



# VIKRAMA VAHINI

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**Katrina Kaif is reportedly set for a Bollywood comeback with Chandni Bar 2, amid strong industry buzz about her return after a short break following motherhood.**

**PM Modi highlights 12 years of women-led development under NDA, says women's role in nation-building has strengthened.**



INSIDE

## Good morning

Choose to focus on positive, uplifting, and happy thoughts. Remember, your inner world always creates your outer world.

## BRIEFS

### No Relief for Natarajan

**> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi**  
The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan's plea challenging the rejection of her Rajya Sabha nomination from Madhya Pradesh, holding that courts cannot interfere in an ongoing election process.

A Bench of Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and Justice Atul S. Chandurkar reiterated that any challenge to rejection of nomination must be pursued through an election petition after the completion of the election.

Natarajan had approached the court after the Returning Officer rejected her nomination citing an incomplete affidavit and non-disclosure of a pending complaint case. Prior to this, she had also moved the Election Commission, which did not pass a final order on her representation.

The court further observed that election procedures are governed by strict constitutional timelines and any judicial intervention at an intermediate stage could disrupt the democratic process.

### Five Girls Hurt in College Roof Cave-In

**> Vikrama Vahini | Kalaburagi**  
Five girl students were injured after a portion of a classroom roof collapsed at a Government Pre-University College for Girls on Friday while classes were underway. The incident occurred during an Accountancy class for second-year PUC Commerce students, where over 80 students were present when the concrete ceiling suddenly gave way.

The collapse triggered panic inside the classroom, with students rushing to safety. Five students identified as Sheetal, Sneha, Divya Subhash, Pooja Gundappa and Srushti Shivanand sustained serious injuries and were shifted to the Trauma Care Centre in Kalaburagi for treatment.

College authorities said rainwater seepage may have weakened the structure, leading to the collapse, and claimed that repeated requests for repairs had been made earlier.

Authorities have initiated a preliminary inquiry into the incident and are examining the structural condition of the building. Engineers from the Public Works Department are expected to inspect the college campus to assess safety standards and determine whether negligence in maintenance contributed to the collapse.

Meanwhile, parents and local residents staged protests outside the college, demanding immediate accountability and urgent repair of all government school and college buildings in the district. Officials have assured that necessary action will be taken after the investigation report is submitted.

# Who attacked Indian ship?

## Strait of Hormuz Drone Attack Allegation in Gulf Region

**Series of attacks on commercial vessels carrying Indian crew near the Gulf of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz have sparked serious concern in the region, with India strongly condemning the incidents and mourning the death of three Indian seafarers. Amid rising tensions, US President Donald Trump has accused Iran of carrying out a drone attack on Indian ships, calling it "totally unacceptable" and escalating diplomatic friction between Washington and Tehran during ongoing peace talks.**

### INDIA CONDEMNS OMAN SHIP ATTACK KILLING 3 INDIANS



**> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

India on Friday strongly condemned the attack on a commercial vessel off the coast of Oman that resulted in the death of three Indian nationals, describing the incident as "highly alarming" and calling for an immediate end to such acts of violence against merchant shipping in international waters.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) expressed serious concern over the series of recent attacks on commercial vessels in the Gulf region, stating that such incidents pose a grave threat to international maritime security and free navigation. India said the killing of Indian crew members in one of the recent attacks was deeply tragic and unacceptable.

"We condemn the attack on the vessel off the coast of Oman, in which we unfortunately lost three Indian citizens. We have lodged a strong protest and conveyed our deep concern to the United States Charge d'Affaires," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

He added that India has taken up the matter diplomatically following the attack on the Palau-flagged vessel 'MT Settebello' near the Strait of Hormuz. "In view of the specific attack on MT Settebello, we have registered our protest with the US side. We have also summoned the US Charge d'Affaires and conveyed our deep concern over the continuing attacks," he said.

The Indian Embassy in Oman is in constant touch with local authorities and the shipping company concerned. Officials are coordinating efforts to repatriate the mortal remains of the deceased sailors at the earliest and are extending all necessary legal and financial assistance to the bereaved families.

The incident comes amid heightened tensions in the wider West Asian region, with ongoing conflict dynamics raising concerns over maritime safety in key shipping routes such as the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman. The Indian Navy has also reportedly increased surveillance in the region to ensure the safety of Indian-flagged vessels and crew members.

### Strait of Hormuz Drone Attack Claim Sparks US-Iran Tensions

**> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

US President Donald Trump on Friday accused Iran of carrying out a failed drone attack targeting Indian ships near the Strait of Hormuz, calling the alleged incident "totally unacceptable".

His remarks further escalated tensions between Washington and Tehran amid ongoing regional instability in the Gulf.

#### Allegation made on Truth Social

In a post on Truth Social, Trump claimed that Iranian forces attempted to strike Indian vessels leaving the strategic waterway, but said the attack was successfully repelled.

"Their totally rebuffed drone attack last night against Indian ships leaving the Hormuz Strait is TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE," he wrote. Iranian authorities had not issued any official response at the time of reporting.

#### Claims amid heightened maritime tensions

Reports citing US defence officials indicated that American forces may have intercepted Iranian drones during an attempted strike on commercial shipping in the region.

The Strait of Hormuz, a critical global energy route, has seen repeated security incidents in recent weeks involving drones, missiles and tanker disruptions.

#### Indian crew affected in Gulf incidents

Trump did not specify the vessels involved, but the statement comes amid multiple incidents affecting ships carrying Indian crew members in



the Gulf.

Several vessels have recently reported attacks or operational disruptions in the region, raising concerns over maritime safety.

#### India steps up diplomatic and security response

In response to growing threats, India has intensified diplomatic engagement and issued advisories for Indian seafarers operating in the region. The Directorate General of Shipping has urged heightened caution for nearly 18,000 Indian

crew members sailing through the Strait of Hormuz and surrounding waters.

#### Iran-US talks continue amid conflicting claims

The allegations also come as Washington and Tehran continue negotiations over a possible agreement to ease tensions.

While Trump claimed progress toward a deal, Iranian media and officials have maintained that no final agreement has been reached, with both sides offering conflicting accounts of the talks.

## Iran criticises US strikes on ships with Indian crew

**> Vikrama Vahini | Dubai**

Iran on Friday strongly criticised the recent attacks on merchant vessels carrying Indian crew members, stating that such actions pose a serious threat to global peace and maritime security.

