

Samantha Ruth Prabhu's Maa Inti Bangaram has recovered its production cost even before release through theatrical, OTT and satellite rights, with the action-comedy set to hit theatres on June 19.

A political row has erupted in Karnataka over the proposed ₹18,000-crore Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township in Bidadi, with BJP MP Tejasvi Surya alleging misuse of PM Modi's name and irregularities in land acquisition.



INSIDE

### Good morning

To be successful you don't need beautiful face an heroic body. what you need is skillful mind and ability to perform.

### BRIEFS

#### SC Seeks Reply on Aadhaar Use Limits

► Vikrama Vahini | Delhi The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought responses from the Centre, all States and Union Territories on a petition seeking to restrict the use of Aadhaar strictly as proof of identity and not as proof of citizenship, domicile, residence or date of birth. A bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant issued notices on the plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay and tagged it with similar pending matters. The petition urged the Centre, States and the Election Commission to ensure Aadhaar is used only for identity verification, as provided under the Aadhaar Act, 2016. The plea alleged that Aadhaar is being wrongly accepted as proof of citizenship, residence and age for services such as voter registration, school admissions and government documents, despite legal provisions stating otherwise.

#### AP to Host National Launch of VB-G RAM G

► Vikrama Vahini | Delhi Andhra Pradesh will host the national launch of the rural livelihood scheme Viksit Bharat - Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) on July 1, Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on Tuesday. The decision was taken after a review meeting held in New Delhi with Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on the implementation of rural development and flagship welfare schemes in the state. According to an official statement, rural development ministers from all States and Union Territories will participate in the launch event through video conferencing, marking a coordinated national rollout of the programme aimed at strengthening rural livelihoods.

#### BS Sridhar Appointed OSD to CM

► Vikrama Vahini | B'luru The Karnataka government has appointed senior official BS Sridhar as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) and Joint Secretary to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. According to sources, Sridhar will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of government schemes, coordinating between departments, assisting in administrative matters, and supporting the Chief Minister in policy and governance-related issues. With this appointment, the administrative team in the Chief Minister's Office is expected to be further strengthened, ensuring faster execution of key government programs and development initiatives.

## IAF Officer's Wife Alleges Rape, Forced Conversion?

► Vikrama Vahini | Nagpur

A 24-year-old woman, wife of an Indian Air Force officer, has alleged that she was drugged, raped, blackmailed, and pressured to convert her religion in Nagpur. Police have arrested two accused and are searching for a third.

A viral video in which the woman is seen crying "Chhoro mujhe" (let me go) has emerged as key evidence in the case.

#### Allegations of Assault and Blackmail

According to the complaint, the man allegedly contacted the woman under the pretext of a property deal and later called her to a hotel. She claims she was given an intoxicating



substance and sexually assaulted while unconscious. The woman further alleged that objectionable videos were recorded and later used to blackmail

her, resulting in repeated exploitation and extortion of over ₹3.09 lakh.

#### Claims of Forced Conversion

The complaint also states that the accused pressured her to convert her religion and participate in religious rituals. She alleged that she was taken to a location in Kalmeshwar, where rituals were performed and she was falsely declared converted.

She further claimed that another attempt to assault her was made after the ceremony.

#### Police Action and Investigation

The matter came to light after the woman informed her husband, who serves in the Indian

Air Force and is currently posted outside Nagpur. A formal complaint was then filed at Sonegaon Police Station.

Police have arrested two accused identified as Ayyaz Taj Madare and Ameen Sheikh, while efforts are underway to trace a third suspect. A case has been registered under charges including rape, extortion, attempted forced conversion, and relevant provisions of the Maharashtra anti-black magic law.

#### Custody and Probe

The arrested accused have been remanded to five days of police custody as investigations continue.

# Modi, Trump Meet at G7

► Vikrama Vahini | Evian, France

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump held a brief interaction during the opening ceremony of the G7 Summit in Evian, France, on Tuesday, marking their first face-to-face meeting since February last year. The two leaders exchanged a handshake and were seen conversing during the traditional group photo session before taking their seats alongside other world leaders.

Prime Minister Modi is attending the three-day G7 Summit at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron. This marks India's 13th participation in the G7 Summit as a partner nation and Modi's seventh consecutive appearance at the annual gathering.

The summit has brought together leaders from major economies and partner countries, including European Council President Antonio Costa, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Brazilian President



Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and other global leaders to discuss key international issues.

On the sidelines of the summit, Modi and Trump are scheduled to hold bilateral talks on Wednesday. The meeting is expected to focus on strengthening

India-US strategic ties, trade and investment, defence cooperation, regional security, and other global developments.

The bilateral meeting assumes significance as it will be the first official engagement between the two leaders following recent developments,

including US tariff measures affecting India and heightened tensions in West Asia. The leaders are also expected to review progress on the bilateral trade framework agreed upon earlier this year and discuss ways to further deepen economic and strategic cooperation between the two countries.

## Cough Syrups Now Prescription-Only in India

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

In a major public health reform, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has made it mandatory to produce a doctor's prescription for the purchase of all syrup-based medicines, including cough syrups, across India. The new rule comes into effect from June 9, 2026, under the Drugs (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2026.



With this amendment, "syrups" have been removed from Schedule K of the Drugs Rules, 1945, effectively ending the earlier exemption that allowed their over-the-counter sale without prescription.

From now on, pharmacies can dispense any syrup-based medicine only after verifying a valid prescription issued by a registered medical practitioner.

The regulation covers all types of medicinal syrups, including general cough syrups, pediatric formulations, and those containing opioid substances such as codeine.

However, cough-related tablets, pills, and lozenges will continue to remain available without prescription.

According to the Health Ministry, the decision has been taken in response to growing concerns over drug misuse, the presence of addictive ingredients in certain

### No More OTC Cough Syrups in India

- Government makes doctor's prescription mandatory for all syrup-based medicines, including cough syrups.
- Rule effective from June 9, 2026 under Drugs (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2026.
- "Syrups" removed from Schedule K, ending over-the-counter (OTC) sale exemption.
- Applies to all cough syrups, including pediatric and codeine-based formulations.
- Tablets, pills, and lozenges for cough remain OTC (no prescription needed).
- Decision taken due to drug misuse concerns and child deaths linked to contaminated syrups in Madhya Pradesh.
- Aims to improve patient safety, regulate drug distribution, and prevent misuse.
- Pharmacies must now verify prescriptions before selling syrups.
- Patients must consult a doctor before buying cough syrup.

formulations, and recent incidents of contamination-linked child deaths in Madhya Pradesh, which claimed over 20 lives.

