

IN BRIEF



IAF aerobatic team to celebrate its 30th anniversary in Bidar

BENGALURU: The Suryakiran Aerobatic Team of the Indian Air Force will commemorate its 30th anniversary at Air Force Station Bidar on May 26, celebrating three glorious decades of breath-taking air displays across India and abroad, officials said on Saturday.

Popularly known as the "Ambassadors of the Indian Air Force", the nine aircraft formation aerobatic team has inspired millions through professional flying in close formation encompassing thrilling manoeuvres at low levels, they said.

According to a statement issued by the defence wing of the press information bureau, the team, "Suryakiran" - meaning "Rays of the Sun" - was formed on May 27, 1996 at Air Force Station Bidar, initially flying the Kiran Mk-II aircraft.

In September 1996, the team made its public debut with a spectacular display in Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), marking the beginning of an inspiring journey in precision aerobatics.

Officials noted that over the past three decades, Suryakiran has conducted more than 800 breath-taking air displays, captivating audiences across India and abroad, including China, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates.

"Continuing its legacy of innovation and excellence, SKAT operates the iconic Red and White Hawk Mk-132 aircraft since 2015 in its signature nine-aircraft formation," it said.

The team pilots undertake rigorous and intensive training to master complex aerobatic manoeuvres with flawless coordination, forming the foundation of their close formation flying, they said. The 30th anniversary celebrations at Air Force Station Bidar will be a tribute to the spirit of the Indian Air Force and it will also honour all the members of the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team who have contributed towards making SKAT one of the finest aerobatic teams in the world, the statement added.

Mumbai, UP in final of Disability cricket tourney

BENGALURU: Mumbai and Uttar Pradesh booked their places in the final of the 5th Elite National Physical Disability Cricket Championship 2026 with contrasting victories. Mumbai produced a dominant all-round performance to defeat Maharashtra by 45 runs in the first semifinal on Friday.

Mumbai posted 152/8 with Aakash Patil scoring an unbeaten 41 off just 18 deliveries, including five fours and two sixes. In reply, Maharashtra were bowled out for 107 in 18 overs with Mumbai's Rohan Bhoir claiming 5/12, while Ravindra Sante took three wickets.

In the second semifinal, Uttar Pradesh clinched a tight four-wicket win over Haryana. Haryana were bowled out for 98 in 16.4 overs with Sadik claiming three crucial wickets. Kumar Rahul and Vintoo Yadav also chipped in with two wickets each. In reply, Uttar Pradesh chased down the target in 17 overs. The final will be held at the Sports Garden Cricket Ground here on Sunday.

Mob attacks two men inquiring alleged illegal cattle transport

BENGALURU

TWO persons were allegedly assaulted by a group of unidentified men during an inquiry into alleged illegal transportation and storage of cattle and camels in the outskirts of Bengaluru City, police said on Saturday.

The incident occurred late Friday night at Medimallasandra

village under the limits of Anugondanahalli Police Station, they said. Police said a case has been registered based on a complaint lodged by Sanjay Kulkarni, an honorary Animal Welfare Officer with the Animal Welfare Board of India.

According to the FIR, Kulkarni received information that over 20 camels and several cows had allegedly been kept

at Medimallasandra village for slaughter during the Bakrid festival.

Acting on the tip-off, Kulkarni, along with a volunteer identified as Manjunatha and four police personnel, visited the location around 2.15 am. However, by the time they reached the spot, the animals had allegedly been moved away, the complaint stated.

The complainant further

alleged that a group of people gathered at the spot and shouted at them. The team later proceeded to another location near a plywood factory in the village, where 10 cows were allegedly found being kept illegally behind the premises.

At the location, a large group of unidentified persons allegedly assaulted Kulkarni and the volunteer with fists, stones and

sharp weapons, causing injuries to the neck, face and head, it stated. Police personnel who accompanied them later shifted the injured to hospital for treatment.

Kulkarni, who is also associated with Gau Gyan Foundation, termed the incident "shocking" and demanded strict action against the culprits and immediate protection for

whistleblowers and animal welfare volunteers.

The NGO also sought a high-level independent investigation into the alleged cattle mafia nexus operating in the region and urged intervention by the Karnataka government, senior police authorities, the Animal Welfare Board of India and the judiciary to ensure immediate arrests and rescue of surviving animals.

As monsoon sowing begins...

Farmers struggle for seeds and diesel in Haveri

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HAVERI

FARMERS in Haveri district are facing severe hardship at the beginning of the monsoon season as shortages of sowing seeds and diesel have triggered chaos across several parts of the region. The situation has led to growing anger among farmers against the Agriculture Department and district administration.

