

Good morning

The world around you looks more beautiful, the flowers look more vibrant, the sky looks more magical, and the people in your life look more wonderful.

BRIEFS

Cauvery Row Halts Vijay Film Screening

► **Vikrama Vahini | Mandya**

Screening of Tamil actor and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay's film *Jana Nayagan* was halted in Mandya on Thursday as pro-Kannada activists intensified protests over the Cauvery water dispute.

Members of the Karunada Vijaya Sene staged a protest outside a cinema hall and demanded cancellation of the show. Following their protest, theatre management stopped the screening. Activists also raised slogans against the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's directive to release 3,500 cusecs of water daily to Tamil Nadu for 15 days.

Farmers' organisations in Mandya continued their agitation, opposing the release of Cauvery water amid drought concerns in Karnataka. Farmer leaders urged the state government to challenge the order and protect the interests of farmers.

The BJP also criticised the Congress government and demanded legal action against the water release directive, along with a crop survey and compensation for affected farmers.

Nikita Bags U17 Wrestling Silver



► **Vikrama Vahini | Baku**

Indian wrestler Nikita Sehrawat won a silver medal in the women's 57kg category at the U17 World Wrestling Championships held in Baku on Thursday. Teammates Kamna Babal and Garima also impressed by securing bronze medals in their respective events.

Nikita produced a strong performance throughout the tournament to reach the final. However, she faced a tough challenge against reigning U17 World silver medallist Epenesa Elison of the USA and went down 0-6 in the title bout.

Despite the loss, Nikita's silver medal marked a notable achievement for India at the global championship, while Kamna and Garima's bronze medals added to the country's medal tally. Nikita displayed remarkable determination throughout her campaign, defeating strong opponents to secure a place in the championship final. Her consistent performance highlighted India's growing strength in the junior wrestling category on the international stage.

The achievement adds to India's impressive showing at the U17 World Wrestling Championships, with young wrestlers continuing to make their mark in global competitions.

Cauvery Row Returns After CWMA Order

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

The Cauvery water dispute has flared up again after the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) rejected Karnataka's plea citing water shortage and directed the state to release 3,500 cusecs of water per day to Tamil Nadu for 15 days.

The order, effective retrospectively from July 29, has triggered political reactions and protests across Karnataka's Cauvery basin regions.

Karnataka argued that its reservoirs were under pressure and that meeting the drinking water requirements of people, farmers and livestock was becoming difficult due to prevailing water stress.

Tamil Nadu had demanded the release of 7,000 cusecs of water daily for 15 days, along with a total of 9 TMC feet of water. However, the CWMA accepted the recommendation of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) and fixed the release at 3,500 cusecs per day.

Following the order, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced an all-party meeting on Sunday to discuss the next course of action. He said the government would hold discussions keeping in mind the interests of both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

The state government is also considering legal options, including approaching the Supreme Court against the directive.

The CWMA decision led to protests in Mandya, a major centre of Karnataka's Cauvery agitation. Kannada activists and

DKS CALLS ALL-PARTY MEET

Karnataka steps up its opposition to the Cauvery water release order as CM D.K. Shivakumar calls an all-party meeting to decide the next course of action. The state has raised concerns over water shortages, falling reservoir levels and farmers' interests while challenging the CWMA directive to release water to Tamil Nadu.

- Karnataka CM D.K. Shivakumar called an all-party meeting on Sunday over the Cauvery water dispute.
- Meeting to discuss the state's next legal and political strategy on water release to Tamil Nadu.
- CWMA heard Karnataka's objections against releasing 3,500 cusecs of water daily for 15 days.
- Karnataka cited poor monsoon, falling reservoir levels and drinking water concerns.
- State delegation highlighted reduced inflows into KRS, Kabini, Hemavathi and Harangi reservoirs.
- Farmers' protests intensified in Mandya and Cauvery basin regions. CWMA's decision will determine Karnataka's next course of action.



farmer groups opposed the water release order and submitted memorandums urging the government to protect farmers' interests.

During the protests, activists opposed the screening of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay's film *Jana Nayagan* in Mandya over the Cauvery issue. The theatre management later stopped the screening following demonstrations.

Farmers' organisations said Karnataka itself was facing water shortages and urged the government to seek more time before releasing water. They highlighted concerns over drinking water supply, irrigation needs and livestock management.

The latest CWMA directive has once again brought the long-standing Cauvery river-sharing dispute back into political focus in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

FCRA Bill Tightens NGO Fund Rules

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

The Centre is likely to introduce the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha on Monday, proposing stricter regulations for NGOs receiving foreign funds. The legislation aims to strengthen monitoring of foreign contributions and prevent their misuse.

The proposed bill seeks to establish a central authority to oversee foreign-funded NGOs and ensure that funds are utilised only for the intended purposes.

The authority will monitor the activities of organisations receiving foreign aid and improve transparency in fund utilisation.

The move comes amid allegations against some NGOs of diverting foreign



contributions towards activities unrelated to their stated objectives.

The amendment is expected to provide clarity on foreign funds received by NGOs whose FCRA registrations are pending, cancelled or not renewed.

It also includes provisions allowing the confiscation of movable and immovable assets acquired through foreign contributions in cases of violations. **PG2**

Anti-Paper Leak Bill Gets Parliament Nod

► **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

Parliament on Thursday passed the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, introducing stricter punishments for paper leaks and unfair practices in competitive examinations.

The Bill was cleared in the Rajya Sabha through a voice vote amid a walkout by several Opposition parties. The Lok Sabha had already passed the legislation on Wednesday. Under the amended law, individuals involved in question paper leaks or unfair means during examinations will **PG2**

K'taka Cabinet Expansion Delayed to Aug 3

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru/New Delhi**

The Karnataka Congress government's Cabinet expansion has been postponed to August 3 amid internal discussions over power-sharing, ministerial berths and portfolio allocation between different factions within the party.

