



Janhvi Kapoor distances herself from 'Peddi' team amid controversy over her portrayal in the film. The actress reportedly skipped the film's success event following the dispute over her character's presentation.

Iran has formally invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the state funeral and burial ceremonies of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, scheduled to be held in July, according to official reports.

INSIDE

### Good morning

Respect is the most important element of your personality it is like an investment whatever you give to others it will return you with profit.

### BRIEFS

#### Kolkata Warehouse Collapse Kills 4

► Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata

At least four workers were killed and 17 others injured after a three-storey under-construction warehouse collapsed in Kolkata's Taratala area on Wednesday. Several people are still feared trapped beneath the debris.

Rescue teams from the Army, NDRF, SDRF, Kolkata Police, fire services and civil defence launched a massive operation to locate and rescue those trapped. Heavy machinery, cranes, gas cutters, drones and sniffer dogs were deployed at the site.

The injured workers were admitted to SSKM Hospital, where several are reported to be in critical condition. Authorities said rescue efforts would continue until all trapped persons are accounted for.

#### Five of Family Drown in Cauvery Tragedy

► Vikrama Vahini | Mandya

A tragic incident claimed the lives of five members of a family from Channapatna who drowned in the Cauvery River near Muthathi in Mandya district on Wednesday.

According to officials, the family had visited the Muttetharaya Temple at Muthathi and entered the river after offering prayers. The victims were reportedly taking photographs when they were swept away by the strong currents.

The deceased have been identified as Shwetha (28), Chaitra (20), Priyanka (28), Vijayamma (50) and Mahesh. Fire and Emergency Services personnel launched a rescue operation and later recovered all five bodies from the river. **PG2**

#### Trump faces GOP revolt over Iran vote

► Vikrama Vahini | Washington

The US Senate has narrowly approved a war powers resolution aimed at directing the withdrawal of American forces from military operations linked to Iran, marking a setback for President Donald Trump.

The motion passed 50-48, with four Republican senators joining Democrats in support of the measure, signalling rare bipartisan dissent within the ruling party.

The resolution, which seeks to limit presidential authority over military action, has now gained approval in both chambers of Congress in earlier votes, though the White House has termed it "unconstitutional" and non-binding without presidential assent.

The development comes amid ongoing political debate in Washington over US foreign policy and military engagement in West Asia.

## Anita Kumaraswamy Threatens Legal Action Over Land Claims

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

JD(S) leader Anita Kumaraswamy has strongly denied allegations made by Karnataka Minister M.B. Patil regarding land ownership linked to the proposed Bidadi Township project, asserting that she owns only 32 acres of land and not the 100 acres claimed by the minister.

### Claims Politically Motivated

In a post on social media platform X, Anita Kumaraswamy accused her political opponents of spreading false information for political gain.

She said dragging family members into political debates was inappropriate and unbecoming of public representatives.

"Making baseless allegations against me and my family for political advantage is unacceptable," she stated.

### Warning Against Personal Attacks

Anita also cautioned against turning personal matters into political controversies. She warned that anyone making false accusations about her or her family

would face legal consequences.

"No one should stoop to discussing personal matters. If false allegations continue, I will respond through legal channels," she said.

### M.B. Patil's Remarks

The controversy erupted after Minister M.B. Patil accused Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy of politicising the proposed Bidadi Township project. Patil claimed that Kumaraswamy himself

had initiated the project in the past and questioned his current opposition to it.

He further alleged that around 100 acres of land owned by Anita Kumaraswamy fall within the proposed township area and described the opposition to the project as "mere political drama." The exchange has intensified the political debate surrounding the Bidadi Township proposal, which continues to draw sharp reactions from both ruling and opposition leaders.



## Cong bars ministerial lobbying

The Congress high command has warned against lobbying for ministerial posts in Karnataka, saying cabinet selections will be based on merit and internal assessment. It reiterated that all decisions will rest with the central leadership, with no room for external influence.

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Congress high command has issued a strong warning against lobbying for ministerial posts, stating that internal pressure tactics will not be tolerated as discussions on cabinet expansion gain momentum in Karnataka.

The party leadership has made it clear that selection for ministerial berths will strictly remain an internal process, based on organisational balance, governance priorities and performance, rather than external influence or factional pressure.

According to party sources, the warning is aimed at MLAs, ministerial aspirants, and influential community figures, including seers, who are reportedly attempting to influence the composition of the new cabinet through informal channels and public positioning.

The leadership is also concerned over efforts to build indirect pressure through public campaigns and endorsements, which it views as undermining party discipline.

Party insiders said the central leadership has reiterated that cabinet decisions will be guided by factors such as regional representation, caste balance, administrative experience,

They added that any attempt to bypass formal processes or exert pressure through external groups will be dealt with strictly.

The warning comes amid increased political activity within the Karnataka

### BJP Questions Priyank Kharge Over Traffic Rules

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge over alleged traffic rule violations, questioning whether road safety norms such as seatbelt use and speed limits apply equally to public representatives.

### BJP Posts Alleged Challans on Social Media

The BJP Karnataka unit shared details on social media platform X, claiming that Priyank Kharge's vehicle had multiple pending traffic challans. The party alleged that a total of four challans amounting to around ₹2,500 were outstanding and also pointed to alleged overspeeding violations linked to his vehicle.

The post further urged him to take advantage of the ongoing penalty waiver scheme and clear the dues, while stressing

Congress, where expectations are rising over a possible cabinet reshuffle or expansion. Several legislators are actively seeking ministerial positions,

the importance of following traffic rules.

### BJP's Sharp Message

In its post, the BJP questioned the minister directly, asking whether seatbelt and speed limits "do not apply" to him, and argued that traffic regulations are mandatory for all citizens, including those in public office.

