

FAIR REPORT

THE DAWN OF A FEARLESS PEN

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Congress MPs Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, KC Venugopal, Sanjna Jatav, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant and others stage a protest over the alleged embezzlement of donations at Ayodhya's Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Temple during the Monsoon session of Parliament in New Delhi, Thursday

Housing Board Reserve Rate Hike Triggers Concern Over Affordable Housing Mission

JAIPUR: The Rajasthan Housing Board's latest decision to increase reserve rates has triggered growing concern among homebuyers, urban planners, and housing advocates, with critics questioning whether the move undermines the Board's core mandate of delivering affordable housing. The revised rates are expected to raise the cost of residential plots and housing units across several urban centres, adding further pressure to an already expensive real estate market. For thousands of middle-income families and first-time buyers, the increase could make home ownership significantly less attainable. Urban housing experts argue that while periodic revisions may be justified to reflect market realities and rising land values, frequent hikes risk eroding the affordability that distinguishes government-backed housing from private real estate. They contend that a public housing agency must strike a careful balance between financial sustainability and its social responsibility to expand access to housing.

■ FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said it had become necessary to bring comprehensive reforms to the education system to tackle the menace of paper leaks and asserted that there would be no mercy for those playing with the future of children. Fast-Track Courts In a late evening video message on Instagram shortly after Parliament passed a bill to amend the anti-paper leak law to introduce stricter punishments, Modi said the it was part of the government's efforts to tackle the menace that has threatened the future of children and posed a challenge for the Centre as well as several states. This was the third video message posted by Modi on his Instagram handle in the last week.



The Centre and many states have been facing the paper leak problem for several years," he said, adding that the menace has threatened the future of children appearing in various examinations. "Therefore, it had become necessary to bring comprehensive changes to the education system to deal with the problem," he added.

The prime minister said the government has been continuously working to establish a robust examination system, which also requires extensive use of technology. "A task force has been constituted, fast-track courts are being set up, and we are seeking suggestions from states to strengthen the examination process and prevent irregularities," he said.

Referring to the anti-paper leak bill, which was passed by the Lok Sabha on Wednesday and the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, Modi said that as promised, a strong law was now in place to tackle the issue. "We will not spare the paper leak gangs, paper leak mafia and those playing with the future of children," the prime minister said. The prime minister said with the passage of the bill, the government has completed the exercise of establishing a trusted examination system. He also said the government was committed to ensuring that students get a fair opportunity. "Paper leak incidents will not be allowed to continue unchecked. Our campaign against this menace will continue in future too. With this faith, let's all join hands to fulfil the dream

of a developed India," Modi said. Parliament on Thursday passed The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, with the government expressing its commitment to go the extra mile to safeguard the interests of students, who are the country's future. The legislation provides for stricter punishment, up to 10 years in jail and a heavier fine of Rs 50 lakh, for paper leaks. Fast-Track Courts The bill was brought as a response by the government to the students' protests led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) at Jantar Mantar here, which started on June 20 and culminated after 36 days on July 25 following the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as the Union education minister and acceptance of other demands by the government.

■ FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

Rajasthan's political arena is set for another intense legislative showdown after Governor Haribhau Bagde formally summoned the Sixth Session of the 16th Rajasthan Legislative Assembly. The session will commence at 11 a.m. on August 20, setting the stage for what is expected to be a politically charged Monsoon Session marked by sharp debates on governance, the economy, welfare delivery, and key public policy issues. Announcing the notification, Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani said the Governor had exercised the powers conferred under Article 174(1) of the Constitution of India to convene the House. The Assembly Secretariat has already initiated administrative and procedural preparations to ensure the smooth conduct of proceedings in accordance with parliamentary conven-

tions and the Rules of Procedure. The upcoming session assumes significance against the backdrop of an evolving political landscape, with the ruling government expected to showcase its governance agenda while the Opposition prepares to sharpen its attack on issues ranging from inflation and unemployment to infrastructure, law and order, and the implementation of welfare schemes. Beyond routine legislative business, the Assembly is expected to emerge as the principal forum where competing political narratives will collide ahead of the next phase of governance and electoral positioning. Key legislative proposals, policy announcements, and debates on public accountability are likely to dominate the proceedings, making the Monsoon Session a significant milestone in shaping Rajasthan's political discourse.