The remarks came after three commercial vessels with Indian sailors on board came under attack off the coast of Oman earlier this week. In one of the incidents, three Indian seafarers were killed on Wednesday, marking a serious escalation in tensions in the region's busy shipping lanes.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei expressed condolences to the families of

the deceased and the Government of India. In a post on social media platform X, he said, "We extend our sympathies to the families and friends of the slain Indian sailors and offer our sincere condolences to the Indian people and government."

He further criticised the attacks on commercial shipping, stating that such incidents undermine international maritime safety and endanger innocent civilian lives. Iran also warned that continued escalation in the region could have wider consequences for global energy routes and international trade passing through the Gulf and surrounding waters.

The developments come amid growing

concerns over security in strategic waterways, particularly the Gulf of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz, where commercial shipping has increasingly faced risks from drone strikes, missile threats, and operational disruptions in recent weeks.

Authorities are closely monitoring the situation, while maritime agencies have advised heightened vigilance for vessels operating in the region, especially those carrying multinational crews.

Further investigations into the attacks are ongoing, and international reactions are expected as concerns over maritime security continue to grow.

## FIR AGAINST MAMATA OVER POLL SPEECH REMARKS

**> Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata**

An FIR has been registered against former West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo Mamata Banerjee over alleged "provocative remarks" made during a past assembly election campaign, a senior police officer confirmed on Friday.

According to officials, the complaint was filed by a resident at the Netaji Nagar Police Station, alleging that Banerjee's speech at a political programme held at Metro Channel in Kolkata's Esplanade area on March 9 was capable of "promoting enmity between communities."

The complainant further stated that the remarks had the potential to disturb public peace and affect communal harmony as well as democratic norms. Acting on the complaint, police initially registered a "zero FIR" before transferring the case to Hare Street Police Station, as the alleged incident falls under its jurisdiction.

"We will take appropriate action after scrutiny of the allegations and relevant materials," the officer added.

Officials also confirmed that the

### Rebel TMC MPs to Seek Recognition from Speaker Amid Party Rift

**> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

The internal crisis in the Trinamool Congress (TMC) intensified on Friday as a group of dissident MPs claimed support of 19 Lok Sabha members and announced plans to approach Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla next week seeking recognition as the "real TMC" parliamentary group.

The rebel faction said it has already submitted a formal representation to the Speaker and will further press its claim on Monday.

"We have submitted the letter. On Monday, we will go to the Speaker

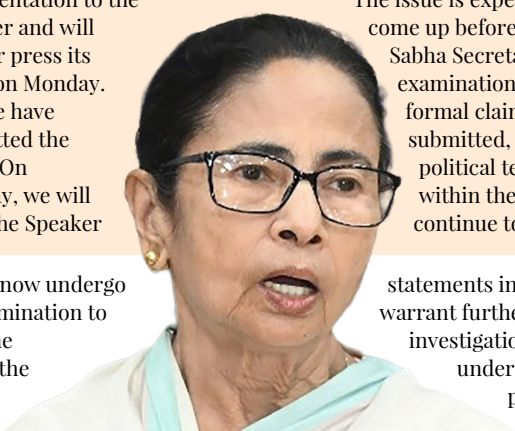
and stake our claim to form the real TMC parliamentary group. We will ask the Speaker to give recognition to our claim," said dissident MP Jagadish Chandra Barma Basunia.

Party leaders maintained that the move has no constitutional validity and accused the dissident MPs of attempting to create confusion within the party's organisational structure.

The issue is expected to come up before the Lok Sabha Secretariat for examination once the formal claim is submitted, even as political tensions within the party continue to rise.

case will now undergo legal examination to determine whether the

statements in question warrant further investigation or action under relevant provisions of law.



## Ex-Soldier Death Case: Wife, Lover Held

**> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

The Bengaluru Police have detained a former soldier's wife and her alleged lover in connection with his death, which investigators suspect was part of a planned conspiracy linked to a ₹2 crore insurance payout.

The deceased, identified as Sandeep, allegedly died in March after being admitted to a hospital following a minor bike accident. Police now suspect he may have been poisoned inside the hospital, allegedly with the help of an assistant, to make the death appear natural.

Investigators said the accused—Sandeep's wife Suma (40) and her alleged partner Pundalik Dombar (26)—were in a relationship and allegedly planned the killing to

continue their life together and benefit financially. Police also suspect a financial motive linked to insurance money.

Officials said both accused have been detained and are likely to be formally arrested after further investigation. The couple has allegedly admitted their involvement during questioning, though confirmation is awaited.

Authorities have obtained permission to exhume the body for a fresh post-mortem to determine the exact cause of death and strengthen evidence. Further investigation is in progress.



Editorial

Shadow of Escalation

The continuing tensions between the United States and Iran are once again exposing the fragility of global peace and security. Even though the intensity of direct military engagement may appear to have reduced at certain points, the broader consequences of the conflict are spreading far beyond the region. International trade routes, energy markets, maritime security, and diplomatic relations are all being affected by the uncertainty surrounding the prolonged confrontation. Equally troubling is the endless cycle of accusations, counter-accusations, and inconclusive negotiations that have done little to ease tensions. What was expected to be a pathway toward de-escalation has increasingly resembled a prolonged diplomatic spectacle, with both sides continuing to pursue strategic interests while the risks to civilians and third-party nations continue to grow. The absence of a clear and credible peace framework is allowing instability to deepen and creating conditions where unintended consequences can rapidly spiral into larger crises.

The recent attack on a vessel linked to Indian interests, resulting in the tragic loss of three Indian lives, has added a disturbing new dimension to the conflict. The incident has generated serious concern not only in India but across the international community. What makes the situation even more alarming is the immediate blame game that followed. While one side points fingers at Iran, the other attributes responsibility to the United States and its allies. Such conflicting narratives complicate efforts to establish the truth and undermine accountability. For the families of the victims, geopolitical arguments offer little comfort. What they deserve is a transparent investigation and a clear determination of responsibility. The safety of commercial shipping and innocent civilians cannot become collateral damage in a conflict driven by strategic rivalry.

