

Devendra Fadnavis to revamp his cabinet today; Shiv Sena likely to get two new berths

Agency
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Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis will carry out the long-pending reshuffle and expansion of his cabinet on Sunday, just three months ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections. The exercise is being undertaken to accommodate senior leaders, who moved to the BJP and Shiv Sena from the Opposition camp, and to give internal aspirants a chance before the polls. While former Congress leader Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, who was also leader of opposition in the Assembly before joining the BJP, is set to be inducted into the cabinet, ex-Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Jaydutt Kshirsagar, who joined the Shiv Sena, too, will get a berth. "The cabinet expansion will be

held tomorrow [Sunday]. I have held one discussion about it and one final discussion will be done today," said Fadnavis, who was in New Delhi on Saturday to attend the Niti Aayog meeting. The new ministers will be sworn in at a ceremony at Raj Bhavan at 11am on Sunday. A senior BJP leader said that the cabinet will see "10 new ministers". Other than Vikhe Patil, the other BJP leaders, who could get cabinet berths, are the party's Mumbai unit chief Ashish Shelar; Mumbai legislator Yogesh Sagar; Vidarbha legislators Dr Anil Bonde, Sanjay Kumar and Parinay Phuke; Sangli MLA Suresh Khade; and Maval legislator Bala Bhegade. Sena is likely to give a chance to its Solapur MLA Tanaji Sawant, besides Kshirsagar.

The party is also likely to get one cabinet (Kshirsagar) and one junior ministerial berth (Sawant). The Republican Party of India (A) may get one ministerial berth, and is expected to nominate Avinash Mahatekar for the post. The leaders who are likely to be dropped from the cabinet are housing minister Prakash Mehta; tribal development minister Vishnu Sawara (ST); social justice minister Rajkumar Badole (SC); minister of state for social justice Dilip Kamble (SC); and minister of state for industries and mining Pravin Pote Patil. The berth for the food and civil supplies minister is also vacant as incumbent Girish Bapat was elected as a MP in the Lok Sabha polls. "The final decision on Mehta will be taken by the Delhi leadership," said a senior BJP

minister, who did not wish to be named. "The CM will try and induct new faces by balancing out region and caste factors. The party will also induct loyal BJP leaders to make up for the sense of disenchantment over induction of outsiders such as Vikhe Patil." The Fadnavis cabinet has 38 ministers – out of which 22 are cabinet ministers and 16 are junior ministers. The Chief Minister can induct up to 43 ministers as per constitutional norms. Fadnavis had met Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray late on Friday to discuss the modalities of the expansion. It is learnt that Sena was offered the post of deputy chief minister, but Thackeray did not take it up to avoid dissidence within the party's senior leadership.

Encephalitis kills 65 in Bihar, govt says disease spread due to heat wave

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The toll from acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) in Bihar reached 65 on Saturday. Of these, 55 deaths have been reported from Muzaffarpur's Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SKMCH) and 10 from Kejriwal Maternity Clinic (KMC), a private hospital. SKMCH's medical superintendent, Dr SK Shahi, confirmed the deaths of eight more children on Saturday. So far 55 children had died at the hospital, he added. As many as 53 children, with AES like symptoms, were admitted to the two hospitals on Saturday. These children were brought from various parts of the district as well as adjoining East Champaran, West Champaran, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Vaishali, and Samastipur districts. District

authorities said that the children were suffering from high and irregular fever, vomiting, seizures, and acute headaches. Bihar's principal secretary (health), Sanjay Kumar, and other health department officials visited SKMCH on Saturday to review the situation. Kumar checked paediatric intensive care units, with a team of encephalitis experts and later held discussions with the attending doctors. Kumar told journalists that a seven-member central team, which was monitoring the AES outbreak in Bihar, was yet to ascertain the reason for the spread of the disease. "The central experts are of the view that there are multiple factors behind the children falling sick from the viral disease broadly named AES," Kumar said. "It is high time researchers did an in-depth

