



THE Hans India



'Returning to Kolkata feels like coming home'
 Nearly two decades after she was forced to leave Kolkata following protests over her controversial book 'Dwikhondito', exiled Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen on Thursday said returning to the city for her first public appearance. **P10**

New generational job opportunities for Gen Z
 India is heading towards "Viksit Bharat@2047," but achieving this ambitious goal in a short timeframe depends on persistent reforms, the correction of macroeconomic imbalances, and the management of geopolitical challenges. **P6**

PM reviews West Asia crisis, moves to secure supply chains
 Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday discussed with a group of senior ministers the prevailing geo-political situation in West Asia and measures to keep supply chains uninterrupted despite conflicts surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, the Black Sea. **P11**

Shradha Kapoor stuns in minimalist look
 Bollywood actress Shradha Kapoor once again made her fans go crazy after sharing the latest clicks on her social media site. As per her usual attitude, the actress shared some of the best pictures of hers by keeping the looks. **P12**

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WINDOWS

Pro-Kannada outfits to meet today to discuss bandh over Cauvery issue

BENGALURU: Pro-Kannada organisations have convened a meeting in Bengaluru on Friday to discuss a proposed Karnataka bandh and future course of protests against the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu. According to a statement issued by Kannada Okkoota president Vatal Nagaraj, the meeting will be held at 11.30 am on July 31 here. The organisations have opposed the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu, arguing that Karnataka itself is facing a shortage of water and that releasing water would adversely affect the state's farmers. The statement said the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee had directed Karnataka to release 3,500 cusecs of water per day for 15 days, amounting to nearly 6 TMC of water, and claimed that such a release would cause hardship to people in the state. The meeting is also expected to deliberate on the proposed visit of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay to Karnataka and decide on protest programmes. Leaders of several pro-Kannada organisations, are expected to attend the meeting, the statement added. In a major setback to Karnataka, the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on Thursday rejected the state's plea and upheld the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's (CWRC) recommendation directing it to release 3,500 cusecs of Cauvery water daily to Tamil Nadu for the next 15 days. This has prompted the state government to convene an all-party meeting as political parties, farmers and Kannada organisations closed ranks against the order. The decision came despite Karnataka's contention that it is facing acute drought and a drinking water crisis.

Chhota Rajan gets 7-yr jail in passport case

CHENNAI: A special CBI court in Chennai on Thursday sentenced gangster Chhota Rajan to seven years' imprisonment for obtaining a passport on the basis of forged documents, officials said. The agency achieved the conviction of Rajan, who assumed the identity of Vijaya Kadam by submitting false documents such as a transfer certificate from school, ration card, etc., after a 22-year protracted legal battle.

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL

I don't believe he authorised the use of the pellet guns. They're far too mild for him

25% names set to be deleted from Delhi electoral rolls

HANS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI

NEARLY 20 to 25 per cent names may be deleted from Delhi's existing electoral rolls during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR), with election officials attributing the estimate to Delhi's highly mobile population, frequent transfers of government employees and people shifting homes without updating their

'Delhi has a very large migratory population. Migrating labourers keep shifting from one address to another -- sometimes in Delhi, sometimes outside. Government employees are posted here, and then move out. There are also new residential clusters'



voter registration. A senior official in the office of Delhi chief electoral officer said

the figure is only a broad estimate and the actual number would become clear only

when the draft electoral rolls are published on August 17. "Delhi has a very large

migratory population. Migrating labourers keep shifting from one address to another -- sometimes in Delhi, sometimes outside. Government employees are posted here, and then move out. There are also new residential clusters. "That is why there will be a substantial number of deletions in Delhi. But the exact figure will emerge only after the draft rolls are published," the official told

PTI on Thursday. While the citywide figure remains an estimate, some booth level officers (BLOs) deployed across Delhi have told PTI that the exercise largely involved tracing voters who no longer live at addresses where they are registered. In many cases, the voters have not necessarily left Delhi but have moved elsewhere in the city without transferring their enrolment. Deployed in New

Delhi assembly constituency's Ansari Nagar area, BLO Manish Meena said his polling booth presents this very challenge. The booth covers AIIMS residential quarters, servant quarters and seven student hostels, where the electoral rolls change constantly as doctors are transferred or retire, students complete their courses and government accommodation is allotted to new occupants.

