



Actress Girija Oak says her Instagram followers dropped after sharing a post featuring Kangana Ranaut, adding that the experience highlights how social media reactions can be unpredictable and that one should focus on work rather than online approval.



VIKRAMA VAHINI

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BJP State President and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra on Friday alleged that internal conflicts within the ruling Congress government could lead to political instability and said the possibility of a mid-term election in Karnataka cannot be ruled out.



Good morning

Challenges makes you more responsible. Always remember that life without struggle is a life without success. Don't give up and learn not to quit.

BRIEFS

Annamalai Charts Independent Political Course

> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi
Former Tamil Nadu BJP leader K. Annamalai has said he is stepping into a new phase of his political journey after resigning from the Bharatiya Janata Party, describing his decision as an effort to create a new political path for the people of Tamil Nadu.

In a message shared on social media following the acceptance of his resignation by the BJP leadership, Annamalai said he remained a proud Indian and Tamilian and continued to hold Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the highest regard. He clarified that his decision to leave the party was not directed against the Prime Minister or the BJP leadership, but stemmed from differences over the future political direction in Tamil Nadu. **PG 3**

Putin Backs India's Independent Stance

> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi
Russian President Vladimir Putin has praised India's independent foreign policy, stating that New Delhi has never acted under foreign diktats and continues to make sovereign decisions based on its national interests.

Speaking at the St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), Putin said that efforts to pressure India over its ties with Russia were "futile," adding that sovereign nations cannot be forced to align with external demands.

He also reiterated that attempts to isolate Russia have failed, asserting that Moscow continues to maintain global partnerships despite Western sanctions and diplomatic pressure. Putin said Russia remains engaged in cooperation across sectors, including energy and trade, with multiple countries.

Delhi Fire Hotel Owner Linked to Fake ID Racket

> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi
Fresh details have emerged about Lovkesh Bajaj, owner of the hotel where a devastating fire in Delhi's Malviya Nagar claimed 21 lives, including several foreign nationals. Investigators revealed that Bajaj had previously been arrested for allegedly helping Bangladeshi nationals obtain fake Indian identity documents.

Police records show that in 2025, Bajaj was arrested for allegedly providing his residential address to facilitate the issuance of forged Indian passports, Aadhaar cards and other documents to Bangladeshi citizens residing illegally in Delhi. Following the recent fire tragedy, Bajaj was taken into custody again.

Reddy Exit Sparks Cong Tension

Reddy's resignation over portfolio allocation has triggered early tension in the Karnataka Congress, prompting swift damage-control efforts by senior leaders to restore unity and stability within the newly formed Cabinet.

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Karnataka Congress government has entered damage-control mode after senior minister Ramalinga Reddy resigned, citing "humiliation" over his portfolio allocation. The development has created early turbulence for the newly formed Cabinet led by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Swift Efforts to Contain Political Fallout

Senior Congress leaders, including Shivakumar and Minister Priyank Kharge, moved quickly to project unity and downplay tensions. Both leaders said the matter would be resolved through discussions, emphasizing internal dialogue within the party.

Shivakumar Cites High Command Decision

Chief Minister Shivakumar said he had initially assured Reddy the Bengaluru Development portfolio, but the final allocation was made by the party high command, which assigned the department to Krishna Byre Gowda. He stressed that portfolio distribution is not decided unilaterally at the state level.

Reddy's resignation reportedly stems from dissatisfaction over being allotted the Water Resources portfolio instead of Bengaluru Development, a department he was keen to handle due to his strong base in the city. Party sources said expectations over key portfolios led to the rift.

Congress Leadership Steps In

Party insiders said senior leadership, including discussions involving Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has been initiated to persuade Reddy to withdraw his resignation. However, sources indicated that the final decision will rest with the Congress high command.

Reddy maintained that his decision was driven by "humiliation" over the allocation and left the matter to the party leadership, intensifying the political uncertainty within the ruling party.

Early Test for Shivakumar Government

The episode has emerged as an early challenge for the Shivakumar-led government, with political observers warning that internal dissatisfaction could embolden opposition parties and test the ruling party's internal cohesion in its early days in office.



Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar showed the Karnataka Legislative Assembly Hall to Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi during his visit to Bengaluru on Friday. Health minister U.T. Khader was also present.



K. J. George Denies Displeasure Reports

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Senior Karnataka Cabinet Minister K. J. George has dismissed reports claiming his dissatisfaction over portfolio allocation and administrative appointments, terming them "completely baseless, misleading, and without factual basis."

George clarified that he has not expressed any unhappiness regarding the allocation of portfolios or the appointment of the Chief Minister's Secretary. He reaffirmed his full support to Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar and the Karnataka government.

"These reports are entirely false. I have not expressed any dissatisfaction over portfolio allocation or administrative appointments. I am fully committed to working under the leadership of the Chief Minister and serving the people of Karnataka," George said in a statement.

The minister, who was sworn in on June 4, said his focus remains on governance and development



work. He urged the media and public not to believe unverified reports that could create unnecessary confusion or suggest divisions within the government.

Rajanna Sparks Fresh Congress Row Over DKS

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Senior Congress leader K.N. Rajanna has stirred fresh political debate within the Karnataka Congress by dismissing Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's "troubleshooter" image, describing it as a media-created perception rather than an official role within the party.

Speaking to reporters on Friday, Rajanna said there is no such position as a "troubleshooter" in the Congress organisation and questioned the basis for Shivakumar being described in that manner.

In a pointed remark, Rajanna asked, "If he is a troubleshooter, why didn't he go to Assam and resolve issues there?" His comments were widely seen as a direct challenge to Shivakumar's reputation as a crisis manager within the party.