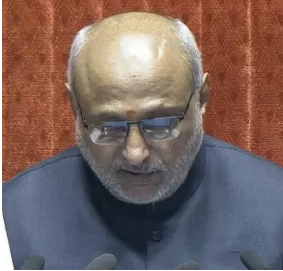
Rajasthan Assembly to Reconvene on August 20 as Government Braces for High-Stakes Monsoon Session

Strong anti-paper leak bill passed, won't spare mafia playing with future of children: PM

The Rajya Sabha also passed the Paper Leak Amendment Bill

■ FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

The amendment bill related to the paper leak was passed in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, following the Lok Sabha. The bill will now go to the President. Upon receiving his assent, it will become law. When Union Minister Jitendra Singh rose to respond on behalf of the government, the opposition staged a walkout. The Union Minister described this as irresponsible. The government said that this law will not be limited to the National Testing Agency only, but will also be applicable to UPSC, Staff Selection Commission, banking and other public exams. Earlier, during the debate in the Rajya Sabha, there was a huge uproar. RJD MP Manoj Jha demanded the abolition of the NTA and said it should be thrown into



the Bay of Bengal. Meanwhile, BJP MP Anurag Thakur on Thursday submitted a notice of breach of privilege and contempt of the House against Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Anurag alleges that Rahul Gandhi used unparliamentary and abusive language against Home Minister Amit Shah. He made serious and baseless allegations. According to the rules of Parliament, after the bill is passed by both the houses, it will be sent for the President's approval.



Hemraj Tikamchand Tiwari

By Special Feature Desk

Jaipur: Signalling an uncompromising shift from reactive policing to intelligence-driven enforcement, Rajasthan has unveiled a sweeping anti-narcotics strategy aimed at dismantling organised drug syndicates, choking their financial networks, and accelerating convictions under a zero-tolerance framework.

Chairing the State-level meeting of the Narcotics Coordination Centre (NCORD), Chief Secretary V. Srinivas directed all enforcement agencies to intensify action against drug traffickers through coordinated operations, stronger investigations, and sustained inter-departmental collaboration. The meeting reviewed the State's anti-drug campaign and laid down a comprehensive action plan to curb narcotics trafficking and organised drug crime. In one of the most significant directives, every district has been asked to



prepare a list of the 10 most critical narcotics cases and identify five notorious drug kingpins for focused enforcement. Authorities have been instructed to pursue stringent legal action, seize assets acquired through the drug trade, and dismantle

the criminal ecosystem sustaining narcotics trafficking. Calling for uniform enforcement across Rajasthan, the Chief Secretary directed every police station to intensify anti-drug operations and conduct a State-wide, synchronised destruction of seized narcotics through a special one-day campaign. The move is intended to reinforce transparency in evidence management while sending a strong deterrent message against the illegal drug trade.

Emphasising that successful prosecution is as crucial as enforcement, Mr. Srinivas instructed investigators to build evidence-based, legally robust charge sheets to ensure effective courtroom prosecution and secure swift convictions against habitual offenders. The State will also adopt the Union Government's "Detect-Disrupt-Destroy" strategy to dismantle the entire narcotics supply chain rather than merely intercept drug consignments. Officials were directed to target trafficking networks through intelligence-led operations and coordinated action across agencies.

Looking beyond immediate enforcement, the government also initiated discussions on a Zero-Tolerance Drug Policy for 2026-29, envisaging an integrated framework that combines strict law enforcement with de-addiction, public awareness, and preventive interventions. The Health, Social Justice and Empowerment, and Youth Affairs departments have been tasked with preparing a coordinated implementation roadmap. To strengthen deterrence against organised crime, the Chief Secretary ordered the expeditious auction of vehicles seized during narcotics investigations and directed au-

thorities to prioritise the disposal of cases involving offenders facing three or more criminal prosecutions, ensuring that repeat offenders are brought to justice without delay. The high-level meeting was attended by Director General of Police Rajeev Kumar Sharma, senior officials of the Home Department, the Anti-Narcotics Task Force, the Central Bureau of Narcotics, the Intelligence Bureau, the Railway Protection Force, forensic experts, and representatives from multiple State departments, underscoring Rajasthan's whole-of-government approach to combating the narcotics menace.

