



VIKRAMA VAHINI

10 July, 2026 | Friday | Krishna Paksha | Dashami | Vikrama Samvata | Bengaluru | Volume: 09 | Issue: 109

GLOBAL ENERGY INDEPENDENCE DAY



₹2



TV star and Bigg Boss Kannada 11 fame Bhavya Gowda is set to make her silver screen debut as the lead actress in the upcoming film Devi, alongside Chetan Gowda.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India aims to become one of the world's top three economies at the earliest, driven by the vision of "Grow More, Achieve More."

INSIDE

Good morning

The most difficult task is to make everybody happy, The simplest task is to be happy with everyone.

BRIEFS

28 Killed in China Factory Fire

> Vikrama Vahini | Beijing

At least 28 people were killed after a massive fire engulfed a shoe factory in Jinjiang City, Fujian province, on Thursday. Several others are feared trapped, while rescue operations continued late into the day.

According to China's state-run Xinhua news agency, the fire broke out around 12:04 pm local time at a multi-storey factory in Jiangtou Village, Chendai Township. The blaze spread rapidly due to highly flammable shoe-making materials stored inside the building.

More than 180 rescue personnel and 35 fire engines were deployed to control the fire. However, the presence of hazardous chemicals inside the factory made rescue efforts difficult.

Ancient Tamil Artefacts Return Home

> Vikrama Vahini | Delhi

India is set to receive three ancient stone sculptures from Australia as part of ongoing efforts to reclaim stolen cultural heritage. The artefacts, believed to have been illegally removed from temples in Tamil Nadu decades ago, will be formally handed over to India.

The returned antiquities include an 11th-12th century granite sculpture of Nandi, an 11th-century bronze Trident with Bhadrakali, and a 12th-century basalt sculpture of six-headed Skanda (Kartikkeya).

The repatriation follows detailed provenance research and cooperation between Indian and Australian authorities to trace illegally trafficked heritage items. The return is expected to be announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Australia.

Bear Sightings Spark Fear at Nandi Hills

> Vikrama Vahini | Chikkaballapur

A group of bears spotted moving around Nandi Hills during night hours has created concern among tourists and residents in the popular hill station.

The bears have reportedly been seen near houses, hotels and resorts around the hill area, with some visuals captured on CCTV cameras. A bear was also spotted near a resort at Karahalli Cross after entering the premises by crossing a fence.

The Chikkaballapur Forest Department has issued safety guidelines for visitors, urging them not to panic, provoke the animals or throw stones at them.

The department has requested public cooperation to ensure both tourist safety and the protection of the animals.

₹450Cr Caste Survey Sparks Row

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka's long-pending caste census report has sparked a fresh political confrontation between the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP, with both parties intensifying their demands and allegations over the fate of the Social and Educational Survey.

The survey, prepared at a cost of more than ₹450 crore, has become a key issue as its findings could have a major impact on reservation policies, welfare schemes and social representation in the state.

BJP Demands Assembly Discussion

The BJP on Thursday demanded that the report be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, arguing that a survey funded by public money should not remain

With the Assembly session approaching, the caste survey is expected to remain a major political flashpoint in Karnataka, with the Congress and BJP set to clash over transparency, social justice and reservation policies.



confidential. BJP leaders said the government must make the findings public and ensure transparency in the decision-making process.

BJP State General Secretary and MLA V. Sunil Kumar accused the Congress government of delaying action despite spending a large amount of public funds on the exercise.

Congress Says Cabinet Decision Pending

State Home Minister Priyank Kharge said the report has not yet been placed before the state Cabinet and that no decision would be taken without a detailed discussion.

Launching a counterattack, Kharge challenged the BJP to conduct caste censuses in states governed by the party, including Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. He also urged the

Centre to carry out a nationwide caste census if it supports equitable representation based on population.

Impact on Reservation and Social Policies

Conducted by the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission, the survey examines the socio-economic and educational status of various communities, particularly backward classes.

Loan Waiver Debate Adds to Political Heat

The political clash also expanded to the issue of farmers' loan waivers. Kharge accused the BJP of selectively demanding crop loan waivers from Karnataka while not pressing the Union government to provide greater support to farmers affected by drought and floods.

India-Australia Uranium Deal

> Vikrama Vahini | Melbourne

India and Australia on Thursday signed a landmark agreement for the long-term supply of Australian uranium to support India's nuclear energy programme, while also expanding cooperation in defence, maritime security, critical minerals, cyber technology and trade.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced a series of strategic initiatives after bilateral talks in Melbourne during Modi's three-nation tour, reaffirming their commitment to a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific region.

Uranium Supply to Boost Clean Energy

The two countries concluded an administrative arrangement under the bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreement that will facilitate the long-term export of Australian uranium for India's civilian nuclear energy programme.

Prime Minister Modi said the agreement would provide fresh momentum to India's clean energy goals, while Albanese noted that the deal would help increase India's non-fossil fuel power capacity and create new opportunities for Australia's resources sector.

Australia possesses nearly one-third of the world's uranium reserves, making it one of the largest suppliers of the mineral globally.

Defence Cooperation Strengthened

The two leaders unveiled a new Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation,



renewing and expanding the strategic framework established in 2009.

The agreement aims to enhance military cooperation through more complex joint exercises, greater interoperability between the armed forces and closer strategic coordination on

Indo-Pacific security.

The countries also agreed to strengthen cooperation in defence innovation, shipbuilding, ship repair and maintenance, while connecting defence industries and start-ups through the India-Australia Defence Innovation Corridor. **PG2**

Tejasvi Surya Pushes for Banashankari Skywalk

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya has urged Minister Krishna Byre Gowda to fast-track the long-pending Banashankari Skywalk project, citing pedestrian safety concerns and the need for better connectivity in the busy area.

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya has urged Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda to immediately implement the approved Banashankari Skywalk project, stating that pedestrian safety should not be compromised for the proposed B-SMILE flyover project.

In a letter to the minister, Surya stressed the need for better pedestrian infrastructure in the busy Banashankari area and requested that the skywalk project should not be scrapped or sacrificed for other developments.

