentaries exploring football, cheerleading and historic sporting achievements, while true-crime fans will find several investigative titles arriving throughout the month.

## Diverse Entertainment Offering

With content spanning action, comedy, romance, sports, drama, documentaries, animation and family entertainment, Netflix's June 2026 slate reflects the platform's strategy of providing diverse programming for global audiences.

Industry observers expect titles such as "Office Romance," "Avatar: The Last Airbender - Season 2," "Maa Behen," and "Grey's Anatomy - Season 22" to drive significant viewership and subscriber engagement during the month.

Netflix's June 2026 lineup also highlights its continued push into global storytelling with strong regional originals and multilingual productions.

### BUSINESS

## Rajesh Exports Falls 5% After Sebi Action Against Promoter

**Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

Shares of Rajesh Exports Ltd plunged nearly 5% on Thursday, hitting the lower circuit limit after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) passed an interim order restraining promoter Rajesh Mehta from dealing in the company's securities.

The sharp decline came after Sebi accused the company of serious financial irregularities, including alleged misrepresentation of accounts and diversion of corporate funds.

## Stock locked at lower circuit

The stock fell 4.99% on both the BSE and NSE, hitting its lowest permissible trading limits for the day. The sell-off followed heightened investor concerns over regulatory action and potential governance issues.

Sebi has also directed the company to ensure accurate financial disclosures and strengthen compliance under listing regulations.

## Allegations of large-scale financial manipulation

In its interim order, the market regulator flagged prima facie findings suggesting major discrepancies in the company's reported revenues. It observed that a significant portion of declared earnings appeared to be inflated or unsupported by proper documentation.

The regulator also highlighted alleged routing of funds through related entities and personal accounts without clear business justification.

## Restrictions on promoter activities

Sebi has barred Rajesh Mehta from buying, selling or otherwise dealing in the company's securities until further notice. The regulator cited concerns over his control over the company's financial operations and alleged non-cooperation during the investigation. The probe into Rajesh Exports' financial practices is currently ongoing.

The regulatory action is expected to keep the stock under pressure in the near term as investors closely monitor further developments in the Sebi investigation. Market analysts say clarity on governance practices and financial disclosures will be crucial for restoring investor confidence in the company. Further updates from Sebi are awaited as the investigation into the company's accounts continues.

## RITEISH DESHMUKH CLARIFIES RAJA SHIVAJI EVENT CONTROVERSY

**Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai**

Actor-director Riteish Deshmukh has issued a clarification after facing social media criticism over his appearance at a celebration event for his Marathi film Raja Shivaji. The actor said the event was a private gathering organised by the team to celebrate the film's success and thank the cast and crew for their efforts.

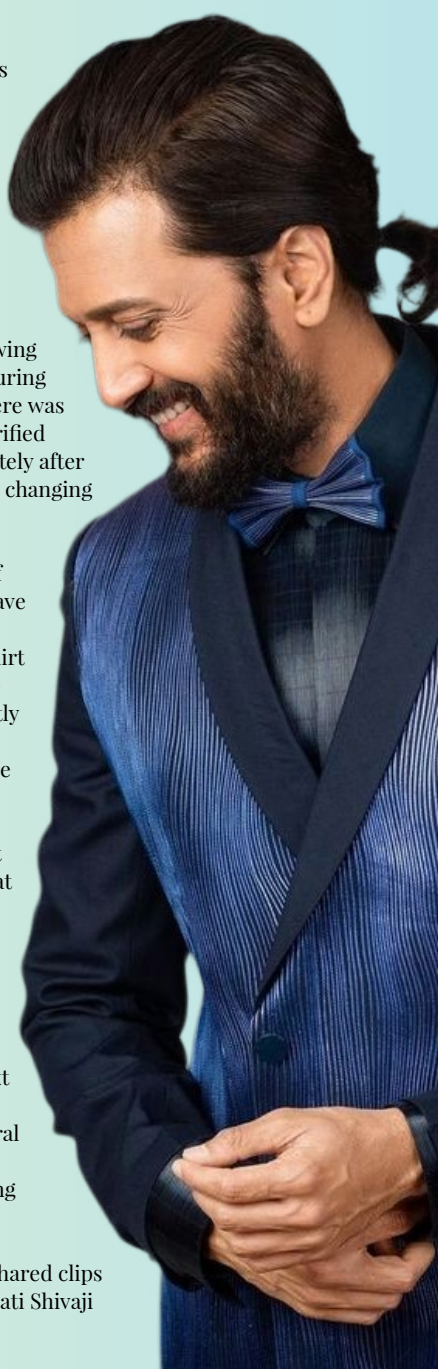
Deshmukh explained that the controversy stemmed from a video showing him wearing a promotional T-shirt featuring Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. He said there was no intention to show disrespect and clarified that he had attended the event immediately after promotional work, which led to him not changing his attire.

