



Rakul Preet Singh praises South cinema's unity and questions Bollywood's alleged jealousy and negative PR culture. Her remarks spark debate over the working environment in the Indian film industry.

India rejected former Japanese Minister Hideki Makihara's claims that New Delhi delayed the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project, calling them an individual opinion.



INSIDE

Good morning

Judge nothing, you will be happy.
Forgive everything, you will be happier.
Love everything, you will be happiest.

BRIEFS

Toddler's Mysterious Death Under Probe

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | B'luru**
A two-year-old girl died under suspicious circumstances in Bengaluru's Banaswadi area, prompting police to launch an investigation after injury marks were found on her body and allegations of abuse emerged.

The child's parents, Jason Anthony and Roslin, who were living together, told police that the girl developed breathing difficulties and was taken to a hospital, where she was declared dead.

The case raised concerns after a family friend alleged that the child had been repeatedly assaulted. Police also noticed multiple injury marks during the preliminary inquiry and registered a case of suspicious death.

The child's body has been sent for a post-mortem examination, and authorities are awaiting forensic reports to determine the exact cause of death. Police are questioning the parents and examining evidence as part of the ongoing investigation.

7.4 Quake Jolts Mexico, Tsunami Alert Issued

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Mexico**
A powerful 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck near Puerto Madero, Mexico, on Friday, triggering a tsunami alert for parts of Mexico and Guatemala. The quake occurred at a depth of around 10 km, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

Videos from the affected regions showed buildings shaking and people rushing out of homes amid strong tremors. The earthquake was also felt in Guatemala City and El Salvador, where residents reported panic and evacuations.

The US Tsunami Warning System warned that hazardous waves could be possible within 300 km of the epicentre along the coasts of Mexico and Guatemala.

Chennamma's Health Worsens

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | B'luru**
Chennamma, wife of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, is undergoing treatment at Manipal Hospital in Bengaluru, with her health condition reported to be critical.
She was admitted to the hospital after her health deteriorated a few days ago and has been receiving treatment in the ICU for the past three days.
Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, along with family members including Anitha Kumaraswamy, Nikhil Kumaraswamy and H.D. Revanna, visited the hospital and met doctors to review her condition.
The medical team is continuing treatment, while family members, supporters and well-wishers have prayed for her speedy recovery.

One Nation, One Election

Bill Unlikely This Session

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

The Central Government is unlikely to introduce the One Nation, One Election (ONOE) Bill during the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament, sources said on Friday. The session is scheduled to be held from July 20 to August 13.

According to sources, the government's immediate focus is on securing parliamentary approval for pending ordinances and key legislation rather than introducing politically sensitive bills. There is also no clarity on whether legislation relating to delimitation and women's reservation will be brought before Parliament during the session.

The government is expected to prioritise the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, which seeks to increase the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges from 33 to 37, excluding the Chief Justice of India.

The One Nation, One Election Bill, introduced during the Winter Session last year, was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) headed by BJP MP P.P. Chaudhary. The committee's tenure has since been extended until August 10, and its report is still awaited.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently advocated simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, arguing that the reform would reduce election-related expenditure and



The Centre is unlikely to introduce the One Nation, One Election Bill during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, with focus remaining on pending legislation and ordinances. The proposed electoral reform continues to await the Joint Parliamentary Committee's report amid opposition concerns over political consensus and delimitation issues.

SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS AWAIT NOD

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- **The session will be held from July 20 to August 13.**
- **Government's immediate focus is on clearing pending ordinances and key legislations.**
- **No clarity yet on introducing bills related to delimitation and women's reservation.**
- **The ONOE Bill, introduced during the**

- Winter Session, is currently under review by a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC).**
- **PM Narendra Modi has supported simultaneous elections, citing reduced costs and improved governance.**
- **Opposition parties have demanded wider consultations before any constitutional changes.**
- **The delimitation issue remains controversial, with southern states raising concerns over possible loss of representation.**

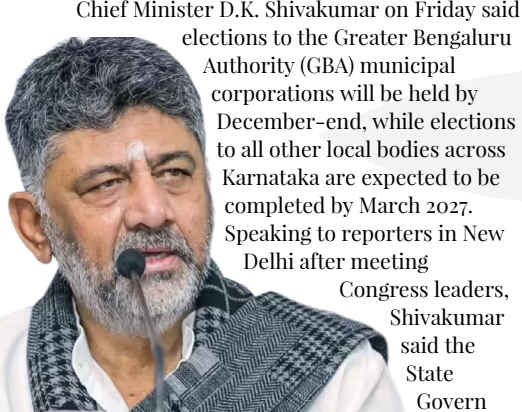
improve governance by minimising frequent polls. Meanwhile, opposition parties have maintained

that such a major constitutional reform requires wider political consensus.

Youth to Get Poll Chance

GBA Polls by December, Local Elections by March: CM

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**



Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday said elections to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) municipal corporations will be held by December-end, while elections to all other local bodies across Karnataka are expected to be completed by March 2027. Speaking to reporters in New Delhi after meeting Congress leaders, Shivakumar said the State Govern

ment had sought time from the Supreme Court to conduct the GBA elections by December 31 due to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The court has granted the extension, he added.

The Chief Minister said elections to district, taluk, gram panchayat and municipal local bodies would also be completed by the end of March. Shivakumar announced that the Congress would provide greater opportunities to youth and first-time candidates in the upcoming local body elections. He said the party was committed to strengthening grassroots democracy in line with the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, which promote decentrali sation and local self-governance.

On the long-pending Cabinet expansion, Shivakumar said discussions had been held with the Congress high command. He added that since AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge was unavailable, he would meet him on Saturday before the party finalises the expansion.

Describing the Congress headquarters in New Delhi as a place of great importance for party workers, Shivakumar said, "The AICC office is like a temple for us. We have grown up in the party, and it is our duty to meet our leaders there."

Responding to questions on the BJP and JD(S) protest against the proposed Bidadi Township project, the Chief Minister said he would address the issue separately.

SC EXTENDS GBA POLL DEADLINE TO DECEMBER

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

The Supreme Court on Friday allowed an extension for conducting elections to the five municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA), directing that the polls be completed by the end of December 2026.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, along with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, granted the extension after hearing pleas citing the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka as a major challenge.

