

**Education experts, student organisations, parents and social activists stage protests against the Karnataka government's proposal to allow corporate firms and private institutions to adopt government schools, demanding stronger public education instead of privatisation.**

**The Centre bowed to mounting pressure over the NEET paper leak controversy, with Dharmendra Pradhan stepping down as Education Minister. Protesters ended their agitation at Jantar Mantar as Prahlad Joshi assumed additional charge, and Opposition parties celebrated what they termed a triumph of democratic protest.**





Panchatantra Stories

## THE LION, THE CAMEL, THE JACKAL AND THE CROW

A mighty lion named Madotkata ruled a vast jungle. Among his trusted companions were a clever jackal, a crow and a leopard. One day, while roaming through the forest, they spotted a camel grazing on fresh grass. The camel had lost its way after becoming separated from a caravan.

The crow suggested killing the camel for food, but the lion refused. "He is a guest in my kingdom," the lion declared. "A guest must be protected, not harmed."

He invited the frightened camel to stay in the jungle, promising him safety. Grateful for the lion's kindness, the camel accepted and lived peacefully with the other animals.

Some time later, the lion was badly injured while fighting a wild elephant. Unable to hunt, he and his followers began to suffer from hunger. The lion ordered his companions to search for prey, but despite searching the forest, they found nothing.

The cunning jackal then devised a wicked plan. He suggested that the camel should become their meal. The lion immediately rejected the idea, reminding the jackal that he had promised to protect the camel. However, the jackal cleverly argued that it would not be wrong if the camel willingly offered himself.

The jackal gathered the other animals and persuaded them to pretend to sacrifice themselves for the lion. One by one, the crow and the jackal dramatically offered their lives, knowing the lion would refuse. Watching this display of loyalty, the innocent camel believed the lion would reject his offer as well.

Wanting to prove his devotion, the camel stepped forward and said, "Master, please accept my life and satisfy your hunger."

The moment the camel spoke, the jackal encouraged the lion to accept the offer. The hungry lion attacked the camel, and the other animals joined in. Soon, they all feasted on the camel's flesh.

The camel realised his mistake too late. His trust in deceitful companions had cost him his life.

The jackal's clever trick succeeded because the camel failed to recognise false friendship. The story reminds us that wisdom lies in judging people by their actions, not by their sweet words.

**Moral:** Never place blind trust in wicked or cunning people. Sweet words may hide selfish intentions, and wise people remain cautious in the company of the dishonest.

# Karnataka on Drought Alert: CM

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday sounded an early warning over the emerging drought situation in the state, stating that most parts of Karnataka, except the Almatti reservoir command area, were showing signs of water stress. He said the government had already initiated precautionary measures to safeguard farmers and ensure adequate drinking water supply.

Addressing reporters after a Bengaluru Division-level review meeting in Hiriyur, Chitradurga district, the Chief Minister said the government was closely monitoring rainfall, reservoir levels and crop conditions to prevent hardship to farmers and the public. **Drought-Like Conditions in Several Districts**

Shivakumar said Chitradurga district was also experiencing drought-like conditions and that he had reviewed the situation with public representatives and district officials. He noted that key decisions on drought preparedness had already been taken during a



recent meeting held in Belagavi.

Later, the Chief Minister visited agricultural fields around Hiriyur to assess the ground situation and assured farmers that the government would respond promptly if conditions deteriorated.

**Plan to Improve Rural Government Schools**  
Responding to questions on the

**Karnataka has gone on drought alert as the State Government begins precautionary measures to tackle emerging water stress. Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the focus is on protecting farmers, ensuring drinking water supply, improving rural schools and addressing key public issues through timely action.**

government's proposal to involve private institutions in strengthening government schools, Shivakumar clarified that the initiative was not meant for all private schools.

The Chief Minister also invited stakeholders with concerns over the proposal to discuss the matter directly with him.

**Criticises BJP Over KPSC Issue**

Launching a political attack on the BJP, Shivakumar accused the Opposition of protesting out of frustration. Referring to the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), he pointed out that the Commission's chairman had been appointed during the previous BJP government.

He said the state government had written to the Governor expressing its willingness to

cooperate with any investigation and assured that appropriate action would be taken if required.

**Remarks on NEET and Bidadi Protests**

On the ongoing NEET controversy, the Chief Minister reiterated the Congress party's demand for withdrawal of cases registered against protesting students and sought the resignation of the Union Education Minister, alleging that public anger over the examination issue was increasing across the country.

Commenting on the protests over the Bidadi land issue, Shivakumar said peaceful demonstrations were an essential part of democracy and assured that the government would neither suppress protesters nor take action against farmers.