PG2

## Trump Rebukes Israel Over Lebanon Strikes

► Vikrama Vahini | Evian-les-Bains

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday expressed concern over Israel's ongoing military operations in Lebanon, warning that the strikes against Hezbollah had nearly derailed the recently negotiated peace agreement between the United States and Iran.

Speaking during a meeting with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France, Trump said Israel's military actions had resulted in heavy civilian casualties and stressed that Syria should take a greater role in addressing the Hezbollah issue. "Israel has been fighting Hezbollah for a long time, but too many innocent people have lost their lives. You don't have to destroy entire buildings every time you are targeting one individual," Trump reportedly said, adding that he had conveyed his concerns directly to Israeli leaders following Sunday's airstrikes on Beirut.

Trump's remarks came a day after the United States and Iran reportedly reached a digital agreement aimed at ending months of conflict in the Middle East.



## LNG Ship Disha Clears Strait of Hormuz

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Indian LNG carrier Disha has safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz after being stranded for over three months, marking one of the first signs of normalisation in maritime traffic in the Gulf region.

#### Vessel Carries LNG for India

The vessel, carrying over 62,000 metric tonnes of liquefied natural gas for India, is expected to reach Dahej in Gujarat in the coming days.

Its safe passage comes after the recent US-Iran peace framework aimed at easing tensions in the region.

#### Hope for 34 Stranded India-Bound Vessels

Disha's successful transit has raised hopes for at least 34 India-bound and foreign-flagged vessels that remain stuck in the Persian Gulf.

These ships have been awaiting safe passage since the escalation of conflict in the region.

#### First Test of Safe Maritime Movement

Managed by a Shipping Corporation of India-led



consortium, Disha is among the first Indian vessels to navigate the strategic waterway after the agreement. Maritime authorities are closely monitoring whether commercial shipping can resume fully in the coming days.

#### Hormuz Crisis Disrupted Global Trade

The Strait of Hormuz, a critical global route for oil and LNG shipments, had witnessed severe disruption due to the US-Iran conflict, with threats of missile and drone attacks forcing many vessels to halt movement.

#### Gradual Restoration Expected

Although the recent peace framework has improved conditions, experts say full restoration of shipping traffic may take time as operational safety and security measures are still being stabilised.

# CONGRESS RESORTS TO RESORT POLITICS

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The ruling Congress has adopted its familiar "resort strategy" ahead of the June 18 Karnataka Legislative Council (MLC) elections, shifting its MLAs to a private resort on the outskirts of Bengaluru to prevent any possibility of cross-voting in the closely contested polls.

The decision was taken during the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting held on Tuesday amid concerns that the election for the seventh and final MLC seat could witness unexpected political developments. Party legislators will stay at a resort near Wonderla amusement park until polling day and will be transported directly to the



Assembly to cast their votes.

The election is being held to fill seven

vacant seats in the Karnataka Legislative Council, with eight candidates in the

fray, making the contest highly competitive. Congress has fielded BK Hariprasad, Tippannappa Kamakanur, PV Mohan, BS Shivanna and Vinay Karthik Prakash, while the BJP has nominated Lingaraj Patil and R. Raghu. The JD(S) has fielded Govindraju.

With the Karnataka Assembly currently having an effective strength of 222 members, a candidate requires 28 first-preference votes to secure election. Based on the existing numbers, Congress is expected to comfortably win four seats, while the BJP is likely to secure two. However, the battle for the remaining seat has turned into a direct contest between Congress candidate Vinay Karthik Prakash and JD(S)

nominee Govindraju.

Congress leaders fear that even a small number of cross-votes could alter the outcome of the final seat, prompting the party to keep its legislators together until voting concludes. The move is aimed at ensuring party discipline and preventing any last-minute political manoeuvring by rival parties.

The development marks the return of Karnataka's well-known "resort politics," a strategy repeatedly employed by political parties during crucial elections and periods of political instability. The June 18 election is expected to be closely watched, particularly the contest for the seventh seat, which could be decided by a narrow margin.

Editorial

Review Without Disruption

The Karnataka government's decision to review the implementation of its flagship guarantee schemes is both timely and necessary. The five guarantees promised by the Congress during the Assembly election campaign played a decisive role in securing public support and ultimately helped the party return to power. Since assuming office, the government has made considerable progress in delivering on these commitments, with four of the five guarantees being implemented on a large scale. Given the enormous financial and administrative resources involved, a periodic assessment of these welfare programmes is essential to ensure that benefits are reaching the intended beneficiaries and that public funds are being utilized effectively. A responsible government must continuously evaluate its policies to improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

However, the process of review must be carried out with utmost care and sensitivity. Welfare schemes that directly impact millions of households cannot be subjected to abrupt changes or rigid verification exercises that create anxiety among beneficiaries. Many families have come to depend on these guarantees for financial support, access to essential services, and relief from rising living costs. Any review mechanism should therefore provide adequate time, clear communication, and reasonable opportunities for genuine beneficiaries to comply with verification requirements. The objective must be to eliminate misuse without causing inconvenience to deserving citizens. Administrative efficiency should not come at the cost of public trust, particularly when the schemes have become an integral part of the social welfare framework.

The government must also recognize the political significance of these guarantees. They were not merely election promises but a social contract between the administration and the people. Any perception that the government is attempting to dilute, delay, or withdraw these benefits could create uncertainty and undermine public confidence. At the same time, ensuring that only eligible beneficiaries receive assistance will strengthen the credibility and sustainability of the programmes in the long run. The challenge, therefore, lies in striking the right balance between accountability and accessibility. A well-planned, transparent, and citizen-friendly review process will not only safeguard the integrity of the guarantee schemes but also reinforce the government's commitment to fulfilling the promises on which it was elected.

-Editor

Grand Plans for Kempegowda Jayanti

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday announced that this year's Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Jayanti will be celebrated at the newly developed Kempegowda Layout on June 27 at 11.30 am.

Speaking to reporters after a preparatory meeting at Vidhana Soudha, Shivakumar said the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), under the leadership of its Chairman Harris, will undertake a massive plantation drive by planting 15 lakh saplings across the city. A newly constructed road in the Kempegowda Layout will also be inaugurated on the occasion.