Top Ministers attend PM's high-level meet

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Ministers J P Nadda, Piyush Goyal, Hardeep Singh Puri, Sarbananda Sonowal and P K Mishra, principal secretary to the PM were present

PURNA SINGH
 NEW DELHI

A high-level meeting of Union ministers, including Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, S Jaishankar and Nirmala Sitharaman, was held at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office in Parliament on Thursday. The meeting was also at-



tended by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. Other ministers who attended the meeting were J P Nadda, Piyush Goyal, Hardeep Singh Puri and Sarbananda Sonowal.

P K Mishra, principal secretary to the prime minister, was also present at the meeting. Earlier, Parliament witnessed another politically charged day on Thursday as the Rajya Sabha took up the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026.

In the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State Jitendra Singh introduced the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 for consideration and passage. The Bill, which was approved by the Lok Sabha a day earlier, proposes to tighten the country's anti-paper leak framework by enhancing punishment for offenders, creating a Special Task Force (STF) to investigate examination-related offences and setting up special fast-track courts

PIB debunks as fake 'PM's resignation'

NEW DELHI: A fake resignation letter claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stepped down from his post has been circulating on social media, prompting the Centre to issue a clarification and dismiss the claim as false. The Fact Check unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) rejected the claim and said that no such resignation letter had been issued by the PM.

for the timely disposal of such cases. The Upper House is also expected to deliberate on the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, with Home Minister Amit Shah scheduled to move the motion for its consideration.

Delhi govt closes cases against CJP protesters

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 NEW DELHI

THE Delhi police will not take any legal adverse action against individuals who participated in the Cockroach Janta Party-led protest in the national capital, but those with criminal background will have to face action, according to a Delhi government order.

In its order, the home department said that with regard to arrests or detentions, if already made, in these cases, the process for reviewing the arrests and releasing the arrested persons will be undertaken expeditiously. "Government of NCT of Delhi does not propose to take any further adverse action against the individuals involved in the protests, and the matter shall be treated as closed without any

THE PROTECTION SHALL NOT EXTEND TO PERSONS HAVING CRIMINAL ANTECEDENTS, AS MANDATED IN THE RECENT ORDER OF SUPREME COURT



future proceedings on this account," the home department said in its order. It stated that no adverse legal action will be taken by any of the police authorities within NCT of Delhi against those persons who have been involved in these protests. The protection, however,

shall not extend to persons having criminal antecedents, as mandated in the recent order of Supreme Court, the order said. The Delhi Police has registered 13 FIRs in connection with violence during 'Chalo Sansad' march by the Cockroach Janta Party on July 20.

AAP-BJP face off: E20 fuel row brings MCD House to a standstill

PURNA SINGH
 NEW DELHI

THE Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) House witnessed high drama on Thursday after Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillors turned the civic body's meeting into a protest venue over the Centre's E20 fuel policy. Carrying posters and pamphlets inside the House, AAP members demanded the rollback of the policy, triggering repeated sloganeering, heated exchanges with BJP councillors and multiple disruptions that forced Mayor Praveesh Wahli to adjourn the proceedings.

The protest began immediately after the House assembled, with AAP councillors alleging that the E20 petrol policy would impose an additional financial burden on vehicle owners and could adversely affect older vehicles. According to the party, the Centre should withdraw the decision as it would negatively impact the public.

Odisha PG exam paper shared online



BHUBANESWAR: Amid nationwide outrage over the NEET leak, a question paper of the Odisha medical PG examination was allegedly shared on social media during the test, officials said on Thursday. Photographs of a question paper of the All Odisha Medical PG Examination was found forwarded on a social media platform on July 27, when the theory exam of a subject of the 2023-26 batch PG students was underway, they said. The photographs of the question paper (second) for General Surgery of the MS/MD course for the 2023-

26 batch were allegedly shared on WhatsApp groups formed by some postgraduate students. Some also claimed that answers were circulated from certain numbers while the test was underway, they said. The matter came to light when a student of a private medical college in Bhubaneswar allegedly possessing the photographs of the question paper flagged the issue and disclosed that he had received it from a WhatsApp group formed by a student of MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur, an official said.

