



Actor Muzammil Ibrahim has clarified that the viral clips from his old interview about former girlfriend Deepika Padukone were taken out of context, saying the full conversation reflected respect and was distorted through selective editing.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the Karnataka government would take a decision on the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu only after the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) meeting scheduled for July 15



INSIDE

Good morning

Believe in yourself. You are braver than you think, more talented than you know, and capable of more than you imagine.

BRIEFS

19 Illegal Migrants Detained

► **Vikrama Vahini | Mangaluru**

Mangaluru Police have detained 11 more Bangladeshi nationals allegedly staying in India illegally, taking the total number of detainees in the recent crackdown to 19.

Police said the action was part of intensified verification drives during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Officers from the Urva Police Station conducted inspections at construction sites across the city to identify suspected undocumented migrants.

In one operation near Kuntikana, three Bangladeshi nationals were taken into custody after verification.

Police said they had allegedly been living in Mangaluru for the past two months while working as construction labourers.

TTD Opposes DKS Tirumala Move

► **Vikrama Vahini | Hyderabad**

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Board Member and Andhra Pradesh BJP spokesperson Bhanu Prakash Reddy on Monday opposed Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's remarks on extending Tirumala aarti privileges to Karnataka ministers, MLAs and officials.

Reddy said the first aarti tradition at Tirumala is a long-standing honour associated with the Mysore royal family and should not be extended to political leaders. He urged Shivakumar not to politicise temple traditions.

He said the matter would be raised at the upcoming TTD Board meeting and asserted that existing customs of the temple would not be changed. Reddy also demanded that Shivakumar withdraw his remarks.

Fadnavis Overtakes Pawar

► **Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai**

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has become the state's third longest-serving chief minister in terms of cumulative tenure, surpassing Sharad Pawar.

As of July 12, 2026, Fadnavis has completed 2,430 days in office across three terms, overtaking Pawar's cumulative tenure of 2,412 days served over four terms, according to Maharashtra Legislature records.

Former Chief Minister Vasantrao Naik continues to hold the record as Maharashtra's longest-serving chief minister with 4,096 days in office. He is followed by Vilasrao Deshmukh, who served a cumulative 2,686 days.

► **Vikrama Vahini | Ramanagara**

The ongoing controversy over the proposed Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) project intensified on Monday as farmers protesting land acquisition in Ramanagara district stopped a Joint Measurement Committee (JMC) survey and confronted government officials.

The confrontation took place at Mandalahalli village, where revenue officials arrived to conduct the survey.

A large group of farmers, including women protesters, blocked the officials and refused to allow the survey to proceed, demanding withdrawal of the township project.

Farmers Oppose Land Acquisition

The protesting farmers said they would not permit any survey until the government reconsidered the project.

"Our land is our livelihood, and we will not surrender it.

The government must listen to farmers before proceeding with any acquisition," protesters said.

They alleged that the proposed township could affect agricultural lands, crops and the livelihoods of thousands of farming families in the region.

Officials' Vehicle Gheraoed

During the protest, farmers surrounded the officials' vehicle and allegedly hit it with brooms, causing damage. Police personnel present at the spot intervened and attempted to control the situation.

Officials maintained that the survey

Latest from bidadi row



* **Women protesters joined hundreds of farmers in gheraoing officials' vehicles, alleging forced survey activities.**



* **Farmers said they would not allow any survey until the government withdraws the township project and holds talks.**

* **Protesters warned that the project could affect farmland, crops and their livelihoods. During the protest, some agitators allegedly pelted stones at vehicles, damaging car windows and the front glass.**

* **Farmers in Ramanagara halted the Joint Measurement Committee (JMC) survey for the proposed Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) project.**

* **The protest took place at Mandalahalli village, where farmers opposed the proposed acquisition of agricultural land.**

* **The issue has turned into a major political controversy, with opposition parties questioning the land acquisition process and government's decision-making approach.**



was part of the ongoing process, while farmers accused the government of moving ahead without taking their consent.

Political Row Intensifies

The Bidadi township project has emerged as a major political issue, with opposition parties criticising the state

government over its land acquisition plans.

Farmers have continued their agitation, warning that protests will

RANE TARGETS AAMIR OVER MARRIAGE 'Love Jihad' Remark Triggers Fresh Row

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

A controversy has erupted after Maharashtra Minister and BJP MLA Nitesh Rane questioned actor Aamir Khan's recent marriage to Gauri Spratt, asking whether it should be viewed through the lens of "love jihad."

Speaking to reporters in Shirdi, Rane said Hindu society should reflect on the personal choices of celebrities and questioned whether Aamir Khan was becoming a "brand ambassador" for what he described as "love jihad." He also



urged moviegoers to reconsider supporting such actors.

Rane's remarks have triggered fresh political debate, as the term "love jihad" is used by some right-wing groups to allege that Muslim men deliberately marry women from other faiths to convert them to

Islam—a claim that remains widely disputed.

Aamir Khan recently entered into a registered marriage with Gauri Spratt at his Mumbai residence.

The private ceremony was attended by his family, including former wives Kiran Rao and Reena Dutta, their children, and several prominent personalities from the film industry and public life.

Neither Aamir Khan nor Gauri Spratt has responded publicly to Rane's remarks.

BJP Councillor Takes Oath in Jail

► **Vikrama Vahini | Thiruvananthapuram**

In a first for Kerala, BJP councillor R. Sugathan will take the oath of office

from inside Viyyur Central Jail on Tuesday after the Kerala High Court permitted the arrangement.

Sugathan, who is under preventive detention under the KAAPA Act, could not attend the swearing-in ceremony. The Returning Officer will administer the oath inside the prison under tight security, enabling him to assume office while remaining in custody.



Cabinet Expansion Before Aug 6 Session

► **Vikrama Vahini | B'luru**

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday indicated that the long-awaited Cabinet expansion will be completed before the Monsoon Session of the State Legislature, scheduled to begin on August 6.

Speaking to reporters at his official residence, Krishna, Shivakumar said the final decision on the expansion would be taken after discussions with the Congress high command



during his upcoming visit to New Delhi.