He said the government has discussed the event's preparations with various organisations and community representatives. As in previous years, processions will begin from the four Kempegowda towers in Bengaluru, with ministers Ramalinga Reddy, Krishna Byre Gowda, K.J. George and Byrathi Suresh overseeing the arrangements. Separate teams will also coordinate events from Magadi and Kempegowda International Airport.

Shivakumar further announced that the state government will provide a grant of ₹1 lakh to organise Kempegowda Jayanti celebrations in all 224 Assembly constituencies. Additionally, ₹1 lakh each will be allocated for programmes in Bengaluru's 369 wards, with the dates to be finalised by the city's ministers.



Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar chairs the preparatory meeting for Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Jayanti at Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday. Ministers K.J. George, Ramalinga Reddy, K.H. Muniyappa, Krishna Byre Gowda, legislators, senior officials, representatives of various organisations and litterateurs were present. Shivakumar later addressed the media after the meeting.

The Deputy Chief Minister also said preparations are underway to establish a Town Planning College named after Nadaprabhu Kempegowda at the Visvesvaraya Technological University campus. He added that the Kempegowda Theme Park near the airport has been completed and will soon be opened to the public.

Emphasising the inclusive nature of the celebrations, Shivakumar said Kempegowda belongs to all communities and that people from every religion, caste and organisation

will participate in the Jayanti celebrations.

Shivakumar appealed to citizens to actively participate in the celebrations and support the plantation drive, describing it as a step towards building a greener and more sustainable Bengaluru. He said the government aims to honour Nadaprabhu Kempegowda's vision of planned urban development while promoting environmental conservation and strengthening the city's cultural heritage through the statewide celebrations.

Suggestions Put Forward at the Meeting

- \* Declare Nadaprabhu Kempegowda as the Cultural Icon of Bengaluru.
- \* Establish Kempegowda District Bhavans in all districts of Karnataka.
- \* Set up an International Park and an International Convention Centre in Kempegowda's name.
- \* Establish a Kempegowda Museum.
- \* Undertake cleaning and rejuvenation of Bengaluru's lakes in memory of Kempegowda.
- \* Organise workshops to create awareness on water management in Bengaluru based on the M.S. Swaminathan Committee recommendations.
- \* Include Kempegowda's life and contributions in school textbooks.
- \* Declare Kempegowda Jayanti as a government holiday.
- \* Install 50-60-foot-tall stone statues of Kempegowda at the four corners of Bengaluru.
- \* Develop Avati village in Bengaluru Rural district, which is associated with Kempegowda's legacy.

Cough Syrups Now Prescription-Only in India

From PGI

The government also noted that the World Health Organization had raised concerns regarding drug safety standards, prompting the need for stricter regulation.

Officials said that while urban areas already follow regulated pharmacy-based sales, the new rule will ensure uniform enforcement across rural and semi-urban regions where over-the-counter availability was previously common.

Under the revised guidelines, consumers will now be required to consult a registered medical practitioner, obtain a prescription, and present it at a licensed pharmacy to purchase any syrup-based medicine. Pharmacies have been directed to strictly comply with verification requirements, and violations may attract regulatory action.

The government stated that the move aims to curb misuse of cough syrups, improve patient safety, strengthen pharmaceutical quality control, and align India's drug distribution system with global safety standards.

While the regulation may introduce an additional step for patients, health authorities maintain that it is a necessary measure to ensure safer and more responsible use of medicines across the country.

“EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY”



Vikrama Vahini | B'luru

Bengaluru: Education must go beyond academic knowledge and focus on instilling moral values and social responsibility in students, said Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji of Adichunchanagiri Math.

Addressing the vocation ceremony of SJB Institute of Technology and SJB School of Architecture and Planning, the seer appreciated the efforts of Dr. Prakashanatha Swamiji in building educational institutions that have grown into multiple colleges educating thousands of students.

He said education should remove ignorance and provide wisdom that helps solve human problems, and urged students to work towards building a better society.

VTU Vice-Chancellor Dr. S. Vidyashankar, speaking as the chief guest, said that obtaining a degree marks the beginning of a new journey in a student's life. He stressed that learning is a lifelong process and emphasized the importance

of innovation and leadership skills to match global technological advancements. He added that students have a key role in building a developed India by 2047.

Dr. T.G. Seetharam noted that India is evolving from a technology-consuming nation into a technology-creating nation. He urged young engineers to become job creators rather than job seekers and to explore opportunities in artificial intelligence, green infrastructure, and smart cities.

Ramesh B.V., Managing Director of Bosch Rexroth, highlighted the importance of industry-relevant skills such as curiosity, adaptability, and teamwork.

The 22nd convocation of SJBIT and the 9th convocation of SJB School of Architecture and Planning was held at the BGS and SJB auditorium as part of the institution's silver jubilee celebrations. Degrees were awarded to graduates of B.E., M.Tech., MBA, MCA, B.Arch., and M.Arch. programmes.

Principal Dr. K.V. Mahendra Prashanth said the institution has completed 25 years of academic excellence, achieving NAAC A+ accreditation and NBA recognition. He highlighted student achievements, global placements, and faculty research contributions.

He acknowledged the guidance of Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji and Dr. Prakashanatha Swamiji, stating that their vision and support have been instrumental in the institution's growth. He urged graduating students to become socially responsible citizens who contribute to national development.

Architect R. Bharat Gowda emphasized that architecture is not just about designing buildings but shaping human lives, stressing the need for sustainable design, Indian heritage, and modern technological integration.

The convocation concluded successfully in the divine presence of spiritual leaders and academic dignitaries, marking a significant milestone in the institution's journey.

NEWS

Vijayendra, Kharge Spar Over RSS Remarks

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The National Herald controversy resurfaced on Tuesday as Karnataka BJP leader Vijayendra Yediyurappa launched a sharp counterattack on Minister Priyank Kharge over his remarks questioning the transparency of the RSS, further intensifying political tensions in the state.

Reacting to Kharge's criticism of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Vijayendra said it was "ironic" for the Congress leader to raise questions on transparency while the century. Yediyurappa further said that RSS shakhas are open to the public and its activities can be observed at the community level.

"Transparency sounds rich coming from someone whose party still owes clear answers on the National Herald controversy," he said, directly targeting Priyank Kharge.

He alleged that Kharge's remarks were politically motivated and aimed at gaining approval from party leadership. "This selective moral outrage is nothing but a desperate attempt

to please the High Command," he said.