"I wish to clarify humbly that while wearing a T-shirt featuring the image of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, I did not have even the slightest intention of disrespecting him. I was using that T-shirt during the promotional campaign of the movie. On that day as well, since I directly joined the event after finishing the promotional work, I missed changing the T-shirt," he said.

He further addressed allegations circulating online regarding his conduct at the event, strongly denying claims that he consumed alcohol. Deshmukh stated that the accusations were completely baseless and reiterated his personal stance on the matter.

"I have never consumed alcohol to date, nor will I ever do so in the future. Therefore, any allegations in this context are far from the facts," he said. The actor also mentioned that the viral video was recorded by an uninvited person, adding that the footage was being misinterpreted on social media.

Deshmukh urged people not to draw incorrect conclusions from selectively shared clips and reaffirmed his respect for Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.



SPORTS

India Face Pakistan, China in U-18 Semis

Vikrama Vahini | Kakamigahara (Japan)

The Indian men's hockey team is gearing up for a crucial semifinal clash against arch-rivals Pakistan, while the women's U-18 side will take on China in the semifinals of the Asia Cup on Friday.

The Indian men's team enters the knockout stage after finishing second in Pool A with an impressive record of three wins and one defeat. India showcased strong attacking form throughout the group stage, scoring 32 goals and conceding only six.

India began their campaign in dominant fashion with a massive 13-0 win over Kazakhstan, underlining their offensive strength. However, they faced a setback in their second match, going down 2-4 against hosts Japan, exposing certain defensive lapses that the team will aim to address ahead of the semifinal.

Despite the defeat, India bounced back to secure key victories that ensured their place in the last four, setting up a high-intensity encounter with Pakistan.

On the women's side, the U-18 team has been in commanding form and will look to extend their winning momentum when they face a strong Chinese side in the semifinal. The Indian girls have impressed with disciplined defence and consistent scoring ability throughout the tournament.

Both teams now stand just one step away from the final, with India eyeing strong performances in both categories to strengthen its presence in Asian youth hockey.

India Still Searching for No.3 Test Batter

Vikrama Vahini | New Chandigarh

India assistant coach Ryan Ten Doeschate has acknowledged that the team management has struggled to settle on a stable No.3 batter in Test cricket, ahead of the one-off Test against Afghanistan beginning June 6 at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium.

He said the constant changes in the crucial batting position have not been ideal and stressed the need for consistency while identifying a long-term candidate. Since the retirement of senior players from the format, India have experimented with several options at No.3, including Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal and others, but none have firmly sealed the spot.

Ten Doeschate indicated that Sudharsan and Padikkal remain in contention and will be given adequate opportunities to prove themselves, despite limited Test fixtures in the calendar.

He added that both players are in good domestic form, with Padikkal coming in on the back of strong performances and Sudharsan showing promise in recent IPL outings.

India, who will enter the Test just days after the conclusion of IPL 2026, are expected to continue their search for stability in the middle order as they build towards a more settled Test lineup.

The team is expected to make a final call after assessing performances in the upcoming match. The management believes a settled No.3 is crucial for long-term Test stability and balance.

INDIA, VENEZUELA DEEPEN TIES ACROSS STRATEGIC SECTORS

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held talks with Venezuela's Acting President Deley Rodriguez and agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in key sectors including energy, trade, investment, healthcare and automobiles.

During the meeting, both leaders reviewed the full spectrum of India-Venezuela relations and explored new opportunities to deepen economic and strategic ties. They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest while reaffirming their commitment to advancing the interests of developing nations and the Global South.

BJP Slams Rahul, Calls Him 'Leader of Propaganda'

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

A day after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi warned of an impending economic crisis and raised concerns over democratic institutions, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla launched a sharp attack on the Leader of Opposition, accusing him of spreading misinformation and fear among the public.

Addressing the media, Poonawalla said that "LOP means Leader of Propaganda, not Leader of Opposition," and alleged that Gandhi was attempting to create panic through what he termed baseless claims regarding the country's economy and governance.

Referring to Gandhi's remarks about a possible Emergency-like situation, the BJP leader said the Congress party had little credibility on democratic values given its own history with the Emergency. He further claimed that the real crisis was within the Congress party, alleging growing dissatisfaction among party workers over dynastic politics and the absence of internal democracy.



PM Narendra Modi and Venezuela's Acting President Deley Rodriguez held talks in New Delhi to expand cooperation in energy, trade, investment, healthcare and automobiles. Both sides also agreed to deepen bilateral ties and strengthen collaboration in key strategic and economic sectors.

The discussions come amid growing energy cooperation between the two countries, with India significantly increasing crude oil imports from Venezuela in recent months. Officials said both sides are keen to expand collaboration in upstream and downstream energy activities, as well as in pharmaceuticals, healthcare, technology and industrial development.