The international community must recognize that prolonged hostility between Washington and Tehran serves no constructive purpose. The time has come for both nations to move beyond rhetoric and engage in sincere, result-oriented dialogue. A credible diplomatic settlement is not merely desirable; it is essential for regional and global stability. At the same time, the attack that claimed Indian lives must not be forgotten amid larger geopolitical calculations. Those responsible, regardless of their affiliation, must be identified and held accountable through established international mechanisms. Justice for the victims and a genuine commitment to peace are necessary steps toward preventing further loss of life and restoring confidence in the global order.

-Editor

12 YEARS OF POLITICAL EFFICIENCY IN POST-INDEPENDENCE INDIA

The simplicity and morality of public life desired by Gandhi, the modernity of Nehru's concept, the aggressive daring of politics in Indira Gandhi - these three elements have been adopted in the helm of power of this country as the Prime Minister by the Narendra Modi-led NDA government, which has completed 12 years. That is, exactly 4398 days as of June 10. I consider this period as 12 years of political efficiency in post-independence India. This record is a record of taking India from policy inaction to decisive governance, from leakages to direct delivery, from crisis management to global trust and from basic infrastructure gaps to future-ready growth. Under the leadership of Narendra Modi, the NDA government has delivered structural reforms, mass welfare, national security confidence, digital transformation and global status. These 12 years of efficiency show a clear governance journey: System Cleansing from 2014 to 2019, Resilient Crisis Management from 2019 to 2022 and Nation Building momentum from 2022 to 2026. India's GDP has maintained a healthy level in the context of global crisis.



- 1. The NDA government led by Prime Minister Modi has started over 30 lakh crore of stalled projects. Created jobs by implementing policy inaction.
2. Through Jan Dhan, over 56 crore bank

Right Focus

T. Devidas



- accounts were opened, connecting poor households to the formal banking system and enabling direct access to benefits.
3. Saved over ₹2.5 lakh crore through Direct Benefit Transfer. Reduced leakages. Ensured that welfare reaches the intended beneficiary directly.
4. GST unified India into a single market, simplified the movement of goods, strengthened formalisation. Improved revenue buoyancy by over ₹1.7 lakh crore with monthly collections.
5. Over 11 crore toilets were built under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. This especially improved the dignity of women, public health and safety.
6. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the NDA government led by Prime Minister Modi provided free ration to over 80 crore people. DBT was used to protect vulnerable families.
7. The ₹20 lakh crore Atmanirbhar Bharat package and PLI schemes turned the crisis into an opportunity by supporting businesses, jobs, electronics, pharmaceuticals and manufacturing.
8. India's mobile manufacturing and exports have grown sharply. Exports crossed ₹19

lakh crore. This shows that India is moving from import dependence to manufacturing strength.

- 9. National Security, Operations like Uri, Balakot, Article 370, Defence Modernisation, INS Vikrant and Operation Sindhur reflect a confident India with zero tolerance towards threats.
10. India's global role has expanded through the Vaccine Alliance, G20 Presidency, increasing exports and deep strategic partnerships. India has been positioned as a trusted 'Vishva Bandhu'.
11. Infrastructure has progressed on an unprecedented scale with highways, expressways, Vande Bharat trains, logistics corridors and PM Gati Shakti reducing travel time and cost.
12. PM Awas, Jal Jeevan Mission, access to electricity, housing and water have improved daily life. Welfare has been transformed into dignity and property ownership.
13. UPI has transformed digital payments. It enables street vendors, small traders, farmers and common citizens to participate in the digital economy.
14. The Semiconductor Mission, startup growth, electronics ecosystem, artificial intelligence, chips, EVs, green energy and defence manufacturing are showing India's future-ready economic direction.
15. The Nari Shakti Vandana Act marks a historic step towards women's

representation by providing 33% reservation in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

16. India's civilisational legacy has been strengthened under Prime Minister Modi's rule. This is evident from the magnificent Shri Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Corridor and many more. Significantly, the NDA government led by Prime Minister Modi has shifted governance from promise-making to delivery-tracking. The last 12 years have not just been years of projects; they have been years of stabilising systems. Direct delivery, Digital India, decisive leadership and dignity for the poor define the record of this government.

As a government moves forward, especially by adopting pure Indian thinking, ideas, and plans, the sense of nationalism has flourished in a nation that has the world's largest and greatest democracy, a nation that has achieved unity in diverse practices and beliefs despite having diverse cultures, languages, people, castes, creeds, religions, and sects. This means that we are sharpening our intellectual existence and identity ourselves! India has now taken a big step forward in indigenous thinking.

The government itself is following the precedents of previous governments in its governance and implementing it in an innovative manner. This is a mirror image of Modi's efficient governance. India should have undergone such a shift. India was waiting for it.

Urgent Action on Traffic Jams, Flooded Roads



Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

South Bengaluru Municipal Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh has directed officials to take urgent measures to tackle traffic congestion and waterlogging ahead of the monsoon season.

Chairing a joint meeting with traffic police and engineers, the Commissioner identified to major flood-prone locations and instructed continuous monitoring and swift response during heavy rains to prevent disruption.

The civic body has deployed six towing vehicles to curb illegal parking, with enforcement split across key city zones including Jayanagar, BTM Layout, Bommanahalli and Bellandur. Officials have also been asked to use designated grounds for parking seized vehicles.

To ease congestion, the Commissioner proposed a loop system near the Bannerghatta Road-NICE Road junction and ordered free left-turn access at key junctions such as Konanakunte-Forum Mall and Sarakki Metro Station.

Officials said the measures aim to improve traffic flow, enhance road safety and strengthen monsoon preparedness across South Bengaluru.

Officials have been instructed to maintain strict vigilance at identified bottlenecks such as HSR Layout, Bellandur, Outer Ring Road and Madivala, and to ensure quick desilting and drainage clearance works to prevent flooding during heavy rainfall. The Commissioner stressed that departments must work in coordination to avoid delays in response during emergency situations.

The meeting also reviewed long-term traffic management solutions, including structural improvements at major junctions and better enforcement against unauthorized parking. Authorities said the focus will remain on ensuring smoother vehicular movement and reducing commuter hardship in high-density traffic corridors across South Bengaluru.

The Commissioner also emphasized that special teams will be stationed at vulnerable junctions during peak rainfall hours to ensure immediate response to emergencies. He directed officials to keep all stormwater drains fully functional and to complete pending repair works on priority before the onset of heavy monsoon showers.