Defending the RSS, Vijayendra said the organisation's credibility was built through decades of social service and grassroots work. He added that the RSS does not require validation from any political party.

He cited the organisation's work in areas such as flood relief, blood donation drives, and tribal welfare programmes, stating that volunteers have been consistently engaged in public service activities for over a century. Yediyurappa further said that RSS shakhas are open to the public and its activities can be observed at the community level.

He also remarked that criticism of the RSS would not change its public acceptance, adding that such attacks were aimed at diverting attention from governance issues.

The exchange has once again escalated political confrontation in Karnataka, with the National Herald issue emerging as a renewed flashpoint between the Congress and BJP.



KARNATAKA EXPORTS RISE 9.5% IN FY26

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka's total exports have grown by 9.5 per cent in FY 2025-26, reaching Rs 19.7 lakh crore, further strengthening the state's position as India's leading software and services exporter, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said on Tuesday.

According to the Chief Minister's Office, the state has also maintained its strong performance in merchandise exports, ranking among the top exporting states in the country. Industries Minister M B Patil

said Karnataka continues to play a key role in India's economic growth, retaining its No. 1 position in software and services exports and securing fourth place in merchandise exports.

The government said the consistent growth reflects investor confidence and Karnataka's continued leadership in the IT and services sector.

Officials said the state government is focusing on

further strengthening export-driven industries through improved infrastructure, policy support, and expansion of technology and manufacturing clusters across Karnataka.

The government also plans to boost logistics efficiency and ease of doing business to support exporters.

Special emphasis will be placed on expanding global market access for Karnataka-based industries.



HEALTH & Lifestyle

Excessive Smartphone Use Raises Wrist Disorder Risk

With smartphones, laptops and gaming devices becoming an integral part of everyday life, health experts are warning that prolonged use of digital gadgets is contributing to a sharp rise in cases of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (CTS)—a condition that affects the wrist and hand.

Medical experts say the growing dependence on digital devices has significantly increased stress on the wrist, making early awareness and timely intervention essential to prevent long-term nerve damage.

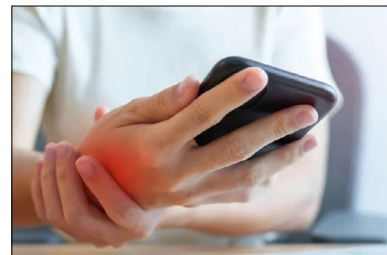
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome occurs when the median nerve, one of the major nerves controlling sensation and movement in the hand, becomes compressed as it passes through a narrow passage in the wrist known as the carpal tunnel.

Continuous typing, prolonged smartphone scrolling, gaming or repetitive wrist movements can put excessive pressure on this nerve, leading to pain, numbness and weakness in the hand and fingers.

If left untreated, the condition can gradually worsen and may result in permanent nerve damage and reduced hand function.

People suffering from Carpal Tunnel Syndrome may experience several warning signs, including:

- Persistent pain in the wrist
- Tingling or numbness in the thumb, index and middle fingers
- Burning sensation in the fingers
- Weak grip and difficulty holding objects
- Reduced strength in the hand



Pain that becomes more severe during the night

While excessive smartphone and computer use are major contributing factors, certain medical conditions can further increase the risk of developing CTS. People with diabetes, thyroid disorders, obesity and those performing repetitive hand movements for long hours are more susceptible to the condition.

Experts advise taking a short break every 45 to 60 minutes while working on computers or smartphones to relax the muscles and improve blood circulation.

Doctors caution that persistent wrist pain, numbness or tingling should not be dismissed as temporary fatigue. Early diagnosis and treatment—including wrist splints, physiotherapy, medication and, in severe cases, surgery—can prevent permanent nerve damage and restore normal hand function.

With digital device usage continuing to rise across all age groups, maintaining proper hand posture, limiting prolonged screen time and recognising the early signs of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome can go a long way in protecting long-term wrist health.

SCIENCE & Technology

World Cup Fake Sites Steal Fans' Data

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Cybersecurity experts have warned of a sharp rise in online fraud linked to the FIFA World Cup, with hackers creating fake websites, apps, and social media accounts to target fans worldwide.

Security researchers report the detection of more than 1,100 malicious FIFA-related websites, along with thousands of fraudulent domains and impersonation accounts designed to trick users into sharing payment and personal details.

Scammers are exploiting high demand for tickets, merchandise, streaming services, and travel bookings by creating convincing fake platforms. These sites are being used to steal credit card information, OTPs, and authentication data.

Cybersecurity firms have also uncovered sophisticated campaigns suspected to be linked to international hacker groups. These operations are capable of tracking users during transactions and capturing sensitive financial information in real time.

Fraudulent links are being widely circulated through WhatsApp, Telegram, and Discord, often just before matches begin. Some fake downloads and PDFs are also being used to deliver malware and cryptocurrency mining software.

Experts say artificial intelligence is making cyber scams more realistic by generating fake messages, invoices, videos, and brand communications tailored to victims' language and location.

Fans Urged to Stay Alert. Authorities have advised fans to verify official websites, avoid unknown links, and use strong security authentication methods while purchasing tickets or accessing World Cup-related services.

### 3 Held in Digital Arrest Cyber Fraud Case

**Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**  
Karnataka Police have busted a "digital arrest" cyber fraud syndicate with alleged links to Pakistan, arresting three persons and apprehending the suspected kingpin in a major crackdown on organised cybercrime, officials said on Tuesday.

According to investigators, the gang ran a sophisticated fraud network by impersonating law enforcement and government officials. Victims were intimidated through phone and video calls with false claims that they were involved in criminal cases and were placed under so-called "digital arrest" to extort money.

Police said the operation led to the arrest of three accused, while the alleged mastermind was also taken into custody. Preliminary findings suggest cross-border links, including suspected coordination



from handlers based in Pakistan. The accused reportedly used mule bank accounts, SIM cards and digital communication platforms to deceive victims and transfer illicit funds. Officials said financial records, communication data and digital devices seized during the operation are being analysed.

Investigators are continuing efforts to identify additional members of the network and trace the full money trail. Further arrests are expected as the probe expands into possible international connections.

Police said "digital arrest" scams are among the fastest-growing cybercrimes in India, where fraudsters pose as officials from agencies such as police, CBI, ED, customs or telecom departments to pressure victims into transferring money under threat of arrest.

