



# VIKRAMA VAHINI

NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION DAY

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**'Jagaddhatri' Promo Unveiled: Mokshitha Pai and Vijay Suriya Enter Action-Packed Roles in New Zee Kannada Serial. A gripping blend of emotion, drama and high-octane action awaits viewers.**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Seychelles on Saturday on a three-day State Visit aimed at deepening bilateral cooperation in maritime security, defence, development and regional stability in the Indian Ocean Region.**



INSIDE

Good morning

Happiness is the ability to move forward, knowing the future will be better than the past.

## BRIEFS

### Maharashtra TET Leak: Fadnavis Orders SIT Probe

**> Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai**  
Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has ordered a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the alleged Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) 2026 paper leak after three people were arrested in Thane's Bhiwandi area with question papers in their possession.

Police said the arrested accused were allegedly planning to sell copies of the exam paper ahead of the scheduled test on June 28. Following the incident, the Maharashtra State Council of Examination postponed the examination, which was set to be held at over 1,000 centres across the state. **PG2**

### Digital India Turns 11: Key Milestones Highlighted

**> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi**  
The Digital India programme will complete 11 years on July 1, with the government highlighting its impact on transforming governance and building a strong Digital Public Infrastructure ecosystem across the country.

Officials said the initiative has significantly expanded internet connectivity, digital payments and online public services. Nearly 97 per cent of gram panchayats have been connected under BharatNet, while broadband subscriptions have crossed 106 crore.

The government noted that the JAM trinity has boosted financial inclusion, with over 57 crore Jan Dhan accounts and Aadhaar enrolments exceeding 144 crore. Direct Benefit Transfers worth over ₹51 lakh crore have been disbursed through the digital system. **PG2**

### Karachi Blast, Gunfire Leaves 6 Dead

**> Vikrama Vahini | Karachi**  
An explosion followed by gunfire near universities and the Pakistan Rangers headquarters in Karachi on Saturday left at least six people dead, including three Rangers personnel and three attackers.

Security forces swiftly cordoned off the area and launched a counter-operation as the situation remained tense. Officials said the cause of the blast is yet to be confirmed, while investigations are underway.

Eyewitnesses reported panic in the surrounding area as loud explosions and sustained firing were heard near the sensitive zone.

Authorities have tightened security across key installations in Karachi and are examining CCTV footage and other evidence to determine whether the incident was a coordinated attack or an isolated assault.



**Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan addresses the 517th birth anniversary celebrations of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda in Bengaluru on Saturday, in the presence of Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Ministers H.D. Kumaraswamy and V. Somanna, Leader of Opposition R. Ashok, former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, and several religious and community leaders. During the event, the Vice President described Bengaluru as a "Mini Bharat", saying the city's inclusive identity reflects Kempegowda's enduring vision.**

### Chicken Neck Rail Link Survey Begins

**> Vikrama Vahini | Thakurganj (Bihar)**

Indian Railways has commenced the Final Location Survey (FLS) for a proposed 24.40-km broad-gauge railway line connecting Thakurganj in Bihar with Chatarhat in West Bengal, a move aimed at strengthening connectivity through the strategically important Chicken Neck (Siliguri Corridor) region.

Railway officials said the survey includes detailed soil testing, geological investigations and technical assessments for bridges, drainage systems and station infrastructure. Based on the findings, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) will be prepared before land acquisition and construction begin.

The proposed line will create a fourth railway corridor in the region by directly linking Thakurganj with the New Jalpaiguri main line. The project is expected to improve passenger and freight movement, reduce congestion on existing routes and provide an alternative rail connection to the Northeast.

As per the preliminary alignment, the line will cross National Highway-327E and several villages before entering **PG2**

### Slipper Attack on Cong MLA Sparks Political Row

**> Vikrama Vahini | Chikkaballapur**

A slipper was allegedly hurled at Karnataka Congress MLA Pradeep Eshwar during a procession in Chikkaballapur on Saturday, prompting strong condemnation from KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad, who termed the act "cowardly and despicable."

The incident occurred after a Kempegowda Jayanti programme at Kannada Bhavan, where tensions reportedly flared between Congress MLA supporters and JD(S) workers over seating arrangements on the dais. The situation briefly escalated before being brought under control by organisers and seers.

Police said the confrontation continued during a later

procession when unidentified persons allegedly hurled a slipper towards the MLA's vehicle.

The footwear narrowly missed him, causing momentary chaos among party workers and security personnel.

Security forces detained some individuals and restored order in the area. No injuries were reported, and an investigation has been launched into the incident. Condemning the act, Hariprasad said political differences must be resolved through democratic means and not violence.

MLA Pradeep Eshwar said he would not be intimidated by such acts and vowed to continue public work as usual. Police have launched an investigation into the incident.



## 6.2 Magnitude Quake Jolts Afghanistan, India

**> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

A powerful 6.2-magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan's Hindu Kush region on Saturday evening, sending tremors across Pakistan and parts of north India.

The quake occurred at 7:04 pm IST at a depth of 215 km, making it a deep-focus earthquake. There were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage.

### Tremors Across Several Countries

The epicentre was located about 81 km from Kalafgan in northeastern Afghanistan. Besides Afghanistan, tremors were felt in Pakistan, India, China, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan.



Authorities said there were no immediate reports of injuries or property damage.

### Seismically Active Region

The Hindu Kush region is one of the world's most earthquake-prone zones due to the collision

**A 6.2-magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan's Hindu Kush region on Saturday evening, with tremors felt across Pakistan, north India and several neighbouring countries. No casualties or major damage were immediately reported, though authorities continue to monitor the situation.**

of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates. Experts say deep-focus earthquakes are common in the region, which experiences frequent seismic activity.

### Recent Earthquakes in Pakistan and India

The latest tremor follows a series of moderate earthquakes in Pakistan's Balochistan province, where at least five quakes ranging between 4.3 and 5.5 magnitude were recorded over the past two days, causing minor damage and injuries.

Earlier on Friday, Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district experienced a 3.2-magnitude earthquake, with no casualties reported.

### Authorities Monitoring Situation

Disaster management agencies in the affected countries are monitoring the situation closely. Officials said there is currently no tsunami threat or significant structural damage reported, while assessments continue in vulnerable areas.

## HDK TARGETS DK OVER BIDADI LAND ROW

**Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy accused the Karnataka government of a "planned" move to acquire fertile Bidadi farmlands, triggering fresh political controversy over the proposed Bengaluru development project.**

**> Vikrama Vahini | Byramangala**

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Saturday launched a sharp attack on Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, alleging a long-term and systematic attempt to acquire fertile agricultural land in the Bidadi region under the proposed Greater Bengaluru development plans.

