

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

Jaipur, Monday, 20 July 2026

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Spain dethrone Argentina to become world champions

■ FAIR REPORT
EAST RUTHERFORD

Spain substitute Ferran Torres scored in the 106th minute to give his team a 1-0 win over defending champi-on Argentina in the World Cup final Sunday. Spain was absolutely dominant in terms of pos-session and shot at-tempts. Lionel Messi and Argentina found a way to hang on and force extra time but barely. And in the open-ing mo-ment of the second 15-min-ute period of extra time, Torres pounced on a bounc-ing ball in the box and used his left foot to bury a shot just under the crossbar and into the back of the net. Enzo Fernandez was sent off in second-half stoppage time after getting his second yellow card, meaning Argen-tina was forced to finish the match with only 10 players. Fernandez was carded for a reckless play that sent Spain defender Pau Cubarsi cart-wheeling into the air, and the card came out immedi-ately. Another foul about two minutes after play resumed

gave Lamine Yamal a chance to win it from about 22 yards out on a free kick. Yamal's strike was curling toward the right post, and Martinez dived to knock it away for his 10th save of the after-noon the most ever in a World Cup final. He leaped to his feet, punching the air and im-ploring the crowd to get loud. Not long after that came the whistle, sending the game to extra time. Spain took 15 shots in regu-lation, Argentina none. Spain took nine corners, Ar-gentina one. And somehow, 90-plus minutes of that sort of dominance wasn't enough. With its victory, Spain became the first na-tion to simultaneously hold the World Cup crowns in both men's and women's soc-cer. It was the 104th and last match of the biggest World Cup ever, a 48-team event that played out over the US, Can-ada and Mexico. Because there were more matches than any previous World Cup, it was no surprise that there were more goals than all other editions - 308.



‘India’s Cultural Soul Is Finding a Global Voice’: CM Bhajan Lal Hails Sanatan Heritage at Hanuman Katha

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

Reaffirming Rajasthan’s commitment to preserving India’s civilisational lega-cy, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Sunday said the country is witnessing a renewed global recognition of its cultural heritage and Sanatan traditions under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Chief Minister made the remarks after at-tending a Hanuman Katha in Jaipur, where he partici-pated in the religious dis-course and offered prayers. Highlighting the grow-ing emphasis on India’s spiritual and cultural identity, Sharma said the Centre’s initiatives have elevated the country’s an-cient traditions onto the global stage, giving India’s civilisational heritage a renewed sense of pride and international visibil-ity. He also underlined the Rajasthan government’s parallel efforts to strength-



en the state’s rich reli-gious and cultural land-scape. According to the Chief Minister, the gov-ernment is continuously working towards the de-velopment of prominent pilgrimage centres, pres-ervation of heritage sites, and promotion of Ra-jasthan’s centuries-old

spiritual traditions.

The remarks come as the state government con-tinues to position reli-gious tourism and cultur-al conservation among its key governance priorities, with renewed investments in temple infrastructure, heritage restoration and pilgrimage-linked devel-

opment projects.

Framing culture as an enduring pillar of national identity, Sharma said safeguarding India’s spir-itual heritage is not mere-ly about preserving the past, but about strength-ening the country’s civi-lisational foundations for future generations.

Ailing Husband Neglect Wins IT Professional Divorce

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

In a significant ruling on marital obligations, a Jaipur Family Court has held that a spouse’s fail-ure to care for an ailing partner, coupled with per-sistent hostility towards the partner’s family, amounts to mental cruel-ty and is sufficient ground for divorce under Hindu marriage law.

Family Court Judge An-eesh Dadheech granted divorce to a Jaipur-based IT professional after ob-serving that his wife’s conduct had irretrievably damaged the marriage, making it impossible for the couple to continue liv-ing together.

According to the court order, the wife allegedly subjected her husband to continuous mental har-

assment by frequently picking arguments with-out provocation, insult-ing his parents and sib-lings, and repeatedly pressuring him to sever ties with his family. The court also noted that when the husband fell ill, she allegedly failed to provide even basic care, describing such behav-iour as “inhuman” and inconsistent with the re-

sponsibilities expected in a marital relationship. The couple had met through the matrimonial platform Jeevansathi.com before marrying un-der Hindu rites on No-vember 24, 2019. While the husband was an IT professional from Jaipur, the wife hailed from As-sam, and the couple ini-tially settled in Delhi af-ter their marriage.