## Karnataka Braces for 7-Day Rain Fury

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka is set to witness intensified monsoon activity with rainfall expected to continue until the end of the month, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The weather department has forecast light to moderate rains accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds across several parts of the state for the next seven days.

Heavy rainfall is likely in coastal and Malnad districts, while several interior districts may receive intense showers from July 28 onwards. Residents in vulnerable areas have been advised to remain cautious.

The coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada, along with Malnad regions including



Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu, are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall. Gusty winds with speeds of 30-40 kmph are also expected in these areas.

In North Karnataka, districts including Belagavi, Bagalkot, Bidar, Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri, Kalaburagi, Koppal, Raichur, Vijayapura and Yadgir are likely

to experience moderate rains with thunderstorms.

The IMD has warned of strong winds reaching 40-50 kmph in Belagavi district along with heavy rainfall, while other parts of the region are expected to receive moderate showers.

Coastal residents have been urged to take necessary precautions due to the possibility of rough weather conditions.

## Price Shock Hits Daily Essentials

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The continuous rise in prices of essential commodities has added to the financial burden on the common man in Karnataka.

After the recent hike in the prices of Nandini ghee and butter from July 23, several daily-use food items, including pulses, spices and dry fruits, have also become costlier.

The prices of kitchen essentials such as rice, pulses and spices have been steadily increasing, affecting household budgets.

Among spices, cardamom prices have witnessed a major jump, reaching ₹4,000 per kg from the earlier ₹2,800 per kg. Prices of coriander, cumin and mustard have also increased.

Dry fruits, especially almonds, have become more expensive, leaving traders worried about declining sales.



Along with this, the prices of urad dal, toor dal, jaggery, sugar, groundnuts, chickpeas, tamarind and various varieties of chillies have also gone up.

Traders attributed the price rise to reduced rainfall and lower crop yields. Sugar prices have increased from ₹45 to ₹51 per kg, while urad dal has risen from ₹120 to ₹145 per kg and toor dal from ₹118 to ₹130 per kg. Tamarind prices have increased from ₹210 to ₹235 per kg, jaggery from ₹56 to ₹65 per kg, chickpeas from ₹70 to ₹82 per kg, cumin from ₹260 to ₹300 per kg and mustard from ₹95 to ₹120 per kg.

Consumers have expressed concern over the rising cost of essential commodities, saying the continuous price hike is putting additional pressure on monthly household expenses.

## 30 Women Hurt in Mandya Bus Crash

► Vikrama Vahini | Mandya

More than 30 women travelling to work at a garment factory were injured in a major road accident involving two private buses and a tempo near Basavanapura Gate in Malavalli taluk of Mandya district.

The accident occurred when a bus driver lost control while trying to avoid hitting a bike that suddenly came in its way.

Among the injured, 17 women sustained serious injuries and were admitted to Mandya MIMS Hospital for emergency treatment. Doctors said the remaining victims suffered minor injuries and there was no threat to their lives.

After receiving information about the accident, local MLA P.M. Narendra Swamy visited the hospital and enquired about the condition of the injured. He directed doctors and officials to ensure the victims receive proper and timely treatment.

## PRAJWAL VIDEO CASE WIDENS, 8 MORE SUMMONED

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Eight more accused in connection with the alleged circulation of obscene photos and videos linked to former MP Prajwal Revanna are facing legal action after an additional chargesheet was filed in the case. The 42nd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACJM) Court in Bengaluru has ordered the issuance of summonses to the accused.

The accused who have been summoned include Naveen Gowda, H.P. Likith, M.J. Nishanth, S.K. Kiran, M.G. Sharath, D.N. Tejas, C. Gagan Kumar and H. Revanth.

The case relates to allegations that obscene photos and videos allegedly connected to Prajwal Revanna were prepared and

circulated through CDs, pen drives, WhatsApp and mobile devices during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

A complaint was filed at the Hassan CEN police station on April 23, 2024, by M.G.



Poornachandra Tejaswi, who was a BJP-JDS alliance election agent.

Based on the complaint, police registered an FIR under relevant sections of the IPC and Information Technology Act, including provisions related to publishing false statements affecting election outcomes and transmitting obscene content in electronic form.

Prajwal Revanna, who was convicted in a rape case and sentenced to life imprisonment, is currently lodged at Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Prison.

## NEWS

### "PRADHAN QUIT TO THWART CONGRESS POLITICS"

**B.Y. Vijayendra said Dharmendra Pradhan resigned to protect students' interests and accused Congress of politicising the NEET protest. He highlighted Centre's steps to prevent paper leaks and demanded action over alleged anti-national slogans during the Bengaluru protest.**

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

"Dharmendra Pradhan resigned from the Union Cabinet on his own to prevent the unscrupulous Congress from further misusing the students' protest for its political ends", State BJP President B. Y. Vijayendra said here on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters, Vijayendra said the unscrupulous Congress was playing a wretched game of misusing the students' protest to further its political ends unmindful of the explosive situation prevailing in the national capital.