The Congress high command has stepped in to resolve differences between supporters of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Despite three days of consultations in New Delhi, the party leadership is yet to finalise the names of around 18 ministers.

Party sources said the discussions are not limited to filling vacancies but also involve decisions on key portfolios, regional representation and the government's political strategy for the remaining term.

The leadership is considering caste, community and regional equations to ensure representation for AHINDA communities, Lingayats, Vokkaligas, minorities, women and younger legis

lators. The possible inclusion of Muslim and women legislators has also been a major point of discussion.

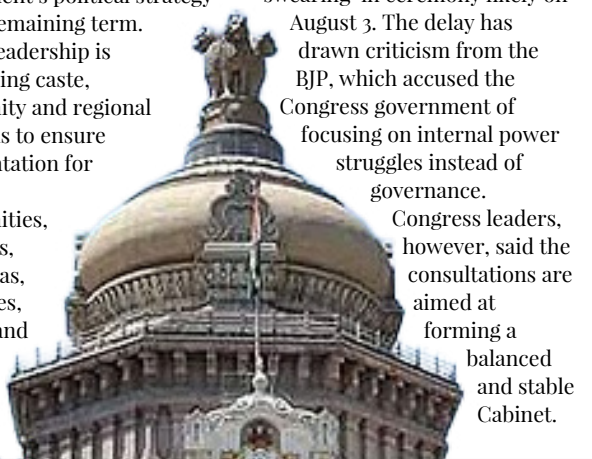
Names such as Rizwan Arshad, Kancez Fatima, Tanveer Sait, Laxmi Hebbalkar and Sharath Bache Gowda are reportedly under consideration.

On Thursday, Shivakumar met Siddaramaiah at Karnataka Bhavan before both leaders held further discussions with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal and KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad.

While Shivakumar said the process has been finalised, sources indicated that the final approval from the party high command is awaited.

The list is expected to be cleared by August 2, with the swearing-in ceremony likely on August 3. The delay has drawn criticism from the BJP, which accused the Congress government of focusing on internal power struggles instead of governance.

Congress leaders, however, said the consultations are aimed at forming a balanced and stable Cabinet.



Rat Steals Gold

► **Vikrama Vahini | Tumakuru**

A jewellery theft case in Karnataka's Tumakuru took an unusual turn after CCTV footage revealed that a rat was responsible for dragging away diamond-studded gold ornaments worth around Rs 10 lakh from a jewellery store. The store employees were shocked when several gold ornaments went missing despite no signs of forced entry. Suspecting something unusual, they checked the CCTV footage before approaching the police.

The footage showed a rat carrying jewellery pieces one by one from the store to its hiding place. Following the trail, the staff



located the rodent's burrow and recovered the missing ornaments.

The recovered items included 10 diamond-studded gold rings and three necklaces, valued at nearly Rs 10 lakh. Meanwhile, in a separate incident in Maharashtra's Nagpur, CCTV footage captured two men allegedly stealing cash from a temple donation box after one of them was seen apologising before the deity.

KARNATAKA BANDH CALL OVER CAUVERY ROW?

► **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Pro-Kannada organisations are preparing to call for a statewide Karnataka bandh in protest against the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu. Kannada Chaluvali leader Vatal Nagaraj is expected to announce the date of the shutdown after consultations with various groups. The move follows the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's

directive asking Karnataka to release 3,500 cusecs of water daily for 15 days to Tamil Nadu, triggering protests by Kannada organisations and farmers' groups across Bengaluru, Mandya and Mysuru. Karnataka Rakshana Vedike president Praveen Shetty urged farmers' bodies, labour unions, Dalit organisations and political parties to unite for a



statewide protest, alleging that Karnataka itself is facing water shortages.

Shetty said water should be shared only after ensuring adequate supply for drinking and irrigation needs in Karnataka. He also appealed to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to take a strong stand to protect the state's interests.

Meanwhile, protests have intensified in

several parts of Karnataka, with activists demanding reconsideration of the water release order. A coordination meeting of various organisations is expected before the final bandh announcement. The Cauvery dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu continues to remain a major issue, especially during periods of reduced rainfall and falling reservoir levels.

VIKRAMA VAHINI

ENGLISH DAILY

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WHERE YOUR SUCCESS MAKES HEADLINES.



SPIRITUAL

Temple Where Sea Worships Shiva



► Vikrama Vahini | Diu

Among India's many ancient Shiva temples, the Gangeshwar Mahadev Temple near Fudam village in Diu, Gujarat, stands out for its unique blend of mythology and natural wonder. Situated on the shores of the Arabian Sea, the temple is renowned for a rare phenomenon where sea waves naturally wash over the Shiva Lingas, creating what devotees believe is a continuous jalabhishek performed by nature itself.

According to local legends, the temple is closely associated with the Pandavas from the Mahabharata. It is believed that after the Kurukshetra war, the five Pandava brothers visited the site to seek forgiveness for the sins of war and to obtain Lord Shiva's blessings. During their penance, they are said to have installed five Shiva Lingas, each representing one of the Pandavas. These sacred Lingas continue to attract thousands of pilgrims and tourists every year.

The temple's most remarkable feature is its location along the rocky seashore. During high tide, the Arabian Sea completely submerges the five Shiva Lingas. As the tide recedes, the Lingas gradually reappear, offering a spectacular sight to devotees. Many believe this natural cycle symbolises the eternal worship of Lord Shiva by the sea itself.

Built amidst natural rock formations, the temple has a cave-like ambience that enhances its spiritual appeal. The sound of crashing waves combined with the peaceful surroundings creates a serene atmosphere for prayer and meditation, drawing visitors seeking both religious and natural experiences.

The temple is easily accessible by air, rail and road. Diu Airport is the nearest airport, while Veral Railway Station, about 90 km away, serves as the closest major railhead. The nearby Delwada Railway Station, around 8 km from Diu, also provides rail connectivity. Regular government and private bus services connect Diu with major cities, including Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Surat, Vadodara, Bhavnagar and Mumbai.

