



Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister



Shri Krishna Byre Gowda
Hon'ble Minister for
Greater Bengaluru Development

BDA Creates History!

On 31st August 2026

18,399

Developed Sites were
allotted to 3,800 farmers
who gave their land to

Dr. K. Shivarama Karanth Layout (DSKL)

Never before in the history: BDA has allotted 18,399 sites in a single day

We thank Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri D.K. Shivakumar



Hon'ble CM Shri D. K. Shivakumar gave sale deed for their site to Smt. Jayamma, Doddabettahalli

**Number of
farmers
covered**

3,800

**Transparent
allotment**

with
CeG software

**Formula
40:60 framework**

For 1 acre land
9,583 sq. ft
developed area

**Total area
covered**

3 Crore
Sq.ft.

We also thank

BDA Board Members

Shri A. C. Srinivas, Hon'ble MLA
Shri B. Shivanna, Hon'ble MLA
Shri Anand Prasad S.
Shri K. Putta Swamy Gowda
Shri V.R Sujay
Shri B. N. R. Amarnath
Shri P. Gandhi
Smt. Manjula Naidu
Shri M. Jayagopal Gowda

Dr. G. Parameshwara, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Shri Krishna Byre Gowda,
Hon'ble Greater Bengaluru Development Minister
Shri S.R. Vishwanath, Hon'ble MLA, Yelahanka Constituency
Shri S. Muniraju, Hon'ble MLA, Dasarahalli Constituency

Our sincere gratitude to :

1. BDA former Chairmen,
2. Former BDA Commissioners,
3. Former BDA Board Members,
4. Land owners
5. BDA Staff and to the higher judiciary for their guidance.

“

To every farmer, landowner and family
who contributed land for the
Dr. K. Shivarama Karanth Layout.
Thank you.

Your contribution has become
part of Bengaluru's growth story,
and this historic allotment
honours that contribution with
dignity and transparency.

”

Shri N. A. Haris

Chairman, Bangalore Development Authority
MLA, Shanthinagar Constituency



Bangalore Development Authority

BDA Helpline 24x7 : 94831 66622

<https://bdakarnataka.in> / @BDAOfficialGoK

Quick Read

Woman dies after saree gets trapped in machine in machine

Jamkhandi
A woman died after her saree reportedly got caught in a machine at a flour mill in Karnataka. She suffered grievous injuries in the accident and died while being shifted to a hospital. The incident occurred while the woman was working at the flour mill. Her saree became entangled in the operating machine, causing serious injuries. People at the spot immediately rushed to her aid and arranged for her to be taken to a hospital. However, she reportedly succumbed to her injuries while being transported. The incident has raised concerns over safety precautions for workers operating machinery. Further details regarding the incident and police investigation are awaited.

Police raid 1,041 rowdy-sheeters' houses North Karnataka

Belagavi
Police conducted simultaneous raids on the houses of 1,041 rowdy-sheeters across five districts of North Karnataka as part of a major security drive. Superintendents of Police and other senior officers led the operations. The raids covered 482 rowdy-sheeters in Vijayapura, 201 in Belagavi, 195 in Gadag, 117 in Bagalkot and 46 in Dharwad. Police teams inspected the premises and checked the activities of individuals listed as rowdy-sheeters. The operation was aimed at monitoring habitual offenders and preventing criminal activities in the region. Senior police officials supervised the searches and gathered information on the individuals concerned. Further action will be taken based on the findings of the raids.

Basava Kendra to hold Vachana Shrivana on today

Hubballi
Basava Kendra will organise its Vachana Shrivana programme on September 1(today) at 6 p.m. at the residence of retired engineer Murugesh Basappa Gangal near Akshaya Colony, Rajiv Nagar, Phase 2. Shashikala Kodekal, joint secretary of the women's wing of Basava Kendra, will deliver an experiential talk on the vachana titled "Avashada Rekanna's Compassionate Devotion and Aversion to Learning." Basava Kendra president Prof. G.B. Hallal will be present. The month-long Vachana Shrivana programme began on August 16 and will continue until September 13. Dr. Suresh D. Horkeri, secretary of the Basava Parisara Samrakshana Samiti and librarian, appealed to Basava followers to participate and make the programme successful.

Yelburga launches crores worth development projects

NDRF norms will soon add about 80 drought-hit taluks like Yelburga and Koppal to deliver vital financial relief to farmers.

KOPPAL

The Karnataka government is committed to providing drought relief, implementing guarantee schemes and improving the quality of higher education, Higher Education Minister Basavaraj Rayareddy said.
Rayareddy said 101 taluks had initially been identified as drought-hit. Based on National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) norms, around 78 to 80 more taluks, including Yelburga, Kushtagi, Koppal and Karatagi, would be considered for inclusion in the drought-hit list. Necessary relief would be provided to farmers, he said.
Rayareddy said the government would not discontinue its guarantee schemes, including Anna Bhagya, Gruha Lakshmi, Shakti, Gruha Jyothi and Yuvanidhi, along with social security pensions. He said the government was spending large amounts on subsidies and direct benefits to support people.
He also announced that



3,000 assistant professors would be appointed within the next two months and 320 principals would be recruited by September 5 through a transparent, merit-based process. Around 249 fake PhD cases had been detected in the state, and strict action, including criminal and cheating cases, would be taken against those holding fake certificates. Plans are also underway to establish an IIT-style university and an AI university in Bengaluru and organise a Global Education Summit.
Urban Development Minister Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah said development works worth ₹31 crore being launched in Yelburga reflected the government's commit-

Highlights

Drought list expanding by 78 taluks.

Guarantee schemes will continue running.

Three thousand assistant professors appointed soon.

Three hundred twenty principals by September.

ment to infrastructure. He said tax revenue was being returned to people through guarantee schemes while development activities continued across the state.
Koppal MP K. Rajshekhar Basavaraj Hitnal praised Ra-

yaareddy's development initiatives and said Yelburga could serve as a model for comprehensive constituency development.
The projects launched included the foundation stone for an ₹8.5-crore Sangolli Rayanna Stadium and a ₹16-crore Praja Soudha. Works were also initiated for a Basaveshwara statue and a community hall, while several government college classrooms and a government Urdu high school building were inaugurated.
Rayareddy also announced that he would visit all 36 gram panchayats in Yelburga constituency within 10 days to hold public contact meetings and address local issues.

Digital screens to earn Davangere corporation ₹27.3 lakh

DAVANGERE

Davangere City Corporation is planning to generate additional revenue by installing digital advertising screens at various locations across the city. The proposed screens are expected to bring in around ₹27.3 lakh in annual revenue for the civic body.
The corporation is planning to install new digital screens measuring 8 feet by 12 feet at selected locations. The initiative is aimed at improving the city's advertising infrastructure while creating a regular source of non-tax revenue for the civic administration.
The proposed digital screens will provide space for commercial advertisements and other approved public information. The corporation is expected to identify suitable locations based on visibility, traffic movement and public convenience before implementing the project.
Officials believe the initiative could help the civic body make better use of prominent public spaces while generating revenue that can be utilised for various urban devel-

These new civic screens will generate around 27.3 lakh rupees annually, boosting municipal revenue through smart advertising and asset monetization.

opment and civic services. The project is also expected to provide advertisers with modern digital platforms to display their messages.
The proposed installation comes as civic bodies across cities are exploring alternative sources of revenue to strengthen their finances. Digital advertising is increasingly being considered a viable option because screens can display multiple advertisements at different times, allowing the available space to generate greater returns.
The Davangere City Corporation is now working on the proposed plan to install the 8/12-foot digital screens. Further details regarding the number of screens, locations, tender process and implementation schedule are expected to be finalised by the civic authorities.