Addressing farmers at Byramangala after the Chief Minister skipped an invited open discussion, Kumaraswamy accused the government of planning land acquisition through phased policy decisions and administrative approvals. He claimed that multiple cabinet decisions, notifications, and amendments over the past few years indicated a "pre-planned strategy" to convert agricultural land for urban expansion.

Kumaraswamy said the renaming of Ramanagara district and the creation



of development authorities were part of a broader move linked to the proposed "Bengaluru South" expansion. He alleged that farmers were being pressured into giving up land at lower compensation compared to prevailing market values.

Criticising the township and acquisition proposals, he said he had earlier withdrawn a similar project

after public opposition, and accused the present government of reviving it without consent from landowners. He also questioned the justification for acquiring fertile farmland when alternative government land was available.

In strong remarks, Kumaraswamy warned against attempts to intimidate him or farmers, saying he would

continue to stand with them. He further alleged misuse of authority and demanded fair compensation and transparency in land acquisition processes.

The meeting was attended by JD(S) leaders and a large number of affected farmers, while the absence of the Chief Minister remained a key point of criticism throughout the event.

## Centre Rebutts Op Sindoor Claims

**> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

The Central Government on Saturday dismissed social media posts claiming that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had denied Indian military casualties during Operation Sindoor, calling such posts "deliberately misleading" and "factually incorrect."

The clarification came after Congress leader Pawan Khera alleged that the government had concealed the sacrifice of six security personnel who lost their lives during the operation. Sharing a video clip from Singh's parliamentary speech, Khera claimed that the Defence Minister had either ignored the casualties or misled Parliament.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Defence said Singh's remarks in Parliament had been quoted out of context. It explained that his statement specifically referred to false claims circulating on social media that Indian Air Force pilots had been killed during Operation Sindoor.

The ministry said the Defence Minister's comments were aimed at countering that particular misinformation **PG2**

## ISRO Set for First Gaganyaan Uncrewed Mission

**> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is moving closer to a major milestone in its human spaceflight programme, with the schedule for the first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission expected to be announced shortly, ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan said on Saturday.

The uncrewed mission will be the first of three validation flights under the Gaganyaan programme, which aims to send Indian astronauts into space. It will serve as a critical step before the country's maiden human spaceflight mission.

### First uncrewed mission soon

Narayanan said preparations for the mission are in the final stages. "We are working towards the first uncrewed mission. The dates will be announced very shortly. Once we succeed, the subsequent activities will proceed seamlessly," he told reporters in Bengaluru.

He added that ISRO has already completed two key milestones—human-rating of the launch vehicle and development of critical safety systems required for crewed spaceflight.

### Three validation missions planned



ISRO will conduct three uncrewed missions to validate systems before sending astronauts

**ISRO is nearing a key milestone in its Gaganyaan programme, with the first uncrewed mission expected soon, marking a crucial step toward India's human spaceflight ambitions.**

into space. These missions will test the reliability of the launch vehicle, escape systems and overall mission safety.

### Progress on next-generation engine

The ISRO chief also announced a significant breakthrough in propulsion technology, revealing that the space agency had successfully conducted a powerhead hot test of its 200-tonne semi-cryogenic engine, a key component for future heavy-lift launch vehicles.

He said the test covered major systems except the thrust chamber, achieving nearly 90 per cent of intended thrust. "It is a major milestone, and we are now preparing for the full engine test," he said.

### Launch operations to resume soon

Narayanan also confirmed that ISRO is preparing to resume launch operations after a

temporary pause, stating that earlier technical issues have been identified and resolved.

"Our satellites are ready, and we are working towards restarting launches. The exact date will be announced later," he said.

### Strong collaboration with defence and industry

Highlighting institutional partnerships, Narayanan acknowledged the Indian Air Force's crucial role in the Gaganyaan programme and praised Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for manufacturing key structural components of the LVM3 launch vehicle.

"Without HAL's contribution, our launch vehicle and satellite programmes could not have reached their present stature," he said.

### India's space journey

Recalling India's space programme founded under Dr. Vikram Sarabhai in 1962, Narayanan said sustained investments in satellites, launch vehicles and ground systems have positioned India as a leading spacefaring nation.

With Gaganyaan entering its decisive phase and new propulsion systems under development, ISRO is poised for a new era in human space exploration.

Panchatantra Stories

## The War of Crows and Owls

Near the city of Mahilaropyam stood a vast banyan tree that housed a large colony of crows led by King Meghavarana. Not far away, a cave served as the stronghold of owls ruled by King Arimaradana. The two groups were eternal enemies. Every night, the owls would attack the crows, taking advantage of darkness, killing many of them while suffering little resistance.

Distressed by repeated losses, King Meghavarana called a council of his ministers. Some advised peace, others suggested war, retreat, or seeking allies. But the wise minister Sthirajeevi proposed a different strategy—deception. He suggested pretending to betray the crows so he could infiltrate the owls and learn their weaknesses.

To convince enemy spies, Sthirajeevi staged a dramatic act. The crows publicly beat him and expelled him from their group. Injured and appearing humiliated, he reached the owl king and gained his trust by praising him and condemning the crows.

Gradually, Sthirajeevi won the confidence of Arimaradana. While some owl ministers suspected him, the king ignored warnings and allowed him to stay near the cave entrance. Pretending to build a nest, Sthirajeevi secretly collected dry twigs and branches over time.

Meanwhile, he continued feeding false information about the crows. When the moment was right, he slipped away and informed Meghavarana of the owl stronghold and its vulnerabilities. He instructed the crows to carry burning sticks and attack the cave entrance.

Following his plan, the crows set fire to the accumulated twigs at the cave mouth. The flames spread rapidly, trapping smoke inside. Unable to escape, many owls perished in the fire, and their dominance ended. With the owls defeated, the crows returned safely to the banyan tree. Sthirajeevi rejoined his king, having ensured victory through intelligence and strategy rather than direct confrontation.

King Meghavarana ruled peacefully thereafter, remembering the lesson that survival depends not only on strength but also on wisdom and careful planning.

The wise proverb echoed through Mahilaropyam: Never trust your enemy, and do not allow a foe into your home. The story is a timeless reminder that intelligence and strategy often triumph over brute force in conflicts.

# Kempegowda Belongs to All: DKS



**> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday paid rich tributes to Bengaluru's founder Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, describing him as a Vishwamanava (universal human) whose vision continues to shape the city's growth. Calling upon people to emulate Kempegowda's ideals, the Chief Minister said the legendary ruler belonged to the entire society and not to any one community.

