



Editorial

When Protests Cross the Line

The right to protest is one of the strongest pillars of any democracy. It allows citizens to voice grievances, demand accountability, and influence public policy through peaceful means. However, this constitutional freedom carries an equally important responsibility—to remain lawful, peaceful, and focused on genuine public concerns. Recent demonstrations in New Delhi, which reportedly began over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination, have gradually evolved into a broader political confrontation. The disruption witnessed during the opening of Parliament has once again reignited the debate over whether public protests are always serving their intended democratic purpose or are increasingly becoming platforms for political theatre and public disorder.

Concerns have also been raised about the participation of individuals whose past statements or activities have attracted controversy. Reports and allegations regarding the backgrounds and affiliations of some participants, including activist Sonam Wangchuk, have intensified public discussion. Such claims deserve careful scrutiny by the competent authorities and must be examined through due legal process rather than public speculation. At the same time, speeches or actions that promote hatred, encourage social divisions, or undermine national unity have no place in democratic movements. When protests drift away from their original objectives and become vehicles for partisan agendas or inflammatory rhetoric, they risk losing public credibility and weakening the very causes they seek to advance.

India's democracy must continue to safeguard the right to peaceful dissent while ensuring that public order and national security are not compromised. Governments should frame transparent and legally sound guidelines for granting permission to large public demonstrations, including appropriate security assessments wherever necessary. Equally important is the impartial enforcement of existing laws against violence, vandalism, or unlawful activities, irrespective of political affiliation. Democracy flourishes when governments remain accountable and citizens remain responsible. Protests should inspire constructive dialogue, not deepen divisions or create opportunities for forces that seek to exploit public sentiment for purposes unrelated to the original cause. Preserving this balance is essential for protecting both democratic freedoms and the nation's long-term stability.

-Editor

Khandre Defends Mekedatu Project

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**
Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Monday defended Karnataka's proposed Mekedatu balancing reservoir project, stating that Tamil Nadu's continued opposition to the project was unjustified as it would benefit both states.

Speaking to reporters at Vikas Soudha, Khandre said the Mekedatu project is primarily intended to provide drinking water to Bengaluru and generate hydroelectric power, and should not be viewed through a political lens.

He stressed that access to safe drinking water is a fundamental right and said

objections based on political considerations were neither reasonable nor in the larger public interest.

The minister noted that Bengaluru, with a population of over one crore, faces a steadily increasing demand for drinking water.

He said the state government has planned the project to ensure a reliable water supply for the growing city while also enhancing renewable energy generation through hydropower.

Khandre further asserted that the project would not adversely affect Tamil Nadu and, in fact, would provide downstream benefits by enabling better regulation of river flows.



SC Seeks Fair Ram Temple Probe

► **From PGi**

The Supreme Court emphasised the need for proper record-keeping and greater transparency in handling temple donations and valuables.

The Bench noted that all financial records should be maintained systematically and directed authorities to ensure accountability throughout the investigation process.

The Bench emphasised the need for proper documentation and well-maintained records of all donations. The Solicitor General assured the court that the state supported measures to improve transparency and that inventories of valuable offerings were already being maintained.

The court also stressed that the investigation should reach its logical conclusion without external influence. The matter will be reviewed during the next hearing on July 27, with the progress of the probe under consideration.

The Supreme Court will review the progress of the investigation when the matter comes up for hearing on July 27.

FRESH FACES EYE K'TAKA CABINET

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

The long-awaited Karnataka Cabinet reshuffle has entered its final stage, with the Congress high command reportedly favouring a generational change that could bring the biggest overhaul in the Siddaramaiah-led government since it assumed office in May 2023.

The Karnataka Cabinet reshuffle is expected to induct several new faces as the Congress leadership looks to balance regional and social representation while strengthening the government ahead of future electoral battles.

According to party sources, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has backed the induction of several fresh faces as part of the reshuffle aimed at revitalising the government midway through its tenure and accommodating legislators awaiting ministerial berths.

Among the names reportedly under consideration are Kaneez Fatima, Aarti Krishna, Belur Gopal Krishna, Raju Kage and C.S. Nadagouda. The proposed revamp is expected to focus on regional,

caste and gender representation while rewarding MLAs who have remained outside the Cabinet.

Sources said the final list is likely to be approved after consultations involving Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in New Delhi.

Although the Congress leadership has not officially confirmed the names, the reshuffle is expected to be announced shortly, bringing an end to months of speculation and lobbying within the ruling party. The Cabinet expansion is being viewed as a key mid-term political exercise that will shape the Congress government's strategy for the remainder of its tenure and ahead of future elections.

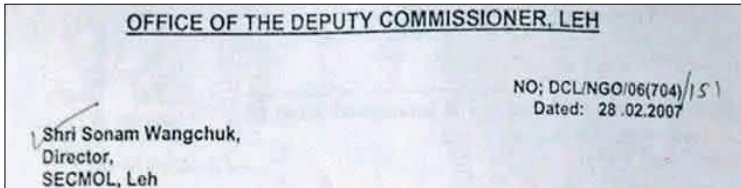
Political observers believe the reshuffle is intended to inject fresh energy into the government while addressing aspirations within the Congress Legislature Party. The composition of the new Cabinet is expected to reflect the party's focus on administrative performance, social balance and strengthening its organisational base ahead of the next electoral challenges.