Ensure no beneficiary is left out of guarantees schemes

HAVERI

Officials must take immediate steps to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is excluded from the state government's guarantee schemes, district-level Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee chairman Hanumanthappa Maragadi said.
He was speaking at a district-level review meeting on the implementation of the government's guarantee schemes held at the Zilla Panchayat meeting hall on Monday. He directed officials to complete the process of updating beneficiary information under various schemes without delay and ensure that all eligible people receive the benefits.

Under the Shakti scheme, KSRTC officials informed the meeting that 5.52 crore women passengers in the Haveri division had so far travelled free of charge. Following earlier directions, additional bus services are being arranged on routes where there is a shortage of buses, particularly to benefit students travelling to schools and colleges.
Officials also reported that toilets and other basic facilities at bus stations across the division had been inspected and cleaned. Repair works have been taken up wherever necessary.
The meeting was informed that the Haveri division was facing a shortage of around 110 employees. KSRTC officials requested that a proposal for filling the vacancies be submitted to the government through the district-level Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee.
Maragadi expressed dissatisfaction over the behaviour of some bus staff towards passengers. He said employees must treat passengers

courteously and perform their duties responsibly. He warned that rude or inappropriate behaviour towards passengers would not be tolerated.
Regarding the Gruha Jyothi scheme, officials said beneficiary details were being updated again. In urban areas, beneficiaries have been asked to visit the concerned offices to update their information, while departmental staff are conducting door-to-door surveys in rural areas to collect and update details.
Maragadi directed officials to ensure that the survey is conducted transparently and completed within the stipulated period. He said no eligible beneficiary should be excluded from the scheme during the verification process.

Under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, steps have been taken to release pending payments to beneficiaries up to June 2026. Officials said the money would be credited to eligible beneficiaries' bank accounts within the next few days.
A total of 9,122 deceased beneficiaries have been identified in the district. Information has been shared with lead banks and taluk-level bank officials, and steps are being taken to recover approximately ₹1.37 crore that had been credited to the accounts of deceased beneficiaries.
Maragadi also reviewed the Anna Bhagya scheme and said Karnataka was the first state to implement the programme, with other states adopting similar models. He stressed the importance of ensuring food security for vulnerable sections.
He also sought detailed information on skill-based training being provided to beneficiaries under the Yuvanidhi scheme.

GADAG

Gen-Z voters, youth and Citizen Forum members staged a massive protest march in Gadag city on Monday, demanding that the state government declare the entire district drought-affected. The march began at Kittur Rani Channamma Circle and ended at the District Collector's office, where protesters submitted a petition.
BJP leader Anil Menasinakai, who participated in the protest, said more than 40,000 letters signed by Gen-Z voters and Citizen Forum members had been collected in support of the demand. He criticised the government for declaring only one of Gadag's seven taluks drought-affected despite inadequate rainfall and severe water shortages in several parts of the district.
Menasinakai alleged that the district's elected representatives and officials had failed to properly communicate the seriousness of the situation to the government. He said Gadag city had been facing

GADAG PROTESTERS THREATEN BLACK FLAGS

Gen-Z voters and citizens protested in Gadag, led by leader Anil Menasinakai, collecting over 40,000 letters. They slammed the government for declaring only one taluk drought-hit despite severe water shortages. Protesters demanded comprehensive relief and warned of black flags during Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's visit unless all taluks are designated.

drinking water problems for years and questioned the utilisation of funds allocated for drinking water projects. He demanded a detailed inquiry into the spending and urged authorities to find a permanent solution to the water crisis.
Hundreds of young people and citizens joined the march, raising slogans against the

government and district administration. Protesters said farmers were also facing serious difficulties because of inadequate rainfall and demanded appropriate compensation. They urged the government to extend drought relief measures to all affected areas instead of restricting them to a single taluk.
The protesters also issued a warning ahead of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's proposed visit to Gadag district on Tuesday.
They demanded that the government declare the entire district drought-affected before the Chief Minister's programmes begin. Otherwise, they threatened to intensify their agitation by displaying black flags and wearing black badges during the visit.
Anil Menasinakai, Ravikant Angadi, Raghu Yelavathi, Raju Khanappa and others participated in the protest. The demonstration highlighted growing public anger over drinking water shortages, drought relief and compensation for affected farmers.

Wife, lover arrested over husband's murder

DAVANAGERE

Police have arrested three people, including a woman and her lover, for allegedly murdering her husband in Donehalli Hosur village of Jagalur taluk. The deceased, Basavaraj, 37, was allegedly killed after his wife Sunita and her lover Bennahalli Thippeswamy plotted the murder to continue their extramarital relationship. Police said the accused allegedly offered Basavaraj a loan, took him in a car, made him consume alcohol and strangled him before attacking his head with a stone.
His body was allegedly dumped in the Kodre Kanive forest area near Huliyaar in Tumakuru district. Police became suspicious when Sunita filed a missing complaint nearly a month after the alleged murder. Technical investigation led to the arrests of Sunita, Thippeswamy and Onkarappa, who allegedly helped transport Basavaraj.

FISHING BOAT SINKS, 25 FISHERMEN RESCUED

KARWAR

A fishing boat sank near Anjadeev Island in the Arabian Sea, but all 25 fishermen on board were rescued safely in time. The incident caused significant damage to the boat and fishing equipment, with the total loss estimated at more than ₹70 lakh.
The fishing boat, named Sri Matha and owned by Neelakantha Kharvi of Belambar, reportedly began sinking suddenly while operating in the sea. The 25 fishermen on board were caught

in the dangerous situation. Five nearby fishing boats immediately rushed to the spot and rescued all the fishermen without any casualties.
Efforts were also made to save the sinking boat. Crews from other fishing boats tied ropes to Sri Matha and attempted to prevent it from completely going under. However, the boat and its fishing equipment suffered extensive damage. The exact reason for the boat sinking has not yet been established.
According to local fishermen, the incident is the third



major setback for boat owner Neelakantha Kharvi. His first fishing boat had earlier met with an accident and was damaged. The second boat he purchased later was also involved in an accident. The loss of his third boat has now

reportedly pushed the family into severe financial difficulty.
The repeated accidents involving boats belonging to the same family have caused concern among the local fishing community.