KPCC LEADERS REJECT BJP CHARGES ON SWM PROJECT

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

KPCC Spokesperson M. Lakshman on Thursday rejected BJP's allegations of a ₹39,000 crore scam in Bengaluru's Solid Waste Management (SWM) project, calling them baseless and politically motivated.

Addressing a joint press conference along with KPCC General Secretary S. Manohar, Lakshman said the 30-year concession model is aimed at developing scientific waste management infrastructure, including collection, transportation, processing and disposal.

He clarified that Bengaluru generates around 6,000 tonnes of waste daily and the project follows Central Government guidelines and transparent bidding norms. He also said BBMP will continue paying civic workers' salaries separately.

Lakshman accused BJP leaders of spreading misinformation and pointed out that waste management penalties were

imposed during the previous BJP government's tenure. He said the Congress government remains committed to a transparent governance and efficient urban waste management.

Lakshman further stated that the SWM project has been structured to ensure long-term sustainability and efficiency, with a focus on reducing landfill dependence and promoting scientific processing of municipal waste. He said modern technologies will be adopted to improve waste segregation and resource recovery in Bengaluru.

KPCC General Secretary S. Manohar also supported the clarification, stating that the tender process was conducted in a transparent manner through competitive bidding. He added that baseless political allegations were being made to mislead the public and divert attention from developmental initiatives undertaken by the government.



NEWS

Dharmasthala Row a Big Conspiracy: Vijayendra

Karnataka BJP President B.Y. Vijayendra alleged a large-scale conspiracy to defame Dharmasthala and hurt Hindu sentiments, questioning the circumstances under which the SIT probe was ordered.

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka BJP President and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra on Friday alleged that a major conspiracy had been hatched to tarnish the image of the revered Dharmasthala temple town and hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus.

Addressing mediapersons at the BJP state headquarters, Jagannath Bhavan, in Bengaluru, Vijayendra claimed that attempts had been made to cast aspersions on the sanctity of the famous Dharmasthala Sri Manjunatheshwara Temple through a well-planned campaign.

He criticised the decision of the then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to order a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the matter, alleging that the decision was taken without adequate examination of the facts.

According to Vijayendra, several developments that have emerged subsequently have raised serious questions about the circumstances under which the SIT investigation was ordered. He claimed that the decision had created doubts and suspicions from the very beginning.

The BJP leader further alleged that the then Chief Minister had initially stated that there was no need for an investigation but later ordered an SIT probe after meeting certain vested-interest groups. He said the BJP had organised a major "Dharmasthala Chalo" protest demanding transparency in the matter. Vijayendra also alleged that the controversy

involved huge financial interests running into hundreds of crores of rupees. He called for a comprehensive investigation into the possibility of foreign forces and external interests being involved in what he described as a conspiracy against Dharmasthala.

"The people of Karnataka and the Hindu community want to know who was behind the conspiracy, who financed it and why the SIT investigation was ordered without proper scrutiny," he said.

Responding to questions on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Vijayendra alleged that the State Government was creating hurdles in the process initiated by the Election Commission.

He claimed that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) had not received adequate instructions and guidance from the government, affecting the process of removing duplicate and deceased voters from electoral rolls.

According to him, there are concerns that the electoral roll purification exercise is not being carried out effectively in Karnataka. He said BJP leaders had discussed the issue and would decide on future steps to ensure transparency in the voter list revision process.

The BJP leader reiterated the party's demand for a thorough and impartial investigation into the Dharmasthala controversy so that the truth behind the allegations and developments can be brought before the public.



'MASK MAN' ALLEGES PLOT AGAINST DHARMASTHALA

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

In a significant development in the controversial Dharmasthala skull case, Chinnayya, popularly known as the "Mask Man," has approached the Karnataka High Court alleging that he was used as a tool in a larger conspiracy aimed at tarnishing the reputation of Dharmasthala and targeting its Dharmadhikari, Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade.

In a writ petition filed before the High Court, Chinnayya claimed that certain activists and other individuals orchestrated a campaign against the Dharmasthala administration and pressured him into making false statements. He sought directions to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to complete its probe and take action against those allegedly involved in the conspiracy.

A Bench headed by Justice Suraj Govindaraj issued notices to the Karnataka Home Department, the Superintendent of Police, Mangaluru, the SIT and the Station House Officer of Dharmasthala Police Station. The court directed the authorities to submit a status report on the investigation by June 29.

In his petition, Chinnayya named activists Mahesh Shetty Timarodi, Girish Mattannavar, Vitthal Gowda, Jayant and several YouTubers, alleging that they were part of an organised effort to malign Dharmasthala. The petition also mentions actor Prakash Raj.

Chinnayya alleged that after a complaint relating to a human skull was filed, he was taken to a resort in Kerala where he was allegedly made to speak with Prakash Raj over the phone. According to the petition, he



was instructed to identify excavation sites around Dharmasthala and make statements supporting allegations against the institution.

The petitioner further claimed that he was informed that a budget of ₹200 crore had allegedly been set aside to ensure that Dr. Veerendra Heggade was implicated in the case.

He also alleged that he was promised ₹50 lakh if he cooperated and strengthened the allegations against the Dharmasthala administration.

Chinnayya alleged that he was repeatedly threatened and warned that his wife could be harmed if he refused to cooperate. He stated that despite identifying several locations before investigators, no human remains were discovered during excavation operations.

The petition also alleges that he was taken to New Delhi, including to the Supreme Court, and compelled to record videos for social media platforms in which he repeated scripted allegations.

Chinnayya claimed that promises of financial assistance, including support for constructing a house, were repeatedly offered to secure his cooperation.

Stating that he ultimately chose to disclose the facts out of fear and conscience, Chinnayya told the High Court that he had already shared the details with the SIT.

The matter is expected to come up again after the SIT submits its status report to the High Court later this month. The allegations made in the petition are yet to be independently verified, and the investigation remains ongoing.

SCIENCE & Technology

Meta apps Facebook, Instagram hit by outage

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Facebook and Instagram experienced a major outage on Friday, with users reporting widespread login failures, upload errors and app access issues across Meta's platforms. The disruption also affected Messenger, while WhatsApp appeared to remain largely functional for many users.

According to user reports, Facebook was first hit by image upload failures before issues spread to the main app and web version, with several users saying they were unexpectedly logged out and unable to sign back in.