### Context of Priyank Kharge's Earlier Message

The remarks come shortly after Priyank Kharge himself had posted a message on social media emphasizing road safety and responsible driving. He had urged citizens to follow traffic rules, stating that even a moment of negligence could lead to serious consequences and encouraged payment of pending fines under the government's discount scheme. The exchange has sparked a fresh political row between the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP in Karnataka over compliance with traffic regulations by public representatives.

intensifying internal competition. The Congress leadership has once again emphasized that all ministerial appointments will remain under the sole control of the high command.

The party has ruled out any scope for bargaining, lobbying, or external influence in the selection process.

With caste and regional equations playing a key role in Karnataka politics, the leadership is expected to take a calibrated and balanced approach before finalizing any changes to the cabinet.



#### BJP alleges land scam against Kharge family

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday levelled serious allegations of land irregularities and misuse of political influence against Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and his family, claiming that government land worth nearly ₹100 crore was allotted to a private trust controlled by members of the Kharge family.

### BJP Raises Allegations at Press Conference

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari alleged that land meant for public welfare had been illegally allotted to the Siddharth Vihar Trust, which is reportedly managed by members of the Kharge family.

According to Bhandari, the trust includes Mallikarjun Kharge, his son Priyank Kharge, other close family members and relatives. He alleged that the family had used its political influence to secure valuable government land and gain undue benefits.

### Alleged KIADB Land Allotment

The BJP claimed that in 2024, during the Congress government's tenure in Karnataka, the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) allotted five acres of prime government land to Siddharth Vihar Trust under the category of "Aerospace and Defence Research and Development."

Bhandari alleged that the land, originally intended for industrial and development purposes, was instead allotted to a private trust linked to the Kharge family. **PG2**

## Scrap Bidadi Township: G.V. Krishna to CM

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Renowned chartered accountant G.V. Krishna has urged Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to withdraw the proposed Bidadi Township project, warning that it would severely impact the livelihoods of thousands of farmers who depend on agriculture and dairy activities in the region.

In a statement to the media, he said the issue should not be made a matter of prestige and instead the government must abandon the land acquisition process and focus on balanced urban development for Bengaluru.

He pointed out that while the government claims it is moving ahead with the Bidadi Township, farmers are firmly stating they will not

part with their land. "On one hand the government says development is necessary, while on the other farmers are refusing to give up their land. Why this contradictory stand?" he questioned.

Krishna also challenged the government's claim that 80% of farmers have agreed to give up their land, asking it to publicly disclose who these farmers are. He said if such a large percentage had consented, they should come forward themselves.

Highlighting past land acquisition projects such as Sadashivanagar, BTM Layout, and Tech Park developments, he noted that several

projects, including the Kempegowda Layout and Arkavathi Layout, have remained incomplete for years.

He questioned the rationale behind acquiring nearly 4,000 acres along Kanakapura Road for a township when existing layouts and projects remain underutilised or incomplete.

He further argued that land in Bidadi is highly fertile and supports livestock farming, including cattle, sheep, and poultry. "If land is taken away, farmers will lose their livelihood.

Compensation money will not ensure long-term financial stability," he warned, adding that

displaced farmers could be forced into insecure jobs or distress conditions.

Krishna also criticised the model of development, saying that the proposed township would likely become unaffordable for the poor and middle class.

He urged the government to instead develop industrial zones like Aroohalli and utilise already acquired land in Phase-5 areas rather than acquiring fresh farmland.

He concluded by calling for a bipartisan political consensus to halt the Bidadi Township project and demanded that the government reconsider its approach to land acquisition and urban expansion.



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SPIRITUAL

Science of Vrats and Fasting

In Sanatana Dharma, vrats (fasts) are not only religious observances but are also deeply rooted in health and scientific principles. Ancient traditions appear to have designed fasting practices as a holistic lifestyle tool that balances the body, mind, and environment.

One of the key scientific reasons behind fasting is detoxification. Modern biology explains that regular food intake leads to the accumulation of toxins in the body. During fasting, the digestive system gets rest, allowing the body to focus on self-repair. A process known as autophagy—where the body breaks down damaged cells and regenerates new ones—becomes active. This mechanism, recognized by modern science and awarded the Nobel Prize for its discovery, highlights how fasting supports cellular renewal and overall health.

Vrats are also closely linked to seasonal changes. Many traditional fasting periods, such as Navratri and monthly observances, fall during transitional weather phases. During these times, immunity tends to weaken, and infections spread more easily. Light eating or fasting is believed to help regulate body temperature and strengthen immune response, reducing vulnerability to seasonal diseases.

From a mental health perspective, fasting is seen as a discipline that improves focus and emotional stability. Scientific studies suggest that fasting may increase levels of BDNF (Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor), a protein associated with improved brain function, reduced stress, and enhanced cognitive performance. Controlling food intake also strengthens willpower and mental resilience.

Another interesting explanation comes from the influence of lunar cycles. Since the human body is composed of nearly 70 percent water, it is believed that the moon's gravitational pull can affect bodily fluids and emotional states. Traditional fasting days such as Ekadashi are aligned with lunar phases, which are thought to help maintain physiological balance, blood pressure, and digestive health.

However, experts caution that fasting should be practiced wisely. Extreme or improper fasting, especially without guidance, may not be suitable for children, pregnant women, or individuals with medical conditions. Overall, vrats represent a unique blend of spirituality and science, offering a time-tested approach to maintaining harmony between human health and nature.



Chief Minister D K Shivakumar started his work from his home office 'Krishna' in Kumara Park on Wednesday by doing pooja.

Commissioner Inspects Gurappanapalya Ward

**Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**  
Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner K. N. Ramesh on Wednesday conducted a detailed inspection of Arasu Colony and Gurappanapalya Ward under the Jayanagar subdivision, reviewing key civic issues including encroachments, sanitation, drainage and road conditions.

