



VIKRAMA VAHINI

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Actress Trisha Krishnan paid an emotional tribute to veteran filmmaker K. Bhagyaraj, saying they had shared a meal just a day before his sudden demise.

PM Modi called the Indian diaspora in Seychelles a "living bridge" and highlighted stronger India-Seychelles strategic and cultural ties during his State Visit.



INSIDE

Good morning

Life never seems to be the way we want it, but we live it the best way we can. There is no perfect life, but we can fill it with perfect moments. Have a wonderful day!

BRIEFS

BJP Suspends Mahesh for 6 Years

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
The BJP Karnataka unit has expelled its state spokesperson M.G. Mahesh from the primary membership of the party for a period of six years.

According to the party, the action was taken following allegations that Mahesh made derogatory remarks against the BJP high command and state leadership during a party meeting held on June 19.

The state disciplinary committee had earlier issued a notice seeking clarification from him over the remarks. However, the explanation submitted by Mahesh was found unsatisfactory.

CBSE Sets New Rules for Three-Language Policy Exams

> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi
The CBSE has released class-wise guidelines for implementing its three-language policy from the 2026-27 academic session. Students currently in Classes VII to IX will study a third language under transitional provisions, with internal school assessments and no CBSE board exam.

The policy will be fully implemented for the current Class VI batch, whose third language will become a Class X board examination subject. CBSE said exemptions will apply for certain categories of students and assured that no student will be disadvantaged during the transition.

CBSE also clarified that schools will have flexibility in selecting the third language based on regional needs and availability of qualified teachers. The board emphasized that the aim of the policy is to promote multilingual learning and strengthen foundational language skills, while ensuring a smooth transition without academic stress for students shifting into the new system.

Army to Form 'Baaz Battalions' for Drone Warfare Push

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
The Indian Army will establish specialised "Baaz Battalions" to handle large-scale induction, operation and maintenance of drones and Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs), Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi has announced. The move is aimed at significantly enhancing the Army's Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities as part of its ongoing modernisation drive.

Speaking on the initiative, the Army Chief said the force requires a dedicated structure to manage its growing dependence on unmanned aerial systems. He noted that the new battalions will be developed from existing RPA Flights and will bring trained personnel under a unified command responsible for the entire drone ecosystem, including operations, maintenance, coordination and data



analysis. According to the Army, the Baaz Battalions will ensure continuous operational readiness and improve

battlefield awareness through integrated aerial surveillance and rapid response systems. They are expected to play a key role in supporting military operations along India's northern and western borders as well as in counter-insurgency environments.

The announcement forms part of the Army's "Decade of Transformation" initiative under General Dwivedi. The Army has expanded its drone inventory to over 50,000 platforms and has set up

multiple Drone and Counter-Drone Hubs across the country. Other modernisation efforts include Ashni drone platoons, Bhairav Battalions, Rudra All-Arms Brigades, Divyastra Batteries and the "Eagle on the Arm" doctrine, which trains soldiers in basic drone operations.

The Army is also establishing Unified Control Centres at the division level to coordinate unmanned aerial systems and counter-UAS assets.

Court Clears RSS Suit

A Bengaluru court has ruled that individual RSS members can pursue criminal defamation cases even though the organisation is unregistered, stating that lack of formal membership proof cannot defeat such complaints at the initial stage. The court issued summons to Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge and Congress leader Mohammad Haris Nalapad in connection with alleged remarks against the RSS.

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
A special court in Bengaluru has ruled that individual members of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) can maintain defamation proceedings even though the organisation is unregistered, holding that lack of formal registration does not bar such complaints. The court made the observation while taking cognisance of a private complaint filed by an RSS member against Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge and Congress leader Mohammad Haris Nalapad over alleged defamatory remarks against the organisation.

The court issued summons to Kharge and Nalapad under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), while dropping proceedings against Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao.

It held that the term "person" under the law includes associations or bodies of individuals, whether registered or not, and that members of an identifiable organisation can be considered "persons aggrieved."

Rejecting objections on maintainability, the court said questions regarding the complainant's

'PERSON' DEFINITION INCLUDES UNREGISTERED ASSOCIATIONS: COURT

*** The court held that registration or documentary proof of RSS membership is not mandatory at the preliminary stage. It is not required to be proved at the outset.**

*** Proceedings against Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao were dropped. It observed that the RSS is a definite and identifiable body, allowing its members to seek legal remedy. Kharge and Nalapad have been directed to appear before the court on July 21.**

*** Bengaluru special court ruled that individual RSS members can file criminal defamation cases even though the RSS is an unregistered organisation.**

*** The court issued summons to Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge and Congress leader Mohammad Haris Nalapad.**

Congress leader and Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge said he would continue to question the functioning of the RSS and asserted that he has full faith in the Constitution and the judiciary. He maintained that the legal proceedings will not deter him from seeking accountability and transparency from organisations operating in the public domain.



membership and claims must be decided during trial and not at the stage of cognisance. It further noted that preliminary hearings should not

become a "mini-trial."