Rajanna further stated that ministerial posts and portfolios are temporary responsibilities

shaped by political circumstances and should not be viewed as personal achievements. He stressed that leaders should be judged by their performance and administrative work rather than by labels or public perception.

The remarks come at a time when the ruling Congress is witnessing internal discussions over cabinet positions, leadership roles and power equations following recent ministerial appointments and resignations.

Political observers believe Rajanna's comments could add to existing factional tensions within the party, where questions regarding authority and influence continue to surface.

The development has sparked fresh discussion about leadership dynamics in the Karnataka Congress at a sensitive political juncture.



CM to Talk to Reddy

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar on Friday said he would personally speak to senior Congress leader Ramalinga Reddy amid reports of his resignation following the allocation of ministerial portfolios.

Responding to questions from reporters in Bengaluru, Shivakumar said, "Ramalinga Reddy is a senior leader and someone very close to me. I will speak to him."

Commenting on the concerns reported by Reddy over his portfolio allocation, the Chief Minister said that the minister had been

entrusted with the Water Resources Department but was keen on working in an urban development-related role. He added that discussions would be held to address the issue.

When asked about some party workers submitting resignations in protest, Shivakumar stressed the importance of discipline within the party and said organisational discipline must be maintained at all times.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister visited the Annamma Devi Temple, regarded as Bengaluru's presiding deity, and offered prayers.



MLAs LOBBY IN DELHI, BENGALURU OVER CABINET POSTS

● A special report by M.V. Joshi

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Intense lobbying has intensified within the Karnataka Congress as several MLAs continue efforts to secure ministerial berths in the expanded "DK Cabinet," leading to a flurry of political activity in both Bengaluru and New Delhi.

Second Round of Cabinet Expansion Anticipated

Sources indicate that while the first phase of cabinet allocation has left several aspirants disappointed, a second round of ministerial expansion is expected after the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections on June 18.

Many legislators are reportedly stationed in Delhi and Bengaluru,

engaging in discussions with senior party leaders, including AICC leadership.

Kharge's Delhi Visit Adds Political Momentum

The arrival of AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge in Bengaluru for filing his Rajya Sabha nomination has further energised political activity. Some MLAs briefly met him during his visit, while others are preparing to travel to Delhi to continue lobbying efforts with senior Congress leadership, including Rahul Gandhi.

Senior MLAs Push for Key Portfolios

Several senior legislators, including Basavaraj Rayareddy, are reportedly insisting on ministerial positions

based on seniority and specific portfolio demands. Former ministers Shivraj Tangadagi and MLA K. Raghavendra Hitnal are also said to be hopeful of inclusion in the next cabinet expansion.

Women Representation Uncertain

Although some names such as Annapurna Tukaram and Roopakala Shashidhar were earlier considered for ministerial roles, there is still uncertainty over women representation in the cabinet.

Party sources suggest that no clear directive has been issued regarding the inclusion of women ministers in the current phase.

Dalit and Minority Representation Demands

Demand for representation from Dalit and minority communities continues to grow. Leaders such as B. Nagendra and R. Rahim Khan are being considered by supporters for inclusion, while discussions are also ongoing regarding potential roles for other senior leaders within the cabinet.

Key Portfolios Already Allocated, Discontent Persists

The current cabinet includes prominent allocations such as D.K. Shivakumar handling key responsibilities, G. Parameshwara as Deputy Chief Minister, Priyank Kharge in Home and IT-BT, M.B. Patil in Industries, Krishna Byre Gowda in Bengaluru Development, and Satish

Jarkiholi in PWD among others.

However, dissatisfaction remains, with some ministers reportedly seeking portfolio changes. Ramalinga Reddy, assigned to Water Resources, is said to have expressed displeasure and even submitted his resignation, which party leaders are attempting to resolve.

Political Uncertainty Continues Ahead of June 18

With the Rajya Sabha elections approaching, the list of ministerial aspirants is expected to grow further. Party high command decisions after June 18 will be crucial in determining the final composition of the Karnataka cabinet, leaving many MLAs in continued anticipation.

Editorial

Portfolios Before Performance

With D.K. Shivakumar assuming office as Karnataka's Chief Minister and a new team of 13 senior legislators taking oath as ministers, the State appeared poised for a fresh administrative chapter. However, barely two days into the new government's tenure, political attention has shifted from governance to portfolio allocation. What began as dissatisfaction from one minister over the distribution of departments has quickly spread to others, exposing fault lines within the ruling establishment. For a government that has just begun its journey, such public expressions of discontent send an unfortunate message. Citizens expect a new administration to focus on policy, development and service delivery, not internal competition over positions of influence.

The challenge before the Chief Minister is particularly significant because Karnataka heads into a crucial political phase with barely two years left before the next Assembly election. Administrative efficiency, economic growth and public welfare will ultimately determine the government's legacy. Yet, managing competing ambitions within the Cabinet has already emerged as an equally demanding task. While the formation of a ministry and allocation of portfolios remain the prerogative of the Chief Minister, contemporary political realities make the exercise far more complicated. Regional representation, caste equations, community interests and pressure from the party high command often shape decisions as much as governance considerations. The result is a balancing act that may satisfy political stakeholders but rarely inspires public confidence.

The early portfolio tussle should serve as a warning for the government as it prepares for further Cabinet expansion. If the first phase itself has generated controversy and resentment, the second phase could prove even more challenging unless handled with transparency and consensus. Political differences are inevitable in a democracy, but they must not overshadow the larger responsibility of governing the State. Karnataka's voters will judge the government not by who secured a coveted department but by how effectively ministers use their portfolios to address public concerns. The new administration has an opportunity to set the right tone. To do so, it must ensure that governance takes precedence over internal power struggles, proving that public service matters more than political prestige.