The Gangeshwar Mahadev Temple is not only a revered religious site but also a remarkable example of the harmony between faith and nature. Its mythological significance, scenic coastal setting and the extraordinary sight of sea waves performing a natural abhishek make it a must-visit destination for pilgrims and travellers alike.



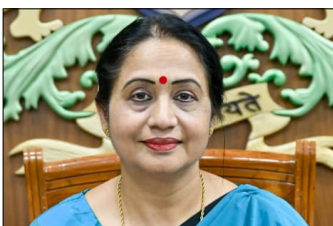
Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy admires an exquisite rangoli portrait of Amma, created by renowned Mysuru artist Shri Mahadevu. Kumaraswamy appreciated the artist's exceptional craftsmanship and the heartfelt tribute rendered with pride and reverence.

₹9,429 Crore Boost for Rural Development

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Secretary Dr. Shalini Rajneesh has said that the State Government is strengthening rural livelihoods through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) and the Viksit Bharat-Employment and Livelihood Guarantee Mission (VB-GRAMG) to tackle drought, climate change and groundwater depletion.

Speaking on the State's rural development initiatives, she said Karnataka, which has the country's second-largest drought-prone area, has adopted a comprehensive strategy to improve water conservation, agriculture and employment opportunities in villages.



Major Water Conservation Works

Over the last five years, the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department has completed several water conservation projects under MGNREGA, including the construction of 1.40 lakh farm ponds, desilting of 1.25 lakh lakes, canals and feeder channels, construction of 41,061 check dams, 6,005 rainwater harvesting and recharge

Karnataka has allocated ₹9.429 crore under MGNREGA and VB-GRAMG to boost water conservation, rural employment and sustainable agriculture, aiming to strengthen climate resilience and reduce distress migration.

structures, and 1,774 borewell recharge units.

The department has also implemented over 3,300 fodder development projects, helping improve groundwater levels, support irrigation and encourage farmers to adopt horticulture and multiple cropping. Officials said the programme has also generated sustained rural employment, reducing migration to urban areas.

₹9.429 Crore for Rural Development

For 2026-27, the State has earmarked ₹9,429.20 crore under the VB-GRAMG scheme, including ₹5,675.52 crore from the Centre and ₹3,771.68 crore from the State Government.

Dr. Rajneesh urged rural residents to make full use of the schemes by approaching their local Panchayat Development Officers or the MGNREGA helpline to improve livelihoods, enhance climate resilience and achieve economic self-reliance.

Cauvery Meet on Sunday: DKS Hits Back at BJP

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday announced that an all-party meeting on the Cauvery water dispute will be held on August 2 at his official residence, Krishna, to discuss the State's response to the latest directive of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).

Speaking to reporters at Karnataka Bhavan in New Delhi, Shivakumar said former Chief Ministers, Members of Parliament and MLAs from the Cauvery basin region have been invited to participate in the meeting.

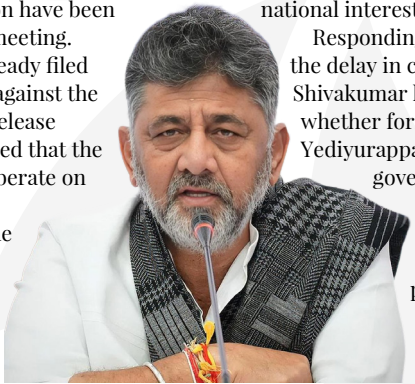
He said Karnataka has already filed an appeal before the CWMA against the order directing the State to release water to Tamil Nadu and added that the all-party meeting would deliberate on the future course of action.

The Chief Minister said the State government has been coordinating with Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi, V. Somanna, Jagadish Shettar and former Chief Minister

Basavaraj Bommai, besides Members of Parliament, to safeguard Karnataka's interests in the Cauvery dispute.

When asked about remarks suggesting that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay should approach the Union government instead of Karnataka, Shivakumar declined to comment. He said Karnataka was not interested in confrontation and stressed that all states must respect the law and work together in the national interest.

Responding to the BJP's criticism over the delay in cabinet expansion, Shivakumar hit back by questioning whether former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa had not run the government for a period without a full cabinet. He also took a swipe at the BJP leadership, saying power had earlier remained concentrated within a few leaders despite similar circumstances.



Teachers Behind NEET Leak: CBI

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The CBI has revealed that teachers involved in preparing and translating the NEET-UG 2026 question paper were directly responsible for leaking the examination, exposing serious lapses in the security of India's largest medical entrance test.

The agency has filed a chargesheet before the Rouse Avenue Court in Delhi against 13 accused, including three experts associated with the National Testing Agency (NTA), in connection with the paper leak case.

Investigators found that some teachers allegedly reconstructed and shared examination questions with students linked to coaching institutes before the test. The agency said the leak compromised the integrity and transparency of the examination and



recommended stricter safeguards and reforms in the paper-setting and translation process to prevent similar incidents in the future. The NEET-UG controversy sparked nationwide protests and political debate, eventually leading to the resignation of the Union Education Minister. Parliament has also passed a tougher anti-paper leak law providing for imprisonment of up to 10 years and heavy fines for those involved in examination malpractices.

NEWS

ANEKAL'S YOUNG ACHIEVERS HONOURED



► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Meritorious SSLC and PUC students from Anekal taluk were honoured at the Pratibha Puraskara 2025-26 programme jointly organised by Rotary Bengaluru South Parade and the Sthaliya Hitarakshana Vedike at the Government School campus in Bommasandra.

The initiative was aimed at recognising and encouraging students who secured outstanding marks during the 2025-26 academic year.

Inaugurating the programme, Kempaiah, Additional Advocate General of Karnataka, urged students to take inspiration from former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul

Kalam and cultivate ambitious goals. He said students should dream big and pursue dreams that inspire hard work and achievement rather than those seen in sleep.

The chief guest, G.B. Vinay Kumar, Founder of InsightsIAS, addressed the students on higher education and career opportunities after SSLC and PUC. He also guided them on how to begin preparing early for competitive examinations such as the IAS and KAS.

