

Good morning

The world settles for mornings that are bearable, at best. We can choose mornings that we love, mornings that are truly beautiful, by choosing gratitude.

BRIEFS

Rahul Seeks Probe, Shah's Removal

► **Vikrama Vahini | Delhi**

Congress leader and Lok Sabha Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi remove Union Home Minister Amit Shah over alleged police action against student protesters. He also sought a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the incident.

Gandhi alleged that students were subjected to "brutalities" during the July 20 protest march and claimed that police used excessive force, including pellet guns and lathis. He said Shah should either take responsibility for the action or be held accountable for failing to prevent it.

The Congress leader also accused the government of preventing him from speaking in the Lok Sabha and said he would continue raising issues concerning students and public interest.

Drone Hits US LNG Tanker in Egypt Port

► **Vikrama Vahini | Cairo**

A US-owned Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) tanker was hit in a drone attack at Egypt's Damietta port on Wednesday, triggering concerns of rising tensions in the Middle East.

The attack occurred while the vessel was unloading cargo at the port, causing an explosion. Port authorities responded quickly following the incident, according to port services company Incheape.

The affected vessels were moved to a safer area, while operations at other berths and terminals are expected to resume during the night. Further details about the attack and those responsible are awaited.

Japan Quake Kills 13, Buildings Collapse

► **Vikrama Vahini | Tokyo**

A powerful 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck Japan's southern Kyushu island, killing 13 people and causing widespread damage in Kumamoto Prefecture, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said.

The quake triggered fires, collapsed buildings, damaged bridges and derailed freight trains.

Authorities issued a tsunami warning, advising coastal residents to move to safer areas as waves of up to one metre were expected.

Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority reported no immediate abnormalities at nuclear plants, while emergency alerts were issued across several prefectures. This was the second major earthquake to hit Japan within a week.

Bills Pass, FCRA Next

Govt Clears Key Bills Amid Opposition Protests, FCRA Legislation Next on Agenda

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

The Union government moved forward with its legislative agenda during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, passing the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha and the Vande Mataram Bill in the Rajya Sabha amid strong protests from the Opposition.

The developments came after the first week of the session was largely disrupted by repeated disruptions over the alleged police action against student protesters and demands for accountability from the government.

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday cleared the Anti-Paper Leak Amendment Bill, which seeks to strengthen measures against examination irregularities and introduce stricter provisions to prevent unfair practices in public examinations.

Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh, who introduced the bill, said the government was open to improving the examination system based on past experiences and was committed to ensuring transparency and fairness for students.

The bill was passed despite sloganeering by Opposition members, who continued to raise issues related to the alleged police action during student protests and demanded action against those responsible.

Meanwhile, the Rajya Sabha passed the bill related to Vande Mataram after a detailed discussion lasting nearly an hour. Opposition members staged a walkout during the proceedings while raising objections over various issues.

The government maintained that the legislation was part of its broader legislative agenda and would continue to move forward despite disruptions.

With several important bills pending, the government is aiming to ensure that the Monsoon Session does not lose more working days due to protests. A senior minister said that all bills listed for the session, including the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) Amendment Bill, are expected to be taken up and passed.

The government believes that the ongoing controversy over the paper leak issue could be an attempt to delay the passage of the FCRA bill, which proposes tighter monitoring of foreign funding received by non-governmental organisations.

The FCRA legislation is expected to be one of the key challenges for the government in the coming days. The proposed changes aim to strengthen oversight of foreign contributions and provide stricter action in cases of misuse of funds.

Emergency Cauvery Authority Meet in Delhi

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

An emergency meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) will be held in New Delhi on Thursday following the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's (CWRC) recommendation to release 3,500 cusecs of water daily from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu for the next 15 days.

The meeting, scheduled for 2.30 pm, will be attended by officials from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The CWRC had earlier recommended that Karnataka release the stipulated quantity of water amid the ongoing interstate dispute.

The Karnataka government has opposed the recommendation, stating that the state is facing drought conditions and that releasing water from

Legislative Drive Gains Momentum

- **Anti-Paper Leak Amendment Bill passed:** Lok Sabha approved the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, aimed at strengthening action against exam irregularities.
- **Vande Mataram Bill cleared:** Rajya Sabha passed the Vande Mataram-related bill after discussions, despite an Opposition walkout.
- **Opposition protests continue:** Congress MPs raised objections over student protest issues and alleged police action, leading to disruptions in Parliament.
- **Government's next focus:** The Centre plans to push key pending legislations, including the FCRA Amendment Bill, during the Monsoon Session.
- **FCRA Bill challenge:** The government aims to tighten monitoring of foreign funding to NGOs and take action against misuse of funds.
- **Session disruption concern:** The government is determined to avoid losing more working days due to Opposition protests.

BJP REJECTS RAHUL'S LOK SABHA CLAIM

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday rejected Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's allegations that he was not allowed to speak in the Lok Sabha, with BJP MP Sambit Patra asserting that the Leader of Opposition was given sufficient opportunity to participate in the debate on the anti-paper leak bill.

Patra accused Rahul Gandhi of misleading the public by presenting a distorted version of events and defended Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju's intervention during the House proceedings.

Responding to Gandhi's allegation that he was repeatedly prevented from speaking, Patra said several MPs, including Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, were allowed to participate in the debate.

"When 45 members were given an opportunity to speak, there was no question of denying Rahul Gandhi the chance," Patra said, adding that Gandhi could not claim that he was silenced in the House.

Rahul Gandhi had earlier alleged that he was not allowed to raise issues during the discussion and accused the government of avoiding questions related to student protests and police



The government has indicated that organisations violating FCRA provisions could face stronger penalties, including possible action against their assets.

The Opposition has continued to target the government over the handling of student protests

Rijiju Slams Rahul Over Bill Debate



► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday criticised Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, alleging that he failed to address the key issues of the anti-paper leak bill during the Lok Sabha debate and instead attempted to mislead the House over the recent student protests.

Rijiju said Gandhi did not mention any details about the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill-2026 despite participating in the discussion. He accused the Congress leader of diverting the debate by making allegations against Home Minister Amit Shah over the police action during protests linked to the NEET paper leak issue.