Earlier, the apex court had directed the Karnataka government to complete the elections by June 30, 2026, which was later extended to August 31 following requests from the authorities.

However, the GBA and State Election Commission sought further time, stating that conducting the polls alongside the voter revision exercise would create logistical difficulties.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the state, informed the court that the electoral roll revision process would be completed by November and holding elections before that could result in eligible voters being left out.

The State Election Commission also submitted a similar request for an extension.

The court noted that the SIR exercise is currently underway in Karnataka and ordered that elections to all five corporations must be conducted in December 2026, with the process to be completed by December 31.

The GBA had approached the Supreme Court citing manpower shortages and operational challenges, as the same officials, including Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and supervisory staff, are involved in both the electoral roll revision and election preparations. The civic body elections have been pending since the term of the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) ended in September 2020.



BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra leads a massive protest in Bengaluru on Friday against the Karnataka Government's proposed Greater Bidadi Integrated Township project. Accusing the Congress government of attempting to acquire fertile agricultural land for real estate interests, BJP leaders and farmers demanded the withdrawal of the project and all cases filed against protesting farmers, while reiterating that their agitation would continue until the proposed land acquisition is scrapped. PG3

Mission First: Centre Halts ISRO Scientist Exits

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

Amid reports of a growing number of resignations by scientists, the Centre has directed the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) not to routinely accept resignation or voluntary retirement requests from scientists and technical personnel involved in critical national missions, including the prestigious Gaganyaan programme.
In a memorandum issued by the Department of Space last week, the directive applies mainly to Group 'A' Scientific and Technical personnel. The department said a recent surge in resignation and voluntary retirement requests has begun affecting the implementation of projects of national importance.
The memorandum stated that resignations and voluntary retirement requests from scientists associated with Gaganyaan and other major missions should not be accepted as a matter of routine. It also instructed ISRO centres to forward such requests to the Department of Space along with the concerned director's clear recommendations for further consideration. PG2

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Mysuru**

Thousands of devotees thronged the Sri Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hills on Friday to offer prayers on the first Friday of the auspicious Ashada month, one of the most significant occasions in the temple's annual religious calendar.

Devotees began arriving as early as 4 a.m., forming long queues for the darshan of Goddess Chamundeshwari. The hill reverberated with chants of "Jai Chamundeshwari" and "Ammamma Thaaeye" as worshippers from across Karnataka and neighbouring states sought the blessings of the presiding deity.

The deity was adorned in a green and red silk saree in the Lakshmi Alankara, while the sanctum, temple premises and the seven-tiered gopuram were beautifully decorated with fresh flowers, fruits and traditional ornaments.

Several elected representatives, including legislators and Members of Parliament, visited the temple and offered special prayers for the welfare of the State, good monsoon rains, prosperity for farmers and the well-being of the people.

Temple Chief Priest Dr. Shashishekhara Dixit said the Ashada month is considered highly sacred



for the worship of Goddess Shakti. He explained that the deity would be decorated in different forms

on each of the four Fridays of Ashada—Lakshmi Alankara on the first Friday, Saraswati Alankara on the second, Durga Alankara on the third and Mahishasura Mardini Alankara on the fourth.

The district administration and temple authorities made elaborate arrangements for the occasion, including drinking water facilities, temporary toilets, prasadam counters and medical aid centres. Separate queues were arranged for senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

Security was tightened with more than 500 police personnel, home guards and volunteers deployed, while drone cameras monitored the crowd. KSRTC operated additional bus services to Chamundi Hills, and designated parking facilities were arranged for devotees.

Pilgrims from different parts of Karnataka as well as Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh participated in the celebrations. Owing to the heavy rush, the temple administration extended darshan timings until 10 p.m.

Officials said the event concluded peacefully with smooth crowd management, while local traders selling flowers, prasadam and puja materials also witnessed brisk business throughout the day.

Editorial

Cabinet Delay Amid Drought

Karnataka is staring at a looming drought as the southwest monsoon has remained far below expectations in several districts. Farmers who have already sown their crops are facing mounting uncertainty, reservoirs are yet to receive adequate inflows, and concerns over drinking water and agricultural losses are growing. At a time when the government's complete attention should be on assessing the drought situation and accelerating relief measures, the prolonged delay in expanding the State Cabinet has become a matter of concern. More than six weeks after the new government assumed office, political discussions continue to revolve around ministerial berths and portfolio reshuffles. Several ruling party legislators are reportedly making frequent trips to New Delhi in pursuit of cabinet positions, while some ministers are seeking changes in their portfolios. Governance, however, cannot afford to take a back seat when the State is confronting an impending natural crisis.

The delay comes at a politically sensitive time, with the monsoon session of the Legislature fast approaching. The Opposition is preparing to corner the government on issues ranging from the proposed Bidadi Township and drought preparedness to farmer distress, drinking water shortages and delays in development projects. An incomplete Cabinet inevitably slows administrative decision-making, as multiple departments continue to function under additional charge. Effective drought management demands swift coordination among departments responsible for agriculture, revenue, rural development, water resources and disaster management. Any administrative vacuum at this stage could weaken the government's ability to respond promptly to people's needs and erode public confidence in its governance.

Reports suggest that the Cabinet expansion may seek to balance regional representation, caste equations and generational change by accommodating younger leaders. Such political considerations are inevitable in a diverse democracy. Yet, they should not overshadow the larger responsibility of ensuring efficient governance. A Cabinet is not merely a distribution of political offices; it is the executive machinery entrusted with delivering public welfare and development. With Karnataka facing the dual challenge of a possible drought and an eventful legislative session, further delay serves little purpose. The party leadership must conclude its political consultations without unnecessary procrastination and constitute a full-fledged Cabinet at the earliest. In times of crisis, decisive governance—not prolonged political negotiation—is what the people expect and deserve.

-Editor

DKS UNVEILS 500-KM METRO VISION

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**
Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday unveiled an ambitious plan to expand Bengaluru's Namma Metro network to nearly 500 km over the next decade, aiming to transform urban mobility and ease the city's growing traffic congestion.

The proposed expansion forms part of the state's broader infrastructure development programme worth over ₹1 lakh crore, with a focus on improving public transport connectivity across Bengaluru's rapidly

expanding residential, industrial and information technology corridors.