The programme was presided over by Rotarian G.B. Arjun, President of Rotary Bengaluru South Parade. Rotarian Sudarshan Ramaiah, President of

Sthaliya Hitarakshana Vedike, coordinated the event, while Shanthakumar Reddy, Vice-President of the organisation, was also present.

Other dignitaries included Dr. Rajagopal, Principal of St. Philomena's School, Dr. Lokesh, and Dr. Niranjana, who congratulated the award-winning students and encouraged them to strive for excellence in their academic and professional careers. The organisers said the programme was intended to motivate talented students and support their aspirations by recognising academic achievement and providing career guidance.

Anti-Paper Leak Bill Gets Parliament Nod

► From PG:

face imprisonment ranging from five to 10 years and a fine of up to Rs 50 lakh.

The government said the move reflects its commitment to protecting the interests of students and ensuring a transparent and credible examination system. The legislation aims to curb examination malpractices and strengthen

accountability in public recruitment and entrance exams.

The amended law is aimed at targeting organised networks involved in leaking question papers and facilitating unfair practices. Officials said the strict penalties would act as a deterrent against those attempting to compromise the integrity of examinations.

HEALTH & Lifestyle

Contact Lens Alert: Protect Your Eyes

Eye specialists have warned contact lens users to follow proper hygiene practices, as even a minor lapse in care can lead to serious eye infections and, in severe cases, permanent vision loss.

The warning comes after a reported case in the United Kingdom, where a woman developed a rare eye infection after dirt and contaminated water entered her eye while cleaning a horse stable. Although she washed her face, she did not remove her contact lenses.

What is Acanthamoeba?

Acanthamoeba is a microscopic parasite commonly found in soil, dust, tap water, lakes, rivers, swimming pools and contaminated water. If it enters the eye, particularly while wearing contact lenses, it can infect the cornea and cause severe inflammation that may require a corneal transplant in advanced cases.

Symptoms to Watch For

Doctors advise seeking immediate medical attention if any of the following symptoms occur:

- Severe eye pain
- Redness of the eye
- Blurred vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Excessive tearing
- Feeling of a foreign object in the eye
- Difficulty wearing contact lenses

Safety Tips for Contact Lens Users

Experts recommend washing hands thoroughly before handling lenses, avoiding wearing lenses while swimming



or bathing, and removing lenses immediately if dirt or contaminated water enters the eye.

Users should clean lenses only with recommended disinfecting solutions, avoid reusing old cleaning solution, replace lens cases every three months, avoid expired lenses and refrain from sleeping with contact lenses unless specifically advised by an eye specialist.

Who is Most at Risk?

The risk is higher among people who wear contact lenses while swimming, those exposed to contaminated water or dusty environments, individuals with poor lens hygiene and people with weakened immunity.

Maintain Good Eye Health

Health experts also recommend a balanced diet rich in Vitamin A, C and E, including carrots, leafy vegetables, eggs, fish, almonds and citrus fruits, to support healthy vision.

Doctors stress that contact lenses are generally safe when used correctly, but ignoring hygiene and safety guidelines can result in serious infections that may permanently damage eyesight.

SCIENCE & Technology

Sarvam AI Unveils India-Focused AI Models

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Bengaluru-based AI solutions company Sarvam AI has launched Epoch Builder Edition, a platform that enables Indian organisations to build, fine-tune and deploy large language models (LLMs) tailored to local needs and languages.

The platform supports more than 10 Indian languages, including Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Marathi and Bengali. It offers multilingual AI models with 7-billion and 70-billion parameters, trained on around 2 trillion tokens, along with support for code-mixed languages such as Hinglish and Kannanglish.

Designed for banks, government departments, startups and research institutions, Epoch Builder Edition provides GPU-based training infrastructure, curated datasets, reinforcement learning tools, instruction tuning, API access and on-premises deployment options.

Sarvam AI said the platform includes specialised datasets related to Indian law, governance, finance and regional content. It also provides safety tools such as red-teaming, toxicity assessment and benchmarking to help organisations develop reliable AI systems suited to India's linguistic and cultural environment.

Sarvam AI co-founder Pratyush Kumar highlighted the importance of developing indigenous AI capabilities to reduce dependence on foreign AI systems.

The company has partnered with three IITs and two state governments for pilot projects in education and public service delivery. The platform will enter private preview in August 2026 and is expected to be available widely in the fourth quarter of 2026.

Ashok Warns of ‘Chalo Hola Gadde’ Stir

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Ballari**

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok on Thursday warned the Karnataka government that the BJP would launch a statewide ‘Chalo Hola Gadde’ agitation from August 3 if drought is not declared immediately, accusing the Congress government of ignoring the plight of farmers despite widespread crop failure.

After inspecting drought-hit fields at Karekal village in Ballari district, Ashoka said farmers across the state were facing severe distress due to poor rainfall and delayed sowing. "If the government continues to delay declaring drought, BJP leaders and workers will stage dharnas in farmers' fields. Farmers are already on the streets, and in many places even the seeds sown have failed to sprout," he said.

Claiming that only a fraction of the normal sowing had taken place, Ashok said Ballari district had recorded around 38 per cent sowing, while several taluks reported even lower figures. He alleged that the state was postponing the drought declaration to avoid providing immediate relief, despite the Finance Department's concerns over reduced revenue.

The BJP leader also criticised the government for not releasing irrigation water



from the Tungabhadra reservoir despite adequate storage. He recalled that during the previous BJP government, water had been released for cultivation even when reservoir levels were lower than the present. He announced that BJP leaders would undertake a

padayatra from the Anjaneya temple to the Tungabhadra reservoir to press for water release.

Targeting Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and the Congress government, Ashok alleged that no effective measures had been taken to

assist farmers. He questioned why ministers from agriculture, horticulture or animal husbandry departments had not visited drought-affected areas and said seeking ₹10,000 crore from the Centre without first officially declaring drought was procedurally incorrect.