During the debate, Rahul Gandhi alleged that Shah was responsible for the police excesses against student protesters, triggering protests and an uproar in the Lok Sabha. Responding to the remarks, Rijiju said such claims were baseless and intended to create confusion among members and the public.

The minister maintained that the government remains committed to preventing examination malpractices and ensuring a transparent system for students.

and alleged police excesses. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has demanded accountability from the Centre, while the BJP has accused him of politicising the issue.

Despite the political standoff, the government is preparing to push ahead with its legislative priorities, with several crucial bills expected to come up for discussion in the remaining days of the Monsoon Session.

Navy Launches 7th Anti-Submarine Craft

► **Vikrama Vahini | Kochi**

The Indian Navy's seventh Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), Machilipatnam (BY 529), was launched at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) in Kochi on Wednesday. The vessel is part of a series of eight ASW SWCs being built by CSL for the Navy.

The launch ceremony was attended by Vice Admiral Atul Anand, Additional Secretary, Department of Military Affairs, along with senior officials from the Indian Navy, CSL and other dignitaries. Mrs Goolrukh Anand launched the vessel.

Named after the historic port city of Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh's Krishna district, the ship reflects India's rich maritime heritage and the Navy's commitment to strengthening coastal security. **PG2**

KARNATAKA CABINET EXPANSION LIKELY VERY SOON

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

The prolonged discussions over the Karnataka Cabinet expansion continued in New Delhi on Wednesday, with sources indicating that the much-awaited exercise is likely to be completed within the next couple of days. Preparations have intensified at Lok Bhavan, with security arrangements being strengthened in anticipation of the swearing-in ceremony.

The Karnataka Legislature session is scheduled to begin on August 13, and the government is keen to complete the Cabinet expansion at least 10 days before the session so that the new ministers get time to understand their departments.

The exercise has witnessed several rounds of discussions, reviews and revisions, making it one of the most debated Cabinet reshuffles in recent times. The current round of consultations is said to be the seventh in the last one month. Two more rounds of discussions are reportedly pending, with the final decision expected either

Karnataka Cabinet expansion talks have entered the final stage in New Delhi, with the Congress leadership working to balance new faces, senior leaders and social representation. The expansion is expected before the Assembly session begins on August 13, with the swearing-in likely this week.



on Wednesday or Thursday.

State leaders are working on finalising the list of probable ministers based on criteria suggested by Congress leadership, including Rahul Gandhi. The inclusion of more than 15 new faces has emerged as a major challenge for the party.

While there is pressure to give opportunities to young and active legislators, leaders are also concerned that sidelining senior members could lead to dissatisfaction and possible rebellion.

The leadership is focusing on maintaining social justice while selecting new ministers. Active young leaders from communities such as Lingayat and backward classes are among those

being considered, while efforts are also being made to provide representation to communities that have remained underrepresented.

The delay in expansion has increased the number of aspirants. Around 65 to 70 MLAs and more than 10 Legislative Council members are currently in Delhi seeking ministerial berths.

Several first-time legislators have also been lobbying for positions based on their social background, community representation and family influence.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and senior leader B.K. Hariprasad have been meeting legislators in

Delhi. However, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Randeep Singh Surjewala and K.C. Venugopal have been engaged with Parliament proceedings, limiting discussions with state leaders.

The Karnataka delegation has so far made three visits to Delhi and held only one direct meeting with Rahul Gandhi, while other consultations were held with Venugopal and Surjewala.

Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to participate in the Lok Sabha debate on the anti-paper leak amendment bill, and discussions with state leaders may take place if there are no other political developments. Governor Thaaavarchand Gehlot, who had travelled to Madhya Pradesh for Guru Purnima celebrations, is expected to return on Thursday. If the Congress high command finalises the ministerial list by then, the Cabinet expansion is likely to be held on Friday, with the swearing-in ceremony possibly scheduled for Saturday.

Editorial

Respect the House

Parliament is often described as the temple of Indian democracy, and for good reason. It is where governments explain their decisions, where the Opposition questions those in power, and where the people's voice ultimately finds constitutional expression. Over the last seventy-five years, governments led by different political parties have largely followed one important convention: major announcements are first made inside the House before they are taken to the media or the public. The same principle applies to the Opposition. Whenever it has sought to expose the failures of the government or raise issues affecting the people, Parliament has remained its primary platform. These conventions are not written into law, yet they have helped preserve the dignity of India's democratic institutions.

Against this backdrop, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's decision to address the media after alleging that he was denied an opportunity to speak in Parliament deserves a broader institutional discussion. Every elected representative has every right to protest if parliamentary procedures are perceived to be unfair. At the same time, the response to such grievances must strengthen Parliament rather than diminish its relevance. If political parties begin treating press conferences as an alternative to parliamentary debate, an unhealthy precedent will take root. Politics is never permanent. Today's Opposition may become tomorrow's government, and today's ruling party may find itself on the Opposition benches. If every party chooses to bypass the House whenever it faces inconvenience, legislative institutions will gradually lose their central place in public life. That would be a loss not for one party, but for Indian democracy itself.

The responsibility, therefore, rests equally with both the Treasury and the Opposition benches. The government must ensure adequate opportunities for debate, while the Opposition must utilise the House to the fullest before carrying political battles outside. Parliamentary democracy survives not merely because of constitutional provisions but because of mutual respect for institutions and established conventions. Political disagreements are inevitable and even necessary in a vibrant democracy, but they should unfold within the framework of the legislature whenever possible. Individuals may rise and fall, governments may change, and political equations may shift with every election. What must remain constant is the dignity of Parliament. Preserving that dignity is not about protecting any political party; it is about protecting the credibility of India's democratic system for future generations.

-Editor

Praise for Coffee Land Journalists' Achievement

► Vikrama Vahini | Chikkamagaluru

The Chikkamagaluru District Unit of the Karnataka Working Journalists' Union (KUWJ) has received widespread appreciation for the successful organisation of the KUWJ State Endowment Awards Ceremony and a series of related programmes, which created a festive atmosphere throughout the day.



The event, held at Kuvempu Kalamandira on July 25, featured the installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of the Chikkamagaluru District Journalists' Association for the 2025-27 term, National Press Day celebrations, and the presentation of the KUWJ State-level Endowment Awards.