"In order to prevent the Congress from further politicizing and misusing the issue, Pradhan resigned in the overall interest of the student community," Vijayendra added.

Vijayendra said that there had been reports of the students' agitation going off-tangent due to "infiltration" by the anti-social elements because of which the students' protest turned violent resulting in serious injuries to scores of policemen.

"Amidst this came leader of the unscrupulous Congress party Rahul Gandhi - out from the blue - to take advantage of the situation and created a headline-grabbing & attention-drawing drama outside the Prime Minister's residence just to make hay while the sun shines. This was the height of unprincipled politics. Congress was playing a political game unmindful of students' interest in order to create anarchy.

According to Vijayendra, the Centre has taken "concrete and meaningful" steps to further prevent question paper leak of all competitive examinations and has brought in stringent laws to act as a deterrent against those potential mischief mongers.

"PM has announced setting up of Fast Track Courts. The penalty for those involved in the



question paper leak is Rs 10 crores and the jail term of 10 years. Top officials of the National Testing Agency have been removed. Just compare this with the previous question papers leak during the UPA regime. The Congress was just blind, dumb and insensitive to this menace," Vijayendra said.

Responding to the questions pertaining to the anti-national slogans shouted and anti-national placards that were exhibited during the protest in Bengaluru, Vijayendra said, "We have a most useless and incompetent Home Minister in Karnataka. Why should the Police wait for someone to lodge a complaint. Can the Home Minister not order the police to suo moto take cognizance of the offence and book a FIR?"

Vijayendra further said the BJP supports genuine concerns raised by students regarding examination transparency and fairness but opposed attempts to turn student movements into political platforms. He reiterated that the government is committed to protecting the interests of students and ensuring a reliable examination system.

He said the Centre's measures, including stricter laws and enhanced monitoring mechanisms, would help prevent future irregularities in competitive examinations. According to him, accountability has been fixed at various levels and further steps will be taken to safeguard the future of aspirants.

The State BJP president also criticised the Karnataka government over the handling of alleged anti-national slogans during the Bengaluru protest. He demanded strict action against those involved and questioned the delay in initiating legal proceedings, stating that such incidents should not be ignored.

## HEALTH & Lifestyle

### 5 Foods to Cut Back on After 50

As people cross the age of 50, the body undergoes several natural changes, including slower metabolism, reduced muscle strength, declining bone density, hormonal changes and a weaker immune system. Health experts say that adopting a balanced diet and limiting unhealthy foods can significantly reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and kidney-related ailments.

**Limit Refined Carbohydrates**

Foods made with refined flour such as white bread, cakes, biscuits, pastries and pasta contain very little fibre. Regular consumption can lead to rapid spikes in blood sugar, weight gain and an increased risk of Type-2 diabetes. Experts recommend replacing them with whole grains such as oats, ragi, jowar and brown rice.

**Avoid Processed Meats**

Processed meats like sausages, bacon, salami and canned meat are high in salt and preservatives. Frequent consumption may increase blood pressure, cholesterol levels and the risk of heart and kidney diseases. Fresh fish, lean poultry and plant-based proteins are healthier alternatives.

Packaged fruit juices, diet sodas and beverages containing artificial sweeteners may negatively affect gut health and increase insulin resistance. Instead, experts advise choosing fresh fruits, lemon water, buttermilk without added sugar and coconut water.

**Cut Down on Salty and Fried Foods**

Deep-fried snacks such as chips, pakoras, French fries and foods with excessive salt should be eaten sparingly. These foods can contribute to high



blood pressure, water retention, heart problems and kidney damage.

**Essential Foods to Include**

Health experts recommend including the following in the daily diet after the age of 50:

- \* Green leafy vegetables
- \* Pulses and legumes
- \* Fresh fruits
- \* Nuts and seeds
- \* Oats and whole grains
- \* Omega-3-rich fish
- \* Low-fat dairy products
- \* Healthy Habits After 50

Doctors advise maintaining an active lifestyle by walking for at least 30 minutes daily, performing light exercise two to three times a week, sleeping for seven to eight hours, drinking sufficient water and avoiding smoking and alcohol. Regular health check-ups are equally important.

People above 50 should undergo periodic screening for blood pressure, blood sugar, HbA1c, lipid profile, kidney and liver function, Vitamin D and B12 levels, and bone density whenever recommended by a doctor.

## SCIENCE & Technology

### Apophis Set for Rare Earth Flyby in 2029



► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Asteroid Apophis will make an exceptionally close flyby of Earth on April 13, 2029, providing scientists with a rare opportunity to study a near-Earth asteroid at close range. Measuring about 340 metres in diameter, the asteroid will safely pass approximately 32,000 kilometres from Earth, with astronomers confirming that it poses no collision threat.