Addressing the Kempegowda Jayanti celebrations at Yelahanka, Shivakumar said, "Kempegowda was born a Vokkaliga but grew into a Vishwamanava. No one should forget this. We must all walk along the path he showed."

He said Bengaluru has earned global recognition because of Kempegowda's vision. "Nearly 500 years ago, Kempegowda performed pooja and laid the foundation for this city without imagining the scale to which it would one day expand. His foresight has stood the test of time, and Bengaluru's residents should never forget his contribution," he said.

**Rs 1.25 lakh crore development plan**

Highlighting the rapid expansion of Bengaluru, the Chief Minister said the government is now focusing on the city's vertical growth to address urban challenges.

"Bengaluru continues to grow every day,

and we cannot stop people from coming here. Therefore, we are planning for vertical growth and have prepared a ₹1.25 lakh crore programme for the comprehensive development of the city," he said.

Shivakumar stressed that Kempegowda's legacy transcends caste and religion. "Kempegowda is not the property of the Vokkaliga community alone. His ideals belong to people of every caste and religion. Only by involving everyone can we truly honour his legacy," he added.

**Concessional KHB site for Vokkaliga Sangha**

Responding to requests from local leaders, the Chief Minister announced that the Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) would allot a site for the Bengaluru North Vokkaliga Sangha at a concessional rate.

"Following appeals from MP Sudhakar and former MLA Gantiganahalli Krishnappa, the government has decided to fix the land price at just 10 per cent of the prevailing rate," he announced.

**Call to prepare for drought**

Expressing concern over deficient rainfall this year, Shivakumar urged people to prepare for a possible drought.

"For the last three years we received good rainfall, but this year the entire country may face drought. We must all unite to overcome the

challenge and protect our farmers," he said.

**Greener Bengaluru and Kempegowda memorial initiatives**

After garlanding Kempegowda's statue at Vidhana Soudha, the Chief Minister announced a massive tree plantation drive involving 15 lakh saplings across Bengaluru to restore the city's reputation as a Garden City.

He said parks would be developed on forest department land around Bengaluru to preserve green cover.

Later, Shivakumar offered floral tributes at the 108-foot bronze statue of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda near Kempegowda International Airport. Swamijis from Adichunchanagiri, Sphatikapuri and Vishva Vokkaligara Samsthana accompanied him during the ceremony.

The Chief Minister said the government has launched a ₹100 crore comprehensive development project for Kempegowda's fort at Magadi and initiated the acquisition of 10 acres near Kempegowda's tomb, with five-and-a-half acres already purchased.

**Action plan to showcase Kempegowda's history**

Shivakumar said the government has instructed airport authorities to prepare an action plan to showcase Kempegowda's history for visitors arriving in Bengaluru.

"We want every visitor entering Bengaluru

to remember its founder. Necessary arrangements will be made near the Trumpet Interchange so that people become familiar with Kempegowda's remarkable legacy," he said.

He also recalled that the government had allotted five acres near Sumanahalli for constructing a Kempegowda Bhavan and establishing a Town Planning College in Kempegowda's name.

**Jayanti celebrations across Bengaluru**

Announcing a new initiative, the Chief Minister said Kempegowda Jayanti celebrations would henceforth be organised every year in a different Assembly constituency across Bengaluru instead of being confined to Vidhana Soudha.

Pointing to Bengaluru's rapid urbanisation, he noted that the city now has a population of nearly 1.40 crore and over 1.30 crore registered vehicles. He reiterated the government's commitment to extending Metro connectivity to Kempegowda International Airport and expanding the city's Metro network to nearly 500 kilometres over the next two years.

"Kempegowda's vision, conduct and principles belong to every section of society. His legacy is the shared heritage of all Kannadigas and all residents of Bengaluru," Shivakumar said.

## Ashok Warns of BJP Stir Over Health Dept 'ICU' Claim

**> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Leader of Opposition R. Ashok on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the Karnataka government, claiming that the state Health Department is in a "critical condition" and warning of a statewide BJP agitation if 35,196 vacant posts are not filled immediately.

In a statement, Ashok alleged that despite changes in the Chief Minister and Health Minister, the condition of the department had not improved due to what he termed "negligence, inefficiency and anti-people governance" by the Congress government.

He said the Health Department was severely affected by staff shortages, with 35,196 vacancies remaining unfilled. He demanded immediate recruitment and clearance of pending salaries of employees working in Namma Clinics.

Warning of statewide protests,

Ashok said the BJP would launch an agitation if the government failed to address the issue, accusing it of "playing with the health of the poor."

He further alleged that government hospitals were facing shortages of doctors and essential medicines, including paracetamol, forcing poor patients to seek treatment elsewhere.



Ashok also claimed that employees of Namma Clinics had not received salaries for the past three months and questioned the government's "moral right" to remain in power if it could not pay staff.

His remarks came a day after Deputy Chief Minister G.

Parameshwara announced that the government had directed departments to begin recruitment for filling 72,000 vacant posts after resolving issues related to internal reservation based on the Justice H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission report.

## Maharashtra TET Leak: Fadnavis Orders SIT Probe

**> From PGI**

Officials confirmed that the recovered documents matched the original question paper, prompting the formation of an SIT headed by Thane Joint Commissioner of Police Panjabrao Ugale.

The Chief Minister also directed strict action against all those involved after consulting senior education and police officials.

Investigators have seized mobile phones, cash, and other materials from the accused, and further questioning is underway. Authorities said a fresh examination date will be announced later.

Police said preliminary investigation suggests a wider network may be involved in circulating the leaked question papers ahead of the exam.

Officials added that digital evidence is being analysed to trace the source of the leak and identify any additional suspects linked to the racket.

## BJP ALLEGES CONGRESS ROLE IN MLC CROSS-VOTING

**> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

The Karnataka BJP on Saturday accused the ruling Congress of orchestrating cross-voting during the recent Legislative Council elections,

alleging that "unethical methods" were used to secure political advantage.

Former BJP national general secretary and MLC C.T. Ravi made the allegations after submitting the party's internal inquiry report on the June 18 MLC polls to BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra.

Ravi alleged that the Congress had "no moral right" to lecture others on democratic values while itself being involved in cross-voting practices.

However, he did not disclose

the contents of the report, stating that it was an internal document.

He said a three-member committee, comprising himself, former minister N. Mahesh and



MLA Mahesh Tenginakai, had examined media reports and interacted with suspected cross-voters, party candidates, JD(S) leaders, opposition leaders, chief whips, journalists and other stakeholders before finalising its findings.

The BJP had formed the committee after the June 18 Legislative Council elections, in which the Congress secured five seats with a higher-than-

expected vote margin, while the BJP won two seats, triggering allegations of cross-voting within the BJP-JD(S) alliance.