"The Legislature session has been convened from August 6. I will travel to Delhi for official work. The party leadership will finalise the schedule within the next three to four days. **PG2**

Annabhagya Rice Supply Crisis

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Karnataka's flagship Annabhagya guarantee scheme has reportedly been hit by a major supply disruption, with subsidised rice distribution delayed for nearly three months in several parts of the state. The delay

has left thousands of ration card holders struggling to receive their monthly food grain entitlement.

Beneficiaries across multiple districts have complained of empty stocks at fair price shops, repeated visits to ration outlets and long waiting queues. In some areas, consumers staged protests after returning without receiving their allotted rice.

Delay Affects Poor Families

Under the Annabhagya scheme, rice is supplied to economically weaker households through the public

distribution system. The monthly quota, expected to reach beneficiaries by the fifth of every month, has reportedly been delayed, affecting daily wage workers and low-income families who depend on the scheme for food security.

Many beneficiaries said the shortage has forced them to purchase rice from open markets despite rising prices, putting additional pressure on household expenses.

Payment Delays Cited as Reason

The disruption is reportedly linked to delays in payments by the Karnataka government for rice procurement from the Centre.

The state purchases around 2.12 lakh metric tonnes of rice every month for the scheme and is required to pay approximately ₹300-400 crore towards procurement costs.

Officials said delayed fund release

has affected the lifting of rice stocks from central food grain depots, creating a supply chain bottleneck across the state.

Government Yet to Issue Clarification

Fair price shop operators have reportedly faced difficulties due to irregular stock availability, while beneficiaries have demanded immediate steps to restore regular distribution.

The reported crisis comes amid continued political debate over the financial sustainability of the Congress government's guarantee schemes.

However, the state government has not yet issued an official statement explaining the reasons behind the delay or provided a timeline for normalising rice supplies.

The Annabhagya scheme remains one of Karnataka's key welfare programmes aimed at ensuring food security for vulnerable sections of society.

Trump Revives Iran Strait Blockade

► **Vikrama Vahini | Washington**

US President Donald Trump has announced the reinstatement of what he called an "Iranian blockade" in the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, escalating tensions between Washington and Tehran.

Trump said the move would restrict Iranian ships from using the waterway while allowing other countries

access under new conditions. In a statement posted on social media platform Truth Social, Trump said eligible cargo passing through the Strait would face a 20 per cent toll. The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most critical maritime routes, with a significant share of global crude oil and natural gas shipments passing through the narrow waterway.

PG3

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Editorial

Development Must Not Come at the Cost of Fertile Farmland

Development is the hallmark of a progressive society. Expanding cities, modern infrastructure, industrial corridors and planned townships are essential to meet the aspirations of a growing population. Karnataka, like many other states, must continue to create opportunities for investment, employment and urban growth. However, development cannot be viewed solely through the prism of concrete structures and economic indicators. Equally important is the preservation of fertile agricultural land, which sustains food security, rural livelihoods and ecological balance. Mahatma Gandhi envisioned India's strength in its villages, and that vision remains relevant even today. As rapid urbanisation transforms the landscape, governments must ensure that economic progress does not weaken the agricultural foundation that has supported generations of farmers and nourished the nation.

The ongoing debate over the proposed township in Bidadi reflects the larger challenge of balancing development with agricultural sustainability. The region is known for its fertile soil and cultivation of crops such as paddy, ragi, coconut, arecanut and banana. Understandably, many farmers fear the loss of ancestral land, livelihoods and a way of life deeply connected to the soil. At the same time, the demand for planned urban expansion and improved infrastructure cannot be ignored. The answer, therefore, does not lie in choosing one over the other but in ensuring transparent decision-making. Comprehensive environmental assessments, social impact studies, meaningful consultations with stakeholders, fair compensation and credible rehabilitation measures should form the foundation of any major land acquisition exercise.

The larger lesson extends beyond a single project. Karnataka's development strategy should promote balanced regional growth by encouraging industries and new townships in areas where fertile agricultural land can be preserved without compromising economic expansion. Districts with suitable non-agricultural land and untapped industrial potential deserve greater attention, reducing excessive pressure on Bengaluru and creating employment opportunities across the state. Sustainable development is not about slowing progress; it is about making wiser choices that protect both economic aspirations and natural resources. A government's true success lies not merely in building new cities, but in ensuring that the fields feeding those cities continue to flourish for generations to come.

-Editor

RETURN ENUMERATION FORM OR LOSE VOTER ROLL ENTRY

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Additional District Election Officer K.N. Ramesh has warned that voters who fail to submit their enumeration forms during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls may have their names omitted from the draft electoral roll.

He said Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are conducting door-to-door visits across the Bengaluru South City Corporation limits to distribute and collect enumeration forms. Voters have been asked to fill in all required details and return the completed forms only to the BLOs.

Ramesh said the Election Commission of India has made the process mandatory to ensure the accuracy of the electoral roll. Those who do not return the forms will face deletion of their names from the draft voters' list as per the Commission's



guidelines.

To help voters, the Election Commission has uploaded step-by-step instructional videos on its official YouTube channel explaining how to fill out the enumeration forms.

He also urged the public to visit the Election Commission and Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer websites for detailed information on the SIR process and electoral rolls.

Dr B. Prabhudev Named Interim KPSC Chairman

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

The Karnataka government has appointed Dr B. Prabhudev as the interim Chairman of the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), entrusting him with the responsibility of leading the Commission and strengthening transparency in the state's recruitment process.

A native of Nelamane village in Mandya district's Srirangapatna taluk, Dr Prabhudev holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from PES Engineering College, Mandya, an MBA from the University of Mysore and a Ph.D. from Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU).

He began his professional career with Ford Motor Company in Detroit, USA, where he worked for nearly a decade before returning to India to join the Karnataka government service.

During his career, he served in key departments, including Commercial



Taxes, Tourism, Eco-Tourism Development Board and Labour, earning a reputation as an efficient administrator. He was appointed as a KPSC member in April 2021.

As a Commission member, Dr Prabhudev played a key role in expediting pending recruitment processes and is credited with promoting greater transparency in interviews and candidate evaluation.

He has also been associated with

efforts to reform KPSC by adopting UPSC-style recruitment practices and ensuring timely completion of selection processes.

With public confidence in KPSC affected by past controversies, Dr Prabhudev now faces the challenge of restoring the Commission's credibility and ensuring fair, transparent and time-bound recruitment for thousands of government job aspirants across Karnataka.