Instagram users soon reported similar problems, including feed loading errors and failed posts, prompting confusion and frustration across social media.

The outage led many users to turn to X (formerly Twitter) to confirm whether the issue was global, with reports indicating a possible backend problem affecting Meta services unevenly across regions. While some users continued to access the platforms normally, others were completely locked out or unable to use key features.

Meta has not yet issued an official statement explaining the cause of the disruption or the extent of the impact. The company is expected to provide updates as investigations continue and services are restored.

The outage comes amid increasing dependence on Meta's ecosystem for personal communication, business promotion and digital content creation, leading to significant disruption for users and small businesses who rely on real-time connectivity. Many users reported delays in professional messaging and social media campaigns during peak hours.

# Free Bus Passes for All Karnataka Students

## Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Karnataka Government has launched a landmark initiative to provide free bus passes to students across the state, marking the first time such a benefit will be extended universally to all eligible students.

Announcing the scheme, Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh said the government has initiated the process for distributing free bus passes and has also decided to refund the amount already paid by students who have purchased bus passes for the current academic year.



The Minister said that while free bus travel benefits were earlier available only to girl students under specific schemes, the present government has decided to extend the facility to male students as well, ensuring equal access to educational opportunities.

### Applications Through Karnataka One and Bengaluru One

According to the Minister, detailed guidelines for implementation of the scheme have been prepared and will be released shortly. Students will be able to submit applications for free bus passes at Karnataka One and Bengaluru One centres within the next few days.

After verification of applications, the distribution of free bus passes will commence

## Key Highlights

- Historic free bus pass scheme launched for students across Karnataka.
- Announced by Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy? (Note: source text says Byrathi Suresh; if applicable use current designation accordingly.)
- Free bus passes to be extended to all students, including boys.
- Applications to open shortly through Bengaluru One and Karnataka One centres.
- Free bus pass distribution process to begin after verification.
- Students who have already purchased bus passes will receive refunds.
- Scheme aims to reduce the financial burden on families and support education.

across the state.

### Relieving Financial Burden on Families

The government said the objective of the scheme is to ensure that no student is deprived of education due to transportation costs.

By making travel free for students irrespective of their economic background, the initiative is expected to benefit lakhs of students pursuing school and college

## FREE BUS PASSES EXTENDED TO STUDENTS STUDYING OUTSIDE K'TAKA

### Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Karnataka Government has expanded its ambitious free bus pass scheme for students, extending the benefit to those studying in educational institutions located in neighbouring states as well as students residing in border areas of neighbouring states and pursuing education in Karnataka.

The Transport Department has issued detailed guidelines for the implementation of free bus passes for all students, including male students, across the state.

Under the new scheme, students will be allowed to travel free of cost in buses operated by the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC), North West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) and Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTTC).

According to the guidelines, the existing eligibility criteria relating to educational

qualifications, distance limits and validity period of student passes will continue to remain in force.

Students can submit applications online through the Seva Sindhu portal from any location by uploading the required supporting documents. Authorities will process the applications and issue free bus passes after verification.

The government has also announced that students who have already purchased bus passes by paying the prescribed fee can continue using the existing passes for travel. The amount paid for such passes will be refunded within 15 days.

Officials said that 19,792 students across the four state-run transport corporations have already purchased bus passes during the current academic year. Refunds will be credited to these students within the stipulated period.

A notable feature of the scheme is the provision of accident insurance coverage for every student receiving a free bus pass.

The government will pay a premium of ₹5 per month per student towards the insurance scheme.

In addition, the state government will bear the processing fee of ₹100 per bus pass payable to the transport corporations. The total expenditure towards insurance coverage and processing charges is estimated at around ₹15 crore, which will be reimbursed to the four transport corporations by the government.

The government estimates that providing free bus passes to all eligible students will cost approximately ₹286.08 crore annually. The entire expenditure will be borne by the state government and released to the four transport corporations.

The initiative is expected to benefit lakhs of students across Karnataka by reducing transportation expenses and ensuring easier access to education, particularly for students from economically weaker sections and those living in border regions.

while promoting access to education.

### Refund for Existing Pass Holders

In a major relief for students, the government has announced that those who

have already paid for and obtained bus passes will receive refunds. Details regarding the refund mechanism are expected to be announced along with the scheme guidelines.

## DKS Seeks Centre's Nod for Key K'taka Irrigation Projects

### Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday urged the Union Government to expedite approvals and provide financial assistance for major irrigation projects, including Mokedatu, Upper Krishna, Bhadra Upper Bank and Mahadayi.

During a meeting with Union Jal Shakti Minister C. R. Patil, Shivakumar sought early clearance for the Mokedatu project, gazette notification of the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal award and release of ₹5,300 crore promised for the Bhadra Upper Bank Project.

He also requested environmental and forest clearances for the Kalasa and Banduri Nala projects under the Mahadayi basin and sought central assistance for several lift irrigation, canal and flood management projects under the PMKSY-AIBP and FMBAP schemes.

The Chief Minister further urged the Centre to ensure Karnataka receives a fair share of water under the proposed Inter-Linking of Rivers programme. He said



Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar submits a memorandum and holds discussions with Union Jal Shakti Minister C. R. Patil regarding the State's irrigation and water resource demands at the Minister's residence in New Delhi on Friday. Water Resources Minister Ramalinga Reddy, Economic Adviser L.K. Atheeq, Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta, Secretary Rajendra Cholan and other senior officials were present.

timely support from the Centre is essential for strengthening irrigation infrastructure and water resource management in the state.

In his memorandum to the Union Minister, Shivakumar highlighted that several of these projects are crucial for enhancing irrigation potential, ensuring

drinking water supply and supporting the livelihoods of farmers across Karnataka.

He stressed that delays in approvals and fund releases have affected the timely completion of key projects and urged the Centre to extend all necessary cooperation in the larger interest of the state's agricultural sector.

## Model Held in ₹11.82 Cr Drug Case

### Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai

A 28-year-old model was arrested at Mumbai airport for allegedly smuggling over 11 kg of high-quality hydroponic marijuana valued at around ₹11.82 crore from Bangkok, officials said on Friday.

The accused, identified as Harsha Sunny, was intercepted by Customs and the Air Intelligence Unit after suspicious behaviour during routine checks.

Officials recovered 12 vacuum-sealed packets containing a green substance from her baggage.