Eminent guests addressed the gathering, while outstanding media professionals were honoured for their contributions, making the event both meaningful and memorable.

The district unit was widely praised for its well-organised hospitality, including accommodation and food arrangements for participants. The meticulous planning and smooth execution drew appreciation from delegates across the state, with congratulatory messages pouring in on social media. The KUWJ State Committee also expressed gratitude to the district unit for its dedicated efforts.

Following lunch, a cultural programme showcased the talents of journalists and local artists. Performers trained by experienced instructors captivated the audience with impressive stage performances.

Dance institutions including Kalabharathi Dance School, Kanasu Dance School, Sathyam Dance Clan, Paramatma School of Dance, Rudram Dance and Shivam Dance presented a variety of performances, including the traditional Malla-Kambha folk art, patriotic dance presentations under the theme "Our Pride, Our Strength", and other colourful cultural displays.

The organisers credited the success of the programme to the dedicated efforts of District President Anil Anand, General Secretary Chetan Belenahalli, Treasurer Akshay Kumar and their team.



Vote of Thanks and Appreciation

The KUWJ Endowment Awards Ceremony held in Chikkamagaluru was organised in an exemplary manner and concluded successfully.

Heartfelt congratulations to Karnataka Working Journalists' Union (KUWJ) State President Shivananda Tagadur, Chikkamagaluru district in-charge H.B. Madan Gowda, District President Anil Anand, and the entire organising team for conducting such a grand event within a remarkably short period.

The only shortcoming was that the speeches of some public representatives exceeded the allotted time, leaving senior journalists Ravi Hegde and K.V. Prabhakar with limited opportunity to deliver their professional addresses.

Apart from that, the event was marked by enthusiasm, excellent coordination and flawless organisation, making it a

memorable occasion for all those who attended.

On behalf of all journalists from Kolar district, I also extend my sincere thanks to Chikkamagaluru's Chetan and his team, who were in charge of accommodation arrangements, for their warm hospitality and courteous support throughout the programme.

I remain deeply grateful to the Karnataka Working Journalists' Union for selecting me for the prestigious D.V. Gundappa Award, named after the great philosopher, litterateur and author of Mankuthimmana Kagg, often regarded as the Bhagavad Gita of Kannada literature.

► **B.V. Gopinath**
Bureau Chief Samyukta Karnataka (Kolar & Chikkaballapur Editions)
Former President Kolar District Working Journalists' Association



MEDIA MUST UPHOLD CREDIBILITY: RAVI HEGDE

Addressing the gathering at the Karnataka Working Journalists' Union (KUWJ) Endowment Awards ceremony, where 25 journalists from across the state were honoured, Kannada Prabha and Suvarna News Group Editor-in-Chief Ravi Hegde said the KUWJ had selected highly deserving and talented journalists for each of the endowment awards.

He observed that journalism today is at a crossroads, with digital media rapidly outpacing both print and electronic media. In such a changing

media landscape, he said, journalists and media organisations must adapt to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and leverage the technology effectively while maintaining professional standards.

Hegde also expressed concern that moderate viewpoints are increasingly being overshadowed by the growing ideological divide between the Left and the Right.

He urged the media to play a constructive role in bridging this divide and strengthening balanced, centrist perspectives, while continuing to uphold credibility and public trust.



KUWJ Vice-President and Chikkamagaluru in-charge H.B. Madan Gowda also played a key role in coordinating the event.

KUWJ State President Shivananda

Tagadur's leadership was instrumental in ensuring the smooth conduct of the state-level programme organised in association with the Chikkamagaluru district unit. He remained present until the concluding

Media Must Be a Seeker of Truth: K.V. Prabhakar

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's Media Adviser K.V. Prabhakar called upon the media to remain steadfast in its commitment to truth while addressing the felicitation ceremony at the Karnataka Working Journalists' Union (KUWJ) Endowment Awards.

Prabhakar said journalism today is caught in a constant battle between truth and misinformation. At a time when false narratives are spreading rapidly, he stressed that it is the responsibility of the media to uphold truth and ensure that factual reporting prevails over fake news.

He also expressed happiness over the conferment of the 2026 D.V.G. Award of the Karnataka Working Journalists' Union on veteran journalist B.V. Gopinath of Kolar, describing him as one of his professional mentors and guides.

He said the prestigious award had been presented to a truly deserving journalist, paying fitting tribute to the legacy of noted Kannada litterateur D.V. Gundappa. Among those present at the function were former Minister C.T. Ravi; MLAs H.D. Thammaiah, T.D. Rajegowda and G.H. Srinivas; Chikkamagaluru Deputy Commissioner Bhanwar Singh Meena; Zilla Panchayat CEO H.S. Keerthana; KUWJ State President Shivananda Tagadur; Vice-Presidents H.B. Madan Gowda and Ajjamada Ramesh Kuttappa; Treasurer M. Vasudeva Holla; Secretaries Somashekar Keregodu, Pundalik B. Balaji and Ningappa Chavadi; and State Executive Committee members, including Kolar Muniraju and Shivamogga Telex Ravi.



session and encouraged participants during the prize distribution ceremony for award winners and cultural performers.

State Vice-President Ajjamada Ramesh Kuttappa, Treasurer M. Vasudeva Holla and State Committee members Devaraj K.R. and Bhavani Singh Thakur also extended their support, contributing to the grand success of the event.

The programme also reflected the commitment of KUWJ towards recognising media excellence and encouraging cultural talents among journalists.

M. Vasudeva Holla
Senior Journalist



NEWS

9 Gram Panchayat Staff Suspended Over Duty-Time Party

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Nine Gram Panchayat officials, including six Panchayat Development Officers (PDOs), two secretaries and a Second Division Assistant (SDA), have been suspended for allegedly attending a liquor party during official working hours near Siddarabetta in Bengaluru Rural district.

The disciplinary action followed media reports, supported by visual evidence, showing Gram Panchayat officials and staff consuming liquor and non-vegetarian food near Siddarabetta on Friday (July 24) during office hours.

Taking serious note of the incident, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B. Khandre had directed officials to issue show-cause notices to everyone involved and suspend those found prima facie guilty of gathering for a party while on duty.

Following the Minister's directions, Bengaluru Rural Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr.