Cabinet Expansion Before Aug 6 Session

➤ **From PG1**

The Cabinet expansion will be completed before the session," he said.

The announcement comes amid growing pressure from Congress legislators seeking ministerial positions. Several MLAs have been lobbying for inclusion in the ministry, leading to speculation over the timing and composition of the expansion.

Party sources said Shivakumar is expected to hold detailed discussions with the Congress leadership in Delhi to

finalise the names while maintaining regional, caste and factional balance within the government.

On the Cauvery water-sharing dispute with Tamil Nadu, the Chief Minister said Karnataka would safeguard the interests of farmers while following judicial directions.

"Our priority is to protect farmers and ensure drinking water availability. At the same time, we must respect the court's directions regarding water release to Tamil Nadu," Shivakumar

said.

Reacting to the suspension of Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) Chairman Shivashankarappa Sahukar, Shivakumar said the Governor had issued the suspension order.

The Chief Minister also announced that Karnataka's elected representatives and officials would be allowed to participate in the first aarti at the Tirumala temple, following the traditional privilege enjoyed by the state since the Mysore Maharajas' era.

Karnataka Moves SC on GBA Polls

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

The Karnataka government has approached the Supreme Court seeking a postponement of elections to the five municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), citing the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. In its application, the state government has requested that the court permit the elections to be held after December, contending that the voter list revision exercise must be completed before the polls are conducted.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the plea on July 17. The fresh application comes despite the apex court's earlier direction asking the state to complete the GBA elections by August 31.

While hearing the matter on May 20, a Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi had observed that the state appeared to be delaying the civic elections and granted what it termed a final extension until the end of August.

The court had directed the Karnataka government and the State Election Commission



to ensure that elections to all five corporations under the GBA are completed within the stipulated deadline. It had also emphasised the importance of timely local body elections and expressed concern over repeated delays.

The Karnataka government has now argued that the ongoing revision of electoral rolls is essential to ensure free and fair elections and has sought additional time until December to complete the process before conducting the civic polls. The Supreme Court's decision on the plea is expected to determine the schedule for the much-awaited GBA elections.

Ramesh Babu Urges ECI to Fix SIR Lapses

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | B'luuru**

MLC Ramesh Babu has written to the Chief Election Commissioner, seeking urgent intervention over alleged administrative lapses in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka. He warned that thousands of genuine voters could be left out of the electoral roll if immediate corrective measures are not taken.

In his representation, Ramesh Babu alleged that the Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) office had failed to establish adequate voter facilitation centres across the State and claimed that nearly 50 per cent of eligible households were yet to receive Enumeration Forms, despite the house-to-house distribution drive by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) being underway since June 30.

He also questioned the CEO's claim that over 37,000 voter facilitation centres and nearly 12,000 BLO facilitation centres were functioning in the State, alleging that the ground reality was vastly different and that voters in several districts were struggling to access assistance.

The MLC urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to establish facilitation centres in every polling station area,

continue door-to-door distribution until all households are covered, extend the deadline for submitting Enumeration Forms, and ensure that no voter

is deleted from the electoral roll due to administrative shortcomings.

He further sought the establishment of district-level grievance redressal centres and helplines, a State-level

monitoring mechanism, publication of daily district-wise progress reports, and doorstep assistance for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and rural voters.

Invoking Article 324 of the Constitution, Ramesh Babu appealed to the ECI to take immediate action to safeguard the voting rights of every eligible citizen and prevent wrongful exclusion from the electoral rolls during the ongoing SIR process.

The representation states that maintaining the purity of electoral rolls should not come at the cost of excluding genuine voters due to administrative lapses. Ramesh Babu urged the Election Commission to treat the matter as urgent and ensure timely corrective measures so that every eligible citizen is able to remain on the electoral roll before the revision process is completed.



NEWS

CONGRESS 'HIJACKING' SIR PROCESS: ASHOK

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Chamarajanagar**

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka on Sunday accused the Congress government of 'hijacking' the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls by issuing permanent domicile certificates, alleging that the move could compromise national security.

Addressing a press conference, Ashok said the SIR exercise was intended to ensure that only Indian citizens were included in the voters' list.

He alleged that issuing domicile certificates could enable illegal immigrants, including Bangladeshi nationals, to obtain official recognition, making deportation difficult. He maintained that only the Union government had the authority to grant citizenship and deport foreign nationals, and accused the Congress of pursuing minority appeasement.

Ashok also criticised the state government for seeking ₹10,000 crore in drought relief from the Centre without officially declaring drought or



completing a field survey. He said the government had failed to submit the mandatory assessment report on crop loss, fodder and drinking water availability, adding that the Centre releases assistance only after verification.

Targeting the Congress government's welfare programmes, Ashok alleged that around 30 lakh ration cards were being cancelled, pensions for over 20 lakh beneficiaries had been withheld, and payments under schemes such as Gruha Lakshmi remained pending.

He claimed the Gruha Jyothi and Yuva Nidhi schemes had failed to deliver promised

benefits. Accusing the Congress of misleading people through its guarantee schemes, Ashoka alleged that Karnataka's financial condition had worsened due to excessive borrowing and demanded that the government immediately clear all pending welfare payments while prioritising the concerns of farmers affected by drought.

White Paper Demanded on Bidadi Township

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Condemning the atrocities committed by the officials on farmers at Bidadi, Chief Whip of the Opposition in Legislative Council N. Ravi Kumar on Monday urged the state government to issue a comprehensive white paper on 'all aspects' of Bidadi Township including the extent of government land available, private lands proposed to be acquired and lands meant for cattle grazing.

"BJP will not tolerate any



atrocities on farmers. It is outrageous on the part of the officials to have forced themselves upon the farmers who were on a peaceful protest. I demand an immediate stop to the acquisition proceedings and a comprehensive white paper on this issue," Ravi Kumar added.

Ravi Kumar warned the Congress government that no government can continue and survive if it commits atrocities on farmers.

"BJP is not against

development but BJP is opposed to the development at the cost of farmers and their livelihood," Ravi Kumar added.

Ravi Kumar alleged that farmers in the Bidadi region were being kept in the dark about the proposed land acquisition process and demanded complete transparency from the government. He said details regarding the purpose of land acquisition, compensation packages and the impact on agricultural activities should be made public before proceeding further.