Scientists estimate that an asteroid of this size comes this close to Earth only once every 7,000 years, making the event one of the most significant astronomical occurrences in modern times.

To take advantage of the historic flyby, the European Space Agency (ESA), in collaboration with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), is preparing the RAMSES mission.

The spacecraft will be launched about a year before the flyby and will rendezvous with Apophis before it reaches Earth. During the mission, RAMSES will deploy two CubeSats to conduct detailed scientific observations of the asteroid.

One of the CubeSats will carry a German-built magnetometer developed by Technische Universität Braunschweig, while another is expected to impact the asteroid's surface to gather valuable scientific data.



# Kakolu to Host 50-Day Chaturmasya Mahotsava

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

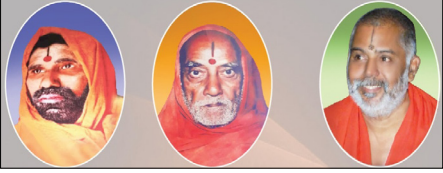
The 6th Chaturmasya Mahotsava of His Holiness Jagadguru Sri Sri 1008 Sri Vidyavallabha Madhavatirtha Sripadaru, the present Pontiff of the Moola Mahasamsthana established by Jagadguru Srimad Madhwacharya and the Matha of Chaturveda Bhashyacharya Srimad Madhavatirtha (Tambihalli, Kolar District), will be held from August 8 to September 26, 2026, at Sri Venugopala Swamy Temple, Kakolu, near Rajanukunte on the Yelahanka-Doddaballapur Road, Bengaluru.

The sacred 50-day Chaturmasya observance will be conducted in the divine presence of Sri Venugopala Swamy, consecrated by Sripadaraja, and Kambada Anjaneya Swamy, consecrated by Sri Vyasaraja.

The celebrations will feature special daily worship to Sri Veeraramadeva, Vedic chanting, religious discourses, bhajans, and a variety of spiritual, religious, and cultural programmes throughout the Chaturmasya period.

**Grand Pura Pravesha on August 7**

The Mahotsava will commence with the



Pura Pravesha (ceremonial entry) of His Holiness on August 7 at 5.30 p.m.

A grand procession with traditional music, bhajan groups, and devotees will escort His Holiness from the entrance of Kakolu village to the temple premises.

**Chaturmasya Vrata Sankalpa on August 8**

On August 8 at 9.00 a.m., His Holiness will perform the 6th Chaturmasya Vrata Sankalpa, followed by Vedavyasa Puja and other special Vedic rituals.

**Special Homas for the 85th Birth Anniversary**

As part of the 85th Birth Anniversary celebrations of His Holiness, Dhanvantari Homa and Mrityunjaya Homa will be performed on August 16 for the well-being of devotees and universal welfare.

**Krishna Janmashtami Celebrations**

On September 4, Sri Krishna Janmashtami will be observed with a special Butter Alankara (Butter Decoration) for the presiding deity, Kalpokta Puja, and Arghya Pradana at



**Sri Sri 108 Vidyavallabha Madhavatirtha Sripadaru, Pontiff of Sriman Madhavatirtha Matha, administers the sacred Tapta Mudradharana Vaishnava initiation to thousands of devotees on the occasion of Ashadha Shuddha Ekadashi at the Matha branches in Tambihalli, Kolar, Hoskote, ITI Colony, Yelahanka, Vidyananyapura, RT Nagar, Kumaraswamy Layout and Bagalur.**



moonrise.

**Mahotsava Concludes on September 26**

A Samuhika Anantha Padmanabha Vrata will be held on September 25. The Chaturmasya Mahotsava will conclude on September 26, coinciding with Bhadrpada

Purnima, with the completion of the Chaturmasya Vrata, Seemollanghana ceremony, and other concluding religious rituals. Devotees are invited to take part in the sacred celebrations.

The Chaturmasya Reception Committee

has invited devotees to participate in various sevas such as Padapuja, Bhiksha Seva, Thottilu (Cradle) Puja, and other offerings during the Chaturmasya period. Devotees are requested to register in advance.

## SCHOOL ADOPTION PLAN SPARKS OPPOSITION

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Karnataka government's proposal to allow corporate companies and private educational institutions to adopt government schools has drawn strong opposition from education experts, student organisations, parents and social activists, who fear it could weaken the state's public education system.

The controversy follows Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's suggestion that reputed private schools and corporate firms should partner with the government to improve rural government schools.

While the government says the initiative aims to enhance infrastructure and educational standards, critics argue that it could pave the way for the privatization of public education.