-Editor



Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar offered prayers at the Annamma Devi Temple, regarded as Bengaluru's presiding deity, at Majestic on Friday. Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and MLA Srinivas Mane accompanied him during the visit.

Vijayendra Alleges Four Congress Power Centres

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
BJP State President and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra on Friday alleged that the ruling Congress in Karnataka is being run through multiple power centres and challenged the government to face Assembly elections along with the upcoming Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and local body polls if it is confident of its governance.

Addressing reporters at the BJP state headquarters, Jagannath Bhavan, in Bengaluru, Vijayendra claimed that internal power struggles within the Congress had continued even after the change in leadership and Cabinet expansion.

Referring to the reported resignation of senior minister Ramalinga Reddy over portfolio allocation issues, Vijayendra said the development reflected ongoing dissatisfaction within the government.

He alleged that factionalism continued to dominate the ruling party and that the administration had failed to focus on development and public welfare.

The BJP leader further claimed that farmers were being forced to take to the streets over unresolved issues and accused

the government of failing to address their concerns. According to him, the Chief Minister had not been successful in balancing the interests of various leaders within the party.

Vijayendra alleged that four major power centres were influencing the functioning of the Congress in Karnataka and said such internal divisions would affect governance. He also claimed that public dissatisfaction with the government was growing due to its handling of administrative and political matters.

Commenting on the discontent reportedly expressed by some ministers over portfolio allocation, Vijayendra said the issue had exposed divisions within the ruling party.

He further alleged that seniority and sincerity were not being adequately respected in the allocation of responsibilities. The BJP leader asserted that his party would not depend solely on Congress infighting for electoral success.

He said the BJP has its own organisational strength and cadre base and would formulate an independent strategy for future elections.



Safe Drinking Water Tops Rural Agenda

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Newly appointed Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B. Khandre on Thursday said that providing safe drinking water to people in rural areas would be his foremost priority.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru after meeting AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, Khandre said the government is committed to ensuring long-term drinking water security for villages by supplying surface water resources over the next 25 years. He said sincere efforts would be made to implement the vision effectively.

Referring to Mahatma Gandhi's belief that "the soul of India lives in its villages," Khandre said rural development remains central to the government's agenda. He also recalled former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's efforts to strengthen local self-governance through constitutional reforms and said realizing that vision would be one of his key objectives.

The minister said priority would be given to maintaining cleanliness in rural areas and creating quality public assets in villages. He added that he would hold an introductory meeting with senior officials of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department on Friday to outline future plans and priorities.

Khandre also said measures would be taken to conserve lakes and other water bodies in rural areas while strengthening village infrastructure. He praised his



Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B. Khandre met former Chief Minister M. Veerappa Moily in Bengaluru on Friday and held discussions on various issues related to rural development and governance.

predecessor for the work carried out in the department and said several ongoing initiatives and development programmes would be continued.

RPF Rescues 49 Children in May Drive

The South Western Railway RPF reported strong performance in May 2026, rescuing 49 children under Operation Nanhe Faristeh, assisting vulnerable passengers, and recovering lost valuables worth over ₹50 lakh. The force also seized contraband valued at over ₹63 lakh and arrested multiple offenders in anti-tout and anti-narcotics drives, highlighting its intensified focus on passenger safety and security across Karnataka and Goa.

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of South Western Railway (SWR) recorded significant achievements in passenger safety, crime prevention, and security operations during May 2026, rescuing 49 children, recovering lost belongings worth more than ₹50 lakh, and seizing narcotics and contraband valued at over ₹63 lakh.

Under Operation "Nanhe Faristeh," the RPF rescued 49 children, including 12 girls, who were found separated from their families or in need of care and protection. The children were subsequently reunited with their families or handed over to NGOs and police authorities for further assistance.

As part of Operation Dignity, four elderly persons requiring care and protection were rescued and reunited with their families or handed over to welfare organisations after due verification.

The RPF also continued its women-centric "Meri Saheli" initiative, ensuring safe travel for single and unaccompanied women passengers. At present, 32 special, mail, and express trains are covered under the programme, with RPF teams monitoring passengers throughout their journey. To curb ticket black marketing,



intensive drives were conducted under Operation "Uplabdh" across Karnataka and Goa. During these operations, 37 touts were arrested in 36 cases. Authorities seized 49 live tickets and 263 used tickets with a combined value exceeding ₹6.19 lakh.

Under Operations Satark and Narco, the RPF detected several cases involving contraband items. Officials seized liquor worth ₹83.31 lakh and recovered 37 kilograms of ganja valued at ₹33.80 lakh. In addition, 20 cartons containing nearly two lakh Korean-brand cigarette sticks worth ₹30 lakh were confiscated.

Demonstrating prompt response to passenger concerns, RPF personnel recovered and returned misplaced belongings such as mobile phones, laptops, jewellery, and other valuables

on 63 occasions. The total value of the recovered items was estimated at ₹50.34 lakh.

The force also maintained extensive train escorting and mobile patrolling operations, deploying 125 to 130 personnel daily to escort an average of 36 to 40 express and special trains across the zone.

Under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966, the RPF registered seven cases, arrested 13 offenders, and recovered stolen railway property worth ₹86.160.

South Western Railway General Manager P. Ananth commended the efforts of RPF personnel for their dedication and reaffirmed the Railways' commitment to ensuring the safety, security, and well-being of passengers.

NEWS

BJP Launches Statewide Tree Drive



Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

A large-scale tree plantation drive was organised in Hebbal on the occasion of World Environment Day, with saplings being planted at booth-level units across all Assembly constituencies in Karnataka, BJP State President and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra said on Friday.

Participating in the plantation programme, Vijayendra stressed that environmental conservation is the responsibility of every citizen and should not be viewed solely as the government's duty. He called upon people to work together to preserve a clean and green environment for future generations.