### Tamil Nadu: ₹1.28 L Debt on Every Newborn

**Vikrama Vahini | Chennai**  
A white paper released by the Tamil Nadu government has raised concerns over the state's growing debt burden, estimating the total liabilities at ₹13.18 lakh crore.

According to the report, the direct debt alone has risen to nearly ₹10 lakh crore, nearly doubling over the last five years from about ₹4.8 lakh crore.

The report highlights that the debt burden now translates to an average liability of around ₹1.28 lakh on every child born in the state.

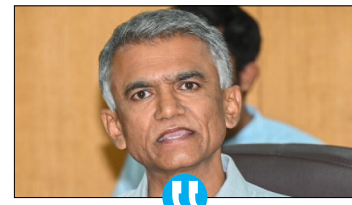
Finance officials noted that the fiscal deficit has reached ₹78,324 crore, while about 22.8 per cent of the state's revenue is being used for interest payments. GST revenue growth has been recorded at just 5.45 per cent, which the report says is insufficient to match rising expenditure and debt obligations.

### GBA ROW ENDS AS BYREGOWDA TAKES CHARGE

**Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**  
Karnataka Minister for Bengaluru Development Krishna Byregowda on Tuesday formally assumed charge of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), ending nearly two weeks of uncertainty following dissatisfaction over cabinet portfolio allocation.

Byregowda had stayed away from the department for 13 days after being assigned responsibility for the GBA without control over key agencies such as the Bengaluru Development Authority and the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority. He took charge after intervention by the Congress high command.

The breakthrough reportedly came after discussions facilitated by Karnataka Congress in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala.



**Krishna Byregowda has assumed charge of the Greater Bengaluru Authority after a 13-day standoff, reviewing key civic projects and monsoon preparedness while signalling a renewed focus on Bengaluru's urban governance and infrastructure development.**

The minister later visited the GBA headquarters and chaired his first review meeting with senior officials.

Soon after assuming charge, he held discussions with senior bureaucrats, including Urban

Department Additional Chief Secretary Tushar Giri Nath and GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao. Commissioners and chief engineers of Bengaluru's five municipal corporations also attended the meeting.

Officials briefed him on ongoing civic works, urban infrastructure projects, and administrative structure of the newly formed authority. The minister reviewed progress on road white-topping works, lake rejuvenation programmes, revenue collection, tax recovery and implementation of the e-Khata system.

Byregowda expressed concern over delays in desilting stormwater drains and warned officials of accountability in case of flooding due to negligence.

## Tejasvi Surya Slams GBIT Project, Sparks Row

**Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**  
A major political controversy has erupted in Karnataka over the proposed ₹18,000-crore Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) in Bidadi, with BJP MP Tejasvi Surya accusing the state government of misusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's name and alleging irregularities in land acquisition.

Surya claimed that farmers were not properly consulted and alleged violations in the acquisition process. He also extended support to ongoing farmer protests and demanded greater transparency in the implementation of the project.

The opposition BJP and JD(S) have jointly escalated their protest against the township, writing to Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi seeking his intervention to halt the



**The proposed ₹18,000-crore GBIT township has sparked a political storm in Karnataka, with the BJP and JD(S) alleging irregular land acquisition and misuse of the Prime Minister's name, while the state government defends the project as vital for Bengaluru's future growth.**

acquisition of nearly 7,500 acres of farmland across several villages.

In a letter, Karnataka BJP chief Vijayendra Yediyurappa alleged that over 3,500 farmers were opposing the project and accused the government of ignoring their concerns.

JD(S) leaders, including Nikhil Kumaraswamy, alleged that land acquisition

procedures were carried out without proper consent and in violation of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Act, 2013.

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy also criticised the project, calling it a real estate-driven initiative and raising concerns over financial transparency and proposed funding

mechanisms.

The Karnataka government has defended the township plan, stating that it is necessary to support Bengaluru's rapid urban growth and ease pressure on existing infrastructure.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the project follows established planning norms and will proceed as part of long-term urban development. He also noted that earlier discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi had broadly supported the idea of developing satellite townships to decongest Bengaluru.

With political positions hardening on both sides, the Bidadi township project has emerged as a major flashpoint in the state, highlighting the ongoing debate between development priorities and farmers' land rights.

### Railway Exam Row Rekindled Over Kannada Exclusion

**Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**  
The South Western Railway has come under renewed criticism after rescheduling a promotional examination for June 25 without including Kannada as an option, sparking strong opposition from Kannada organisations.

The exam for the Goods Train Manager and other posts was earlier cancelled following protests against the exclusion of Kannada. However, the revised notification again permits only English and Hindi, prompting fresh outrage from pro-Kannada groups.

Karnataka Rakshana Vedike leader T.A. Narayana Gowda has warned of protests at examination centres in Bengaluru, Mysuru and Hubballi, alleging discrimination against Kannada candidates. The organisation has demanded that the railway authorities immediately revise the notification to include Kannada as a medium for the exam. The issue has intensified calls for immediate policy intervention to ensure linguistic inclusivity in recruitment examinations.

## Live Up to People's Trust: CM to Doctors

**Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**  
Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday urged the medical fraternity to uphold the immense trust reposed in them by society, saying doctors are regarded as 'demigods' by the people and must serve with compassion and integrity.

Addressing the 28th Annual Convocation of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences

(RGUHS) at the GKVK campus, the Chief Minister called upon young doctors to extend quality healthcare to rural areas and help reduce migration to cities. He said Karnataka's medical education system is among the best in the world and praised the contribution of doctors from the state serving across the globe.



Highlighting Karnataka's strength in healthcare education, Shivakumar said the state produces around 72,000 health science graduates, including 13,940 doctors, every year through its 72 medical colleges—the highest in the country.

He noted that RGUHS, with 1,044 affiliated colleges, has produced nearly

eight lakh graduates over the past three decades.

The Chief Minister stressed that the quality of teachers determines the strength of a university and urged faculty members to become mentors and promote research.

He also assured the government's continued support for RGUHS and lauded Medical Education Minister Sharanaprakash Patil for

bringing discipline and efficiency to the department.

Recalling his own educational journey, Shivakumar said he completed his degree at the age of 47 after entering politics early in life. Congratulating the graduating students, he urged them to pursue their profession with dedication, ideals and a commitment to serving humanity.

### ENTERTAINMENT

## Alia Set to Join Kalki 2898 AD: Part 2?

**Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai**  
Speculation surrounding the cast of Kalki 2898 AD: Part 2 has intensified, with reports suggesting that Bollywood star Alia Bhatt may join the much-awaited sequel after Deepika Padukone reportedly decided not to continue with the project.