Ashok said a formal drought declaration was essential for crop insurance claims and central assistance. He urged the government to provide ₹50 crore to every drought-hit taluk for drinking water and fodder arrangements and demanded compensation of ₹50,000 per acre, stating that farmers had invested between ₹30,000 and ₹40,000 per acre on cultivation.

He also called for an immediate farm loan waiver of up to ₹1 lakh per farmer, saying it would provide much-needed relief. Referring to central assistance, Ashok claimed the NDA government had released more funds under SDRF and NDRF than the previous UPA regime and alleged that the Congress government had failed to distribute relief promptly.

Raising environmental concerns, Ashok said dust from mining activities was damaging crops in Ballari and alleged that Veerapur lake had been polluted. He said he would raise the issue during the upcoming Assembly session.

Sri Performs Bhoomi Puja for Vyasatirtha Reservoir

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Mantralayam**

With lakhs of devotees from India and abroad visiting Mantralayam throughout the year, the Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt has initiated steps to address water requirements by constructing the Vyasatirtha Reservoir.

Sri Sri Subudhendra Theertha Sripadangalavaru, the Peethadhipathi of Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, performed the Bhoomi Puja ceremony for the reservoir project on Thursday. The project is expected to be completed and dedicated to the public within 18 months.

The reservoir will be built across nearly 100 acres and will have a water storage capacity of around 53 lakh litres. Water will be stored up to a height of about 35 feet. The first phase of the project has been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 50 crore.

The project is being supported through CSR funds by Bengaluru-based Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Sri Subudhendra Theertha said the reservoir will provide drinking water facilities for devotees visiting Mantralayam, meet the water needs of nearby villages and also serve the mutt's Gashala.



Bengaluru Launches 'Freedom from Waste' Drive



➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

The Karnataka Government will launch the month-long 'Freedom from Waste' campaign across Bengaluru from August 1 to clear footpaths, roadsides, public spaces and vacant sites of legacy waste.

The drive will be inaugurated by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda announced.

A survey has identified 22,000 tonnes of legacy waste at 1,616 locations, with officials estimating that the total could exceed one lakh tonnes across the city. The clean-up will be carried out jointly by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), city corporations and

other civic agencies.

Property owners have been asked to clear vacant sites before August 15, failing which civic bodies will remove the waste and recover the cost through property tax.

To prevent illegal dumping, the government has made GPS installation and registration mandatory for all vehicles transporting construction and demolition (C&D) waste. Only authorised agencies will be permitted to scientifically dispose of such waste.

Appealing for public participation, Krishna Byre Gowda urged citizens to join the 'Just Clean Bengaluru (JCB)' initiative, saying lasting cleanliness requires both government action and community support.

HC Scraps BMICP Land Acquisition

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

The Karnataka High Court has upheld the cancellation of land acquisition proceedings related to the Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor Project (BMICP) and criticised the NICE project, observing that it appeared to be "one of the biggest scams" in the state.

A Division Bench of Justice D.K. Singh and Justice T. Nadaf dismissed appeals filed by NICE and KIADB, upholding an earlier order that quashed the acquisition process.

The court noted that compensation awards for nearly 20,193 acres acquired between 1998 and 2009 were not passed even after more than two decades, terming the delay a violation of constitutional property rights.

The Bench observed that the BMICP, planned as a 111-km expressway between Bengaluru and Mysuru, had progressed only around five kilometres in 25 years. It also raised concerns over the use of acquired land and alleged benefits gained through commercial exploitation.

The ruling could have major implications for the proposed Bidadi township and the future of the BMICP project. The verdict may impact thousands of acres linked to the long-pending infrastructure project.

SRI VIDYENDRA TIRTHA'S 15TH CHATURMASYA BEGINS

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

The Poornaprajna Vidyapeetha Pratishthana has announced that Sri Sri Vidyendra Tirtha Sripadaru, Pontiff of the Chitrapur Math established by Sri Vijayadhwa Tirtha under the Pejawar tradition, will observe his 15th Chaturmasya Vrata at Poornaprajna Vidyapeetha, Bengaluru, from August 8 to September 26.

In a media statement, the Chitrapur Sri Chaturmasya Welcome Committee said it was a matter of great fortune for devotees that the revered seer had chosen Bengaluru for this year's Chaturmasya observance.

During the Chaturmasya period, devotees will have the opportunity to participate in various religious and spiritual programmes, including the Sansthana Puja of Sri Kalinga Mardana Krishna, the presiding deity of the Math, the nightly Thottilu Puja, Guru Padapuja, and several other rituals.

The committee appealed to devotees to take part in the sacred observances and extend their support to the Math's religious, social and spiritual initiatives through service and contributions. It expressed hope that participation in the Chaturmasya programmes would enable devotees to receive the blessings of Hari, Vayu and the Guru Parampara.

The organisers extended a warm welcome to Sri Vidyendra Tirtha Sripadaru and invited devotees



from across the State to participate in the two-month spiritual programme.

ENTERTAINMENT

Arpita Lankesh Wins Mrs Globe Classic 2026 Crown

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru**

Arpita Lankesh, wife of filmmaker Indrajit Lankesh, has won the prestigious 'Mrs Globe Classic 2026' title, bringing pride to India and inspiring women across the world. Her achievement highlights that women can successfully balance family responsibilities, professional ambitions and personal aspirations at any stage of life.

Arpita Lankesh said her victory is a result of perseverance, determination and the belief that it is never too late to pursue one's dreams. She proved that age and life circumstances should not become barriers to achieving personal goals.

Born on August 21, 1979, Arpita was a bright student from a young age. She got married at the age of 18, but did not allow marriage to come in the way of her educational aspirations. With strong determination, she continued her studies and completed her engineering degree. During this phase, she also embraced motherhood and gave birth to her first son, Samarjit, while continuing her education.

Managing responsibilities as a wife, mother and student, Arpita completed her engineering without taking a break. She later joined a reputed German IT company and built a successful career over the past 25 years as an IT professional. She also ventured into entrepreneurship and established herself in the business sector.