Speaking at an infrastructure event, the Chief Minister said the government is committed to building a world-class mass transit system capable of meeting the demands of the city's growing population and economy.

The blueprint includes the construction of new metro corridors, extension of existing lines and seamless

integration with proposed double-decker transport corridors and other public transport infrastructure to create a comprehensive mobility network across the Bengaluru metropolitan region.

At present, around 96 km of the Namma Metro network is operational, while several additional corridors are under various stages of construction. Once completed, the

proposed expansion would increase the metro network more than fivefold, placing Bengaluru among the cities with one of the world's largest metro systems.

The expansion will be implemented in phases, subject to statutory approvals and the availability of funding.

The government believes the project will significantly reduce travel time, improve urban connectivity and provide a sustainable solution to Bengaluru's long-standing traffic challenges while supporting the city's future growth.



Mission First: Centre Halts ISRO Scientist Exits

► From PGI

The move comes amid reports that nearly 100 scientists and engineers have resigned from ISRO in recent months. According to reports, around 80 scientists have left the UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) in Bengaluru, while nearly 20 others have resigned from the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram.

Responding to the reports, ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan said the organisation is prepared to handle staff departures while ensuring the continuity of the country's key space missions.

The government's decision aims to retain critical scientific talent and ensure uninterrupted progress of India's upcoming space programmes.

Shobha Opposes Bidadi Township

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**
Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje on Friday strongly opposed the Karnataka government's proposed Greater Bidadi Township project, asserting that it would not be allowed under any circumstances.

Speaking to the media during the BJP's protest against the project in Bengaluru, Karandlaje said the state government was attempting to acquire fertile agricultural land in the Bidadi region despite farmers already facing severe hardships due to drought.

She said Bidadi is well known for dairy farming, sericulture, mango cultivation and ragi production, and alleged that the government was trying to deprive farmers of their livelihoods

through the township project.

"We will not allow this project under any circumstances," she said, accusing the Congress government of acting in the interests of a "land mafia."

Karandlaje further alleged that the government was attempting to take over land across the Bengaluru region in the name of development and vowed that the BJP would continue its agitation against the proposed township project.

The BJP has been staging protests demanding that the state government withdraw the Greater Bidadi Township proposal, while the government has maintained that no land will be acquired forcibly.



Tapta Mudradharana Ritual on July 25

► **Vikrama Vahini | Kolar**

The sacred Tapta Mudradharana ceremony, an important religious ritual followed by the Madhwa community under the Vaishnava tradition, will be held on July 25 (Ashadha Shuddha Ekadashi) at various Sri Madhwa and Sri Raghavendra Teertha Mutts.

Sri Sri 1008 Sri Vidyavallabha Madhava Teertha, disciple of Sri Manmatha Teertha Mutt Peethadhipathi Sri Sri 1008 Sri Vidyasagara Madhava Teertha, will conduct the ritual for followers of the Madhwa philosophy on the occasion of Ashadha Shuddha Ekadashi.

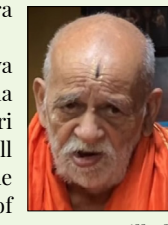
The main programme will be held at Tambihalli Sri Manmatha Teertha Mutt, where Sudharshana Homa will be performed at 6 am. The Tapta Mudradharana ritual will be conducted between

5.30 am and 7.30 am.

As part of the ritual, sacred symbols of Lord Vishnu — Shankha (conch), Chakra (discus), Gada (mace), Padma (lotus) and Narayana Mudra — are heated in the holy fire and imprinted on devotees.

According to religious beliefs, the ritual symbolises spiritual purification, removal of past sins and strengthening of devotion towards Lord Vishnu. Devotees believe that the practice helps purify the body and mind and deepen their spiritual connection.

The Tapta Mudradharana ceremony will also be conducted at several Sri Raghavendra Teertha Mutts across Kolar, Hoskote, Yelahanka, RT Nagar, Vidyanarayapura, Kumaraswamy Layout and Bagalur at different timings throughout the day.



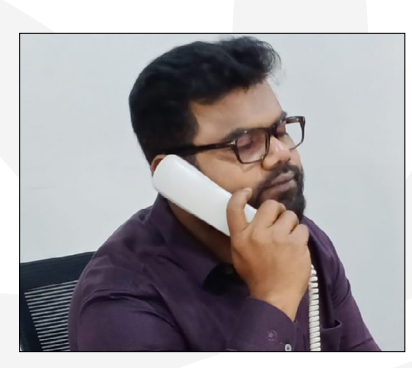
BNCC Receives 62 Public Grievances

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**
The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) received 62 public grievances during its weekly Phone-In Programme held on Friday, with Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar directing officials to ensure their prompt resolution.

The programme, organised to provide citizens with a direct platform to raise civic issues, received 49 phone calls, through which complaints relating to various departments were registered.

Road maintenance accounted for the highest number of grievances with 32 complaints, followed by Solid Waste Management (8), E-Khata and Khata services (5), Forest Department (4), Health Department (3), Electrical issues (2), Parks and Playgrounds (2), Traffic Engineer Cell (2), Veterinary Department (2), Advertisement-related issues (1) and the Election Branch (1).

Reviewing the complaints, the Commissioner instructed the concerned officials to examine every grievance on



priority and ensure timely redressal.

BNCC officials said the Phone-In Programme has been conducted every Friday since September 26, 2025, to enable citizens to directly communicate civic concerns with senior officials.

According to the corporation, a total of 1,999 calls have been received since the programme began, resulting in 2,578 registered grievances. Of these, 2,204 complaints have been resolved, while 193 remain pending.

Eight grievances require long-term solutions, three are under progress, 161 were found to be unrelated to BNCC,

and nine complaints have been reopened for further action.

The programme was attended by Additional Commissioner (Revenue In-charge) and Joint Commissioner Pallavi, Joint Commissioner Mohammed Naem Momin, Deputy Commissioner Somashekhar, the Chief Engineer and officials from various departments.

Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar stressed that timely disposal of public grievances is a key priority of the corporation and directed officials to regularly monitor the progress of each complaint until it is resolved.

He also instructed department heads to strengthen coordination to ensure quicker delivery of civic services.

BNCC officials said the weekly Phone-In Programme has become an effective platform for improving public participation and administrative accountability.

Citizens are encouraged to make use of the initiative every Friday to report civic issues directly to senior officials for faster redressal.