**Educationists Raise Concerns**

At a meeting convened to discuss the proposal, education experts and social thinkers expressed concern that government schools, funded by taxpayers, should remain under the direct responsibility of the state.

They argued that instead of involving private organisations, the government should increase investment in public education and improve facilities through higher

budget allocations.

**Student Organisations Object**

The All India Democratic Students Organisation (AIDSO) criticised the proposal, alleging that it could gradually transfer government schools into the hands of profit-oriented private institutions. The organisation urged the government to strengthen existing schools rather than depend on private participation.

**Parents Seek Better Public Investment**

Parents also questioned the need for private intervention, pointing out that government schools already have qualified teachers.

They said the government should focus on improving infrastructure, learning resources and overall education quality instead of handing over schools to private adopters.

**Demand to Withdraw Proposal**

Educationists, parents and student organisations have urged the state government to withdraw the proposal immediately.

They warned that if the plan proceeds, statewide protests involving students, parents and public education supporters would be launched.



## 100 Garbage Spots Turned Clean

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Bengaluru North Municipal Corporation has completed a major cleanliness drive under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, transforming 100 identified black spots across the city into clean and usable spaces. Residents celebrated the initiative by organising kabaddi games at some of the cleaned locations.

The Bengaluru North Municipal Corporation began identifying and clearing black spots from June 15. So far, more than 100 garbage dumping areas have been cleaned, with several waste-filled locations being converted into playgrounds and community spaces for children.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Krishna Byre Gowda urged citizens to ensure that the cleaned areas do not turn into garbage dumping spots again.

He stressed that community participation is essential to maintaining a cleaner Bengaluru and making cleanliness drives successful in the long term.



## Akanksha Puri Alleges Paid Push for CJP Protest

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Actor Akanksha Puri has claimed that she was offered money, flight tickets and hotel accommodation to publicly support the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)-led student protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. She alleged that she was also asked to create and post social media reels promoting the agitation but declined the proposal, saying the students' movement should not be turned into a marketing campaign.

Akanksha said she refused the offer despite being promised financial incentives and travel arrangements, adding that several other social media creators had allegedly received similar proposals.

"I was offered money to support the CJP and the Jantar Mantar protest. They even offered me flight tickets and asked me to post reels. Many other creators received similar offers too. I refused because students should be supported genuinely. It is not a marketing opportunity," she said.

She appealed to political parties and public figures to focus on the concerns of students rather than using the protests for publicity.

Akanksha urged political leaders to stand

with students without turning the movement into a promotional exercise.

She said students only wanted their voices to be heard and deserved sincere support instead of campaigns aimed at gaining publicity or political mileage.

The actor also expressed concern over the alleged violence witnessed during the protests, saying it was distressing to see students injured while exercising their democratic right to protest.

She said watching young people cry, face lathi charges and suffer injuries was deeply painful. According to her, it was even more disappointing to see people creating social media content around the incident instead of focusing on the core issue affecting students.

Emphasising that students represent the future of the country, Akanksha said they have every right to raise their concerns and called on the public and political leaders to listen to them and offer meaningful support.

Her remarks come amid continuing protests over the alleged NEET paper leak, with demands for examination reforms and greater accountability remaining at the centre of the nationwide agitation.



## ENTERTAINMENT

## 'Jana Nayagan' Tops ₹63 Crore Despite Box Office Dip

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Thalapathy Vijay's Jana Nayagan has crossed the ₹63 crore mark at the Indian box office within two days of its release, despite witnessing a sharp decline in collections on its second day. The political action thriller, which hit theatres on July 23, recorded a nearly 50 per cent drop in earnings after an impressive opening.

According to trade estimates, the film collected around ₹21.15 crore (net) across India on its second day, compared to its opening-day collection of ₹42.70 crore (net).

**Strong Two-Day Performance**

With the latest figures, Jana Nayagan has amassed an estimated ₹63.85 crore (net) in India, while its India gross collection has touched approximately ₹75 crore. The film's worldwide opening-day gross stood at ₹78.27 crore, reflecting a strong initial response from audiences.

Despite mixed reviews, the film continues to

perform well, particularly in Tamil Nadu, where it remains the biggest contributor to its overall earnings.

**Tamil Version Leads Collections**

The Tamil version dominated the second day's business, contributing nearly ₹17.95 crore to the total collections.

The Hindi version earned around ₹1.85 crore, while the Telugu version added approximately ₹1.35 crore, indicating a comparatively stronger performance in its original language.

**Star-Studded Political Thriller**

Directed by H. Vinoth, Jana Nayagan features music composed by Anirudh Ravichander and boasts an ensemble cast including Vijay, Pooja Hegde, Mamitha Baiju, Priyamani, Gautham Vasudev Menon, and Prakash Raj in prominent roles.