Rajasthan Declares All-Out War on Drug Cartels; Districts Told to Identify Top Kingpins, Seize Assets

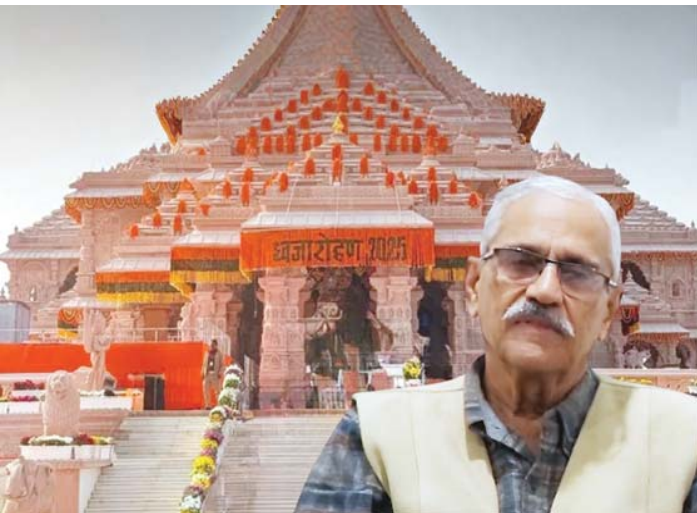
Ram Mandir trust to appoint Jagdish Aafle as first secretary

FAIR REPORT
New Delhi

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust is all set to name Jagdish Aafle as its first secretary. Aafle has overseen the Ram Mandir project for several years and is associated with the RSS. The executive committee will consider his nomination for approval at its meeting on September 2, according to sources at the temple.

Aafle, who is from Pune, brings both technical expertise and commitment to the project. He has a BTech in Electrical Engineering and an MTech from IIT Bombay. After working in India, Europe, and the United States, he returned to India upon retirement. He became the honorary project manager for the Ram Mandir on the RSS's recommendation when construction started in 2020.

Since then, he and his wife have lived at the temple site in Ayodhya, overseeing important parts of the construction. The Ram Mandir is making big changes, including



adding a new secretary position. Interim General Secretary Krishna Mohan has confirmed that Aafle has been nominated for the job. If the committee approves, the appointment will be announced after the September 2 meeting. The trust is also choosing a new spokesperson from several candidates. These

changes come after the trust recently faced some challenges.

After allegations of cash donation misuse, the Uttar Pradesh Government set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) in June 2026. As a result, former General Secretary Champat Rai, who was also the spokesperson, and trustee

Anil Mishra resigned. The trust formed an interim panel with Krishna Mohan, Aafle, and chartered accountant Chandan Rai to manage banking and restore financial oversight. Now that Aafle is an authorised signatory for the trust's State Bank of India accounts, payments like staff salaries have started again.

The September 2 meeting will address several unresolved issues. At the July 22 meeting, the trust delayed choosing a permanent general secretary and its first Chief Executive Officer (CEO), saying they needed more time. More than 5,200 people have applied for the CEO job, which is meant to bring professional management to the temple complex that serves millions of devotees every year.

A nine-member religious committee now oversees rituals and spiritual practices. The Government of India set up the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust in February 2020 after the Supreme Court decided on the Ram Janmabhoomi site. The trust is

responsible for building and managing the temple. The pran pratishtha ceremony on January 22, 2024, was a historic event for the temple. Under Chairman Mahant Nrityagopal Das, the trust has moved from construction to full operational management of one of Hinduism's main pilgrimage sites. Aafle's promotion from honorary project manager to secretary shows the trust values continuity and experience. His long involvement and RSS background have prepared him for more administrative duties, such as working with the religious committee, managing finances, and overseeing security. With the CEO selection ongoing and trustee positions under review, the September 2 meeting will be important for deciding the trust's leadership. As the Ram Mandir enters a new phase of management, Aafle's appointment is expected to bring careful planning and dedicated service to the secretariat. This should help make operations more efficient and support the temple's spiritual goals.