investigation for ascertaining the causes behind the AES outbreak," he added. Also read: In Bihar hospital, encephalitis rush forces doctors to treat patients on floor. Five nursing staff members and a team of doctors being sent from government hospitals in Patna are likely to help the medical team at SKMCH. An advisory issued by the state health department said children between 1 and 15 years were susceptible to AES and Japanese encephalitis and timely treatment was the best way to deal with them. It said that the disease had spread because of excessive heat and humidity. Bihar is facing an intense heat wave. The health department also asked people not to give lyechee to children. It also said that if a child has eaten lyechee during the day, then it should be ensured that the

child gets a healthy meal before going to sleep. Bihar's main opposition party, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), accused the state government of being in a "state of oblivion" over the outbreak. An RJD delegation, led by state party chief Ram Chandra Purve, also visited SKMCH on Saturday, and met the families of the patients and doctors of the central team. Attacking the state government, Purve said, "The chief minister is in a state of oblivion, while children are losing their lives at the hospital of Muzaffarpur. Why has not he visited the hospital yet?" he asked. "...the central team has expressed doubts about malnutrition, lyechee, drinking water, and dietary habits as factors for the spread, and have confused the people," he added.

US-India trade tension hangs over Indian capital markets

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Indian equity markets could come under pressure over the fresh tension between the US and India over trade as India retaliated with tariffs on 29 American products. This decision followed the US ending India's \$5.6 billion trade concessions under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme. Last year, the US imposed duties on steel and aluminium from India following which a retaliation was deferred until now. Several analysts have said investors sentiments would be impacted. "Tariffs to the tune of \$400-450 million from all bilateral trade of 142 billion dollar with the US — this shows that the impact is insignificant," said Ajay Sahai is the Director General and CEO of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). The US-China trade war has long troubled the global financial markets. The damage was such that the global growth took a beating, as noted the International Monetary Fund (IMF). "Local investors will be worried as to how US could react to this. However, FIIs

will wait for any such move by the US before feeling the Indian market," Deepak Jasani of HDFC Securities told IANS. "\$400 million is not a big number, but 29 items consist of almonds, walnuts and apples which affect their farmers. This could trigger a response and which will not bode well for the Indian markets," Jasani added. The Indian market, which is currently dealing with slowdown concerns, will not react well if the US announces fresh tariffs, several analysts said. On Friday, Sensex slid and closed nearly 290 points lower after reports that the Indian government had decided to impose retaliatory tariffs. The fresh tension now adds to the slowdown concerns in the Indian markets. "There is always a fear that tariffs can be levied on more products from either side. So from a sentiment perspective, some tension could be seen in the markets if retaliation is seen by the US," said Mayuresh Joshi of Angel Broking. "It can hurt the investor sentiments, but beyond that it is difficult to ascertain as to what could be the impact on the capital markets. Investors will get into trouble if the

additional tariffs are applied," Joshi added. Earlier, US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in a conference that Washington could reverse the decision of withdrawing trade concessions to India under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) if the situation permits. Ross had said that "India is already the world's third-

largest economy, yet it is only the US's 13th largest export market, due to overly restrictive market access barriers". While "the US is India's largest export market, accounting for about 20 per cent of the total". "There is a real imbalance... And it's an imbalance we must strive to counteract."

Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil sworn in as minister in Devendra Fadnavis cabinet

Agency
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Former Congressman and Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil joined the cabinet of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday. Vikhe Patil was sworn in as a minister by Governor C.V. Rao at a function in Raj Bhavan. The BJP's Mumbai chief Ashish Shelar also took oath as a minister. Ahead of the expansion, the Fadnavis cabinet had 38 ministers – out of which 22 were cabinet ministers and 16 were junior ministers.

A total of eight ministers and five ministers of state were sworn in. Assembly election in Maharashtra are due later this year. Patil who submitted his resignation as a member of the Assembly on June 4, was widely tipped to join the Fadnavis cabinet. Patil's son Sujay Vikhe Patil had switched to BJP from Congress before the recent Lok Sabha elections. He won the Ahmednagar seat with a margin of 2.81 lakh votes. Vikhe Patil had quit as Leader of Opposition in March, days after his son joined the BJP.

Sport News

ICC World Cup: India to clash with arch-rivals Pakistan today



Agency
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In the ICC Cricket World Cup, the most anticipated fixture at group stage takes place today when India take on arch-rivals Pakistan at Manchester. The match is scheduled to begin at 3 PM Indian time. All India Radio will broadcast live commentary of the match. It can be heard on DTH (Hindi) and additional frequencies from 2:30 PM onwards.