Produced by KVN Productions, the film is widely reported to be a partial adaptation of the 2023 Telugu hit Bhagavanth Kesari directed by Anil Ravipudi.

**Vijay's Final Film Before Politics**

Jana Nayagan holds special significance as it is expected to be Vijay's final feature before his full-fledged entry into active politics. The actor's transition from cinema to public life has generated considerable interest, adding to the film's strong opening at the box office. Although collections dipped sharply on the second day, industry observers will closely watch the film's weekend performance to determine whether positive word-of-mouth can sustain its momentum in the coming days.



## BUSINESS

## India Faces Lower US Tariff Than China, Vietnam

► Vikrama Vahini | Washington

The United States has announced a new round of import tariffs on 60 countries, including India, under Section 301 of the US Trade Act, 1974, targeting goods allegedly produced using forced labour.

Under the new policy, India has been placed in the lower tariff bracket of 10%, alongside countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, the United Kingdom, Canada, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, China and Vietnam will face a higher 12.5% additional tariff, reducing their competitive advantage in the US market.

The Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) said the 10% tariff applies to countries that have banned, partially banned, or committed to restricting imports of goods produced through forced labour. The higher 12.5% tariff has been imposed on 43 countries that remain under closer scrutiny.

For India, the move does not increase the effective tariff burden, as Indian exports had already been subject to a temporary 10% additional duty. The new tariff replaces the temporary measure that expired on July 24 and is expected to remain in force for the foreseeable future.

The revised tariff regime also affects several major economies, including the European Union, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Switzerland, which will face additional duties ranging from 10% to 12.5%, depending on their classification.

The Trump administration said the new tariff structure is aimed at discouraging imports linked to forced labour while maintaining government revenue through long-term trade measures.

Trade analysts believe India's lower tariff rate could help maintain its competitiveness in the US market, particularly in sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals and engineering goods.

However, exporters are expected to closely monitor future policy changes and any further revisions to the tariff framework. The new measures are likely to influence global supply chains and international trade dynamics in the coming months.

## Weekend OTT Watchlist

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Movie lovers have plenty to look forward to this week as leading OTT platforms have added a wide range of films and web series across genres, including comedy, thriller, drama and horror. Several successful theatrical releases have also made their digital debut, giving audiences an opportunity to watch them from the comfort of their homes.

**Comedy Series on School Life**

The Hindi web series Adarsh Bal Vidyamandir has premiered on Amazon Prime Video. Set in a government school, the series follows a determined principal trying to improve the academic performance of a group of mischievous students. Packed with humour and heartwarming moments, the show highlights the challenges of the public education system.

**Tamil Thriller on Netflix**

Tamil comedy-thriller Con City, starring Arjun Das, Anna Ben and Yogi Babu, is now streaming on Netflix. The film blends suspense with comedy, offering an entertaining watch for thriller fans.

**'Musalif Cafe' Arrives on OTT**





SPORTS

Iyer Clinches Maiden T20 Series as India Captain



Vikrama Vahini | Harare

India sealed the three-match T20 International series against Zimbabwe with a commanding 90-run victory in the second match at Harare on Saturday. The win gave India an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series and marked Shreyas Iyer's first T20 series triumph as full-time captain.

After being put in to bat, India posted an imposing 219/5 in 20 overs, thanks to brilliant knocks from Ishan Kishan (81) and Tilak Varma (60 not out). In reply, Zimbabwe were bowled out for 129 in the 18th over.

India suffered an early setback when opener Abhishek Sharma was dismissed for just 8. Vaibhav Suryavanshi played a quick cameo of 20 before departing, leaving India in need of a solid partnership.

Ishan Kishan and captain Shreyas Iyer steadied the innings with a 66-run stand for the third wicket. Iyer contributed 25 before being dismissed, after which Tilak Varma joined Kishan to dominate the Zimbabwe bowlers.

Chasing 220 for victory, Zimbabwe got off to a brisk start through Brian Bennett, who scored 32. However, once Bennett was dismissed, the hosts lost wickets at regular intervals.

Jhandu Kumar Opens India's Medal Tally with Bronze



Vikrama Vahini | Glasgow

India opened its medal account at the 2026 Commonwealth Games with Jhandu Kumar winning the bronze medal in the men's heavyweight para powerlifting event.

Jhandu began strongly by lifting 181 kg in his first attempt and followed it up with a successful 190 kg lift. He attempted 196 kg in his final lift to set a Commonwealth Games record, but the effort was ruled a 'No Lift' after the barbell became stuck on the rack.

He finished with 130.9 points to secure the bronze medal. Rilwan Idris of Nigeria won the gold with 132.8 points, while Matthew Harding of England claimed silver with 131.0 points.