NEWS

## BJP Seeks Audit of Guarantee Schemes

**> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Leader of the Opposition Chief Whip in the Karnataka Legislative Council, N. Ravi Kumar, has demanded that the State Government constitute a high-level task force to conduct a mid-course evaluation of all five guarantee schemes and the functioning of the Guarantee Implementation Committee following alleged irregularities in the Gruhalakshmi scheme.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Ravi Kumar cited findings from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report, alleging that ₹46.52 crore was misappropriated under the Gruhalakshmi scheme, with genuine beneficiaries allegedly being deprived of benefits while funds were transferred to thousands of fictitious or irregular accounts.

Quoting the CAG report, he claimed that ₹46.52 crore had been disbursed to 23,262 beneficiaries without bank account details. He further alleged that ₹60.69 crore was deposited into a single joint bank account linked to 19,020 beneficiaries, raising serious questions about the implementation of the scheme.

Ravi Kumar also alleged that the audit report found instances where benefits continued to be credited to deceased beneficiaries and that duplicate payments amounting to ₹1.80 crore were made to 8,995 accounts.

Referring to earlier allegations regarding the whereabouts of nearly ₹5,000 crore under the

guarantee schemes, he said the government had yet to provide a satisfactory explanation and accused it of failing to address the issue transparently.

Calling the alleged financial irregularities "unacceptable and unpardonable," Ravi Kumar said similar lapses could exist in the other four guarantee schemes and urged the government to immediately order a comprehensive review to prevent further misuse of public funds.



The BJP leader criticised the Guarantee Implementation Committee, alleging that despite its chairman enjoying the rank of a Minister of State and committee members receiving substantial remuneration, it had failed to effectively monitor the implementation of the flagship schemes.

"The reported irregularities expose the inefficiency of both the Guarantee Implementation Committee and the state government. The proposed task force should also evaluate the committee's performance," he said. Ravi Kumar further demanded that the government release a White Paper detailing the alleged Gruhalakshmi scam and initiate action against officials responsible for supervising the scheme.

Stating that public money must be safeguarded, he said the BJP would continue to raise the issue both inside and outside the Legislature and would explore launching a statewide campaign seeking justice for women beneficiaries allegedly affected by the irregularities.

## Somanna Slams Ram Mandir Donation Misuse

**> Vikrama Vahini | Davanagere**

Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti V. Somanna on Saturday termed the alleged misappropriation of donations at the Shri Ram Temple as a "grave sin" and said strict action would be taken against those found guilty.



Speaking to reporters in Davanagere, Somanna said misusing money offered by devotees in the name of God was unacceptable and amounted to a serious breach of public trust.

"There is no greater sin than

misusing God's name. Betraying the faith of millions of devotees is unacceptable," he said.

He added that the alleged irregularities had hurt the sentiments of devotees and stressed that places of worship must remain symbols of faith, honesty and integrity.

The Minister assured that the matter would be thoroughly investigated and those responsible would face appropriate action.

"The guilty will not be spared," he said, warning against exploiting religious institutions for personal gain.

## Chicken Neck Rail Link Survey Begins

**> From PGI**

West Bengal through a new railway bridge proposed over the Chenga River. The final alignment will be decided after completion of technical studies.

The Siliguri Corridor, popularly known as the Chicken Neck, is India's narrow land link connecting the northeastern states with the rest of the country.

Railway officials said the new corridor will strengthen regional connectivity, improve logistics, enhance disaster response capabilities and reinforce national security in this strategically sensitive area. Once completed, the project is expected to ease congestion on existing rail routes and improve passenger and freight movement to the Northeast.

## Centre Rebutts Op Sindoor Claims

**> From PGI**

and not at denying the deaths of other military personnel.

The ministry emphasised that the sacrifice of the six personnel—five Army soldiers and one Indian Air Force serviceman—had never been hidden. It stated that their names have been inscribed at the National War Memorial and included in its official Roll of Honour. Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7, 2025, in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. Indian armed forces targeted terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, followed by military exchanges between the two sides.

## SCIENCE & Technology

### Google Finance Adds AI Portfolio Tools on Android

**> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

Google has rolled out a new Google Finance app for Android along with a revamped web experience, introducing AI-driven tools for investors, real-time market tracking and enhanced portfolio management features.

The new app allows users to monitor live stock prices, create personalised watchlists, access financial news and receive AI-based investment insights. A key feature, "Key Moments," uses artificial intelligence to explain sharp movements in stock prices by analysing underlying market triggers.

Google has also upgraded its web platform with a unified portfolio dashboard that consolidates investments in one place. It provides performance tracking, asset allocation details and personalised financial insights. Users can now import portfolios using CSV or PDF files, screenshots or even natural language inputs.

The AI-powered research assistant enables users to analyse their investments and ask contextual questions about sector exposure, diversification and long-term growth strategies. The system then generates tailored responses based on portfolio data.

Another major addition is AI-generated market briefings, which offer customised updates such as daily summaries, pre-market reports and cryptocurrency movements. Google said the new features are being rolled out globally, while an iOS version of the app is currently under development and expected later this year.

## Digital India Turns 11: Key Milestones Highlighted

**> From PGI**

UPI continues to lead global real-time payments, processing record transactions in FY 2025-26, while platforms like DigiLocker and eSanjeevani have expanded digital documentation and telemedicine services.

Officials said India's digital

ecosystem, including Aadhaar, UPI and CoWIN, is now being recognised globally as a model for technology-driven governance.

Officials said India has also emerged as a global leader in digital payments, with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) accounting for nearly half

of the world's real-time transaction volume.

They added that platforms such as DigiLocker, CoWIN and eSanjeevani have further strengthened digital governance by enabling paperless document storage, large-scale vaccination management and telemedicine services.

## TN GOVT DROPS CASTE INFO ON STUDENT ID CARDS

**> Vikrama Vahini | Chennai**  
Tamil Nadu Revenue Minister K.A. Sengottaiyan on Saturday withdrew his earlier statement that caste details would be included in identity cards proposed for school students, following strong criticism from opposition parties, alliance partners and educationists.

The minister clarified that the proposed identity cards for students of Classes 10 to 12 would not contain caste information.

A day earlier, Sengottaiyan had said the government, under the direction of Chief Minister Joseph Vijay, planned to issue student identity cards carrying details such as caste, address, blood group, Aadhaar number and contact information. The announcement triggered widespread criticism, with opposition parties, including the DMK, as well as Left parties supporting the government, arguing that including caste details could promote discrimination among students.