During the visit to 36th Cross in Arasu Colony, the Commissioner directed officials to remove footpath encroachments that were obstructing pedestrian movement. Residents requested alternative arrangements before any eviction action is taken.

He also inspected areas behind Asara Hospital on Bannerghatta Main Road and instructed officials to ensure daily waste clearance, along with immediate removal of construction and demolition debris dumped along roadsides.

At multiple locations in Gurappanapalya Ward, the Commissioner ordered prompt removal of garbage accumulation, including near the road leading to Ayyappa Temple and in front of an electrical transformer.

Emphasising road safety, he directed officials to fill potholes on Bannerghatta Main Road and



ensure scientific execution of ongoing drainage works near Sobha Magnolia Apartments to prevent waterlogging. He also ordered removal of unauthorised vehicle parking in the area.

Residents raised concerns about rainwater entering shops along IBM Road and nearby stretches. The Commissioner instructed officials to desilt drains and repair an open manhole on 9th Main Road without delay.

At Badri Street, where BWSSB is carrying out pipeline works, he directed authorities to restore road surfaces properly after completion of the work. Executive Engineer Hariprasad and other civic officials accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection.

Khandre on Rural Water, E-Swathu Reforms

**Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**  
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B. Khandre on Tuesday said there is no shortage of funds for providing drinking water in rural areas despite rainfall deficit and falling groundwater levels in the state.

He said the government has already released ₹1,017 crore in advance to address drinking water problems in affected villages.

**E-Swathu Delay: Notices to PDOs**  
The Minister directed that notices be issued to Panchayat Development Officers (PDOs) if there is a delay of more than 15 days in processing E-Swathu applications, except in cases of technical issues. He warned action against officials responsible for intentional delays.

**Rule Amendments for Gramathana Properties**

Khandre said instructions have been issued to amend rules to facilitate E-Swathu issuance for old houses in gramathana areas without proper documents. He said the government aims to simplify procedures while protecting government land and ensuring ownership rights to genuine occupants.

**Deadline Extended for Form 1B Applications**

The deadline for submitting applications under Form 1B has been extended till September. The Minister urged rural residents to make use of the extended period.

He said the government will work towards systematic issuance of E-khata within 100 days after receiving public objections.

**Large-Scale Property Regularisation Drive**  
Karnataka has about 1.50 crore properties

JULY 6 DEADLINE FOR OC-EXEMPT POWER CONNECTIONS

**Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

The Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) has urged owners of residential buildings exempted from obtaining an Occupancy Certificate (OC) to apply for permanent electricity connections before July 6, 2026.

The scheme applies to residential buildings constructed on sites measuring up to 2,400 sq. ft., with an additional permissible variation of 20 per cent, and having either G+3 floors or still parking plus four floors. Only buildings completed on or before May 31, 2026, are eligible.

The move follows a state government order issued on June 22, granting a one-time relaxation that allows permanent power connections for eligible residential buildings constructed without an OC. Applicants have been given 15 days to avail the benefit.

BESCOM said applications can be submitted either online or at the nearest BESCOM sub-division office.

To facilitate the process, BESCOM offices will remain open on June 26, June 27, June 28 and July 5, including public holidays and weekends.

For buildings that have already applied for permanent connections, owners must provide the application number and date, along with a geo-tagged photograph of the building taken in the presence of a BESCOM official.

Buildings currently using temporary power connections must also submit geo-tagged photographs and apply for permanent supply. Similarly, owners of eligible buildings that have not applied for either temporary or permanent connections must submit geo-tagged photographs and complete the application process at their nearest BESCOM office.

Almatti dam: Patil promises relief

**M.B. Patil said the government will ensure compensation and rehabilitation for villages affected by the proposed height increase of Almatti Dam under UKP Phase 3.**

**Vikrama Vahini | Vijayapura**

Industries and Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil has said that the government is committed to safeguarding the interests of villagers affected by backwaters of the proposed height increase of the Almatti Dam under the Upper Krishna Project (UKP) Phase 3.

Speaking at a meeting with representatives of the Krishna Upper Krishna Project rehabilitation committee and farmers at his office, Patil said that earlier decisions on water allocation and dam height were taken in 2010, and compensation frameworks were revised over time to ensure better

rehabilitation support.

He said that after the Congress government returned to power in 2023, revised compensation rates were proposed, including ₹30 lakh per acre

for dry land and ₹40 lakh per acre for irrigated land, and steps were being taken to implement updated notifications for affected villages.

Patil added that raising the dam height to 524.256 metres could submerge about 75,563 acres across several villages,

and that rehabilitation and compensation processes are being planned in phases covering multiple districts and villages over the coming financial years.



Five of Family Drown in Cauvery Tragedy

**From PG**

Locals and temple visitors alerted authorities immediately after seeing the family being swept away, prompting a swift response from fire and emergency services and police personnel.

Officials have urged visitors to exercise extreme caution near the Cauvery riverbank, especially during periods of increased water flow, and warned against entering deep or slippery areas for photography or recreation. An inquiry into the incident is expected.

The district administration is also likely to review safety arrangements at tourist and pilgrimage spots along the Cauvery river, including the need for warning boards, barricades, and deployment of lifeguards in high-risk areas to prevent such tragedies in the future.

NEWS

1 Month Deadline for Civil Works: Commissioner



**Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

West City Corporation Commissioner Dr. Rajendra K.V. on Tuesday held a review meeting with engineering officials and contractors to assess the progress of works under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Programme (CMIDP) and Capital Support for Special Infrastructure Projects (CSSIP) within the corporation limits.

The Commissioner reviewed the status of ward roads, arterial and sub-arterial road works across all divisions and directed that all civil works, including footpaths, drains and related infrastructure, must be completed within one month.

He also instructed officials to

ensure 100% completion of drain desilting, as well as repair of curbs and footpaths.