VULNERABLE FACE CRISIS

Pension hold sparks protest by elderly, widows

DHARWAD

Elderly pensioners and widows staged a protest in front of the Dharwad Deputy Commissioner's office, demanding the immediate release of old-age and widow pensions that have reportedly been withheld for several months. The protest was led by members of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).
The protesters alleged that the state government had stopped pension payments in the name of re-verification of beneficiaries. They said the move had caused serious hardship to elderly people,



widows, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable sections who depend heavily on the monthly assistance for their basic needs.
The protesters questioned the need for beneficiaries to

repeatedly visit government offices and stand in long queues to prove their eligibility. They said many elderly and physically weak beneficiaries face difficulties in travelling to offices and ar-

ranging the required documents. Instead, officials should visit beneficiaries' homes and complete the verification process, they demanded.
They urged the government to complete the re-verification process quickly and restore pension payments without further delay. The protesters also demanded that eligible beneficiaries receive their pending dues along with their regular monthly pension.
The protesters warned that continued delay in releasing the pensions would further increase the financial burden on vulnerable families.

They appealed to the government and district administration to take immediate action and ensure that genuine beneficiaries are not deprived of their rightful assistance because of administrative procedures.
They also called for a transparent verification system to prevent fraudulent claims while ensuring that genuine pensioners do not suffer.
The protesters demanded that pensions be paid regularly every month after verification and that officials provide clear information to beneficiaries regarding the status of their applications.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANNAPURNA SIDDAPPA HANCHINAL (Old name) ADDRESS: HIREMATH ONI AT POST HEBBALLI. Has changed my name: ANNAPURANA HANCHINAL (New name) for all purposes. Vide Affidavit Dated: 04/08/2026 before notary public Hebballi.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PAPITHOTI RAJANI (Old name) ADDRESS: GANDHI WADA HUBLI. Has changed my name: RAJANI DUBBALA (New name) for all purposes. Vide Affidavit Dated: 31/08/2026 before notary public Hubli.

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Nepal races to rescue workers trapped in tunnels

P11

P7

Indian economy posts robust growth



P12

Bihar Cricket Assn hails Sooryavanshi's Duleep fifty



CM gives compensation to Karanth Layout landowners

DKS said compensation aims to ease pain of farmers who parted with their land.

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday distributed compensation to landowners and farmers who parted with their land for the Dr K Shivaram Karanth Layout and said the government was committed to reducing their hardship.

"I am a farmer's son and understand the pain farmers experience when they lose their property.

My intention is to reduce that pain," he said at a programme held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium here.

Shivakumar said compensation had been delayed for years due to court cases. Efforts had been made for three years to provide relief, but a court stay stalled the process. The government had lost around ₹1,000 crore annually due to the delay, he said.

He said the Karanth Layout had involved prolonged legal and administrative challenges, with land acquisition cases reaching the Supreme Court. Around ₹16,000 crore has been invested in developing the layout, he said.

The layout covers around 3,700 acres, while nearly three crore square feet of sites are being allotted to farmers. Shivakumar said farmers would receive improved compensation options for land acquired for BDA projects, including double



Chief Minister DK Shivakumar initiates the digital allotment process covering nearly 30 million square feet of land at a programme at the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru on Monday. Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, BDA Chairman NA Haris among others look on. (Right) Shivakumar interacts with farmers on the occasion.

Karanth Layout

- **Land compensation:** Distributed to eligible landowners
- **Layout area:** 3,700 acres
- **Investment:** ₹16,000 crore
- **Farmers:** 3,200 names to feature on Wall of Gratitude
- **Site area:** Nearly 3 crore sq ft
- **Compensation options:** Double guidance value/double TDR/35% commercial sites/FAR/40% developed land
- **Peripheral Road:** Around 80% land acquisition consented

the guidance value, double TDR, 35% commercial sites, FAR or 40% developed land.



I am a farmer's son and understand the pain farmers experience when they lose their property.
— DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister

Shivakumar also urged farmers not to sell the sites allotted to them, saying their value would rise substantially in the future.

He said the government was developing the Bengaluru Business Corridor with a ₹26,000-crore loan to ease traffic congestion.

He also announced a teak plantation programme targeting one crore saplings annually, with 70% of returns going to farmers and 30% to the government.

Wall of gratitude

The government will create a 'Wall of Gratitude' carrying the names of 3,200 farmers, who gave their land for the Dr K Shivaram Karanth Layout, Shivakumar said, adding that the initiative was intended to recognise their contribution to Bengaluru's development. He also urged beneficiaries not to sell their allotted sites, noting that property values were expected to rise considerably as infrastructure, roads and public amenities developed around the layout in future years.

DKS: IN TOUCH WITH MEA OVER 13 MISSING KANNADIGAS IN NEPAL

A group of 13 Kannadigas who travelled to Nepal remains untraceable, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said on Monday. He said the Karnataka government was in constant touch with officials of the Union Ministry of External Affairs to intensify search and rescue efforts. The state government has also sent its representatives to Nepal to assist in tracing the missing persons. Shivakumar said officials were closely coordinating with the Centre and monitoring developments. Efforts are underway to establish contact with the group and ascertain their whereabouts amid the ongoing situation in Nepal.

SCO SUMMIT 2026

Every day of war sets humanity back: PM

BISHKEK

Russian President Vladimir Putin met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek of Kyrgyzstan, with PM Modi reiterating New Delhi's support for all peaceful efforts to resolve the Ukraine conflict.

Modi said every day of the war sets humanity back and stressed the need to work towards ending hostilities.

Putin said Russia-India relations were strengthening, aided by PM Modi's personal attention. Tourist exchanges between the two countries grew 16% in 2025.

The PM told Putin that India would continue to support peace, stressing the need to move from "endless wars to the end of war." He said both countries could move forward by keeping their respective national interests in mind and added that he was carrying a message of peace from the land of Mahatma Gandhi and Gautam Buddha.

The bilateral meeting, which lasted for nearly 30 minutes, began with Prime Minister Narendra Modi walking up to Russian President Vladimir Putin, exchanging a handshake and a hug before the talks. After the meeting, PM Modi shared a video of their interaction on X, writing, "Always a delight to meet President Putin. Sharing my remarks during our meeting in Bishkek."

At the start of the bilateral meeting, PM Modi said, "Excellency, my friend, I am de-



Diplomacy in a nutshell

- PM Modi-Putin car diplomacy returns at SCO summit in Bishkek.
- PM reiterated India's support for peace and ending Ukraine hostilities.
- Bilateral talks focussed on defence, energy, trade and investment cooperation.

lighted to meet you." He said Putin's last visit to India had been highly successful and memorable, helping take the two countries' economic ties to a new level. Modi added that the outcome of the Delhi meeting had kept officials in both countries busy implementing the decisions taken.

The talks focused on key aspects of India-Russia ties, including trade and investment, energy and defence. The meeting came a week ahead

of Putin's visit to India for the annual BRICS summit. Once again, the car diplomacy first witnessed between PM Modi and Putin at the SCO Summit in China's Tianjin last year was on display when Putin travelled to India a few months later in 2025. The tradition has now continued in Bishkek.