The diabolical design of Sonam Wangchuk has come to the fore: Ravi Kumar

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

"By trying to storm the parliament and attack the security forces, the diabolical design of striking Sonam Wangchuk has come to the fore," Chief Whip of the Opposition in Legislative Council N. Ravi Kumar said here on Monday.

In a strongly worded statement, Ravi Kumar condemned the violence

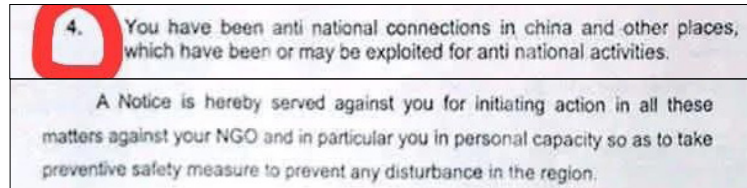


and vandalism unleashed by the supporters of Sonam Wangchuk.

"Sonam Wangchuk is a hypocrite. The issue of NEET question paper leak is just a pretext to pursue his anti-national agenda. He has diabolical design and sinister motive.

He is a puppet in the hands of anti-India forces," Ravi Kumar added.

Ravi Kumar reeled out 2007 order issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Leh district which clearly says that Sonam Wangchuk is having



links with China and has usurped 200 Kanals of land in Leh district without paying dues.

"Sonam Wangchuk is also accused of misusing the FCRA funds, according to the notice. The nation does not need any sermons from

such a person with anti-national mindset," Ravi Kumar explained.

Ravi Kumar further alleged that Sonam Wangchuk was misleading thousands of students just to protect his skin and further his anti-national agenda.

Stormy Session Start

► **From PGi**

Government Defends Agenda, Opposition Seeks Immediate Debate: The government maintained that all important issues would be discussed as per parliamentary procedures and urged the Opposition to allow legislative work to proceed. Ministers appealed to MPs to cooperate and ensure that the session focuses on constructive debates and policy discussions.

Protests Continue Over Student Issues: The Opposition continued to press for a detailed discussion on the alleged NEET-UG paper leak, stating that the issue had affected the future of thousands of students. Leaders demanded accountability from the government and sought immediate action to address concerns raised by protesters.

Key Bills Await Discussion: Apart from political issues, the government has listed several important Bills for consideration

during the session. These include measures related to judicial reforms, national honour laws and other legislative proposals aimed at strengthening governance.

The Monsoon Session, scheduled till August 13, is expected to see intense debates and confrontations between the ruling party and Opposition over education, economy, governance and accountability issues. The opening day's disruptions indicate a challenging road ahead for smooth parliamentary functioning.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the government is ready to discuss all issues within the framework of parliamentary rules and urged Opposition parties to maintain cooperation. The Centre expressed hope that the remaining days of the session would witness meaningful debates and productive outcomes.

NEET PROTEST CLASH INJURES 118 COPS

► **From PGi**

The incident occurred on the opening day of Parliament's Monsoon Session, adding to the political tension over the NEET controversy. Opposition parties have demanded accountability and discussions on the issue, while the government has maintained that all concerns will be addressed through proper legal and parliamentary channels.

During the violence, several police buses were damaged and the front windshields were broken. Some shops in the area were also reportedly vandalised. Police have detained more than 70 people in connection with the incident.

Following the clashes, Delhi Police began registering multiple FIRs and started examining CCTV footage and mobile phone videos to identify those involved in the violence. Authorities have urged people to maintain peace and avoid spreading unverified information.



Sri Keshava Madhava Theerthara Mahadyaaraadhana Mahotsava was held at Bhadravathi on Monday, June 20, 2026, under the leadership of Sri Sri Vidya Vallabha Madhava Theertha Sripadaru, Pontiff of Sri Man Madhava Theertha Matha, on the auspicious occasion of Sri Parabhava Nama Samvatsara, Ashadha Sudha Shasti.

NEWS

160 OFFICIALS SHIFTED IN MINES SHAKE-UP

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

The Karnataka government has ordered a major reshuffle in the Department of Mines and Geology, transferring 160 officials in one of the largest administrative exercises in the department's history.

The move is aimed at improving transparency, strengthening accountability and curbing illegal mining across the state.

According to the transfer order, the reshuffle includes 131 geologists, 23 senior geologists and six deputy directors. Nearly 80 per cent of the officials who had been serving in the same locations for several years have been shifted.

Long-Term Postings End

The government noted that several officials had continued to serve in their home districts or nearby areas for prolonged periods, raising concerns over administrative transparency and the possibility of vested interests.

To prevent irregularities and ensure impartial functioning, all transferred officials have been directed to assume charge at their new postings immediately and report compliance to the department headquarters.