**Tamil Nadu minister K.A. Sengottaiyan has withdrawn his proposal to include caste details in student ID cards after facing strong criticism. The government clarified that the cards for Classes 10 to 12 will focus on essential data only, aimed at easing access to official records and emergency information.**

Addressing reporters in Gobichettipalayam after a welfare distribution programme organised to mark Chief Minister Vijay's birthday, Sengottaiyan said the School Education and Revenue Departments were only examining the possibility of issuing data-based identity cards to streamline official records.

"If caste details are included in school identity cards, it may lead to discrimination and distress among students. Students study together without distinctions of caste or religion, and our movement also stands beyond caste and religion," he said.

The minister explained that the proposed cards are intended to

integrate information from various government-issued certificates, including income, nativity and community certificates, thereby reducing the need for students to repeatedly approach revenue officials for documents.

He added that the identity cards would also be useful during emergencies by providing quick access to essential information such as blood group and family contact details.

Sengottaiyan had recently faced criticism over his remarks supporting students wearing coloured wristbands linked to caste identity, a practice prohibited by the previous state government.

## Court Reissues NBW Against Prakash Raj

**> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**  
A Bengaluru court has reissued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against actor Prakash Raj after he allegedly failed to appear in a case related to multiple voter registrations across different states. The case stems from a private complaint filed by advocate K. Dilip Kumar, who alleged that the actor's name appeared in multiple electoral rolls while he contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections from Bengaluru Central constituency.



According to the complaint, Prakash Raj was allegedly registered as a voter in Shantinagar (Karnataka), Serilingampally (Telangana), and two locations in Tamil Nadu, including Velachery. The complaint states that holding multiple voter IDs may constitute an offence under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. The court had earlier taken cognisance of the case in August 2025 and issued summons through the Bengaluru Police Commissioner in February 2026.

## Man Dies in Tumakuru Car Blast After Stabbing

**A man died and a woman was seriously injured after a moving car caught fire following an alleged stabbing and explosion on the Bengaluru-Pune National Highway in Tumakuru.**

**> Vikrama Vahini | Tumakuru**  
A 30-year-old man was killed and a 23-year-old woman seriously injured after a moving car caught fire following an alleged stabbing and explosion on the Bengaluru-Pune National Highway near Jogihalli in Shira taluk of Tumakuru district on Saturday.

According to police, the deceased, identified as Nagendra, and the injured woman, Ramya Ullas, both OT technicians at a Bengaluru hospital, were travelling from Bengaluru to Ankola in a hired car along with a driver when the incident occurred.

Police said an argument allegedly broke out between the

two over personal issues during the journey. The dispute reportedly escalated when Nagendra attacked Ramya with a knife inside the moving vehicle.

In an attempt to save herself, Ramya jumped out of the moving car, sustaining serious injuries. The driver immediately stopped the vehicle and got out.

Ramya was shifted to the district hospital, where she is undergoing treatment.

A case has been registered at Kallambella Police Station, and investigations are underway to ascertain the exact sequence of events, the motive behind the incident, and whether it was premeditated.

## BHAGYARAJ PASSES AWAY AT 73

**> Vikrama Vahini | Chennai**  
Veteran Tamil filmmaker, actor and acclaimed screenwriter K. Bhagyaraj passed away on Saturday following a massive cardiac arrest at a private hospital in Chennai. He was 73.

Bhagyaraj reportedly complained of chest pain after returning from his morning walk and was rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared him dead despite efforts to revive him.

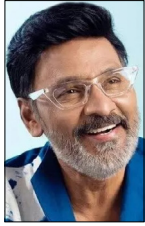
The Tamil Nadu government announced that his last rites will be performed with full state honours in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Tamil cinema.

Known as the "King of Screenplay", Bhagyaraj directed

and acted in several blockbuster films, including the classic Mundhanai Mudichu. Over a career spanning five decades, he acted in more than 75 films and directed over 25, earning widespread acclaim for his engaging storytelling, humour and socially relevant themes.

Condolences poured in from political leaders and film personalities, including Vice President C.P. Radha krishnan, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay, DMK

president M.K. Stalin, Rajinikanth, Kamal Haasan and several others, who paid tribute to the legendary filmmaker. As a mark of respect, the Tamil Film Producers Council announced the cancellation of all film shoots on Sunday.



## Youth Rescue Injured Deer in Mysuru

**> Vikrama Vahini | Mysuru**  
A group of young men in Karnataka's Mysuru district rescued an injured deer that had been attacked by stray dogs and fallen into a well, turning a potential tragedy into a story of compassion.

The incident took place in Hedatole

village of Nanjangud taluk on Saturday, when the deer, which had strayed from a nearby forest into agricultural fields, was chased by a pack of stray dogs. In an attempt to escape, the animal sustained injuries to its eyes, head, neck and abdomen before falling into an open well.

On hearing the animal's cries, the youths rushed to the spot, drove away the dogs and carefully pulled the injured deer out of the well. They then informed the Forest Department.

Officials from the Nanjangud Forest Range arrived at the spot, provided first aid and shifted the deer to a

treatment centre for further care.

Villagers said such incidents are increasing as deer frequently enter farmlands in search of food and water, often falling victim to stray dog attacks.

Locals appreciated the timely intervention of the youths, saying their quick action saved the animal's life.

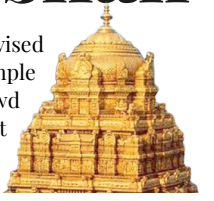
## Tirumala Rush: TTD Cancels VIP Darshan

**> Vikrama Vahini | Tirumala**  
The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has cancelled the VIP Break Darshan scheduled for June 29 due to an unprecedented rush of devotees following the weekend crowd and summer holidays.

The TTD said the decision was taken to ensure smoother

darshan for common devotees. Recommendation letters for VIP Break Darshan will not be accepted on Sunday, and 800 Srivani Darshan tickets will also not be issued on Monday. Officials said queue complexes have reached full capacity, with waiting lines extending up to Balaji Nagar. Authorities are monitoring the situation and have

urged devotees to cooperate with revised arrangements. The temple administration said additional crowd management measures are being put in place to handle the continued influx of pilgrims.



## Kempegowda's Legacy Built 'Mini Bharat' Bengaluru: VP

**> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**  
Vice President CP Radhakrishnan on Saturday said Bengaluru's identity as "Mini Bharat" reflects the enduring legacy of Nadaprabhu Sri Kempegowda, whose vision of an inclusive and harmonious society continues to guide the city's development and India's broader growth.

Paying tribute on Kempegowda's 517th birth anniversary, the Vice President said the founder of Bengaluru envisioned a city where

farmers, traders, artisans, scholars and people from diverse communities and faiths could coexist and prosper. He noted that modern Bengaluru, with its multicultural population drawn from across the country, stands as a living embodiment of that vision.