NEWS

HEALTH & Lifestyle

SCIENCE & Technology

SELF-BELIEF KEY TO SUCCESS: SWAMI VEERESHANANDA



► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**
Believing in one's own abilities and working with dedication towards a goal are essential for achieving success in life, said Pujya Swami Veereshananda Saraswati, president of Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Ashrama, Tumakuru.

Addressing students at a programme organised by the Vijayanagara Shri Shukla Yajurveda Youth Association at the Mythic Society on Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru, Swami Veereshananda said that confidence, determination and consistent efforts help individuals overcome challenges and achieve their aspirations.

He advised students to develop discipline, positive thinking and a strong sense of responsibility to build a successful future. He emphasised that academic achievements should be complemented with good values, humility and service-

oriented thinking.

The event was organised to honour scholars of Shukla Yajurveda, present the Eeshavasya Award, and felicitate meritorious students who secured top marks in the SSLC and II PUC public examinations during the academic year 2025-26.

A total of 108 students from the Shukla Yajurveda Kanva Shakha, along with PhD achievers, were presented with Pratibha Puraskar awards in recognition of their academic excellence.

Speaking on the occasion, organisers highlighted the importance of encouraging young students and preserving the rich tradition of Vedic education.

They said such programmes inspire students to pursue excellence while staying connected with cultural and spiritual values.

Seeds to Boost Eye Health

With increasing screen time and changing lifestyles, eye-related problems such as blurred vision, eye strain, dry eyes and digital eye strain are becoming common even among younger people. While many turn to medicines and supplements, experts suggest that a balanced diet rich in essential nutrients can support overall eye health.

Among natural food options, flax seeds and pumpkin seeds are considered beneficial due to their rich nutritional content. However, experts caution that these foods cannot replace spectacles or medical treatment.

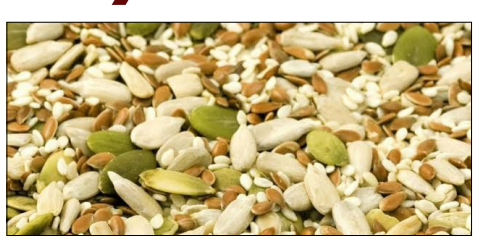
Flax seeds are packed with omega-3 fatty acids, fibre, vitamin E and lignans. These nutrients may help maintain retinal health and reduce symptoms related to dry eyes.

Pumpkin seeds contain important nutrients such as zinc, magnesium, vitamin E and antioxidants. Zinc plays a key role in maintaining proper retinal function and may help reduce the risk of age-related eye problems.

These seeds can be consumed roasted or added to salads, smoothies, oats and other healthy foods as part of a balanced diet.

Other Foods Beneficial for Eye Health

- Apart from seeds, several nutrient-rich foods can help maintain healthy vision:
- Carrots: Rich in beta-carotene, which supports eye function
- Spinach and green leafy vegetables: Provide lutein and zeaxanthin, important antioxidants for eyes
- Eggs: Contain nutrients that support eye health
- Fish such as salmon and sardines: Sources of omega-3 fatty acids
- Citrus fruits: Provide vitamin C
- Almonds and walnuts: Rich in vitamin E and healthy fats



- Sweet potatoes: High in beta-carotene

Common Causes of Blurred Vision

Blurred vision can occur due to several reasons, including:

- Near-sightedness or far-sightedness
- Dry Eye Syndrome
- Diabetes-related eye complications
- Cataracts
- Glaucoma
- Excessive use of mobile phones and computers

Experts advise people to consult an eye specialist immediately if they experience sudden vision loss, eye pain, redness or sensitivity to light.

Healthy Habits to Protect Eyes

Doctors recommend following simple habits to maintain good eye health:

- Follow the 20-20-20 rule while using screens
- Get at least 7-8 hours of sleep daily
- Drink enough water
- Wear UV-protection sunglasses in strong sunlight
- Undergo regular eye check-ups once a year

A healthy diet including nutrient-rich seeds, fruits and vegetables can support eye health, but flax seeds or pumpkin seeds alone cannot eliminate the need for glasses or medical care. Regular eye examinations, proper nutrition and a healthy lifestyle remain essential for maintaining clear vision.

Cybersecurity Shield Needed for Education Portals

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**
Educational institutions are rapidly adopting digital platforms for admissions, fee payments, online learning, examinations and certificate management.

While these systems have improved accessibility and efficiency, they have also increased exposure to cyber threats, making education portals attractive targets for hackers, ransomware groups and online fraudsters.

Schools, colleges, online education providers and certification bodies now manage large volumes of student and institutional data, creating the need for stronger enterprise-level cybersecurity measures.

Unlike many online services, education portals handle highly sensitive information, including student identities, contact details, academic records, medical information, payment details and official documents.

Faculty and administrative systems also contain confidential data related to salaries, research, internal communication and institutional operations.

Cyberattacks targeting educational systems have evolved beyond traditional phishing and malware attacks. Institutions are increasingly facing ransomware attacks, credential theft, Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks, API vulnerabilities and cloud security breaches.

Peak periods such as admissions, examinations and result announcements often see heavy portal usage, creating opportunities for cybercriminals to exploit weaknesses.

BJP Steps Up Bidadi Land Stir

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday intensified its protest against the Karnataka government's proposed Greater Bidadi Integrated Township project, alleging that the Congress government is attempting to acquire fertile agricultural land at the cost of farmers' livelihoods.

The agitation, led by Karnataka BJP President B.Y. Vijayendra, marked a fresh escalation in the opposition's campaign against the ambitious urban development project proposed near Bengaluru.

Addressing the gathering, Vijayendra accused the state government of forcibly acquiring fertile farmland in Bidadi to benefit real estate interests. He alleged that small and marginal farmers were being displaced while influential political leaders continued to retain large landholdings in the region.

He further claimed that despite the government's assurance that land acquisition would not be compulsory, farmers opposing the project were being intimidated and booked under false criminal cases.

"On one hand, the Chief Minister says land will not be forcibly acquired. On the other, the government is filing false cases against protesting farmers and sending them to jail," Vijayendra alleged. He demanded the withdrawal of all cases registered against the protesting farmers and called for the complete cancellation of the township project.