Focus on Illegal Mining

The large-scale transfers follow the state government's decision to

intensify action against illegal mining.

During a departmental review meeting earlier this month, officials reportedly highlighted concerns over illegal mining activities, following which the Chief Minister directed the department to prepare a proposal for administrative changes.

The government believes the reshuffle will reduce local influence, improve monitoring of mining operations, strengthen revenue collection and enhance public confidence in the department's functioning.

The transfer exercise is being viewed as a significant governance reform aimed at ensuring greater efficiency and transparency in Karnataka's mining sector.

Officials said the department is expected to introduce stricter monitoring mechanisms following the reshuffle, including better field inspections, digital tracking of mining activities and faster action against violations.

The government aims to ensure that mining operations comply with environmental and legal regulations.

The state government has also emphasised the need to prevent revenue losses caused by illegal mining and unauthorised extraction of natural resources.

The new postings are expected to bring fresh oversight and improve coordination between district administrations and the Mines and Geology Department.

SPIRITUAL

Why Adhara Pana Is Never Consumed

The unique Adhara Pana ritual of the Jagannath Rath Yatra symbolises Lord Jagannath's universal compassion, with the sacred offering dedicated to unseen spiritual beings rather than human devotees.

► **Vikrama Vahini | Puri**

As the annual Jagannath Rath Yatra draws millions of devotees to Puri, one of its most distinctive traditions—the Adhara Pana ritual—continues to attract attention for its unique spiritual significance. Unlike other temple offerings, this sacred drink is never consumed by devotees but is deliberately spilled after being offered to the deities.

Sacred Offering Prepared for the Deities

Adhara Pana is a sweet beverage prepared using milk, chhena (fresh cheese), sugar, spices, camphor and aromatic herbs. The drink is filled in specially made earthen pots and placed before Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra while they remain on their chariots during the concluding phase of the Rath Yatra.

Why the Offering Is Spilled

After the offering, temple servitors intentionally break the earthen pots, allowing the drink to spill across the chariots and onto the ground. According to Jagannath tradition, the offering is meant for invisible spiritual beings, wandering souls and other unseen entities believed to accompany the deities during the procession. The ritual symbolically grants them peace, blessings and spiritual liberation.

Why Devotees Do Not Consume It

Temple customs strictly prohibit devotees from consuming or touching the spilled offering. Since the Adhara Pana is believed to have been offered exclusively to these unseen beings after being presented to the deities, it is not distributed as Mahaprasad. The tradition reflects Lord Jagannath's philosophy of universal compassion, extending divine grace beyond humanity.

Symbolism of the Earthen Pots

The breaking of the clay pots also carries a



spiritual message. In Hindu philosophy, the earthen vessel represents the human body—temporary and fragile. Shattering the pots after the offering symbolises the impermanence of life and the eternal nature of the soul, reminding devotees of detachment and liberation.

Concluding Ceremony of Rath Yatra

The Adhara Pana ritual is performed on Dwadashi, after the Bahuda Yatra (return journey) and before the deities re-enter the Jagannath Temple during the Niladri Bije ceremony. It remains one of the most revered and spiritually significant rituals associated with the world-famous Rath Yatra, highlighting the inclusive and compassionate traditions of Lord Jagannath.

The Adhara Pana ritual has been preserved for centuries as an integral part of the Jagannath Temple's traditions, drawing the attention of scholars, pilgrims and cultural enthusiasts alike. Devotees believe the ceremony reflects Lord Jagannath's message of universal welfare, emphasising that divine compassion extends to every living and unseen being, making it one of the most unique and spiritually profound rituals of the Rath Yatra festival.

SCIENCE & Technology

12 Million World Cup Accounts Hacked

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

Cybercriminals are exploiting the global popularity of the FIFA World Cup by selling more than 12 million stolen streaming accounts on the dark web, according to a report by the Satori Threat Intelligence Team of HUMAN Security.

The report states that compromised accounts linked to 10 major streaming platforms broadcasting World Cup matches are being traded in an underground market estimated to be worth nearly \$220 million.

Researchers found that June 27, the final day of the group stage, recorded the highest activity, with around 802,000 stolen accounts released in a single day. The accounts were valued at nearly \$14.8 million on the black market.

The stolen accounts are reportedly being sold for as little as \$5, far below the normal subscription cost of \$30-\$50. Some listings also include linked payment cards, premium subscriptions, loyalty rewards and replacement guarantees if access is lost.

According to HUMAN Security, the majority of the stolen accounts are obtained through credential stuffing attacks or information-stealing malware that captures usernames and passwords from compromised devices.

The report also warned users to be cautious of fake football streaming websites and mobile applications designed to steal personal information.

Cybersecurity experts have advised users to enable multi-factor authentication (MFA), use unique passwords for every online account and avoid unofficial streaming platforms to reduce the risk of account theft during major sporting events.