As part of her journey towards

achieving new milestones, Arpita represented India at the international Mrs Globe Classic beauty pageant, competing with participants from across the globe.

She emerged victorious and won the coveted crown for India.

Sharing her happiness over the achievement, Arpita said the milestone in her Mrs Globe International journey is a proud and memorable moment. She noted that the competition, founded in 1996 by Dr Tracy Kemble, celebrates the beauty, intelligence, leadership qualities, cultural diversity and social contributions of married women worldwide.

Unlike traditional beauty contests that focus only on external appearance, Mrs Globe gives importance to women's empowerment, confidence, social service and personal achievements, she said.

Arpita expressed gratitude to her family, friends, mentors and well-wishers for their constant support, stating that the honour is a reflection of her hard work, passion and dedication.

Arpita's achievement has been widely appreciated as a symbol of women's empowerment and resilience. Her journey from a successful IT professional to an international pageant winner stands as an inspiration for women pursuing their dreams alongside family and career commitments.



‘PEDDI’ HINDI VERSION STREAMS ON NETFLIX

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor-starrer 'Peddi' has finally made its Hindi OTT debut on Netflix, giving Hindi-speaking audiences access to the sports drama. The film's Hindi version was released on July 30, while its Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam versions had premiered on the streaming platform earlier on July 9.

Announcing the Hindi release, Netflix India shared that the wait was over for Hindi viewers and that the film was now available in all major languages.

Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, 'Peddi' is a sports drama that revolves around a talented cricketer who plays for teams based on financial offers.

His life takes a new turn after meeting Appalasuri, a villager who has spent years seeking official recognition for a railway halt. Guided by his mentor, the cricketer transforms into a committed sportsman who learns discipline, sacrifice and dedication.

The film features an ensemble cast including Ram Charan, Janhvi Kapoor,

Shiva Rajkumar, Ravi Kishan, Boman Irani, Divyendu, Jagapathi Babu, Viji Chandrasekhar, Satya, Rajatava Dutta, Ajay Ghosh and John Vijay.

Before its OTT release, the film faced criticism over certain scenes involving Janhvi Kapoor's character. Following public reactions, the makers reportedly edited or removed the controversial portions. During the filming of 'Peddi', Ram Charan suffered an eye injury that required eight stitches. His father, actor Chiranjeevi, revealed that the injury could have been more serious but fortunately affected the eyebrow area.

He also praised Ram Charan's dedication towards the role, highlighting his intense training schedule and commitment to portraying the character.

The film performed strongly at the box office, earning around Rs 341.81 crore worldwide, including Rs 288.91 crore gross collection in India and Rs 52.90 crore from overseas markets.

With its Hindi OTT release, 'Peddi' is now available for a wider audience across India and beyond.



BUSINESS

Korea's AI Crash Sends Warning to India

➤ **Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi**

The recent crash in South Korea's stock market has raised concerns over excessive optimism surrounding artificial intelligence (AI) investments and offered important lessons for markets like India. Analysts say the fall highlights the risks of placing excessive bets on a limited number of technology companies, even those reporting strong profits.

South Korea was considered one of the biggest beneficiaries of the AI boom due to its dominance in memory chips, especially high-bandwidth memory (HBM), a key component used in advanced AI processors. The country's strong engineering capabilities and government support for technology development further strengthened investor confidence.

However, in the past 40 days, the Korean stock market lost over \$2 trillion in market value, with the benchmark KOSPI index witnessing one of its steepest declines.

Experts said the crash was not due to a decline in AI demand but because market expectations had grown too high. The correction showed that stock valuations can move far ahead of actual business performance during technology-driven rallies.

The global AI ecosystem is structured like a pyramid, with semiconductors, power infrastructure and cloud computing forming the base, followed by data centres, foundation models and consumer applications at the top. Countries such as the US and China continue to dominate the higher-value segments through companies developing advanced AI platforms and technologies.

India, meanwhile, is emerging mainly as an AI implementation hub, with companies focusing on deploying AI solutions, building applications and integrating technology across sectors. However, the country still lacks large-scale manufacturing capabilities in advanced AI chips. GPU technology and frontier AI models compared to global leaders.

The Korean market correction has also prompted Indian investors to carefully evaluate AI-related opportunities. While AI is expected to transform industries and boost productivity in the coming years, experts caution that not every company carrying an AI label will generate long-term value.

SPORTS

Neeraj Chopra Enters CWG Javelin Final



Vikrama Vahini | Glasgow

India's star javelin throwers, including two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra, have advanced to the men's javelin throw final at the Commonwealth Games 2026 after finishing among the top 12 in the qualification round held in Glasgow on Thursday.

Chopra, who won the Commonwealth Games javelin gold medal in 2018, secured fifth place with a best throw of 79.61 metres. Rohit Yadav finished ninth with 78.37 metres, while Yashvir Singh qualified in 10th position with 78.36 metres, ensuring India's full representation in the medal round.

Chopra, who was the last athlete to throw in each round, did not take his third attempt after securing qualification. Challenging weather conditions, including a steady headwind and temperatures around 18 degrees Celsius, affected performances, with no athlete crossing the automatic qualification mark of 84 metres. The top 12 performers advanced to the final.

Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage topped the qualification standings with an 82.84-metre throw, while Grenada's Anderson Peters finished second with 81.29 metres.

Four Indians Top ICC Rankings

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Indian cricket has reached new heights as four Team India players have secured the top positions in the latest ICC Rankings 2026 across different formats of the game.

India's young batters and experienced campaigners have dominated the rankings, with players occupying the No.1 spots in ODI batting, T20I batting, Test bowling and Test all-rounder categories.

Shubman Gill has become the world's No.1 ODI batter after surpassing New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell. The Indian opener's consistent performances helped him achieve the top position in the ODI batting rankings.

Young explosive batter Ishan Kishan has claimed the No.1 spot in the T20I batting rankings after his impressive performances against Zimbabwe. He secured the position with 910 rating points.