The court observed that the RSS qualifies as a "definite and identifiable body of persons,"

allowing its members to pursue criminal defamation cases if the organisation is allegedly targeted.

Kharge and Nalapad have been directed to appear before the court on July 21.

The court further clarified that criminal defamation proceedings cannot be dismissed merely on technical grounds of registration status, and that the substance of the allegations must be examined during trial. It emphasized that legal protection is available to identifiable groups when their collective reputation is alleged to have been harmed.

It also noted that evidentiary issues, including the extent of the complainant's association with the organisation and the intent behind the alleged statements, will be tested through full trial proceedings, ensuring both parties are given an opportunity to present their case.

The ruling is expected to be cited in similar future cases involving defamation complaints by members of unregistered organisations, as it reinforces the principle that legal remedies cannot be denied solely on the basis of formal registration status.

TUMAKURU BLAST PROBE: ILLEGAL EXPLOSIVES LINK

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
Karnataka Police have launched a multi-team investigation into the source of the country-made bomb used in the Tumakuru taxi blast, in which one person died after triggering an improvised explosive device inside a cab on National Highway-48 on June 27.

Officials said the probe has now shifted focus to the suspected illegal supply network of crude explosives, raising concerns over how such materials are being accessed and used by civilians.

Probe Focus on Source of Explosives

Acting on directions from Central Range Inspector General of Police Girish, multiple police

teams are investigating the origin of the explosive device.

Authorities are examining whether the material could have been sourced from forested regions of Uttara Kannada district, including Karwar, Yellapura, Haliyal, Joida and Dandeli, where illegal handling of crude explosives has been reported earlier.

Police said the case has triggered serious concern over the availability of country-made bombs and the ease with which they can be procured.

Accused Died in Blast, Mobile Phone Destroyed

The accused, identified as Nagendra Gowda, allegedly detonated the explosive inside the taxi after a confrontation,

killing himself instantly.

Investigators said his mobile phone was completely destroyed in the explosion, making it difficult to trace communications and establish the source of the device.

A second live country-made bomb was also recovered from the scene, officials confirmed.

Relationship Angle Under Investigation

Preliminary findings suggest that the accused and the woman had been in a relationship for nearly six years.

Police said tensions escalated after the woman shifted to Bengaluru, with the accused allegedly becoming possessive and suspecting her of being involved with another man. **PG2**

Viral Audio Sparks BJP Leadership Row in Karnataka

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The debate over leadership changes within the Karnataka BJP has once again come into focus following a viral audio clip that has triggered political speculation within the party.

The audio, allegedly linked to former Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda, has created a political stir after it surfaced on social media, reportedly containing discussions about leadership transitions within the state unit. The development comes in the backdrop of alleged cross-voting by BJP legislators during the recent Legislative Council elections, which has already intensified internal discussions over the roles of state party president B.Y. Vijayendra and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok.

In the viral clip, a conversation said to involve discussions with central BJP leaders

allegedly refers to deliberations on whether Vijayendra should continue as state president. It is suggested that he may be allowed to complete a three-year term before any decision on leadership change is taken.

The circulation of the audio has further fueled speculation about factional differences within the party, adding to ongoing internal political chatter.

Reacting to the controversy, former Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda declined to comment on the authenticity of the audio. He stated that he would not respond to unverified recordings and clarified that it has not been established whether the voice in the clip is his.

"I will not comment on the audio. It is not confirmed to be mine. I do not respond to unauthenticated audio or video clips," he told reporters.



HC DENIES MAINTENANCE TO FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT WIFE

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

In a significant judgment, the Karnataka High Court has ruled that a financially independent wife is not automatically entitled to maintenance and that courts must decide such claims on the basis of financial circumstances rather than gender.

Justice Chillakur Sumalatha set aside a trial court order directing a husband to pay ₹20,000 per month as interim maintenance to his estranged wife, observing that maintenance cannot be granted as a matter of routine merely because the claimant is a woman.

The Court held that maintenance should be awarded only when it is established that the wife lacks sufficient financial resources to maintain a standard of living comparable to that of her husband.

If the wife is financially secure, earns



more than the husband and has no significant financial responsibilities such as caring for children, there is no legal basis to grant maintenance, the Court observed.

In the present case, the husband submitted that he earned about ₹60,646 per month, while his wife had an admitted monthly income of ₹1 lakh.

The High Court noted that the trial court had overlooked the wife's income while awarding interim maintenance.

The wife argued that she was burdened by loans taken for her marriage. **PG2**

Surya Moves HC Against Tunnel Road Plan

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

BJP MP from Bengaluru South, Tejasvi Surya, on Monday said he has filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Karnataka High Court challenging the proposed North-South Tunnel Road project in Bengaluru.

Surya stated that the PIL was mentioned before the High Court on Monday and is expected to be listed for hearing on July 6, 2026.