The BJP leader also criticised Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, accusing him of prioritising urban development over farmers' welfare. He further targeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, alleging that he had remained silent despite earlier assurances of protecting farmers' interests.

Warning of political consequences, Vijayendra said no government that ignored the concerns of farmers had survived for long and asserted that the BJP would continue its agitation both on the streets and inside the Legislature until the Greater Bidadi Integrated Township project was withdrawn.

The protest witnessed participation from BJP leaders, party workers and farmers from Bidadi and neighbouring villages, who raised slogans against the proposed land acquisition.

The Karnataka government has maintained that the township project is aimed at supporting Bengaluru's long-term urban expansion and has repeatedly stated that no land would be acquired forcibly. However, several farmers in Ramanagara district continue to oppose the project, fearing the loss of fertile farmland and their livelihoods.



YEDIYURAPPA BLASTS GOVT'S 'ANTI-FARMER' RULE

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Former Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Friday launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, accusing it of pursuing anti-farmer policies and attempting to acquire fertile agricultural land in the Bidadi region for real estate interests.

Addressing a protest organised against the proposed Greater Bidadi Satellite Township, Yediyurappa demanded that the government immediately withdraw its decision to acquire farmers' land. He alleged that despite the availability of government land, the state was targeting fertile farmland owned by poor farmers.

Referring to the prevailing drought situation, Yediyurappa accused the government of neglecting farmers' hardships and the drinking water crisis while focusing on political matters such as Cabinet expansion.

Demanding the withdrawal of cases filed against protesting farmers and women, he warned the government to revoke them within 24 hours, failing which the BJP would launch a statewide agitation.

Yediyurappa also announced that the BJP and JD(S),



led by Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, would jointly continue the agitation against what he described as a corrupt and anti-farmer government.

Praising the Narendra Modi-led Union Government, he said the joint movement launched by the BJP and JD(S) would not remain confined to Bengaluru but would be extended to every district of Karnataka in support of farmers opposing the Bidadi township project.

Vijayendra Ramps Up Bidadi Land Fight



► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The BJP on Friday intensified its agitation against the Karnataka government's proposed Greater Bidadi Satellite Township, with State BJP President B.Y. Vijayendra accusing the Congress government of attempting to forcibly acquire fertile agricultural land for real estate interests.

Addressing a protest rally in support of Bidadi farmers, Vijayendra alleged that small and marginal farmers were being displaced while influential leaders continued to hold large landholdings. He also claimed that false cases were being filed against protesting farmers despite the government's assurance that land acquisition would not be compulsory.

Targeting Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Vijayendra alleged that the government was focusing on projects like the Bidadi Township and the proposed Kanakapura airport instead of addressing farmers' issues. He also criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for remaining silent on the issue.

Warning of sustained protests, Vijayendra said the BJP would continue its agitation both on the streets and inside the Karnataka Legislature until the township project was withdrawn.

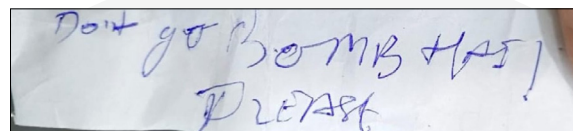
The Karnataka government, however, has maintained that the project is aimed at Bengaluru's planned urban expansion and that no land will be acquired without the consent of landowners.

IndiGo Flight Gets Hoax Bomb Threat at Bengaluru Airport

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

A bomb threat onboard an IndiGo flight bound for Ahmedabad triggered a major security alert at Kempegowda International Airport on Thursday evening, forcing the evacuation of passengers and a full-scale anti-sabotage operation before the aircraft was declared safe.

According to police, the incident occurred on IndiGo flight 6E-6423, which was scheduled to depart for



Ahmedabad at 8 pm. At around 7:35 pm, members of the cabin crew discovered a handwritten note inside the aircraft's lavatory claiming that a bomb had been placed

onboard.

Following the discovery, airport security agencies immediately evacuated all passengers and crew members. Security personnel carried out a comprehensive search of the aircraft, passenger baggage and cargo in accordance with standard aviation security procedures.

After an extensive inspection, officials confirmed that no explosives or suspicious objects were found and declared

the bomb threat to be a hoax.

Based on a complaint lodged by IndiGo, the Kempegowda International Airport Police have registered an FIR and launched an investigation to identify the person responsible for the false threat. Police are examining CCTV footage, passenger records and other evidence to trace the culprit and determine the motive behind the incident.



ENTERTAINMENT

PRABHAS' 'FAUZI' LOCKS DECEMBER 3 RELEASE

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The makers of Prabhas-starrer Fauzi have officially announced that the much-awaited period action drama will hit theatres worldwide on December 3, 2026.

The release date was unveiled along with a striking new poster featuring Prabhas, bloodied and armed with a rifle, seated atop a rock amid the aftermath of a fierce battle. The poster carries the tagline, "A Battalion Who Fights Alone," hinting at a high-octane war drama centred on courage, sacrifice and patriotism.

Directed by Hanu Raghavapudi, Fauzi is set during the pre-Independence British Raj and is expected to chronicle the journey of a soldier caught between war, duty and personal sacrifice. While the makers have kept the storyline under wraps, the film is being positioned as a large-scale historical action drama.

The project has been generating excitement since its announcement on Prabhas' birthday in 2023, marking the actor's return to the period genre after the blockbuster success of the Baahubali franchise.

The film stars Imanvi in her acting debut as the female lead, alongside veteran actors Mithun Chakraborty and Jaya Prada in pivotal roles. It is produced by Naveen Yerneni, Y. Ravi Shankar and Bhushan Kumar under the banners of Mythri Movie Makers and T-Series Films.

The technical crew includes Vishal Chandrasekhar as music composer, Sudeep Chatterjee as cinematographer and veteran editor Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao.

The December 3 release gives Fauzi a favourable box office window by avoiding a direct clash with Shah Rukh Khan's King, which is expected to release later in December.

Industry observers believe the solo release could help the film secure a strong



theatrical run before the festive holiday season.

Apart from Fauzi, Prabhas has an impressive slate of upcoming films, including Spirit, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, where he is expected to portray a police officer.

He will also return as Bhairava in Kalki 2898 AD: Part II and reprise his role as Deva in Salaar Part 2: Shouryaanga Parvam.

