

Actress Sreeleela, who rose to fame with blockbuster hits, is now looking for a major comeback as a series of recent box-office setbacks impact her career momentum.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government may roll out further steps to boost foreign investment, calling recent RBI and policy measures only the beginning of a broader reform push.

INSIDE

Good morning

Wake up with ambition, move with intention, and end the day with success.

BRIEFS

Mysuru Bar Fire Kills Two, Injures Seven

> Vikrama Vahini | Mysuru
Two people were killed and seven others were seriously injured after a fire broke out in a bar and restaurant in Mysuru city on Monday evening, police said. The incident occurred at Fox Den Liquor Garage Bar and Restaurant in the RT Nagar area near Ring Road in Dattagalli, reportedly due to a short circuit. The fire spread rapidly inside the kitchen, trapping staff and customers as thick smoke filled the premises. Two kitchen staff members, identified as Sahil and Prakash, died in the incident. Around 25 people were present in the establishment at the time of the fire. Fire and emergency services rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control after a brief operation. The injured were rescued and shifted to a nearby hospital, where they are said to be in critical condition. Police have launched an investigation to determine the exact cause of the fire.

BJP Leaders Hold Key Meet Amid Reshuffle Buzz

> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi
Senior BJP leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president Nitin Nabin, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and others, held a high-level meeting in the national capital on Monday amid speculation of a possible organisational reshuffle. The meeting, which lasted over four hours at Rajnath Singh's residence, was also attended by J P Nadda, B L Santhosh, RSS liaison Arun Kumar, and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, sources said. Party insiders indicated that discussions focused on organisational changes and future strategy, though no official statement has been released by the BJP.

ED Grills Abhishek Banerjee in Scam Case

> Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday interrogated Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee for over 11 hours in connection with the alleged primary school recruitment scam, officials said. The prolonged questioning comes a day after Banerjee faced nearly eight and a half hours of interrogation by the state CID in a separate case involving alleged forgery of MLAs' signatures related to Assembly proceedings. After emerging from the ED office late in the night, Banerjee alleged that such summons were politically motivated and aimed at weakening opposition parties.

US-Iran Peace Pact

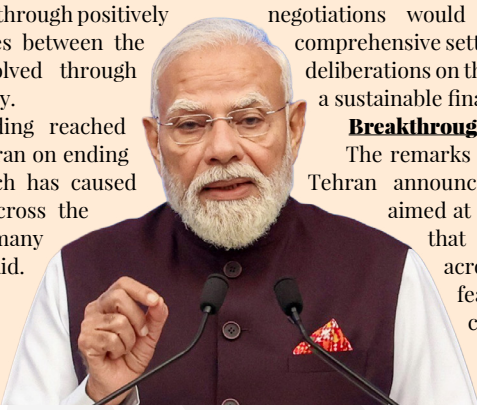
> Vikrama Vahini | Washington
The United States and Iran have announced a major diplomatic breakthrough, with US President Donald Trump declaring an agreement aimed at ending more than three months of conflict that had disrupted global oil supplies and raised fears of wider instability in West Asia. The agreement, expected to be formally signed in Geneva on June 19, was reached following mediation efforts involving Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. Officials said further discussions will continue in the coming days to finalise technical details ahead of the signing. The deal reportedly includes provisions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, maintaining a ceasefire, and initiating fresh negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme. Trump announced the agreement on Truth Social, stating that the naval blockade on Iranian ports would be lifted and the strait reopened for global shipping. However, despite the announcement, significant differences remain between Washington and Tehran over implementation. Key issues include the timing of lifting restrictions, the release of frozen Iranian assets, and conditions related to uranium enrichment. Iran has insisted that asset releases and immediate lifting of restrictions are part of the agreement, while the US maintains that any financial relief will depend on verified Iranian compliance with commitments. Divergent interpretations have also emerged over timelines for reopening the strategic waterway. The deal is being seen as the most significant diplomatic engagement between the two countries in years, with potential implications for global energy markets and regional stability. **PG2**



- KEY HIGHLIGHTS**
- US and Iran announce a major diplomatic breakthrough to end months of conflict.
 - Deal aims to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and restore global oil shipping.
 - Ceasefire agreement includes plans for fresh talks on Iran's nuclear programme.
 - Signing expected in Geneva on June 19 after mediation by Qatar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.
 - US says sanctions relief and frozen assets depend on Iran's compliance; Iran demands immediate easing.
 - Key differences remain over timing of sanctions removal, asset release, and nuclear restrictions.
 - Trump claims lifting of US naval blockade and reopening of key maritime route.
 - Global oil markets react positively, with crude prices falling and stocks rising.
 - Analysts warn implementation risks remain despite historic breakthrough.

Modi Backs US-Iran Peace Breakthrough

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday welcomed the understanding reached between the United States and Iran to end hostilities in West Asia, expressing hope that the development would help restore peace, stability and economic normalcy in the conflict-hit region. In a message posted on social media platform X, Modi said India viewed the breakthrough positively and hoped the remaining issues between the two countries would be resolved through sustained dialogue and diplomacy. "I welcome the understanding reached between the United States and Iran on ending the conflict in West Asia, which has caused serious economic disruption across the world and led to loss of life in many countries," the Prime Minister said. **India Emphasises Peace and Stability**
The Prime Minister stressed



that the successful implementation of the understanding would be crucial for maintaining regional stability and ensuring uninterrupted global trade. "India hopes that the implementation of this understanding will help restore peace and stability in the region and ensure the freedom of navigation and commerce," Modi said. He further expressed confidence that ongoing negotiations would lead to a durable and comprehensive settlement. "We look forward to deliberations on the remaining issues reaching a sustainable final agreement," he added. **Breakthrough After Months of Tension**
The remarks came after Washington and Tehran announced a major breakthrough aimed at ending months of hostilities that had heightened tensions across West Asia and triggered fears of a wider regional conflict. **PG2**

Rupee Soars as Oil Slumps on US-Iran Peace Deal

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
The Indian rupee strengthened sharply on Monday, rising 58 paise to 94.60 against the US dollar in early trade after reports of a peace agreement between the United States and Iran to end their 107-day conflict and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. The development boosted investor confidence and eased concerns over global energy supplies. The rupee, which had already gained 67 paise on Friday, extended its rally as markets reacted positively to the announcement. Following the announcement by US President Donald Trump, Brent crude prices dropped 4.66 per cent to \$83.26 per barrel. **PG2**