Describing Kempegowda as a visionary administrator, urban planner, environmentalist and social reformer, Radhakrishnan said he laid the foundation for planned urban development through

structured markets, organised neighbourhoods, water management systems and public spaces. He highlighted that Kempegowda's network of lakes, canals and extensive tree plantation reflected early principles of sustainability and remains relevant in addressing present-day challenges like water scarcity and climate change.

The Vice President further said Kempegowda promoted social harmony and cultural diversity while upholding ethical

governance. Though rooted in Kannada culture, he welcomed people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds, making Bengaluru a model of unity in diversity.

Observing Bengaluru's rise as India's technology and innovation hub, Radhakrishnan said its success is built on the strong foundation laid nearly five centuries ago.

He added that Kempegowda's emphasis on long-term planning, sustainability and

institution-building continues to inspire India's vision of Viksit Bharat.

The programme was attended by Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Ministers H.D. Kumaraswamy and V. Somanna, Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka, former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, along with several religious leaders, community representatives and dignitaries who paid floral tributes to Nadaprabhu Sri Kempegowda on the occasion.

### ENTERTAINMENT

## 'Ayogya 2' Song Sparks Buzz

**> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**  
The Sandalwood film 'Ayogya 2', the sequel to the blockbuster Ayogya, is already generating strong buzz ahead of its release on August 7. The recently released video song 'Muddu Muddu Puttalakshmi' has gone viral on social media, drawing mixed reactions from audiences.

While viewers have appreciated the tune and overall musical composition, the choreography has become the subject of widespread discussion online. Many social media users have expressed

disappointment over the "old-style" dance steps, saying they do not match current trends in film choreography. Comments circulating online

suggest that the choreography appears outdated, with several users comparing it to 1990s-style dance sequences. "The song sounds melodious, but the visuals could have been much better," some viewers noted, while others said they expected more contemporary and energetic dance movements.

Despite the criticism, the song has gained significant traction online, with fans sharing and discussing it widely across platforms. The film stars Ninasam Satish and Rachita Ram, and is directed by Mahesh.

The first installment of Ayogya was a major box office success, particularly known for its hit song "Yenammi Yenammi", which had gone viral upon release. Naturally, expectations for the sequel were high, especially for its music and dance sequences.

However, the current response to 'Muddu Muddu Puttalakshmi' suggests a divided audience reaction, with the song's melody being praised even as its choreography faces criticism. Fans now await the film's theatrical release to see how the song ultimately appears on the big screen and whether it connects better in the cinematic experience.

## CHIRANJEEVI FACES TROLLS OVER RAM CHARAN REMARKS

**> Vikrama Vahini | Hyderabad**  
Megastar Chiranjeevi, one of Telugu cinema's most respected senior actors, has recently come under criticism and social media trolling following his remarks about his son, actor Ram Charan.

Chiranjeevi, known for his long-standing contribution to the film industry and social initiatives, has often been seen supporting younger talent and emerging filmmakers.

However, his recent comments at a film success celebration event have triggered debate online, with users accusing him of excessive favouritism towards his son.

The controversy reportedly stems from his speech during the success celebrations of Ram Charan's latest film "Peddhi", where Chiranjeevi repeatedly praised his son's performance and expressed confidence in his future achievements.

He also stated that Ram Charan deserves to be the "next Megastar" of Telugu cinema, a remark that has drawn mixed reactions.

In his address, Chiranjeevi said that he was passing on his legacy to his son and described Ram Charan as an actor capable of surpassing expectations. He also expressed hope that Ram Charan would win national recognition for

his performance, claiming that his acting deserved the highest honours.

However, critics on social media have pointed out that such statements may be perceived as exerting influence within the industry.

Some users also compared his remarks with earlier instances where Chiranjeevi had allegedly favoured his son's work in public discussions, reviving old debates about nepotism in the film industry.

The discussion intensified further as users referenced actor Allu Arjun's recent National Award win for "Pushpa", suggesting a perceived rivalry between leading stars of the industry and questioning Chiranjeevi's comments in that context.

Old interviews and video clips of Chiranjeevi praising Ram Charan over other major films have also resurfaced online, further fueling the debate.

While supporters defend Chiranjeevi's pride in his son's achievements, critics argue that such public statements from a senior industry figure can influence perceptions and fuel controversy in an already competitive film environment. The controversy has sparked a wider debate on nepotism and influence in the Telugu film industry.



### BUSINESS

## India Forex Reserves Cross \$672 Billion on Strong Gold Gains

**> Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata**  
India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$963 million to \$672.587 billion for the week ending June 19, 2026, according to the latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data. The increase comes after a sharp decline of nearly \$9.99 billion in the previous week, indicating renewed strength in the external position.

The rise was mainly driven by a significant jump in gold reserves, which increased by \$4.11 billion to \$107.93 billion during the week. RBI officials noted that global demand for safe-haven assets and recent price movements have contributed to rising gold holdings in central bank reserves.

However, foreign currency assets, the largest component of forex reserves, fell by \$3.07 billion to \$541.21 billion, reflecting fluctuations in major global currencies such as the euro, pound, and yen against the US dollar.

India's Special Drawing Rights (SDR) with the IMF also declined marginally to \$18.64 billion, while the reserve position with the IMF fell slightly to \$4.79 billion. Despite these minor declines, the overall reserves remained robust, underscoring continued stability in India's external financial position.

The RBI data also indicate that fluctuations in global currency markets continue to play a key role in determining India's foreign currency assets. Appreciation or depreciation of major currencies against the US dollar directly impacts the valuation of these holdings, even without active buying or selling by the central bank.

Economists view the steady rise in India's overall forex reserves as a buffer against external shocks, including global financial volatility, crude oil price fluctuations and geopolitical tensions. A strong reserve position also enhances investor confidence and supports currency stability in the domestic market.

Analysts further note that India's increasing focus on gold accumulation reflects a broader global trend among central banks diversifying away from dollar-heavy assets. This strategy is aimed at strengthening long-term financial security amid uncertain global economic conditions.



SPORTS

### India vs Australia: Do-or-Die Clash for India's Semi-Final Hopes

> Vikrama Vahini | London

The India women's cricket team is set for a high-voltage encounter against Australia in their final group-stage match of the 2026 Women's T20 World Cup at Lord's on June 28, with their semi-final hopes hanging in the balance.

India currently sit second in the points table with three wins from four matches and six points, while Australia remain unbeaten, topping the group with four wins. For Harmanpreet Kaur's side, victory is crucial to stay alive in the race for the semi-finals.