Expressing concern over increasing natural calamities such as droughts and floods, he said environmental degradation and human neglect have contributed significantly to these challenges. He urged people to treat environmental protection as a continuous commitment rather than limiting it to a single day of observance.

MLA Siddu Savadi, State Secretary Sharanu Tallikeri, Bengaluru North District President S. Harish, senior leader Katta Jagadish, former Bengaluru North District President B. Narayan Gowda, and other party leaders were present on the occasion.

GREEN DRIVE MARKS ENVIRONMENT DAY

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

World Environment Day was observed at Tirumenahalli in M.S. Nagar of Sampigehalli Ward under the Byatarayanapura Assembly constituency on Thursday with a tree plantation drive and awareness programme.

The event began with special prayers at the Sri Ramanjaneya Temple, following which saplings were planted as part of efforts to promote environmental conservation and increase green cover in the locality.

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, State Secretary H.C. Tammesh Gowda, party leaders, and workers participated in the programme and emphasized the importance of protecting



the environment through community involvement and sustained plantation activities.

Civic Chief Orders Power Line Shift, Speeds Up Road Works



Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed BESCOM officials to relocate a 66 KV power line passing through Vrishabhavathi Valley near Gali Anjaneya Temple to a higher level, citing concerns over obstruction and potential waterlogging during heavy rains.

During inspections across Bengaluru West City Corporation limits, Rao said the existing power line could obstruct water flow and lead to backflow and flooding. He instructed officials to complete the relocation work on priority and also ordered the construction of a temporary catchment pit with pumping arrangements to manage monsoon water flow in the area.

He further directed officials to expedite ongoing road development works, including asphaltting under SIP funding near Gali Anjaneya Temple flyover road, which has already been completed.

Nagarabhavi White-Topping Works Inspected

Rao reviewed ongoing white-topping work on the 3.8-km stretch from Vijayanagar Telephone Exchange to Nagarabhavi Circle via Shobha Hospital and Moodalapalya. With

traffic restrictions in place due to narrow roads, he instructed officials to complete the first phase of 250 metres at the earliest.

New BEL Road Restoration Ordered

At New BEL Road, he directed immediate restoration after BWSSB pipeline works and instructed removal of pipes from footpaths. He also reviewed desilting of drains and ordered complete cleaning and maintenance of footpaths.

During inspection, he ordered a fine on a tea stall owner after noticing littering of disposable cups and instructed officials to remove all unauthorized roadside advertisements.

Flood Control and Waste Management Measures

Rao directed BWSSB and civic officials to jointly prepare a plan to address flooding near Mysuru Road-Kengeri. He also inspected the dry waste collection centre at BEML Layout, RR Nagar, and instructed the establishment of a transfer station to improve waste handling.

Senior civic officials, including West City Corporation Commissioner Dr. Rajendra K.V. and BWSSB and SWM officials, accompanied him during the inspection.

Commissioner Plants Saplings, Urges Students to Protect Environment



Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

On the occasion of World Environment Day, Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh inaugurated a plantation drive at Sarakki Karnataka Public School, J.P. Nagar 1st Phase, under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0.

He planted saplings on the campus and entrusted students with their care, encouraging them to develop a sense of environmental responsibility. The Commissioner also administered an environmental protection pledge to students, teachers, and officials.

Addressing the gathering, he stressed the importance of teachers in shaping students' futures and urged students to make the best use of their knowledge. He also called for nurturing social commitment from a young age and maintaining a bond with schools even after achieving success in life.

A drawing competition on "Plastic Ban" and "Environmental Protection" was also held, with prizes distributed to winning students. Senior officials and school staff were present at the event. The event highlighted the importance of community participation in environmental conservation and sustainable urban development.

KARNATAKA WOOS GERMAN INVESTMENT

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar and Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil on Friday held discussions with a high-level delegation from Germany's Thuringia state, led by Minister-President Mario Voigt, to strengthen economic cooperation and explore new investment opportunities in Karnataka.

The meeting was held at a private hotel in Bengaluru and focused on enhancing collaboration in technology, innovation, industrial development, and skill exchange.

Welcoming the delegation, Shivakumar said Karnataka and Thuringia would work closely to identify mutually beneficial opportunities, including joint ventures, technology transfer, and talent and skill development partnerships.

He said both governments would focus on fostering innovation and next-generation technologies to drive sustainable growth.

Industries Minister M.B. Patil



highlighted the immense potential for cooperation between Karnataka and Thuringia in sectors such as optics and photonics, semiconductors, biotechnology, electric vehicle manufacturing, renewable energy, and advanced manufacturing.

He invited companies from the German state to invest in Karnataka, noting that these sectors have been given priority under the state's industrial policy.

Patil said the government aims to promote industrial growth across all

regions of Karnataka and is actively working to strengthen the manufacturing sector alongside its established services economy.

He urged German companies to take advantage of the state's investor-friendly ecosystem and expanding industrial base.

Chief Minister's Economic Adviser L.K. Atheeq and Principal Secretary of the Industries Department S. Selvakumar were also present during the meeting.



Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi planted and watered a sapling at the Kempegowda International Airport premises in Bengaluru on Friday. Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah were present on the occasion.

Annamalai Charts Independent Political Course

► From PG

According to Annamalai, he had informed the party about his intention to resign as early as December 2025. The former state BJP chief said he had expressed his concerns and disagreements with the party's top leadership over the past 18 months. He stated that after several discussions, he concluded that his vision for growth-oriented and culturally rooted politics in Tamil Nadu did not align with that of the party leadership.

Annamalai said he believed national parties often failed to communicate in a manner that resonated with the aspirations and sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu. He added that the time had come for him to reflect on the purpose that initially brought him

into public life.