He added that as the matter was unlikely to be taken up the same day, he requested the Chief Justice for an early hearing date, which was accepted.

"As the matter was unlikely to be taken up during the course of the day, I requested the Hon'ble Chief Justice for a short date. **PG2**



Fill Enumeration Form: CM Call

Voting is the Right to Life

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday urged every eligible voter in the State to fill and submit the Enumeration Form during the upcoming Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, warning that failure to do so could result in the loss of voting rights and difficulties in accessing government welfare schemes in the future.

Addressing a press conference at Vidhana Soudha, Shivakumar said the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls will begin on June 30 and continue until July 29.

Booth Level Officers (BLOs) appointed by the Election Commission will visit every household to distribute the

Enumeration Forms.

"Every voter must complete and submit the form along with the required documents and a recent photograph within the stipulated 30-day period.

This is the responsibility of every citizen. Those who fail to submit the form risk losing their voting rights," he said.

He added that the draft electoral roll will be published on August 5, and BLOs will make three visits to households to ensure voters receive the forms. **49,320 Help Centres Across Karnataka**

To facilitate the enrolment process, the State Government will establish 49,320 help centres at the Gram Panchayat and ward levels across Karnataka.

Shivakumar said Sub-Tahsildars have been authorised to issue permanent residence certificates, while citizens will also be able to download necessary documents through the government's online system.

Those who have linked their mobile numbers with caste certificates will be able to receive documents through WhatsApp, he added. **Eleven Documents Accepted for Verification**

PG2



Editorial

Power with Prudence

Electricity is the backbone of economic growth and an essential service that sustains agriculture, industry, healthcare, education and everyday life. Any move to privatise the power sector, therefore, deserves careful public debate rather than hurried implementation. The growing opposition to electricity privatisation in Karnataka reflects genuine concerns that the government cannot afford to ignore.

Supporters of privatisation argue that private participation can improve efficiency, reduce transmission losses, attract investment and modernise infrastructure. There are examples where private utilities have delivered better services in urban areas. However, electricity cannot be treated merely as a commercial commodity. It is a public necessity, and ensuring affordable, reliable power for every citizen remains the government's fundamental responsibility.

The concerns surrounding privatisation are both practical and social. Private companies are naturally driven by profitability, which may reduce their willingness to serve remote and economically weaker regions. Farmers, who currently benefit from subsidised or free electricity, fear that such welfare measures could gradually disappear. Small businesses and low-income households also worry about higher tariffs and reduced public accountability.

Equally significant is the uncertainty faced by thousands of employees working in state power utilities. Questions over job security, service conditions, pensions and future employment prospects must be addressed transparently before any structural reforms are attempted.

At the same time, the financial challenges confronting electricity distribution companies cannot be overlooked. Power theft, mounting unpaid bills, operational inefficiencies and technical losses have weakened the sector. These issues demand urgent reforms, but privatisation should not be viewed as the only solution.

The government must initiate wide-ranging consultations with farmers, employees, consumer groups, energy experts and elected representatives before taking any decision. Strengthening governance, improving operational efficiency and enhancing transparency within public utilities should be explored alongside other reform options.

Electricity is more than a business—it is a lifeline. Any reform must strike a careful balance between economic efficiency and public welfare. Public confidence, not haste, should guide the future of India's power sector.

-Editor

Bengaluru Rail Expansion Gets Major Push

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Central Government has proposed a major expansion of railway infrastructure around Bengaluru, including the development of quadruple railway corridors connecting the city with nearby urban centres within a 100-km radius. Union Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna said on Monday. A similar high-capacity rail corridor linking Bengaluru with the coastal city of Mangaluru is also under consideration.

Speaking after inaugurating a Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Elekeri in Channapatna taluk, Somanna said the Centre is focused on strengthening Karnataka's rail network to meet rising passenger and freight demand.

He informed that the survey for the Bengaluru-Tumakuru quadruple railway line has been completed and the tendering process will begin shortly. The project is expected to be completed within 18 to 24 months. A survey has also been approved for the Bengaluru-Mysuru quadruple corridor.

Responding to Karnataka Minister M.B. Patil's request, Somanna said a direct rail link between Bengaluru and Kolar will be developed, with plans to extend the existing four-track line beyond Whitefield. Land acquisition for the project will be taken up by the Centre.

Highlighting the Bengaluru-Mangaluru route, Patil had suggested a parallel rail and road corridor between Sakleshpur and Gundya. Somanna said a quadruple rail



Ministers Inspect Railway Underpass Works

Union Minister V. Somanna and Karnataka Minister M.B. Patil inspected the ongoing railway underpass construction work at Ramohalli near Kumbalagodu on the outskirts of Bengaluru on their way to Channapatna.

The ministers reviewed the progress and issued directions to ensure timely completion of the work.

They also instructed officials to take necessary measures to prevent rainwater stagnation at the site.

corridor to Mangaluru is essential for improving freight movement and boosting trade via the New Mangalore Port, adding that the proposal has been accorded priority.