Govt, Meta to discuss PM Modi's Facebook post restriction



FAIR REPORT
New Delhi

A brief restriction on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Facebook post has stirred concern in the government, which will hold discussions with Meta within a week on policy and technical matters linked to the incident.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the CII conference on semiconductors, Electronics and IT Secretary S Krishnan said that the Government has asked Meta to come in at the highest level and explain the issue that led to the glitch.

"They will be coming and explaining what the situation is. We want to have both a policy-level and a technical understanding of the issues, and an adaptation to the kinds of concerns India has in this regard. There are several issues we have, which we will raise with them when they come. I think, within the next week, they will be coming," he said.

The Government has summoned Meta's public policy head after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Facebook post, on July 23, addressing India's youth and promising stringent measures against exam paper leaks, was briefly restricted by the US-head-

quartered social media giant.

The move assumes significance as the Government on Tuesday summoned a top Meta executive after Modi's recent post addressing India's youth and promising stringent measures against paper leaks was briefly restricted on Facebook.

Meta, the owner of social media platform Facebook, is learnt to have written to the Government outlining the specifics of enhanced and rigorous safeguards it has now implemented for content posted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other prominent accounts.

While the social media giant attributed the incident to a technical glitch and apologised, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) found the explanation "inadequate".

Meta has now informed the ministry that posts by the Prime Minister and select prominent accounts will be subject to additional oversight on the platform, with multiple levels of checks involving senior company officials, sources said. Any decision will undergo rigorous checks and require review by at least two senior officials of the company, sources said, citing the social media firm's latest communication to the ministry.

West Bengal Govt to include eggs in school mid-day meals



FAIR REPORT
Kolkata

The Bengal Government has decided to introduce eggs, slightly amending its earlier decision to serve "Satvik" midday meals in Government schools in Kolkata through the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).

While ISKCON, a purely vegetarian institution, will provide only the cooked meals, the State Government will get the eggs served through other NGOs.

The State Government decision comes following criticism from certain sections over discontinuing eggs — a key source of protein — in midday meals, which was a normal practice.

Referring to the new development, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari said, "From August 1, a pilot project will be launched in most schools in Kolkata...

Iskcon will provide pure satvik, protein-rich meals... In addition, eggs will be distributed separately through self-help groups so that children can receive a protein-rich food."

The decision reportedly comes close on the heels of a social media video where a Class II girl was seen sneaking an egg provided in the midday meal into her pocket. When questioned about what she was doping she told the teachers that she wanted to take the egg back home for her infant brother, who too loved eggs.

Earlier, the Opposition parties had opposed the Government decision to introduce ISKCON-made foods "in a bid to change the food habits of the children... not only fiddling with local culture but also depriving the young children of a rich source of protein... as also robbing the school sevikas of their jobs to prepare meals."

Mamata faction may soon move SC claiming TMC leadership

FAIR REPORT
Kolkata

The Mamata Banerjee faction of the Trinamool Congress could soon move the Supreme Court claiming leadership of the party witnessing a fratricidal battle ever since it lost power in this year's Assembly elections. Sources close to senior advocate and pro-Mamata Banerjee MP Kalyan Banerjee said, quoting the leader, "Expect something new and big next week."

He was referring to an appeal earlier made by the former Bengal Chief Minister to the Election Commission of India to hasten up the process of inquiry into the leadership issue in the TMC. The TMC MP is known to

have reasoned with the party chief about the efficacy of knocking the Apex Court doors when the time was opportune. However, sources would not make it clear whether the party has taken a final decision on the matter.

On whether the party had immediately taken Kalyan Banerjee's advice to move the Supreme Court — considering his not-so-good chemistry with general secretary Abhishek Banerjee — is not known, but sources said Mamata Banerjee was not averse to the idea of moving the Apex Court.

The development comes in tandem with Mamata Banerjee writing on Wednesday a letter to ECJ Secretary Ashwani Kumar Mohal requesting the



authorities to "conclude the investigation as early as possible without providing them with any further date to submit their comments." This, because "the matter has serious political ramifications" in Bengal.

"I would request you to conclude the investigation as early as possible without providing them with any further date to submit their comments," she wrote. While 20 party MPs led by

Kakoli Ghoshdastidar had defected and joined a little-known Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) soon after the elections, about 60 out of 80 rebel MLAs led by present Opposition Leader Ritabrata Banerjee had carved out a separate group demanding ownership of the State party on account of their numerical majority. The matter has been pending with the ECI.