ISRO Targets Seven Launches This Fiscal as India Accelerates Space Ambitions; New Spaceport to Go Live Within Six Months

■ FAIR REPORT
SRIHARIKOTA

Riding high on the success of India’s first privately developed orbital rocket, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has unveiled an ambitious launch calendar for the current financial year, sig-nalling an aggressive push towards strengthening the country’s space capabili-ties. ISRO Chairman Dr V. Narayanan announced on Saturday that the space

agency is targeting at least seven launches during the current financial year, with the next mission scheduled within the next two months. The an-nouncement comes as In-dia seeks to maintain mo-mentum in both govern-ment-led and private-sec-tor space missions. Addressing the media after the landmark orbital success of Skyroot Aero-space’s Vikram-1 rocket, Narayanan revealed that

two satellites are already launch-ready, while five to six additional spacecraft are in the final stages of integration, ensuring a packed launch manifest for the months ahead. Among the flagship missions is the first un-crewed flight of the Gaga-nyaan programme, India’s maiden human space-flight initiative, alongside a series of communica-tion, Earth observation and technology demon-

stration satellites that are expected to reinforce the country’s strategic and commercial space ca-pabilities. Describing Vikram-1’s maiden orbital mission as a defining moment for In-dia’s rapidly expanding private space ecosystem, Narayanan praised the youthful Skyroot team, whose average age is just 28 years, for accomplish-ing an orbital launch on their very first attempt.

When an Ambulance Stops, Mothers Die: How Rajasthan’s 220-Day Shutdown of Janani Express May Be Deepening the Maternal Mortality Crisis

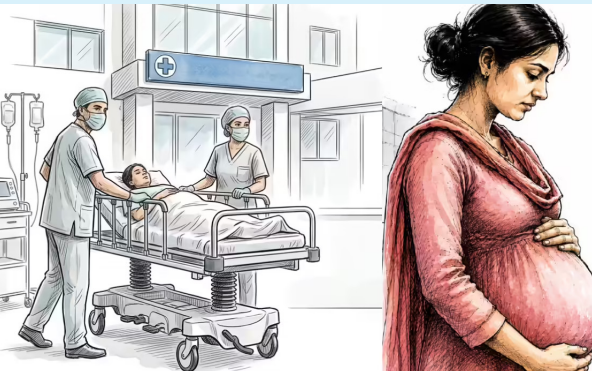


Hemraj Tikamchand Tiwari

By Special Feature Desk

For more than 220 days, Rajasthan’s 104 Janani Shishu Suraksha Yojana (JSSY) ambulance service—the state’s dedicated trans-port lifeline for pregnant women and newborns—has allegedly remained non-operational. While

the state continues to grapple with reports of maternal deaths over recent months, an uncom-fortable question now demands an answer: Did the collapse of a preven-tive healthcare system contribute to these trag-edies? The Janani Express network was never mere-ly an ambulance service. It formed the backbone of maternal healthcare in rural Rajasthan. It trans-ported pregnant women from villages to govern-ment hospitals, facilitat-ed referrals between health centres, ensured post-de-livery drop-back services, enabled monthly antenatal check-ups, vaccina-



tions, diagnostic tests, and access to free medicines under the Janani Shishu Suraksha Yojana. Its prolonged absence may have created a silent public health emergency. For thousands of wom-en living in remote villag-es, travelling even 20 to 30 kilometres for routine an-

tenatal care costs 1,200–1,500 per trip—an impos-sible burden for families surviving on monthly in-comes of 4,000–5,000 or dependent solely on social security pensions. In many households, healthcare for pregnant women is often deferred because of finan-cial hardship.

The consequence is predictable.

Missed antenatal visits mean untreated anaemia, undetected hypertension, unmanaged gestational diabetes, delayed vaccina-tions and interrupted nu-tritional supplementa-tion. By the seventh or eighth month of pregnan-cy, women frequently reach Community Health Centres or district hospi-tals only after complica-tions have escalated. Health officials may clas-sify them as “referred” or “critical” cases, but public health experts argue that many such emergencies could have been prevented through uninterrupted primary maternal care.