ISRAEL REJECTS US-IRAN PEACE DEAL TERMS, STANDS FIRM ON REGIONAL MILITARY PRESENCE

> Vikrama Vahini | Jerusalem
Israel has pushed back against the US-brokered Iran-US peace deal, with senior ministers in the Netanyahu government stating that Israeli forces will not withdraw from Lebanon despite the announced truce. Defence Minister Israel Katz said Israel would maintain its security deployments in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza, stressing that external diplomatic

pressure would not change its military posture. He added that the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) would remain in "security zones" to ensure national security and warned of strong retaliation in case of escalation along the northern border. Israel's National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir went further, saying Israel is not bound by the



agreement announced by US President Donald Trump. He asserted that Israel is a sovereign nation and will independently decide its military and security policies, adding that Israeli interests and national security would remain the top priority. Ben-Gvir also reiterated that Israeli troops would not withdraw from Lebanon or Gaza and

criticised past international agreements, saying Israel had suffered security setbacks due to external pressure. He added that while Israel values its alliance with the United States, it would not accept terms that it believes compromise its security. The remarks come shortly after US President Donald Trump announced a peace agreement with Iran aimed at ending months of conflict and reopening

the Strait of Hormuz for global shipping. Trump said the deal included lifting the US naval blockade and restoring oil transport through the strategic waterway. The Israeli response highlights emerging tensions over the implementation of the agreement, particularly on regional security arrangements and troop deployments in conflict zones.

Pawan Kalyan on Unity, Party Ideals

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party (JSP) chief Pawan Kalyan on Monday reiterated that his party was founded on the principles of national integrity and public welfare. Addressing an event in the national capital, he said the party has completed 12 years and has grown significantly despite several challenges, securing 21 MLAs and three MPs. He noted that JSP membership has increased from one lakh to over 20 lakh. Pawan Kalyan stressed that national unity remains the party's top priority above political interests and said the spirit of the nation should be upheld by



all generations. He also said the party had not opposed the formation of Telangana but had only raised concerns over the manner of Andhra Pradesh's bifurcation in 2014. Highlighting the party's ideological commitment, he said Jana Sena continues to function based on its core principles despite changing political circumstances in the state and across the country. He further urged citizens to actively participate in social and political change, stating that responsible public engagement is essential for strengthening democracy and addressing societal challenges.

COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST PRAKASH RAJ IN TIRUPATI

> Vikrama Vahini | Tirupati
A criminal complaint has been filed against actor Prakash Raj in a Tirupati court over alleged remarks on Hindu deities, BJP spokesperson and TTD Board Member Bhanu Prakash Reddy said on Monday. Speaking at the court premises, Reddy said the complaint was filed through advocate Ajay Kumar, alleging that the actor's comments hurt the religious sentiments of millions of Hindus. **PG2**



Fresh Twist in Dharmasthala SIT Probe

> Vikrama Vahini | Mangaluru
The Dharmasthala mass burial case has taken a fresh twist after complainant Chinnayya approached the Special Investigation Team (SIT), alleging intimidation attempts linked to the ongoing probe. In his complaint filed at the SIT office in Belthangady, Chinnayya alleged that his family members were contacted and questioned regarding his writ petition pending before the Karnataka High Court. He claimed these interactions were aimed at pressuring him to withdraw from the case and influence key witnesses. He further alleged that a YouTuber and pro-Sowjanya movement activist Girish Mattannavar contacted his relatives on separate occasions

seeking details about the case and his whereabouts, which he described as indirect intimidation. Chinnayya urged the SIT to provide protection to him and his family, stating that the repeated contacts had created fear and suspicion of organised pressure. However, Mattannavar denied the allegations, calling them false and politically motivated. He also released audio recordings of conversations with the complainant's relatives, claiming they showed no intimidation and were friendly in nature. The activist alleged that the complaint was an attempt to derail the SIT investigation and said the audio evidence contradicted Chinnayya's claims.

Fee Scam Rocks Women's University

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
A major admission fee scam has allegedly surfaced at Karnataka State Akkamahadevi Women's University in Vijayapura, prompting the university administration to launch an official inquiry into suspected financial irregularities spanning three academic years. According to preliminary findings, admission fees collected from students enrolled in the Department of Drama and various postgraduate courses during the 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 academic years were allegedly not deposited into the university's official accounts. Authorities suspect that lakhs of rupees collected from

students may have been misappropriated. The irregularities reportedly involved the use of fake or duplicate fee receipts. Some students were allegedly provided copies of payment receipts belonging to other candidates and instructed to upload them on the university's admission portal. This enabled admissions to be processed while concealing the actual fee transactions. The issue came to light during an internal verification of admission and fee records, following which the university constituted an inquiry committee to examine the

matter in detail. The committee has been tasked with scrutinising fee records, admission documents and payment transactions to identify those responsible. Sources indicated that the alleged fraud may have exploited weaknesses in the fee collection process. Although the State Government's Unified University and College Management System (UCMS) provides an online payment platform, some parents reportedly opted for offline payments due to technical issues or lack of familiarity with the digital



system. Funds collected through such channels are suspected to have been diverted. Syndicate member Mallamma Yalawar has demanded a transparent and high-level investigation into the matter and called for strict legal action against those found guilty. The controversy has raised concerns in academic circles, particularly as student fees constitute an important source of revenue for the university, which is already facing financial challenges. University authorities said the inquiry committee is expected to submit its report after completing a detailed examination of all relevant records and transactions.

Editorial

Peace Beyond the Battlefield

The possibility of an end to the prolonged conflict between the United States and Iran comes as a welcome relief to a world that has spent months watching tensions escalate in one of the most sensitive regions on the planet. After more than a hundred days of military confrontation, indications that both sides are willing to embrace a peace framework offer hope for stability and normalcy. While the cessation of hostilities is undoubtedly good news, the success of any peace initiative will ultimately depend on the sincerity of the parties involved and the strength of the commitments they undertake. A ceasefire may stop the fighting, but only a comprehensive and enforceable agreement can prevent the return of conflict.

At the heart of the dispute lies the issue of nuclear proliferation. The concerns surrounding Iran's nuclear programme have long been a source of friction, not only for the United States but also for the wider international community. Any peace arrangement that fails to address this issue in a meaningful and transparent manner risks becoming merely a temporary pause rather than a permanent solution. Lasting peace requires clear safeguards, mutual accountability, and a willingness to place global security above political calculations. Without firm assurances and credible monitoring mechanisms, the possibility of renewed tensions cannot be ruled out. The lessons of history are clear: unresolved disputes often resurface with greater intensity when they are left inadequately addressed.

The conflict has also highlighted the extent to which regional instability can affect the entire world. Global energy markets, trade routes, and economic confidence have all felt the impact of the war. In this context, ensuring the uninterrupted flow of commerce through the Strait of Hormuz assumes critical importance. The principle of free and secure navigation must be protected in the interest of all nations, not merely those directly involved in the conflict. The present diplomatic opening therefore offers an opportunity not only to end a war but also to strengthen international cooperation and regional stability. The world now looks forward to a future where dialogue replaces confrontation and where peace is sustained not by fear, but by mutual understanding and responsible statecraft.