Vasanthi Amar issued notices and subsequently ordered the immediate suspension of the officials pending a departmental inquiry.

The suspended officials include PDOs Girish (Shivagange Gram Panchayat), Harish (Agalakuppe), Prashanth D. (Gollahalli), Chiranjeevi (Manne), Ravishankar (Sompura) and Dinesh B.M. (Bettakote); Grade-I Secretary Kemparangaiah of Agalakuppe Gram Panchayat; Grade-II Secretary Gangadhar of Budihal Gram Panchayat; and Second Division Assistant Manjunath of Sompura Gram Panchayat.

The suspension order stated that the officials had prima facie violated the Karnataka Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 2021.

It further noted that their absence from their offices during working hours deprived members of the public of essential services, warranting immediate disciplinary action pending departmental inquiry.

Navy Launches 7th Anti-Submarine Craft

► From PGJ

The vessel is designed for underwater surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare operations, Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and mine warfare missions. It will enhance India's coastal defence capabilities and improve Maritime Domain Awareness.

The launch marks another achievement in the ASW SWC project and highlights India's growing self-reliance in defence manufacturing under the

Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. With more than 80 per cent indigenous content, the project is expected to boost the operational strength of the Indian Navy in the Indian Ocean Region.

The ASW SWC vessels are equipped with advanced systems to detect and counter underwater threats, particularly from hostile submarines operating in coastal waters. Their shallow-water capability allows the Indian Navy to conduct surveillance and anti-submarine missions closer to the

shoreline.

The induction of these vessels will significantly strengthen the Navy's ability to safeguard India's vast maritime interests, especially in strategically important areas of the Indian Ocean Region. The Machili patnam launch reflects the progress of India's indigenous shipbuilding programme and the increasing role of domestic defence industries in meeting the requirements of the armed forces.

HEALTH

& Lifestyle

White Rice & Weight: Follow These Healthy Tips

Experts say white rice alone does not cause weight gain. A balanced diet, portion control and regular exercise are key to healthy weight management.

Rice is an essential part of the Indian diet, but many people avoid white rice believing that it directly causes weight gain. However, nutrition experts say that eating white rice alone does not lead to obesity. Weight gain mainly depends on overall calorie intake, lifestyle, physical activity and eating habits.

White rice is a major source of carbohydrates, which provide energy to the body. Compared to brown rice, white rice contains less fibre because its outer layer is removed during processing.

This may make the stomach feel empty sooner, but experts say it does not mean white rice is unhealthy when consumed in the right quantity.

Research on White Rice Consumption

Studies have shown mixed results regarding the link between white rice and weight gain. While some research suggests that excessive consumption may be associated with increased weight, several other studies have not found a direct connection.

Experts emphasise that overeating and an unbalanced diet are the main reasons behind weight gain rather than one particular food item.

How to Eat Rice in a Healthy Way

Nutritionists recommend combining rice with protein and fibre-rich foods

such as dal, sambar, vegetables, curd, eggs, fish, chicken or salads. These combinations help keep the stomach full for a longer time and maintain stable blood sugar levels.

The method of preparation also matters. Plain cooked rice is a healthier option compared to fried rice or dishes prepared with excessive oil, ghee or butter. Regular consumption of high-calorie foods like biryani and rich pulao may contribute to weight gain if eaten frequently.

Tips for Weight Control

Consume rice in moderate portions instead of completely avoiding it.

Include vegetables, salads and protein sources in meals.

Reduce intake of sugary drinks, sweets and packaged juices.

Maintain regular physical activity, including at least 150 minutes of exercise every week. Follow a balanced diet along with proper sleep and stress management. People with diabetes, obesity or metabolic disorders should consult doctors or nutrition experts to decide the appropriate quantity of rice intake.

Experts conclude that completely avoiding white rice is not necessary for weight loss. A balanced diet, controlled portions and an active lifestyle are the key factors for maintaining healthy body weight.



SCIENCE

& Technology

Google Pay Launches AI Money Assistant, SBI Credit Card

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Google Pay has launched a new Gemini-based feature called Ask Google Pay in India, allowing users to understand their spending patterns, savings and financial concepts through an AI-powered assistant. The opt-in feature, introduced on Wednesday, helps users analyse expenses and get explanations on topics such as credit scores, investments and interest rates.

The AI assistant works like a chatbot within the Google Pay app, allowing users to ask questions about their transactions and financial habits. It can provide insights such as monthly spending trends, increased expenses and basic explanations of financial products.

Google said the feature supports 10 Indian languages and is designed for educational purposes. The company clarified that the information provided should not be considered professional financial advice.

Along with the AI assistant, Google Pay has introduced the Google Pay Flex SBI Card in partnership with SBI Card. The credit card can be applied for digitally through the Google Pay app and will be available on RuPay and Visa networks.

The card offers rewards through a system called Stars, where one Star has a redemption value of ₹1. Users can also convert outstanding bills into monthly instalments, subject to applicable terms and conditions.

The new launches mark Google Pay's expansion beyond digital payments into personal finance services, combining AI-based money management tools with credit solutions for Indian users.

INDIA RUSHES Aid FOR 13 SEAFARERS STRANDED IN UKRAINE

India is coordinating with authorities to ensure the safety of 13 Indian seafarers stranded on a cargo vessel at Ukraine's Chornomorsk Port amid rising Black Sea attacks.