He directed the Additional Commissioner to inspect all CMIDP works and submit a detailed report. He further instructed that pothole-filling must be completed before road asphaltting, and that footpaths should be properly organised with clear pedestrian access.

He also asked for installation of grass pavers around tree bases and removal of damaged tree stumps. Officials were told to ensure drains are desilted, footpaths are free from encroachments, and road safety measures such as lane markings are strictly followed.

He also instructed field

engineers to submit completion reports before permission is granted for asphalt work and said action would be taken on issues related to bitumen supply.

As part of a ward-level initiative to improve 10 km of footpaths within a month, he asked contractors and site engineers to strictly adhere to targets and responsibilities and report administrative hurdles, if any, without delay.

Senior officials, including Additional Commissioner (Development) Kavitha Rajaram, Chief Engineers Basavaraj Kabade and Swayamprabha, and other engineering and waste management officials, were present.

BJP alleges land scam against Kharage family

**From PG**

He claimed the current market value of the land is approximately ₹100 crore.

**Demand for Clarification**

The BJP further stated that it would continue to raise questions regarding the allotment process and sought clarification from the Congress leadership on the allegations.

The party also claimed that details of three

alleged land-related irregularities involving the Kharage family would be placed in the public domain.

No official response from Mallikarjun Kharage, Priyank Kharage, or the Siddharth Vihar Trust was available immediately after the allegations were made. The controversy is expected to intensify political exchanges between the ruling Congress government in Karnataka and the BJP in the coming days.

HEALTH & Lifestyle

Multigrain vs Wheat

In recent years, growing health awareness has led many people to focus on weight loss and maintaining a healthy body weight through proper diet plans. Chapati or roti is a common part of such diets. While some prefer wheat flour chapatis, others opt for multigrain flour rotis. But which is more effective for weight loss?

Unhealthy eating habits and sedentary lifestyles often lead to weight gain, which can be managed through a disciplined diet. According to experts, the choice of flour can play a significant role in weight management.

Dr. Monisha, Assistant Professor at SDM Ayurveda College and Hospital, Udipi, says that multigrain flour offers more benefits than regular wheat flour in a weight loss journey. Wheat flour contains higher carbohydrates and calories, which may slow down weight reduction efforts.

Multigrain flour, however, is a blend of several grains such as barley, oats, jowar, wheat bran, pulses, flax seeds, fenugreek seeds, and other legumes. This combination provides a wider range of nutrients beyond just carbohydrates.

Experts highlight several benefits of multigrain flour:

**High fiber content:** It improves digestion and keeps the stomach full for longer, reducing overeating.

**High protein content:** Ingredients like soy and pulses help maintain muscle mass and control hunger during weight loss.

**Low glycemic index (GI):** It releases



sugar slowly into the bloodstream, helping reduce fat accumulation.

**Rich in nutrients:** It contains omega-3 fatty acids, iron, calcium, and magnesium, which support overall health.

However, experts caution that not all commercially available multigrain flours are healthy. Consumers should carefully check ingredients, ensuring the presence of whole grains, legumes, and seeds while avoiding overly refined mixes.

Dr. Monisha further notes that while multigrain flour can support weight loss, excessive consumption may have side effects. It is best used under medical guidance based on individual health conditions.

Experts emphasize that weight loss does not depend only on choosing the right flour but also on overall lifestyle, including balanced nutrition, portion control, regular exercise, walking, and yoga.

In conclusion, multigrain flour is generally considered more beneficial than wheat flour for weight management, but its effectiveness depends on a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

SCIENCE & Technology

AI-Powered Cyber Threats Could Strike Within Months: Five Eyes

**Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

The Five Eyes intelligence alliance has warned that rapid advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) could dramatically reshape the global cybersecurity landscape within months, making cyberattacks faster, more sophisticated and harder to counter.

In a joint statement, the Five Eyes Intelligence Oversight and Review Council (FIORC), comprising agencies from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States, said frontier AI models are expected to significantly enhance both offensive cyber capabilities and defensive security tools.

Officials cautioned that the time between the discovery of a software vulnerability and its exploitation could shrink considerably as AI systems become more powerful. They stressed that cybersecurity should no longer be viewed solely as an IT issue but as a critical business and national security concern. "The timeline is not years; it is months," the alliance warned, emphasising the need for immediate action to prepare for emerging AI-driven threats.

The council also recommended adopting secure-by-design and secure-by-default approaches in software development and digital infrastructure. While encouraging organisations to use AI for vulnerability detection and incident response, it warned that traditional cybersecurity assumptions could quickly become outdated due to the rapid pace of AI development.

The statement comes amid growing global concerns over the national security implications of advanced AI systems and increasing efforts by governments to regulate access to frontier AI technologies.

## AI TO POWER INDIA'S STEEL REVOLUTION: KUMARASWAMY

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Union Steel and Heavy Industries Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday said digitalisation has become essential for the long-term growth and global competitiveness of India's steel industry.

Speaking at the Chintan Shivir 2026 on Digitalisation in the Steel Sector in New Delhi, he stressed that the future of steel manufacturing will depend on intelligent, data-driven and technology-enabled production systems rather than capacity expansion alone.

Highlighting Prime Minister Narendra



Modi's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, Kumaraswamy said India, the world's second-largest steel producer, aims to expand steelmaking capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2030 and 400 million tonnes by 2035.

He urged the industry to adopt advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Industrial Internet

of Things (IIoT), robotics and data analytics to improve productivity, reduce costs, enhance safety and achieve sustainable growth. The conclave brought together government officials, public sector steel companies, industry leaders, startups and technology experts to discuss digital transformation and Industry 4.0 solutions for the sector.