Rodriguez, who is on a five-day visit to India with a high-level delegation, also met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. The visit is expected to further strengthen bilateral relations and open new avenues for cooperation between the two nations.

EAGLE Force Cracks Global Drug Ring

Vikrama Vahini | Hyderabad

In a major crackdown on international drug trafficking, the Telangana EAGLE Force has dismantled a transnational hydroponic cannabis smuggling network operating between Thailand and India and arrested several persons connected to the racket.

Investigators said the syndicate was allegedly led by Mumbai-based kingpin Hemang Pramod Keluskar and his associates, who used nearly 300 carriers to smuggle high-grade hydroponic cannabis, popularly known as "Ocean Ganja," into India through various international airports.

The case came to light on April 8, 2026, when Customs officials at Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport intercepted a passenger arriving from Bangkok with 13.2 kg of hydroponic cannabis. Based on subsequent investigations, EAGLE Force officials arrested two accused near BHEL Junction in Ramachandrapuram and seized an additional 12.739 kg of the contraband along with mobile phones, identity documents and travel records.

Police said the network recruited carriers from Telangana, Gujarat and Maharashtra and routed the drugs through Mumbai for distribution across different states.

The investigation also revealed links to cannabis cultivation facilities in Thailand and a wider network involving financiers, coordinators and hawala operators.

Cases have been registered under the NDPS Act and relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).



India's Time Has Come: Bhagwat

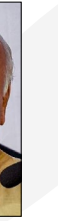
Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday said the world needs India's development model based on inclusiveness, harmony and sustainability, asserting that "India's time has come" for a larger global role.

Speaking at an RSS training camp, he said global challenges such as conflict, environmental damage and self-interest highlight the need for India's civilisational approach to development.

Bhagwat added that India offers a balanced framework combining individual freedom, social harmony and environmental protection, and should use its growing strength for global welfare rather than domination.

He also stressed the principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" and said India must accelerate preparations to take on greater global responsibility.



Flesh-Eating Screwworm Outbreak Sparks Alarm in US

Vikrama Vahini | Washington

A New World Screwworm infestation has been confirmed in a Texas calf, raising fresh concerns over livestock health and potential pressure on already high beef prices in the United States.

The outbreak, reported by Reuters, marks the return of a parasite that was eradicated in the US in the 1960s. Authorities say the insect has been moving northward from Central America through Mexico before reaching US territory.

New World Screwworm is a parasitic fly whose larvae feed on the living tissue of warm-blooded animals. Cattle and wildlife are the primary targets, though humans can also be affected in rare cases. Once hatched, the larvae burrow into wounds, rapidly worsening infections and potentially proving fatal if untreated.

Officials noted that the US cattle herd is already at multi-decade lows, and the detection could further tighten supply chains, potentially pushing beef prices higher. The US had previously halted cattle imports from Mexico due to concerns over the spread of the pest.



Health experts warn that infections can cause severe wounds, foul odours, bleeding and secondary bacterial infections. Symptoms include visible maggots in wounds, worsening sores, fever and chills in severe cases.

The US eradicated screwworm in the 1960s using a sterile insect technique, where sterilised male flies were released to stop reproduction.

Authorities have urged precautionary measures, including proper wound care, insect protection, and use of protective clothing in affected regions.

ADVAITA IS A TIMELESS UNIVERSAL PHILOSOPHY: NIRMALANANDANATHA SWAMIJI



Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Advaita does not belong to any religion or nation; it is a timeless and universal philosophy, said Adichunchanagiri Maha Samsthana Math seer Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji.

Speaking at a programme organised by Vismaya Book House in the city, the seer said that Sanatana Dharma also does not belong to anyone. "The existence of humans, the earth, and even the solar system existed before creation itself. The system that governs this universe is Sanatana Dharma, and it does not belong to India alone but to the entire world," he said.

He further remarked that followers of Dvaita, Advaita, and Vishishtadvaita traditions often engage in disputes and tend to oppose one another.

"These philosophies are like successive steps that help elevate human understanding. Our ancestors have provided these paths for spiritual upliftment, but over time, the essence may have been lost," he added.

The programme marked the release of MK Venkataram's book Religion, Dharma and Advaita and its Kannada version Mata, Dharma mattu Advaita.

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda presided over the event. Others present included Soumyanatha Swamiji of Vijayapura branch math, Madara Channayya Swamiji of Chitradurga Madara Channayya Math, scholar Manjunath Bhat of Government Sanskrit College, author M.K. Venkataram, former State Government Employees' Association president H.K. Ramu, writer C. Naganna, and publisher Prakash Chikkapallya of Vismaya Book House.