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**
India is closely monitoring the safety of 13 Indian seafarers stranded aboard a cargo vessel at Ukraine's Chornomorsk Port amid continued drone and missile attacks in the Black Sea, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Wednesday.
The Indian Embassy in Ukraine said it was in constant touch with all concerned authorities after reports emerged about the vessel MV AMIRI, which has a crew of 15, including 13 Indians.
In a statement posted on X, the embassy said it was giving the matter the highest priority and was working to ensure the safety and security of all Indian crew members.
The Forward Seamen's Union of India (FSUI) said the crew was facing a "life-

threatening situation" as repeated drone and missile attacks were taking place near the vessel. The union urged Indian authorities, the shipowner and the vessel's flag state to take immediate steps to ensure the crew's safety and arrange their early repatriation.
The incident comes just days after another cargo vessel, AGN RAGNAR, was reportedly hit by drones while exiting the Danube River into the Black Sea.
In view of the escalating conflict, the MEA has advised Indian seafarers and commercial shipping operators to carefully assess security conditions before accepting assignments in or transiting through the Black Sea, where attacks on commercial vessels have increased amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Father Throws Baby Over Naming Ceremony Row

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**
A man allegedly threw his 11-month-old son to the ground in anger after his wife and her family arrived late for the child's naming ceremony in Bengaluru's Banashankari Second Stage.
The incident occurred on July 17 at a party hall where the ceremony was scheduled at 10.30 am. The accused, identified as Vinayak, reportedly became furious after his wife Ramya and her family arrived an hour late from their residence in Hesaraghatta.
Hotel staff who tried to intervene were also allegedly attacked by the accused. Based on Ramya's complaint, Banashankari police registered a case under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act. Vinayak has been arrested and remanded to judicial custody. Further investigation is underway.

KPCC Flags 80-Lakh Voter Deletion Risk

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**
The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has urged the Election Commission of India to review the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, raising concerns over the reported categorisation of more than 80 lakh voters under labels such as "Absent", "Shifted", "Refused to Sign", "Multiple Enrolments" and other classifications that may lead to deletion.
In its representation submitted to the Election Commission, the KPCC said that removal of genuine voters without detailed verification could affect their constitutional right to vote. The party stressed that while eliminating duplicate and ineligible entries is necessary, the process must ensure that eligible citizens are not excluded



KPCC has urged the Election Commission to review the SIR process, warning that over 80 lakh voters may face exclusion without proper verification and safeguards.

due to administrative errors or incomplete field verification.
The Congress requested the Election Commission to direct election officials to conduct additional physical verification before deleting any voter's name. It also sought prior notice to affected voters, establishment of

Prevention Key to Fighting Cyber Fraud

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**
Prevention through awareness and good cyber hygiene is the most effective way to tackle online fraud, Karnataka Director General of Police (CID and Cyber Command) Dr. Pronab Mohanty said while launching the DigiKavach cyber safety application in Bengaluru on Wednesday.
Mohanty said cybercriminals are becoming increasingly sophisticated, often operating across states and international borders, making the recovery of stolen money extremely difficult once it passes through multiple bank accounts. He urged the public to remain alert against scams involving fake police, CBI and RBI officials, as well as fraudulent investment schemes promising unusually high returns. He noted that cyber fraud cases in Karnataka have declined significantly, from around 22,000 in 2024 to 5,000-6,000 cases recorded till the end of July this year. Authorities are now recovering 20-25 per cent of the money lost in cyber frauds, while arrests and convictions have also increased.
The newly launched DigiKavach app enables users to verify suspicious links, QR codes, messages and applications before responding, helping prevent cybercrime before it occurs.



TTD Cracks Down on Fake VIP Darshan Offer

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Tirupati**
The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has ordered legal action against a real estate developer for allegedly issuing misleading advertisements promising lifetime VIP Break Darshan to buyers of residential plots near Tirupati. The controversy erupted after SCP Developers circulated promotional advertisements on social media claiming that customers purchasing plots in one of its projects along the Tirupati highway would receive lifetime access to VIP Break Darshan at the Tirumala temple. The campaign also invited prospective buyers to contact the company for further details.
Responding to the advertisement, TTD

TTD has ordered legal action against a real estate firm for falsely promising lifetime VIP Break Darshan to plot buyers, clarifying that no private entity can guarantee temple darshan facilities.



categorically denied any association with the developer or the promotional offer. The temple administration clarified that no private company or individual has the authority to guarantee or promise VIP Break Darshan to devotees.
TTD described the advertisement as false and

misleading, stating that it had neither approved nor endorsed the claims made by the real estate firm. Taking serious note of the incident, TTD directed the police to initiate legal proceedings against SCP Developers for allegedly misleading the public by using the temple's name for commercial purposes.
The temple administration warned that stringent action would be taken against any individual or organisation attempting to misuse the name of Tirumala or make unauthorised promises regarding darshan facilities. TTD reiterated that all darshan facilities, including VIP Break Darshan, are provided strictly in accordance with its official rules and prescribed procedures.

2 Lakh Expected for Channamma Rites

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Hassan**
The final rites of Channamma, who passed away on July 18, will be held on Thursday at her memorial site near Sri Ranganatha Swamy Hills in Haradanahalli. Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy inspected the arrangements along with his brother H.D. Revanna.
Over two lakh people are expected to attend the ceremony. Five helipads have been prepared for VIP arrivals, while special arrangements have been made for darshan and prasada distribution. Large tents and seating facilities have also been arranged in view of the expected crowd and rain.

BJP Calls Mandya Stir Over Cauvery Row

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Shivamogga**
The BJP has announced a major protest in Mandya on July 31 against the Karnataka government's decision to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu, accusing the Congress government of ignoring the interests of the State's farmers.
Addressing reporters in Shivamogga on Wednesday, BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra alleged that the government had advised farmers in the Cauvery basin not to take up

cultivation due to inadequate water availability while continuing to release water to Tamil Nadu.
Calling the government's stand "anti-farmer," Vijayendra said Karnataka should challenge the directions of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) through legal and statutory forums instead of complying if it threatened the State's water security. He warned that



Vijayendra said leaders of various farmers' organisations and the JD(S) would participate in the July 31 agitation in Mandya, describing it as a movement to safeguard the interests of Karnataka's farmers.
He also criticised the Congress government over the case registered against BJP MLC C.T. Ravi, alleging misuse of the police machinery to target Opposition leaders instead of addressing

public issues.
Commenting on reports that former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah may not contest the 2028 Assembly elections, Vijayendra claimed the Congress would face serious electoral challenges without its senior leader.
The announcement comes amid escalating political tensions over the Cauvery water-sharing dispute, with the BJP intensifying its campaign against the State government over the issue.