India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah continues to rule the Test bowling rankings, maintaining his position as the world's top-ranked Test bowler.

Star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has retained the No.1 position in the Test all-rounder rankings with 446 points, further strengthening India's dominance in world cricket. The achievement reflects the depth and consistency of Indian players across all three formats.

"Guru Must Lead Society on the Right Path"

Vikrama Vahini | Gokarna

Jagadguru Shankaracharya Sri Sri Raghaveshwara Bharathi Mahaswamiji of the Sri Ramachandrapura Math said that the foremost duty of a Guru is to guide society towards righteousness and help people distinguish between right and wrong.

Delivering his blessings during the 'Annabrahma Chaturmasya' Dharma Sabha at the Math in Gokarna, the seer said a person who knows the right path is merely knowledgeable, but one who shows that path to others becomes a true Guru.

'Maths Must Uphold Adi Shankaracharya's Mission'

The seer recalled that Adi Shankaracharya protected Sanatana Dharma without the support of armies or wealth and travelled across the country establishing monasteries to preserve and propagate spiritual values.

"The objective of every Math should be to



continue Adi Shankaracharya's mission by spreading Dharma, correcting social evils and guiding society with wisdom," he said.

Annabrahma Chaturmasya Focuses on

Food Awareness

Sri Raghaveshwara Bharathi said this year's Annabrahma Chaturmasya is dedicated to creating awareness about food and healthy living. Referring to last year's Swabhasha Chaturmasya, which focused on language, he said both observances relate to the proper use of the tongue—through speech and food.

He expressed concern that people today rarely think about what they eat, how food is prepared or its impact on health. Educational institutions, he said, do not provide adequate awareness on food habits, making it necessary for spiritual institutions to guide society on the subject.

Opposition is Natural for Those Who Speak the Truth

The seer observed that those who stand for truth and righteousness naturally face opposition. Citing the lives of Lord Rama, Lord Krishna and other great personalities,

he said criticism and resistance are inevitable for those who work for the welfare of society.

33rd Chaturmasya Begins with Vyasa Puja

Earlier in the day, Sri Raghaveshwara Bharathi ceremonially commenced his 33rd Chaturmasya Vrata with the traditional Vyasa Puja at the Ashokeya Moola Math in Gokarna. A large number of devotees from Karnataka and other States participated in the ceremony and received Vyasa Mantrakshate after the rituals.

Guru-Disciple Bond Highlighted

Following the Vyasa Puja, the traditional Chaturmasya Vrat Sankalpa symbolising the sacred bond between the Guru and disciples was performed. The seer announced his resolve to observe the four-month Chaturmasya vow at Gokarna, while disciples pledged their support and sought his blessings, marking an emotionally significant moment during the ceremony.

MODI TO RECEIVE VIVEKANANDA MARBLE TRIBUTE

Vikrama Vahini | Mysuru

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be presented with a specially crafted monolithic marble statue of Swami Vivekananda during his visit to Mysuru on August 1.

The sculpture, created by renowned sculptor Arun Yogiraj, will be gifted to the Prime Minister at the Ramakrishna Ashram, where he is scheduled to inaugurate the Swami Vivekananda Memorial.

Carved from premium Vietnamese marble, the 1.5-foot-tall statue is inspired by the iconic Vivekananda Rock Memorial at Kanyakumari. Weighing 8.5 kg, the sculpture has been deliberately designed to remain under 10 kg, making it easy for the Prime Minister to hold during the presentation ceremony.

Arun Yogiraj completed the intricate artwork in just 15 days. Known for sculpting several nationally significant monuments and idols, the Mysuru-based artist said the statue reflects Swami Vivekananda's iconic personality while



combining artistic excellence with practical design.

Expressing gratitude for the opportunity,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will receive a specially crafted marble statue of Swami Vivekananda, sculpted by Mysuru-based artist Arun Yogiraj, during his August 1 visit to the Ramakrishna Ashram. Inspired by the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, the lightweight sculpture is expected to be a highlight of the inauguration of the Swami Vivekananda Memorial.

Yogiraj said he had earlier presented several sculptures to Prime Minister Modi and thanked the seers of the Ramakrishna Ashram for entrusting him with creating the special gift for the inauguration ceremony.

The marble sculpture is expected to be one of the highlights of the Prime Minister's Mysuru visit, which includes the inauguration of the Swami Vivekananda Memorial at the Ramakrishna Ashram on August 1.

Four New Namo Bharat Routes Proposed

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Centre is examining proposals for four new Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors in the Delhi-NCR region, including a rapid rail link connecting Ghaziabad with the upcoming Noida International Airport at Jewar.

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has submitted detailed project reports (DPRs) for the proposed corridors, which are currently under technical and financial review. Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu informed the Rajya Sabha that the projects are yet to receive final approval.

The proposed corridors are Delhi-Karnal, Delhi-Bawal, Bawal-Behror, and Ghaziabad-Noida International Airport.

The Delhi-Karnal corridor is expected to provide faster



connectivity between the national capital and northern Haryana, while the Ghaziabad-Noida Airport route will offer a direct public transport link to the upcoming international airport at Jewar, reducing travel time for passengers across the NCR.

The Delhi-Bawal and Bawal-Behror corridors are aimed at improving connectivity across southern Haryana and its industrial belt, benefiting daily commuters and workers travelling to factories and commercial hubs.

Officials said the proposed corridors are part of the NCR Planning Board's long-term Regional Rapid Transit System plan.

CRPF Chief Backs RAF Personnel

CRPF chief Gyanendra Pratap Singh urged personnel to work fearlessly, assuring them of full backing for bona fide decisions. His remarks came as the force ordered a review of the RAF's actions during the Delhi protests.

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director General Gyanendra Pratap Singh has assured personnel that they should carry out their duties fearlessly, stating that he would take responsibility for all bona fide decisions made in the line of duty.