"We firmly believe that because of the extension of time granted by you, Shri Ritabrata Banerjee and others are trying to create false evidence to develop their case since they do not have any merit in respect of their allegations which we have firmly disputed," she wrote.

CBI brings fugitive back from Fiji accused in multi-crore investment scheme case

FAIR REPORT
New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), working with the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and Maharashtra Police, helped bring Rahul Shamrao Kalokhe back from Fiji after an Interpol Red Notice was issued.

Kalokhe is accused of being part of a large investment fraud. The CBI says he and his associates promised investors very high and guaranteed returns, which led people to invest large amounts. The money was then used for personal gain. Kalokhe left India to avoid investigation and prosecution. At the request of the Maharashtra Police, the CBI obtained an Interpol Red Notice. He was found in Fiji, held by local authorities, and sent back to

India after the required steps were completed.

Public records show Rahul Shamrao Kalokhe (DIN 09677296) is a director of Trdez Investment Private Limited, started in July 2022 in Pune, Maharashtra (CIN U65993PN2022PTC213159), and Infinite Beacon India Private Limited, started in July 2023. He owns a large share in Trdez along with other directors, including Prasad Prakashrao Kulkarni.

In April 2026, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) took action against Trdez Investment. SEBI found that the company's stock-brokering licence was used to give false regulatory legitimacy to several companies, including Infinite Beacon, IB Prop Desk, and Sispay TFS. Together, these companies raised over ₹2,950 crore from the public by promising

monthly returns of 10 to 12 per cent. Agents used Trdez's SEBI registration to build trust with investors, but the money was sent to related companies instead of the broker. SEBI found that only about ₹43,430 in proprietary trades had been recorded, and there were no client trades since the company began.

Directors and associates set up partnership firms to collect money from the public. Investors saw dashboards showing fake profits, and some early withdrawals were allowed to build trust before restrictions were put in place. Some funds were reportedly sent to cryptocurrencies like USDT. Even after complaints, Trdez only gave general disclaimers and did not take real action. SEBI fined Trdez ₹1 crore for breaking the stock-broker code of conduct and SEBI Act rules. In



March 2026, stock exchanges such as BSE, NSE, and MCX removed Trdez Investment as a trading member.

SEBI's investigation also found that contact details for Infinite Beacon Financial Services were linked to Kalokhe's phone number and email address. Earlier reports

and complaints said Infinite Beacon ran a large scheme promising fixed monthly returns, usually between 8 and 12 per cent, in Maharashtra and nearby states.

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Congress wants to spread negativity around Hindu dharma: BJP on Priyanka's gau mutra expert remark

FAIR REPORT
New Delhi

The BJP slammed the Congress on Thursday over Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's "gau mutra expert" remark against IIT Madras Director V Kamakoti, alleging that the main opposition party wants to spread negativity about Indian culture and Hindu dharma.

Participating in a discussion in the Lok Sabha on "The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill 2026" on Tuesday, Priyanka Gandhi launched a stinging attack on the Government over the lathi-charge on protesting students. She said Prime Minister Narendra Modi needs to change his "dil ka angle" instead of camera angles if he wants to win over Gen Z. She also suggested that the prime minister should change his advisors because he has become far removed from reality.

" He needs to understand that merely setting up new committees will not work. Not a single recommendation of the Radhakrishnan Committee has been implemented to date. Meanwhile, the new committee includes a former IB chief, an IT company owner, and even a 'gau mutra' expert," the Wayanad MP said.



Hitting back, BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said this demonstrated the negativity the Congress "wish to spread regarding Indian culture and Hinduism".

"These people who talk about the RSS. We lost access to so many sources of our knowledge because of them as they remained 'and-hbhakt' (blind devotees) of the West since the Nehru era," the BJP Rajya Sabha MP told reporters in the Parliament House complex. Trivedi said the Congress must know that there is a patent for 'Gau Mutra' in the US recognising its anti-bacterial and anti-fungal medicinal properties.

"If their (Congress leaders') minds hadn't been filled with the 'gobar' (rubbish) of Macaulay and Marx and if they had instead been grounded in the values of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, we wouldn't have had to go all

the way to the US to fight for patents for turmeric, neem, and tulsi," he said.