ENTERTAINMENT

Kangana Defends 'Generation Gutter' Remark

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**
Actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut has defended her controversial "Generation Gutter" remark directed at Gen Z protesters, saying she would not "normalise gutter-level, unethical and obscene behaviour" in public despite widespread criticism from political opponents and sections of the media.
Responding to the backlash through a video posted on Instagram, Kangana alleged that she was being unfairly targeted for condemning what she described as inappropriate conduct by some protesters during the Cockroach Janta Party-led demonstrations over the alleged NEET paper leak and demands for accountability in the education system.
'Public Decorum Must Be Maintained'
Kangana said discipline and dignity were essential in public life and argued that freedom of expression should not come at the cost of hurting the sentiments of others.
She maintained that vulgarity and abusive behaviour should not be accepted in public spaces, particularly in the presence of children, women and elderly people. She also criticised what she termed attempts to normalise such behaviour under the guise of personal freedom.
Accuses Media of Targeting Her
The BJP MP accused sections of the media of selectively highlighting her comments while

ignoring her appreciation for young achievers and startups. She claimed the controversy was being amplified without presenting the full context of her remarks.
She also criticised some feminist voices, alleging they were encouraging behaviour that undermined discipline and social responsibility. Referring to Indian philosophical teachings, Kangana urged young people to focus on self-improvement and personal evolution rather than what she described as "regression."
Clarifies Stand on Gen Z
Kangana clarified that her criticism was not directed at the entire Gen Z generation. She praised young Indians who were excelling in education, entrepreneurship and supporting their families, saying many talented youngsters, including NEET aspirants, deserved appreciation.
She said her objection was limited to the conduct of a section of protesters and reiterated that public life must be guided by dignity, civic sense and respect for others.
The controversy began after Kangana described some Gen Z protesters as "Generation Gutter" in a social media post, triggering widespread criticism from opposition leaders and several social media users.



SPIDER-MAN EYES RECORD OPENING

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai**
The much-awaited Hollywood superhero film Spider-Man: Brand New Day is all set to hit Indian theatres on July 30, a day ahead of its release in several other countries. Even before its official release, the film has created a strong buzz at the Indian box office with record advance bookings, raising expectations of a massive opening day collection.
According to box office analysts, the film has already earned around ₹35 crore through advance bookings in India, with collections expected to rise further before its release. Trade experts predict that the movie could register an opening day collection of around ₹50-60 crore in the Indian market.
The expected opening is likely to surpass several recent big-ticket releases. Analysts believe the film may even outperform the first-day earnings of some Indian superstar films. Vijay's recent release Jana Nayagan reportedly earned around ₹41 crore on its opening day, and Spider-Man: Brand New Day is expected to cross that mark.
The upcoming film marks the ninth instalment in the Spider-Man franchise. While Tobey Maguire played the superhero in the first three films and Andrew Garfield portrayed the character in two films, Tom Holland returns as Peter Parker for his fourth standalone Spider-Man outing.
The trailer of Spider-Man: Brand New Day has created excitement among fans with a new storyline where the world has forgotten Spider-Man and Peter Parker. With no close friends or personal connections left, Spider-Man faces new challenges while battling powerful enemies.
Directed as the latest chapter in the Marvel superhero saga, the film is expected to attract a huge audience across India due to its global popularity, massive fan base and high expectations surrounding Tom Holland's return as the iconic web-slinging hero.



The film continues the story of Peter Parker after the events of the previous Spider-Man movie, where major changes affected his personal life. The makers have kept several details about the plot under wraps, adding to the curiosity among fans worldwide.
The return of Tom Holland as Spider-Man has become one of the biggest attractions of the film. His portrayal of the young superhero has received widespread appreciation, making him one of the most popular actors to take on the role.
The movie also carries high expectations due to its connection with the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). Fans are eager to see how the new storyline fits into the larger Marvel universe and what surprises the film has in store.
With advanced bookings showing strong response and a large fan following across India, cinema halls are expected to witness packed shows during the opening weekend. The film's performance at the box office will be closely watched by trade analysts and Marvel fans alike.

BUSINESS

8th Pay Panel Report Due by 2027

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**
The 8th Central Pay Commission is expected to submit its final recommendations to the Union government by May 3, 2027, bringing a major update for millions of central government employees and pensioners awaiting clarity on salary revisions, allowances and pension benefits.
The timeline is based on the 18-month period prescribed from the date of the commission's constitution on November 3, 2025. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed the Rajya Sabha that the commission will decide its own working procedure and is not required to submit regular progress updates to the government.
The commission has been tasked with reviewing salaries, allowances, pensions and other benefits of central government employees. However, the submission of the report will not automatically result in an immediate salary hike. The Union government will examine the recommendations before taking a final decision through the Cabinet.
There is no official confirmation on when the revised pay structure will come into effect. While some reports have suggested January 1, 2026, as a possible implementation date, the government has not issued any formal announcement.
The final decision will depend on Cabinet approval, financial considerations and the government's response to the commission's recommendations.
The fitment factor remains one of the most discussed aspects of the 8th Pay Commission. Employee organisations have reportedly suggested a fitment factor of 3.83, which could increase the minimum basic pay from the current ₹18,000 to around ₹69,000 if accepted.
However, the proposed figure is only a demand from employee representatives and has not been approved. The final fitment factor may differ after the commission completes its review.
Under the 7th Pay Commission, the fitment factor was fixed at 2.57, which increased the minimum basic salary from ₹7,000 to ₹18,000.
The commission is currently involved in consultations and data collection as part of its review process. Officials have advised employees and pensioners to rely only on official updates and avoid unverified claims circulating on social media about salary hikes.

SPORTS

Ishan Kishan Creates T2o Ranking History

➤ Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

India wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan has created history by becoming one of the highest-rated Indian batters in the ICC T2o International rankings. Kishan has retained the top position in the latest T2o batting rankings with 916 rating points, surpassing the previous best marks achieved by Indian stars Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav.

Kishan's latest achievement places him among the elite group of Indian batters who have dominated the ICC T2o rankings. His 916 points are the third-highest rating points achieved by an Indian batter, behind Abhishek Sharma's record 931 points.

Although Abhishek Sharma has slipped to the third position in the current rankings, he continues to hold the record for the highest-ever rating points in T2o batting rankings. England's Dawid Malan remains among the top-ranked batters, while four Indian players feature in the top five, highlighting India's dominance in the format.

Kishan has also surpassed the personal best T2o ranking points of former Indian captain Virat Kohli and star batter Suryakumar Yadav. Kohli's highest rating was 909 points, while Suryakumar had reached 912 points during his peak ranking period.