-Editor

No Rollback of Guarantee Schemes

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday clarified that the State Government has no intention of discontinuing its guarantee schemes, stating that they were introduced to economically empower women and support families across Karnataka.

No Plan to Stop Guarantee Schemes

Responding to Opposition criticism, Shivakumar said the government is only verifying beneficiaries to ensure that the benefits reach genuine and eligible Kannadigas. He said identity cards would be issued to beneficiaries to prevent misuse and ensure transparency.

"Our guarantees are a model for the country. Several states have adopted similar welfare schemes. We are only ensuring that benefits reach the rightful recipients," he said.

Action Against Misuse of Funds



Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar visited Ramanagara MLA Iqbal Hussain, who is undergoing treatment at Vydehi Hospital in Bengaluru on Monday, and enquired about his health. Former Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker Ramesh Kumar was also present during the visit.

The Chief Minister said the government has directed authorities to prevent misuse of Gruha Lakshmi funds in fraudulent finance and Ponzi schemes.

Referring to recent incidents, he said strict monitoring would be carried out from gram panchayat to taluk level to protect beneficiaries. He added that empowering women strengthens entire families and remains a key objective of the government.

Hits Out at BJP Over Bidadi Issue

On the proposed Bidadi township project, Shivakumar accused the BJP of playing politics. He questioned why BJP leaders remained silent when their government had acquired nearly 1,000 acres of land and handed it over to KIADB.

He said the project was not his initiative and pointed out that former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy had earlier issued

notifications related to the township proposal.

MLA Iqbal Hussain Stable

Providing an update on Congress MLA Iqbal Hussain, Shivakumar said the legislator was admitted to hospital after experiencing chest pain but is currently stable and under medical observation.

"The doctors have examined him and there is no cause for concern. Necessary treatment is being provided, and his condition is good," the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the guarantee schemes will continue as long as the government is in power, calling them a key pillar of Karnataka's welfare model.

Shivakumar also urged the Opposition to avoid politicising welfare programmes and instead cooperate in ensuring effective implementation, stressing that development and social security must go hand in hand.

CM Hails Suraj Hegde's Legacy

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday paid rich tributes to late Suraj Hegde, describing him as a symbol of party loyalty, sacrifice, honesty and dedication who devoted his life to public service without seeking power or position.

Speaking at a condolence meeting organised in Bengaluru in memory of Suraj Hegde, who served as AICC Secretary and Vice-Chairman of the Karnataka State Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee, Shivakumar said the Congress party had lost a committed worker, trusted friend and respected leader.

"Party loyalty and sacrifice were Suraj Hegde's hallmark. Through his warmth and friendship, he won the hearts of everyone around him. He was a disciplined soldier of the party who worked with honesty, commitment and a strong sense of duty," the Chief Minister said.

Recalling his long association with Hegde, Shivakumar said Suraj never sought power or recognition despite his significant contributions to the party. "He lived a life guided by ideals and values.

To live without ideals is an insult to life, and to die without achievement is an insult to death. Suraj lived a meaningful life dedicated to service," he remarked.

The Chief Minister noted that Suraj Hegde carried forward the legacy and principles of former Chief Minister Devaraj Urs. He revealed that he had met Hegde just three days before his demise during an event commemorating Devaraj Urs and said plans had been made to honour him for his contributions.

Shivakumar said the respect Suraj commanded within the party was evident from the fact that senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi set aside his engagements to pay his final respects. "That itself reflects the contribution and regard Suraj enjoyed within the organisation," he said.



Stating that he had attended the programme not as Chief Minister but as a fellow party worker and close friend, Shivakumar recalled his long-standing relationship with the Hegde family. He said Suraj remained a simple and approachable leader throughout his political journey and earned the affection and trust of party workers at every level.

The Chief Minister also praised the courage shown by Hegde's family in facing the loss and prayed for strength and comfort for his relatives, friends and supporters. "May his soul rest in peace, and may his family and well-wishers find the strength to overcome this grief," he said.

Several Congress leaders, party workers and supporters attended the programme and paid their respects to the late leader, remembering his commitment to the party and his contributions to public life.

His legacy of dedication, humility and unwavering commitment to public service will continue to inspire generations of Congress workers.

"Hand over Dharmasthala murky episode to CBI"

Vikrama Vahini | B'luuru

Chief Whip of the Opposition in Legislative Council N. Ravi Kumar on Monday urged the state government to handover the Dharmasthala episode to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a "comprehensive enquiry" as the murky episode has inter-state ramifications and possible foreign hand.

"There is a strong suspicion among the public that the sordid Dharmasthala episode has not only inter-state connections but was also engineered and handled by Christian missionaries from foreign land.

These can be probed only by the CBI and not by state police," Ravi Kumar said, in a statement issued here.

According to Ravi Kumar, the role of the Christian missionaries need to be probed as well as the source of Rs 200 Crore slush money as alleged by masked man Chinniah.

"The entire disturbing episode has too many actors including somebody powerful from across the state borders and too many alarming angles.

The state police, though efficient, may not be able to lay their hands on powerful

and influential that too across the state borders. It is in this background I am demanding a CBI probe," Ravi Kumar added.



The campaign of calumny and grave charges made by the conspirators were so alarming it was a sledge-hammer blow on the faith of millions of people.

"Both the perpetrators of the crime as well as the conspirators must be brought to book and punished severely. Only CBI probe will soothe the ruffled feathers of the Hindu community," Ravi Kumar signed off.

US-Iran Peace Pact

From PG1

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who played a mediating role, described the development as a "significant breakthrough" and credited multiple countries for supporting the peace process.

While financial markets reacted positively to the announcement, analysts cautioned that uncertainty remains over how the agreement will be implemented in practice, with both sides yet to reconcile key differences.

The agreement marks a rare diplomatic opening between Washington and Tehran after years of escalating tensions. However, uncertainties over compliance and enforcement continue to cast doubt on its long-term success.

Rupee Soars as Oil Slumps on US-Iran Peace Deal

From PG1

while the US dollar index weakened. The reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global oil shipments, is expected to improve supply stability and reduce pressure on oil-importing countries such as India.

Indian equity markets also witnessed strong gains, with the Sensex rising over 1,100 points and the Nifty surging more than 330 points in early trade.

Market experts said lower crude prices would ease pressure on India's

current account and balance of payments. Analysts expect the rupee to remain firm in the near term if crude prices continue to soften and global sentiment remains favourable.

Meanwhile, India's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$681.61 billion for the week ended June 5, according to RBI data, despite a marginal decline during the period.

Lower crude oil prices are expected to ease inflationary pressures in India, benefiting both consumers and industries.

NEWS

Modi Backs US-Iran Peace Breakthrough

From PG1

According to international reports, both sides are expected to formally sign the agreement later this week in Geneva, while negotiations continue on unresolved political and security matters.