Mauritius President H.E. Dharam Gokhool warmly welcomes His Holiness Sri Sri Sugunendra Theertha Swamiji of Sri Puthige Matha, Udupi, on his arrival to attend the three-day World Religious Leaders' Conference in Mauritius. Swamiji is set to deliver a keynote address on "Climate Change, Conflict and Debt Burden" before religious and social leaders from over 80 countries.

## Lokayukta Case on Jarkiholi Kin Resurfaces After ED Raid

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) raid on premises linked to senior Excise Department officer Dr. Y. Manjunath has revived attention on a long-pending Lokayukta corruption case in which the government had reportedly denied permission for prosecution three times.

Dr. Manjunath, an Additional Commissioner in the Excise Department and relative of Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, was named in a 2012 Lokayukta FIR related to alleged bribery in liquor licence renewals during his tenure as Mysuru Deputy Excise Commissioner.

According to records, Lokayukta police had conducted raids in June 2012 following allegations that bribes were collected for licence renewals. Two FIRs were registered under provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. However, prosecution sanctions sought by the Lokayukta were repeatedly rejected by the state government under different administrations.

Officials said sanction for prosecution



was denied during the tenures of multiple chief ministers, including Siddaramaiah, B.S. Yediyurappa, and Basavaraj Bommai. The matter has remained pending despite repeated recommendations for inquiry.

Dr. Manjunath had earlier challenged the FIRs and related proceedings in the Karnataka High Court and the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal, both of which issued various rulings over the years, including quashing or modifying certain orders.

The case also saw multiple administrative actions, including suspension and reinstatement orders in 2012, followed by further legal proceedings that prolonged the matter for years.

Sources also said Dr. Manjunath's name has appeared in proposals related to promotions of non-KAS officers to IAS rank, which were forwarded by both previous and present governments. With the latest ED action, the long-pending corruption allegations and administrative decisions surrounding the officer have once again come under public and political scrutiny.

## 5 Killed in Warehouse Collapse

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Five workers were killed and at least 23 others are feared trapped after the roof of an under-construction warehouse collapsed suddenly on Wednesday, officials said.

Soon after the incident, rescue teams, fire services personnel and local administration officials rushed to the site and launched a major rescue operation.

Heavy machinery is being used to clear the debris and locate those trapped underneath.

Several injured workers have been admitted to nearby hospitals, where they are undergoing treatment. Authorities said efforts are being intensified as more workers are suspected to be trapped under the rubble.

The exact cause of the collapse is yet to be determined. Officials have launched an investigation into possible lapses in construction quality and safety compliance at the site.

The incident has triggered panic in the area, and condolences have been extended to the families of the deceased. Officials warned that the death toll may rise once the rescue operation is completed.

## RPF TRAINED ON JAN VISHWAS ACT 2026



► Vikrama Vahini | Mysuru

An awareness-cum-briefing session on the provisions of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 and related amendments to the Railways Act, 1989 and the Calcutta Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Temporary Provisions Act, 1985 was held at the DRM Conference Hall in Mysuru for Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel of Mysuru and Hubballi Divisions.

The programme was organised in line with the directions of the Inspector General-cum-Principal Chief Security Commissioner, RPF, South Western Railway, Hubballi, to disseminate the updated legal provisions among all ranks of RPF through structured training and awareness initiatives.

The Jan Vishwas Act, 2026, which has received Presidential assent and been published in the Gazette of India, aims to decriminalise minor regulatory offences by replacing imprisonment provisions with civil and administrative penalties. The legislation is intended to promote trust-based governance, simplify compliance, and improve

ease of doing business and public interaction with government agencies.

A total of 34 subordinate officers and staff from Mysuru Division, along with personnel from Hubballi Division, participated in the session.

The session was conducted by Senior Public Prosecutor R. Hanumanthappa, who explained the key amendments under the Act, including the shift from criminal prosecution to administrative penalties for specified offences. He also clarified procedures applicable in cases of non-payment of penalties and addressed queries from personnel regarding practical enforcement and prosecution aspects.

Senior Divisional Security Commissioner, RPF Mysuru Division, Sam Prashanth J.R., highlighted the importance of continuous training programmes for RPF personnel, stating that such initiatives ensure enforcement remains aligned with updated legal provisions and citizen-centric governance. He added that similar awareness sessions will be conducted regularly to keep frontline staff updated on legal and procedural changes.

# MGNREGA Revamp from July 1: Khandre

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B. Khandre on Tuesday said that the revamped version of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), under the "Viksit Bharat" framework, will be implemented in Karnataka from July 1.

He said the state government is committed to rolling out the new system in the interest of rural families, women, and vulnerable sections, even though it will increase the financial burden on the state.

Khandre said the earlier 90:10 funding pattern between the Centre and states has now been revised to 60:40,

significantly increasing the share of expenditure for states. He noted that Karnataka had earlier received higher central support, but will now have to bear a larger share of costs under the revised framework.

He pointed out that since 2006, the Centre has spent ₹56,492 crore under MGNREGA, while Karnataka contributed ₹4,821 crore and generated about 182 crore person-days of employment. However, he said the revised system would increase annual expenditure for the state to around ₹3,806 crore.

The Minister said Karnataka has objected to the changes, alleging that states were not adequately consulted before

introducing the revised scheme. He added that the matter is being challenged in the Supreme Court, and the state has urged the Centre to restore at least an 80:20 funding pattern. Khandre also criticised the Centre's guidelines restricting employment during the agricultural season for 60 days, calling it detrimental to rural livelihoods. He said the state has raised objections, arguing that modern mechanisation has already reduced agricultural employment opportunities during peak farming periods.

He said Karnataka has received an allocation of ₹5,709 crore under the revised scheme and is prepared to provide

its share of ₹3,806 crore to ensure uninterrupted wage employment for rural workers.