Para powerlifting is a sport for athletes with lower-limb physical impairments and features only the bench press, unlike conventional powerlifting, which includes three lifts. Athletes compete in weight categories, and winners are determined using a points system based on the weight lifted and body weight. Jhandu Kumar's achievement gave India its first medal of the Games and marked a memorable start to the country's campaign in Glasgow.

CJP ENDS 36-DAY NEET PROTEST AFTER CENTRE'S ASSURANCES

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Sunday called off its 36-day agitation over the alleged NEET paper leak after the Centre accepted its key demands following three rounds of talks.

The announcement was made by CJP spokesperson Saurav Das at a joint press conference with Union ministers J.P. Nadda and Jitendra Singh, marking the end of the prolonged protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar.

Protest Withdrawn in Good Faith

Announcing the decision, Das said the organisation was ending the agitation with the understanding that the government would implement the agreed decisions within the stipulated timeframe.

He appealed to all protesters to withdraw peacefully and return home, stating that the organisation would announce its future course of action, if necessary, at a later stage.

Centre Accepts Key Demands

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said the Centre had accepted the major demands placed by the CJP delegation.

He said the government assured that no police action would be taken against the protesters and that copies of the FIRs would be



provided wherever required.

The Centre also expressed sympathy for families of students who allegedly died by suicide following the examination controversy and assured that compensation would be provided in accordance with existing government rules and regulations.

Exam Reforms to Be Reviewed

Nadda said the government would examine the CJP's five-point charter seeking reforms in the country's education and examination system. The proposed reforms are aimed at strengthening transparency, preventing paper leaks and restoring public confidence in national-level competitive examinations.

Pradhan's Resignation Preceded Agreement

The breakthrough came a day after Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned amid nationwide protests over the alleged NEET paper leak. Pradhan had earlier stated that the investigation into the alleged irregularities had been handed over to the CBI and that the government had cancelled the examination before conducting a fresh test.

Following the Centre's assurance on compensation, police action and consideration of examination reforms, the CJP formally ended its month-long agitation, bringing one of the country's largest student-led protests in recent years to a close.

TTD Assures Devotees on Temple Water Safety



Vikrama Vahini | Tirumala

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Saturday clarified that the temporary white appearance of water flowing from taps at the Sri Japali Anjaneya Swamy Temple in Tirumala is a natural phenomenon caused by microscopic air bubbles and not due to contamination.

The clarification came after videos circulating on social media raised concerns about the quality of water supplied at the temple.

According to TTD officials, water released under high pressure contains tiny air bubbles, making it appear cloudy for a few seconds before turning clear naturally. Video evidence and laboratory tests confirmed that the water is clean and safe for use. Water samples tested at the TTD Food and Water Analysis Laboratory showed no foul odour, sediment or impurities.

The temple administration appealed to devotees not to believe or share unverified social media posts and assured that there is no issue with the water supply.

TTD reiterated that the water supplied at all temple premises undergoes regular quality checks to ensure the safety and well-being of devotees. Officials urged the public to rely only on official updates and avoid spreading misinformation on social media.

Wildfire emergency declare in Spain

Vikrama Vahini | Paris/Madrid

Tens of thousands of people were forced to flee their homes and holiday destinations as massive wildfires swept across southwest France and central Spain, fuelled by extreme heat and strong winds. France ordered the evacuation of around 63,000 people, while Spain declared its first-ever national emergency over a wildfire.

France Evacuates Coastal Tourist Region

French authorities ordered the complete evacuation of the popular Cap Ferret peninsula after a fast-moving wildfire threatened homes, campsites and escape routes. Around 63,000 residents and tourists were evacuated by road and boat as the blaze spread rapidly.

The fire, the largest in France this year, has scorched more than 12,500 hectares of forest, destroying over 50 homes and a campsite. Firefighters continued battling the flames as strong winds hampered containment efforts.

Spain Battles Multiple Blazes

In Spain, several wildfires merged west of Madrid, prompting authorities to declare a national emergency for the first time. More than 19,000 people were evacuated from mountain communities as over 2,000 emergency personnel and firefighting aircraft were deployed.

Officials described the situation as one of the worst wildfire crises in the country's recent history. At least 43 homes were destroyed, while



Massive wildfires driven by extreme heat and strong winds have forced over 80,000 people to evacuate across France and Spain, triggering Spain's first national wildfire emergency and prompting EU-backed firefighting efforts.

police launched an investigation into the suspected cause of one of the fires.

European Support and Climate Concerns

France and Spain requested assistance from the European Union, with Greece and Croatia sending firefighting aircraft and crews to support operations. Scientists say rising temperatures and prolonged drought linked to climate change are increasing the frequency and intensity of wildfires across Europe. The ongoing heatwave has also affected agriculture and energy production, with parts of France facing crop damage and reduced nuclear power generation due to extreme temperatures.