The conflict had severely affected global markets, disrupted shipping routes and raised concerns about the safety of key maritime corridors, particularly those linked to international energy supplies and trade.

Significance for India West Asia remains strategically important for India as a major source of crude oil and natural gas imports. The region is also home to millions of Indian expatriates and serves as an important market for Indian exports.

The recent instability had generated concerns over rising energy prices, supply chain disruptions and the safety of Indian citizens living and working

across the Gulf region.

India has consistently advocated diplomacy and peaceful negotiations as the preferred method for resolving regional disputes and maintaining stability in international trade routes.

Global Support for Agreement Several countries have welcomed the US-Iran understanding, viewing it as a positive step toward reducing tensions in one of the world's most sensitive geopolitical regions.

Analysts believe a successful implementation of the agreement could help stabilise global energy markets, improve maritime security and reduce the risk of further military escalation in West Asia.

With India heavily dependent on the region for energy supplies and trade connectivity, New Delhi is expected to closely monitor developments and continue supporting efforts aimed at achieving a lasting and comprehensive peace settlement.

COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST PRAKASH RAJ IN TIRUPATI

From PG1

He added that earlier notices were issued seeking an explanation, but no satisfactory response was received.

The complainant has demanded an unconditional apology from Prakash Raj and stated that legal proceedings will continue. The allegations relate to comments reportedly made about Lord Rama, Lakshmana, and Sita.

Reddy also said several Hindu organisations and devotees have expressed concern over the remarks and are supporting legal action. He urged people to respect all religions and avoid statements that may hurt sentiments.

He further said that while the decision on film boycott is a personal view, those making offensive remarks should face consequences under law.

Fresh Twist in Dharmasthala SIT Probe

From PG1

The SIT has not yet issued an official statement on the fresh allegations but is expected to examine the audio evidence and related communications as part of its ongoing inquiry.

Officials said all claims will be verified before drawing any conclusions.

The case, which has already drawn significant public attention in Karnataka, continues to see competing narratives from both sides as the investigation progresses.

Authorities have tightened security and are maintaining close monitoring of developments.

Legal experts note that any verified intimidation attempt during an active investigation could lead to additional charges and stricter protective measures for the complainant.

Meanwhile, public debate around the case has intensified on social media, with supporters of both sides exchanging conflicting claims.

HEALTH & Lifestyle

MONSOON FRUITS FOR A HEALTHIER YOU

With the arrival of the monsoon season, the risk of common illnesses such as colds, coughs, fever, allergies and infections increases due to the damp and humid weather. Health experts recommend including seasonal fruits in the daily diet to strengthen immunity, improve digestion and maintain overall health.

Papaya Supports Digestion and Immunity

Papaya is rich in Vitamin C, Vitamin A and dietary fibre. It contains digestive enzymes such as papain, which help improve digestion and relieve constipation while strengthening the immune system.

Guava Packed with Nutrients

Guava is an excellent source of fibre, Vitamin C and Vitamin K. It supports digestive health, prevents constipation and helps keep the body hydrated. The fruit also enhances immunity and promotes healthy skin.

Pomegranate Helps Fight Infections

Loaded with antioxidants and polyphenols, pomegranate improves blood circulation, reduces inflammation and helps the body recover from seasonal illnesses while boosting immunity.

Jamun Protects Against Seasonal Diseases

Jamun, or Indian blackberry, contains Vitamin C, iron and potassium. It helps strengthen immunity, supports overall health and protects the body

from infections common during the rainy season.

Rambutan Keeps the Body Hydrated

Rambutan is rich in water content and Vitamin C. It helps maintain hydration levels and supports the body's natural defence system during the monsoon.

Bananas Improve Gut Health

Bananas are packed with potassium, fibre and prebiotic properties that support digestion and promote healthy gut bacteria, making them an ideal fruit during the rainy season.

Plums Aid Digestion

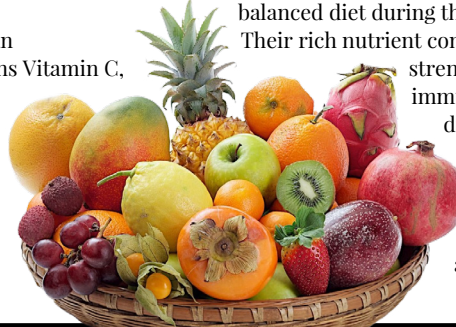
Rich in antioxidants and fibre, plums help prevent constipation, improve digestion and support gut health. They also contribute to a stronger immune system and protection against seasonal infections.

Apples Promote Overall Wellness

Apples provide fibre, Vitamin C and antioxidants that support heart health, improve digestion and enhance immunity. Regular consumption helps maintain energy levels and overall well-being during the monsoon.

Importance of Seasonal Fruits

Nutritionists advise consuming fresh seasonal fruits as part of a balanced diet during the monsoon. Their rich nutrient content helps strengthen immunity, improve digestion and protect the body from common seasonal ailments.



SCIENCE & Technology

UK Plans Social Media Ban for Under-16s

Vikrama Vahini | London

The United Kingdom is preparing to introduce sweeping restrictions on social media access for children under the age of 16, in what could become one of the toughest online safety measures in the world.

According to reports, Prime Minister Keir Starmer is expected to announce a new policy aimed at limiting children's exposure to social media platforms and harmful online content. The move follows growing concerns about the impact of digital platforms on young people's mental health, safety and behaviour. The proposed restrictions are expected to apply to popular social media platforms including TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, X, Snapchat, Reddit, Threads, YouTube, Twitch and Kick. Children below 16 years may be prohibited from creating or accessing accounts on these services under the new framework.

The UK government has been reviewing various online safety measures over recent months and is now moving toward stricter regulation of children's digital activities.

The proposed regulations may also restrict access to sexually explicit or romantic AI chatbots for users under 18 and introduce safeguards to reduce excessive late-night social media usage among teenagers. Supporters of the policy argue that social media platforms expose children to harmful content, cyberbullying and mental health risks. Campaigners have urged governments to take stronger action to protect young users from online dangers.

The UK has already introduced age-verification requirements for certain online services and is now exploring broader child-protection measures across digital platforms.

TMC Rebels Boost NDA

The merger of 20 rebel TMC MPs with NCPI has transformed the little-known regional party into a significant force within the NDA, reshaping parliamentary dynamics and deepening the political crisis for Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress.

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), a relatively lesser-known regional political party, has suddenly emerged on the national stage after 20 rebel Trinamool Congress (TMC) MPs announced their merger with the outfit and extended support to the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

The development has intensified the political crisis within the TMC while significantly boosting the parliamentary strength of the NDA. With the addition of 20 MPs, NCPI is expected to become one of the largest allies in the ruling coalition after the BJP.