With its historical backdrop, star-studded cast and large-scale production, Fauzi is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Indian films of 2026 and a significant milestone in Prabhas' career.

The makers have not yet released a teaser or trailer, but the newly unveiled poster has generated significant buzz across social media, with fans praising Prabhas' intense look and the film's grand visual scale.

Industry analysts believe Fauzi could emerge as one of the biggest pan-India releases of 2026, given Prabhas' strong box-office appeal and the film's large-scale production values.

With a unique period-war setting and an experienced creative team, the film is expected to attract audiences across multiple languages upon its worldwide release.

SC Clears 'Mahaprabhu Jagannath' Release

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday permitted the release of the animated film Mahaprabhu Jagannath after the conclusion of the Rath Yatra, setting aside the Orissa High Court's earlier order that had stayed its theatrical release over objections to its portrayal of Lord Jagannath.

A Bench of the apex court directed that the film may be released on or after July 28, observing that the Rath Yatra celebrations would have concluded by then. The court noted that the festival is celebrated across the country, including in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad, and said the film could be released after July 27.

The Bench also remarked that the film's release would not affect the religious faith of devotees and observed that public interest in the movie had increased due to the controversy.

The Supreme Court further issued notices to the Centre, the Odisha Government, the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration, and other respondents while hearing the appeal against the High Court's stay order.

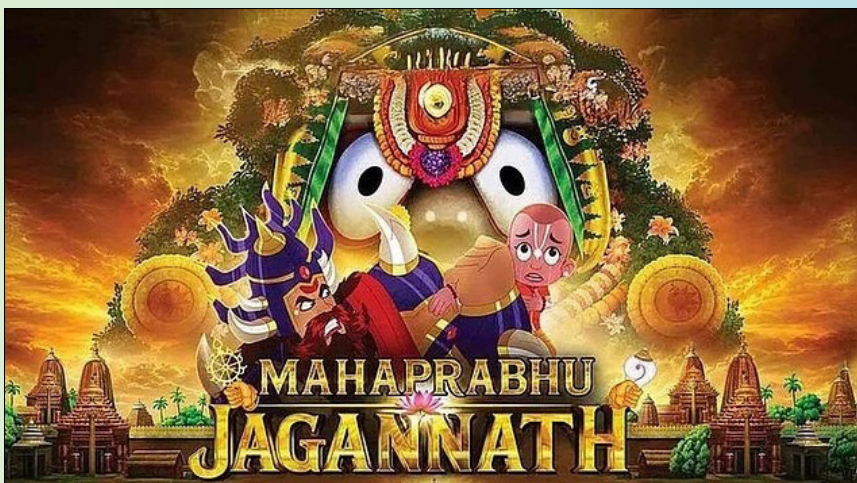
Appearing for the filmmakers, Senior Advocate Devadatt Kamat informed the court that the movie had already received certification from the CBFC and argued that the objections were based on claims that certain scenes did not conform to the Skanda Purana.

He submitted that the Orissa High Court's stay order was uploaded late on the eve of the film's scheduled release, after more than 300 theatres had already booked the movie, resulting in substantial financial losses for the producers.

The Supreme Court also noted that the animated series on which the film is based has been available on YouTube for nearly two years without any legal challenge.

The controversy arose after the Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee (SJTC) sought postponement of the film, alleging that it depicts a fictional version of Lord Jagannath's life that is inconsistent with Hindu scriptures.

Following a special screening attended by Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Dev, who also chairs the temple managing committee, objections were raised regarding the film's content.



BUSINESS

Govt Weighs UPI Fee Revival

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Central Government is considering reintroducing the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on select Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions involving large businesses, marking a possible policy shift after the fee was abolished in 2020 to promote digital payments.

According to reports, the proposal under discussion would apply only to merchants with an annual turnover of ₹1 crore or more and to UPI transactions exceeding ₹2,000. If implemented, small businesses, street vendors and ordinary consumers are expected to remain outside its ambit.

MDR is the fee paid by merchants to banks and payment service providers for processing digital transactions. The charge covers services such as payment processing, settlement, cybersecurity and maintenance of payment infrastructure.

The government had reduced the MDR on UPI and RuPay debit card transactions to zero in January 2020 to encourage digital payments. Since then, UPI has witnessed rapid growth and has become India's most widely used digital payment platform.

However, banks and payment companies have repeatedly argued that handling the increasing volume of UPI transactions without any transaction fee has become financially challenging due to rising infrastructure and operational costs. While the government has been providing subsidies to support the UPI ecosystem, industry stakeholders say the assistance is insufficient to meet actual expenses.

Reports suggest the proposed MDR could be fixed at 5 to 7 basis points for eligible transactions. Earlier, the Payments Council of India had recommended a 30-basis-point MDR on UPI transactions made by large merchants with annual turnovers between ₹1 crore and ₹1.5 crore.

A Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance had also recommended introducing a graded MDR system while continuing incentives such as cashback schemes and subsidies to encourage digital payments among small merchants and in rural and semi-urban areas.

No final decision has been taken, and the proposal is still under consideration.

SPORTS

Kohli Breaks Sachin's England Record

► **Vikrama Vahini | Cardiff**

Star batter Virat Kohli scripted history by surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's long-standing record for the most 50-plus scores by an Indian batter in England during the second ODI against England, despite India's defeat in the match.

Kohli scored a fluent 65 runs, registering his 33rd 50-plus score in England across 111 international innings, overtaking Tendulkar's previous record of 32 fifty-plus scores in 90 innings.

Former India captain Rahul Dravid is third on the list with 26 fifty-plus scores in 67 innings, followed by M.S. Dhoni, who recorded 24 such scores in 93 innings in England.

With his latest half-century, Kohli also extended his tally to 232 international 50-plus scores, moving closer to Tendulkar's all-time record of 264.

The innings also made Kohli the first Asian batter to register 76 fifty-plus scores in SENA countries (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia), underlining his remarkable consistency in overseas conditions.

Kohli has been in outstanding form in One-Day Internationals, scoring three centuries and eight half-centuries in his last nine ODI innings. After being dismissed for just five runs in the first ODI, the former India captain bounced back strongly with a composed 65-run knock in the second match.

Rohit's ODI Farewell Buzz Grows

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

Speculation over India captain Rohit Sharma's possible retirement from international cricket has intensified, with reports suggesting that the third ODI against England at Lord's on July 19 could be his final appearance in the 50-over format.