While farmers are spending sleepless nights outside agriculture centres to secure soybean and groundnut seeds, tractor owners and cultivators are also struggling to obtain diesel required for land preparation activities.

At the agriculture centre in Tevaramellihalli village of Savanur taluk, hundreds of farmers have been waiting in long queues for the past two days to obtain sowing seeds. Farmers alleged that repeated network failures and delays by agriculture department officials are preventing timely distribution of seeds during the crucial sowing season.

Fearing that seed stocks may run out before their turn arrives, several farmers were forced to stay overnight outside the centre. Many were seen sleeping on



the roadside and waiting through the night in hopes of receiving seeds early in the morning.

The rush for seeds has resulted in heavy crowding and confusion at multiple centres across the district. Frustrated farmers accused the administration of failing to make adequate arrangements despite the onset of the monsoon season being predictable.

"We are wasting entire days standing in queues. If sowing is delayed, our crops and livelihood will suffer," farmers complained while demanding immediate intervention from the government.

Alongside the seed crisis, farmers are also facing an

acute diesel shortage. Fuel prices have reportedly increased for the third time within just ten days, further adding to the burden on cultivators already struggling with rising agricultural costs.

The diesel shortage has particularly affected tractor operations needed for ploughing and land preparation. At several petrol bunks on the outskirts of Haveri, long queues of tractors and farmers carrying fuel cans were witnessed throughout the day.

Farmers alleged that many fuel stations are refusing to fill diesel in cans due to limited supply. As a result, even those willing to pay are unable to procure sufficient

fuel for agricultural operations.

The twin crises of seed shortages and diesel scarcity have created panic among farmers who fear losing valuable time during the sowing period. Many cultivators expressed helplessness and questioned how they could continue farming if essential agricultural inputs were unavailable during the most critical phase of cultivation.

The situation has sparked widespread resentment, with farmers urging the state government and district administration to immediately ensure adequate supply of seeds and fuel to avoid disruption to monsoon farming activities.

No Ebola cases in India, says Health Dept

BENGALURU

IN response to an Ebola outbreak in several African countries, the Karnataka Health Department on Friday advised individuals who have recently travelled to affected nations to undergo health monitoring and self-observation for 21 days after their return.

Clarifying that no Ebola cases have been reported in India at present, it said that, however, considering the volume of international travel and trade, the Health Department has undertaken precautionary preparedness measures.

The WHO declared the ongoing outbreak of Ebola disease (ED) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda as a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern" (PHEIC) on May 17, 2026.

"The public is requested not to panic unnecessarily and to rely only on official information. Persons who have recently travelled to Ebola-affected countries should undergo health monitoring and self-observation for 21 days after returning to India," the department said in a release.

Those with symptoms should immediately report to the nearest health facility, it said. Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) will undertake surveillance activities. The State Health Department is continuously monitoring

ISSUES TRAVEL ADVISORY



the situation and has taken all necessary precautionary and preparedness measures, it added.

According to the department, Ebola is a severe viral disease that may cause symptoms such as fever, weakness, muscle pain, sore throat, headache, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach pain, rash, and red eyes.

The disease spreads through direct contact with the blood, organs, or body fluids of infected persons, or through contaminated materials such as bedding, clothes, and syringes. It added that healthcare workers and family members or close contacts of infected individuals are at higher risk.

Highlighting that preparedness measures have been strengthened in the state, the department said they include enhanced surveillance and monitoring of suspected cases under the IDSP, coordination with airports and Points of Entry (PoEs), and dedicated quarantine and isolation

facilities, along with referral ambulance services.

Other measures include training healthcare personnel, strengthening infection prevention and control measures, ensuring the availability of PPE, medicines, and laboratory facilities, and placing Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) on alert.

In Bengaluru, the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases (RGICD) has been identified as the isolation centre, and the Epidemic Diseases Hospital, Bengaluru, has been designated as the quarantine and treatment centre.

In Mangaluru, Srinivas Port Hospital, NMPA, has been identified as the quarantine centre, and Wenlock District Hospital, Mangaluru, has been designated as the isolation and treatment centre.

Dedicated ambulance services have also been kept ready for transporting suspected patients to designated hospitals.

Govt hikes minimum wages by 60%; over 1 crore workers to benefit

BENGALURU

THE government issued a notification on Saturday increasing minimum wages for workers by an average of 60 per cent, a move expected to benefit more than one crore labourers across the state.

With the latest notification, Karnataka has become the third state in the country to issue such a revised minimum wage notification after Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

Officials stated that the revision has been implemented in line with the Supreme Court guidelines laid down in the 1991 Reptakos Brett case, taking into account household expenditure patterns and rising living costs. Labour Minister Santosh S. Lad said



the revised minimum wage system would significantly benefit workers across the state.