A field test confirmed the substance as hydroponic marijuana, following which she was booked under the NDPS Act and placed under arrest. She was later produced before the Fort Court and remanded to judicial custody.

The investigation is underway to trace the intended recipients and the larger network involved in the alleged smuggling operation.



AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge receives his certificate after being elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from the Legislative Assembly, in the presence of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar Khadre, on Friday.

## ENTERTAINMENT

## A Powerful Look at India's Economic Turning Point

### Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Acclaimed actor Manoj Bajpayee returns to the big screen in Governor: The Silent Saviour, a film that sheds light on one of the most significant yet lesser-known chapters in India's economic history. Produced by Vipul Amrutlal Shah and directed by Chinmay Mandlekar, the film chronicles the events surrounding India's 1991 economic crisis and the crucial role played by former Reserve Bank of India Governor S. Venkitaramanan in steering the nation through turbulent times.

The film arrives at a time when economic issues such as inflation, fuel prices and fiscal management continue to dominate public discourse, making its subject matter particularly relevant for contemporary audiences.

### A Story of Leadership During Crisis

Governor: The Silent Saviour tells the story of S. Venkitaramanan, who served as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India during one of the country's most challenging economic periods. In 1991, India faced a severe balance-of-payments crisis, dwindling foreign exchange reserves and mounting financial pressure that threatened economic stability.

The film portrays how Venkitaramanan, working amid political uncertainty and economic turmoil, took difficult decisions that helped lay the foundation for India's economic recovery and subsequent reforms. Through a blend of historical facts and dramatized storytelling, the movie seeks to make a complex economic episode

accessible to a broader audience.

### Informative Yet Engaging

The first half of the film adopts a documentary-style approach, focusing heavily on economic events, policy discussions and the circumstances leading to the crisis. While this section may feel slow-paced for some viewers, it provides valuable context and insight into the challenges facing the nation at the time.

The narrative gains momentum in the second half as the human and emotional dimensions of the crisis become more prominent. The film gradually transforms from an educational account into an engaging drama, allowing audiences to connect with the characters and understand the immense pressure under which critical decisions were made.

### Spotlight on an Unsung Hero

One of the film's greatest strengths is its effort to bring attention to a public servant whose contribution to India's economic turnaround is often overshadowed by more prominent political figures. By focusing on

Venkitaramanan's role, the movie highlights the importance of institutions and individuals working behind the scenes during moments of national crisis.

The film also serves as a reminder that many transformative changes in a country's history are shaped not only by political leaders but also by dedicated administrators and policymakers.

### Manoj Bajpayee Delivers Another Strong Performance

At the heart of the film is a powerful performance by Manoj Bajpayee, who brings depth, restraint and authenticity to the role of the RBI Governor.

His portrayal captures both the professional challenges and personal burdens faced by a man entrusted with safeguarding the nation's financial future.

Director Chinmay Mandlekar handles the sensitive subject matter with maturity, striking a balance between historical accuracy and cinematic storytelling. The film maintains its emotional core while presenting complex economic issues in a manner that is easy to understand.

### Areas Where the Film Falls Short

Despite its strengths, the film is not without shortcomings. The slow-paced first half may test the patience of viewers expecting a conventional drama. The background score and music leave limited impact, while the supporting cast does not receive enough scope to add significant depth to the narrative.

However, these drawbacks do little to diminish the overall value of the film as an informative and thought-provoking cinematic experience.

Though it takes time to find its rhythm, the film ultimately succeeds in educating, engaging and inspiring audiences. For viewers interested in economics, governance and modern Indian history, the film offers a compelling look at how India emerged from the 1991 crisis and embarked on a path of economic liberalization and reform.

## Kangana Backs Ranveer, Slams Bollywood Bias

### Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai

Actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut has defended actor Ranveer Singh amid recent controversies surrounding his exit from Don 3, alleging that sections within the Hindi film industry hold a "soft corner for Pakistan" and tend to target those who make patriotic films.

Speaking in a recent interview, Kangana claimed that actors portraying strong nationalist themes often face unnecessary backlash, while films projecting a softer image of Pakistan have been promoted in Bollywood for years.

Kangana said that certain groups within the industry are uncomfortable with films that expose "the real face of Pakistan", adding that such narratives face resistance despite their commercial success. She cited Ranveer Singh's action film Dhurandhar, which she claimed performed strongly at the box office and portrayed an Indian intelligence officer combating terror networks.

She further alleged that the success of such films creates insecurity among those who have long promoted a different ideological narrative in cinema, leading to controversies and attempts to sideline successful actors.

## BUSINESS

## Gold, Silver Prices Surge Sharply

### Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata

Gold and silver prices witnessed a significant upward rally on Friday in both domestic bullion markets and the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), driven by positive global cues, a weakening US dollar, changing interest rate expectations, and strong safe-haven demand.

Market analysts said the sharp rise reflects renewed investor interest in precious metals amid global economic uncertainty.

The rally was further supported by short-covering in futures contracts, where traders close earlier sell positions in anticipation of falling prices, thereby pushing rates higher.

On the MCX, gold futures for August 2026 delivery witnessed strong buying momentum during morning trade. At around 9:54 am, gold was trading at ₹1,49,956 per 10 grams, marking an increase of ₹1,024 or 0.69% compared to the previous closing price.

Experts noted that the rise was largely driven by short-covering along with firm global cues. International gold prices have been supported by expectations of potential monetary policy easing in major economies, which typically boosts demand for non-yielding assets like gold.

Silver also saw a sharper rally compared to gold. On MCX, silver was trading at ₹2,42,910 per kg at around 10:07 am, registering a jump of ₹3,257 or 1.36% over the previous close.

Analysts observed that silver, which often shows higher volatility than gold, is benefiting from both industrial demand expectations and speculative buying in the futures market. Like gold, silver too witnessed short-covering, adding further upward pressure on prices.

In the domestic spot market, both precious metals recorded strong gains on Thursday. Gold prices increased by ₹820 to reach ₹1,50,360 per 10 grams, reflecting a gain of 0.55%. This rise indicated steady retail demand and positive investor sentiment.

Silver prices also surged by ₹2,500 to ₹2,43,960 per kilogram, marking a 1.04% increase. Analysts said silver's higher percentage gain compared to gold highlights stronger momentum in the white metal segment. Gold prices also varied across major Indian cities depending on local taxes and market conditions.