Adding to the speculation, Rohit's parents, Gurunath Sharma and Purnima Sharma, have reportedly arrived in London to watch what could potentially be their son's last ODI match.

According to media reports, chief selector Ajit Agarkar and head coach Gautam Gambhir recently held discussions with Rohit regarding India's long-term plans.

Reports suggest that the selectors are looking beyond Rohit for the 2027 ODI World Cup and are considering young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal as part of the future batting setup.

However, neither Rohit Sharma nor the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has made any official announcement regarding his retirement.

Rohit's recent form in the ongoing ODI series against England has also fuelled the speculation. He scored 11 runs in the first ODI and managed only 26 runs off 47 balls in the second match at Cardiff.

The 38-year-old had earlier retired from T20 international cricket after leading India to the T20 World Cup title in 2024 and announced his Test retirement in May 2025.

If the reports are true, the Lord's ODI could mark the end of his illustrious ODI career.

India Rolls Out First Hydrogen Train

► **Vikrama Vahini | Jind (Haryana)**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday flagged off India's first indigenously developed hydrogen fuel cell-powered train, marking a significant milestone in the country's transition towards clean and sustainable rail transport. With the launch, India joins a select group of nations using hydrogen technology for railway operations.

The pilot service will initially operate on the Jind-Sonapat section of Northern Railway. Indian Railways will assess the train's performance before expanding hydrogen-powered services to other routes across the country.

Developed under the guidance of the Research, Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO), the 10-coach train comprises two Hydrogen Driving Power Cars and eight passenger coaches, with a capacity to accommodate around 2,600 passengers. The train has a maximum operational speed of 75 kmph.



The project supports the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and the National Green Hydrogen Mission, while advancing Indian Railways' goal of achieving cleaner, low-emission transportation.

Unlike conventional diesel trains, the hydrogen-powered train generates electricity through a 1,200-kilowatt Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell (PEMFC).

Hydrogen stored in high-pressure cylinders reacts with oxygen inside the fuel cell to produce electricity that powers the train. The only by-products of the process are water vapour and heat, resulting in virtually zero carbon emissions during operation.

The train is also equipped with Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) batteries, which store surplus electricity, provide additional power

during acceleration and recover energy through regenerative braking, improving overall efficiency while reducing hydrogen consumption.

To support the project, Indian Railways has established the country's largest railway hydrogen storage and refuelling facility at Jind. The facility can store around 3,000 kilograms of hydrogen and has been built with advanced safety systems, including hydrogen leak detectors, flame detection sensors, automatic shut-off mechanisms, continuous ventilation and real-time monitoring.

Technical experts will accompany the train during its initial phase of operation to monitor performance and ensure safe functioning.

The launch marks a major step in India's efforts to modernise its railway network through clean energy technologies and reduce its carbon footprint in public transportation.

MEA REFUTES JAPAN EX-MINISTER'S CLAIMS

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

India on Friday strongly rejected allegations by former Japanese Justice Minister Hideki Makihara that New Delhi was responsible for delays in the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (Bullet Train) project, describing his remarks as an individual opinion that does not reflect the facts.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said bilateral discussions between India and Japan on the flagship rail project are progressing smoothly and construction work is advancing as planned.

Former Japanese Minister Criticises India

Makihara, a member of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, claimed that India had repeatedly failed to honour commitments during negotiations on the Shinkansen project.

In a social media post, he alleged that the Indian side frequently changed its position during discussions and accused it of prioritising its own interests, leading to delays in implementing the project.

MEA Rejects Allegations



India has rejected former Japanese minister Hideki Makihara's claims blaming New Delhi for delays in the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project. The MEA said the project is progressing smoothly with the first phase expected to begin operations in 2027.

Responding to the remarks, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal dismissed the allegations, stating that they were merely an individual's opinion and were "at considerable variance with facts."

He said India and Japan continue to work closely on the project and that cooperation remains strong.

Project Progressing as Planned

The MEA clarified that Japan will supply the E-20 Shinkansen train series only in the early 2030s, as the trains are still under development.

To avoid delays, both countries have agreed to commence operations with an Indian high-speed train, while signalling systems have already been ordered in accordance with

international standards.

The ministry added that no alternative Japanese proposal had been received and that the project is being executed with the shared objective of launching high-speed rail services at the earliest.

First Phase to Open in 2027

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced that operations on India's first bullet train corridor will begin on August 15, 2027, with the Surat-Bilimora section expected to be the first to become operational.

The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project, being developed with Japanese technical and financial assistance, will be opened in phases as construction progresses.

Usha Shivakumar Fulfils Temple Vow

► **Vikrama Vahini | Mysuru**

Usha Shivakumar, wife of Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, on Friday visited the historic Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hills in Mysuru to fulfil a long-standing religious vow by offering a silk saree to Goddess Chamundeshwari.

According to temple authorities, Usha had vowed to make the offering if her husband became the Chief Minister of Karnataka. She fulfilled the promise on the first Friday of the Ashada month, considered one of the most auspicious days for worship at the hill shrine.

Temple priests received the silk saree, adorned the presiding deity with it and performed special pujas followed by the Maha Mangalarati. The offering attracted the attention of hundreds of devotees who had gathered at the temple for the



Ashada Friday celebrations.

The Chamundeshwari Temple is known for its traditional silk saree offering ritual, where devotees present a new saree to the goddess after the fulfilment of their wishes, including marriage, employment and other personal milestones.

As part of the customary ritual, devotees receive the blessed saree along with kunkum, bangles and other sacred prasadam, symbolising the goddess's blessings. The temple witnessed heavy footfall throughout the day as devotees participated in the special Ashada Friday prayers.

Ram Mandir Starts Purification Rituals

► **Vikrama Vahini | Ayodhya**

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has begun a 10-day special purification and repentance ritual at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya following the alleged theft of devotees' donations from the temple premises.

The religious ceremonies, aimed at restoring the sanctity and dignity of the temple, include Vedic chanting, Rudrabhishek, havan, homa and special prayers. Around 70 Vedic priests are participating in the rituals being conducted at the sanctum sanctorum, temple walls and various parts of the temple complex.