Deepika played a pivotal role in the first instalment of the Prabhas-starrer, which emerged as one of the biggest blockbusters of 2024. Production on the sequel began last month, with Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan and Kamal Haasan already participating in the shoot. According to media reports, the filmmakers have begun looking for a replacement for Deepika's character. While earlier rumours claimed that Sai Pallavi had been approached for the role and had agreed to join the project, fresh reports now suggest that Alia Bhatt has also been brought on board. However, it remains unclear whether Alia will portray Deepika's character or an entirely new role.

Industry buzz indicates that Deepika's reported exit is linked to her demand for an eight-hour work schedule, which allegedly created scheduling challenges for the production. The actress was also recently reported to have exited Prabhas' upcoming film Spirit for similar reasons, although there has been no official confirmation.

Directed by Nag Ashwin and produced by Vyjayanthi Movies, Kalki 2898 AD: Part 2 features an ensemble cast including Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan and Disha Patani. Reports also suggest that Sai Pallavi may feature in the sequel, while actress Keerthy Suresh is expected to lend her voice to a key character.

The makers have not officially confirmed any of the reported casting changes, and fans are awaiting an announcement regarding the final line-up for the sequel. An official announcement from the filmmakers is expected in the coming weeks as production of the highly anticipated sequel gathers pace.

## Cocktail 2 Cleared With 'A' Certificate

**Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**  
The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has granted an 'A' (Adults Only) certificate to Shahid Kapoor, Kriti Sanon and Rashmika Mandanna-starrer Cocktail 2, clearing the much-awaited romantic drama for theatrical release on June 19 after directing the makers to implement six modifications.

According to the CBFC's recommendations, the film underwent a series of changes before certification. The Board instructed the makers to remove an objectionable curse word appearing in the subtitles, replace the word 'Agni' with 'Diya', and alter the phrase 'Jew on the run'.

In addition, the producers were asked to include an end-credit disclaimer in all approved languages, insert subtitles for one of the film's songs, and make a few other minor corrections to comply with certification guidelines.

Directed by Homi Adajania, Cocktail 2 has a runtime of 2 hours and 30 minutes. The film has been written by Tarun Jain and Luv Ranjan and is produced by Maddock Films. It serves as a spiritual sequel to the 2012 blockbuster Cocktail, which featured Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone and Diana Penry.

While retaining the title and contemporary relationship theme, the sequel introduces a fresh story and an entirely new cast.

The film has already generated considerable excitement among moviegoers ahead of its release. Advance bookings opened earlier this week, with nearly 13,000 tickets sold across three major national multiplex chains for the opening day, indicating a strong initial response at the box office.

Trade analysts expect the film to register healthy collections during its opening weekend, aided by its star-studded cast and franchise value.

The certification also marks a milestone for the lead actors. It is Shahid Kapoor's fifth film to receive an 'A' certificate, Rashmika Mandanna's second after the blockbuster Animal, and Kriti Sanon's first adult-certified film. With the CBFC clearance now in place, Cocktail 2 is set for a nationwide theatrical release on June 19. With its star-studded cast, franchise appeal and strong advance bookings, Cocktail 2 is expected to emerge as one of the biggest Bollywood releases of the season.

### BUSINESS

## SEBI Revamps ETF Trading Rules

**Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**  
The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a new trading framework for Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), bringing in dynamic price bands, an updated base-price calculation system and a pre-open call auction mechanism for commodity-based ETFs. The revised norms will come into effect from September 1.

The market regulator said the changes are aimed at improving price discovery, enhancing market efficiency and ensuring ETF prices more accurately reflect movements in their underlying assets. Under the existing framework, ETF price limits were determined using a Net Asset Value (NAV) that was two trading days old. SEBI noted that this often resulted in ETF prices failing to keep pace with current market conditions, particularly during periods of high volatility.

To address the issue, the regulator has introduced dynamic price bands that will adjust according to market movements, allowing ETF prices to respond more effectively to changes in the value of the underlying portfolio while maintaining safeguards against excessive volatility.

The new framework also revises the methodology for calculating base prices, enabling trading limits to be aligned with more recent market data.

In a significant move, SEBI has also introduced a pre-open call auction for commodity ETFs. The mechanism is expected to improve price discovery, especially for products linked to globally traded commodities whose prices fluctuate outside Indian trading hours.

According to SEBI, the revised norms covering base-price determination, dynamic price bands, pre-open auctions and close-out provisions are designed to reduce pricing mismatches caused by delayed reference prices and fixed trading limits.

The regulator said the reforms form part of its broader efforts to strengthen market transparency, enhance investor confidence and ensure ETF trading remains closely aligned with the performance of the underlying asset markets.

SEBI said the new framework is expected to create a more efficient and transparent ETF market, benefiting both retail and institutional investors.

SPORTS

**Indian Women Beat Japan 2-1 to Reach FIH Nations Cup Semis**

► Vikrama Vahini | Auckland

The Indian women's hockey team continued its strong run at the FIH Nations Cup with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Japan, securing a place in the semi-finals and finishing on top of Pool A on Tuesday.

India, ranked 8th in the FIH world rankings, recorded its second win of the tournament after earlier victories against the USA and Japan.

The opening half remained goalless as both sides struggled to break through strong defensive lines. India took the lead in the third quarter when a shot from Navneet Kaur was deflected into the goal, giving the team a 1-0 advantage.

Japan responded quickly, equalising through Hiramitsu from a penalty corner just two minutes later to make it 1-1.

The decisive moment came in the 49th minute when Lalremliam scored the winning goal. A precise pass from Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam set up the opportunity, which Lalremliam calmly converted to seal the match for India.

With this win, India topped Pool A with six points and confirmed their place in the semi-finals. The team will now face Uruguay in their final Pool A match on Thursday.

The match also marked a milestone for midfielder Jyoti, who completed her 100th international appearance for India.

India's strong performance has further boosted its campaign in the tournament as it aims for the title and improved international standing.

**Triple Cricket Feast Today**

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Indian cricket fans are set for a packed day of action on June 17 as three Indian teams—the senior men's team, the women's team and the India A side—will be in action across different tournaments.

The Indian men's team will take on Afghanistan in the second One-Day International (ODI) of the three-match series at the Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow. India, led by Shubman Gill, secured a convincing seven-wicket victory in the rain-curtailed opening match at Dharamsala and will look to clinch the series with another win.