Questions are also emerging over adminis-trative decision-making. According to sources familiar with the matter, efforts were reportedly made within the Health Department to continue the existing ambulance arrangement through an extension after December 10. However, the proposal was allegedly rejected, with procurement rules cited as the reason. Re-sponsibility for operating the service was instead proposed to be shifted to district Chief Medical and Health Officers (CMHOs). Healthcare insiders question whether district administrations possess the operational capacity

to manage a statewide am-bulance fleet—covering vehicle maintenance, fuel logistics, driver salaries, quality monitoring and emergency response. The numbers further complicate the picture. Of nearly 600 ambulances, around 200 vehicles, large-ly manufactured between 2008 and 2013, have report-edly reached the end of their operational life. Sources claim these vehi-cles had effectively been supported by reserve am-bulances arranged by the previous operator to maintain uninterrupted services. If these claims are accurate, Rajasthan is confronting not merely a contractual dispute but a

systemic breakdown of maternal healthcare del-ivery. The state govern-ment has maintained that maternal deaths are being monitored and medical interventions strength-ened. Yet the prolonged suspension of a service specifically designed to prevent high-risk preg-nancies raises larger questions about account-ability. Every maternal death deserves medical investigation. But every interruption in essential public health infrastruc-ture deserves administra-tive scrutiny. Because sometimes, the first link in the chain is not a hospi-tal. It is the ambulance that never arrived.

Walkout sets tone for Monsoon Session

With legislative business and contentious issues lined up, Sunday’s protest hinted at an acrimonious Parliament session

FAIR REPORT

■ New Delhi

In a clear indication that the Monsoon Session beginning Monday is likely to witness fierce attack across the aisle, the all-party meeting convened by the Government on Sunday saw the Opposition parties staging a symbolic walkout protesting the invitation to rebel TMC MPs.

As the meeting started, the Opposition protested against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla’s decisions on the rebel TMC MPs being granted a separate seating arrangements in the Parliament and simultaneously on the issue of merger of rebel Uddhav Thackeray led Shiv Sena MPs with Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde’s Shiv Sena.

The meeting, chaired by Union Minister of Defence, Rajnath Singh was attended by health minister JP Nadda

and 58 leaders from 40 political parties.

Though Opposition MPs returned soon to the meeting after protesting over what they termed was the “miscarriage of justice”, the walkout signalled a stormy Monsoon Session ahead. While there was a demand for a discussion on the issues of Ram temple donation theft, NEET paper leak and the issue of blended petrol, the NDA Government on its part said it will listen to the Opposition in exchange for being heard.

“People of the country want the Parliament to function smoothly. We also want this. By protesting, no one is going to benefit politically. That is why I request members of all political parties to take part in the proceedings wholeheartedly,” Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijiju said. He added in Monsoon Session, several important legislations will



Union ministers and Opposition party leaders during the all-party floor leaders' meeting ahead of Parliament's Monsoon Session in New Delhi on Sunday

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come while requesting Opposition participation.

“If they want to oppose, they should oppose through debate, not by creating chaos

and protests. We will cooperate and hope they will also cooperate,” he said.

Congress MP Pramod Tiwari told the media that

Opposition decided to walk out of all-party meeting to protest the Speaker's decision on rebel MPs of TMC and Shiv Sena (UBT). While CPM

leader John Brittas said the invitation to rebel TMC MPs to the all-party meet was a “miscarriage of justice”, TMC MP Mahua Moitra said the entire Opposition, including the Congress, the Samajwadi Party, DMK, JMM, Aam Aadmi Party, National Conference, Left parties, Shiv Sena (UBT), walked out of the meeting in protest as the “so-called NCPI”, which is an unrecognised party, was invited.

Arvind Sawant of the Shiv Sena (UBT), whose six MPs joined the Shiv Sena and their merger was approved by the Speaker, said they have protested against the decision and walked out of the meeting symbolically. ND Gupta of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), whose seven out of the 10 Rajya Sabha MPs joined the BJP, said the seven MPs were “hijacked” and the AAP’s petition to decide whether this is valid or not was still pending.



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla

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Birla urges consensus

FAIR REPORT

■ New Delhi

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Sunday appealed to all parties to extend their full cooperation to ensure the smooth and orderly conduct of the proceedings so that issues concerning people can be discussed comprehensively and productively.

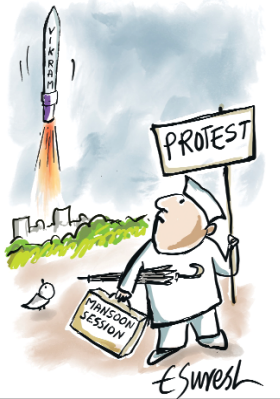
Chairing a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC), Birla also emphasised the importance of constructive deliberations, meaningful participation

and adherence to the highest parliamentary traditions.