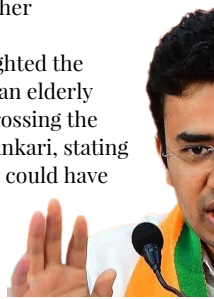
Surya highlighted the recent death of an elderly woman while crossing the road in Banashankari, stating that the tragedy could have been avoided with proper pedestrian facilities.

He said he has been working for the construction of the Banashankari Skywalk for the past seven years and that a practical, commuter-friendly circular design was prepared to ensure better public usage.

The MP said ₹45 crore was allocated for the skywalk project in the BBMP budget and the foundation stone was also laid.

Questioning the delay, Surya said a simple public safety project should not take years to complete.

Surya said the Banashankari Skywalk is essential as it would provide safe and convenient connectivity between the TTMC, Metro station, market and temples in the area. He requested Minister Krishna Byre Gowda to personally intervene and ensure that the long-pending public safety project is completed at the earliest.



Cauvery Row: Reddy Hits Back at Udhayanidhi

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka Minister for Water Resources Ramalinga Reddy has responded to Tamil Nadu Opposition Leader Udhayanidhi Stalin's allegations over the release of Cauvery water, stating that the decision on water release from Karnataka reservoirs is taken by the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) based on recommendations from the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC).

Reddy clarified that he had never stated that Karnataka would not release water to Tamil Nadu.

He said the state was unable to release additional water due to low inflows and reduced storage levels in major reservoirs.

The minister said the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS), Kabini, Harangi and Hemavati reservoirs had limited water availability.

As of June 30, 2026, the total live storage in these four reservoirs stood at 15,761 TMC, which he said was insufficient to meet Karnataka's drinking water requirements for the next three months.

He added that only 4.05 TMC of water had flowed into these reservoirs until the CWRC meeting held on June 30. **PG2**



Ghaziabad Flood Fury Claims Lives

> Vikrama Vahini | Ghaziabad

Heavy rainfall over the past two days has triggered widespread waterlogging and chaos across Ghaziabad and nearby areas, leaving a three-year-old girl dead after drowning in accumulated rainwater. Several roads were flooded, houses submerged and infrastructure damaged due to the intense downpour.

Three-Year-Old Girl Dies After Falling into Drain

The tragic incident occurred in Sarvodaya Nagar locality of Vijay Nagar, where a three-year-old girl, identified as Deepti, slipped and fell into an overflowing roadside drain filled with rainwater.

Family members said the child died before she could be rescued. She was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead.

The incident sparked anger among residents, with the family demanding action over the poor drainage system. Police officials assured that necessary steps would be taken and the concerned departments would address the issue.

Body Found Floating on Flooded Street

In another shocking incident, a



video showing a body floating on a waterlogged road outside the ACP office in Ankur Vihar went viral on social media.

Ghaziabad Police confirmed that the body was recovered and sent for post-mortem examination. Efforts are underway to identify the deceased, and legal procedures have been initiated.

Road Collapse Adds to Rain Trouble

The heavy rains also caused damage to roads and infrastructure. A portion of a road in Vasundhara Sector 13 collapsed near an under-construction basement, causing a parked car and a scooter to fall into the pit.

The continuous rains have affected normal life in several parts of Ghaziabad and Noida, with civic authorities working to manage waterlogging and restore affected areas.

Ex-Minister's Daughter-in-Law Gets 5-Year Jail Term

Special Court Delivers Verdict Against Jalappa Family Member

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

A special court for elected representatives in Bengaluru has sentenced Nagaveni, daughter-in-law of former Karnataka minister R.L. Jalappa, to five years of rigorous imprisonment in a case related to cheating a person by promising a medical seat.

The court found Nagaveni guilty of fraudulently collecting money from a complainant on the assurance of securing a medical seat and convicted her under relevant sections of the Indian Penal

Code.

₹45 Lakh Collected in Medical Seat Scam

The case was registered based on a complaint filed by Prakash Kumar Yarappa, who alleged that the accused had taken a total of ₹45 lakh from him in instalments after promising to arrange a medical seat.

Following the complaint, Yelahanka Police registered a case, conducted an investigation and submitted a charge sheet before the court.

Court Announces Punishment

Special court judge Sandeep Patil pronounced the verdict. Former minister R.L. Jalappa's son J. Narasimha Swamy was listed as the first accused in the case. However, proceedings against him were dropped after his death during the trial.

Nagaveni, who was named as the second accused, was convicted after the prosecution proved the charges against her.

Jail Term and Fine

The court awarded Nagaveni: Five years' imprisonment and ₹10,000 fine

under Section 420 (cheating).

Three years' imprisonment and ₹10,000 fine under Section 120B (criminal conspiracy).

The court also warned that additional punishment would follow if the fine amount is not paid.

Following the verdict, police took Nagaveni into custody and produced her before authorities for judicial proceedings. The conviction of a member of a politically influential family has drawn considerable public attention.

Editorial

Powering India's Global Future

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's frequent overseas visits have often drawn criticism from the Opposition, with questions raised about their necessity and cost. However, diplomacy in the 21st century is measured not merely by the number of visits but by the strategic outcomes they deliver. Over the past decade, India has significantly strengthened its global standing through sustained engagement with major economies and strategic partners.

Among the most significant outcomes of these engagements is the growing focus on long-term energy security. As the world witnesses an unprecedented rise in energy demand, nations are racing to secure dependable and sustainable fuel sources. India, while making remarkable progress in renewable and hydroelectric power, is also expanding its nuclear energy programme to meet its future electricity requirements.

The significance of such diplomatic initiatives extends well beyond bilateral agreements. They represent a long-term vision that connects foreign policy with economic growth, industrial expansion and national energy security. A stronger partnership with resource-rich nations not only ensures uninterrupted fuel supplies but also supports India's ambition of becoming a manufacturing and technological powerhouse.

-Editor

HDK, Khandre Spar Over HMT Land

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Thursday strongly defended HMT's ownership of its land, asserting that the Karnataka Government and Forest Department have no legal claim over the property and accusing former Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre of making baseless allegations.

Questions Khandre's Claims

Kumaraswamy said the HMT land was legally de-notified as forest in 1960 and transferred to HMT after due approvals. Releasing official records, he challenged Khandre to produce evidence instead of making public allegations and invited him for a joint inspection of the land in the presence of the media.