Abhishek Sharma had held the No.1 position in the ICC T2o batting rankings for nearly 11 months after reaching the top spot in July last year. However, Kishan overtook him earlier this month following an impressive performance during India's tour of Zimbabwe.

RCB Tops IPL Brand Value Rankings

➤ Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) has emerged as the most valuable IPL franchise, with a brand valuation of \$312 million (around ₹2,600 crore), according to the 2026 IPL Brand Valuation Report released by US investment bank Houlihan Lokey. RCB has become the first IPL team to cross the \$300 million brand value mark.

The report stated that the overall business value of the Indian Premier League has reached nearly ₹2 lakh crore for the first time, highlighting the league's growing global commercial influence.

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) secured the third position with a valuation of \$245 million, growing by 7.9% after their successful performances, including the 2024 IPL title win. Five-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) stood fourth with a brand value of \$244 million. However, their growth remained limited due to recent poor performances and the absence of former captain MS Dhoni.

Sunrisers Hyderabad ranked fifth with a valuation of \$168 million, followed by Rajasthan Royals (\$161 million), Punjab Kings (\$158 million), Gujarat Titans (\$157 million), Delhi Capitals (\$156 million) and Lucknow Super Giants (\$122 million).

The latest valuation reflects IPL's rising status as one of the world's most commercially successful sports leagues, with franchises continuing to gain value through fan engagement, sponsorships and global reach.

Nadda, Kharge Spar Over Student Protest Crackdown

➤ Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Union Health Minister and Rajya Sabha Leader of the House J.P. Nadda and Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge engaged in a heated exchange in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday over the police action against student protesters, with the Opposition demanding accountability from the Centre.

Kharge Questions Government

Kharge accused the BJP-led government of failing to safeguard democratic values and alleged that those responsible for using "brutal force" against students were continuing without accountability.

Rejecting the allegations, Nadda maintained that the police were empowered



to take all necessary measures to restore law and order and insisted that the action taken was within the framework of the law.

Opposition Demands Response

Opposition parties demanded that Union Home Minister Amit Shah make a statement

Union Minister J.P. Nadda defended police action against student protesters in the Rajya Sabha, saying activists must be prepared for law enforcement measures when required. Opposition leader Mallikarjun Kharge accused the government of undermining democracy and demanded accountability over alleged police excesses. The issue triggered uproar in both Houses of Parliament, with Opposition parties seeking a response from Home Minister Amit Shah.

in Parliament regarding the alleged police excesses during the July 20 student protests. They also sought an apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the police action.

Uproar in Lok Sabha

The issue also triggered protests in the Lok Sabha, where Opposition MPs demanded

that the Home Minister address the House before other business was taken up. The uproar erupted ahead of Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi's speech during the debate on the Anti-Paper Leak Bill, prompting the Speaker to warn members that proceedings would be adjourned if order was not restored.

DELHI POLICE SERVE NOTICES OVER ANTI-MODI POSTS

Delhi Police issue notices to X accounts over alleged abusive posts against PM Modi and security forces during protests, while cyber teams intensify monitoring of online content.

➤ Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Delhi Police have issued notices to several X (formerly Twitter) accounts and a few news portals seeking details of users who allegedly posted abusive content targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and security personnel during recent student protests in the national capital.

The action follows a review of videos, comments and social media posts shared during and after the protests to determine

whether any content violated the law or posed a threat to public order. Police have not disclosed the exact number of social media accounts that received the notices.

Cyber Teams Intensify Monitoring

According to officials, the Delhi Police cyber unit has stepped up surveillance of online platforms to identify offensive or unlawful content linked to the protests. When objectionable posts are detected, social media platforms are issued notices directing them

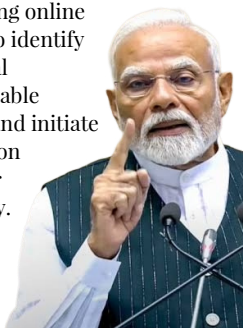
to remove the content in accordance with legal procedures.

Police said several posts and videos containing abusive remarks against the Prime Minister have already been taken down following such requests.

Focus on Misinformation

Earlier, Delhi Police had stated that they had identified more than 400 Pakistan-linked social media accounts allegedly involved in spreading fake news, rumours and deepfake videos related to the

student protests. Officials said cyber teams will continue monitoring online activity to identify additional objectionable content and initiate legal action wherever necessary.



₹1-Crore Maoist Leader Misir Besra Arrested

➤ Vikrama Vahini | Ranchi

Senior Maoist leader Misir Besra, carrying a ₹1 crore reward, was arrested in a joint operation by the CRPF's elite COBRA battalion and Jharkhand Police near the Dhanbad-Giridih border on Wednesday. Two of his close associates were also taken into custody.

According to security officials, the operation was launched based on specific intelligence that Besra had left his hideout in the Saranda-Kolhan region and was moving towards Giridih. Security forces sealed the area and successfully surrounded the Maoist leader, leading to his arrest without any chance of escape.



The 66-year-old Besra, also known by the aliases Sagar and Sunirmal, is one of the country's most wanted Maoist leaders. A native of Jharkhand's Giridih district, he was earlier arrested in 2007 but escaped in 2009 after Maoists attacked the Lakhisarai court premises in Bihar.

He faces more than 154 criminal cases in four states and is also an accused in three National Investigation Agency (NIA) cases.

Security agencies described the arrest as a major success in the ongoing anti-Maoist campaign and a significant blow to the remaining Maoist leadership in the country.

Ashok Urges Immediate Drought Declaration

➤ Vikrama Vahini | Davanagere

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka on Tuesday urged the Karnataka government to immediately declare drought in the state, alleging that the Congress government was ignoring the plight of farmers despite severe rainfall deficit and widespread crop damage.

Speaking to reporters after visiting drought-affected villages in Davanagere district as part of the BJP's statewide drought study tour, Ashoka said the delay in declaring drought was preventing farmers from receiving crop insurance benefits and central assistance. He accused the government of prioritising politics over farmers' welfare.