Founded in 2020 by former Tripura minister and tribal leader Paban Kumar Das, NCPI was established as a regional political platform focusing on tribal welfare, nationalism, governance reforms, infrastructure development and anti-corruption measures. Though headquartered in Howrah, West Bengal, the party initially built its



support base in Tripura and remained largely outside the national spotlight.

The party is registered with the Election Commission but is not recognised as either a state or national party. Before the merger, NCPI had limited visibility and virtually no significant presence in Parliament.

Political observers believe the rebel TMC MPs opted for NCPI as a strategic alternative. Joining the BJP directly could have strengthened allegations from the TMC leadership that the rebellion was orchestrated by the saffron party.

At the same time, floating a new

political party would have involved complex legal and procedural requirements.

By choosing an already registered political organisation, the dissident MPs gained an established platform and organisational structure, allowing them to project themselves as a legitimate political bloc rather than individual defectors.

The merger has also altered the parliamentary arithmetic within the NDA. While the BJP remains the dominant force with 240 Lok Sabha members, NCPI's enhanced strength now places it ahead of several key allies, including the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Janata Dal (United).

"Shakti Smart Card Set for Rollout"

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh on Monday said the State Government is in the final stage of preparing a framework for issuing smart cards under the Shakti Scheme, which provides free bus travel for women.

He said over two crore women beneficiaries are expected to receive the cards, with a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) planned to oversee implementation. A transaction advisory committee has been formed to finalise design, technical specifications and the tender process, with its report expected by month-end. The minister added that women will receive the smart cards free of cost, while male passengers can purchase them. Overall, 2.5 to 3 crore cards are expected to be issued under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. He also said the government plans to procure over 4,000 electric buses in phases to strengthen sustainable public transport.



51% White Topping Works Completed, Pace Up Projects: Rao

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to expedite white topping road works being undertaken across the five municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA) and ensure timely completion of all ongoing infrastructure projects.

Chairing a review meeting on white topping and buffer road projects being executed by B-SMILE, Rao said road development works worth ₹1,700 crore are currently underway across the city.

He instructed officials to resolve bottlenecks at project sites and speed up execution to minimise inconvenience to commuters.

51 Per Cent Progress Achieved

Officials informed the meeting that white topping works covering 58.60 km of roads at a cost of ₹800 crore have achieved 56.1 per cent progress, with 28.18 km already completed.

Another package covering 66.28 km of roads worth ₹900 crore has achieved 46.43 per cent progress, with 26.40 km completed. Overall, projects worth ₹1,700 crore have recorded 51 per cent completion.

Road Widening Before White Topping

Rao instructed officials to take up road widening works on Nagawara, Tannery Road, Dinnur and Holiday Village Road



before commencing white topping activities.

Fill Potholes Immediately

The Commissioner also directed officials to ensure that roads under construction remain free from potholes and that potholes on roads where works have not yet commenced are repaired immediately to ensure smooth traffic movement.

Focus on Buffer Roads

Rao reviewed the development of nine buffer roads covering a total length of 68 km across the GBA region and instructed officials to accelerate work and complete the projects within the scheduled deadline.

Senior engineering officials, including Chief Engineers Malathi and Madesh, along with executive engineers and other department representatives, attended the meeting.

KPTCL Aims 25% Power Boost via New Tech Trial

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) has taken a major step towards modernising the state's power transmission network by aiming to increase transmission capacity by up to 25% at minimal cost through advanced technology.

As part of this initiative, KPTCL has begun a pilot project on the Puttenahalli-Sahakarnanagar 220 kV transmission line in Bengaluru, implementing a Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) system.

A Letter of Intent (LoI) has already been issued for the project, making KPTCL one of the first state transmission utilities in South India to adopt this advanced technology.

The system is designed to enhance existing infrastructure without the need for additional transmission towers or land acquisition.

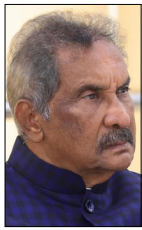
Instead of the traditional Static

Line Rating method, the DLR system uses IoT-based sensors to continuously monitor real-time conditions such as temperature, wind speed, solar radiation, and conductor sag. This data helps grid operators safely optimise power flow based on actual weather conditions.

With rising electricity demand driven by rapid urbanisation, electric vehicle adoption, data centres, and AI-powered industries, the new technology is expected to play a crucial role in strengthening grid efficiency and reliability.

Based on the results from the pilot project, KPTCL plans to expand the technology to other high-demand and renewable energy transmission corridors across Karnataka.

The initiative forms part of KPTCL's long-term strategy to build a robust, digitally enabled, and sustainable power transmission network in the state.



Karnataka Excise Revenue Hits Record High

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka's excise department has reported a record-breaking revenue of over ₹3,500 crore in just 30 days during May-June, driven by a sharp rise in liquor sales following the implementation of a new excise policy and tax revision.

Officials said this is the highest-ever monthly collection in the state, surpassing previous records. The revenue surge is attributed to increased sales of both beer and Indian Made Liquor (IML), despite price hikes under the new taxation structure.

Beer sales alone rose by nearly 60% compared to the same period last year, while IML consumption also saw a significant increase. Overall liquor turnover during the period stood at ₹3,509 crore, compared to ₹3,022 crore last year.

Excise department sources said the revised tax system based on alcohol content has contributed to higher earnings, with the state exchequer witnessing a strong inflow of revenue.

The strong revenue performance is expected to further boost the state's fiscal position in the coming months.

US TRADE CHIEF TO VISIT INDIA FOR TRADE DEAL TALKS

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The India-US bilateral trade agreement is set to enter a crucial stage, with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer scheduled to visit India on June 22 for high-level discussions aimed at advancing negotiations between the two countries.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal confirmed that Greer will arrive in India on the evening of June 22. He will hold detailed meetings with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on June 23 and 24 before returning to the United States. The talks are expected to focus on finalising the framework agreement and accelerating progress on the broader Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

Officials said the visit comes after recent chief negotiator-level discussions held in New Delhi earlier this month, during which



US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer will visit India on June 22 for key talks with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, aiming to finalise the India-US trade framework agreement and advance broader negotiations on the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

both sides made significant headway on several key issues. The Commerce Ministry indicated that only minor outstanding matters remain before the framework agreement can be finalised.

The proposed trade agreement covers a wide range of sectors,

including market access, reduction of non-tariff barriers, customs facilitation, and strengthening of economic security cooperation. These areas are expected to form the core agenda of the upcoming ministerial-level discussions.

The visit is being seen as strategically important amid shifting global trade dynamics and evolving tariff-related concerns. Both India and the United States are also seeking to deepen cooperation in critical sectors such as defence, technology, and critical minerals, further strengthening their overall strategic and economic partnership.