The Union Minister also said proposals to double the Tumakuru-Chitradurga-Davangere single line are under consideration.

Earlier, Somanna and Patil travelled from Bengaluru to Channapatna in a Self-Propelled Inspection Car (SPIC) to review railway

infrastructure and ongoing projects. During the journey, Patil submitted a memorandum outlining Karnataka's key railway demands.

Somanna further announced that the Vande Bharat Sleeper service to Vijayapura is expected to be introduced within the next three to four months.

Senior officials and public representatives, including MP Dr. C.N. Manjunath and MLA

Vande Bharat Sleeper to Vijayapura in 3-4 Months

Union Minister V. Somanna said the Vande Bharat Sleeper service to Vijayapura will be launched within 3-4 months. He also announced that the Bengaluru-Vijayapura special train will be made permanent and proposals for a Bengaluru-Pune high-speed rail link are under consideration.

Ministers Travel in Special Inspection Train

Union Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna and Karnataka Minister M.B. Patil travelled from Bengaluru to Channapatna and back in a Special Purpose Inspection Car (SPIC), a railway inspection vehicle used to assess infrastructure quality, safety and ongoing development works.

During the journey, the two ministers reviewed ongoing and proposed railway projects in Karnataka. M.B. Patil also held discussions with the Union Minister and submitted a memorandum outlining the state's key railway demands.

C.P. Yogeeshwar, were present.

Woman Murdered in Bengaluru

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

A 23-year-old woman was allegedly stabbed to death by her former partner after she ended their relationship, reportedly due to his criminal background, police said.

The incident occurred at her residence in JC Nagar, Kurubarahalli-Mahalakshimpuram area of north Bengaluru late Sunday night.

According to police, the victim, identified as Anjali, had been in a relationship with Rajeev for the past two years but recently distanced herself after learning of his alleged involvement in multiple criminal cases, including robbery. Her parents had also advised her to end the relationship.

Police said the woman had blocked the accused's number, which allegedly angered him. He reportedly entered her house and attacked her with a knife, killing her on the spot.

A case has been registered and efforts are underway to trace and arrest the accused, police added.

Police have launched a manhunt to apprehend the accused, while forensic teams examined the crime scene and collected evidence.

TUMAKURU BLAST PROBE: ILLEGAL EXPLOSIVES LINK

> From PGI

Investigators said the woman had alleged repeated harassment and pressure to marry, along with instances of physical assault, which may have led to the breakdown of the relationship.

Abduction and Explosion Inside Taxi

According to police, the accused allegedly abducted the woman from her paying guest accommodation in Bengaluru and hired a cab towards Tumakuru. During the journey, an argument broke

out, following which the woman managed to escape when the vehicle stopped.

The accused then reportedly locked himself inside the cab and detonated the explosive device.

Investigation Continues

Kallambella Police are continuing the investigation, focusing both on reconstructing the sequence of events and identifying the supply chain of the explosive material. Officials said establishing how the accused obtained the device remains a key priority.

Surya Moves HC Against Tunnel Road Plan

> From PGI

The Hon'ble Chief Justice was pleased to list the matter for hearing on July 6, 2026," Surya said in a post on X. The petition challenges the North-South Tunnel Road project proposed to improve traffic connectivity in Bengaluru. The project has drawn attention due to its scale, cost implications, and urban

planning concerns raised by critics.

The development comes a day after Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar laid the foundation stone for a 2.5-km twin-tunnel road stretch between Mekhri Circle and Hebbal. The project is expected to be a key component of Bengaluru's traffic decongestion strategy.

Fill Enumeration Form: CM Call

> From PGI

The Deputy Chief Minister said voters can use any of 11 approved documents while submitting the Enumeration Form. These include birth certificates, passports, caste

certificates, forest rights documents, government housing or site allotment records and Central Government pension documents.

He also noted that the government has already issued over 5.50

crore caste certificates, including 2.54 crore for Other Backward Classes and 2.94 crore for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which can be downloaded online.

Referring to practices adopted in

some other States, he said voting rights are increasingly being linked with the delivery of public benefits. "Voting is not merely a constitutional right but a right connected to one's livelihood.

NEWS

Tejasvi Demands Skywalk at Banashankari

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya has urged the state government to urgently construct a skywalk at Banashankari bus stand junction, citing severe traffic congestion and safety concerns faced by commuters.

Speaking during his visit to the area, Surya said thousands of buses and vehicles pass through the Kanakapura and Kengeri routes daily, leading to heavy congestion and frequent accidents. He said pedestrians, including workers and students, are forced to risk their lives while crossing the busy stretch.

Surya criticised the delay in deploying 4,500 electric buses sanctioned under the central PM E-Drive scheme, alleging that the state government's delay was causing public inconvenience and worsening pollution in Bengaluru.

He accused the government of prioritising expensive tunnel roads and high-end infrastructure projects over basic commuter safety needs. "The government appears more concerned about luxury car users than common citizens who struggle daily for safe travel," he said.