The first ODI was reduced to 25 overs per side due to rain. Afghanistan posted 194 runs before India comfortably chased down the target with seven balls to spare, losing only three wickets. A victory in the second ODI would hand India an unassailable 2-0 lead, while an Afghanistan win would level the series 1-1. The match is scheduled to begin at 1.30 pm IST.

Meanwhile, the Indian women's team will face the Netherlands in its second league-stage match of the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup at Headingley.

India began its campaign on a high, defeating Pakistan by 64 runs after posting 170 runs and bowling out their rivals for 106. The win placed India second in the points table.

The Netherlands, on the other hand, suffered a defeat to Bangladesh in their opening fixture and will be aiming for a strong comeback. The match starts at 7 pm IST, with the toss scheduled for 6.30 pm.

**Modi-Trump Meet Headlines G7 Summit**

► Vikrama Vahini | Evian, France

A scheduled bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France is set to be one of the most closely watched diplomatic engagements of the event.

Leaders of major economies have gathered in the lakeside resort town of Evian for the 52nd G7 Summit amid global geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, and ongoing security challenges.

**Key Focus on Trade, Energy and Global Conflicts**

The Modi-Trump meeting is expected to focus on bilateral trade, tariff issues, global energy security, regional conflicts, and broader geopolitical developments.

The discussions come at a time when global markets are closely watching recent developments involving Iran and the reported agreement aimed at easing tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global energy route.



**India's Role in Global Diplomacy**

Prime Minister Modi's participation underscores India's growing role in international diplomacy. As a major emerging economy, India is expected to contribute to discussions on global trade, energy security, digital governance, and reforms in multilateral institutions.

**Ukraine War and Global Security on Agenda**

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine is expected to remain a central issue at the summit, with G7 leaders reviewing continued

support for Kyiv amid ongoing hostilities.

French President Emmanuel Macron has also invited several partner nations, including India, Brazil, South Korea, Kenya, and Egypt, reflecting a broader push for inclusive global dialogue.

**Trump's Meetings Draw Global Attention**

President Trump's engagements, including bilateral meetings with key global leaders, are expected to draw significant attention as nations seek clarity on US positions regarding international conflicts and economic policies.

**Summit Highlights Global Uncertainty**

The two-day summit is taking place under France's G7 presidency and will focus on global crises, energy stability, organised crime, digital safety, and strengthening international cooperation in a rapidly changing world.

The Modi-Trump meeting is expected to be a key indicator of the future direction of India-US relations and their role in global decision-making.

**10 Arrested in Mule Account Cyber Fraud Case**

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Delhi Police's East District has busted a well-organised mule bank account supply gang and arrested 10 accused involved in providing bank accounts to cyber fraudsters operating across the country.

**Huge Cache of Digital Evidence Recovered**

During the operation, police recovered 11 POS machines, 27 cheque books, 17 ATM cards, and 12 mobile phones, all allegedly used in routing proceeds of online financial frauds.

**Fraud Money Routed Through Mule Accounts**

According to police, the gang used mule accounts to receive and transfer money earned through cyber frauds. In one case, ₹2 lakh allegedly siphoned from a Kerala-based victim was traced to one such account, leading to the breakthrough.

**Accused Identified**

The arrested individuals have been identified as Vijay Kumar, Pradeep Kumar, Yatender

Kumar, Mukesh, Vinesh, Gurbaj Singh, Aman, Suraj Yadav, Gaurav Nahar, and Laxman.

**Modus Operandi of the Gang**

Police said the accused targeted unemployed and financially weak individuals with fake job offers and incentives. They then obtained control over bank accounts, ATM cards, cheque books, and internet banking credentials, which were later supplied to cyber criminals.

**Police Warning to Public**

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Rajeev Kumar urged citizens not to share or sell their bank accounts or banking credentials, warning that such actions can facilitate cyber fraud and attract legal action.

**Investigation Continues**

The case was uncovered during an investigation into a cyber fraud complaint, and further financial trail analysis revealed a wider interstate network involved in supplying mule accounts to cyber criminals.



**Mamata Moves HC Over Bhawanipur Result**

► Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata

TMC chief Mamata Banerjee has moved the Calcutta High Court challenging the election result of Bhawanipur constituency, where she reportedly suffered a defeat in the recently concluded West Bengal Assembly elections.

Banerjee, who personally filed the petition at the court registry, has questioned the validity of the result amid growing political turmoil within the Trinamool Congress.

The development comes at a time when the party is also facing internal dissent, with reports of a large section of TMC MPs expressing rebellion in the Lok Sabha and signalling support to the NDA.

In response, Banerjee has undertaken a major organisational reshuffle, removing several key leaders from party posts and appointing new office-bearers in an attempt to tighten control over the party structure.

**Split Buzz Rocks Uddhav Sena**

**Speculation over a possible split in Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) has resurfaced after several MPs skipped a key meeting at Matoshree, with leaders denying any internal rift ahead of the party's foundation day celebrations.**

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Fresh speculation over a possible split in the Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) has intensified after several party MPs skipped a crucial meeting convened by Uddhav Thackeray at his residence, Matoshree, in Mumbai.

Out of the party's nine Lok Sabha MPs, only Arvind Sawant, Anil Desai, Sanjay Dina Patil and Rajabhau Waje attended the meeting in person. Sanjay Jadhav, Sanjay Deshmukh, Omraje Nimbalkar, Bhausaheb Wakchaure and Nagesh Patil Ashtikar were absent, triggering speculation that some MPs were in touch with leaders of the NDA. The party later clarified that the absent MPs had participated virtually.

Political chatter gained further momentum after the same group of MPs reportedly skipped Aditya Thackeray's birthday celebration a day earlier, fuelling rumours of internal unrest similar to the 2022 split that led to the formation of the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction.

Dismissing reports of rebellion, MP Bhausaheb Wakchaure said he remained loyal to Uddhav Thackeray but remarked, "Don't ask me about tomorrow," a statement that added to the speculation.

Reports also claimed that Uddhav Thackeray told party leaders during the meeting that those wishing to leave were free to

do so.

However, Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut strongly denied the claim, asserting that no such statement was made.

Raut also dismissed rumours of an "Operation Tiger" and maintained that the party remained united.