HEALTH & Lifestyle

Six Keys to Better Mental Health

A landmark international study has identified six core pillars of positive mental health, concluding that true psychological well-being extends far beyond simply feeling happy. The findings, based on a consensus among more than 120 experts in psychology, psychiatry and mental health research, highlight purpose, life satisfaction, self-acceptance, meaningful relationships, autonomy and happiness as the key foundations of a flourishing life.

Beyond the Absence of Mental Illness Researchers said mental health has traditionally been assessed by focusing on disorders such as depression and anxiety.

However, the new study argues that mental well-being and mental illness are not opposite ends of the same spectrum. A person can live with a mental health condition while still experiencing purpose, fulfilling relationships and overall life satisfaction.

Using the Delphi consensus method, experts identified 19 characteristics of positive mental health, with six dimensions receiving more than 90 per cent agreement.

The Six Pillars of Well-Being

The study identified meaning and purpose as the strongest pillar, saying a sense of direction in life helps people remain resilient during adversity. Life satisfaction reflects an individual's overall contentment with life

rather than temporary emotions, while self-acceptance encourages recognising personal strengths and imperfections without excessive self-criticism.

Experts also highlighted the importance of meaningful relationships, noting that emotional support and a sense of belonging contribute significantly to mental well-being.

Autonomy, or the freedom to make decisions based on one's own values, was found to strengthen resilience and confidence. Although happiness remains an important element, researchers stressed that it alone does not define good mental health.

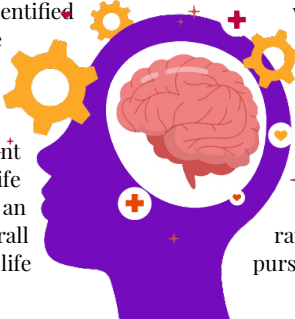
Supporting Earlier Psychological Research

The findings reinforce established theories of well-being, including Carol Ryff's model of psychological well-being and Martin Seligman's PERMA framework, both of which emphasise purpose, positive relationships, autonomy and personal growth as essential to flourishing.

Focus on Building Well-Being

Researchers said the study shifts the focus of mental health from merely treating illness to actively promoting well-being.

They concluded that lasting mental health is built through purpose, supportive relationships, self-acceptance, autonomy, life satisfaction and positive emotions, rather than the constant pursuit of happiness alone.



SCIENCE & Technology

No Critical Data Loss in Tata Cyberattack: Govt

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

The Central government has said there is no evidence of any critical information loss in the recent cyber security incident involving Tata Electronics, even as the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) continues its investigation.

Speaking at the launch of a Digital Threat Report, Electronics and IT Secretary S. Krishnan said Tata Electronics was working closely with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and that no critical data loss had been detected based on the findings so far. He added that the incident remains under investigation and the final assessment will be made after CERT-In completes its review.

The statement follows reports that ransomware group World Leaks had uploaded more than 2,00,000 files, amounting to over 630 GB of data, on a dark web leak site. The alleged cache reportedly included supplier information, engineering documents, Apple-marked confidential files, photographs of unreleased iPhone models and images from device testing. While Tata Electronics has acknowledged the cyber incident, the government has clarified that it has not found evidence of any critical breach at this stage.

Tata Electronics is one of Apple's largest manufacturing partners outside China, supplying components and assembling iPhones in India. Officials said the incident highlights the growing need for stronger cyber security as AI-driven attacks and supply chain threats become increasingly sophisticated. The government has urged companies to strengthen cyber security practices and is assisting businesses through CERT-In advisories and incident response mechanisms.

Cauvery Decision After July 15: CM

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the Karnataka government would take a decision on the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu only after the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) meeting scheduled for July 15.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, the Chief Minister said the government must balance the interests of farmers, ensure adequate drinking water supply and comply with court directions while deciding on water release. He said Karnataka would strongly present its case before the Authority and announce its decision after

the meeting.

Referring to concerns raised by MLAs from Mandya and Srirangapatna, Shivakumar said the government had already held discussions with them and would take an appropriate decision after the CWMA meeting.

On the suspension of the KPSC Chairman, the Chief Minister said the Governor had issued the suspension order and the senior-most official had been entrusted with the



Commission's responsibilities.

First Tirupati Aarti for Karnataka Representatives

Shivakumar also announced that the traditional first aarti privilege at the Tirumala temple, historically associated with Karnataka since the Mysore Maharajas' era, would now be extended to elected representatives, judges, government officials, MPs, mayors, tahsildars and other eligible dignitaries from the State.

He clarified that the facility would be available irrespective

of political affiliation and would remain subject to the rules of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams.

Monsoon Session from August 6

The Chief Minister said the Karnataka Legislature's Monsoon Session would commence on August 6. He also confirmed that he would soon visit New Delhi for official engagements, with the final schedule to be decided by the party leadership.

Shivakumar also paid tributes to former Rajya Sabha member H. Hanumanthappa, describing him as a veteran Congress leader who made significant contributions to the party and public life.

ECI Urged to Expand SIR Help Centres in K'taka

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

A representation has been submitted to the Chief Election Commissioner seeking immediate intervention to strengthen the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka by establishing more voter facilitation centres across the State.

The representation alleges that the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Karnataka, has failed to provide adequate facilitation centres and claims that many eligible voters have not yet received Enumeration Forms despite the ongoing house-to-house distribution by Booth Level Officers (BLOs).

According to the petition, the SIR process began on June 30 and is scheduled to conclude on July 29, but nearly half of the eligible households are

A representation to the Election Commission has sought more SIR facilitation centres, an extension of the Enumeration Form submission deadline, and safeguards to ensure no eligible voter in Karnataka is excluded from the electoral roll due to administrative lapses.

yet to receive the prescribed forms. It contends that administrative shortcomings could result in the wrongful exclusion of genuine electors from the draft electoral roll.

The representation has urged the Election Commission of India to direct the CEO to establish facilitation centres in every polling station area, extend the deadline for submitting Enumeration Forms until complete household coverage is achieved, and ensure that no voter is removed from the electoral roll due to non-service of forms or inadequate administrative support.