According to Trust treasurer Govind Dev Giri, the purification rituals began on Wednesday as an act of repentance and to seek forgiveness from Lord Ram. Daily recitation of the 'Vishnu Sahasranama Stotra' is also being performed through various gurukuls, with at least 251 chants scheduled every day.

The rituals follow a major controversy over the alleged theft of temple donations, which triggered anger among devotees across the country.

Smartphone Market Down 10%

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

India's smartphone market recorded its sharpest June quarter decline in six years, with shipments falling 10 per cent year-on-year in Q2 2026, according to Counterpoint Research. The decline was driven by rising component prices, higher retail costs and cautious consumer spending.

The increase in memory and hardware costs pushed smartphone prices up by nearly 15 per cent, impacting demand, especially in the budget segment. The sub-₹15,000 smartphone category witnessed a 45 per cent drop in shipments as price-sensitive buyers delayed purchases.

Vivo remained the market leader with a 17.8 per cent share, followed by Samsung (17.6 per cent), while Oppo and Xiaomi secured the third and fourth



positions.

Meanwhile, premium smart phones priced above ₹45,000 continued to show resilience, supported by financing options. Google's Pixel range emerged as the fastest-growing premium brand after stable pricing and a 68 per cent expansion in offline availability.

The report also highlighted the rise of Nothing, which became India's fastest-growing smartphone brand with 105 per cent year-on-year shipment growth. The company's Nothing Phone (4b) recorded strong initial sales, including a quick sell-out of its RCB Edition.

CABINET EXPANSION NEARS FINAL STAGE

Karnataka's long-awaited Cabinet expansion has moved closer to completion, with Minister Satish Jarkiholi confirming that initial consultations are over. The final decision on new ministers will be taken by the Congress high command after further discussions.

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Karnataka's long-pending Cabinet expansion appears to have entered its final phase, with Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi on Friday stating that the first round of consultations has been completed and another meeting will be held before the Congress leadership finalises the list of new ministers.

Speaking to reporters, Jarkiholi said he had conveyed his views to the party high command and that the final decision on inducting new ministers would rest with the Congress leadership.

"The preliminary discussions have been held. Another round of talks will take place before the list is finalised," he said.

Jarkiholi also sought greater representation for his home district of Belagavi in the state Cabinet, while reiterating that the ultimate decision lies with the party's central

leadership.

The development comes a day after Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held discussions with the Congress high command in New Delhi regarding the much-awaited Cabinet expansion.

The exercise is expected to be completed before the next session of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.

The Cabinet expansion has been pending for several months, with many Congress legislators lobbying for ministerial berths and greater regional representation. The proposed reshuffle is also expected to address demands for balanced representation among different regions and communities within the ministry.

Although no official date has been announced, party leaders have indicated that the process is nearing its final stage.

SC Slams Hospitals Over Rape Survivor Treatment Denial

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

The Supreme Court has strongly criticised two private hospitals in Ghaziabad for allegedly refusing emergency treatment to a four-year-old rape survivor, who later died due to severe injuries.

The court questioned the hospitals' conduct and said doctors had a duty to save the child's life regardless of her social or financial background.

It expressed shock over the denial of medical care and said such actions go against basic humanity and medical ethics.

The case involves a four-year-old girl who was allegedly sexually assaulted and taken to hospitals in a critical condition.

The matter is being heard by the apex court, which has sought accountability from those responsible.

The Supreme Court observed that refusing immediate treatment to a child in a life-threatening situation was a serious failure of responsibility.

The court's remarks came while examining the actions of the hospitals and medical staff involved in the case.

China Landslide Kills 8, 34 Missing

► **Vikrama Vahini | Beijing**

A massive landslide in southwest China's Chongqing city has killed at least eight people, while 34 others remain missing, local authorities said. The disaster occurred in Pengshui County on Thursday morning after heavy rainfall triggered a major collapse of soil and rocks from a hillside.

Several residential buildings were buried under debris as the landslide swept through the area. More than 1,100 residents have been evacuated to safer locations as rescue operations continue.

A large team of rescue workers, firefighters and military personnel has been deployed to search for survivors. Bulldozers and heavy machinery are being used to clear the debris, with officials warning that the death toll may rise as more people could be trapped.

Authorities have temporarily suspended water, electricity and gas supplies in the affected area as a precautionary measure. So far, 18 people have been rescued, though eight of them later died during treatment.

The incident has raised fresh concerns over landslide risks in China's mountainous regions, with another major landslide in Gansu province claiming 21 lives just two weeks ago.

Officials said rescue teams are continuing their search operations amid difficult weather conditions and unstable terrain. Authorities are also conducting safety inspections in nearby areas to prevent further casualties.

Local emergency agencies have urged residents in vulnerable regions to remain alert and follow evacuation advisories as heavy rains continue to pose risks in several parts of the country.

Sindh Power Crisis Worsens

► **Vikrama Vahini | Karachi**

Pakistan's worsening power crisis has severely affected government functioning in Sindh province, where several key education department offices have been without regular electricity for nearly three weeks, disrupting administrative work and public services.

Despite officials stating that all electricity bills have been paid, prolonged outages have brought routine operations to a near standstill, raising concerns over the state's deteriorating power infrastructure.

Education Offices Worst Affected

According to local media reports, the Directorate General Colleges Sindh, Regional Directorate Government Colleges Sindh, and Regional Directorate Private Schools Karachi are among the offices facing prolonged power disruptions.

The outages have affected online registration, admission-related work and other digital services, causing inconvenience to students and the public.

Only Three to Four Hours of Power

Officials at the Directorate of Inspection and Registration of Private Institutions said electricity is available for only three to four hours during the eight-hour workday. Power is reportedly cut between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., and again after 4 p.m., severely affecting office



productivity.

Employees Forced to Work Without Basic Facilities

With electricity unavailable for most of the day, fans, air conditioners and internet services remain non-functional, forcing employees to work in extreme heat. Some staff members have reportedly shifted outdoors to continue their duties.

Officials said repeated complaints and written representations to power utility K-Electric have failed to resolve the issue despite timely payment of electricity bills.

Growing Energy Crisis

The prolonged outages underscore Pakistan's deepening energy crisis, which continues to impact essential public services. The electricity shortage comes at a time when the country is already grappling with economic challenges, fuel shortages and mounting pressure on its ageing power infrastructure, further affecting governance and public service delivery.