The Congress leaders must introspect and accept that they were far away from 'bharatiyata' (Indianness), Trivedi said. Kamakoti, a Padma awardee, is a member of the six-member task force on exam reforms constituted by the Centre after the NEET paper leak row. He had courted controversy in January 2025 with his speech during Pongal celebrations at a cow shelter in Chennai.

In his speech, Kamakoti narrated the story of a 'sanyasi' who, according to him, recovered from high fever after drinking cow urine. A video of the speech went viral, drawing criticism from several scientists, politicians and social media users. Responding to the criticism, Kamakoti had maintained at the time that his comments were based on published scientific literature.

We want withdrawal of FIRs, not just closure: CJP's Saurav Das

FAIR REPORT
New Delhi

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Thursday welcomed the Delhi government's notification directing that no further action be taken on FIRs filed in connection with its 36-day agitation, but said the cases should be formally withdrawn, warning that any dilution of the assurances given under the July 25 Jantar Mantar agreement could force students back onto the streets.

Speaking to PTI Videos, CJP chief spokesperson Saurav Das said the wording of the notification did not reflect what was promised by the government.

"The Delhi Government has released a notification which says that all the FIRs will not be pursued further and they may be treated as closed. We are not very happy with the term. The term that they should have used is that the FIRs will be withdrawn," Das said. Das said the order did not bar withdrawal of FIRs.

"The Government is saying that the Supreme Court has mandated that the FIRs proceed. But that's a misreading and a misleading of the situation. Nowhere in the Supreme Court order has the



Supreme Court said that the FIRs cannot be withdrawn. Those powers exist with the government," he said.

He urged the Centre to honour the assurances given to protesters on July 25.

"The Government should not be using the Supreme Court order as a weapon to go against protesters. What was guaranteed before the entire nation on July 25, the Jantar Mantar agreement, the Government should come good on its promises and honour its words," Das said. "If it does not honour its words in letter and spirit, then the young generation of this country will never ever forgive them and will be forced to come back on the streets," Das said.

Das said the Delhi government's notification was a "positive development" but maintained that the commitments made to the protesters had to be implemented in full.

WOMAN BOOKED FOR PM REMARKS

Noida (UP): A Zero FIR has been registered in Noida against a woman for allegedly using abusive language against Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, police said on Thursday.

The FIR was lodged at the Expressway police station on the complaint of Smriti Singh, a resident of Ghaziabad, against Ruchika Singh, a resident of Sector 168 in Noida.

According to the FIR, the complainant alleged that on July 23, the accused used "abusive and objectionable" language against the prime minister at Jantar Mantar, hurting the dignity of the constitutional office and with the intention of spreading hatred and disturbing public peace.

Based on the complaint, the police registered a case under Sections 352 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace), 353(1) (statements conducting to public mischief) and 356(1) (defamation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), officials said. (PTI)

Final list for Karnataka Cabinet expansion soon: CM

FAIR REPORT
New Delhi/Bengaluru

Karnataka's much-awaited cabinet expansion is now likely to take place on Monday, with the final list of ministers expected to be cleared by Sunday night or Monday morning, sources close to Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said.

According to the sources, the decision was taken at a meeting held at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence in New Delhi on Thursday. Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, former chief minister Siddaramaiah, Congress general secretary KC Venugopal, AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala and Congress Karnataka president BK Hariprasad attended the meeting.

Sources close to the chief minister said that the leadership discussed the probable candidates for induction into the cabinet, taking into account caste, religion and regional representation. "It was decided that the list of the probable candidates will be cleared on Sunday night or by Monday morning. The cabinet expansion is now



likely to take place on Monday evening," the sources said.

The expansion had earlier been expected to take place on Friday, but the schedule has now been pushed back following the discussions in Delhi, they added.

The cabinet expansion has been under discussion for several weeks after Shivakumar assumed office as chief minister on June 3.

At present, Karnataka has 14 ministers, including the chief minister, against the permissible strength of 34, leaving 20 vacancies in the council of ministers.

With a large number of vacancies still to be filled, Congress legislators have intensified lobbying for a place in the ministry. Sources said the party leadership is attempting to strike a balance among various social groups and regions while finalising the list of ministers.