The Minister added that discussions on these issues will be taken up at a meeting of all state rural development ministers with the Union Minister in New Delhi on June 28. He also said Karnataka will demand higher minimum wages in line with the state's revised wage structure of ₹375 per day.

Khandre said the state aims to generate 9 crore person-days of employment annually, with 80-90 lakh person-days targeted each month, and confirmed that steps will be taken to protect the livelihood of over 7,000 outsourced staff working under the scheme.

### ENTERTAINMENT

## Box Office: Mixed Trends Across Films

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The box office witnessed mixed trends across Bollywood, regional Indian cinema and Hollywood on June 23, with some films showing mid-week slowdown while others maintained steady momentum or continued strong global runs.

**Cocktail 2 sees weekday dip, nears 3100 crore worldwide**

The multi-starrer Cocktail 2, featuring Shahid Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna and Kriti Sanon, experienced a noticeable decline in collections on its sixth day. According to trade tracker Sacnilk, the film earned ₹6.65 crore on Tuesday, reflecting a weekday drop.

The film opened strongly with ₹13.5 crore on day one, followed by ₹16.25 crore on day two and ₹17.75 crore on day three. Collections later dipped to ₹6.75 crore on day four before continuing the downward weekday trend. Despite the slowdown, Cocktail 2 has nearly touched the ₹100 crore worldwide milestone. Its total India gross

stands at ₹72.75 crore, while worldwide earnings have reached approximately ₹95 crore. The film has recorded ₹60.90 crore net in India and ₹22.25 crore from overseas markets.

**Maa Inti Bangaaram maintains steady performance**

Samantha Ruth Prabhu's Maa Inti Bangaaram continued its stable run at the box office. The film has collected ₹29.20 crore net from its Telugu version and ₹1.50 crore net from its Tamil version.

Its total India net stands at ₹30.70 crore, while the gross collection has reached ₹35.47 crore. The film has earned ₹51.32 crore worldwide, including ₹15.85 crore from overseas markets, indicating consistent audience support.

**Main Vaapas Aaunga shows strong hold**

Imtiaz Ali's Main Vaapas Aaunga continued its positive trend, boosted by strong word-of-mouth. On its 12th day, the film recorded a 24% growth and earned ₹3.10 crore.

The film's total India collection now stands at ₹29.85 crore, with a domestic gross of ₹35.54 crore. Overseas earnings are reported at ₹12.60 crore, taking the worldwide total to ₹48.14 crore.

**Balan: The Boy performs modestly**

The psychological thriller Balan: The Boy recorded mixed regional performance. It earned ₹9 crore net from its Malayalam version, along with smaller contributions from Tamil (₹0.16 crore), Telugu (₹0.03 crore) and Hindi (₹0.03 crore) markets.

The film's total India net stands at ₹9.33 crore, while its India gross has reached ₹10.81 crore. Worldwide collections are reported at ₹19.31 crore, including ₹8.50 crore from overseas markets.

**Toy Story 5 dominates global box office**

Disney/Pixar's Toy Story 5 continued its exceptional global run, emerging as one of the biggest international hits of the year. The animated film has collected a staggering ₹2,950.56 crore worldwide, including ₹1,435 crore from overseas markets.

In India, the film has earned ₹6.43 crore gross and ₹5.99 crore net, reflecting strong global dominance despite modest domestic performance. Overall, the box office reflects a mixed mid-week performance with selective strong holds and global dominance.

## Why Kangana Quit 'Lock Upp 2'?

► Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai

The popular reality show Lock Upp is returning with its second season under a new title, Lock Upp: Sach Ya Saza, but without its original host Kangana Ranaut. The new season will now be hosted by Farah Khan and Riteish Deshmukh, marking a major shift in the show's format and presentation.

Producer Ekta Kapoor has clarified that Kangana's exit is linked to a complete redesign of the show's structure rather than any controversy. Speaking at the show's launch event in Mumbai, Kapoor said the concept has been entirely reworked for the new season.

Ekta Kapoor stated that the new season has no connection with the earlier format, including the jailer concept and hosting style. "Everything has been changed. The jailer and judges concept has been reimagined. We felt a fresh approach was needed for this season," she said. She also added that Kangana, who is now a Member of Parliament, may have had scheduling constraints that contributed to her stepping away from the project.

Unlike the first season, which premiered on ALTBalaji and MX Player in 2022, Lock Upp 2 will now stream exclusively on Netflix, significantly expanding its digital reach.

Kapoor described the show as more than just a reality format, calling it a "social experiment" designed to engage audiences on a larger scale through the global platform.

The upcoming season will feature 14 celebrity contestants who will be confined in a jail-like setup for six weeks. Participants will be cut off from the outside world and will have to face

intense tasks and punishments throughout the show.

The show is jointly produced by Balaji Telefilms and Colosseum. It is scheduled to begin streaming from June 27, with episodes airing multiple times a week.

Fans are now eagerly awaiting the revamped version of the reality series. The revamped season marks a major shift in format, platform and hosting lineup, aiming for a wider global audience.



### BUSINESS

## Rupee Slips as Dollar Strengthens

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Indian rupee continued to weaken against the US dollar on Wednesday, slipping by 10 paise in early trading amid sustained strength in the American currency.

However, a decline in global crude oil prices helped limit the losses.

The rupee opened at 94.88 against the dollar in the interbank foreign exchange market and later recovered marginally to trade at 94.86. The decline follows Tuesday's session, when the domestic currency closed 13 paise lower at 94.76.

Market analysts attributed the rupee's weakness to the continued appreciation of the US dollar in global markets. Expectations that US interest rates may remain elevated for an extended period have supported the greenback, making dollar-denominated assets more attractive to investors.

The dollar index, which tracks the US currency against a basket of six major global currencies, rose to 101.48, adding pressure on emerging market currencies, including the rupee. Traders also cited strong importer demand for dollars as a factor weighing on the domestic currency.