It has also sought the creation of district-level grievance redressal counters and helplines, a State-level monitoring mechanism, daily publication of district-wise progress data, and special assistance for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and rural voters. Invoking the Election Commission's powers under Article 324 of the Constitution, the representation called for immediate corrective measures to ensure that no eligible voter in Karnataka is deprived of voting rights due to administrative lapses during the ongoing SIR exercise.

Bengaluru-Hyderabad in 8 Hours

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Bengaluru-Hyderabad Vande Bharat Express covers the 610-km journey in 8 hours 15 minutes and operates six days a week, except Wednesdays.

Owing to rising passenger demand, the train has been upgraded from 8 to 16 coaches, increasing seating capacity. One-way fares are ₹1,600 for AC Chair Car and ₹2,915 for Executive Chair Car.

The train connects key stations across Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, offering faster intercity travel. It stops at Mahbubnagar, Kurnool City, Anantapur, Dharmavaram Junction and Hindupur en route.

BANK GLITCH CREDITS CRORES TO ACCOUNTS

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Panic gripped several districts in West Bengal after hundreds of customers, including students, homemakers, shopkeepers and daily wage earners, found nearly ₹79.69 crore mysteriously reflected in their bank accounts due to an alleged technical glitch.

The incident was reported from districts including Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Maynaguri and Murshidabad. Many account holders had visited banks or checked their balances expecting scholarship payments, government benefits or small remittances, only to find an identical multi-crore amount credited to their accounts.

Bank Blames Core Banking System Error

Officials of the public sector bank said the incident was caused by a technical fault in its Core Banking System (CBS), which generated false credit entries and automated SMS alerts. They clarified that the displayed amounts were not real and could not be withdrawn.



The bank has launched an investigation into the glitch and advised customers to report any incorrect balances to their respective branches.

Cyber Experts Urge Caution

Cyber security experts, however, have called for a detailed probe, questioning how the same amount appeared in numerous accounts.

They warned that similar incidents had surfaced in other parts of the country and advised affected customers to immediately inform both the police and the bank to safeguard themselves in case of any potential cyber fraud.

Authorities are investigating the cause of the anomaly, while customers have been assured that their actual deposits remain secure.

Trump Revives Iran Strait Blockade

► From PG1

The announcement has raised concerns in international markets, as any disruption in the region could affect global energy supplies and fuel prices. Trump said the restrictions were aimed specifically at Iranian vessels and customers, adding that ships from other countries would continue to have "fair and open use" of the route.

Tensions between the two countries have intensified in recent days following a series of military confrontations and diplomatic setbacks. The latest escalation came after the US accused Iran of targeting a container ship in the Strait of Hormuz. Tehran, however, has defended its actions and claimed it has the authority to regulate

maritime movement in the waterway.

The US military has also carried out strikes on several Iranian-linked targets, including air defence systems, missile facilities, drone equipment and radar installations, further increasing fears of a wider conflict. The situation worsened after a joint US-Israel operation on Iran on February 28, in which several senior Iranian political and military officials were reportedly killed.

Iran responded with attacks on multiple targets in the region, leading to heightened security concerns across the Middle East.

Analysts have warned that continued tensions around the Strait of Hormuz could have serious consequences for global trade and energy markets.

BNCC Cracks Down on 223 Abandoned Vehicles

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC), in coordination with the Bengaluru Traffic Police, has launched a special drive against abandoned vehicles parked on public roads, footpaths and other public spaces across the city.

The drive, initiated under the directions of Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and BNCC Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, has identified 223 abandoned vehicles for action.

Officials said mahazar proceedings and notices have been completed for 82 vehicles, while 11 vehicles were not found

during verification. Proceedings for the remaining 130 vehicles are currently underway.



Among the divisions, Vidyanarayana and Yelahanka have completed action against all identified vehicles, while operations are continuing in Pulakeshinagar, Sarvagnanagar and Hebbal. In Byatarayanapura and Dasarahalli, several identified vehicles were found to have been removed before verification. BNCC has appealed to vehicle owners not to leave vehicles abandoned on roadsides, footpaths or public places for long periods and urged citizens to cooperate with the ongoing enforcement drive.

ENTERTAINMENT

'Jana Nayagan' Tops ₹1 Crore in UK Pre-Sales

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Thalapathy Vijay's much-awaited final film, Jana Nayagan, has registered a strong start overseas, crossing ₹1 crore in advance ticket sales in the United Kingdom ahead of its worldwide theatrical release on July 24. The impressive response reflects the excitement among fans, as the film marks Vijay's farewell to cinema before he shifts his full-time focus to politics.

The film's UK distributor, Ahimsa Entertainment, announced that advance bookings had opened to an overwhelming response, with a record number of shows being scheduled across theatres. In a social media post, the distributor described the film as a historic farewell for one of Tamil cinema's biggest stars and urged fans to make it the "biggest send-off Tamil cinema has ever seen."

Uncut Version for Overseas Audience

While the film has been cleared by India's Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) with an 'A' certificate and 12 cuts,

audiences in select international markets, including the UK, will get to watch the uncut version, classified as 15-rated. The distributor confirmed that overseas viewers will experience the film exactly as it was originally made.

Delayed Release After Certification Issues

Jana Nayagan was initially scheduled for release during the Pongal festival earlier this year but faced a delay due to certification-related issues. After a prolonged wait of nearly seven months, the makers confirmed the film's worldwide release on July 24.

The film also made headlines after an unfinished version was reportedly leaked online a few months ago, raising concerns among the producers ahead of its release.

Vijay's Final Film Before Politics

The film holds special significance as it is expected to be Vijay's last film before dedicating himself fully to politics. During the delay, Vijay actively campaigned for his political party and had publicly thanked his supporters for standing by the film during the certification process.

Directed by H. Vinoth and produced by KVN Productions, Jana Nayagan features an ensemble cast including Bobby Deol, Pooja Hegde, Mamitha Baiju,

Priyamani, Gautham Vasudev Menon, and Narain. With advance bookings witnessing a strong response overseas, trade analysts expect the film to open to massive collections when it releases worldwide on July 24. Industry experts expect the film to set new opening-day box office records in several overseas markets, driven by Vijay's massive global fan following.

Samantha's Film Hits ₹100 Crore

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu is celebrating a major career milestone as her female-led Telugu film Maa Inti Bangaram has crossed the ₹100-crore mark at the worldwide box office, emerging as one of the biggest commercial successes of her career.