Both sides are expected to work towards resolving the remaining technical issues in the framework agreement during the upcoming meetings. Officials believe the visit could provide the final momentum needed to conclude the first phase of the trade deal.

ENTERTAINMENT

Stars Back Students' Dreams

Vikrama Vahini | Hyderabad

Actors Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna distributed scholarships to 180 meritorious students from government schools in Telangana's Achampet Mandal through The Deverakonda Foundation during a special event held at Thummanpet village on Sunday.

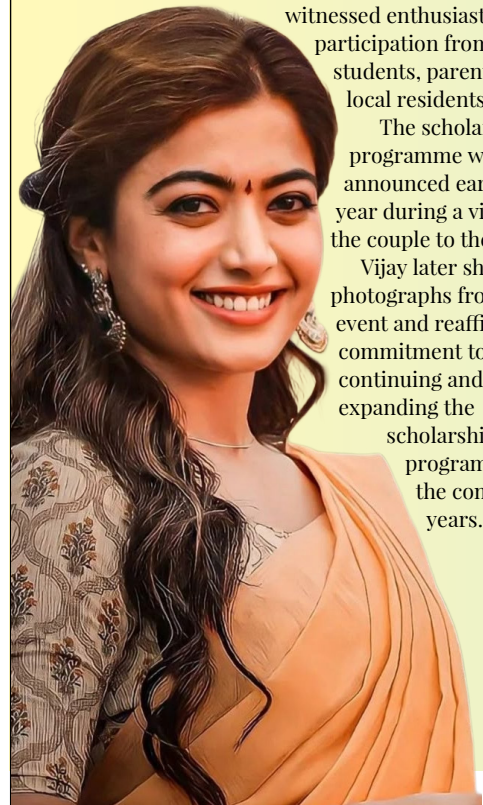
The initiative aims to support Class 9 and 10 students by easing their educational expenses and encouraging academic excellence. Thummanpet holds special significance for Vijay Deverakonda's family as it is the ancestral village of his father.

Addressing students and parents, Vijay said the scholarship programme was a small step towards recognising the hard work and dedication of young learners. He expressed his desire to expand the initiative across Telangana in the coming years and make it a larger movement for educational empowerment.

Rashmika Mandanna also congratulated the students and encouraged them to continue pursuing their goals with determination. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, parents and local residents.

The scholarship programme was first announced earlier this year during a visit by the couple to the village.

Vijay later shared photographs from the event and reaffirmed his commitment to continuing and expanding the scholarship programme in the coming years.



Peddi Leads Box Office Race

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The weekend box office witnessed mixed fortunes as newly released films Bharat Bhaggya Viddhata, Main Vaapas Aaunga and Governor recorded gradual growth in collections, while Ram Charan's blockbuster Peddi continued its dream run, crossing ₹378 crore worldwide within just ten days of release.

Peddi Dominates Box Office

Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor-starrer Peddi remained the undisputed leader at the box office. The film collected ₹8.10 crore on its tenth day, taking its India net collection to ₹206.80 crore. With an overseas collection of around ₹51 crore, the movie's worldwide gross has crossed ₹378 crore, making it one of the biggest commercial successes of 2026.

Trade analysts credit the film's success to strong word-of-mouth publicity, mass appeal and impressive performances, particularly in the Telugu-speaking markets. The film has also maintained a steady hold in overseas territories, contributing significantly to its global earnings.

Bharat Bhaggya Viddhata Sees Positive Trend

Kangana Ranaut's patriotic drama Bharat Bhaggya Viddhata continued to witness a gradual increase in collections despite a slow start. The film earned ₹1.80 crore on Sunday, registering a healthy jump compared to the previous day.

The movie has collected ₹4.25 crore during its opening weekend, while its gross collection has crossed ₹5 crore. Industry observers believe that positive audience feedback and strong patriotic themes may help the film sustain its run in the coming days.

The film has particularly found appreciation among family audiences and viewers in smaller cities, where its message-driven narrative has resonated strongly.

Main Vaapas Aaunga Gains Momentum

Director Imtiaz Ali's partition-era



drama Main Vaapas Aaunga, featuring Diljit Dosanjh in the lead role, also witnessed encouraging growth over the weekend. The film collected ₹2.50 crore on Sunday, taking its three-day domestic collection to ₹5.50 crore.

The emotional storyline and strong performances have received praise from critics and audiences alike. Trade experts expect the film to perform steadily during weekdays if the positive word-of-mouth continues.

Governor Maintains Steady Run

Manoj Bajpayee's political drama Governor continued its stable performance at the ticket windows. After opening with ₹0.90 crore, the film collected ₹1.15 crore on Saturday and ₹1.40 crore on Sunday.

Its total collection now stands at ₹3.45 crore. Though the film is not posting blockbuster numbers, industry experts say it is attracting a niche audience due to its strong content and Bajpayee's acclaimed performance.

Industry Outlook

Trade circles believe that while the new releases are yet to achieve major breakthroughs, weekend growth

indicates improving audience interest. However, the overwhelming success of Peddi continues to dominate theatres across the country, limiting the screen share and revenue potential of competing films. With no major releases scheduled immediately, exhibitors are hopeful that the current films will benefit from sustained occupancy during the coming week, particularly as positive reviews continue to support audience turnout.

The strong performance of Peddi has once again highlighted the growing dominance of large-scale pan-India entertainers at the box office. Industry experts note that films with established stars, strong promotional campaigns and wider theatrical reach continue to enjoy a significant advantage over medium-budget releases. The film's success has also provided a major boost to exhibitors and multiplex chains, many of whom reported improved occupancy levels over the weekend.

Meanwhile, trade analysts believe the coming weekdays will be crucial in determining the long-term prospects of Bharat Bhaggya Viddhata, Main Vaapas Aaunga and Governor.

BUSINESS

Gold Price Crosses ₹15,000 Mark; Rates Surge Nationwide

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Gold prices in India continued their upward trend on Monday after witnessing a steady rise over the past few days. The yellow metal has gained more than ₹300 in the last two days alone, with today's increase adding another ₹225 per gram. Silver prices also edged higher by ₹5 per gram.

The surge has pushed 24-carat gold (pure gold) beyond the ₹15,000 per gram mark, while 22-carat gold has also seen a sharp rise across major Indian cities. Market analysts note that while global bullion markets remain relatively stable, domestic prices in India are witnessing stronger fluctuations.

Gold and Silver Rates in India (June 15)

24-carat gold: ₹15,153 per gram

22-carat gold: ₹13,890 per gram

18-carat gold: ₹11,365 per gram

Silver: ₹265 per gram

In Bengaluru, the prices remain in line with the national average, with 24-carat gold at ₹15,153 per gram, 22-carat gold at ₹13,890 per gram, and silver at ₹265 per gram.