He also indicated his intention to remain active in politics and contest future elections. According to reports, actor-turned-politician Rajinikanth has invited him to join his political movement, though Annamalai has not announced any decision on the matter.

Before his resignation was accepted, Annamalai met BJP president Nitin Nabin, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and senior party leader B.L. Santhosh in New Delhi. Sources said he sought to end his association with the party on amicable terms.

His departure marks a significant development in Tamil Nadu politics, where he had emerged as one of the BJP's most prominent faces in recent years.

Railways Goes Green on Environment Day

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway observed World Environment Day 2026 with a series of environmental awareness and conservation activities across the division, culminating a campaign that had been underway since May 15 under the theme "Climate Change."

Divisional Railway Manager Ashutosh Kumar Singh administered the World Environment Day Pledge to officers and staff at KSR Bengaluru Railway Station, reaffirming the Railways' commitment to environmental protection and sustainable practices.

As part of the celebrations, the



Scouts and Guides team presented a skit highlighting the importance of tree conservation, the harmful effects of

single-use plastics, and the need to maintain cleanliness. The performance aimed to spread awareness among

passengers and railway employees about responsible environmental practices.

The Divisional Railway Manager also distributed cloth bags to passengers and encouraged the adoption of eco-friendly alternatives to reduce plastic usage. A tree plantation drive was conducted at the Divisional Railway Manager's Office premises to promote green cover and ecological balance.

An environment-themed selfie stand was inaugurated to encourage public participation and raise awareness about environmental conservation through social engagement.

First Cabinet Setback for Shivakumar: Vijayendra

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

BJP State President and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra on Friday alleged that internal conflicts within the ruling Congress government could lead to political instability and said the possibility of a mid-term election in Karnataka cannot be ruled out. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Vijayendra claimed that the resignation of senior Congress leader Ramalinga Reddy over

portfolio allocation issues marked the "first wicket" to fall in the newly constituted Cabinet headed by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

While refraining from commenting directly on Reddy, Vijayendra alleged that the Congress leadership was more focused on internal power struggles than on governance and development. He



accused the government of neglecting farmers' issues and failing to address the concerns of the people.

The BJP leader said the ruling party had spent the past three years dealing with internal disputes and factionalism. He claimed that ministers had largely remained confined to their respective districts and that governance had

suffered due to a lack of coordination and direction. Vijayendra further alleged that disputes over ministerial portfolios and district in-charge responsibilities were continuing even after the Cabinet expansion. He said such developments reflected growing instability within the government.

Claiming that public dissatisfaction with the Congress administration was increasing,

Vijayendra said people were looking towards the BJP as an alternative. He asserted that BJP workers were fully prepared to face elections whenever they are held.

Responding to another question, he said the party's central leadership was expected to take a decision on candidates for two Legislative Council seats and one Rajya Sabha seat either on Friday or Saturday.

ENTERTAINMENT

Peddi Opens Big with ₹112 Crore Global Day 1 Collection

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor's latest sports action drama Peddi has made a spectacular start at the global box office, collecting ₹112.49 crore worldwide on its opening day. The strong debut positions the film among the biggest openings in recent Telugu cinema and marks another milestone for the actor following the success of RRR.

According to trade tracking reports, Peddi has become the 11th Telugu film to cross the ₹100 crore mark on Day 1. The film registered an India net collection of ₹51 crore from 12,412 shows across the country. The total India gross stood at ₹82.49 crore, while the domestic net collection reached ₹69.50 crore.

The overseas market also contributed significantly to the film's opening performance, adding ₹30 crore to the total.

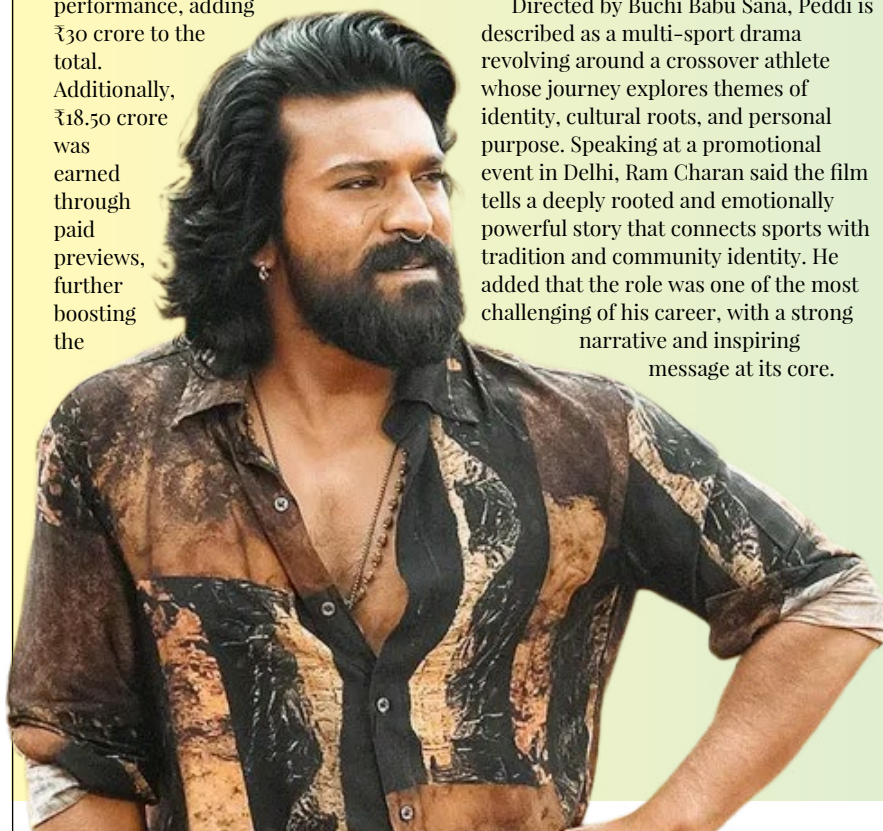
Additionally, ₹18.50 crore was earned through paid previews, further boosting the

worldwide total to ₹112.49 crore. Within India, the Telugu version led the box office performance with ₹47.20 crore, while the Hindi dubbed version contributed ₹3 crore.

