



Sachin's portrait unveiled in MCC Museum at Lord's
A portrait of the legendary Sachin Tendulkar was unveiled in the MCC Museum at Lord's during the start of the third Test between India and England here on Thursday.

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Bengaluru brouhaha resonates in distant Delhi

If ever there was a perfect tussle for power, the Karnataka example would fit to a 'T'. What began as a sustained bout of shadow boxing in the summer of 2023 as a resurgent Congress stormed to power in the south-western state

P6

India makes it to global top-10 tech markets

India ranks among world's top-10 tech markets in 2025, particularly standing out in terms of talent availability, with its top six cities making the top 10 list for tech talent acquisition in the Asia-Pacific region, a report showed on Thursday.

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'The 100' review: A riveting thriller with heart and heft

RK Sagar returns to the silver screen with 'The 100,' a compelling investigative thriller directed by Raghu Omkar Sasidhar. Based on real-life events, the film marks a strong comeback for Sagar, who is best known for his iconic TV role as RK Naidu

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WINDOWS

Minor girl murdered, probe underway

BENGALURU: A 14-year-old girl was found allegedly murdered at her residence in Bengaluru South district, police said. The girl, a sixth-grade student, had stayed home from school that day in Tavarekere town. Her parents, daily wage labourers from Koppal, were away at a construction site when the incident occurred, police added. According to preliminary reports, unidentified individuals entered the house and attacked the girl with sharp weapons, inflicting multiple injuries. Her parents discovered her body upon returning home in the evening. A case has been registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Police suspect sexual assault based on the condition of the body, but said confirmation awaits the post-mortem report. Superintendent of Police, Ramanagara, R Srinivas Gowda said the investigation is ongoing and more details will come to light after the post-mortem.



Newborn kidnap attempt foiled; one held

RAICHUR: An alleged attempt to kidnap a newborn from the government hospital in Raichur was foiled by alert attendants and visitors, police said on Thursday. A group of individuals—reportedly in saris—entered the Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in the early hours of Wednesday and targeted the maternity ward on the fourth floor, taking advantage of the fact that most attendants were asleep.

One of the suspects allegedly attempted to abduct a newborn, but nearby attendants grew suspicious and intervened. The person, disguised as a woman, was caught after a brief scuffle and handed over to the police. Two others are believed to have been part of the group involved in the attempted kidnapping, but they managed to flee the scene, police added. Eyewitnesses expressed concern over the absence of home guard personnel, who were reportedly not on duty at the time of the incident. The apprehended suspect was later handed over to the Market Police Station by the public. An investigation is underway.

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Exercise not the problem, timing is: SC to EC on SIR

Top court asks EC to consider Aadhaar, Voter ID, ration cards in Bihar electoral roll revision

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Thursday questioned the Election Commission of India on the timing of the Special Intensive Revision drive in poll-bound Bihar saying it went to the "root of democracy and power to vote" while rejecting the argument that the poll panel did not have any power to carry it out.

The ECI also justified the

exercise and said Aadhaar wasn't a "proof of citizenship".

A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Joymalya Bagchi questioned Dwivedi over the exclusion of Aadhaar card in the SIR drive in Bihar and said the ECI had nothing to do with citizenship of a person and it was the Ministry of Home Affairs' domain.

Dwivedi responded while referring to Article 326 of the

Constitution and said every voter has to be an Indian citizen and "Aadhaar card is not proof of citizenship".

Top court asked EC to consider Aadhaar, Voter ID, ration cards in Bihar electoral roll revision

Justice Dhulia said, "If you are to check citizenship under SIR of electoral rolls in Bihar, then you should have acted early; it is a bit late."

The bench, in the meantime, rejected the submission

of the petitioners' counsel that the ECI did not have power to conduct any such exercise in Bihar for it was mandated under the Constitution and the last such exercise happened in 2003.

While referring to the petitioners' contentions, the bench said the ECI had to answer three questions as the SIR exercise in Bihar went to "root of democracy and power to vote".