DOORSTEP CASTE CERTIFICATES FOR K'TAKA CITIZENS

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday launched two major citizen-centric initiatives aimed at making government services more accessible by introducing free doorstep delivery of caste certificates and empowering Deputy Tahsildars to issue permanent residence certificates.

The Chief Minister said the initiatives would reduce delays, improve transparency and ensure that citizens receive essential documents without having to visit multiple government offices.

Doorstep Delivery of Caste Certificates

Under the new programme, the government has digitally prepared 4.85 crore caste certificates and shared them with Deputy Commissioners district-wise, taluk-wise and village-wise. The district administration will print and deliver the certificates directly to beneficiaries at their doorsteps.

A dedicated mobile application has been developed to capture Aadhaar details, mobile numbers and digital acknowledgements from beneficiaries to ensure transparency and proper authentication.



Free Digital Access for Citizens

Citizens can download their caste certificates free of cost through the designated government portal using the certificate's RD number, Aadhaar number or ration card number. The same service will also be available at government assistance centres.

The government has already linked around 57 lakh caste certificates with beneficiaries' mobile numbers and sent download links through WhatsApp and SMS, enabling easy

digital access.

Deputy Tahsildars to Issue Residence Certificates

In another key reform, the Revenue Department has delegated powers to Deputy Tahsildars to issue permanent residence certificates. The move is expected to speed up the issuance process and reduce the workload on Tahsildars, making the service more efficient.

Government at Citizens' Doorstep

Speaking at the launch, Shivakumar said the initiatives marked a new chapter in Karnataka's governance by bringing public services directly to the people.

"This is not merely about issuing certificates. It is about protecting the identity and rights of every citizen. The government should reach the people instead of making people run from office to office," he said.

He added that the government's priority was to ensure that even the most marginalised citizens receive services with dignity, transparency and without unnecessary delays.

Deputy Chief Minister Dr G. Parameshwara and senior government officials were present at the launch of the initiatives.

Suresh Kumar Flags POP Idol Threat

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Ahead of the Ganesh festival, BJP MLA S. Suresh Kumar has urged Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda to take immediate steps to prevent the production, sale and use of Plaster of Paris (POP) Ganesha idols in the city. In a letter to the minister, the Rajajinagar MLA warned that the rising use of POP idols could cause serious damage to water bodies and the environment, besides affecting the traditional sanctity of the festival.

Suresh Kumar said he had earlier written to Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao regarding the issue but had not received any response so far. He urged the government to issue strict directions to officials and ensure a complete ban on POP idols.

He also highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal through Mann Ki Baat encouraging people to choose eco-friendly Ganesha idols and avoid POP idols to protect the environment. He called for stronger enforcement measures to promote eco-friendly celebrations across Bengaluru.

Hariprasad Questions RSS Funding

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Karnataka Congress President B.K. Hariprasad on Monday questioned the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) claim that it does not receive government funds, citing a media report alleging that state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) channelled over ₹668 crore in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds to 20 organisations linked to the Sangh over the past decade.

In a post on X, Hariprasad said the reported CSR allocations added to recurring allegations that public resources, including temple offerings, disaster relief funds, COVID-19 relief funds, public land and Kalyana Karnataka development funds, had been directed to organisations associated with the Sangh.

He questioned how the RSS could claim independence from government funding if taxpayer-backed public

institutions were financing its affiliated organisations.

Stating that the issue was no longer limited to the RSS remaining an unregistered organisation, Hariprasad said it was now a matter of transparency, accountability and the public's right to know how taxpayer money is being utilised.

He called on the RSS to clarify its funding sources and explain whether it was appropriate for an unregistered organisation and its affiliated bodies to receive funds originating from public sector institutions.

The Congress leader's remarks came after a media report alleged that ONGC had provided more than ₹668 crore in CSR funding to 20 organisations linked to the Sangh during the last ten years, triggering a political debate over the allocation of CSR funds by public sector enterprises.



Leopard Sparks Bengaluru Panic

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

A leopard has once again been spotted in Bharath Nagar of Bengaluru's Yeshwanthpur constituency, triggering panic among residents after it allegedly attempted to attack a stray dog.

The wild animal has been sighted four times since July 9, with the latest incident captured on CCTV. Despite setting up a trap cage with bait, the Forest Department has so far failed to capture the leopard. Residents expressed concern over public safety, saying children have stopped playing outdoors and many have avoided morning walks. Locals demanded that the Forest Department

deploy additional traps and intensify efforts to capture the animal before any serious incident occurs.



Loss of Interest No Ground for Divorce: HC

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

In a significant judgment reaffirming the sanctity of Hindu marriage, the Karnataka High Court has ruled that a husband cannot seek divorce merely because he has "lost interest" in his wife, observing that a Hindu marriage is a sacrament and not a contract that can be ended at the whim of either spouse.

A Division Bench comprising Justices D.K. Singh and T.M. Nadaf dismissed a husband's appeal filed under Section 13(1A) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, seeking dissolution of his marriage.

The court observed that once two people marry under Hindu law, the relationship is intended to be lifelong and cannot be dissolved simply because one spouse no longer wishes to continue the marriage.