22-Carat Gold Prices Across Major Cities (per gram)

Bengaluru: ₹13,890, Chennai: ₹14,070, Mumbai: ₹13,890, Delhi: ₹13,905, Kolkata: ₹13,890, Kerala: ₹13,890, Ahmedabad: ₹13,895, Jaipur: ₹13,905, Lucknow: ₹13,905, Bhubaneswar: ₹13,890

International 24-Carat Gold Prices (per gram)

Malaysia: 575 ringgit (₹13,440), Dubai: 508.50 dirham (₹13,100), United States: \$138.50 (₹13,105), Singapore: 190 Singapore dollars (₹14,024), Qatar: 509.50 QAR (₹13,244), Saudi Arabia: 523 SAR (₹13,187), Oman: 53.45 OMR (₹13,136), Kuwait: 42.71 KWD (₹13,153)

Silver Prices Across Cities (per gram)

Bengaluru: ₹265, Chennai: ₹275, Mumbai: ₹265, Delhi: ₹265, Kolkata: ₹265, Kerala: ₹275, Ahmedabad: ₹265, Jaipur: ₹265, Lucknow: ₹265, Bhubaneswar: ₹275, Pune: ₹265

Experts say the recent rally is driven by domestic demand and short-term market volatility, while global prices have shown comparatively limited movement.

SPORTS

Mandhana Becomes India's T20 Six-Hitting Queen

Vikrama Vahini | Birmingham
Indian women's cricket star Smriti Mandhana scripted history by becoming the highest six-hitter for India in Women's T20 Internationals during India's emphatic victory over Pakistan in the Women's T20 World Cup.



Playing at Edgbaston in Birmingham, Mandhana scored a brilliant 68 off 44 balls, smashing nine boundaries and two sixes. With those two maximums, she took her tally to 87 sixes in T20 Internationals, surpassing the previous Indian record of 86 sixes held by captain Harmanpreet Kaur.

India A Set Stiff 266-Run Target for Sri Lanka A

Vikrama Vahini | Dambulla
India A posted a competitive total of 265 runs against Sri Lanka A in the fourth match of the Tri-Nation Series involving India A, Sri Lanka A and Afghanistan A at Dambulla on Monday.

India Turns Oil Storage into Strategic Power

India and the UAE have elevated their relationship through a landmark energy partnership that allows ADNOC to store crude oil in India's strategic reserves. The agreement strengthens India's energy security, boosts infrastructure development and expands bilateral cooperation in defence, technology, logistics and maritime security amid growing geopolitical uncertainties in West Asia.

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the UAE has strengthened India's long-term energy security, with both countries signing key agreements on oil storage, energy cooperation and strategic infrastructure.

Strategic Oil Storage Boost

A major agreement between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited and ADNOC will allow the UAE to store nearly 30 million barrels of crude oil in India. The move will strengthen India's emergency oil reserves while reducing the financial burden of expanding storage facilities.

Beyond Buyer-Seller Relationship

The pact marks a shift from a traditional oil trade relationship to a strategic energy partnership. By storing crude in India, the UAE gains a secure energy hub, while India



enhances its preparedness against global supply disruptions.

UAE Seeks Energy Security

Amid growing instability in West Asia, the UAE is diversifying its energy routes and logistics network. Investments in pipelines, shipping infrastructure and overseas storage facilities are part of Abu Dhabi's strategy to reduce dependence on vulnerable maritime routes.

India's Strategic Gains

India benefits from assured energy supplies, stronger ties with a key Gulf partner and increased investment in critical infrastructure. The partnership also supports India's efforts to build larger strategic petroleum reserves.

Expanding Cooperation

Beyond energy, India and the UAE have expanded cooperation in maritime security, cyber defence, advanced technologies, logistics and industrial development, reflecting the growing depth of bilateral ties.

Regional Importance

Analysts believe the agreement positions India as a key strategic partner in the Gulf region, while helping both countries navigate geopolitical uncertainties through stronger economic and security cooperation.

Sitharaman Hints at More Reforms

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday indicated that the Centre may introduce additional measures to attract foreign investment into India, stating that the recent initiatives announced by the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are only the beginning of a broader strategy to strengthen capital inflows.

Speaking at the Mindline Summit 2026, Sitharaman said India is closely monitoring global economic developments and preparing for challenges arising from rising crude oil, fertiliser and commodity prices. She noted that attracting foreign capital remains a key priority amid global uncertainties.

The Finance Minister said the government has expanded the list of government securities eligible under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR), allowing greater participation by foreign investors in India's bond market.



Tax exemptions on interest income and capital gains earned by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) in government securities have also been introduced to encourage overseas investment. The RBI has also taken steps to boost foreign exchange inflows, including permitting banks to access swap facilities for FCNR(B) deposits and launching forex swap mechanisms to support external commercial borrowings by public sector undertakings.

According to Sitharaman, these measures are expected to reduce currency hedging costs and help financial institutions raise funds more efficiently from global markets. With India importing nearly 87 per cent of its crude oil requirements, any disruption in the region could have significant economic implications.

She also pointed to rising fertiliser costs and supply concerns as emerging challenges. Despite global uncertainties, India's foreign exchange reserves remain strong, standing at \$681.61 billion for the week ended June 5.

Yogi Orders FIR Over Obscene Posts

Vikrama Vahini | Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed police to register FIRs against those posting obscene and derogatory comments on social media targeting the daughter of Samajwadi Party chief and former CM Akhilesh Yadav.

Speaking at a development event in Anjarh, the Chief Minister strongly condemned such remarks, saying that disrespect towards women will not be tolerated and urged leaders to ensure discipline among their supporters online.

He also warned of strict action if such behaviour continues. Meanwhile, cybercrime police in Kanpur have already registered FIRs against several social media users accused of sharing defamatory and manipulated content involving Akhilesh Yadav's daughter.



CJP Founder Slapped During Protest in Jaipur

Vikrama Vahini | Jaipur

Abhijit Deepke, founder of the Crocodile Janata Party (CJP), was allegedly assaulted during a protest in Jaipur, with videos of the incident going viral on social media.

The incident took place near Shaheed Smarak on Monday afternoon, where Deepke had called for a peaceful demonstration. While addressing supporters, he was reportedly attacked by a few individuals who pulled his scarf, slapped him multiple times, and tried to drag him down.

CJP had earlier organised student and youth protests across several cities, including Delhi, Amritsar, Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Lucknow, over alleged irregularities in NEET question paper leaks and CBSE-related issues. Deepke has been demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Reacting on X after the incident, Deepke said violence reflects fear and cowardice, adding that he would continue his protest through peaceful means inspired by Gandhi and Ambedkar, while reiterating his demand for the minister's resignation.

Indian-Origin Youth Stabbed to Death in London

Vikrama Vahini | London

A 26-year-old Indian-origin man was stabbed to death in London, in a shocking incident reported from the Southall area of West London.