This will be the first match played at Old Trafford during this World Cup, so the condition will be something of an unknown with the threat of rain looming large. The match is very important for India as it intends to extend its six-match winning streak over Pakistan at 50-overs World Cups. For Pakistan, the team will be under tremendous pressure as it faces a mammoth task to reach the semi-finals if they lose to India today. Pakistan have lost two of their

four games and are eighth in the tournament standings. There were two matches played on Saturday. In the first match, Australia beat Sri Lanka by 87 runs in London. Chasing a victory target of 335 runs, Sri Lanka were dismissed for 247 in 45.5 overs. Earlier, put into bat, Australia made 334 for the loss of seven wickets in the stipulated 50 overs. In the second match at Cardiff, South Africa defeated Afghanistan by 9 wickets through Duckworth-Lewis-S

Women's FIFA World Cup: Netherlands and Canada enter Round-of-16

Agency
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In Football, the Netherlands and Canada have entered the Round-of-16 from Group-E at the Women's FIFA World Cup being held in France. The Netherlands made it to the pre-quarterfinals after beating Cameroon, 3-1 at

Valenciennes. 22-year old Vivianne Miedema became the European champions' all-time top scorer when she scored her 59th and 60th international goals to eclipse Manon Melis' record. Dominique Bloodworth was the other scorer for the Netherlands. The lone goal for Cameroon came through Gabrielle Onguene.

In the other game, Canada eased past New Zealand with a two-nil win. Jessie Fleming and Nichelle Prince were the goal scorers. Today, in Group-F, Sweden will take on Thailand at Nice at 6:30 PM (Indian Time), while three-time winners and defending champions United States face Chile at 9:30 PM at Paris.

India Predicted XI against Pakistan - Two changes expected in Shikhar Dhawan's absence

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The stage is set for the highly anticipated clash between India and Pakistan at the ongoing World Cup tournament. The two teams will face off against each other on Sunday in Manchester. India got off to a fantastic start in the tournament, defeating South Africa and Australia convincingly in their first two matches. But the side lost a point against New Zealand as the fixture was called off due to rain without a ball being bowled.

Another blow to India in the past week was a thumb injury to Shikhar Dhawan that ruled him out for the next two games. In his absence, it is expected that KL Rahul will open the innings for the side along with Virat Kohli. It means India will have to once again decide on someone to bat at number four. Between Dinesh Karthik and Vijay Shankar, India will, most likely, go for the latter. The right-handed batsman showed his ability to score quick runs at the position in the home series against Australia, and can also give India another fast-bowling

option in the middle. Kuldeep Yadav has not enjoyed the tournament so far, having picked up just one wicket. India are likely to drop him in the crucial tie and they could opt for Mohammed Shami considering the cloud cover which is expected to be present right through the day. **Here is India's predicted XI against Pakistan:** Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Virat Kohli (c), Vijay Shankar, Kedar Jadhav, MS Dhoni (wk), Hardik Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah,

Nottingham Open: Donna Vekic wins 12 consecutive games to reach final

Agency
New Delhi June 16,

Croatian Donna Vekic reached the final of the weather-hit Nottingham Open grasscourt event on Saturday as she came from a set down to win 12 consecutive games against German Tatjana Maria. Croatian Donna Vekic reached the final of the weather-hit Nottingham Open grasscourt event on Saturday as she came from a set down to win 12 consecutive games against

German Tatjana Maria. Vekic, the second seed, lost a tight opener before storming to a 5-7 6-0 6-0 victory. What was perhaps more remarkable than the turnaround in Vekic's fortunes, was the fact that it was the first match she had completed on grass all week. Five days of rain has wrought havoc with the schedule throughout the week, forcing most of the matches to be played on indoor hardcourts rather than the lawns.

Even when Vekic led 5-0 in the decider there was another rain interruption but she returned to complete the win. "I'm super happy to be back in the final, and finally completed a match on grass as well," Vekic, champion in 2017, said. "That was really fun, to be out there playing again. I'm really looking forward to tomorrow. "It's definitely been a crazy week for everyone," the 22-year-old added.