A defeat would end India's campaign, making the clash a virtual knockout for the Women in Blue. The match will begin at 7 pm and will be telecast live on the Star Sports network.

**India Squad:**

Harmanpreet Kaur (c), 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.

**Australia Squad:**

Beth Mooney, Georgia Voll, Ellyse Perry, Ashleigh Gardner, Georgia Wareham, Nicola Carey, Annabel Sutherland, Sophie Molineux (c), Alana King, Kim Garth, Lucy Hamilton, Phoebe Litchfield, Tahlia McGrath, Grace Harris, Megan Schutt.

### India A Take 122-Run Lead; Aqib Nabi Stars with 4 Wickets

> Vikrama Vahini | Galle

India A secured a commanding 122-run first-innings lead over Sri Lanka A in the opening unofficial Test at Galle, thanks to strong batting performances and a sharp bowling spell from Aqib Nabi.

India A declared their first innings at 452/6, powered by centuries from Sai Sudharsan (132) and captain Dhruv Jurel (141), while Shaik Rasheed contributed a solid 63.

In response, Sri Lanka A were bowled out for 330, despite useful half-centuries from Nuwanidu Fernando (84), Ashen Bandara (70) and Sahan Arachchige (72). The hosts collapsed late, losing their last five wickets for just 30 runs.

Jammu & Kashmir pacer Aqib Nabi was the standout bowler for India A, claiming 4 wickets for 58 runs in 19.4 overs. Yash Thakur and Harsh Dubey picked up two wickets each, while Anshul Kamboj and Sarnash Jain took one wicket apiece.

With this performance, India A have taken a strong grip on the match heading into the next phase.

With a solid first-innings advantage and momentum firmly on their side, India A will now look to extend their lead and push for a decisive result in the remaining days of the unofficial Test.

Sri Lanka A will need a strong second-innings fightback to stay competitive in the match. India A, meanwhile, will aim to build pressure early with both bat and ball.

## MODI IN SEYCHELLES TO BOOST STRATEGIC TIES

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Seychelles on Saturday on a three-day State Visit aimed at deepening bilateral cooperation in maritime security, defence, development and regional stability in the Indian Ocean Region.

Modi was received at the airport by Seychelles President Patrick Herminie and described the island nation as a "valued maritime partner" and a close friend of India.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister thanked the Seychelles leadership for the warm welcome and expressed confidence that the visit would further strengthen the longstanding partnership between the two countries.

"Seychelles is a valued maritime partner and a close friend in the Indian Ocean. I look forward to a productive visit that will



enhance cooperation for the benefit of our people," Modi said.

The visit coincides with the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between

India and Seychelles. During his stay, Modi will attend the country's Golden Jubilee National Day celebrations as the Guest of Honour and hold bilateral talks with the Seychelles leadership.

The discussions are expected to focus on maritime security, defence cooperation, climate resilience, development partnerships, capacity building and regional stability.

India and Seychelles share close historical ties, with New Delhi playing a significant role in supporting the island nation's infrastructure, healthcare, education and maritime security initiatives.

The visit is also expected to reaffirm India's commitment to strengthening partnerships in the Indian Ocean Region and promoting a free, open, secure and inclusive maritime order amid growing geopolitical interest in the region.

## MDMK Quits DMK Alliance After 9 Years

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Vaiko-led Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) on Saturday formally withdrew from the DMK-led alliance, ending its nine-year association with the ruling coalition in Tamil Nadu.

The decision was taken at the party's general council meeting, where a resolution was passed to sever ties with the alliance.

Speaking at a party meeting, MDMK general secretary Vaiko expressed dissatisfaction over the treatment meted out to his party within the alliance. He said the party had compromised its 'self-respect and dignity' during its nine-year association with the DMK.

"We had to compromise on our self-respect and dignity to remain in the alliance for nine years," Vaiko said.

According to reports, Vaiko was unhappy that MDMK was not allowed to contest elections on its own party symbol and was also



dissatisfied with the importance given to smaller alliance partners.

In the recently concluded Assembly elections, MDMK contested four seats as part of the DMK alliance and won two. Both victorious candidates contested on the DMK's 'Rising Sun' symbol. Political circles are speculating that MDMK may explore joining actor-politician Vijay's political front ahead of future elections.

With this move, MDMK has become the sixth party to part ways with the DMK-led alliance following the Assembly election results announced in May.

## Heavy Monsoon Rains Forecast Across Karnataka

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The monsoon has intensified across Karnataka, with the Meteorological Department forecasting widespread rainfall over the next seven days in coastal, Mahad and interior districts.

Heavy rain is likely at isolated places in Dakshina Kannada, Udipi and Uttara Kannada districts from June 29 to July 1. Similar heavy rainfall is expected in Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu, while Hassan and Davanagere may also witness heavy showers on June 29 and 30.

In north interior Karnataka, districts including Belagavi, Dharwad and Haveri are likely to receive heavy rain between June 29 and July 1, with Bidar, Kalaburagi and Yadgir also expected to experience heavy rainfall on June 30.

Across the state, moderate rain

accompanied by winds of 30-40 kmph is expected in several areas. However, no specific warnings have been issued for thunderstorms or hailstorms.

Maximum temperatures are likely to remain stable over the next five days.

Bengaluru Forecast

Bengaluru is expected to witness generally cloudy skies over the next 24-48 hours, with light to moderate rain in a few areas accompanied by winds of 30-40 kmph.

The city will record a maximum temperature of around 30°C and a minimum of 20°C, according to the Meteorological Department.

Residents across Karnataka have been advised to remain cautious as intermittent heavy rainfall and strong winds are expected in several districts over the coming days.



## One Killed, Four Missing in Arunachal Deluge

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

At least one person was killed and four others remain missing after a cloudburst triggered a devastating flash flood in the Potin area of Arunachal Pradesh, causing extensive damage to houses, roads and public infrastructure.

The disaster struck on June 24 when intense monsoon rains triggered a sudden cloudburst, sending torrents of water through Potin and nearby villages. The floodwaters swept away homes in the NEEPCO Colony and the adjacent Poosa village, which bore the brunt of the disaster.

A woman lost her life in Poosa village, while four others are still unaccounted for.

The NEEPCO Colony, located about nine kilometres from Potin, has been cut off after roads leading to the area were washed away or blocked by landslides, making rescue efforts more challenging.

The Potin-Poosa Village road and the Potin-Yachuli-Ziro road remain blocked due to heavy landslides triggered by the cloudburst. Personnel



from the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), district administration and local residents are working together to clear debris and restore connectivity.

Relief and restoration operations are continuing in the affected areas, while authorities have urged residents living in vulnerable locations to remain vigilant as heavy monsoon rains persist across several parts of Arunachal Pradesh.