Modi-Pezeshkian vow to expand India-Iran trade basket

Bishkek: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday told Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian that India wants to "expand and diversify" its trade basket with Iran, while calling for the West Asia conflict to be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. Modi met Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek of Kyrgyzstan, where the two leaders discussed bilateral ties as well as the evolving situation in West Asia. This comes days after US has warned that economic engagement "of any kind" with Iran could trigger penalties as the Trump administration seeks to isolate Tehran financially. Against that backdrop, PM Modi and Pezeshkian discussed ways to expand and diversify the India-Iran trade basket, while also taking up the evolving situation in West Asia and the safety of commercial shipping and seafarers. "Met President Masoud Pezeshkian in Bishkek. Reiterated our commitment to strengthening India's long standing friendship with Iran across diverse sectors," PM Modi said in a social media post.

FIR against Rahul reflects BJP's casteist mindset: GP

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Monday condemned the FIR registered by Uttarakhand Police against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, alleging that it reflected the BJP's "casteist mindset" and disregard for constitutional values.

Parameshwara said the case was a serious attack on democracy, the Constitution and social justice. He questioned the rationale behind registering a case against Rahul Gandhi for raising concerns over caste discrimination and untouchability.

His remarks followed an alleged "purification" ritual conducted at a venue in Haldwani after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge addressed a public meeting there. Parameshwara said such an act following the visit of a prominent Dalit leader raised serious questions about caste discrimination. "Is it acceptable under the Constitution of this country to 'purify' a place after a Dalit leader has visited it?" he asked.

He questioned why the authorities had allegedly registered an FIR against Rahul Gandhi instead of acting against those responsible for the purported discriminatory act. He also objected to the use of provisions of the SC/ST Act against Rahul Gandhi, saying the Congress leader had spoken in support of the dignity, equality and constitutional rights of Dalits.

"Is speaking against untouchability a crime? Is questioning caste discrimination a crime? Is raising one's voice for the dignity and self-respect of Dalits a crime?" he asked.

INDIA BEATS IRAN WAR BLUES

Logs GDP growth of world-beating 7.8% in Q1FY27; beats RBI forecast.

NEW DELHI

India's economy grew 7.8% in the April-June quarter of 2026-27, beating expectations and the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forecast of 7% despite concerns over the impact of the Iran war, high energy prices and global economic uncertainty.

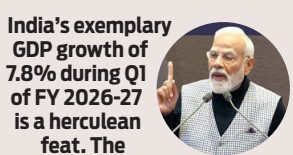
The growth rate, which kept India as the world's fastest-growing major economy, was lower than the 8.6% expansion recorded in the previous quarter but higher than the 6.9% growth in the corresponding quarter of 2025-26, according to government data released on Monday.

The stronger-than-expected performance underscored the resilience of domestic



economic activity despite heightened geopolitical risks and concerns that the Iran conflict could trigger higher energy prices, inflationary pressures and weaker global demand. Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant prices in the first quarter of FY27 is estimated at Rs 81.36 lakh crore, compared with Rs 75.46 lakh crore in the corresponding quarter of 2025-26, registering a growth rate of 7.8%,

Doomsayers doomed and India bloomed: PM



India's exemplary GDP growth of 7.8% during Q1 of FY 2026-27 is a herculean feat. The collective strength of our people ensured India delivered such growth despite oil price shocks and supply chain issues in the midst of global uncertainties.

— Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) said. "Indian economy has sustained growth momentum despite global headwinds," the ministry said.

More on Page 13

Nepal death toll goes past 900

KATHMANDU

Devastating floods near the border with China have killed at least 939 people in Nepal, while the number of missing in the country dropped to 3,925, its disaster authority said on Monday, as rescue efforts entered a sixth day.

Indian authorities are seeking to identify the bodies, and they are not included in the toll.

More than 10,000 people have been rescued from the affected areas, including over 323 foreign nationals. The missing include 590 foreign nationals from 39 countries, according to the ministry.

Nepal seeks international support for tunnel rescue, freezers, forensics

Nepal has sought additional international support, including specialised equipment and

technical assistance for tunnel rescue and forensic work, as rescue operations continued after the floods that have killed hundreds and left thousands missing.

During a press briefing in Kathmandu on Monday, Nepal's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lok Bahadur Chhetri said the country had sought essential non-food items and services such as freezers, DNA testing kits and LiDAR from the US, relief-specific items like DVI from Singapore, and belly bridges and high-capacity drones from China and Singapore, he said.

"So far, Nepal has received airtight bags for the management of bodies, while more are also being delivered."

A team of 18 forensic experts from India specialising in DNA analysis has been in Nepal since August 29, he Minister added.

Woman, 2 minor grandkids run over by train

BENGALURU: A woman and her two grandchildren were killed on the spot after being hit by a speeding train while crossing the railway tracks at Doddaballapur city in Bengaluru Rural on Monday.

The deceased are Irfana (46), Rukiya (13), and Rakiya (8) of Palanajogahalli, as per the police. The children had come from Hindupur to their grandmother's house for the holidays. The accident occurred this morning while they were returning with their grandmother to attend school as their vacation ended.

Bengaluru Rural Railway Police Station inspector Jagadish R said the Latur-Bidar Express ran over a woman and her grandchildren, who were crossing the railway tracks near Doddaballapur railway station.

GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL AT DOORSTEPS

'Prajaseva Abhiyana to take governance to people'

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Secretary Dr Shalini Rajneesh has outlined the key features and review mechanism of the government's 'Prajaseva Abhiyana', which will begin from Kudligi Hobli in Vijayanagara district on September 5.

The initiative aims to take administration to citizens' doorsteps and provide solutions to grievances either immediately or within a stipulated timeframe. Meetings will be held across the state every Saturday, with district in-charge ministers presiding on the first and third Saturdays and local MLAs chairing meetings on the second and fourth Saturdays.

Citizens will receive informa-

tion at least 15 days in advance through door-to-door pamphlets containing application forms and document checklists. AI-based calls will also provide details about meeting dates, venues and presiding representatives.

Applications can be submitted beforehand at Grama One centres. Facilities with computers, printers and internet connectivity will also be available at meeting venues.

Two queues will handle grievances: one for new complaints and another for unresolved or unsatisfactorily resolved complaints registered under Sakala or IP-

Prajaseva Abhiyana

- **Launch:** September 5, Kudligi Hobli
- **Meetings:** Every Saturday
- **First & third Saturday:** District in-charge minister
- **Second & fourth Saturday:** Local MLA
- **Advance notice:** 15 days
- **Helpline:** 1902
- **Online:** IPGRS
- **Review:** Three-tier system every Wednesday

GRS and pending beyond 21 days. Eligible beneficiaries may receive sanction letters and resolution documents on the spot. A real-time tracking facility will enable citizens to monitor the progress.

Three-tier review

Every Wednesday, grievances will undergo a three-stage review. From 9 am to 11 am, Tahsildars and Taluk Panchayat executive officers will examine cases. Assistant Commissioners will review unresolved matters from 11 am to 1 pm, while Deputy Commissioners will conduct district-level reviews from 3 pm to 5 pm. Cases not resolved within the stipulated period will automatically be escalated to higher authorities.