HMT Revival, KIOCL Concerns

The Union Minister said the HMT land



issue is pending before the Supreme Court and that efforts are underway to secure a revival package for the public sector undertaking.

He also criticised the State Government for denying mining permission to KIOCL, saying it was affecting employment and industrial growth.

Major Takeaways at a Glance

- State has no claim over HMT land, says Kumaraswamy.
Challenges Eshwar Khandre for a joint site inspection.
Says HMT land was legally transferred following government after de-notification.
HMT revival package under active consideration.
JD(S) likely to contest Hiriyur by-election.
Questions State Government over cancellation of projects and electoral roll revision.

Raises Other Issues

The Union Minister questioned the State Government's financial capacity to execute Bengaluru's proposed ₹1.5 lakh crore development plan and sought an explanation over notices issued to 35 Block Education Officers (BEOs) during the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.

Political Remarks

Kumaraswamy said he would remain active in both the Centre and Karnataka politics while continuing as Union Minister. He also indicated that the JD(S) is considering fielding a candidate in the upcoming Hiriyur Assembly by-election due to pressure from party workers.

GEHLOT MARKS 5 YEARS AS GOVERNOR

From PG

A senior politician from Ujjain district in Madhya Pradesh, Gehlot has had a long career in public service. He has served multiple terms in the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly and represented the state in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Before being appointed Karnataka Governor, Gehlot served as the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment from 2014 to 2021 in the Narendra Modi-led government.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar met Governor Gehlot at Raj Bhavan on Wednesday and congratulated him on completing five years in office.

Over the years, Gehlot has also represented India at various international forums and remained associated with educational, cultural and social initiatives during his gubernatorial tenure.

Vikasa Job Drive Empowers Youth



Vikrama Vahini | Karkala

More than 360 job aspirants received appointment letters at a mega employment fair organised by the Vikasa Seva Samsthe under the leadership of former Minister and Karkala MLA V. Sunil Kumar on Thursday to mark National Students' Day.

25 Companies Participate

The recruitment drive, 'Vikasa Udyoga Setu,' brought together 25 leading companies from Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Udipi and other places, including Foxconn, Toyota, Reliance, Manipal Technologies, Teleperformance and My TVS, to conduct direct interviews.

1,600 Aspirants Attend

More than 1,600 job seekers participated in the drive. While over 360 candidates were selected and issued appointment letters on the spot, more than 240 applicants were shortlisted for the next round of interviews at the respective companies.

Interviews were conducted simultaneously at the Vikasa MLA Office and Rama Mandir from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Organisers provided candidates with seating arrangements, refreshments and meals. Registered applicants were also given interview guidance and training for two days before the recruitment drive to improve their employability.

India-Australia Uranium Deal

From PG

Maritime Security and Indo-Pacific Focus

India and Australia announced a Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap to enhance information sharing, operational coordination and capability development. Both nations also signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Coast Guard and Australia's Maritime Border Command to improve maritime law enforcement, domain awareness and border protection.

Partnership in Energy and Critical Technologies

The two countries launched the Partnership for Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains (PACTS)

to strengthen cooperation in cyber security, emerging technologies and resilient supply chains.

They also agreed to enhance energy security by expanding cooperation in LNG, liquid fuels and critical minerals while addressing global supply disruptions caused by geopolitical tensions.

Modi invited Australian companies to invest in India's infrastructure and clean energy sectors, highlighting opportunities in low-carbon industries.

Trade Talks to Accelerate

India and Australia agreed to expedite negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) to build upon the interim Economic

Cooperation and Trade Agreement signed in 2022.

Space, Science and Cultural Cooperation

Australia announced the establishment of a temporary space-tracking facility in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to support India's Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission. The two countries also expanded cooperation in science, technology and innovation through new partnerships.

As part of cultural cooperation, Australia agreed to return three ancient artefacts originating from Tamil Nadu, while India will repatriate the remains of an Australian First Nations ancestor preserved at the Government Museum in Chennai.

PEOPLE ARE WATCHING: CM TO OFFICIALS

Vikrama Vahini | Belagavi

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday called upon government officials to uphold accountability, transparency and discipline in public administration, warning that negligence in duty would not be tolerated.

Addressing the Belagavi Division-level Progress Review Meeting at Suvarna Soudha, the Chief Minister said public service is the true 'dharma of governance' and reminded officials that while politicians face elections every five years, government servants are accountable to the people every day.

Officials Must Stay Close to People

Shivakumar directed district and taluk-level officers to reside within their respective jurisdictions to ensure prompt public service. He said people should not be forced to visit government offices repeatedly for routine work and urged officials to resolve issues at the local level.

Focus on Planned Development

The Chief Minister stressed that urban development should be scientific and well-planned, warning against unauthorised layouts. He also highlighted the government's e-Khata initiative, saying the service is being extended across Karnataka after its successful implementation in Bengaluru.

Education and Public Welfare

Shivakumar announced that the government will establish CSR-supported schools on the successful KPS model in every Assembly constituency through collaboration between the government and industry.

No Politics Over SIR

Appealing against politicising the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the Chief Minister said the government is fully supporting the Election Commission to ensure that every eligible citizen is enrolled. He directed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to visit every household and ensure that no eligible voter is left out.



NEWS

BWSSB Revises Verification List

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has released a revised list of candidates shortlisted for document verification under its direct recruitment process following changes to the earlier notification.

According to the Board, candidates were initially shortlisted in the ratio of 1:5 for various posts under Direct Recruitment Notification No. ED/KEA/Administration/CR.25/2025 (RPC) dated November



15, 2025. However, due to technical reasons, the Junior Assistant - Residual (RPC) posts included in the earlier notification have been withdrawn.

BWSSB has now published a revised list of eligible candidates and advised them to appear for document verification on the scheduled date with all required original documents and supporting certificates.

The list of shortlisted candidates, along with the schedule, date, time, venue and other details, is available on the official BWSSB website.

7 Killed in NH-52 Crash

Vikrama Vahini | Yellapur

Seven people were killed and two others sustained serious injuries in a head-on collision between a car and a lorry on NH-52 near Balagara Cross in the Arabail Ghat area of Karnataka's Uttara Kannada district early Thursday.