The MP also claimed that despite a foundation



stone being laid earlier for the skywalk project, construction has stalled due to contractor issues and alleged government negligence.

During his interaction with local residents and workers, Surya listened to grievances regarding daily traffic hazards.

A local anganwadi worker also shared a video of a recent fatal accident, prompting strong criticism from the MP over what he called administrative apathy.

Surya warned that continued neglect of civic infrastructure could lead to public protests, adding that Bengaluru risks turning into a "garbage city" if urgent corrective measures are not taken.

Bengaluru Police Seize ₹25 Cr Drugs, 17 Held

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

In a major joint operation, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) and city police have busted a large drug trafficking network operating in Bengaluru, seizing narcotics worth over ₹25 crore and arresting 17 people, including three foreign nationals.

Police said the accused were part of an African syndicate supplying MDMA and ganja to the city, targeting students and IT professionals. Around 10.27 kg

of MDMA crystals worth nearly ₹21 crore were recovered from Nigerian nationals who had concealed drugs in luggage bags and were operating from a rented house in the city.

Officials also arrested multiple peddlers in separate raids across Bengaluru, recovering large quantities of ganja, hydro cannabis, e-cigarettes and banned tobacco products. In one case, 36 kg of ganja was seized from an accused

transporting drugs from Odisha.

Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said the network was being closely monitored and further investigation is underway to trace the kingpins behind the interstate and international drug supply chain.

The police said the crackdown is part of intensified efforts to curb the growing drug menace in the city and dismantle interstate trafficking networks.

HEALTH & Lifestyle

A Month Without Tea

For millions of people, a cup of tea is the perfect way to begin the day. While tea provides an instant energy boost, excessive consumption—especially several cups a day—can negatively affect sleep, digestion and mental well-being due to its caffeine and sugar content. Health experts say giving up tea for a month can bring several positive changes to the body, although the initial days may be challenging.

Initial Withdrawal Symptoms

People who stop drinking tea suddenly may experience mild withdrawal symptoms during the first one to two weeks. These can include headaches, fatigue, irritability, difficulty concentrating and temporary sleep disturbances as the body adjusts to lower caffeine intake. Gradually, these symptoms fade and the body begins to adapt.

Better Sleep Quality

Tea contains caffeine, which stimulates the nervous system and can delay sleep. Reducing or eliminating tea allows caffeine levels in the body to decline, making it easier to fall asleep and enjoy deeper, more restful sleep.

Improved Digestion

Excessive tea consumption, particularly on an empty stomach, can increase stomach acid production, leading to acidity, heartburn and indigestion. Avoiding tea helps restore the stomach's natural acid balance, improving digestion and reducing gastric discomfort.

Healthier Teeth

Tea contains tannins that can stain teeth and contribute to yellowing over



time. Taking a break from tea may help reduce staining and support better oral hygiene, especially when combined with proper dental care.

Reduced Stress and Anxiety

High caffeine intake may increase stress hormones, leading to anxiety, nervousness and mood swings. Limiting tea consumption can help improve emotional balance, promote a calmer state of mind and enhance concentration.

Healthier, More Hydrated Skin

Replacing tea with water and other healthy beverages improves hydration, which can enhance skin health. Better hydration may leave the skin looking fresher and more radiant while reducing dryness and dullness.

Healthier Alternatives

Those who find it difficult to quit tea completely can gradually replace regular milk tea with herbal options such as ginger tea, tulsi tea or lemon tea, which contain little or no caffeine while offering additional health benefits. Health experts also recommend reducing tea intake gradually instead of quitting abruptly to minimise caffeine withdrawal symptoms and make the transition easier.

SCIENCE & Technology

Israel Flags 200% Surge in Iran-Linked Cyberattacks

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Israel has claimed that cyberattacks linked to Iran have surged sharply despite the end of direct military hostilities, describing cyberspace as the new front in the ongoing conflict. Israeli officials said nearly 4,800 cyberattacks were recorded in June 2026, a threefold increase from around 1,600 incidents reported during the same month last year.

According to Israel's National Cyber Directorate, the attacks targeted critical infrastructure, government agencies, businesses, law firms, accounting firms and private individuals. Director General Yossi Karadi said there was "no ceasefire in cyberspace," warning that sophisticated hacking groups continue to pose a serious threat even after military operations have subsided.

Israeli authorities said no major disruption to critical infrastructure has been reported so far, but stressed that cyber threats remain one of the country's biggest security challenges. Iran has consistently denied carrying out cyber campaigns against other nations and maintains that it has itself been a victim of cyberattacks.

Israeli officials also claimed that Iran-linked hacking groups are increasingly using artificial intelligence tools to develop malware, create phishing emails in multiple languages and generate fake online identities to deceive potential victims. Authorities have also warned of phishing campaigns through emails and text messages allegedly aimed at recruiting individuals or stealing sensitive information.