Quick Read

Nelamangala toll rates rise, hitting daily commuters

CH NEWS, NELAMANGALA
The National Highway Authority of India has raised toll charges at Doddakarahalli and Karabailu plazas on the Nelamangala-Devihalli Expressway from midnight on September 1. The increase is Rs 5 to Rs 10, affecting regular commuters. Cars, jeeps, vans and light vehicles will pay Rs 60 one-way by FASTag, while same-day return costs Rs 90, up from Rs 85. LCVs pay Rs 105 one-way and Rs 155 daily. Buses and trucks will pay Rs 205 one-way and Rs 310 daily. Larger vehicles face Rs 330 one-way and Rs 495 daily.

Toddler dies during treatment after falling ill

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A one-and-a-half-year-old girl died after falling seriously ill at Dasanapura Nagarur in Bengaluru North Taluk. The deceased child, Charvika, also known as Diya, was the daughter of Supritha and Pradeep, who are from Yalagud in Chitradurga. She had been staying with her grandparents, Rekha and Guru, after being left there during weaning. The child was admitted to a hospital three days ago after developing excessive phlegm. Despite receiving treatment in the intensive care unit, her condition worsened, and doctors could not save her.

Jalahalli road cave-in gets unusual helmet warning

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Residents in Jalahalli have found an unusual way to warn motorists about a dangerous road cave-in. A wooden pole topped with a helmet has been placed in the middle of Jalahalli Main Road, alerting drivers to avoid the damaged section. Part of the road has collapsed near a drainage area, while traffic continues moving on the other side. Residents placed the wooden log and helmet to prevent vehicles from getting trapped in the pothole and to protect two-wheeler riders from falling into the pit. The makeshift warning highlights the road's poor condition and the need for urgent repairs.

RAMANAGARA POLICE BUST FAKE CURRENCY PRINTING RACKET

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA
Police in Ramanagara have uncovered a fake currency printing racket allegedly operating from a house under construction in Shantilal Layout. The Aizur police arrested five people in connection with the case and seized materials believed to have been used to produce counterfeit ₹200 and ₹500 notes. According to police, the accused were running the illegal operation inside a building belonging to a person named Santosh. The premises had been kept closed to avoid attracting attention. Acting on information received about the suspected activity, police conducted a surprise raid and uncovered the alleged network. Investigators said the gang was using special paper sheets brought from outside and treating them with chemicals to make the counterfeit notes appear similar to genuine currency. The printed sheets were reportedly cut carefully, packed into bundles

Karnataka tightens ban on POP Ganesh idols

Reddy flagged Bengaluru's sewage treatment gaps, ordered plant repairs, and gave apartments 15 days to restore non-functional treatment systems

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

With the Gauri Ganesh festival approaching, the Karnataka government has stepped up action against the manufacture, storage, transport and sale of Plaster of Paris (POP) Ganesh idols. Forest, Biology and Environment Minister Ramalinga Reddy said on Monday that the state has a complete ban on making and storing POP idols. He warned that violators will face seizure of idols, fines and criminal cases. Speaking after a meeting with officials at the Environmental Pollution Control office in Bengaluru, Reddy directed authorities to identify units producing banned single-use plastic items and immediately stop their operations. Officials were asked to prepare lists of violating units and issue notices. The minister also sought BESCOM data on electricity connections and usage to help identify plastic manufacturing units. He asked the police department to support strict enforcement of the POP idol and single-use



plastic bans. Reddy also raised concerns over sewage treatment in Bengaluru. About 1,800 million litres of wastewater is reportedly discharged under the Bangalore Water Board's jurisdiction every day, while around 1,200 million litres is treated. The minister said some treatment plants are not functioning properly and directed officials to issue notices and ensure immediate repairs. Apartment complexes with non-functioning sewage treatment plants will be given 15 days to make them operational, failing which legal action will follow. The minister further or-

dered inspections of industries located along rivers and riverbanks under the National River Conservation Project. Units releasing untreated or poorly treated industrial wastewater into water bodies will face notices and action. He said industries that fail to install pollution-control measures within the given period could be shut down, with their electricity connections disconnected. Efforts under the National Clean Air Programme will also be extended to industrial and highly polluted areas. Reddy directed officials to act against violations of noise pollution rules and ensure that

AT A GLANCE
• POP Ganesh idol manufacture, storage completely banned
• Violators face seizures, fines and criminal cases
• B'lruru generates 1,800 MLD wastewater under jurisdiction
• Only around 1,200 MLD wastewater currently treated
• Apartments get 15 days to repair STPs
• Polluting industries face shut-down & power disconnection

prescribed sound limits are followed. He also called for action against unnecessary vehicle honking. With festival preparations underway, the government has made it clear that environmental rules will be enforced strictly. Officials will now be expected to monitor violations closely and take timely action to protect public health and the environment.

LOK SHAKTI LEADERS SHIFT ALLEGIANCE, JOIN AAP



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Former Lok Shakti Party state president C.V. Sthavaramath joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday, along with several party office bearers, leaders and supporters. The joining took place at a ceremony held at the Press Club in Bengaluru. The leaders said they wanted to support politics based on honesty, accountability and public welfare. AAP state president Dr. Chief Minister Chandru welcomed Sthavaramath and the others into the party. He said

ethical politics had weakened in the country and stressed the need to bring moral values back into public life. Chandru said AAP was working to promote decentralisation, accountable administration and people-focused governance. Sthavaramath said he had followed Arvind Kejriwal's political ideas and governance model for several years. He praised the Delhi administration for giving importance to education, healthcare and transparent governance. He also appreciated the changes made in Punjab under Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann,

particularly in the education sector, saying these examples showed that effective governance could improve ordinary people's lives. Sthavaramath said he and his supporters were now committed to the political movement led by Kejriwal. He said their goal was to strengthen honest, transparent and accountable politics in Karnataka. Party working president Sitaram Gundappa, general secretary Sanchit Sahwani, media coordinator Jagadish V. Sadam and several other state leaders attended the event. Among those who joined were Basavaraju Neerthadi from Davanagere, Satish B. Govindappa from Bengaluru, L. Mahadevaya from Chamarajanagar, Dharmendra K. from Vijayanagar, Yatish M.N. from Dasarahalli, and Ranganath R.S. from Madhugiri. Several other leaders and workers also joined. The induction is expected to add strength to AAP's organisation in Karnataka and expand its support base.

High Court grants divorce after marital cruelty

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has granted divorce to a Mysuru-based couple after finding that the husband faced repeated mental and physical harassment from his wife. The court also noted that the wife had been living separately since 2017 without a valid reason. A division bench of Justices D.K. Singh and H. Shanti Bhushan heard the husband's appeal against the Mysore Family Court, which had rejected his divorce plea in 2019. After reviewing the evidence and documents, the High Court said the lower court had failed to consider important material before dismissing the case. The bench accepted the husband's claim of cruelty, including allegations of repeated complaints, arguments and conduct that caused distress. The case records also referred to the daughters witnessing the wife with another person and being told not to disclose it to their father.