Questions were also raised after MP Sanjay Deshmukh met Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav of the Shinde-led Shiv Sena. Party leaders clarified that the meeting was purely related to constituency development and had no political significance.

Senior leaders Arvind Sawant and Anil Desai also rejected reports of any internal crisis, describing the split rumours as

baseless and politically motivated.

Attention has now shifted to June 19, when Shiv Sena will celebrate its 60th Foundation Day at Mumbai's Shanmukhanand Hall.

Uddhav Thackeray is expected to use the occasion to demonstrate the party's unity and strength ahead of a meeting of all party MLAs scheduled for June 22.

Meanwhile, political observers say the coming days will be crucial for the Shiv Sena (UBT), as the leadership seeks to project unity amid repeated reports of dissent and shifting loyalties within Maharashtra's opposition politics.

Party leaders are expected to closely monitor the situation and prevent any further confusion within the organisation.



**"IRAN AGREES TO NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS"**

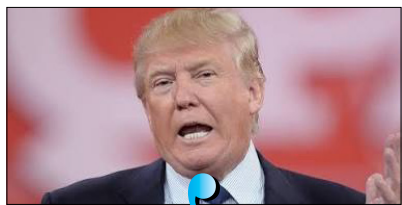
► Vikrama Vahini | Washington

US President Donald Trump has stated that Iran has agreed to "never have a nuclear weapon" under a new framework agreement between Washington and Tehran. The development comes amid ongoing diplomatic discussions aimed at finalising a broader understanding between the two countries.

Trump also strongly dismissed media reports claiming that the United States would pay Iran USD 300 million as part of the agreement. In a post on Truth Social, he called the claims "fake news" and accused political opponents of spreading misinformation. "Iran has agreed to never have a Nuclear Weapon! Also, the story that the US is paying Iran 300 million Dollars is Fake News," Trump wrote.

According to reports, the memorandum of understanding outlines a broad framework for future cooperation, including possible sanctions relief in exchange for Iran's compliance with nuclear verification requirements and regional security commitments. The agreement has reportedly been mediated by Pakistan.

Officials also indicated that the deal includes efforts to extend a ceasefire and support the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global oil shipping route.



**Trump says Iran has agreed to never develop nuclear weapons under a new US-Iran framework agreement, while dismissing reports of a USD 300 million American payment as "fake news." Though a formal signing is expected in Switzerland, key technical details of the deal remain under negotiation.**

A formal signing ceremony is expected to take place in Switzerland on Friday. Reports suggest that Trump, US Vice President JD Vance, and Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf have already electronically signed the memorandum.

Despite progress, several aspects of the agreement remain under negotiation. Speaking to CNN, Vice President JD Vance said the document currently serves only as a broad framework and that technical discussions are still required. "The MOU...is about a page and half so it is a very general document," Vance said, adding that further negotiations will be needed to finalise details.

**₹53,000 Cr SCSP/TSP Fund Misuse Alleged**

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Council Chalavadi T Narayanaswamy has alleged large-scale misuse of funds under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), claiming that ₹53,059 crore meant for welfare schemes has been diverted.

In a letter to the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of SCs and STs, Dr Faggan Singh Kulaste, Narayanaswamy urged immediate intervention and an investigation into what he termed a violation of the SCSP/TSP Act, 2013.

He alleged that funds allocated for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were illegally transferred to guarantee schemes implemented by the state government. The letter provides year-wise figures of alleged diversion and calls it a serious constitutional violation requiring urgent attention.

The Opposition has demanded a high-level probe and strict action to ensure accountability in the alleged fund diversion.



**Kiran Shaw Backs Shivakumar's Vision**



► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has extended her support to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's vision of transforming Bengaluru into a world-class city, lending industry backing to the Karnataka government's urban development plans.

During a meeting with Shivakumar, who also holds the Bengaluru Development portfolio, Mazumdar-Shaw discussed the city's infrastructure needs, mobility challenges and measures to strengthen Bengaluru's position as a global technology and innovation hub.

Shivakumar said the discussions focused on improving urban infrastructure, governance, transport and the overall quality of life through collaborative efforts between the government and industry.

The meeting comes as the state government pushes ahead with development initiatives under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) framework to address long-pending civic issues and accelerate infrastructure projects across the city.

Mazumdar-Shaw, who has often highlighted Bengaluru's infrastructure shortcomings, welcomed the government's renewed focus on city development.

She reiterated that while Bengaluru possesses world-class talent and innovation, significant improvements in roads, traffic management, waste disposal and civic amenities are essential to realise its full global potential.

Her endorsement is seen as significant as the Karnataka government continues to engage industry leaders and entrepreneurs in shaping Bengaluru's future growth and infrastructure reforms.

**Hyderabad to Unveil Donald Trump Avenue**

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Telangana government will inaugurate Donald Trump Avenue, a road near the US Consulate in Hyderabad, on June 23, as part of its initiative to honour distinguished global and national personalities through public infrastructure.

The road, whose naming was announced in December last year, is expected to become one of the city's prominent landmarks due to its location adjoining the American diplomatic mission. Officials said preparations for the inauguration are in the final stages.

In another tribute, the state government has decided to name an upcoming greenfield radial road linked to the proposed Regional Ring Road (RRR) after late industrialist Ratan Tata, recognising his immense contribution to India's industrial and economic development.

**NEET Leak Row: Why Telegram Faced Action, Not WhatsApp**

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Centre has temporarily restricted access to Telegram in India till June 22 in connection with alleged NEET question paper leak cases, aiming to curb misuse of the platform ahead of the NEET re-exam scheduled on June 21. The move follows recommendations from the National Testing Agency (NTA), with the Ministry of Electronics and IT also disabling the message editing feature on the platform till June 30.

According to officials, Telegram channels were widely used to circulate and amplify alleged paper leak claims, prompting concerns over exam integrity and student safety. The government said the action is part of a broader crackdown on digital platforms being misused for exam-related fraud.

Meanwhile, WhatsApp has not been restricted, as officials highlighted key differences between the two platforms. WhatsApp has limits on group size and a short message-editing window, making large-scale anonymous dissemination difficult. In contrast, Telegram allows large broadcast channels with massive reach, anonymous usernames, unrestricted file sharing, and automated bots, which have reportedly been exploited by fraud networks.

Officials added that WhatsApp also requires phone number-based identification, making traceability easier, whereas Telegram's anonymity features have made enforcement more challenging. The government clarified that the restrictions are targeted and temporary, and will be reviewed after the examination process is completed.