According to police, the accident occurred around 1.30 a.m. under the jurisdiction of the Yellapur police station. The

multi-utility vehicle (MUV), carrying nine occupants, was travelling from Dharwad to Dharmasthala and Chikkamagaluru when it collided with an oncoming lorry from Ankola.

Driver Allegedly Speeding

Preliminary investigation suggests that the driver, identified as Sanjeev, was allegedly driving at high speed and lost control of the vehicle

before crossing into the opposite lane, resulting in the collision. The impact left the MUV badly mangled.

Two Undergoing Treatment

The two injured passengers were initially admitted to a nearby hospital and later shifted to KIMS Hospital, Hubballi, for specialised treatment.

Police have registered a case and are investigating the exact cause of the accident.

Cauvery Row: Reddy Hits Back at Udhayanidhi

From PG

Reddy said Karnataka had highlighted the need to reserve water for drinking purposes in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagar, Ramanagara and other regions during CWRC and CWMA meetings held in June.

He stated that the authorities considered Karnataka's concerns before taking decisions regarding water management.

Tamil Nadu Raises Concerns

Earlier, Udhayanidhi Stalin had criticised Karnataka's stand, alleging that farmers in Tamil Nadu were affected due to the delay in releasing Cauvery water.

He claimed that Karnataka had failed to release the water due under CWMA directions and questioned the state government's position on the issue. He also alleged that Tamil Nadu had not received its expected share of water for agricultural activities.

HEALTH & Lifestyle

Bilimbi: A Tangy Health Boost

Bilimbi (Averrhoa bilimbi), a sour tropical fruit commonly found in the coastal and Malnad regions of Karnataka, is valued not only as a culinary ingredient but also for its nutritional and health benefits.

Traditionally used as a substitute for tamarind in many dishes, the fruit is rich in vitamin C, calcium, potassium, fibre and antioxidants.

Boosts Immunity

Health experts say that consuming bilimbi in moderation can help strengthen the immune system.

The fruit's high vitamin C content supports the body's natural defence against infections, while antioxidants help protect cells from oxidative stress caused by free radicals.

Supports Digestion and Heart Health

Bilimbi is also believed to aid digestion due to its fibre content, which may help improve bowel movements and reduce constipation.

The presence of potassium may assist in maintaining healthy blood pressure levels, while its low-calorie content makes it a suitable addition to a balanced diet for those aiming to manage their weight.

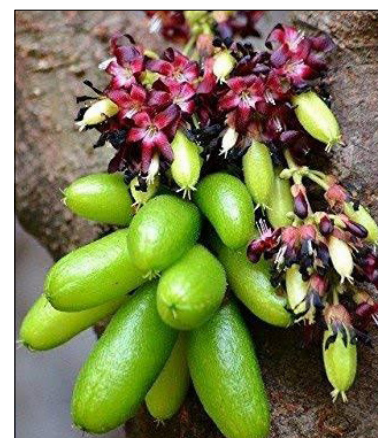
Popular in Traditional Cuisine

The fruit is widely used in preparing sambar, curries, chutneys, pickles, thokku and vegetable dishes.

In some households, sliced bilimbi is dried and powdered for use as a natural souring agent and seasoning, adding a distinct tangy flavour to food.

Consume in Moderation

Despite its nutritional value, experts advise moderation in



consumption. Bilimbi contains relatively high levels of oxalic acid, which may increase the risk of kidney stone formation in susceptible individuals.

People with kidney disorders or a history of kidney stones are advised to consult a doctor before including the fruit regularly in their diet.

Nutritionists emphasise that when consumed as part of a balanced diet, bilimbi can provide valuable nutrients while enhancing the taste of traditional dishes.

Experts also note that bilimbi contains natural plant compounds with anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties, which may help support overall health when consumed as part of a balanced diet.

However, the fruit should be eaten in moderation and combined with a variety of other fruits and vegetables to ensure adequate nutrition and avoid excessive intake of oxalic acid.

SCIENCE & Technology

AI Cheating Suspected at Brown

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

A professor at Brown University has raised concerns over the growing misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) in academics after students' average scores dropped sharply from 96% in a take-home midterm to 48% in a supervised final examination.

Sharp Decline Raises Suspicion

Economics professor Roberto Serrano said the unusually high scores in the take-home midterm and the similarity in students' answers suggested possible use of AI tools such as ChatGPT.

Reports said 40 students scored full marks in the midterm, an unusually high number for the course.

In-Person Exam Tells a Different Story

Suspecting AI-assisted cheating, Serrano conducted the final examination in person and announced that it would carry greater weight if the results differed significantly from the midterm.

The average score fell to 48%, while 18 students withdrew from the course and nine others skipped the final examination.

Growing AI Concerns

The incident has intensified the debate over the impact of generative AI on education. According to Brown University, a majority of students regularly use AI tools for academic work, while many also acknowledge that excessive dependence on such technology could weaken learning and critical thinking skills.

Serrano urged universities to adopt stronger measures against AI-assisted academic dishonesty, warning that normalising such practices could have serious long-term consequences for education and society.

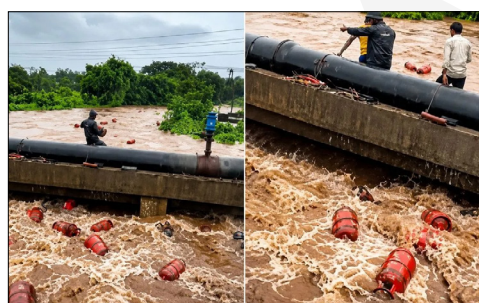


The aaradhane of Sri PragnyaMadhava Theertharu, Poorva Peethadhipatigalu of Sri Man Madhava Theertha Matha was celebrated at Mulbagilu, the Moola Vrindavana Kshetra of Sri gurugalu headed by Sri Vidya Vallabha Madhava Theertha Sripadaru Pontiff of Sri Man Madhava Theertha Matha on 09th July 2026, Thursday. Panchamritha Abhisheka to Vrundavana, Sri Veera Rama Devara Samsthana Pooja, Alankara Pankti and Brahmna Santarpane was done and the devotees was blessed with the grace of Sri Veera Rama Devaru and Sri Gurugalu.