SPORTS

**Kohli bids emotional farewell to Williamson**

**> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**  
Indian cricket star Virat Kohli paid a heartfelt tribute to New Zealand batting great Kane Williamson after the latter announced his retirement from international cricket on Friday, marking the end of a distinguished career spanning all three formats.

Kohli took to social media to express his admiration for Williamson, calling him a valued opponent turned close friend. He said it had been a privilege to watch Williamson bat and compete against him over the years, while also appreciating their mutual respect and friendship built beyond the boundary. Kohli wished him the very best for the future, adding that Williamson deserved to enjoy life after an illustrious international career.

Williamson retired during New Zealand's ongoing Test series against England, leaving behind a remarkable legacy as one of the modern era's most consistent batters. He ended his career with 19,346 international runs, including 48 centuries across formats. In Tests, he scored 9,515 runs with 33 centuries, while in ODIs he amassed 7,256 runs. He also captained New Zealand across formats and led the team to their historic ICC World Test Championship title victory over India in 2021.

Williamson's retirement has drawn widespread tributes from the global cricketing fraternity, with several former and current players acknowledging his calm leadership, technical brilliance and sportsmanship. Cricket boards and fans across countries have also praised his contribution to the modern game, describing him as one of the most respected and influential batters of his generation.

**Sindhu storms into Australian Open semis**

**> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**  
Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu produced a dominant performance to storm into the women's singles semi-finals of the Australian Open Super 500 badminton tournament in Sydney on Friday, defeating Chinese Taipei's Chen Su Yu in straight games.

Sindhu wrapped up the match in just 31 minutes, winning 21-6, 21-9, and maintained complete control throughout with her aggressive shot-making and sharp court coverage. With the victory, she kept alive her hopes of clinching her first title of the season and will next face top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the semi-final. The Indian shuttler has been in strong form throughout the tournament, earlier defeating Peru's Ines Castillo and compatriot Isharani Baruah in the earlier rounds. Meanwhile, India's Tanvi Sharma bowed out after losing to Yamaguchi in the quarterfinals.

Sindhu's clinical display highlighted her return to form, as she dictated rallies from the outset and kept her opponent under constant pressure with precise placement and powerful smashes. The win is expected to boost her confidence ahead of a crucial clash against world-class opponent Yamaguchi. In the upcoming semi-final, Sindhu will face a tough challenge against Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, who also enters the contest in strong form.

**Women Power Drives India's Growth: PM**

**> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday underscored the achievements of women across diverse sectors over the past 12 years, stating that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government's emphasis on women-led development has created new opportunities and strengthened the role of women in nation-building.

As the NDA government completed 12 years in office, the Prime Minister highlighted the impact of various initiatives aimed at empowering women socially, economically and professionally.

**Women Making Their Mark Across Sectors**  
In a series of posts on social media platform X, Modi said women have emerged as key contributors in several fields, including financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, education, healthcare, sanitation, housing, sports, science and governance.

"Over the last 12 years, the NDA Government has worked to further women-led development, and this progress is visible across sectors," the Prime Minister said. He noted that women are increasingly



As the NDA government completed 12 years in office, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the achievements of women across sectors, crediting the government's women-led development initiatives for expanding opportunities in education, entrepreneurship, healthcare, science, governance and innovation. He said policies focused on dignity, empowerment and financial inclusion have strengthened women's role in nation-building and accelerated their participation in emerging fields.

assuming leadership roles and contributing significantly to India's growth story. **Focus on Dignity, Opportunity and Empowerment**

Emphasising the government's approach towards women's welfare, Modi said that policies and programmes introduced over the last decade have been built on the pillars of dignity, opportunity and empowerment.

According to him, these initiatives have created an enabling environment where women can realise their full potential and participate more actively in the country's development.

Using the hashtag #12YearsOfNariShakti, the Prime Minister said empowering women remains a central objective of the government's

governance model. **Growing Presence in Science, Space and Innovation**

The Prime Minister expressed particular satisfaction over the increasing participation of women in emerging and technology-driven sectors. He pointed to the growing contribution of women in science, space research, innovation and drone technology, stating that their involvement is opening new avenues of opportunity and transforming the development landscape across the country.

Modi said India's women are making remarkable achievements in fields that were once considered male-dominated, thereby inspiring future generations. **Self-Help Groups Driving Financial**

**Independence**  
Highlighting the importance of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Modi said the government has been actively supporting such collectives to strengthen women's financial independence.

He noted that SHGs have emerged as powerful instruments of economic empowerment, enabling women to become entrepreneurs, generate income and contribute to local economies.

"The government is actively supporting Self-Help Groups, which are playing a significant role in making women financially independent," he said.

**Government Showcases 12 Years of Welfare Initiatives**

The Prime Minister's remarks came as the NDA government showcased its achievements since assuming office at the Centre in 2014.

Over the past decade, the government has launched several initiatives aimed at improving the socio-economic status of women.

These include programmes related to financial inclusion, sanitation, housing, maternal healthcare, entrepreneurship, skill development and livelihood generation.

**Indian Shooting Legend Jaspal Rana Passes Away**

**> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**  
Indian shooting legend and renowned coach Jaspal Rana passed away at the age of 49 following cardiac complications, leaving the Indian sporting fraternity in shock and mourning.

According to officials of the National Rifle Association of India, Rana breathed his last at a hospital in New Delhi on Thursday night. He had recently undergone treatment after falling ill during the Indian contingent's return journey from the ISSF World Cup in Munich, Germany.

A former champion pistol shooter, Rana was one of India's most decorated marksmen, winning multiple medals at the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. He remains India's most successful Commonwealth Games athlete with 15 medals, including nine gold medals.

After an illustrious competitive career, Rana made an equally successful transition into coaching.



He played a pivotal role in nurturing several top shooters, including Manu Bhaker, whom he guided to two bronze medals at the Paris Olympics, creating history for India.

Rana also mentored young talents such as Saurabh Chaudhary, Anish Bhanwala and Chinki Yadav, helping strengthen India's shooting programme.

In recognition of his contribution to the sport, he was conferred the prestigious Dronacharya Award in 2020. Rana is survived by his wife Reena, daughter Devanshi, son Yuvraj and other family members.

His untimely demise marks a significant loss to Indian shooting and the sporting community at large.