The Bench upheld the order of the Additional Principal Judge, Family



The Karnataka High Court has ruled that a husband cannot seek divorce merely because he has "lost interest" in his wife, reaffirming that Hindu marriage is a lifelong sacrament and not a contract that can be dissolved at personal whim.

Court, Mysuru, which had rejected the husband's divorce petition while allowing the wife's plea for restitution of conjugal rights.

The couple had entered into a love and inter-caste marriage in December 2003 and have a daughter who is now nearly an adult. The husband later sought divorce, claiming that despite a

court order for restitution of conjugal rights, the couple had not resumed cohabitation and that the marriage had irretrievably broken down.

The wife denied allegations of cruelty and stated that she had always cared for her husband and his parents, never demanded a separate residence, and remained willing to continue the marriage.

Dismissing the appeal, the High Court held that mere loss of interest is not a legally recognised ground for divorce under the Hindu Marriage Act.

The Bench observed that the husband could not take advantage of his own conduct after voluntarily entering into a love marriage, living together for nearly two decades and raising a child.

The court found no reason to interfere with the Family Court's order and dismissed the appeal.

Delhi Police Denies Protest Assault Claims Amid Online Row

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

Delhi Police on Monday dismissed viral social media claims alleging that its personnel assaulted Geetanjali Agmo, wife of activist Sonam Wangchuk, and injured several protesters during the 'Chalo Sansad' march in central Delhi.

The controversy erupted after a social media post claimed that Geetanjali Agmo was

assaulted by police and that a 12-year-old girl and several protesters sustained head injuries during the protest.

Police Reject Viral Claims

In a fact-check post on X, Delhi Police termed the allegations false and misleading, urging the public not to spread unverified information. "The claims being circulated are not true. Please do not spread or amplify false



or misleading information," the police said, while maintaining that the information shared on social media was incorrect.

Protest Over Examination Issues

The protest was held in central Delhi, where demonstrators attempted to march towards Parliament over allegations of examination irregularities and paper leaks. Police stopped the march before it reached

Parliament, and reports indicated the use of tear gas and lathi charges during the confrontation.

Appeal for Peace

Delhi Police appealed to protesters to maintain peace, cooperate with law enforcement and avoid unlawful activities. It also urged citizens not to circulate rumours or unverified content on social media.

ENTERTAINMENT

Rishab's Shivaji Gets Hollywood Edge

► **Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai**

A major update has emerged for The Pride of Bharat: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the upcoming historical epic starring National Award-winning actor Rishab Shetty in the lead role. The makers have roped in an internationally acclaimed Hollywood stunt team to choreograph the film's large-scale action and battle sequences.

Directed by Sandeep Singh, the ambitious project aims to recreate the life and legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj with world-class production values.

The film's action department will be led by Mark Henson, known for his work on Game of Thrones, Vikings, The Witcher, and the Oscar-winning film Gravity.

The international team also includes Vlad Rimburg, who has worked on The Fate of the Furious, Bloodshot, and Lucifer, along with Craig MacRae, known for Troy: Fall of a City. The makers said the collaboration is expected to deliver Hollywood-style action sequences on an Indian historical canvas.

Made on a reported budget of ₹500 crore, the film will be released in two parts due to its expansive storyline. Besides Rishab Shetty, the cast includes Arjun Rampal, Vivek Oberoi, and Shefali Shah in key roles.

The film will have a simultaneous worldwide release in Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, and English, among other languages. Based on the life of the 17th-century Maratha warrior king, the project aims to present the story of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to a global audience with cutting-edge visuals, grand battle sequences, and international production standards.

The makers said extensive pre-production has gone into designing authentic war sequences, period costumes and large-scale battle sets to ensure historical grandeur. Advanced visual effects and international



filmmaking techniques are also being used to recreate the Maratha Empire with cinematic realism.

Shooting is expected to take place across multiple locations in India with a blend of practical sets and high-end CGI. The production team believes the film will set a new benchmark for Indian historical cinema by combining powerful storytelling with world-class action and visual spectacle.

The film is being positioned as one of the most ambitious Indian historical productions ever made, with the makers aiming to deliver a globally competitive cinematic experience.

'DHURANDHAR' SETS NETFLIX GLOBAL RECORD

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

Bollywood star Ranveer Singh's action thriller 'Dhurandhar' has created history on the global streaming platform Netflix, becoming the most-watched Indian film in the non-English movies category worldwide.

According to Netflix's latest viewing report, Dhurandhar has recorded an impressive 37 million views, earning the distinction of being the highest-viewed Indian film globally on the platform.

Directed by Aditya Dhar, the film was released on December 5 last year and received a strong response from audiences. The movie features an ensemble cast including R Madhavan, Akshaye Khanna, Sanjay Dutt and Arjun Rampal alongside Ranveer Singh.

Spy Thriller Wins Global Audience

Dhurandhar revolves around the story of an Indian operative who travels to Pakistan and becomes involved in a high-risk spy mission. The action-packed thriller performed strongly at the box office and later continued its

success on digital platforms.