The achievement comes at a special time for Samantha, who is currently celebrating her pregnancy. The actress shared her excitement through an Instagram video, in which she is seen reacting with surprise after being informed that the film had crossed the ₹100-crore milestone. She thanked audiences for their overwhelming love and support.

Film Defies Industry Expectations

Speaking about the film's success, Samantha revealed that many in the industry had doubts about whether a woman-centric film could draw audiences to theatres. She recalled that before the release, some exhibitors had questioned the commercial viability of a female-led film, claiming such movies rarely attracted large crowds.

However, the blockbuster performance of Maa Inti Bangaram has challenged that perception. Samantha said the film has proved that audiences are ready to support strong content regardless of whether it is led by a male or female actor.

The actress

described the film's success as a significant step for Indian cinema, expressing hope that it would encourage filmmakers to invest more confidently in women-led stories.

According to Samantha, meaningful change is possible only when the industry is willing to take creative risks, and the success of Maa Inti Bangaram has demonstrated that quality storytelling can overcome long-standing stereotypes.

About the Film

Maa Inti Bangaram is a Telugu action-comedy directed by B.V. Nandini Reddy and jointly produced by Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Raj Nidimoru, and Himank Reddy. The film also stars Gulshan Devaiah and Diganth in pivotal roles.

With its impressive worldwide earnings, the film has become one of the highest-grossing women-centric Telugu films, reinforcing Samantha's successful comeback and setting a new benchmark for female-led commercial cinema.

Trade analysts say the film's consistent performance across domestic and overseas markets has played a key role in achieving the milestone. The success is also expected to encourage filmmakers to back more women-led commercial entertainers in the coming years.

BUSINESS

GOLD SLIPS AGAIN

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Gold prices witnessed another sharp decline on Monday, with the price of 22-carat gold falling by ₹130 per gram, continuing the downward trend seen over the past few months. Silver prices, however, remained unchanged across major markets.

The price of 22-carat gold dropped from ₹13,230 to ₹13,100 per gram, while 24-carat gold is now priced at ₹14,291 per gram. The decline follows a steady correction in gold prices since the beginning of the year, with market analysts attributing the fall to easing global uncertainties and changing investment trends.

Compared to late January, when 24-carat gold was priced at around ₹17,885 per gram, the precious metal has fallen by more than ₹3,500 per gram.

Current Gold and Silver Prices

The price of 10 grams of 22-carat gold now stands at ₹1,31,000, while 10 grams of 24-carat gold costs ₹1,42,910. Silver continues to trade at ₹235 per gram (₹23,500 per 100 grams) in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi and several other cities. In Chennai and parts of Kerala, silver is priced at ₹240 per gram.

City-Wise Gold Prices

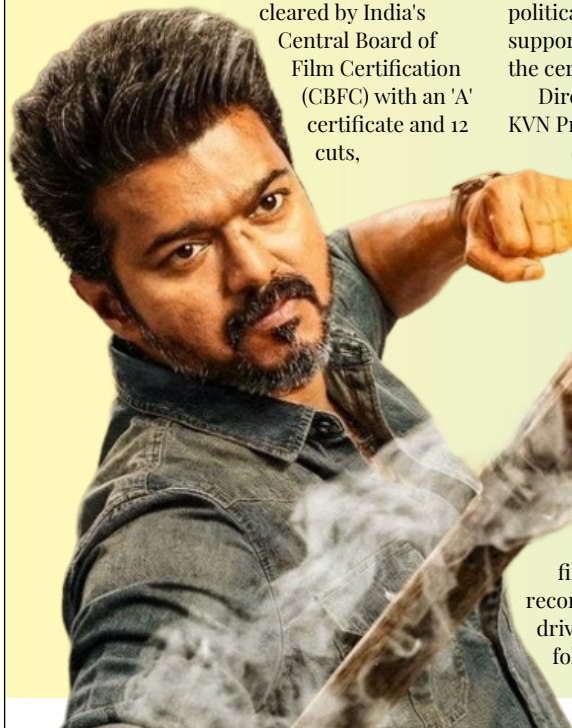
Among major cities, the price of 22-carat gold per gram is ₹13,100 in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Kerala and Bhubaneswar, ₹13,115 in Delhi, Jaipur and Lucknow, and ₹13,200 in Chennai.

Global Gold Prices

Internationally, 24-carat gold is trading at approximately ₹12,947 per gram in Dubai, ₹13,027 in the United States, ₹13,295 in Singapore, and ₹13,075 in Qatar, indicating relatively stable global prices.

Jewellers said the recent correction in gold prices may encourage fresh buying from consumers ahead of the upcoming festive and wedding season.

Market experts said gold prices are likely to remain volatile in the coming weeks due to fluctuations in global bullion markets, the US dollar, interest rate expectations and geopolitical developments. They advised buyers to track daily price movements before making large purchases, while noting that the recent decline could provide an attractive buying opportunity for investors and consumers planning purchases for the upcoming festive and wedding season.



SPORTS

India Women Conquer Lord's in Historic Win



► Vikrama Vahini | London

India Women registered a historic 270-run victory over England in the one-off Test at Lord's, becoming the first women's team to win a Test match at the iconic venue. The emphatic triumph also helped India avenge their recent T20i series defeat.

After posting 285 in the first innings, powered by Smriti Mandhana (83), Harmanpreet Kaur (58) and Deepti Sharma (57), India bowled England out for 170, taking a 115-run lead. Kranti Goud starred with the ball, claiming five wickets for 37 runs.

In their second innings, India declared at 341/6, setting England a daunting target of 457. Yastika Bhatia struck a brilliant 113, while Mandhana added 70 and Richa Ghosh contributed a quick 50.

Chasing 457, England struggled throughout and were bowled out for 186. Amy Jones scored 54 and Sophie Ecclestone made 50, but lacked support from the rest of the batting line-up.

Sneha Rana claimed four wickets in the second innings, while Sayali Satghare, Kranti Goud and Deepti Sharma picked up two wickets each to seal India's memorable victory at the Home of Cricket.

Gill, Kohli, Rohit Eye ODI Top Spot

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The three-match India-England ODI series, beginning July 14, will not only be a contest between two top teams but also a crucial battle for the ICC ODI batting rankings, with Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in contention for the No.1 position.