Industry trackers noted that footfalls increased steadily throughout the day, driven by strong audience response and positive word of mouth, indicating sustained interest in the film beyond its opening.

Peddi features an ensemble cast including Janhvi Kapoor, Boman Irani, Divyendhu, Shivarajkumar, and Jagapathi Babu in key roles. The film is jointly produced by Mythri Movie Makers, Sukumar Writings, and IVY Entertainment, with co-production support from Ishan Saxena and Vriddhi Cinemas.

Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, Peddi is described as a multi-sport drama revolving around a crossover athlete whose journey explores themes of identity, cultural roots, and personal purpose. Speaking at a promotional event in Delhi, Ram Charan said the film tells a deeply rooted and emotionally powerful story that connects sports with tradition and community identity. He added that the role was one of the most challenging of his career, with a strong narrative and inspiring message at its core.



Pooja Bedi Slams Shilpa Shinde Over False Harassment Case Admission

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Actress Pooja Bedi has strongly condemned television actor Shilpa Shinde following her recent admission that she had filed a false sexual harassment case against Bhabhiji Ghar Par Hai producer Sanjay R. Kohli in 2017, stating that such actions damage the credibility of genuine victims and weaken the justice system.

Speaking exclusively, Bedi said that any misuse of laws designed to protect survivors of sexual harassment and abuse "betrays the very purpose" for which they were created. She stressed that false allegations not only destroy the lives of innocent individuals but also make it significantly harder for real survivors to come forward and be believed.

She further said that women who misuse legal provisions for personal gain, revenge, publicity, or leverage are doing a disservice to those who have experienced genuine trauma and exploitation. According to her, the justice system must ensure equal protection for both the vulnerable and the innocent.

"Justice must protect the innocent as fiercely as it supports the vulnerable," Bedi said, adding that there should be strict legal consequences to deter the misuse of such sensitive laws. She also emphasized that safeguards must exist to prevent false accusations while still ensuring strong support for genuine victims of abuse and harassment.

The controversy began after Shilpa Shinde recently revealed on a podcast that she had filed a false sexual harassment complaint against the producer to resolve a contractual dispute. Her statement sparked widespread backlash and debate across the entertainment industry and social media.

Following the criticism, Shinde released a video statement in which she said she could no longer live with the "lie" and felt compelled to speak the truth about the situation.



BUSINESS

India's GDP Grows 7.7% in FY26, Beats Estimates

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

India's economy recorded stronger-than-expected growth in FY26, expanding by 7.7% in real terms, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The figure slightly exceeded the government's earlier projection of 7.6%, reflecting sustained economic momentum despite sectoral fluctuations.

The data shows that while overall annual growth remained robust, economic activity moderated in the January-March quarter. GDP grew by 7.8% in Q4 FY26, compared to 8.0% in the previous quarter. Economists attributed the slowdown mainly to weaker performance in the manufacturing sector, which decelerated sharply to 7.3% in Q4 from 12.8% in Q3.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected a moderation in growth for FY27, estimating a decline of around 10 basis points, with growth expected to settle at 6.6%.

The latest GDP estimates are based on a revised base year of 2022-23. Under the updated methodology, Gross Value Added (GVA) growth stood at 7.9% for both FY26 and the January-March quarter, indicating steady underlying economic activity.

While real GDP showed strong expansion, nominal GDP growth—measured at current prices—moderated slightly to 8.9% in FY26, compared to 9.7% in FY25, reflecting easing price pressures and sectoral shifts in economic performance.

Market experts said the strong GDP performance is likely to boost investor confidence and support capital inflows in the near term. However, they cautioned that uneven sectoral growth, particularly in manufacturing, could pose challenges if global demand weakens further.

The government is expected to continue focusing on infrastructure spending, manufacturing incentives, and digital economy expansion to sustain growth momentum. Economists added that rural demand recovery and stable inflation will be key factors influencing India's economic outlook in FY27.

SPORTS

FIFA Bans Refillable Bottles at 2026 World Cup Stadiums

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

FIFA has banned fans from carrying refillable water bottles into stadiums for the 2026 World Cup, which will be hosted across the USA, Mexico, and Canada starting June 11.

The updated Stadium Code of Conduct states that reusable bottles, even empty plastic ones, will no longer be permitted inside any of the 16 venues. This marks a change from earlier guidelines that allowed fans to bring empty bottles to fill with water inside the stadium.

The decision has drawn criticism from fan groups, who argued that the move could inconvenience spectators, especially given expected high temperatures across several host cities. Some supporters described the policy as unnecessary and questioned whether commercial interests played a role, citing FIFA's long-standing partnership with beverage sponsors.

However, officials defending the decision said the restriction is aimed at ensuring safety and preventing potential misuse of bottles as objects that could be thrown inside stadiums. FIFA stated that it is committed to protecting players, officials, fans, and staff, and noted that similar restrictions were already in place at some venues. The tournament will be played across 16 cities—11 in the United States, three in Mexico, and two in Canada.

IND vs AFG Test: Match Preview

► Vikrama Vahini | New Chandigarh

India will face Afghanistan in a one-off Test match at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium, starting June 6. The match will begin at 9:30 am IST, with the toss scheduled for 9:00 am.