3,000 LPG CYLINDERS DRIFT INTO RIVER

Heavy floods in Maharashtra's Raigad district swept nearly 3,000 LPG cylinders into the Patalganga River, prompting authorities to issue a public warning and launch a large-scale recovery operation.

Vikrama Vahini | Raigad
Nearly 3,000 LPG cylinders were swept into the Patalganga River after heavy rainfall flooded the HPCL Patalganga LPG Bottling Plant in Maharashtra's Raigad district, prompting authorities to issue a public safety warning. According to the district administration, floodwaters entered the bottling plant at Chawne in Panvel taluka, washing away both filled and empty LPG cylinders into the river. Raigad District Collector Kishan Javale urged residents not to touch, collect or transport any cylinder found along the riverbanks or downstream areas, warning that damaged cylinders could pose a serious safety risk. Officials said recovered cylinders should be handed over to HPCL authorities, authorised LPG dealers or the nearest revenue officials for safe handling. The administration has launched an operation to trace and recover the missing



cylinders while appealing to the public to remain cautious and report any sightings immediately. Authorities are monitoring the river and surrounding areas to prevent any untoward incidents. Residents have been urged to immediately inform officials if they spot any floating LPG cylinders. The recovery operation will continue until all missing cylinders are safely retrieved.

VIKRAMA VAHINI | INFO GRAPHICS

HORMUZ THREAT, IRAN SANCTIONS, RUSSIAN REFINERIES HIT: WHY INDIA CANNOT AFFORD ANOTHER ENERGY SHOCK

India faces a severe energy crisis from renewed threats to the Strait of Hormuz, US sanctions on Iran, and Ukraine's drone attacks on Russian oil infrastructure. These geopolitical developments risk higher crude prices, increased import bills, and a weaker rupee, despite India's efforts to diversify oil sources.

THREE CRISES, ONE COMMON THREAT

<p>1 STRAIT OF HORMUZ: THE WORLD'S MOST CRITICAL OIL CHOKEPOINT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strait of Hormuz carries roughly one-fifth of global oil supplies every day. Recent attacks and warnings from Iran's leadership that Hormuz will operate only under "Iranian arrangements" have raised fresh fears. For India, around 40% of its crude imports come from Gulf producers like Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, and the UAE, all of which rely heavily on Hormuz for exports. A prolonged disruption would force tankers to reroute, increase insurance premiums, delay shipments, and significantly raise transportation costs. 	<p>2 TRUMP'S IRAN SANCTIONS RETURN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Donald Trump's decision to reimpose stringent sanctions on Iran aims to reduce Tehran's oil revenues and pressure its economy. Although India drastically reduced Iranian oil purchases after previous US sanctions, Tehran remains geographically one of India's most convenient and cost-effective suppliers. Fresh sanctions mean: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited chances of reviving Iranian oil imports Higher dependence on Gulf suppliers Reduced flexibility in India's energy sourcing Greater exposure to geopolitical risks in West Asia 	<p>3 UKRAINE'S DRONE ATTACKS ON RUSSIAN REFINERIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russia has become India's largest crude supplier since the Ukraine war began, largely because of discounted prices. Ukraine's increasingly sophisticated drone attacks on Russian refineries and fuel infrastructure are creating fresh uncertainty. If refinery damage continues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russia may export less refined fuel Domestic Russian demand could rise Discounts offered to India may shrink Shipping routes and logistics could become more expensive Even if Russia continues exporting crude, refining disruptions can tighten global fuel markets.
---	--	--

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIA

- India imports nearly 85% of its crude oil requirements.
- Every increase in international crude prices directly affects its import bill, inflation, fiscal deficit and current account deficit.
- Higher oil prices also increase government spending on fuel subsidies and can put pressure on economic growth.
- A sharp rise in crude prices can also weaken the rupee and trigger cost-push inflation.



WHAT OPTIONS DOES INDIA HAVE?

- India is already increasing purchases from Brazil, Guyana, the US and West African producers.
- Although transportation costs are higher, diversification reduces dependence on any single region.
- India must continue building strategic oil reserves and strengthening long-term energy security.
- Balancing diplomacy, diversification and domestic energy reforms will be key to weathering this geopolitical energy storm.

THE GLOBAL ENERGY MARKET IS ENTERING A VOLATILE PHASE. INDIA MUST STAY PREPARED, DIVERSE AND STRATEGIC TO PROTECT ITS ECONOMY.

ENTERTAINMENT

'Jana Nayagan' Gets A Certificate

Vikrama Vahini | Chennai
After months of delay, Tamil superstar and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay's much-awaited film 'Jana Nayagan' has finally received clearance from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The film has been awarded an 'A' (Adults Only) certificate, surprising fans and industry observers.
'A' Certificate Surprises Fans
The CBFC has certified the film with an 'A' rating, while its official runtime has been listed at 183 minutes (3 hours and 3 minutes). The film is reportedly a remake of the Telugu hit 'Bhagavanth Kesari', which had received a U/A certificate, leading to speculation that the Tamil version contains more intense action and mature content.
Censor Delay Postponed Release
Originally scheduled for release during Pongal 2026, the film was submitted for certification in December 2025. However, objections raised by a member of the censor board led to the film being referred to the Revising Committee, followed by legal proceedings, delaying both certification and release.
Final Film Before Full-Time Politics
'Jana Nayagan' holds special significance as it is Vijay's final film before devoting himself completely to politics. The actor recently assumed office as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu after his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), secured a decisive victory in the Assembly elections.
Big-Budget Production
Produced by KVN Productions, the film has been made on a multi-crore budget and is directed by H. Vinoth. The cast includes Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol and Mamitha Baiju, while Anirudh Ravichander has composed the music.
With the censor process completed, 'Jana Nayagan' is expected to hit theatres worldwide in the last week of July, making it Vijay's first and final release after becoming Chief Minister.
Political Significance Adds to the Buzz
Beyond its cinematic appeal, Jana



Nayagan has gained additional attention due to Vijay's transition from a leading actor to a full-time political figure. Fans and political observers are closely watching the film, as it marks the end of an era in Vijay's film career before he focuses entirely on his responsibilities as Chief Minister.
High Expectations Among Fans
The completion of the censor formalities has brought relief to the makers and fans after a prolonged wait. With its grand scale, star-studded cast and Vijay's massive fan following, the film is expected to create a strong opening at the box office upon its worldwide release. The film's journey from production to certification has been closely followed by the Tamil film industry. The combination of Vijay's final appearance on the big screen before his political commitments and the film's delayed release has created significant anticipation among audiences across Tamil Nadu and beyond. With the CBFC approval now in place, the makers are preparing for a grand theatrical rollout. Distributors are expecting strong audience turnout, especially from Vijay's loyal fan base, as Jana Nayagan is set to become a memorable milestone in both his cinematic and public life.