**Centre, Assam, Nagaland sign oil exploration pact**

**> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

The Centre, along with the governments of Assam and Nagaland, on Friday signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to restart oil and gas exploration in disputed border areas where operations had remained stalled for over three decades. The agreement aims to boost hydrocarbon production, attract investment and strengthen India's energy security.

The pact establishes a coordinated framework for exploration in the disputed area belt along the Assam-Nagaland border, ensuring regulatory clarity, investor confidence and operational continuity. Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the Northeast holds significant untapped hydrocarbon potential, with Assam and Nagaland contributing major reserves of crude oil and natural gas.

The government said the initiative is expected to generate direct and indirect employment, support local enterprises and significantly enhance output from the region. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said production could rise multiple times from the current levels following implementation of the agreement, further strengthening India's energy security.

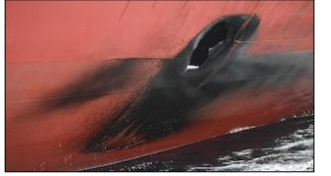
**Navy Defuses Missile Threat on Oil Tanker**

**> Vikrama Vahini | Kochi**

The Indian Navy successfully recovered and safely disposed of an unexploded missile warhead discovered inside a crude oil tanker bound for Kochi, averting what could have been a major maritime and port safety hazard.

The sensitive operation was carried out aboard the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker MT Olympic Life, which had reported the presence of unexploded ordnance after an explosion damaged its hull while sailing off the coast of Oman on May 26. The vessel was en route from Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates to Kochi. No Indian nationals were among the crew members.

According to officials, the Indian Navy initiated a coordinated response after receiving information through the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR). A specialist Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team from the



Southern Naval Command in Kochi was immediately deployed to assess the situation and neutralise the threat.

During the inspection, the team discovered that a projectile had penetrated the tanker's hull, passed through multiple structural compartments and become lodged inside a fuel storage tank.

Given the complexity of the operation, the Navy adopted a carefully planned and phased strategy to ensure maximum safety. Following extensive precautionary measures, EOD specialists used advanced diagnostic equipment to identify and isolate the warhead's detonation mechanism.

**Journalists Thank Siddu, Prabhakar for Welfare Efforts**

**> Vikrama Vahini | Kolar**

Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has been thanked by journalists' representatives for initiatives taken for the welfare of mediapersons, including bus pass and health insurance schemes during his tenure.

Representatives of the Karnataka State Working Journalists' Association met Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru and expressed gratitude for supporting press welfare measures. They also urged him to intervene and correct certain provisions in the new advertisement policy, stating that it could adversely impact small and district newspapers.

Kolar district journalists also



thanked him for releasing ₹25 lakh to the district journalists' welfare fund, which has been augmented to ₹35 lakh and is being used to support journalists and their families in distress through interest earnings. The former Chief Minister appreciated the welfare fund initiative and suggested that similar models be adopted by other district journalist associations.

He assured the delegation that he would examine the concerns raised regarding the new advertisement policy and consider appropriate steps to safeguard the interests of small and district-level newspapers.

Siddaramaiah also reiterated his long-standing support for measures aimed at strengthening the media fraternity in the state.

**Gruha Lakshmi to Continue, Verification Drive Only: Gooligowda**

**> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Karnataka State Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority Vice-Chairman and MLC Dinesh Gooligowda has clarified that the State Government has no intention of discontinuing the Gruha Lakshmi Scheme and that the ongoing exercise is merely a verification and auditing process aimed at preventing misuse and ensuring that benefits reach only eligible women beneficiaries.

Addressing concerns raised by the Opposition, Gooligowda said certain political leaders were spreading misinformation and creating unnecessary confusion among the public regarding the future of the scheme. He asserted that there was no truth in allegations that the government was planning to stop the programme.

The Gruha Lakshmi Scheme currently benefits over 1.24 crore women heads of households across Karnataka, with each beneficiary receiving ₹2,000 every month.

However, recent data has revealed that nearly 1.95 lakh beneficiaries have passed away, while financial assistance continues to be credited to some of their bank accounts due to technical and administrative lapses.

"The government is taking corrective measures to prevent such misuse of public funds. The objective is to ensure that assistance reaches only genuine and eligible beneficiaries," he said.

Gooligowda stated that he had earlier submitted a written representation to then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, urging the introduction of a mandatory Life Certificate system to prevent payments being made to deceased beneficiaries.

He has also submitted a similar request to the current Chief Minister, D.K. Shivakumar, seeking a comprehensive audit and verification of the scheme to identify deceased and ineligible beneficiaries and rectify existing loopholes.

According to him, the government has responded positively to these recommendations and initiated steps toward a thorough review of beneficiary records.

The exercise is intended solely to safeguard public funds and strengthen the implementation of the scheme. "The government's intention is clear. This verification process is meant only to identify deceased and ineligible beneficiaries and eliminate irregularities.

He further appealed to the public not to be misled by politically motivated propaganda and assured beneficiaries that no eligible recipient would suffer any loss or inconvenience due to the verification process.

The government remains committed to the effective implementation of the Gruha Lakshmi Scheme and ensuring that its benefits reach deserving women across the state, he added.



**WB CM Warns Strict Action Against Violence**

**> Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata**

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Friday issued a strong warning against violence and destruction of public property in the state, saying the government will adopt a "zero tolerance" policy

towards such acts.

He said any attempt to disrupt peace or challenge law and order will be dealt with firmly, adding that those involved in vandalism or attacks on law enforcement agencies will face serious consequences.



In Udupi, the inauguration of the Sri Purushottama Yoga Parayana was held at Sri Puthige Nrisingha Sabha Hall (Geeta Mandira) under the divine blessings of Sri Puthige Matha seer His Holiness Sri Sri Sugunendra Theertha Sripadaru and his disciple Sri Sri Sushrindra Theertha Sripadaru. The event, focused on chanting the 15th chapter of the Bhagavad Gita 33 times collectively for universal welfare and spiritual merit during Adhika Masa, was inaugurated by Vidwan Sri Vedavyasa Aital. Sri Nagaraja Acharya (Divan of Sri Puthige Matha), Vidushi Usha Hebbar, and former Manipal Municipal Council member Sri Narasimha Nayak were present. Classical dance performance and a brief presentation were rendered by Doordarshan artist from Moodabidri Aayana V. Raman.