Beyond hacking, Israel accused Iran of conducting online influence operations through propaganda content and social media campaigns to shape public opinion.

Kharge Re-elected to Rajya Sabha

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday took oath as a re-elected member of the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka at Parliament House, marking the beginning of his fresh term in the Upper House.

Oath Administered at Parliament House

Vice President of India and Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan administered the oath to Kharge during a formal ceremony held in Parliament House.

Leaders Attend Ceremony

The event was attended by Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, Union Ministers J.P. Nadda, Kiren Rijju and Arjun Ram Meghwal, along with Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, among others.

Key Opposition Role Continues

Kharge, who serves as Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, was re-elected earlier this month from Karnataka.

He has been a central figure in the Congress party's parliamentary strategy, leading debates on issues



including governance, economy, social justice and foreign policy.

Fresh Term Begins

With the oath-taking, Kharge begins another term in the Upper House, where he is expected to continue steering the Opposition's legislative coordination during the ongoing Parliament session.

Kharge's re-election is seen as a significant boost for the Congress party's presence in the Rajya Sabha, especially at a time of key legislative debates in Parliament.

Party leaders said his continued role will help strengthen coordination among

Opposition parties and sharpen the party's stance on major national issues.

Kharge is expected to play a key role in shaping the Opposition's response to government bills during the current session, with several high-priority legislations lined up for discussion.

Political observers note that his experience and long parliamentary career are likely to influence the tone of debates and Opposition strategy in the Upper House. The Congress leadership expressed confidence that Kharge's continued presence in the Rajya Sabha will reinforce the party's voice in parliamentary proceedings.

Uttara Kannada Rain Alert

► Vikrama Vahini | Karwar

Continuous heavy rainfall has been reported in coastal taluks of Uttara Kannada district for the past 36 hours, causing disruptions in several areas. The India Meteorological Department has issued an Orange Alert for the district till July 2.

District Collector Lakshmi Priya has urged residents to avoid visiting riverbanks and coastal areas as a precautionary measure amid the ongoing downpour.

Several parts of the district have been affected by waterlogging and minor disruptions. At the famous Gokarna Mahabaleshwar Temple, rainwater entered the sanctum, temporarily affecting rituals, including the suspension of darshan of the Atmalinga for a few hours.

The Kumta-Siddapur state highway was also submerged in water near Valgalli, leaving two-wheeler riders and heavy vehicle drivers stranded.

In many areas, roads resembled streams due to continuous rainfall, causing inconvenience to residents and tourists.

CHAOS IN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM CIVIC BODY MEETING

► Vikrama Vahini | Thiruvananthapuram

A council meeting of the BJP-led Thiruvananthapuram Corporation ended in chaos on Monday after a clash broke out between BJP and United Democratic Front (UDF) councillors inside the council hall.

Congress leaders alleged that BJP councillor Chempazhanthi Udayan assaulted Opposition councillors, including KS Sabarinadhan and two women members, during protests over the continuance of jailed BJP councillor R. Sugathan, who is currently lodged in Viyyur Central Prison under the Kerala Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act.

The meeting began amid protests by LDF and UDF councillors, who objected to Sugathan continuing as a councillor while in custody. Tensions escalated later when councillors reportedly attempted

to secure the attendance register and minutes book, leading to a scuffle inside the hall.

Opposition leaders accused the BJP administration of mismanagement and alleged that the Mayor had not convened council meetings for 47 days.

They also claimed that violence broke out after attempts were made to seize official records.

Mayor V.V. Rajesh concluded the meeting amid loud sloganeering and disorder. Soon after adjournment, fresh clashes reportedly erupted inside the council hall.

The UDF further accused BJP members of assaulting councillors and damaging official documents, allegations strongly denied by the ruling side.

Earlier, three LDF women councillors who were injured in a previous clash attended the meeting in wheelchairs, highlighting ongoing tensions within the civic body.

BLO Door-to-Door Voter Revision Drive from June 30

Door-to-door voter verification under the SIR-2026 electoral roll revision begins on June 30, with BLOs visiting every household. Over 76% of voter mapping has been completed, and 2,855 facilitation centres have been set up to assist citizens.

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

As part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the Electoral Roll-2026, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will begin door-to-door distribution of enumeration forms from June 30. District Election Officer and GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao said.

He urged citizens to cooperate fully during the exercise, adding that BLOs will make up to three visits to ensure all households are covered. The filled forms will be collected and digitised on the same day, with voters also able to submit them at Voter Facilitation Centres.

Rao said 76.32% mapping between the 2002 and 2025 electoral rolls has been completed, covering 79.27 lakh voters out of 1.03 crore in the GBA



jurisdiction.

To assist voters, 2,855 Voter Facilitation Centres and 902 ward-level centres have been set up. Over 8,900 BLOs and 16,500 Booth Level Agents have been deployed for the revision exercise.

The door-to-door verification will continue from June 30 to July 29, with the draft electoral roll scheduled for publication on August 5. Final rolls will be published on October 7, 2026.