Ashoka claimed rainfall had fallen drastically across Karnataka, affecting sowing and damaging crops in several districts. He demanded compensation of ₹50,000 per acre for crop loss, ₹10,000 per damaged coconut and arecanut tree, and the release of ₹50 crore for each Assembly constituency to undertake drought relief works. He also called for the formation of local task forces and measures to



ensure adequate fodder for livestock.

The BJP leader also criticised the State government over the Cauvery water-sharing dispute, alleging that its legal strategy had failed to safeguard Karnataka's interests.

He said the release of water to Tamil Nadu had put the drinking water needs of Bengaluru and other Cauvery-dependent regions at risk and urged the government to strengthen its legal battle, if necessary by changing its team of

lawyers.

Ashoka said the BJP was conducting a statewide assessment of drought conditions and would submit a comprehensive report.

He announced that the party would strongly raise the issues of drought declaration, farmer relief and the Cauvery dispute during the Assembly session beginning on August 13 and warned of statewide protests if the government failed to act.

Guru Shows Society the Right Path: Raghaveshwara Swami

➤ Vikrama Vahini | Gokarna

The role of a Guru is to show society the right path and guide people towards righteousness, said Sri Raghaveshwara Bharati Mahaswamiji, the head of Sri Ramachandrapura Matha, during the religious assembly held at Ashoka in Gokarna on Tuesday.

Addressing devotees during the 'Annabrahma Chaturmasya' programme, the Swamiji said that Adi Shankaracharya protected and propagated Dharma without the support of armies or wealth. By travelling across the country and establishing mathis, Shankaracharya ensured the continuous spread of spiritual knowledge and righteous values.

He said the objective of a matha should be to follow the path shown by Shankaracharya, guide society on right and wrong, and correct mistakes through awareness and spiritual teachings.

Opposition Natural for Those Who Speak Truth

The Swamiji said it is natural for those who show the right path and speak about truth to face opposition. He noted that this has been seen in the lives of great personalities,



including Lord Rama and Lord Krishna.

Referring to the significance of the Annabrahma Chaturmasya, he said the previous year's programme focused on language, while this year's focus is on food habits. He stressed the importance of understanding what people eat, how food is prepared and its impact on life.

"Whatever we consume influences our thoughts and actions," he said, adding that society needs proper awareness about food and healthy practices.

33rd Chaturmasya Vrata Begins

Earlier in the day, Sri Raghaveshwara Bharati Mahaswamiji formally began his 33rd Chaturmasya Vrata by

performing the traditional Vyasapuja at the main mutt premises in Ashoka, Gokarna.

The rituals included prayers to Sri Rama and other deities, along with the invocation and worship of Lord Krishna and sage Vyasa as per the traditions of the matha.

Several dignitaries, office-bearers of the matha, members of Hayyaka Mahamandala and devotees from Karnataka and other states participated in the programme and received the blessings of the Swamiji.

The Chaturmasya Vrata was also marked as a symbol of the sacred bond between the Guru and disciples, with devotees seeking the Swamiji's blessings for the welfare and spiritual progress of all.

Punjab on High Alert Over ISI Terror Threat

➤ Vikrama Vahini | Chandigarh

Punjab Police has intensified security measures across the state ahead of Independence Day following fresh intelligence inputs indicating that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is allegedly planning a series of terror attacks using petrol bombs along with conventional explosives and weapons.

The heightened alert comes after the arrest of two suspects allegedly involved in a petrol bomb attack on the BJP district office in Sangrur. Senior police officials said the incident reflects a shift in terror tactics, with low-cost, locally made petrol bombs being used alongside RDX-based improvised explosive devices (IEDs), grenades and automatic weapons.

According to intelligence agencies, the alleged strategy aims to create panic, disrupt public order and target key installations during the run-up to the August 15 celebrations. Officials said the threat is no longer confined to security forces, with railway infrastructure, public assets and



crowded locations also considered potential targets.

Police sources alleged that the ISI is operating through pro-Khalistan terror outfits, particularly the banned Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), and transnational organised crime syndicates to smuggle arms, explosives and other material into Punjab. Officials also suspect that proxy groups may be used to conceal the origin of planned attacks.

According to police data, security agencies busted 10 terror modules between January and July 27, arrested 137 suspects and seized automatic rifles, pistols, RDX-based IEDs, grenades, detonators, a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and other explosives.

Waqf Member Seeks Probe Into Bengaluru Madrasa

➤ Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka Waqf Board member Shaheen Shariff has lodged a complaint with Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh seeking an investigation into a madrasa operating in Thanisandra, alleging that it is involved in illegal activities and functioning without valid registration in India.

In her complaint, Shariff alleged that the institution, identified as Jamia Mohammadiya Education Society, had submitted fake documents to obtain government recognition and financial assistance, and had received a ₹10 lakh grant from the Minority Welfare Department on the basis of forged records. She also claimed the organisation had received illegal foreign funding and sought a detailed inquiry by an officer of ACP rank.

Shariff further alleged that students associated with the madrasa had been involved in incidents of violence and intimidation in the locality and claimed the institution was being misused for unlawful activities. She urged the police to conduct a thorough investigation and initiate legal action against those responsible.

The allegations have been made in the complaint, and there has been no official response from the institution or the police regarding the claims so far.

No Fault Found in Air India Fuel Switch

➤ Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Centre has informed Parliament that no defect was found in the fuel control switch or its locking system of the Air India aircraft that crashed last year, killing 260 people.

The government said advanced tests conducted by the aircraft's original equipment manufacturer confirmed that the fuel control switch was functioning normally. However, a detailed examination of the complete thrust control module is still underway at Boeing's facility in Seattle, and investigators are awaiting the findings.

Responding to questions in the Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon Session, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said inspections of the fuel control switches were carried out following directions from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) after the temporary grounding of the aircraft model.

The inspection focused on the structural integrity and locking mechanism of the fuel control switch, and no abnormalities were detected, the minister said.

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has not delayed the probe, the government clarified. It stated that there is no fixed timeline for investigations into major aviation accidents, as authorities examine all possible factors before releasing the final report.

The Boeing 787-8 aircraft operating as Air India flight AI171 crashed shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad on June 12 while travelling to London Gatwick, resulting in the deaths of 260 people. Following the tragedy, investigators examined several aircraft systems, including the fuel control mechanism.