BJP leader seeks congress Clarity on Hinduism

Ravikumar defended Hinduism's legacy, questioned Congress leaders' respect for its traditions, and demanded Shivakumar and Karge clarify the party's position



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

BJP MLC N. Ravikumar on Monday demanded that Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and the Congress high command clearly explain the party's position on Hinduism. His remarks came after Minister Basavaraj Rayareddy reportedly described Islam as superior. Ravikumar questioned what place Hinduism holds within the Congress and asked whether the party considers Hinduism less important. He also urged Congress leaders to respond directly to Rayareddy's remarks. Ravikumar said Hinduism has a long history and has contributed important ideas to society. He questioned Rayareddy's comments about the religion and asked Congress leaders whether they considered Hinduism inferior or respected its traditions. He also referred to Congress leaders' earlier comments on Sanatan Dharma and Lord Ram, alleging that the party had repeatedly made statements that hurt Hindu sentiments. He demanded that Shivakumar and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge clarify the party's position. The BJP leader also criticised the Youth Congress protest near the BJP office in Bengaluru on Sunday. He claimed that Congress workers had surrounded the BJP

office and alleged that similar incidents had occurred several times. Ravikumar questioned why the police had failed to prevent protesters from reaching the office. He sought details of FIRs registered against Congress workers over such incidents and demanded stronger action against those violating the law. Ravikumar said the BJP had repeatedly complained to the police and Commissioner about security concerns. He warned that if adequate protection was not provided to the BJP office, BJP workers would protest outside the Police Commissioner's office. He said political parties have the right to protest under democracy and the Constitution, but insisted that demonstrations should be conducted within legal limits and without disrupting the functioning of another party's office. He described his statement as a final warning and urged the police department to act against any future violations. The BJP leader said his party would not remain silent if similar incidents continued. His remarks have added another political dispute between the ruling Congress and opposition BJP in Karnataka, with both sides facing pressure to keep protests within democratic and legal boundaries.

Bengaluru police send 31 Bangladeshis toward deportation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Thirty-one Bangladeshi nationals detained by police in Bengaluru were sent to Malda in West Bengal on Monday as part of the process for their deportation to Bangladesh. The action was carried out under Operation Muktha, a continuing Bengaluru City Police drive to identify and track foreign nationals allegedly staying illegally in the city. The 31 individuals had been detained by 10 different police stations in Bengaluru. They were taken from Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru to Malda Railway Station by train. A team of 20 police personnel accompanied them during the journey as part of the security arrangements. According to police, the group is expected to reach Malda at around 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1. From there, the necessary procedures for their deportation to Bangladesh will be undertaken by the concerned authorities. The police said the action forms part of wider ef-

orts to address cases involving foreign nationals allegedly residing in Bengaluru without valid documents. M. Narayana, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Electronics City division, said the operation against illegal immigration would continue. He confirmed that the 31 Bangladeshi nationals secured by different police stations had been sent to West Bengal for further deportation proceedings. Police officials said teams are continuing to identify foreign nationals suspected of staying illegally in Bengaluru. After identification, authorities are taking appropriate legal steps and initiating deportation procedures wherever required. The latest movement highlights the continuing enforcement campaign in the city. Police said further action would be taken based on verification and legal procedures. Officials also stressed that such cases would be handled through the established process, with coordination among the concerned authorities.

Bengaluru bar questions handling of court-imposed fines

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Advocates' Association, Bengaluru, has issued show-cause notices to its Vice-President Shivashankar and Joint Secretary Prasanna Kempegowda over alleged irregularities in handling fines collected by magistrate courts. The association said its executive committee decided to issue the notices after concerns emerged over the col-

lection and use of court-imposed fines. The alleged irregularities involved unauthorised receipts used for collecting fines, with the amounts reportedly running into lakhs of rupees. According to the association, the receipts were allegedly used by Shivashankar and Prasanna Kempegowda through an association employee, Chandrashekar. The association has questioned the manner in which the money

was collected and handled. General Secretary H.V. Praveen Gowda issued the notices, seeking explanations from both office-bearers regarding the alleged misuse and irregularities. The association said the matter came to light during proceedings before its executive committee. The notices now require the two office-bearers to respond to the allegations. Further action is expected after their explanations are considered by the association's executive committee.

UNITY ACROSS REGIONS

Rashtriya Ekta Parv celebrates India's cultural unity

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The two-day Zonal Level Rashtriya Ekta Parv 2026 began at PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya MEG and Centre in Bengaluru on Monday, bringing together students and cultural teams from Chennai, Ernakulam, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar and Bengaluru. The programme highlighted India's diversity and the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. The inaugural ceremony was attended by Shaik Tajuddin, Deputy Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangath-

an Bengaluru Region, as the chief guest. Assistant Commissioners R.M. Sokala and Ganesh S. Indrale attended as guests of honour, while Bal Bhavan Superintendent Pushpavathi was the special guest. Several principals from Bengaluru's Kendriya Vidyalayas also attended. The programme began with an invocation and traditional lamp lighting. Host Principal Lokesh Bihari Sharma welcomed the guests and highlighted the importance of unity among India's diverse communities. He said the country's strength lies in respect-



ing different cultures while remaining united as one nation. Students presented classical and folk dances, followed by a colourful dance drama by students of KV Malleswaram.

The performances reflected different cultural traditions and received appreciation from the audience. Addressing the gathering, Tajuddin said Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat plays an important role

in strengthening national integration. He praised the young participants for helping preserve and present India's rich cultural heritage. The inaugural programme concluded with a vote of thanks, marking the beginning of the two-day celebration. The event brought together young performers from different regions and provided them an opportunity to share their traditions. Organisers said the programme would continue to promote cultural understanding, national unity and pride among students through art and participation.

Kumaraswamy questions Kharge over x statements

Kumaraswamy challenged Kharge to face cameras and address recruitment corruption claims directly instead of hiding behind social media posts.

TUMAKURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy continued his criticism of Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge, questioning why he was avoiding direct answers to specific questions and responding mainly through the social media platform X.

Kumaraswamy said Kharge should address the issues in front of the cameras instead of making statements on X. Taking a sarcastic dig at the Home Minister, he said Kharge appeared to have made a big issue out of something without answering the questions raised. Kumaraswamy also said he was not someone who would run away from a confrontation and challenged Kharge to engage in a direct discussion.

Kumaraswamy made serious allegations regarding the ongoing controversy surrounding alleged irregularities in the Karnataka Public Ser-



vice Commission (KPSC) recruitment process. He questioned why an official accused of manipulating OMR sheets was allegedly brought from Delhi and kept at a resort in Devanahalli before being produced before CID officials. He also sought clarification about alleged appointments given to 24 people and asked whether any of them were relatives of those involved.

The Union Minister further claimed that allegations re-

garding the use of carbon paper to manipulate OMR sheets had been widely discussed and said such allegations had also been supported by the investigation and forensic laboratory findings. If the evidence established wrongdoing, he questioned why the Home Minister was attempting to defend the matter.

Kumaraswamy said he was raising the issue in the interest of unemployed youth and not out of personal animosity towards Kharge. He challenged the Home Minister to meet him anywhere for a discussion and said he would not back down. He added that he would speak in detail about the issue before the media in Delhi and would continue to raise concerns until the interests of unemployed youth were protected.