The questions of the pe-

tioners, including political parties and their leaders aside from civil society members and organisations, deal with the ECI's power to conduct such an exercise and its timing.

Dwivedi said with passage of time, electoral rolls need to be revised to look into inclusion or exclusion of voter names with the SIR being the one exercise to do it.

He asked if the ECI did not have the power to revise the



electoral roll then who did. The poll panel, however, assured the top court of not

leaving out anyone from the voter list without an opportunity to be heard.

4.4 earthquake hits Har, tremors felt in Delhi-NCR

► The epicentre was 3 km northeast of Jhajjar and 51 km west of Delhi. It struck at a depth of 10 km at 9.04 am
► In Delhi, panic gripped neighbourhoods soon after the tremors were felt and people gathered in the open

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

An earthquake of magnitude 4.4 struck near Jhajjar in Haryana on Thursday morning, sending tremors across the Delhi-NCR region.

The epicentre was 3 km northeast of Jhajjar and 51 km west of Delhi. The earthquake struck at a depth of 10 km at 9.04 am, the National Centre for Seismology said.

Besides Jhajjar, the tremors were felt in neighbouring Rohtak and Gurugram districts, Panipat, Hisar and Meerut.

"It was a strong jolt. I think this is the first time in my life that it felt so strong," said an elderly man in Jhajjar.

Many rushed out of their homes when the tremors hit, he said.

In Delhi, panic gripped neighbourhoods soon af-



ter the tremors were felt and people gathered in the open. People ran out of their homes, many of them barefoot and still in their night-wear.

Sultan Khan, a resident of Vikasपुरi, said the experience was unnerving.

"We suddenly felt the ground shaking and ran out of our house. We realised later that it was an earthquake.

First the heat, then the overnight rain, and now this, all three have made things very uncomfortable for us," he told PTI Videos.

Another resident, Ahmad Ali, said, "It was a scary moment. The tremors did not last long but were strong enough to wake us up. My children are still scared."

Many stayed outside for a

while after the tremors were felt, fearing that more might follow.

"We have been standing outside for the past 45 minutes because we are afraid that a stronger earthquake might strike next," another Vikasपुरi resident said.

"It rained heavily last night, so we were all fast asleep. But as soon as the tremors hit, we rushed out of the house in fear," he said.

Similar scenes played out in Noida and Greater Noida.

Neelam Sharma, a resident of Kendriya Vihar in Greater Noida, said she was in the kitchen making breakfast for her family when she felt the tremors.

"The floor shook and when I looked outside the window, my neighbours were already standing outside and talking about the earthquake," she said.

Tennis player shot dead by father in Gurugram

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GURUGRAM

State-level tennis player Radhika Yadav was allegedly shot dead by her father on Thursday at their double-storeyed home in upscale Sushant Lok here, police said.

The 25-year-old, who was shot in the back while cooking, died on the spot, officials said.

Her father, 49-year-old Deepak Yadav, has been arrested and his .32 bore licensed pistol recovered



from his possession, they said. Why he did so is still unclear.

The father allegedly fired more than five bullets.

Her mother was in the ground floor and Radhika, who played tennis for Haryana, was in the kitchen

on the first floor when the crime took place, officials said.

A police team reached the house took the body into custody.

"We are questioning the family members. A probe is underway and the picture will be clear soon," said Inspector Vinod Kumar, SHO of the Sector 56 police station.

The family lives in Sushant Lok-Phase 2, Sector 57. The father, police said, is a resident of Wazirabad village.

Centre to check inflated hospital bills due to insurers

NEW DELHI: India plans to bring an existing health insurance claims portal under the finance ministry and insurance regulator to curb overcharging by healthcare providers, a government source told Reuters.

Healthcare costs in India are projected to rise by 13 percent in 2025, exceeding the global average of 10 percent, and up from 12 percent recorded a year earlier, according to professional services firm Aon's Global Medical Trend Rates Report.