SAMANTHA BREAKS RECORDS

Vikrama Vahini | Hyderabad
South Indian star Samantha Ruth Prabhu has scripted a remarkable comeback with her latest film Maa Inti Bangaram, breaking several records and proving her critics wrong. Once considered by many industry observers to be past her peak, Samantha has returned to the spotlight with a major box-office success. A few months ago, Samantha had spoken about the decline in film opportunities and how her career had entered a challenging phase. Several film analysts had even predicted that her golden period in cinema was over. However, Maa Inti Bangaram has completely changed the narrative, emerging as a milestone film in Telugu cinema. The film is now nearing the ₹100 crore mark at the worldwide box office, having already collected more than ₹98 crore globally. While crossing the ₹100 crore milestone has become increasingly common in recent years, the achievement holds special significance as Maa Inti Bangaram is only the second female-led film from South India to reach this landmark. Before Samantha's film, only a handful of women-centric films had achieved major commercial success in Telugu cinema. Anushka Shetty's Rudhradevi and Arundhati were among the highest-grossing female-led Telugu films, earning around ₹86 crore and ₹75 crore respectively. Keerthy Suresh's critically acclaimed biographical drama Mahanati also came close to the ₹90 crore mark. With its strong box-office performance, Maa Inti Bangaram has now surpassed these records to become one of the biggest-grossing women-oriented films in Telugu film history. The film has also created a new benchmark for female-led movies across South India. The only other women-centric film to cross the ₹100 crore mark was Malayalam blockbuster Lokah: Chapter 1, released last year. Starring Kalyani Priyadarshan, the film achieved a massive ₹300 crore collection and currently remains the highest-grossing female-led film in South Indian cinema. The success of Maa Inti Bangaram has once again established Samantha as one of

the leading actresses of the southern film industry. The makers have already confirmed that the film will have a sequel, adding further excitement among fans. Directed by Samantha's close friend Nandini Reddy, the film was produced by Samantha and her husband Raj Nidimoru. Along with Samantha, the movie features Kannada actors Diganth Manchale and Gulshan Devaiah in key roles. With its historic box-office run, Maa Inti Bangaram has marked Samantha Ruth Prabhu's powerful return and added a new chapter to the growth of women-driven cinema in South India.

BUSINESS

SBI, TCS Lead Market Watch

Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai
Several major stocks are expected to remain in focus today as investors closely monitor quarterly results, IPO announcements, business updates, strategic partnerships and bulk deals. Companies including Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), State Bank of India (SBI), Tata Steel, JSW Energy, TVS Motor and others are likely to influence market sentiment. The focus comes after domestic markets witnessed a sharp decline on Wednesday amid renewed tensions in West Asia. The BSE Sensex dropped 1,677.12 points, or 2.15%, to close at 76,503.60, while the Nifty 50 fell 516.65 points, or 2.12%, ending the session at 23,882.05.
TCS Results in Spotlight
India's largest IT services company, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), will announce its June quarter results (Q1 FY27) today. The company's performance will be closely watched by investors as it could provide direction for the broader IT sector and the overall market.
SBI Funds Management IPO Update
State Bank of India (SBI) will remain in focus as its subsidiary SBI Funds Management prepares to launch its initial public offering (IPO) on July 14. The IPO will be an offer-for-sale (OFS) issue, with SBI planning to sell a 6.3% stake and Amundi India Holdings selling a 3.7% stake.
Tata Steel Reports Strong Performance
Tata Steel reported a strong business update for the June quarter. The company's crude steel production in India increased 11.3% year-on-year to 5.82 million tonnes, while steel deliveries rose nearly 9% to 5.17 million tonnes, highlighting robust domestic demand.
JSW Energy Expands Renewable Capacity
JSW Energy announced that it has commissioned 1,081 MW of renewable energy capacity since April 2026. The company's total installed power generation capacity has now reached 14,535 MW, including solar, wind, hybrid and hydro projects.
TVS Motor Partners with Indian Oil
TVS Motor Company has entered into a strategic partnership with Indian Oil to strengthen last-mile LPG cylinder delivery services. The collaboration will expand the deployment of TVS King Kargo HD vehicles across Indian Oil's network of more than 13,000 LPG distributors.

SPORTS

LA Olympics 2028 Selection Rules Set



> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has directed all recognised National Sports Federations (NSFs) to publish the eligibility criteria and selection process for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics by July 15, 2026. The move aims to ensure greater transparency and accountability in the selection of athletes for major international sporting events.

The ministry reiterated that the selection policies and criteria for major events such as the Olympics, Paralympics, Asian Games, Para Asian Games and Commonwealth Games must be widely publicised and uploaded on the official websites of the respective National Sports Federations at least two years before the start of the competitions.

The selection guidelines must also be shared with affiliated state and union territory sports associations as well as the Sports Authority of India (SAI), ensuring that athletes and stakeholders have access to the information well in advance.

The ministry stated that the qualification pathways for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games have already been released by the respective international federations.

Djokovic Hails Kohli as Global Star

> Vikrama Vahini | London
Serbian tennis legend Novak Djokovic has praised Indian cricket star Virat Kohli, calling him a "global star" and expressing his admiration for the former India captain. Djokovic said Kohli's popularity, especially in India, is unmatched and revealed his interest in learning swing techniques from him.

The Wimbledon semifinalist said he has been in touch with Kohli and respects his achievements as one of the greatest athletes. Responding to Djokovic's comments, Kohli confirmed their conversations and said it was a privilege to connect with a champion like him.

Meanwhile, Djokovic advanced to the Wimbledon semifinals after defeating Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime in a thrilling quarterfinal that lasted 5 hours and 15 minutes, becoming the longest men's singles quarterfinal match in Wimbledon history.