Asked whether he would return to state politics, Kumaraswamy said he would re-enter Karnataka politics for the 2028 Assembly elections. In an ap-

Kumaraswamy demands Kharge's resignation

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy accused Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge of shielding officials involved in recruitment scams within the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC). Highlighting forensic evidence of OMR sheet manipulation in Assistant Executive Engineer posts, Kumaraswamy demanded accountability and a high-level probe to protect unemployed youth.

parent reference to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, he remarked that people would ultimately decide whose political position remained.

Undertrial hospitalisation row: Jail superintendent transferred

Mandya District Judge C. Chandrashekar discovered a prisoner with a young woman during a hospital inspection, sparking widespread media coverage

MANDYA

Mandya District Prison Superintendent Shanthamma has been transferred to Bellary Central Prison following allegations that an undertrial prisoner was provided special treatment at a hospital. Director General of Prisons Alok Kumar issued the transfer order, which has come into effect immediately.

The undertrial prisoner, Mohammed Hussain, who was lodged in Mandya District Prison in connection with a land scam case, had been admitted to the Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS) Hospital. During a surprise inspection, Mandya District Judge C. Chandrashekar reportedly found the prisoner with a young woman at the hospital. The incident was subsequently reported widely in the media.

The judge's inspection also reportedly revealed that the prisoner had been admitted to the hospital without prior information being given to the court. Taking serious note of the matter, the judge directed the concerned authorities to submit a report explaining the circumstances under which the prisoner was admitted and the arrangements made for his treatment.

Following the incident and the media reports, DGP Alok



Kumar visited the Mandya District Prison personally and inspected its administration and records. The department subsequently initiated an inquiry into the matter to determine whether there had been violations of prison procedures and lapses in supervision.

According to the official transfer order, prima facie dereliction of duty was found on the part of Superintendent Shanthamma in connection with the incident reported in various media outlets. Consequently, she has been transferred to Bellary Central Prison with immediate effect and assigned special duty there until further orders.

The prison department has also ordered a comprehensive inquiry into the allegations concerning the administration of Mandya District Prison. The department stated that further action would be considered after the detailed inquiry report is received.

The concerned prison superintendents have been di-

POINTS

- Judge inspected unauthorized hospital inmate admission.
- Court sought explanation for treatment arrangements.
- DGP Alok Kumar personally inspected prison.
- Department initiated formal supervisory inquiry.
- Superintendent Shanthamma found prima facie negligent.
- Transferred immediately to Bellary Central Prison.
- Comprehensive probe into prison administration ordered.
- Authorities directed to submit compliance reports.

rected to submit compliance reports to the headquarters confirming Shanthamma's release from her present duties and her reporting for duty at Bellary Central Prison.

Quick Read



Tiger finally trapped after repeated village sightings

Mysuru

A tiger that had been frequently spotted near Hosaholalu village in H.D. Kote taluk was finally captured in a forest department cage on Monday, bringing relief to residents.

The animal had been moving around the village outskirts for several days, causing fear among farmers and villagers who were hesitant to visit their fields. Forest officials monitored the tiger's movements and installed a cage at a suitable location three days ago. The tiger entered the cage early Monday morning. Villager Rangaraju said residents had requested officials to capture the animal. Dammankatte RFO Hanumantharaju said the approximately three-year-old male tiger would be released into the Kakanakote forest area near the Kabini backwaters.

Grandmother, two grandchildren killed by express

Doddaballapur

A 52-year-old woman and her two grandchildren were killed after being hit by an express train near Doddaballapur railway station in Bengaluru Rural district on Monday morning. The deceased were identified as Irfana (52), Rukia (13) and Raqia (8). According to police, the three were walking towards Doddaballapur railway station from Muthur when the accident occurred. They were reportedly walking along the railway tracks and failed to notice the approaching train at a curve. The speeding express train struck them, killing all three at the spot. The children had reportedly come from Hindupur to stay with their grandmother during the holidays and were returning home with her. Yeshwanthpur Railway Police visited the spot and began an investigation.

Muniyappa warns detractors, says they'll regret

KOLAR

Minister K.H. Muniyappa has hit back at his detractors, saying those who are currently speaking against him will eventually regret their remarks. His statement comes amid reported differences within the Congress party in Kolar district, where tensions between sections of local leaders have attracted attention. Muniyappa said people were free to make statements against him, but indicated that their criticism would not affect his political work. "Let them speak, they will regret it," he said, asserting confidence in his position and political experience.

The minister also hinted that efforts were underway to resolve the differences within the Congress unit in Kolar district. He suggested that discussions were being held to address misunderstandings among party leaders and workers and bring greater coordination within the organisation.

The differences within the district Congress unit have emerged as a matter of concern for the party, particularly as leaders and their supporters

Congress faces factional heat in Kolar

Internal friction within the Kolar district Congress unit has flared up, prompting senior leader K.H. Muniyappa to issue a stern warning against critics amid ongoing disagreements over local political issues. While party high-command efforts continue to bridge gaps and secure grassroots coordination, Muniyappa's sharp remarks have magnified existing factional fault lines within state political circles.

have expressed divergent views on local political issues. Muniyappa's remarks indicate that the party leadership is keen to prevent the disagreements from growing further and affecting its organisational strength.

Muniyappa has been a prominent Congress leader from Kolar and has held several important responsibilities in the state government. His latest comments are being viewed against

the backdrop of continuing political discussions among Congress leaders in the district.

Party leaders are expected to hold further discussions to settle the differences and improve coordination among various groups. The focus is likely to remain on strengthening the party organisation and ensuring that internal disagreements do not affect its functioning at the grassroots level.

Meanwhile, Muniyappa's strong response has added a political edge to the ongoing developments in Kolar. While he did not elaborate on the individuals he was referring to, his warning that critics would regret their comments has drawn attention within political circles. The minister's remarks also underline the continuing challenges faced by the Congress in maintaining unity among its district-level leaders. With efforts reportedly underway to resolve the differences, party workers are hoping that the issues will be settled through discussions and that the organisation will remain united ahead of future political challenges.

Bharat Ko Jano symbolises national unity: Raju

RAMANAGARA

The Bharat Ko Jano programme, organised by the Bharat Vikas Parishad, was held at Patel Public English School near Kempegowda Circle on Magadi Road in Ramanagara. The programme was inaugurated by Patel C. Raju, founder-secretary of Patel English School. Speaking on the occasion, he said the Bharat Ko Jano initiative was being organised across the country with the message that every citizen should have a better understanding of India,

its heritage and its values.

He said quiz and question-paper examinations were being conducted for schoolchildren as part of the programme. The questions cover topics related to India's land and water resources, patriotism, devotion, respect for parents and the lives and contributions of great personalities who shaped the nation. Such activities help children develop knowledge, good values and a sense of responsibility towards society and the country, he said.

Raju explained that stu-

dents who qualify at the initial level would get an opportunity to participate in quiz competitions at the district, state and national levels. He urged students to make the best use of the opportunity and actively participate in the programme.