The film's sequel has also generated significant attention and achieved impressive viewership numbers, further expanding the franchise's popularity.

Indian Content Shines on Netflix

Several Indian original series and films have also performed well on Netflix. In the original series category, 'Accused', directed by Anurag Kashyap, topped the list with 19 million views, featuring actors including Konkona Sen Sharma and Pratibha Ranta.

'Made in Korea', starring Priyanka Mohan, secured the second position with 18 million views, while 'Taskari', featuring Emraan Hashmi, ranked third with 16 million views.

Global Streaming Hits

In the international films category, 'War Machine' emerged as the top performer with 147 million views, followed by 'The RIP' with 136 million views, 'Swapped' with 131 million views, 'K-Pop Demon Hunters' with 130 million views and 'Apex' with 129 million views. Among global web series, 'His & Hers'

topped the chart with 104 million views, highlighting the growing popularity of streaming content worldwide.



BUSINESS

BPCL Brings Instant LPG Service

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has launched its new premium LPG service Bharatgas Lite ZIP, offering instant new LPG connections and faster cylinder delivery to customers. The service, designed to meet the needs of modern households, has been introduced initially in Mumbai and will be expanded to 100 cities across 24 states by August 15, 2026.

Lightweight Composite Cylinder With Modern Features

The key feature of Bharatgas Lite ZIP is the Bharatgas Lite composite cylinder, which is lighter than traditional steel cylinders, making it easier to handle and transport. The cylinder is also corrosion-free and comes with a visible gas-level indicator that helps customers monitor the remaining fuel.

BPCL said the new cylinder offers enhanced safety features along with a modern design, making it suitable for customers looking for convenient and premium LPG solutions.

Digital Booking and Quick Connection Process

Customers without an existing LPG connection can apply for Bharatgas Lite ZIP through the Bharat gas Consumer Portal or the Hello BPCL mobile application. After completing the KYC process using identity and address proof such as an Aadhaar card, customers can book their first cylinder.

Expansion Plan Across 100 Cities

BPCL said the service will soon be available in more cities, helping families access faster and more convenient LPG services. The company believes the initiative will strengthen digital adoption and improve customer experience in the LPG sector.

Growing Competition in Premium LPG Segment

The launch comes amid increasing competition among public sector oil marketing companies in the premium LPG segment. Recently, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) introduced an on-demand LPG delivery service through a quick-commerce platform, offering a 10-kg composite cylinder aimed at students, professionals and small families.

With faster delivery options, lightweight cylinders and digital booking facilities, oil companies are focusing on transforming the traditional LPG supply system and providing more flexible solutions to consumers.

SPORTS

World Cup Celebrations Turn Tragic, Teen Dies

> Vikrama Vahini | Madrid

Spain's historic FIFA World Cup victory celebrations turned tragic after a 13-year-old boy died and two others were injured following the collapse of a fountain structure during a celebration in Spain. Spain defeated defending champions Argentina 1-0 in the 2026 FIFA World Cup final held in New Jersey, lifting the trophy for the second time in history. While fans across Spain took to the streets to celebrate the victory, the celebrations in the western city of Ciudad Rodrigo ended in tragedy. According to reports, the incident occurred at Arbol Gordo, a historic location in Ciudad Rodrigo near the Portugal border in Salamanca province. A portion of a fountain structure reportedly collapsed onto a crowd gathered for the World Cup celebrations.

The accident left several people injured, with a 13-year-old boy losing his life and two others suffering serious injuries. Authorities have launched an investigation into the incident.

The tragedy came shortly after Spain secured a memorable victory over Argentina in a closely contested final. Substitute player Ferran Torres scored the only goal in the 106th minute of extra time, handing Spain a 1-0 win.

Spain dominated much of the match but faced strong resistance from Argentina, who were hoping to win their fourth World Cup title. The defeat also ended Argentina star Lionel Messi's hopes of retiring with another World Cup trophy.

Rohit-Kohli ODI Comeback Dates Revealed

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

After India's 2-1 ODI series defeat against England, cricket fans are eagerly waiting to see veteran stars Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli back in the blue jersey. With both players having retired from T20 and Test cricket, their appearances will now be limited to the ODI format.

Despite the series loss, Rohit and Kohli impressed with their performances. Rohit Sharma scored a brilliant 138 runs off 110 balls, while Virat Kohli contributed 74 runs off 60 deliveries, showcasing their continued batting strength.

Team India's next ODI assignment will come in September when they host the West Indies for a three-match series. The series will begin on September 27 and continue until October 3.

Following the West Indies series, India will travel to New Zealand in November for a five-match ODI series. The tour will be an important opportunity for Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to prepare for the 2027 ICC ODI World Cup.

India will then host Sri Lanka in December for another three-match ODI series. These upcoming fixtures are expected to play a crucial role in shaping India's ODI squad and strategy ahead of the global tournament. With their experience and recent performances, Rohit and Kohli remain key figures in India's ODI plans as the team begins its long-term preparations for the World Cup.