The district administration said it is closely monitoring the situation and taking all necessary measures to restore road links and provide assistance to affected families.

## 11 Years of Tech Transformation

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Digital India programme will complete 11 years on July 1, marking a major milestone in India's digital transformation. The government said the initiative has strengthened digital governance, expanded internet access and built one of the world's largest Digital Public Infrastructure ecosystems.

Officials highlighted key achievements, including the rapid growth of UPI, Aadhaar, DigiLocker and BharatNet, which have improved digital payments, public service delivery and financial inclusion. The government said the programme continues to drive innovation and support the vision of a digitally empowered India.

## LeT Leaders Attend Shoib Akhtar's Brother's Funeral

Reports suggest LeT-linked leaders attended Shoib Akhtar's brother's funeral in Islamabad, reviving concerns over militant presence in Pakistan.

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The funeral of Shahid Akhtar, elder brother of former Pakistan fast bowler Shoib Akhtar, has come under the spotlight after reports claimed that senior leaders linked to the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) attended the ceremony in Islamabad.

Shahid Akhtar, who passed away on June 24, was laid to rest at the H-8 graveyard in the Pakistani capital.

Videos circulating on social media reportedly showed Saifullah Kasuri, described as LeT's deputy chief, and Inam Ur Rehman, president of the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML), attending the funeral.

**Fresh Questions Over Militant Influence**

The reported presence of the two leaders has reignited debate over the continued visibility and influence of banned militant organisations in Pakistan. Pakistan has consistently denied supporting



terrorist groups.

Kasuri has frequently made anti-India statements and was seen in several videos following the Pahalgam terror attack. Indian authorities have previously identified him as a key figure linked to LeT activities.

**Spotlight on Pakistan**

The development comes amid heightened tensions between India and Pakistan following India's Operation Sindoor, which targeted terror infrastructure after the Pahalgam attack.

Security analysts say the reported public appearance of LeT-linked figures is likely to draw renewed international attention to Pakistan's handling of banned extremist organisations.

## 'Wall of Gratitude' for Land Donors: DKS

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday announced that the Karnataka government will establish 'Walls of Gratitude' across the state to honour landowners who voluntarily part with their land for public infrastructure and development projects.

"The names of landowners who willingly give up their land without objections will be engraved on a Wall of Gratitude. Their sacrifice for the state's development must be remembered forever," he said.

Referring to the newly inaugurated 10-lane S M Krishna Road, Shivakumar said the road would eventually be extended into a 123-km Bengaluru Business Corridor, and a Wall of Gratitude would be constructed along the route to honour those who contributed land for the project.

"We understand the pain of people who lose their land. But every great township, including Kengeri and Yelahanka, has been built through such sacrifices. What matters in life is not merely birth and death, but the contribution we make to society between the two," he remarked.

**Green Bengaluru drive**



The Chief Minister announced a massive green initiative under which 15 lakh saplings have been planted across Bengaluru to restore the city's Garden City identity and realise Nadaprabhu Kempegowda's vision of a sustainable city.

He proposed involving schoolchildren in maintaining the city's greenery by assigning each school a designated area for tree plantation and maintenance. A city-wide tree-planting competition for students will also be organised through the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

**Kempegowda Study Centre**

Shivakumar also announced the establishment of a Kempegowda Study Centre at Bengaluru University. He said

9.5 acres of land had been provided for the project, while another 30 crore development programme would be implemented at Huthridurga.

Recalling the contributions of former Chief Minister S M Krishna, he said several landmark projects, including Arkavathi Layout, Kempegowda Layout, Shivaram Karanth Layout and Vikasa Soudha, were initiated during Krishna's tenure.

**Leader of all communities**

Describing Nadaprabhu Kempegowda as a visionary administrator, Shivakumar said he was "a builder of lakes, a devout believer who constructed temples, and a courageous leader who promoted economic opportunities for people of all communities by

## Trump Thanks Telangana for 'Donald Trump Avenue'

> Vikrama Vahini | Hyderabad

US President Donald Trump has expressed gratitude to the Telangana government after a major road near the US Consulate in Hyderabad was named "Donald Trump Avenue" to mark the upcoming 250th anniversary of American independence.

In a post on his Truth Social account, Trump said he was honoured by the gesture and thanked the state government for the recognition.

"A new 'Donald Trump Avenue' has been established in Hyderabad, India. I am the first US President to be honoured in this way. Thank you! - President Donald J. Trump," he wrote.

The road naming was formally unveiled on June 23 by Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bharti Vikramarka during an event at the US Consulate in Nanakramguda, in the presence of US Ambassador Sergio Gor and US Consul General Laura Williams.

The event was part of celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of US Independence.

Trump described the gesture as a unique honour and appreciated the initiative taken by the Telangana government.

## Manickam Tagore Gets TNCC Post

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Congress on Saturday appointed B. Manickam Tagore as the new president of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC), replacing K. Selvaperunthagai. The appointment takes immediate effect, according to an official announcement issued by the All India Congress Committee (AICC).

In a statement, AICC General Secretary K.C. Venugopal said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had approved the appointment of Manickam Tagore as the Tamil Nadu Pradesh Congress Committee (TNPC) chief. The party also expressed its appreciation for the services and contributions of outgoing state president K. Selvaperunthagai during his tenure.

A senior Congress leader and Lok Sabha MP from Virudhunagar, Manickam Tagore currently serves as the AICC in-charge for Andhra Pradesh and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. He is also the Congress Whip in the Lok Sabha and has held several organisational responsibilities within the party over the years.

Party leaders said the leadership change is aimed at strengthening the Congress organisation in Tamil Nadu ahead of future electoral challenges and improving coordination with alliance partners in the state. The Congress remains a key constituent of the ruling DMK-led alliance in Tamil Nadu.

establishing thriving marketplaces."

He urged Bengalureans to remember the city's "Three Ks" - Kempegowda, who founded Bengaluru; Kengal Hanumanthaiah, who built the Vidhana Soudha; and S M Krishna, who transform med Bengaluru into a global city.

**Major infrastructure push**

The Chief Minister said the long-pending 123-km Bengaluru Business Corridor project had entered the tendering stage, while the final notification for the stretch connecting Electronic City to Mysuru Road would be issued shortly.

**'I Like to Create History'**

Quoting Dr B R Ambedkar, Shivakumar said, "Those who forget history cannot create history. More than merely remembering history, I like to create history." He also announced that work on a new tunnel road near Hebbal would commence shortly as part of the government's broader strategy to decongest Bengaluru's traffic. Several major infrastructure projects, including an extensive tunnel road network, are being planned, and a dedicated team of officials will oversee their implementation.