Djokovic's praise for Kohli has created a buzz among sports fans worldwide, highlighting the mutual respect between two icons from different sporting disciplines. Both athletes have built global reputations through their consistency, dedication and record-breaking performances.

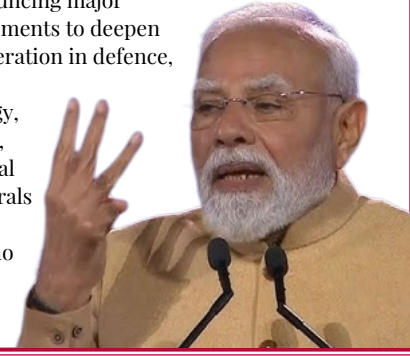
Modi Eyes Top-3 Economy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India is on course to become one of the world's top three economies, highlighting rapid progress in technology, infrastructure and innovation during his Australia visit.

> Vikrama Vahini | Melbourne
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India aims to become one of the world's top three economies at the earliest, driven by the vision of "Grow More, Achieve More."
Addressing the Indian community at the "Melbourne Meets Modi" event during his three-day visit to Australia, the Prime Minister said India is moving steadily towards becoming a developed nation, with the aspirations of its 1.4 billion people fuelling its progress.
Focus on Growth
Modi said every achievement inspires the

country to set higher goals, adding that India's economic growth is guided by innovation, ambition and self-confidence.
Technology and Infrastructure
Highlighting India's development, the Prime Minister said the country has become the world's second-largest 5G market and is now working on indigenous 6G technology. He also noted the rapid expansion of metro rail services, with India now having the third-largest metro network globally.
Modi said the government is also strengthening modern rail connectivity through Vande Bharat and Namoo Bharat trains.

Earlier in the day, Modi held summit talks with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, with both countries announcing major agreements to deepen cooperation in defence, clean energy, trade, critical minerals and technology.



BALUCHISTAN VIOLENCE ESCALATES

> Vikrama Vahini | Islamabad
Pakistan's military on Wednesday said 42 security personnel were killed in three separate militant attacks in Balochistan over the past four days, while security forces killed 54 militants in retaliatory operations.

At least 42 Pakistani security personnel were killed in militant attacks in Balochistan, while the military claimed to have eliminated 54 militants in retaliatory operations amid escalating violence in the province.

Retaliatory Operations
Military spokesman Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said the attacks occurred at different locations in the province since July 6. Security forces launched counterterrorism operations, killing 54

militants and recovering weapons. Clearance operations are continuing in the affected areas.

Security Concerns Persist
Pakistan alleged that some militants had links across the Afghan border, a claim denied by Kabul. The military also reiterated its allegation that India supports militant groups in Balochistan, which New Delhi has consistently rejected.

Strategic Province
Balochistan has witnessed a long-running insurgency by separatist groups seeking greater autonomy.
The province is strategically significant as it hosts the Chinese-backed Gwadar Port, a key project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The latest attacks underscore the continuing security challenges in the region.

China Shoe Factory Fire Kills 28

> Vikrama Vahini | Jinjiang
At least 28 people were killed after a massive fire broke out at a shoe factory in China's Fujian province on Thursday, leaving a multi-storey building completely gutted.

The blaze erupted at a factory belonging to the Hueteng shoe company in Jinjiang city. Videos circulating on social media showed thick black smoke billowing from the building as flames engulfed several floors, with workers seen trying to escape the inferno.

Rescue Operations Continue
According to officials, around 237 workers and two visitors were present inside the factory when the fire broke out. Emergency teams and firefighters managed to rescue 213 people, while 28 others were found dead.

The Ministry of Emergency Management deployed specialised rescue teams to the site, and firefighting and search operations continued for several hours.

Cause of Fire Under Investigation



The exact cause of the fire has not yet been confirmed. Preliminary reports suggest that flammable materials used in shoe manufacturing may have contributed to the rapid spread of the blaze.

After the fire was brought under control, visuals from the site showed the outer walls of the factory building severely damaged and charred.

Factory Officials Arrested
Chinese President Xi Jinping has taken serious note of the tragedy and directed authorities to provide medical assistance to the injured and conduct a detailed investigation.

Following the incident, authorities arrested the factory owner and other senior officials linked to the company as part of the probe into the disaster.

Aadhaar's Hidden Foreign Link

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi
India's Aadhaar, launched in 2009 as a home-grown digital identity programme, is being cited as an example of how the country's digital infrastructure continues to rely on foreign technology despite its push for digital sovereignty.

Japanese firm's role
A report says Japan's NEC Corporation supplied the fingerprint extraction and matching technology that forms the core of Aadhaar's biometric authentication system. While India has focused on reducing dependence on American and Chinese technology companies, the role of Japanese firms has received comparatively little public attention.

Authentication concerns



Though NEC's biometric technology has performed strongly in international benchmark tests, Aadhaar's real-world authentication success rate has been reported at around 93.5% to 95%. With over a billion users, this translates into millions of failed authentication attempts every month, raising concerns about access to welfare benefits and other essential services.

Critics say accountability for

these failures remains unclear, with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) maintaining that Aadhaar is only one part of the welfare delivery system.

Digital sovereignty debate
Experts argue that India's digital sovereignty policy has largely been shaped by concerns over dependence on US and Chinese technology, particularly under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and following tensions

with China in 2020.

The report says Aadhaar highlights a broader issue: digital sovereignty should focus not only on replacing one foreign supplier with another but also on ensuring transparency, accountability and oversight of all technology providers, regardless of their country of origin.

Experts say digital sovereignty should be measured not only by reducing dependence on specific countries but also by ensuring transparency and public accountability in critical digital infrastructure. They argue that oversight of technology providers is essential to protect citizens' rights and strengthen trust in digital public services.

Orange Alert as Kerala Braces for Heavy Rain

> Vikrama Vahini | Thiruvananthapuram
Heavy rainfall continued across parts of Kerala on Thursday, prompting the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to issue an orange alert for three districts.
The orange alert has been sounded for Malappuram, Kozhikode and Wayanad, indicating the likelihood of heavy to very heavy rainfall.

The IMD also issued a yellow alert for Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur, Palakkad, Kannur and Kasaragod, warning of heavy rain at isolated places.

Authorities have advised residents in vulnerable areas to remain alert as rain is expected to persist in several parts of the state.