India Clears First Dengue Vaccine

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

India has approved its first dengue vaccine after the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) granted regulatory clearance to Japanese pharmaceutical company Takeda's QDenga (TAK-003), marking a major milestone in the country's fight against the mosquito-borne disease.

The approval follows a comprehensive regulatory review, including Phase III clinical trial data from India and recommendations by the Subject Expert Committee under the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

India accounts for nearly one-third of the global dengue burden, with reported cases increasing more than 11-fold over the past two decades. Until now, dengue prevention has relied mainly on mosquito control, public awareness, early diagnosis and supportive treatment.

QDenga is a tetravalent live-attenuated vaccine designed to protect against all four



dengue virus serotypes. Unlike earlier dengue vaccines, it can be administered without prior testing for previous dengue infection, making it easier to deploy in public health programmes. The vaccine is given in two doses, spaced three months apart.

Takeda said long-term clinical studies have demonstrated sustained protection against symptomatic dengue and dengue-related hospitalisation. Since its global launch in 2022, QDenga has been approved in 43 countries, with more than 32 million

India has approved its first dengue vaccine, QDenga, marking a major breakthrough in disease prevention and offering a new tool to combat one of the country's most widespread mosquito-borne infections.

doses distributed worldwide.

To support large-scale production, Takeda has partnered with Hyderabad-based Biological E, which will establish manufacturing capacity to produce up to 50 million doses annually in India.

The approval is expected to strengthen India's dengue prevention strategy by adding vaccination to existing mosquito-control and surveillance measures.

Decisions on pricing, rollout, target age groups and inclusion in government immunisation programmes are expected to be taken by public health authorities in the coming months.

DMK MLA Held Over Threat Remarks Against Vijay

> Vikrama Vahini | Thoothukudi
Opposition DMK MLA Markandeyan, representing the Vilathikulam Assembly constituency, was arrested early Monday over alleged threatening remarks made against Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and TVK founder Vijay during a public meeting.

The controversy arose from a speech delivered by the legislator at a DMK-organised thanksgiving meeting in Kovilpatti in Thoothukudi district. The remarks, which were widely circulated on social media, drew sharp criticism and led to a police complaint.

Police said a case was registered following allegations that the MLA had made

objectionable and threatening statements in a public forum. Acting on the complaint, officers took Markandeyan into custody from his residence in Vilathikulam and produced him for legal proceedings.

The arrest triggered protests by the MLA's supporters, who gathered outside his residence and attempted to block the police vehicle.

Condemning the arrest, DMK MP Kanimozhi accused the ruling TVK government of misusing the police to suppress political opponents. In a post on X, she termed the arrest 'atrocious' and demanded the immediate release of the MLA, alleging that the government was unable to tolerate criticism.



Bengal to Release 1993 Firing Report

> Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata

The West Bengal government on Monday announced that it would make public the report of the Justice (Retd.) Sushanta Chatterjee Commission, which was constituted to investigate the deaths of 13 people in the 1993 police firing on a Youth Congress rally.

Making the announcement at the beginning of the Assembly proceedings, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari sought the Speaker's permission to table the commission's report a day ahead of the July 21 'Martyrs' Day' observance, when rival political groups are scheduled to hold separate rallies.

The Chief Minister said the government would also place before the House details of the commission's recommendations, indicating which had been implemented and which remained



The West Bengal government is set to release the long-awaited 1993 police firing commission report, a move expected to reignite political debate ahead of the July 21 Martyrs' Day observance.

pending during the previous Trinamool Congress government's 15-year tenure.

The release of the long-awaited report is expected to revive political debate over the 1993 police firing incident, in which 13 Youth Congress workers lost their lives during a protest in Kolkata.

YOGI SLAMS SP-CONGRESS OVER SANATAN ISSUE AHEAD OF POLLS

> Vikrama Vahini | Barabanki

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday accused the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Congress of being 'anti-Sanatan', alleging that previous governments neglected temples while misusing public funds meant

for development.

Addressing a public gathering in Barabanki, Adityanath said, 'If Sanatan is secure, we are all secure,' and criticised what he described as the opposition's approach to



secularism.

He further alleged that the SP and Congress had deprived people of their rights and diverted development funds, accusing them of looting public welfare projects

during their tenure.

The remarks come amid heightened political activity in Uttar Pradesh, with parties intensifying their campaigns ahead of upcoming elections. Opposition leaders have not immediately responded to the allegations.

HC Raises Lawyer Crime Alarm

> Vikrama Vahini | Allahabad

The Allahabad High Court has expressed concern over the growing number of advocates with criminal backgrounds in Uttar Pradesh, observing that several lawyers facing serious cases continue to practice due to limited disciplinary action.

While hearing the Mohammad Kafeel v. State of Uttar Pradesh case, the court said some advocates had allegedly become 'gangsters' and 'mafia elements' and were using the legal profession as protection from criminal proceedings.