Modern Shravana Kumar: 260-km Pilgrimage of Devotion

Vikrama Vahini | Mathura

In a remarkable display of devotion and care, Haryana folk singer Kajal Chaudhary has won widespread praise after carrying her 90-year-old mother-in-law in a specially designed basket on her head during a 260-km Brij Parikrama pilgrimage.

The video of the arduous journey has gone viral on social media, with netizens hailing her as a "modern-day Shravana Kumar" for fulfilling her elderly mother-in-law's long-cherished wish to complete the sacred circumambulation of the Braj region.

According to reports, the elderly woman, Chandri Devi, had always desired to undertake the pilgrimage but was unable to walk due to age-related health issues. Moved by her wish, Kajal decided to carry her throughout the journey.

Speaking about her decision, Kajal said it was entirely voluntary and not requested by her mother-in-law. She added that her mother-in-law had raised her like a daughter and seeing her happiness was her biggest motivation.

The pilgrimage began from Banchari village in Haryana and passes through parts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Locals along the route have been offering flowers and blessings to the duo as they continue their journey.

Doctor Accused in Bone Re-Fracture Case

Vikrama Vahini | Muzaffarnagar

A shocking allegation of medical negligence and extortion has emerged from Muzaffarnagar, where a doctor is accused of re-fracturing a girl's leg after her family failed to pay the demanded money.

According to the complaint filed by the girl's mother, Reshma, she had taken her mentally ill daughter to a government hospital for treatment of a fractured leg. The doctor allegedly demanded ₹25,000 for surgery and refused treatment when she said she could not afford it.

Later, after intervention by district authorities, the surgery was reportedly conducted after an advance payment of ₹8,000. However, during a follow-up visit, when the family again expressed inability to pay the remaining amount, the doctor allegedly re-fractured the girl's bone, the complaint states.

Following the incident, the District Magistrate ordered immediate free advanced treatment for the girl and directed a full inquiry into the allegations.

Officials said a medical inquiry committee has been formed to investigate the case, including allegations of corruption and misconduct. If the charges are proven, strict disciplinary and criminal action will be taken against those responsible, the Chief Medical Officer said.

China Accused of Spying via Fake Job Ads

Vikrama Vahini | London

The intelligence alliance 'Five Eyes'—comprising the US, UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand—has warned that Chinese operatives are allegedly using fake online job advertisements to steal sensitive government and military information from Western countries.

According to the alert, Chinese intelligence agents are creating fake profiles on professional networking platforms such as LinkedIn, Indeed and Upwork, posing as HR consultants or recruitment agents from private firms and think tanks.

The report claims that individuals with security clearances, defence personnel, policy analysts and journalists are being specifically targeted. Candidates are approached for fake research or analyst roles and later pressured to share confidential or restricted information.

10-Year Poll Battle Ends in Appavu's Favour

Vikrama Vahini | Chennai

In a significant verdict, the Madras High Court has declared former Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker M. Appavu as the winner of the 2016 Radhapuram Assembly election, setting aside the election of AIADMK candidate I.S. Inbadurai.



Justice G. Jayachandran allowed an election petition filed by Appavu and ruled that Inbadurai's victory by 49 votes was null and void. Following a court-ordered recount of postal ballots and EVM votes, Appavu was found to have won the election by a margin of 109 votes. The court directed the Tamil Nadu Assembly Secretary to officially record Appavu as the MLA from Radhapuram for the 2016-2021 term.

The case originated from allegations of irregularities in vote counting during the 2016 Assembly polls. A recount ordered by the High Court in 2019 covered 1,508 postal ballots and votes polled in 39 EVMs. The recount process had been delayed due to a stay granted by the Supreme Court following an appeal by Inbadurai.

Reacting to the verdict, Appavu said justice had finally been delivered after a decade-long legal battle. Meanwhile, Inbadurai announced that he would challenge the High Court order before the Supreme Court. The ruling brings a decade-long legal dispute to a close, significantly altering the official record of the 2016 Radhapuram Assembly election.

CJP Plans Education Reform Rally in Delhi on June 6

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The 'Cockroach Janata Party' (CJP), a youth-led political movement, has announced key organizational changes and intensified its campaign for transparency and reforms in India's education system.

The party has formed a new communication team and appointed three national spokespersons to represent its voice in the media. It has also demanded institutional accountability over alleged question paper leaks and irregularities in major competitive exams including NEET, SSC GD, and CBSE. CJP leaders claimed that an online petition seeking action over exam-related issues has received support from over 8 lakh citizens, reflecting growing public concern over the education system.

The party has also announced a peaceful awareness rally at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on June 6, aimed at highlighting student grievances and demanding systemic reforms.

CJP stated that the movement is not targeted against any political party but is focused on restoring trust in the education system and ensuring fairness for students across the country.