Congress Seeks Halt to SIR Process

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) on Monday demanded suspension of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging discrepancies in Booth Level Officer (BLO) and BLO Supervisor details published on the Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) official website.

In a representation to the CEO, KPCC Media and Communication Department Chairman and MLC Ramesh Babu said two official lists on the website contain conflicting names and mobile numbers for BLOs and supervisors in the same polling areas, creating confusion among voters and stakeholders.

He said inconsistencies were found between the "BLOs & BLO Supervisor List" and the updated information on voter facilitation centres and officer contact details, including in Assembly Constituencies 128 and 153.

The Congress leader alleged that the contradictory data could mislead voters. Booth Level Agents and election observers, and affect the ongoing revision process. He said such errors undermine transparency and public confidence in the electoral system.

The KPCC has demanded immediate correction of the data, publication of a single authenticated list, withdrawal of outdated information, and a public clarification from the Election Department.



DELAY IN 4,500 E-BUSES SPARKS ROW IN K'TAKA

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya has questioned the Karnataka government over the delay in granting cabinet approval for 4,500 electric buses sanctioned under the Centre's PM e-Drive scheme for BMTC, alleging that the decision is worsening public transport issues in the city.

Surya travelled in a BMTC bus from Katriguppe to Banashankari on Sunday, during which he interacted with commuters and heard their grievances over overcrowding and irregular bus services.

Passengers Raise Concerns Over BMTC Services

Commuters, especially women passengers, complained about delayed and irregular bus services, stating that multiple buses arrive together while long gaps persist in service, affecting their daily commute to work and other destinations.

Following the rollout of the Shakti scheme, BMTC is reportedly carrying nearly 45 lakh passengers daily. However, with around 6,800 buses currently in operation, commuters say the fleet is insufficient to meet demand.

The Centre has reportedly approved 4,500 electric buses for Bengaluru under the scheme, including 4,100 standard electric buses and 400 air-conditioned electric buses, aimed at strengthening

urban transport infrastructure.

'State Yet to Approve Purchase': Tejasvi Surya

Speaking to reporters, Surya said that while the Centre has sanctioned the buses, the state government has not yet cleared the proposal in the cabinet, which requires state financial participation.

He alleged that the delay is due to the state government not allocating funds required for the procurement of the buses.

Criticism of State Priorities

Raising the issue in Parliament earlier, Surya said he had also received a response from Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy. He further criticised the state government, alleging that it is prioritising expensive infrastructure projects while neglecting public transport needs. "The government has funds for tunnel roads, but not for public transport," he said, adding that urban commuters relying on BMTC and metro services are being ignored.

Transport Demand vs Supply Gap

With rising ridership and limited fleet strength, Bengaluru's public transport system continues to face pressure. Officials say the proposed induction of electric buses could significantly improve frequency and reduce congestion, provided the project receives timely approvals from the state government.



ENTERTAINMENT

Riteish Deshmukh's Twist Shakes Lock Upp 2 House

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Netflix reality show Lock Upp: Sach Ya Sazaa is set for a dramatic turn as "Jailer" Riteish Deshmukh introduces a high-stakes challenge that tests trust, loyalty and survival inside the house.

In the upcoming episode, contestants Dheeraj Dhoopar, Sunita Ahuja, Riyaz Aly, Sufi Motiwala and Pamela Serena will face a difficult choice after being summoned by the Jailer. They will be offered a special lifeline, but with a controversial condition attached.

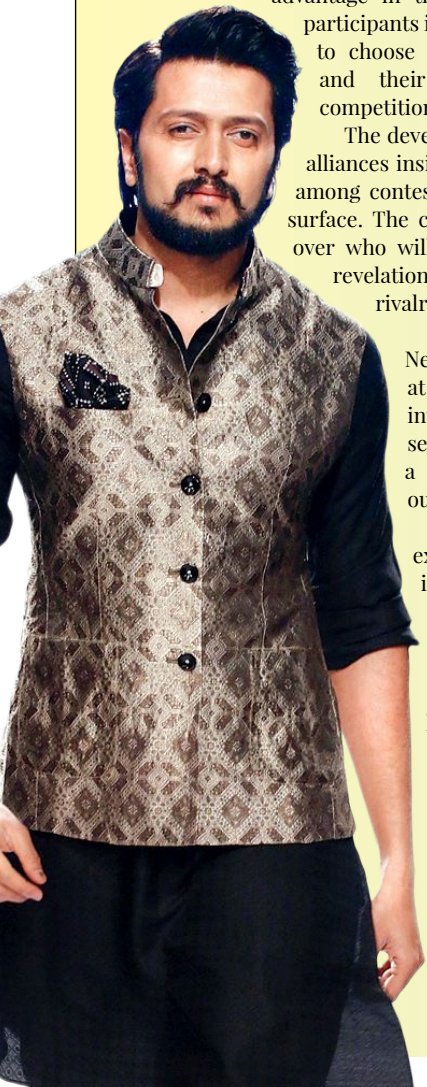
As part of the twist, one contestant from the group must reveal the biggest secret of their cellmate in exchange for securing an advantage in the game. The offer places the participants in a moral dilemma, forcing them to choose between personal relationships and their continued survival in the competition.