Meanwhile, falling crude oil prices provided some support to the rupee. Brent crude futures declined by more than one per cent to around \$76 per barrel.

Lower oil prices are beneficial for India, a major crude importer, as they help reduce import costs, ease inflationary pressures and improve the country's trade balance.

Domestic equity markets remained positive, with benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty trading higher in early deals.

Experts said the rupee's near-term movement will depend on global dollar trends, crude oil prices, foreign investment flows and measures taken by the Reserve Bank of India to curb excessive market volatility.

Foreign portfolio investors also remained cautious amid global uncertainty, which added to pressure on the domestic currency. However, traders expect the rupee to stabilise in the coming sessions if crude oil prices remain soft and capital inflows improve.

SPORTS

India Face Do-or-Die T20 World Cup Clash

**> Vikrama Vahini | Manchester**  
After suffering a defeat against South Africa, the Indian women's cricket team now faces a do-or-die situation in its bid to reach the semi-finals. India will take on Bangladesh in a crucial Group A match on June 25 in Manchester.  
Having started the tournament strongly with two consecutive wins, India currently sits second in Group A with four points from three matches. However, the loss to South Africa has put their qualification hopes under pressure. With a net run rate of 2.511, India must win its remaining league matches to stay in the semi-final race, as even a single defeat could end their campaign.  
**Head-to-Head Record**  
India holds a dominant record against Bangladesh in women's T20 internationals. Out of 23 encounters, India has won 20 matches, while Bangladesh has secured only 3 victories, clearly indicating India's superiority in this matchup.  
**Match Details**  
The India vs Bangladesh Women's T20 World Cup match will be played on June 25 at Old Trafford, Manchester. The match is scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM local time.  
**Where to Watch**  
The match will be broadcast live on various Star Sports Network channels.  
**Squads**  
**India:** Harmanpreet Kaur (captain), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Bharati Fulmali, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh, Shree Charani, Yastika Bhatia, Nandini Sharma, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh, Kranti Gaud, Prema Rawat, Radha Yadav.  
**Bangladesh:** Nigar Sultana Joty (captain), Nahida Akter, Sharmin Akter Supta, Sobhana Mostary, Shorna Akter, Ritu Moni, Rabeya Khan, Fahima Khatun, Farigha Islam Trishna, Marufa Akter, Shanjida Akter Meghla, Sultana Khatun, Dilara Akter, Juaira Ferdous, Taj Nehar.

Bangladesh to Buy Chinese J-10CE Fighter Jets

**> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi**  
Bangladesh is reportedly preparing to acquire 24 Chinese J-10CE multirole fighter jets, in what would be one of the country's biggest defence modernisation moves in decades. The deal is expected to be finalised around August during high-level talks between Dhaka and Beijing.  
If confirmed, Bangladesh will become only the second foreign operator of the J-10CE fighter jet after Pakistan, significantly strengthening China's defence presence in South Asia.  
The J-10CE is the export variant of China's Chengdu J-10C fourth-generation-plus fighter aircraft. It features advanced radar systems, electronic warfare capabilities, and long-range air-to-air missiles, including the PL-15E.  
The aircraft is considered a major upgrade over Bangladesh's ageing fleet of Chinese-origin F-7 fighter jets, which have been in service for decades.

INDIA-US TRADE PACT NEARS FINISH LINE

India and the United States are close to finalising a bilateral trade agreement aimed at boosting economic ties and expanding trade to \$500 billion by 2030. Negotiations have reached an advanced stage amid discussions on tariffs, market access, and energy cooperation, with both sides optimistic about an early interim deal.

**> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**  
India and the United States are moving closer to finalising a bilateral trade agreement, with negotiations entering an advanced stage as both countries seek to deepen economic ties and boost two-way trade to \$500 billion by 2030.  
The development comes as US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer visits India for discussions with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. Both sides are aiming to conclude an interim trade arrangement before the expiry of temporary US tariff measures next month.  
Speaking at an event in Washington, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Bethany Poulos Morrison said significant progress has been made toward a trade pact that would enhance market access and strengthen commercial engagement between the two



countries.  
The proposed agreement is a key part of the "Mission 500" initiative, which aims to expand bilateral trade to \$500 billion by the end of the decade. Officials view the deal as an important pillar of the growing strategic and economic partnership between New Delhi and Washington.  
The United States remained India's largest trading partner in FY26, while investment

flows between the two nations continue to rise. Indian companies recently announced major investment commitments in the US during the SelectUSA Investment Summit, reflecting stronger business ties.  
Energy cooperation has also emerged as a major area of engagement, with bilateral trade in oil, gas and other energy products witnessing steady growth. Both countries are additionally exploring opportunities to expand collaboration in the civil nuclear sector.  
Tariff-related issues remain a key focus of the negotiations. India is seeking favourable tariff treatment for its exports, while both sides continue to review commitments following recent changes in US trade policy.  
Officials remain optimistic that the first phase of the agreement can be finalised in the coming weeks, providing fresh momentum to India-US economic relations.

Sirsa Demands Action Against Punjab CM in Video Row

**> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**  
Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa has demanded the arrest of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann in connection with a viral video controversy linked to alleged disrespect of Sikh Guru images.  
The issue has sparked a political and religious row in Punjab, with the Akal Takht summoning Mann over the matter. Sirsa also questioned the silence of AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal and alleged that action against those linked to a forensic report was an attempt to suppress the issue.  
Meanwhile, Gurugram Police have detained two individuals in connection with an allegedly fabricated forensic report related to the case. Officials said the investigation is ongoing.  
Police stated that one of the detained persons, a cyber expert on contract with the NIA, allegedly claimed that money was paid to prepare the report and that certain officials from a neighbouring state were involved.