Addressing the CRPF investiture ceremony, Singh told officers and personnel that operational and law-and-order duties often require quick decisions under challenging circumstances and urged them to continue performing their responsibilities without hesitation.

"As the Director General of the CRPF, I take responsibility for all decisions and actions taken in the bona fide discharge of duty. Continue to work

fearlessly, and wherever accountability is required, I will take it," he said.

His remarks come days after the Rapid Action Force (RAF), the CRPF's specialised riot-control unit, used pellet guns during protests in Delhi over the alleged



examination paper leak, triggering public debate over the use of force.

The CRPF has announced that it will conduct a professional post-event assessment of the RAF's actions.

The CRPF, India's largest central armed police force, plays a key role in maintaining law and order, counter-insurgency operations and anti-Maoist missions across the country, while its specialised CoBRA units undertake jungle warfare operations.

23 Ladakh Heritage Sites Get Protection Status

Vikrama Vahini | Srinagar

Twenty-three historic sites in Ladakh, including ancient petroglyph sites and rock-cut sculptures of Maitreya Buddha, have been declared protected monuments to safeguard them from damage caused by uncontrolled tourism and rapid infrastructure development.

The sites have been brought under legal protection under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Ancient Monuments Preservation Act. The move will empower authorities to ensure their conservation, restoration and prevent encroachments.

Ladakh is home to one of the largest collections of prehistoric rock art in South and Central Asia. Officials said increasing tourist activity and construction work had raised concerns over the safety of these rare heritage sites.

Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena said preserving Ladakh's monasteries, forts, caves, rock carvings and ancient artworks is essential to protecting India's rich cultural legacy and passing it on to future generations. The initiative is expected to promote heritage conservation, research and responsible cultural tourism in the region.

3,000-Year-Old Stone Circles Found in Tamil Nadu



Vikrama Vahini | Chennai

Around 50 ancient stone circles, believed to be nearly 3,000 years old, have been discovered near Keela Munaiyanur village in Karur district, offering new insights into Tamil Nadu's ancient history and civilisation.

Spread across nearly 1.98 acres, the structures are suspected to be prehistoric burial monuments built to honour important individuals. Archaeologists believe the site could reveal valuable information about ancient Tamil burial practices, social life and cultural traditions.

Karur district archaeology and revenue officials inspected the site on July 28 and are preparing a report after verifying land records. Similar burial-related stone structures have earlier been found at Adichanallur, Kodumanal and other historic sites in Tamil Nadu.

Experts have called for scientific excavation and preservation of the site, which may uncover ancient artefacts, pottery, metal objects and other evidence related to early Tamil society.

The discovery is expected to add significant evidence to the study of Tamil Nadu's prehistoric settlements and cultural evolution. Researchers said detailed excavation could help determine the exact period and historical importance of the site.

PAKISTAN ARMY FACES OUTRAGE OVER VIRAL BALOCHISTAN VIDEO

A viral, unverified video allegedly showing a girl being killed in Balochistan has sparked outrage and renewed scrutiny of Pakistan's military. Rights groups have called for an independent investigation into the alleged incident.

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Pakistan's military has come under renewed scrutiny after a viral video circulating on social media allegedly showed a young girl being shot in Balochistan and her body later displayed on the front of an armoured military vehicle. The footage, which has sparked widespread outrage, has not been independently verified, and Pakistani authorities have not officially confirmed the incident.

The video has drawn strong reactions from Baloch activists and human rights groups, who have renewed allegations of excessive use of force by Pakistani security forces during anti-terror operations in the restive province.

Pakistan has consistently maintained that its military operations are aimed at combating militancy and restoring law and order.

According to reports circulating online, the alleged incident occurred during

ongoing security operations in Balochistan. Unverified reports also claim that at least 88 people have been killed in the province since Pakistan launched a fresh anti-terror operation on July 5.

The controversy comes amid fresh unrest in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), where protests in Rawalakot reportedly turned violent. Social media reports claimed that at least 32 protesters were killed over two days, although these figures have also not been independently verified. Meanwhile, Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif attracted criticism after remarks comparing protesters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir to India's enemies circulated online.

No official statement has been issued by Pakistani authorities regarding the viral Balochistan video. Human rights activists and international observers have called for an independent investigation into the alleged incident and the conduct of security operations in the region.

Gwalior Gets India's First Telecom Hub

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

India's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ) will be established in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, with an initial investment of ₹2,000 crore, Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Madhya Pradesh government and the Centre for developing the zone, aimed at creating a world-class telecom manufacturing ecosystem.

Companies including Dixon Technologies, HFCL, VVDN Technologies and Sirma SGS are expected to invest in the first phase. The project has a potential to attract investments up to ₹35,000 crore in phases and generate over 14,000 jobs.

The telecom hub will be developed across around 350 acres under a plug-and-play model, with facilities for manufacturing mobile phones, network equipment, fibre optics, semiconductors and supporting 5G and 6G technologies. The initiative is aimed at promoting domestic production and reducing dependence on imported telecom equipment.

Canada Tightens Student Visa Rules

Vikrama Vahini | Delhi

Canada has introduced tougher financial assessment rules for international students applying for study permits, requiring immigration officers to conduct more detailed checks on applicants' financial resources before granting visas.

The revised guidelines are expected to impact thousands of Indian students, who form one of the largest international student communities in Canada.

Under the updated instructions issued by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), visa officers must verify not only whether applicants have sufficient funds but also examine the source, ownership, credibility and accessibility of the money.

Bank statements, education loans, sponsorship letters and other financial documents will undergo closer scrutiny to ensure the funds are genuine



and available for tuition and living expenses.

Applications with incomplete, inconsistent or doubtful financial records may face requests for additional documents, delays or even rejection.

The revised rules are part of Canada's broader efforts to tighten its international student programme amid concerns over housing shortages, rising living costs and misuse of the study permit system.

Immigration experts have advised prospective students, particularly Indian applicants, to submit complete and transparent financial documents that clearly establish the source and availability of funds to avoid delays or visa refusals.