The Test, though not part of the World Test Championship, is significant for India as they continue preparations for upcoming assignments including tours of Sri Lanka and New Zealand, followed by the Border-Gavaskar Trophy at home. The Indian team is currently undergoing a transition phase, with management focusing on giving extended opportunities to younger players.

India's predicted XI includes KL Rahul, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sai Sudharsan, Shubman Gill (c), Rishabh Pant (wk), Washington Sundar, Nitish Reddy, Harsh Dubey/Manav Suthar, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, and Prasad Krishna. Afghanistan are likely to field Abdul Malik, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Rahmat Shah, Hashmatullah Shahidi (c), Sediqullah Atal, Afsar Zazai (wk), Azmatullah Omarzai, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Qais Ahmad, Zia Sharifi, and Nangeyali Kharotai.

According to the weather forecast, Chandigarh is expected to remain hot and dry with no rain interruptions, with temperatures likely to exceed 40°C throughout the match.

The pitch is expected to offer a balanced contest between bat and ball. Early assistance is likely for pacers due to bounce and carry, while batting conditions are expected to improve as the match progresses, with spinners likely to play a key role in the later stages.

CENTRE OPENS DOORS TO MORE FOREIGN INVESTMENT

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Central Government on Friday announced a series of reforms aimed at boosting foreign investment in India's equity and government securities markets, with the objective of strengthening the country's position as a preferred global investment destination.

The reforms, unveiled by the Finance Ministry, are expected to simplify investment procedures, improve market accessibility for overseas investors and encourage stable long-term capital inflows into the Indian economy.

Under the new framework, individual Persons Resident Outside India (PROIs) will be permitted to invest in equity instruments of listed Indian companies through the Portfolio Investment Scheme. Earlier, this facility was available only to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Overseas Citizens of India



(OCIs).

The government has also increased the investment limit for an individual PROI from 5 per cent to 10 per cent in any listed company. The aggregate investment limit for all such investors has been raised from 10 per cent to 24 per cent.

In a major step to deepen the government securities market, the Centre has expanded the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) by including

newly issued 15-year, 30-year and 40-year government bonds, along with eligible Sovereign Green Bonds.

The government has further relaxed investment norms for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) by removing restrictions on short-term investments, concentration limits and security-specific investment caps in government securities. Existing overall investment limits in Central and State government securities, however, will remain unchanged.

To encourage greater foreign participation, FPIs will be exempted from income tax on interest income and capital gains earned from investments in government securities.

A similar exemption has been granted to the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) on income generated from investments in government securities.



Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah chairs a meeting at BSF Frontier Headquarters, Salbagan, Agartala in Tripura on issues related to border areas.

Davanagere Youth Held in ISIS-Linked Plot

► Vikrama Vahini | Davanagere

In a major counter-terror operation, Tumakuru police have arrested a 22-year-old youth from Davanagere for his alleged involvement in a suspected terror conspiracy linked to operatives of the Islamic State (ISIS).

The accused, identified as Zameer Khan of BDI Layout in Davanagere, was detained at Davanagere Railway Station and later taken to Tumakuru for further interrogation.

According to investigating agencies, preliminary inquiries suggest that Khan was allegedly in regular contact with suspected terror operatives through encrypted social media platforms, including WhatsApp and Instagram.

Officials suspect he was radicalised online and may have been involved in efforts to recruit and influence vulnerable youth.

Investigators are also examining allegations that Khan and another arrested accused were involved in planning targeted attacks, including a suspected plot against a businessman in Mumbai.

Police sources believe the accused may be



linked to a larger network comprising several individuals, with investigations currently underway to identify and trace other members of the suspected module.

Authorities are scrutinising Khan's travel history, financial transactions and digital communications to determine the extent of his alleged links and whether any interstate or international connections exist.

Davanagere Superintendent of Police H.T. Shekhar confirmed that the district police had been informed about the arrest and said additional details would emerge following further investigation by Tumakuru police.

The probe is continuing to uncover the full scope of the suspected conspiracy and any wider network associated with the case.

Canine Heroes Retire with Honours

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway on Friday honoured two veteran Railway Protection Force (RPF) sniffer dogs, Arjun and Amar, on their retirement after more than a decade of dedicated service in ensuring railway security. Divisional Railway Manager Ashutosh Kumar Singh felicitated the canine heroes in a ceremonial farewell, recognizing their invaluable contribution to safeguarding railway passengers, railway property, and critical installations.

Trained in explosive detection, both dogs played a vital role in strengthening security arrangements across the railway network. Amar earned distinction by representing the RPF on three occasions at the All India RPF Dog Competitions, winning two silver medals. The dog also secured three silver medals at zonal-level RPF dog competitions, reflecting exceptional skill, discipline, and operational excellence. Arjun rendered commendable service during several bandobast duties related to major railway events and public gatherings, making significant contributions to security management and crowd control operations.

Senior Divisional Security Commissioner Dr. Shreyans Chinchavade, along with senior railway officials, RPF personnel, and members of the Dog Squad, attended the retirement



ceremony and paid tribute to the outstanding service rendered by the two canine warriors.

The event marked the conclusion of a remarkable chapter in railway security, celebrating the dedication and loyalty of Arjun and Amar throughout their distinguished careers.

SWR Marks World Environment Day

► Vikrama Vahini | Hubballi

South Western Railway (SWR) celebrated World Environment Day 2026, reaffirming its commitment to sustainable and eco-friendly operations across the network. General Manager P. Ananth urged staff to adopt climate-focused actions inspired by nature, stressing that railway employees play a key role in maintaining India's green transport system.

He highlighted ongoing initiatives such as green infrastructure development, full electrification, solar installations at stations, waste management, water recycling, energy conservation, afforestation, and the reduction of emissions through modal shift from road to rail. As part of the celebrations, a tree plantation drive of 750 saplings was conducted across SWR zones, including Hubballi, Bengaluru, and Mysuru divisions. Senior railway officials participated in the event, reinforcing the commitment to sustainability as a daily operational value rather than a one-day observance.