The Speaker appealed to all parties to cooperate for a smooth and orderly session so that issues concerning people can be discussed in a comprehensive and productive manner, an official aware of the deliberations of the meeting said. Birla also invited representatives from all political parties to the Lok Sabha to put forward their views on issues of public interest.

The Bystander

India's First Private rocket launched successfully.



PIONEER IN SHORT

HC STAYS ABHISHEK OFFICE DEMOLITION

The Calcutta High Court on Sunday ordered status quo on the demolition of the Diamond Harbour constituency office of Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee in South 24 Parganas, directing the State not to carry out any further demolition until the matter is heard again or till the end of July, whichever is earlier. Holding a special sitting, Justice Raja Basu Chowdhury passed the interim order on a petition filed by Leaps and Bounds Private Limited, which is identified by the Enforcement Directorate in a separate case as a company where Banerjee is CEO. The court said the matter would be placed before the regular bench. However, it declined to grant relief on the petitioner’s allegation that political workers and miscreants looted documents from the office while police remained passive, noting that no police complaint had been shown to have been filed.

KERALA HOSPITAL FOOD RULE SPARKS

Kerala Health Minister K Muraliedharan on Sunday said political activities, including the distribution of free food under party banners, would not be permitted inside Government hospitals, drawing criticism from both the CPI(M) and the BJP. Muraliedharan said the UDF Government’s policy was to channel free meals for patients and their attendants through community kitchens to be established in Government hospitals. While political parties and organisations could distribute food outside hospital premises, the Health Department alone would regulate activities inside, he said, adding that organisations willing to help could contribute to the proposed kitchens. The scheme will be launched in Alappuzha before being expanded Statewide after consultations with voluntary organisations.

Delhi HC backs Govt on Wangchuk shift

FAIR REPORT

■ New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Sunday held that the Union Government’s decision to move Sonam Wangchuk from Jantar Mantar to a Government hospital was not arbitrary, while refusing to intervene in the treatment of the activist at the Safdarjung Hospital. The court was responding to a petition from Wangchuk’s wife, Gitanjali J Angmo, seeking permission to move him to a private hospital.

Noting the HC’s July 16 order instructing authorities to monitor Wangchuk’s health and provide medical intervention if necessary, the



Activist Sonam Wangchuk being taken by Delhi Police to a hospital from Jantar Mantar on Saturday

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court observed that since Wangchuk had not voluntarily admitted himself to any hospital, the Government was

“within its right” to transfer him to Safdarjung Hospital due to his medical condition.

FAST HINGES ON POLITICAL PROMISE

New Delhi: Sonam Wangchuk will end his hunger strike if political leaders meet him at Safdarjung Hospital and assure him that education accountability will be taken up during the Monsoon Session of Parliament beginning Monday, his wife Gitanjali J Angmo said on Sunday. Addressing protesters at Jantar Mantar, Angmo said Wangchuk would continue his fast unless Parliament committed to discussing the issue. (PTI)

J&K worst hit as monsoon unleashes trail of death, destruction

FAIR REPORT

■ Jammu/New Delhi

At least 16 people lost their lives on Sunday as the aggressive southwest monsoon continued its rampage across north and east of India, unleashing devastating landslides, flash floods and widespread destruction. Jammu and Kashmir bore the maximum brunt, with at least 11 confirmed deaths and several others still missing after relentless torrential downpours hammered the twin border districts of Poonch

and Rajouri. Massive landslides triggered by heavy downpour buried homes and vehicles under a deluge of mud and debris, while sudden flash floods roared through valleys, sweeping away everything in their path. Communication lines, power infrastructure, and road networks suffered extensive damage, leaving many areas cut off.

Indian Army troops, in close coordination with the Jammu & Kashmir Police, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the civil administration,



Police inspecting the damage to a mosque after heavy rains and flash floods, in the Mendhar area of Poonch district

PTI

successfully rescued eleven civilians, including five children, stranded at different locations in the flood-affected Rajouri district following incessant rainfall and flash floods.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke with J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, assuring all possible Government assistance to tackle the flood.

In Uttarakhand, two people died after being struck by lightning in Haridwar district as continuous rainfall affected most

parts of the State. The administration has issued red and orange alerts for 10 districts in Uttarakhand. According to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), landslides triggered by incessant rains have blocked 84 roads, including two national highways, at various locations across the State.

In Nagaland’s Kohima, at least three people lost their lives in flash floods, which washed away houses, blocked roads and trapped several people underneath debris, officials said.