Strait of Hormuz is our territory, Iran warns US

TEHRAN: Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) announced that two oil tankers attempting to leave an 'unsafe route' south of the Strait of Hormuz turned back after a fire broke out on one of the vessels, according to Iran's state broadcaster IRIB.

In a statement, the IRGC said, "Last night, two oil tankers, provoked by American birds, attempted to leave the unsafe route south of the Strait of Hormuz. After a severe fire broke out in one of them, both vessels quickly turned back." The IRGC asserted control over the strategic waterway, saying, "The Strait of Hormuz is our land, and the IRGC's navy sailors have full control over it, and a stranger who has come from thousands of kilometres away will not be allowed to interfere." With the help of God Almighty, the



aggressor will be punished today," it added. The IRGC also issued a warning to countries supporting the alleged aggressor [US]. "Countries involved in aiding the aggressor will receive a harsh response if they do not correct their behaviour," the statement said. On the continued status of the Strait of Hormuz, the IRGC said it could not be reopened while American authorities continued 'exaggerations and threats' and interference in maritime movements in the region.

RAM TEMPLE DONATION ROW

Wife of accused gets notice over illegal construction

AYODHYA: The Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA) has granted Supriya Mishra, wife of Luv Kush Mishra, who is accused in the Ram temple donation case, an additional week to provide documents for her under-construction house in Ayodhya's Saadatganj area, police said.

ADA Secretary Rajesh Mishra told PTI that Supriya had been given until July 29 to submit the required documentation to prove the legality of the house. However, on Thursday, she requested an extension as she needed more time to gather the necessary papers.

On July 2, the ADA issued a notice to Supriya regarding the alleged unauthorised construction of the house in her name. According to ADA sources, the house being



Supriya Mishra

constructed is located in Ban-virpur village in the Sohawal tehsil.

The land was purchased in Supriya's name, but the construction began without obtaining the mandatory approval from the development authority. The issue of embezzlement related to Ram temple donations came to light in early June. Subsequently, the Uttar Pradesh government established a Special Investigation Team (SIT) on June 13 to investigate the allegations, initially giving them 15 days to complete the probe.

Water bill over Rs 25L: DJB may attach commercial properties

HANS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI

IN a strict stand against pending water bills, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has started issuing notices to commercial property owners where the due amount is more than Rs 25 lakh, Water Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh said on Thursday. The Delhi government has given time till August 15 this year for the defaulters to pay the bill after

which action will be taken. "DJB has powers to attach and seal properties of water bill defaulters. Till now, we have identified 1025 commercial properties where water bill is due over the years of Rs 25 lakh or more. If they do not pay up on time then appropriate action will be taken as per the rules," Singh added. Last year, the Delhi government introduced the late payment surcharge (LPSC) waiver scheme for

domestic consumers, which was later extended to the commercial category also. "Under the LPSC scheme the commercial properties do have the facility to get a waiver from surcharge, government is expecting a satisfactory revenue from collecting these pending bills over the years," the minister added. The government aims to recover Rs 5,000 crore of revenue in pending dues of DJB from both domestic

and commercial categories, waiving late payment surcharge amounts to the tune of Rs 11,000 crore. "After the LPSC scheme's deadline is over, people who do not pay their bills, we will take action against the defaulters," Singh further said. The LPSC waiver scheme is active till August 15 this year, whether it will be extended further, is yet to be decided, the water minister said.

The government aims to recover Rs 5,000 crore of revenue in pending dues of DJB from both domestic and commercial categories, waiving late payment surcharge amounts to the tune of Rs 11,000 crore

Under the LPSC, a 100 per cent waiver on late payment charges was granted on outstanding principal water

dues, if settled by January 31, 2026, after which only a 70 per cent waiver is given on later payment charge.