"After deductions towards ESI and PF, many workers were left with very little take-home salary. Some had even fallen outside the BPL category. This wage revision will provide major relief to such workers. It is a revolutionary step aimed at improving the lives of labourers who contribute to nation-building," he said.

The minister said extensive consultations had been held with labour unions, employers, experts, and legal professionals before finalising the notification. The revised wage structure, announced through the Labour Department, is aimed at providing financial relief to workers employed in the unorganised and specified sectors. The revision has been carried out in accordance with directions issued by the Supreme Court.

For the first time, all scheduled employments have been brought under a single notification. The government has also revised the earlier four-zone classification system into a three-zone structure for wage calculation.

Nitin Nabin to visit State for first time after taking charge as BJP chief

BENGALURU

STATE Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President B.Y. Vijayendra said on Saturday that Nitin Nabin will arrive in Bengaluru late evening on his first visit to the state after assuming charge as the party President.

Speaking to reporters at the state BJP office in Bengaluru, Vijayendra said that Nabin's visit would include meetings with senior party leaders, legislators, and party workers.

According to Vijayendra, the BJP President will visit former Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's residence on Sunday morning for breakfast. He will later offer prayers at the Kadumalleshwara Temple before arriving at the state BJP headquarters, Jagannath Bhavan, at around 10 a.m.

The State BJP President said that Nabin will hold discussions with BJP MPs, MLAs, and Legislative Council members for nearly two hours and review the

To convene series of meetings



current political situation in the state. The BJP President will also participate in the party's core committee meeting and later attend a training camp being organised in Bengaluru North district.

"It is a matter of pride for us that the BJP President is participating in the training programme. His presence will inspire party workers," Vijayendra said.

He also defended the Centre's decision to increase fuel prices, saying that the hike was necessitated by global developments and international market

conditions.

He said the Union government had increased fuel prices for the third time due to unavoidable circumstances arising out of the global situation.

"Because of global developments, the Central government has been compelled to increase fuel prices. Even though the government did not want to take such a step, it was forced to make a difficult decision," he added.

He also targeted Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, recalling his earlier statement about reducing fuel prices in the state. "Siddaramaiah had earlier said that he would reduce fuel prices by Rs 10. Now, in the interest of the people of the state, he should reduce the state tax imposed on fuel," Vijayendra said. Urging the Karnataka government to respond to the situation, the State BJP President said the Chief Minister should understand the prevailing global conditions and reduce the additional tax levied on petrol and diesel in the state.

Cong consolidating vote bank through appeasement politics: BJP

BENGALURU

STATE Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra on Saturday accused the Congress government in the state of indulging in "appeasement politics" and attempting to strengthen its vote bank by favouring minorities.

Speaking to reporters at the state BJP office in Bengaluru, Vijayendra alleged that the Congress-led state government had crossed all limits of appeasement since coming to power.

"There have been continuous atrocities

against Hindus in the state. This (Congress) government is willing to go to any extent to appease minorities. The Cabinet's decision to withdraw the Aland riot case clearly shows that the Congress is trying to secure its vote bank instead of taking action against anti-national elements and those disturbing law and order," he alleged.

He also claimed that the people of Karnataka were closely observing what he termed as "repeated insults to Hindus" by the Congress government. "As an Opposition party, we (BJP) will fight against these

policies. We will take to the streets and stage protests against the 'anti-Hindu' policies of the government," Vijayendra said.

Responding to a question regarding the proposed cricket stadium project near Anekal, the State BJP President accused the Congress government of ignoring farmers' interests and engaging in what he described as a "real estate business".

"The Congress government has no concern for farmers and does not understand their problems. Instead, it is involved in real estate dealings. During floods and

drought situations, the state government did not stand by farmers," Vijayendra alleged.

He also criticised local representatives and Ministers in Karnataka for allegedly failing to listen to the grievances of people in the affected areas.

"There are thousands of acres of land available near Bengaluru airport where the stadium could have been constructed. Instead, the state government is acquiring fertile agricultural land in Anekal and repeatedly troubling farmers. BJP will stand firmly with farmers and will not allow their

interests to be ignored," Vijayendra said.

On the issue of Rajya Sabha candidate selection, the State BJP President clarified that the party had not opposed the possibility of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda being sent to the Rajya Sabha. "One seat is available and discussions are underway regarding candidate selection. BJP has not opposed sending Deve Gowda to the Rajya Sabha. Any decision in this regard will be taken by the national leadership. So far, no specific instructions have been received," Vijayendra added.