India Arrives in Ireland for T20 Series

**> Vikrama Vahini | Dublin**  
The Shreyas Iyer-led Indian cricket team has arrived in Ireland for a two-match T20 International series. The squad departed from Chennai International Airport and reached Dublin on Wednesday, where they received a warm welcome from the local cricket authorities.  
The series is being seen as an opportunity for selectors to test young talent, with several senior players rested for the tour. Following the Ireland series, India will travel directly to England for a five-match T20 series starting July 1, followed by a three-match ODI series.

**Match Schedule**  
**> 1st T20I: June 26**  
**> 2nd T20I: June 28**  
**India Squad for T20 Series**  
Shreyas Iyer (captain), Tilak Varma (vice-captain), Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Ravi Bishnoi, Abhishek Sharma, Mohammed Siraj, Sanju Samson, Axar Patel, Harshit Rana, Ishan Kishan, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Shivam Dube, Varun Chakravarty, Prasadh Krishna.  
The series is expected to provide valuable exposure for young Indian players ahead of a busy international season.

NEET flaws corrected, re-exam conducted: Pradhan

**> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi**  
Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has said that irregularities were found in NEET-2026, but the government rectified the issues and successfully conducted a re-examination.  
In an interview, he admitted lapses on the government's part and said corrective measures were taken promptly to ensure a fair examination process.  
Pradhan also stated that strict action will be taken against paper leak mafias, including setting up special courts for speedy trials. He added that the re-exam was conducted smoothly across India and abroad with enhanced security measures.  
He said the government remains committed to ensuring transparency and credibility in all national-level examinations. Students and parents have been urged not to be influenced by misinformation regarding the exam process.



The J-10CE gained international attention after Pakistan inducted it in 2022 and showcased its operational capability during the India-Pakistan conflict linked to Operation Sindoor.  
The country currently relies heavily on older aircraft that are nearing the end of their service life.  
Reports indicate that Dhaka had also explored options such as the Rafale, Eurofighter Typhoon, and JF-17, but the Chinese offer emerged as the most viable and cost-effective option.

The proposed deal is expected to deepen defence ties between Bangladesh and China, which is already a major arms supplier to Dhaka.



Mumbai experienced heavy overnight rainfall as the southwest monsoon arrived 13 days late, causing waterlogging in several areas, though major subways remained open and traffic movement stayed largely unaffected.

PASSPORT NOT PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP: MEA

**> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**  
The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has clarified that an Indian passport is only a travel document and not proof of citizenship.  
Amid public confusion over the use of passports as proof of citizenship and eligibility for government benefits, the ministry said the passport's primary purpose is to facilitate international travel and establish identity abroad.  
Officials stressed that while passports are issued to Indian citizens, they should not be considered conclusive evidence of citizenship, adding that other documents may be used where required.

Air India Flight Strays into Pakistan Airspace Briefly

**> Vikrama Vahini | Chandigarh**  
An Air India flight on the Delhi-Amritsar route briefly entered Pakistani airspace on Monday night after a technical snag in its navigation system, official sources said.  
The Airbus A321 (Flight AI-463) reportedly drifted across the International Border before Pakistani Air Traffic Control alerted the crew, who promptly corrected the course and returned to Indian airspace.  
The flight later faced further delays due to congestion at Amritsar airport and was diverted back to Delhi before finally landing in Amritsar in the early hours of Tuesday, nearly four hours behind schedule.

Iran Invites Modi for Khamenei Funeral

**> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**  
Iran has formally invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the state funeral and burial ceremonies of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, scheduled to be held in July, according to official reports.  
Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has extended the invitation as the country prepares for multi-city funeral ceremonies following Khamenei's death in a US-Israeli airstrike on February 28. However, India has not yet confirmed whether the Prime Minister or a senior representative will attend the events.  
**Funeral schedule announced**  
According to Iranian state media, the state funeral will begin on July 4 at Tehran's Grand Mosalla complex, where the body will lie in state. Public processions are planned in Tehran and Qom, followed by prayers in the Iraqi holy cities of Najaf and Karbala.  
The final burial is scheduled for July 9 at the Imam Reza shrine in Mashhad, Khamenei's hometown. Iranian authorities expect large public participation, with millions of mourners likely to attend across multiple cities.  
**Diplomatic significance for India**  
India and Iran share longstanding diplomatic and strategic ties. New Delhi has maintained engagement with



Tehran as part of its broader West Asia policy and regional connectivity interests.  
Following Khamenei's death, senior Indian officials, including the Foreign Secretary, had visited the Iranian Embassy in New Delhi to offer condolences on behalf of the government.  
Prime Minister Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar have also held discussions with Iranian leadership during recent West Asia developments, highlighting continued diplomatic engagement.  
**BRICS and recent exchanges**  
Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi recently visited New Delhi for the BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting, during which he held talks with Indian leadership, including the Prime Minister. India had earlier sent a high-level delegation to Iran following the death of former Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in 2024, reflecting ongoing high-level diplomatic exchanges between the two countries.

HC Extends Compensation to Second Wife

**> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**  
The Karnataka High Court has ruled that a second wife and her child can be eligible for motor accident compensation if they can prove dependency on the deceased, expanding the scope of beneficiaries under the Motor Vehicles Act.  
A Division Bench observed that compensation cannot be limited only to legally wedded spouses or immediate family members, but must consider actual financial dependence and loss suffered due to the accident.  
The Court made the observation while enhancing a Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) award in a case involving the death of a flower crop agriculturist.  
It also noted that the definition of "legal representative" under the Act includes any person who suffers dependency loss, regardless of formal marital status.  
In the case, claims were filed by the first wife, mother, second wife, and minor daughter of the deceased. The Court held that dependency was the key factor in deciding eligibility for compensation.

VIKRAMA VAHINI | INFO GRAPHICS

**MUDRA LOAN SCHEME EXPLAINED**

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