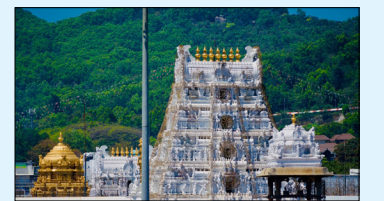
Three Ex-TMC MPs Join BJP

> Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata
In a major political development in West Bengal, three former Trinamool Congress (TMC) Rajya Sabha MPs — Sushmita Dev, Prakash Chik Baraik and Sukhendu Sekhar Roy — joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday.

The leaders reached the BJP's Salt Lake office, where West Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya formally welcomed them into the party. Their move comes as another setback for the TMC after its recent electoral setback in the state.

Bhattacharya said the three leaders joined the BJP with faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and praised their contributions as parliamentarians. The induction is expected to strengthen the BJP's political position in West Bengal.

TTD Prepares for Srivari Brahmotsavams



> Vikrama Vahini | Tirumala
Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has begun preparations for the twin Srivari Brahmotsavams scheduled to be held this year due to Adhika Masa. TTD Additional Executive Officer (EO) Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary on Thursday directed all department heads to finalise detailed plans and complete arrangements well ahead of the annual religious festival.

Chairing his first review meeting with senior officials at Tirumala, the Additional EO, along with Tirupati Joint Executive Officer Dr. A. Sharath and Chief Vigilance and Security Officer Murali Krishna, assessed the preparedness of various departments involved in the festival arrangements.

According to TTD, the festival schedule includes Koil Alwar Thirumanjanam on September 8, Ankurapanam on September 14, Dwajorahanam on September 15, Garuda Vahanam on September 19, Rathotsavam on September 22 and Chakrasnanam on September 23.

The Vahana Sevams will be conducted twice daily during the celebrations, from 8 am to 10 am and 7 pm to 9 pm. The Additional EO instructed officials to ensure strict security arrangements, smooth traffic management, proper route planning and sufficient parking facilities in coordination with the Vigilance and Police departments.

TTD officials were directed to complete engineering works on time, deploy additional sanitation personnel, arrange decorative lighting and floral decorations, and encourage more volunteers to participate as Srivari Sevaks.

The temple administration announced that VIP break darshan, except for protocol dignitaries, will remain suspended during the Brahmotsavams. Darshan facilities for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, parents with infants, NRIs and donors will also remain unavailable during the festival period.

HEALTH, EDUCATION MUST COME FIRST

> Vikrama Vahini | Muddenahalli
Stressing that healthcare and education are the pillars of a strong society, spiritual leader Sri Madhusudan Sai has called for greater emphasis on these sectors, saying service to humanity is the highest form of worship.

Speaking at a media interaction organised at Muddenahalli, the founder of the 'One World One Family' Global Humanitarian Mission said the organisation has been providing free education, healthcare, nutrition and rural development services to the needy across India and several countries.

Service Across 100 Countries
Madhusudan Sai said the Global Humanitarian Mission has been carrying out humanitarian activities since 2011, inspired by the ideals of Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

He said the organisation follows the principle of 'less words, more action' and has established service centres in over 100 countries.

He added that free education is currently being provided in 18 districts of Karnataka, with the mission striving to ensure that no deserving student is deprived of quality education due to financial constraints.

Healthcare for the Poor
Highlighting the institution's healthcare initiatives, he said more than 13 lakh patients have received



treatment at the hospital established by the organisation. Except for cancer treatment, all major medical services are provided free of cost.

Madhusudan Sai said the institution has also been running a nursing programme for the past four years. Nearly 4,000 students are expected to complete the course next year, and efforts are being made to provide employment opportunities to them within the organisation wherever possible.

Examples of Selfless Service
Recalling the humanitarian vision of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, he cited the drinking water project undertaken in Chennai after Baba witnessed children consuming contaminated water.

He said the initiative ensured safe drinking water to thousands of people without seeking recognition or publicity.

He also narrated the case of a farmer who was advised an expensive

heart surgery at a private hospital but was later found to have no serious heart ailment after examination at the institution's hospital.

Such incidents, he said, reinforced the need for accessible and affordable healthcare for all sections of society.

Appeal to Media
Urging journalists to take the organisation's work to rural areas, Madhusudan Sai said the media can play a crucial role in informing people about the free educational and healthcare services available through the mission.

Speaking on the occasion, Prashanthi Balamandira Trust Chairman Dr B.N. Narasimhamurthy highlighted the organisation's service initiatives. Karnataka Working Journalists' Association President Shivananda Tagadur praised the institution's humanitarian work and appealed for healthcare support, including health cards, for journalists.

Petrol Tanker Blaze Engulfs Two Trucks

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
A major fire accident was reported near 11th Mile in Doddaballapur taluk of Bengaluru Rural district after a petrol tanker lost control and crashed into a roadside tree.

The impact triggered a massive fire, reducing the tanker to ashes and spreading flames to a nearby milk tanker.

High-Speed Driving Suspected Behind Accident

According to preliminary information, excessive speed is believed to have caused the accident. The petrol tanker, which was reportedly moving at high speed, veered off control and rammed into a tree.

Moments after the collision, the tanker caught fire and flames quickly engulfed the vehicle.
At the time of the incident, a milk tanker parked nearby was reportedly being reversed. The fire from the petrol tanker spread to the second vehicle, causing both trucks to catch fire.

Drivers Escape Safely
Both vehicle drivers showed presence of mind and managed to escape from the burning trucks in time. Their quick action helped them avoid serious injuries or loss of life.
The incident caused panic among



nearby residents as the petrol tanker was carrying a highly inflammable substance, raising concerns over the possibility of a larger fire.

Firefighters Bring Situation Under Control

After receiving information, fire and emergency service personnel rushed to the spot and carried out a sustained operation to control the flames.

The firefighters managed to bring the situation under control after battling the intense blaze. Both vehicles were severely damaged and were almost completely gutted in the fire.

Police Begin Investigation
The accident occurred under the jurisdiction of Doddaballapur Police Station. Police have registered a case and started an investigation to determine the exact cause of the accident.

Authorities are examining whether overspeeding, road conditions or any other factors contributed to the crash. Further details are awaited as the investigation progresses.