Ram temple trust, RSS set to meet over donation row

FAIR REPORT

■ Ayodhya/New Delhi

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust will hold meet on Wednesday, July 22 to discuss the reconstitution of various committees in accordance with the its rules and deliberate on the final report of the Special



Police gathered at Gate number 11 of Ram Temple amid a meeting of the temple trust on July 6

PTI

Investigation Team (SIT) probing the donation theft, if it is available by then. Meanwhile, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) too have called for a conference of Hindu seers in Ayodhya on July 23 to address the controversy surrounding the temple trust.

According to trust general secretary Krishna Mohan, a special meeting of the trust has been scheduled at 3 pm in the Ram temple complex, followed by the regular meeting at 4 pm at Maniram Chawni, the premises of Trust president Nriitya Gopal Das.

Learn one more Indian language, Shah urges students

FAIR REPORT

■ Kolkata

Union Minister for Home Affairs, Amit Shah once again stressed on the importance of learning an additional language besides one’s own mother tongue so as to realise and appreciate India’s rich cultural heritage in better manner. Addressing a gathering at historic National Library in Kolkata, Shah said, “Apart from learning one’s mother tongue, every student should also learn at least another Indian language to better appreciate the country’s cultural diversity.”

“For the first time in 76 years of our Independence our National Song Vande Mataram is being sung in our schools. We do not deny the importance of foreign ideas



Home minister Amit Shah during the foundation stone laying of the world's largest curd production plant at the New Town Convention Centre in Kolkata

PIONEER PHOTO

but along with this our cultural heritage should also be preserved and explored to its full. This can happen only through our own language. Our language carries our heritage, and through languages you can understand

a country’s culture. Mother language should be the basis of all our knowledge,” he added while inaugurating India’s first immersive language museum, Shabdlok at the historic National Library, which once housed

the official palace of India’s Governor General Lord Dalhousie, besides laying the foundation stone of world’s biggest *Mishti Doi* (sweet curd) plant at Sankrail in Howrah district.

The home minister said that all the Indian languages should be digitally empowered, which in turn would ensure that India became fully self-reliant by 2047. “We are committed to restore our heritage and culture to its former glory,” he said.

Claiming that the BJP Government had revived that aspiration, Shah said, “After a decade-long struggle and responding to Modi’s call, the movement for Sonar Bangla has begun again under the leadership of Adhikari.”

MP Cabinet nod for UCC

FAIR REPORT

■ Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet on Sunday unanimously approved the draft Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026, paving the way for its introduction in the State Assembly during the five-day Monsoon Session beginning Monday. The proposed legislation seeks to establish a common legal framework governing personal and family matters across communities while exempting Scheduled Tribes (STs) from its ambit.

The decision was taken at a special Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav at Jagdishpur, near Bhopal. Announcing the approval, Yadav described it as a



MP Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar at the State Assembly ahead of Monsoon session

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landmark step and said the draft had been prepared after extensive consultations with all sections of society and had received broad public support.

Under the draft, the minimum legal age for marriage will remain 21 years for men and 18 years for women, while registration of all marriages will be mandatory.

1 Dead, 2 injured as wall collapses at Chirwai Naka in Madhya Pradesh’s Gwalior

FAIR REPORT

NEW DELHI

A woman was killed and two others were seriously injured after a retaining wall collapsed onto a tea stall near Chirwai Naka in Madhya Pradesh’s Gwalior on Sunday morning, officials said. According to Station Officer Amar Singh Sikarwar, the wall behind the Mukti Dham suddenly gave way and fell on a tea stall operating below it. Three people were trapped un-

der the debris and were immediately rescued and shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment.

One of the victims, identified as Sapna Batham, succumbed to her injuries before reaching the hospital, while the other two injured persons are undergoing treatment at a trauma centre.

Emergency response teams, including personnel from the Municipal Corporation and local po-

lice, rushed to the spot and launched rescue operations. The collapsed structure was a retaining wall constructed by the Municipal Corporation, and officials said details regarding its construction and maintenance are being examined.

Gwalior Collector Ruchika Chauhan said the retaining wall had been sanctioned to prevent soil erosion in the area and was completed around 12 months ago, though it

was reportedly still incomplete. She said the exact cause of the collapse would be determined after a detailed investigation, with preliminary indications suggesting pressure buildup may have led to the incident.

Authorities have launched an inquiry into the collapse, while assistance has been extended to the affected family. Further investigation is underway.