An analysis by the government and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) found that hospitals are inflating treatment costs for patients and overcharging those with higher covers, the source said earlier this week. This has driven insurers to charge higher health premiums, making coverage less affordable for some, the source said, requesting anonymity as they are not authorised to speak to the media. Finance and health ministries did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comment. "Strict supervision" of the National Health Claims Exchange - the platform that acts as a gateway between insurers, healthcare providers and patients - will improve the "collective bargaining power" of insurance companies to set treatment rates, the source said.

MAKING A SPLASH



Locals enjoy water from the swollen Belavadi lake flowing through a road in Chikkamagaluru district on Thursday

No provision to shut meat shops on Kanwar Yatra: MCD

NEW DELHI: THE Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) said on Thursday that there is no provision to shut meat shops on the kanwar yatra routes under the DMC ACT, 1957.

The statement came a day after Culture and Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra said that meat shops will remain shut on kanwar yatra routes, saying that the decision was taken by the Delhi government and the MCD. The annual kanwar yatra begins in the month of shravan, or saawan. It begins tomorrow and will culminate on July 25.



Obscene videos

HC directs Prajwal to seek fresh bail in trial court; orders decision within 10 days

BENGALURU: The High Court on Wednesday directed former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's grandson Prajwal Revanna, the prime accused in the sexual assault and obscene videos case, to approach the trial court for seeking a second round of bail and directed the lower court to decide the matter in 10 days.

Earlier, the trial court and higher courts had outright rejected the bail petitions of Prajwal Revanna, who apart from being the grandson of

Deve Gowda is the son of JD(S) MLA and former minister H.D. Revanna.

The Bench, headed by Justice S.R. Krishna Kumar passed the order noting that he can approach the High Court once the bail plea is rejected in the Sessions Court.

Senior Advocate Prabhuling Navadgi, who is representing Prajwal Revanna, argued that the High Court has the authority and option to directly hear the bail matter, instead of sending it to the trial court. He further



submitted that the High Court itself could decide on the bail plea.

However, the Bench directed him to approach the lower court and seek remedy there first. Prajwal Revanna in his fresh bail petition claimed that there had been a change of circumstances since

the rejection of his bail plea last year and his plea could be considered now.

The Bench directed the trial court to decide on the matter within ten days following the request in this regard by Prajwal Revanna's counsel.

The former JD(S) MP, on June 24, pleaded before the Karnataka High Court to grant him bail, citing delay in trial proceedings and changed circumstances since his custody began. Prajwal Revanna is facing serious charges, including alleged

sexual assault, repeated rape, blackmail, criminal intimidation, and more.

Counsel for Prajwal Revanna, senior advocate Prabhuling Navadgi, had submitted to the court that his client should be granted bail now, as there has been a change in circumstances since the last order denying bail was passed.

He further argued that there has been a significant delay in the trial court proceedings, which in itself is sufficient ground to consider bail.

MAN HELD FOR POSTING VOYEURISTIC VIDEOS; CM VOWS STERN ACTION

BENGALURU: A 26-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly posting voyeuristic photos and videos of women on his social media accounts, police said on Thursday. Taking serious note of the incident, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the government would take stringent action against such acts. The accused, identified as Gurdeep Singh, is a hotel management graduate from KR Puram in Bengaluru. He was arrested by the Banashankari police following a complaint by a student, who alleged that a video of her—recorded inappropriately and without her consent—had been uploaded to one of Singh's social media handles. The video went viral, leading to the girl being harassed and teased, police said. Deputy Commissioner of Police Lokesh Jagalasar said the accused is currently unemployed and that legal action will be taken. Reacting to the incident, Siddaramaiah said he was deeply pained by it. "This is not the Karnataka we stand for. Several such incidents have been reported in recent days, and our government has taken immediate action—offenders have been arrested. We are closely monitoring such activities," the Chief Minister said in a post on 'X'.