India captain Shubman Gill, currently ranked second with 791 rating points, has a strong chance to overtake New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell, who leads the rankings with 815 points. A match-winning performance in the series could help Gill become the world's top-ranked ODI batter.

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, ranked third and fourth with 768 and 754 points respectively, will also look to improve their positions. The series marks Kohli's return to ODI cricket after a long gap, while Rohit will reunite with the former captain in the format.

Both experienced batters have impressive records in England, with Rohit averaging 64.91 and Kohli maintaining a 51.88 average in ODIs on English soil.

India currently holds the No.1 position in the ICC ODI team rankings, while three Indian batters feature in the top four of the individual ODI rankings.

Why did late PM Manmohan Singh say, "I will commit suicide"?

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) S.Y. Quraishi has revealed that late Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh once said he would "commit suicide" if anyone believed his government had undermined the credibility of the Election Commission.

The revelation is made in Quraishi's recently released memoir, India and I: A Hundred Memories, Not a Memoir, in which he recounts an interaction with the former Prime Minister during the 2012 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

According to Quraishi, the episode occurred after then Union Minister Salman Khurshid promised to increase the Muslim quota in government jobs during the election campaign, prompting the Election Commission to initiate proceedings for an alleged violation of the Model Code of Conduct.

After hearings, the Commission censured



Former Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi, in his memoir India and I: A Hundred Memories, Not a Memoir, has recalled that late Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh expressed deep concern over any suggestion that his government had weakened the credibility of the Election Commission. Quraishi said the incident reflected Dr. Singh's strong respect for constitutional institutions and his commitment to safeguarding their independence.

Khurshid. Quraishi writes that some Congress leaders later criticised the Election Commission, prompting him to convey his concerns to the Prime Minister's media adviser, Harish Khare.

"I Was Shocked" Quraishi recalled receiving an urgent call from Dr. Manmohan Singh the next day, during which the Prime Minister reportedly said, "If that is what you think, I'll commit suicide."

The former CEC said he was taken



aback by the emotional response and spent nearly 20 minutes reassuring the Prime Minister that his concern was only about remarks made by certain ministers and not about the government's commitment to the independence of the Election Commission. The memoir presents the incident as an example of Dr. Manmohan Singh's deep respect for constitutional institutions and his sensitivity towards protecting their credibility.

Jawan Killed in Nagaland IED Blast

► Vikrama Vahini | Guwahati

One Assam Rifles personnel was killed and four others were injured in a suspected improvised explosive device (IED) blast targeting their vehicle in Nagaland's Chümoukedima district on Sunday.

According to preliminary reports, the personnel were returning from an official conference in Sukhovi when their vehicle reached the 7th Mile area. A powerful explosion occurred after an autorickshaw reportedly came close to the vehicle. Initial findings suggest the blast may have been caused by a remotely triggered explosive device, though authorities are yet to confirm the exact nature of the explosion.

The injured personnel were shifted for medical treatment,

while security forces launched a search operation and investigation into the incident. No militant outfit had claimed responsibility at the time of filing the report.

In a statement, the Defence Public Relations Officer (PRO), Kohima, confirmed that one security personnel had lost his life and four others were injured, adding that operations were underway and further details were awaited.

The incident has raised fresh security concerns in the region. Earlier this year, three Assam Rifles personnel were killed in an attack by suspected Naga militants near the India-Myanmar border, while two personnel lost their lives in a militant attack in Manipur in September last year.

900-YEAR-OLD IDOL REIDENTIFIED

► Vikrama Vahini | Bhopal

A 900-year-old stone idol at the State Museum in Bhopal, long believed to depict Goddess Saraswati, has been identified as a rare sculpture of Goddess Gayatri using advanced 3D imaging technology.

The discovery was made under the Madhya Pradesh Digital Heritage Mission after archaeologists used high-resolution 3D mapping to study the sculpture. Researchers found that the idol lacks the veena, traditionally associated with Saraswati, and instead features the Vedas, a lotus and a rosary—attributes matching descriptions of Goddess Gayatri in ancient Hindu texts.

The red sandstone sculpture,



unearthed in Dhar, was misidentified for centuries due to the city's historical association with learning. Archaeologists said independent idols of Goddess Gayatri are extremely rare, making the discovery historically significant.

K'taka Clears Bharat Jodo Youth Clubs

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Karnataka government has issued an official order to establish 10,000 Bharat Jodo Yuva Sanghas across the state to promote sports, culture, scientific temper and social harmony among youth.

Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara announced that the ₹1,010-crore initiative will be implemented through the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports with support from the Rural Development, Urban Development, Revenue and Education departments.

Under the scheme, around 6,000 youth clubs will be set up in gram panchayats and 4,000 in urban wards. Each Sangha will receive an annual grant of ₹10 lakh, while one trainer per Sangha will be paid an annual honorarium of ₹24,000. The government said the initiative aims to develop leadership skills among young people and encourage them to become responsible and socially conscious citizens.

Europe Heatwave Kills 10,000+ in a Week

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

More than 10,000 excess deaths were recorded across Europe during the intense heatwave that swept the continent in late June, according to mortality data released by the EuroMOMO monitoring network.

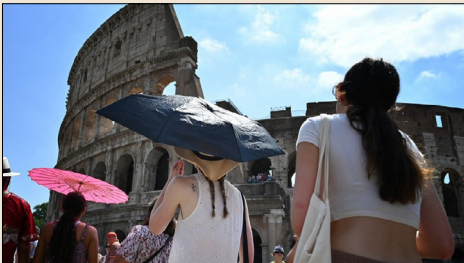
The report said 10,650 excess deaths were recorded across 27 European countries during the week of June 22-28, with over 9,000 victims aged 65 years and above. Health experts said elderly people were the worst affected, as extreme heat aggravates cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and increases the risk of heat stroke.

France, Belgium Among Worst Hit

France and Belgium reported some of the highest excess mortality rates, with Belgium recording its deadliest heat-related event since EuroMOMO began tracking mortality in 2000. Earlier estimates also suggested that more than 5,000 people may have died in Germany during the same heatwave.

Climate Change Linked to Extreme Heat

Scientists said the record-breaking



temperatures were made significantly more likely by human-induced climate change. The heatwave disrupted transport and power services, fuelled wildfires and placed heavy pressure on healthcare systems across Europe.