The court was informed that 4,157 advocates in Uttar Pradesh are linked to 5,056 criminal cases. Among them, 418 advocates face three or more cases, including some booked in 11 or more cases.

The Bench also flagged cases involving forged law degrees and directed the State Bar Council to file FIRs against 105 advocates found with fake qualifications.

To ensure impartial trials, the court ordered that criminal cases against advocates be shifted from their home districts to courts located at least 100 km away.

Six Killed in Fiery Expressway Crash

Six people were killed in a fiery crash on Maharashtra's Samruddhi Expressway after a truck rammed into a stationary car, renewing concerns over safety on the high-speed corridor.

> Vikrama Vahini | Wardha

Six people were killed after a truck rammed into a car on the Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Expressway in Maharashtra's Wardha district early Monday, triggering a massive fire that engulfed both vehicles.

The accident occurred around 3 a.m. near Virul village. Police said a container carrying highly flammable ethanol had earlier overturned near the IC-80 interchange, leaving one lane blocked. A truck travelling on the expressway then crashed into a stationary car from behind, causing both vehicles to burst into flames.

Four occupants of the car and two people in the truck, including the driver, died in the incident.

Rescue teams comprising the Highway Safety Patrol, Wardha Police, Fire Brigade and Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation rushed to the spot. Authorities carefully emptied the ethanol from the overturned container before removing it to avoid further danger.

Traffic on the Mumbai-bound carriageway was diverted, resulting in long traffic snarls. Motorists travelling



from Nagpur to Mumbai were advised to use the Nagpur-Amravati Highway until normal traffic was restored.

The accident has once again raised concerns over safety on the 701-km Samruddhi Expressway, which recorded 185 road accidents in 2025, compared to 137 in 2024. Authorities said an Intelligent Traffic Management System is being

implemented to improve monitoring and enhance road safety.

The collision occurred near an overturned ethanol container, making rescue operations highly challenging due to the risk of fire. The tragedy has intensified calls for stricter traffic management and enhanced safety measures on the expressway.

VIKRAMA VAHINI | INFO GRAPHICS

SOMVAR VRAT

COMPLETE GUIDE TO MONDAY FAST

❧ DEDICATED TO LORD SHIVA ❧

Somvar Vrat is a Monday fast to seek Lord Shiva's blessings for health, peace, prosperity and happiness.

❧ BENEFITS ❧

- ✓ Brings peace and happiness
- ✓ Supports harmony in married life
- ✓ Helps unmarried devotees find a good life partner
- ✓ Promotes good health and longevity
- ✓ Strengthens devotion and brings spiritual growth

1 WAKE UP EARLY Wake up early, take a bath and wear clean clothes.	2 PERFORM SHIVA PUJA Offer water, milk, Panchamrit, Bel leaves, flowers and fruits.	3 READ SOMVAR VRAT KATHA Read or listen to Somvar Vrat Katha during puja.	4 CHANT SHIVA MANTRAS Chant "Om Namah Shivaya" or other Shiva mantras.
5 FOLLOW FASTING RULES Fast as per your capacity. Eat fruits, milk, and sattvic food.	6 PERFORM EVENING AARTI Light lamp, do Aarti and offer water to Shivaling and Moon.	7 BREAK THE FAST Break fast with prasad and eat simple sattvic food.	8 DOS AND DON'TS ✓ Be pure, truthful, and kind. ✗ Avoid onion, garlic, meat, alcohol and tamasic food.

HAVE FAITH. STAY DISCIPLINED. LORD SHIVA WILL BLESS YOU ALWAYS. ॐ

HC Blow to TMC Over ₹440 Crore Freeze

> Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata

The Calcutta High Court on Monday refused to grant interim relief to the Trinamool Congress (TMC) against the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) decision to freeze three party bank accounts containing around ₹440 crore.

A Bench headed by Justice Krishna Rao dismissed the plea filed by the Mamata Banerjee-led faction seeking permission to use the frozen accounts for routine party operations.

The case relates to alleged financial irregularities, suspicious fund transfers and accumulation of funds under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The ED has been investigating alleged transfers from TMC accounts to private entities.

According to the probe agency, around ₹160 crore was transferred between April 2023 and June 2026 to Carewell Aviation India Pvt Ltd and related companies, with a portion allegedly used for purchasing luxury aircraft.

Google Maps Goes Wrong

> Vikrama Vahini | Tirupati

A car plunged into a deep pit dug for bridge construction in Andhra Pradesh's Tirupati district after the driver followed an outdated route shown on Google Maps.

The incident occurred near Lingasamudram on the Erpedu-Penchalakona National Highway, where road diversion was in place due to ongoing bridge work. However, the driver took the closed old route and the vehicle fell into the excavation pit.

Locals rescued the driver, who escaped with minor injuries, while the car was badly damaged. Residents blamed poor safety measures, alleging a lack of warning signs and barricades near the construction site. They urged authorities to ensure proper safety arrangements to prevent such accidents. Authorities have been urged to improve road safety measures and install proper warning systems at construction sites to avoid similar incidents.