The development is expected to shake up alliances inside the house and create tension among contestants as hidden truths begin to surface. The challenge also raises uncertainty over who will accept the offer and how the revelations will impact friendships and rivalries.

The show, which streams on Netflix from Saturday to Wednesday at 8 pm, continues to build on its intense format where personal secrets and strategic gameplay play a key role in determining the outcome.

The upcoming episode is expected to intensify competition inside the house as contestants weigh the risk of exposure against the reward of safety. With trust already fragile among participants, the new task is likely to deepen divisions and trigger emotional confrontations.

Viewers can anticipate dramatic revelations and shifting alliances as the game progresses, with the Jailer's twist adding an unpredictable edge to the reality show's format. The development is set to further heighten suspense in the ongoing season.



'Eetha' Title Row Over Shradha Kapoor Biopic

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Shradha Kapoor's upcoming biographical drama Eetha, directed by Laxman Utekar, has run into controversy over its title even before its release. The film, based on the life of legendary Marathi Lavani and Tamasha performer Vithabai Narayangaonkar, has drawn objections from her family and political leaders, who have demanded a change in the name of the film.

Family and NCP Raise Objections

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and members of Vithabai Narayangaonkar's family have questioned why the film does not directly carry the name of the folk icon it portrays. They have urged the makers to rename the film, arguing that the title should reflect the identity of the cultural legend. According to them, using Vithabai's name would be a more fitting tribute to her contribution to Maharashtra's rich Lavani and Tamasha traditions.

Demand for Renaming the Film

The NCP's Film and Cultural Department has reportedly objected to the title Eetha, stating that a biopic based on Vithabai Narayangaonkar's life should clearly acknowledge her legacy. The party has suggested alternatives such as Vitha or Vithabai, saying the title should honour her artistic influence.

The demand has also received support from her family members, including her sons Kailash and Rajesh

Narayangaonkar and grandson Mohit Narayangaonkar.

Family Seeks Respect for Legacy

The Narayangaonkar family has expressed disappointment over the current title, stating that the issue goes beyond naming and is connected to preserving Vithabai's cultural legacy. They have appealed to the filmmakers to reconsider the title so that future generations can clearly associate the film with her contribution to folk art.

Filmmakers Yet to Respond

As of now, neither director Laxman Utekar nor production house Maddock Films has issued any official statement regarding the controversy or the demand for a title change.

Film Still Generating Buzz

The controversy comes shortly after the teaser and first look of Eetha received attention online.

The teaser opens with a vibrant Lavani performance, followed by scenes showing Shradha Kapoor's character performing despite being heavily pregnant. In a dramatic sequence, she is shown continuing her stage performance shortly after childbirth, highlighting her dedication to art and the emotional depth of her journey.

About the Biopic

The film aims to portray the life, struggles, and artistic passion of Vithabai Narayangaonkar, one of the most respected names in Marathi folk performance, known for her contribution to Lavani and Tamasha traditions.



BUSINESS

Three Cs Guide Global Success: Expert

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

At the Maharashtra MSME Summit & Awards 2026 held at CIDCO Exhibition Centre, Vashi, Advocate CA Harsh Girish Patel outlined a three-pillar framework for India's global business growth, describing it as the "Three Cs" — Confidence, Capability and Consistency.

Speaking at the panel discussion on "Expanding Global Footprint - Policies, FTAs & MSME Growth Strategy for Exports," Patel said India's economic rise will depend on how businesses and professionals adopt a global mindset and move beyond cost-based competition.

Patel said India must shed a "colonial hangover" that positions it as a low-cost service provider. He stressed that the country should instead focus on high-value products and services.

He also urged professionals such as chartered accountants and lawyers to shift from competing on pricing to commanding value. "Indian professionals must stop selling cost and start commanding value," he said, adding that global markets are ready to pay for quality.

The second pillar, Capability, focused on the need to develop world-class expertise before seeking international opportunities. Patel said businesses must invest in quality, knowledge and global readiness.

He added that professionals must expand their expertise beyond traditional domains to include policy understanding, geopolitical awareness and international trade frameworks.

Highlighting India's growing global presence, he cited an India-EU FTA report titled "From Market Access to Strategic Economic Corridors", released in the European Parliament in Brussels, as an example of Indian professionals operating at global standards.

On the third pillar, Consistency, Patel said Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) should not be viewed merely as tariff-reduction tools but as long-term economic partnerships.

He said exporters must focus on building sustained global relationships rather than short-term gains. Patel also outlined a "Three-Corridor Checklist" — Capital Corridor, Capability Corridor and Credential Corridor — to help businesses evaluate global opportunities.