Suspected Ebola Case Triggers Alert

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Health authorities have placed a foreign woman under observation in Jaipur after she displayed symptoms consistent with Ebola virus disease upon arriving in India from Uganda via Sharjah on Friday.

The woman was screened at the airport, where medical officials identified symptoms associated with Ebola infection. She was immediately shifted to the Rajasthan University of Health Sciences (RUHS) Hospital in Jaipur and placed in isolation as a precautionary measure.

Hospital authorities clarified that Ebola infection has not yet been confirmed. Samples collected from the patient have been sent to a specialised laboratory in Pune for testing, and the results are expected within the next 24 to 48 hours.

RUHS Hospital Superintendent Dr. Anil Gupta said the patient is being monitored under strict medical protocols while health officials await laboratory confirmation. Authorities emphasized that no confirmed case of Ebola has been reported in India so far.

The development comes amid growing global concern over recent Ebola outbreaks in

parts of Africa. According to reports, hundreds of infections and fatalities have been recorded in affected regions, with health agencies closely monitoring the spread of the disease.

In response to the evolving situation, the Central Government has issued an advisory urging citizens to avoid non-essential travel to Ebola-affected regions, including parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and South Sudan.

Airport authorities across the country have been directed to strengthen surveillance and screening measures for international passengers arriving from high-risk areas. Special emphasis has been placed on the identification, testing, reporting, and management of travellers exhibiting unexplained fever or other symptoms associated with the disease.

Health officials have appealed to the public not to panic, noting that the suspected case remains under investigation and that all necessary precautionary measures have been put in place.

Hyderabad Reports Suspected Ebola Cases

► Vikrama Vahini | Hyderabad

Health authorities in Telangana have been placed on high alert after two suspected Ebola cases were reported and admitted to Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad for isolation and observation.

A 36-year-old Sudanese national was admitted to the hospital after being referred from Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad, where he was flagged during routine screening for exhibiting symptoms suspected to be linked to Ebola infection.

Hospital officials said the patient, identified as Mohammed Yagouch Ahmed, was immediately shifted to a special isolation ward upon arrival. He is reportedly a student in Hyderabad.

A second individual, who is said to have

been in close contact with the patient, has also been placed under observation and is undergoing medical evaluation.

Authorities confirmed that blood samples have been sent to the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad, for preliminary testing and will be forwarded to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, for confirmation. Final results are expected within a week.

Health officials said a 20-bed isolation facility has been kept ready at Gandhi Hospital as a precautionary measure to handle any possible escalation.

The Telangana Health Department has intensified surveillance measures, while officials have urged the public not to panic. Citizens experiencing symptoms such as fever, extreme fatigue, or unexplained bleeding have been advised to seek immediate medical attention.

Health officials reiterated that all necessary isolation, testing, and surveillance

measures are in place and there is no cause for public panic at this stage.

YouTuber Couple in Visa Fraud Row

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

UK-based Telugu YouTuber Rama Nandana, known for her popular "Nandu's World" channel, and her husband Jagarlamudi Madhukar are facing allegations of fraud linked to overseas job placements, visa renewals and sponsorship documents.

A case was registered at Ibrahimpatnam Police Station in Andhra Pradesh's NTR district following a complaint that money was collected from individuals on the promise of securing UK visas and employment opportunities. The complainant alleged that he paid around ₹15 lakh but later discovered that the sponsorship document provided to him was fake.

Police have named Madhukar, Rama Nandana and another individual in the case. Authorities are investigating claims that more people may have been affected.

Rama Nandana has denied all allegations, stating that neither she nor her husband owns any consultancy firm and alleging that a campaign is being run against her family. The accused have reportedly approached the High Court seeking to quash the case. The matter remains under investigation.

KCET 2026 Results to Be Declared Today

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) will announce the results of the 2026 Common Entrance Test (UGCET) on Saturday, June 6.

Medical Education Minister and KEA Co-Chairman Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil will hold a press conference at 12 noon to officially declare the results. KEA Executive Director H. Prasanna said.

Higher Education Department Secretary Khushboo Goel will also be present on the occasion.

The results will be made available to the public from 2 pm onwards through the official links provided by KEA.

Candidates will be able to access their scores and rank details through the official KEA website using their registration number and other required credentials.

The authority has advised students to keep their login details ready to avoid delays while checking the results.

Thunderstorms, Heavy Rain Till June 8

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast widespread heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds across Karnataka till June 8.

The department said that heavy rains are expected over Malnad districts and Uttara Kannada from Thursday onwards, continuing over the next few days. The southwest monsoon, which made its onset over Kerala on June 4, has further advanced into parts of the Arabian Sea, Lakshadweep, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and adjoining regions.

According to the IMD, coastal districts including Dakshina Kannada, Udipi, and Uttara Kannada are likely to receive heavy rainfall at isolated places till June 10.

In North Interior Karnataka, districts such as Belagavi, Vijayanagara, and Kalaburagi may witness thunderstorms with heavy rain at isolated locations. Strong winds reaching 40-50 kmph are also likely in Dharwad, Gadag, and Koppal districts, while similar conditions are expected across Bagalkot, Bidar, Haveri, Raichur, and Yadgir.

In South Interior Karnataka, districts including Ballari, Vijayanagara, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, and Davanagere are expected to receive thunderstorm activity with winds of 30-40 kmph. Moderate rainfall with gusty winds is also likely across Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Chamarajanagar, Chikkaballapur, Chitradurga, Hassan, Kodagu, Kolar, Mandya, Mysuru, Ramanagara, and Tumakuru districts. The IMD said.