Experts warned that Europe remains highly vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change and called for stronger measures to protect vulnerable populations from increasingly frequent and severe heatwaves. Public health authorities urged governments to strengthen heat action plans, improve early warning systems and ensure better protection for elderly and vulnerable communities.

Ladakh to Get Hill Councils in All Districts

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Ladakh administration has announced major governance reforms, including the establishment of an Autonomous Hill Development Council in each of the Union Territory's seven districts to strengthen local self-governance and improve public service delivery.

Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra said the initiative follows the expansion of Ladakh from two to seven districts in April 2026. At present, elected Hill Development Councils function only in Leh and Kargil.

Greater Local Representation

The administration said new councils will be constituted under the provisions of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Act after



completing the necessary legal amendments and constituency delimitation. The move is expected to decentralise governance and give local representatives a greater role in planning and development.

Ladakh is set for a major governance overhaul with plans to establish Autonomous Hill Development Councils in all seven districts, aiming to boost local representation, improve public services and accelerate development in remote regions.

New Administrative Units

To improve access to government services, Tehsildars have been appointed in 17 newly created tehsils. The administration has also created four new divisions under the Public Health Engineering and Flood Control Department and five divisions under the Public Works Department and PMGSY, particularly benefiting remote regions such as Zaskar, Drass, Nubra, Changthang and Sham.

Recruitment Drive Underway

The administration said 4,511 government

posts have been filled since Ladakh became a Union Territory, while recruitment for another 684 posts is in progress.

Advertisements for 262 school teacher posts and 47 University of Ladakh faculty positions will be issued shortly. Recruitment is also underway for 40 Sub-Inspector posts and 341 Constable and Fireman vacancies. Officials said discussions on safeguards for land, culture and identity would continue alongside efforts to strengthen local governance and improve administrative services across all seven districts.

SC Notice in Ayodhya Donation Row

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has issued notices to the Shri Ram Temple Trust, the Centre and the Uttar Pradesh government on a petition alleging irregularities in donations made to the Ayodhya Ram Temple.

Hearing a public interest litigation seeking a CBI probe, the court directed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to submit its progress report in a sealed cover within one week. The petitioner has sought access to the findings of the investigation.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the court that the Centre was prepared to submit the SIT report in a sealed cover. The Supreme Court has posted the matter for further hearing on July 20 and directed the SIT to provide details of its investigation, including the number of people examined and the findings so far.

Ashok Warns KRS Siege Over Water Crisis

► Vikrama Vahini | Mandya

Opposition Leader R. Ashok on Monday warned that the BJP would lay siege to the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) reservoir if the Karnataka government failed to release water within three days to protect standing crops in the Cauvery basin.

Ashok, who visited drought-hit sugarcane fields in Malavalli and surrounding villages, alleged that farmers were facing severe distress due to water scarcity and demanded immediate government intervention.

Ashok urged the government to convene an all-party meeting on Cauvery water sharing and declare drought in affected areas. He accused the Congress government of ignoring farmers' problems while focusing on internal



party matters.

He said Karnataka must adopt a firm stand on Cauvery issues and involve leaders from all parties in discussions.

The BJP leader said water should be released from KRS to save existing sugarcane crops, even if new crop requirements could not be met.

He demanded compensation for affected

farmers and said drought declaration was essential to provide support for fodder and drinking water needs.

Ashok also opposed land acquisition plans in Bidadi, alleging that fertile agricultural land was being diverted for real estate projects without adequately addressing farmers' concerns.

He warned of protests if the government proceeded with acquisitions without farmer consent.

The Opposition Leader further accused the state government of corruption and delays in major projects, including garbage management and tunnel road works, alleging that development activities were being affected by financial irregularities.

US Launches Sea Drone Strike

► Vikrama Vahini | Tehran

The United States has claimed to have carried out its first operational strike using autonomous sea drones, targeting an Iranian naval maintenance facility at Bandar Abbas, amid rising tensions in the Middle East.

According to the US Central Command (CENTCOM), the operation involved three one-way attack sea drones, known as Corsair, which were used to strike a facility used for the maintenance and repair of Iranian submarines and naval vessels. CENTCOM released a video of the operation on social media, describing the strike as a significant milestone in the use of unmanned maritime systems in combat operations.

The development comes amid heightened regional tensions, although there has been no immediate official response from Iran regarding the reported attack.

US officials said the strike was aimed at weakening Iran's naval operational capabilities in the strategic Gulf region.

Retail Inflation Hits 4.38%

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

India's retail inflation rose to 4.38 per cent in June, driven mainly by higher food prices, according to government data released on Monday. The inflation rate moved above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) median target of 4 per cent, marking the first time it has crossed this level under the revised Consumer Price Index (CPI) series introduced in January with 2024 as the new base year.

The rise in food prices was the key factor behind the increase in inflation, raising concerns over household expenses and the overall cost of living. The latest figures will be closely watched as the RBI assesses future monetary policy decisions.

SI Suspended Over Viral Video

► Vikrama Vahini | Hyderabad

A Hyderabad police sub-inspector has been suspended after a video allegedly showing his minor granddaughter driving a car while he sat in the front passenger seat went viral on social media.

The incident sparked public outrage after locals confronted the officer over allowing a minor to drive, citing road safety concerns and violations of traffic rules.

In the viral video, the girl is heard telling the crowd, "My grandfather is an SI," while defending the act. Following the incident, police suspended the officer and initiated action.

Court Convicts Tahir Hussain

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

A Delhi court on Monday convicted former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillor Tahir Hussain and four others for the murder of Intelligence Bureau staffer Ankit Sharma during the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots.

Additional Sessions Judge Praveen Kumar Singh of the Karkardooma Court convicted Tahir Hussain, Nazim, Qasim, Javed and Anas after examining eyewitness testimonies, forensic evidence and documentary records.

Six other accused were acquitted after the court gave them the benefit of doubt due to insufficient evidence.

The prosecution said Ankit Sharma, 26, was assaulted by a mob during the riots, and his body was later recovered from a drain in the Chand Bagh area on February 26, 2020.

The court held Tahir Hussain guilty of offences including murder, kidnapping, rioting, promoting enmity between communities and unlawful assembly. A separate hearing will be held to determine the quantum of sentence for the convicted accused.