The victim has been identified as Gurubhej Singh. Police said he was attacked outside a shop near the junction of North Road and Dormers Wells Lane, where unidentified assailants stabbed him multiple times.

Another person was also injured in the attack and was taken to hospital for treatment.

According to the London Ambulance Service, emergency teams were called to the scene around 12:30 am on Wednesday after reports of a stabbing. Police and medical personnel found two injured individuals, but Gurubhej Singh was declared dead at the spot.

In connection with the case, police initially arrested seven individuals aged between 20 and 30 on suspicion of murder.

Police have launched a detailed investigation and are reviewing CCTV footage from the surrounding area to identify the attackers. Authorities said further arrests are likely as the probe into the incident continues.

TTD Signs MoU with CSIR-CFTRI for Prasadam Quality Upgrade

Vikrama Vahini | Tirupati

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysuru, to improve the safety, quality, and nutritional standards of Srivari Prasadam.

The agreement was formalised during the RISE Conclave 2026 in Bengaluru in the presence of



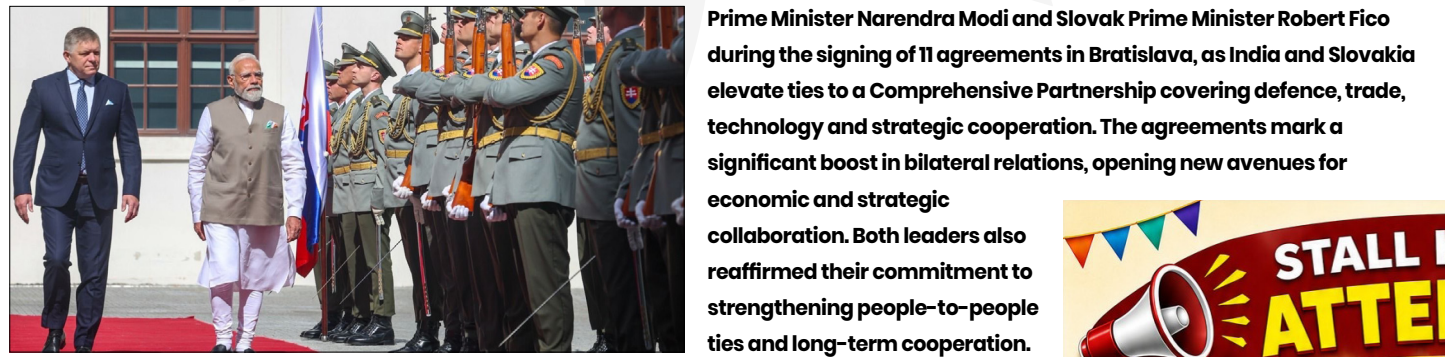
Union Minister Pralhad Joshi. TTD said the collaboration aims to ensure high food safety standards while preserving the traditional and religious

significance of prasadam. Under the MoU, both institutions will develop quality-control systems, standard operating procedures, and monitoring mechanisms for procurement, preparation, and distribution.

CSIR-CFTRI will also support modernisation of storage and testing systems, and provide training to TTD staff in advanced food analysis techniques.

Senior scientists will assist in implementation and quality validation at TTD facilities.

The initiative is expected to strengthen public confidence in the temple's food offerings by integrating scientific expertise with traditional practices, ensuring consistent quality and safety for the millions of devotees visiting Tirumala every year.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico during the signing of 11 agreements in Bratislava, as India and Slovakia elevate ties to a Comprehensive Partnership covering defence, trade, technology and strategic cooperation. The agreements mark a significant boost in bilateral relations, opening new avenues for economic and strategic collaboration. Both leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening people-to-people ties and long-term cooperation.

MONSOON FALTERS, RAINFALL DOWN 64%

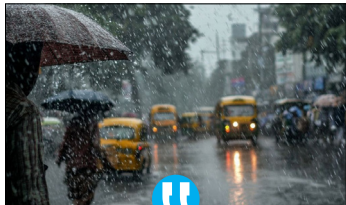
Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

India's southwest monsoon has entered a weak phase, resulting in a sharp decline in rainfall activity across several parts of the country. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the nation recorded a rainfall deficit of 64 per cent between June 4 and June 15.

Official data showed that India received only 19.2 mm of rainfall during the period, significantly lower than the normal average of 53.7 mm. Several regions across central, southern and eastern India have reported deficient rainfall, raising concerns among farmers and state authorities as the monsoon season progresses.

Weak Atmospheric Conditions Affect Rainfall: Meteorologists said that although the monsoon has advanced into parts of Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and central India, rainfall has remained below normal due to unfavourable atmospheric conditions.

Experts attributed the slowdown to disruptions in upper-level wind patterns that are essential for sustaining monsoon circulation



India has recorded a steep 64% rainfall deficit as the southwest monsoon enters a weak phase, with disrupted upper-atmospheric wind patterns affecting rainfall across several regions. While concerns are rising among farmers and authorities, weather experts expect monsoon activity to revive later this week if conditions become favourable.

across the country. While sufficient moisture remains available over surrounding seas, the mechanisms that transport rain-bearing systems inland have weakened temporarily.

Jet Stream Shift Behind Monsoon Pause: Weather scientists identified the unusual southward shift of the westerly jet stream as the primary reason for the current dry spell.

The fast-moving wind system is interfering with the upper-level easterly jet, which plays a crucial role in supporting monsoon activity over the Indian subcontinent.

As a result, the development of rain-bearing weather systems has been suppressed across many regions, leading to below-normal rainfall despite the continued advance of the monsoon.

Despite the present slowdown, meteorologists remain optimistic about an improvement in rainfall activity over the coming days. Weather agencies are closely monitoring atmospheric conditions and expect monsoon showers to strengthen if wind patterns become favourable later this week.

The revival of rainfall will be critical for agriculture and water resources, particularly in regions currently experiencing significant rainfall shortages. Farmers and agricultural experts are closely watching the rainfall situation, as continued deficiency could impact sowing activities in several regions. Authorities expect monsoon conditions to improve in the coming days, bringing much-needed relief to water-stressed areas

KEA Asks CET Candidates to Visit Office by June 19

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has asked candidates whose CET verification slips have not been downloaded to visit its office in person by June 19.

Executive Director H. Prasanna said the verification slip, which contains claim details and rank information, is mandatory before entering course options. He noted that issues such as missing PU marks and unverified academic documents are preventing downloads for some candidates.

He also said that Scheduled Caste candidates who have not updated their revised RD numbers under internal reservation categories (A, B, C) are facing similar issues. Such candidates must book an appointment through the KEA website and complete the verification process at the office.

Candidates have been advised to complete all pending document verification to avoid delays in CET counselling process.



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