DMK Opposes Cauvery Talks with Karnataka

Vikrama Vahini | Chennai

The DMK on Saturday urged Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay to cancel the proposed August 3 talks with Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on the Cauvery water dispute, calling the negotiations a "conspiracy" that could weaken Tamil Nadu's legal rights.

DMK president M.K. Stalin said Tamil Nadu had secured its rights through years of legal battles and warned that bilateral talks

could undermine the state's position, especially when Karnataka has not been releasing Cauvery water as

per the scheduled allocation. Stalin demanded that the state government convene an all-party meeting, including farmers' organisations, to decide the future course of action. The PMK and AIADMK also supported the demand, urging the government to protect Tamil Nadu's interests amid worsening drought-like conditions in the Cauvery delta.



Puttaparthi Gears Up for Sai Run Finale

The nationwide Sri Sathya Sai Run & Ride campaign concludes in Puttaparthi on Sunday, uniting thousands of participants in a celebration of fitness, harmony, service and national unity as part of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Birth Centenary celebrations.

Vikrama Vahini | Puttaparthi

Puttaparthi will host the grand finale of the nationwide "Sri Sathya Sai Run & Ride - A Spirit of Unity" on Sunday as part of the Birth Centenary Celebrations of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The event will take place at the Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium, bringing together thousands of participants from across the country.

The nationwide campaign, which has already covered 46 major cities, aims to promote unity, physical fitness, harmony, discipline, and selfless service. The initiative has witnessed enthusiastic participation from youth, students, women, professionals, senior citizens, and devotees.

The event will begin at 5.30 a.m. with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, Vedic chanting, followed by yoga and a drill session. Nimish Pandya, All India President of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, and R.J. Ratnakar, Managing Trustee of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, will address the gathering before the ceremonial lighting of the Unity Run Torch, symbolising peace and oneness.

The 5K Cycle Ride for men will begin at 6.00 a.m., followed by the women's cycle ride at 6.05 a.m., the men's 5K run at 6.10 a.m., and the women's run at 6.15 a.m. The programme is scheduled to conclude around 7.30 a.m.



Organisers said the event highlights the importance of physical fitness, inner well-being, brotherhood, and community service, while also supporting the objectives of the Fit India Movement.

Extensive arrangements have been made under the guidance of R.J. Ratnakar and Nimish Pandya. R. Lakshmana Rao, State President of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, Andhra Pradesh, along with senior office-bearers and Sevalal volunteers, is supervising the event.

A comprehensive medical support system has also been put in place. An ambulance equipped with essential medicines, glucose and electrolyte packets, along with a team of doctors, nurses and a pharmacist, will remain on duty throughout the programme to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants.

VIKRAMA VAHINI | INFO GRAPHICS

# NO-SUGAR, HIGH-PROTEIN COOKIES

READY IN 15 MINUTES!

Healthy, tasty and protein-packed cookies made with simple ingredients. A guilt-free snack for every day!

NO ADDED SUGAR

HIGH IN PROTEIN

MADE WITH WHOLESOME INGREDIENTS

FILLING & SATISFYING

SERVES 10-12 COOKIES

PREP TIME 10 MINUTES

BAKE TIME 12-15 MINUTES

### INGREDIENTS

- 1½ cups rolled oats
- ½ cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1 scoop (30g) protein powder
- 1 ripe banana, mashed
- 2 eggs
- 2 tbsp peanut butter
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- Pinch of salt
- 2 tbsp chopped nuts (optional)

### HOW TO MAKE

- 1 Preheat oven to 180°C.
- 2 Mix dry ingredients in one bowl.
- 3 Mix wet ingredients in another bowl.
- 4 Combine both and mix well.
- 5 Add nuts if using.
- 6 Scoop and flatten on a lined baking tray.
- 7 Bake for 12-15 minutes until edges turn golden.
- 8 Cool for 10 minutes before serving.

### TIPS FOR PERFECT COOKIES

- ✓ Don't overmix the batter.
- ✓ Avoid too much protein powder – it can make cookies dry.
- ✓ Greek yogurt or banana keeps them moist.
- ✓ Rolled oats give a chewy texture.
- ✓ Store in an airtight container for up to 4 days or freeze for longer.

### NUTRITION (PER COOKIE)

|                              |                      |                       |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <p>CALORIES 110-140 kcal</p> | <p>PROTEIN 8-10g</p> | <p>CARBS 10-14g</p>   |
| <p>FAT 4-6g</p>              | <p>FIBRE 2-3g</p>    | <p>ADDED SUGAR 0g</p> |

HEALTHY COOKIES, HAPPY YOU! TASTY. NUTRITIOUS. FUEL YOUR DAY.