Rajanna, who presided over the programme, said India's reputation and respect had been growing both within the country and abroad. He said the Bharat Vikas Parishad was working to strengthen the feeling that all Indians belong to one nation.

DASARA INCLUSIVITY URGED

SRIRANGAPATNA DASARA TO GET PEOPLE-CENTRIC CELEBRATION

MANDYA

Srirangapatna Dasara should be organised in a new, meaningful and people-centric manner this year, with greater opportunities for local artists, rural sports and young talent, said Ramesh Bandisiddhegouda, MLA of Srirangapatna and chairman of Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation.

Speaking at a preparatory meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office, he said the Dasara celebrations should not remain limited to traditional festivities but should encourage participation from people across sec-

tions. Diverse and innovative programmes should be organised to provide the public with a new experience, he said.

The MLA called for greater priority to local artists in cultural programmes. Talented artists from the taluk and district should be identified and provided platforms to showcase their skills. He also stressed the need to effectively organise Sports Dasara by promoting traditional rural games and encouraging greater participation from youth and sportspersons.

Bandisiddhegouda also called for a three-day Yuva Sambhrama before the Dasara



celebrations, on the lines of the event held in Mysuru. He said the programme should provide a platform for young people to showcase their artistic abilities and talents.

Deputy Commissioner Dr Kumar said 12 committees had been formed to ensure the successful conduct of Sriran-

gapatna Dasara. Committees have been assigned responsibilities relating to the stage, cultural programmes, procession, exhibition, cleanliness, food festival, city decoration, Sports and Yoga Dasara, Yuva Sambhrama and Children's Dasara. Officials were instructed to coordinate with

concerned departments and complete preparations without lapses.

Zilla Panchayat CEO K.R. Nandini said programmes highlighting the talents, skills and achievements of women should be included. She also called for greater focus on galleries and stalls showcas-

Hunsur journalists set example for state: H.P. Manjunath

HUNSUR

Former Hunsur MLA H.P. Manjunath praised journalists of the Hunsur Taluk Journalists' Association for maintaining the credibility and dignity of the print media. He said their commitment to truth and public interest had made them a role model for journalists across Karnataka.

Speaking after inaugurating the Press Day celebrations at Ambedkar Bhavan in the city, Manjunath said journalists in the taluk had resisted temptations and worked for the creation of a better society. Their reporting also helped elected representatives remain accountable and focus on the development of the taluk. He assured journalists of his continued support and promised to extend assistance for the construction of a journalists' building.

V.H. Foundation president Varsha Harish Gowda said the media played a vital role in correcting social inequalities and bringing injustice to public attention. She urged journalists to remain independent, unbiased and committed to their profession without yielding to pressure or inducements. She also stressed the need to improve the financial security of journalists and provide them with better social protection.



Road. Several shops and commercial establishments, including roadside eateries, hotels, pani puri stalls and other businesses, have allegedly occupied portions of the footpaths by placing goods and structures on pedestrian pathways.

According to the residents, the encroachments have made it difficult for pedestrians to use the footpaths, forcing many people to walk on busy roads and increasing the risk of accidents. They appealed to the authorities to take appropriate action against unauthorised occupations and clear the footpaths at the earliest.

A representation was submitted to newly appointed Superintendent of Police (SP) Padmini Sahu, requesting immediate steps to clear the encroachments and improve traffic safety. Karnataka Sene district president V. Ravikumar and office-bearers S. Sridhar, Shravan Kumar, Bharat M.A., Lakshminarasimha, Sridhar J. and others were present.

Students from all colleges in the taluk should be given opportunities to showcase their talents through cultural and other programmes. A film festival featuring quality and message-oriented movies should also be organised for children. The education department should make arrangements for schoolchildren to attend the screenings.

- Ramesh Bandisiddhegouda, MLA of Srirangapatna

ing local art, handicrafts and products made by women's self-help groups. Superintendent of Police Dr V.J. Shobharani and senior district officials attended the meeting.

‘PUTTUR CHALO’ RALLY, HEAVY POLICE DEPLOYMENT

Police intensified surveillance across key roads, junctions, crowded zones, and sensitive areas to maintain public safety and law and order

PUTTUR

Hindu organisations and the BJP have organised a ‘Puttur Chalo’ rally in Puttur on Monday to protest against a recent clash reported in Darbe. Police have granted conditional permission for the rally and made elaborate security arrangements across the city. As a precautionary measure, a police route march was conducted in Puttur. The exercise was aimed at boosting public confidence and briefing personnel deployed for security duties. Police have increased surveillance at major roads, junctions, crowded areas and other sensitive locations.

A total of 168 police officers and personnel have been assigned specifically for the rally. The deployment includes one Additional Superintendent of Police, one Deputy Superintendent of Police, three police inspectors, 10 sub-inspectors, 14 assistant sub-inspectors and 139 other police personnel.



In addition to the local police force, five Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP) platoons, two State Armed Police (SAF) teams and seven District Armed Reserve (DAR) platoons have also been deployed. Personnel will be stationed at the rally venue and along important connecting routes to prevent any untoward incidents.

Police said strict security measures have been put in place to ensure that the programme remains peaceful and that public movement is not affected. Participants and or-

ganisers have been instructed to follow the conditions attached to the permission granted for the rally.

Authorities have warned against unlawful activities, provocative slogans, clashes or any attempts to disturb public order during the programme. Police patrols have already been intensified in the city, while vehicle checks are being conducted at important locations.

The police are also monitoring social media platforms to prevent the circulation of provocative content or false

POINTS
• Police route march conducted in Puttur.
• Surveillance increased across sensitive city locations.
• Total 168 police personnel specifically assigned.
• Reserves include KSRP, SAF, and DAR.
• Strict security measures ensure peaceful program.
• Authorities warned against unlawful provocative activities.
• Vehicle checks and intensified patrols implemented.
• Participants instructed to follow permit conditions.

information that could create tension during the rally.

With more than 200 personnel, including reserve forces, involved in the overall security arrangements, police officials said all necessary preventive measures had been taken to maintain law and order and ensure that the ‘Puttur Chalo’ programme concludes peacefully.

Drought anger awaits CM Shivakumar in Gadag

MALINGARAYA PUJAR, CH NEWS

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is set to face political challenges and public anger during his first visit to Gadag district after assuming office as Chief Minister. While people are hoping for special development measures, farmers and opposition parties are preparing to protest against what they describe as the government’s inadequate response to the drought situation.

The Chief Minister is scheduled to visit Gadag to review the drought situation. However, there is speculation in political circles that his visit also has a personal purpose. Shivakumar is expected to visit the historic Muktimandir Mutt in Lakshmeshwar taluk to fulfil a vow. Some sections have questioned whether the religious visit is being presented as an official drought inspection.

Gadag district is reportedly facing a severe rainfall shortage this year. According to the information cited by local groups, the district has recorded an estimated 80 per cent deficit in rainfall, leaving farmers under considerable



stress. Despite the situation, only Gajendragad taluk has been declared drought-hit. Farmers and residents are demanding that the remaining taluks should also be included in the drought-affected list based on the actual ground situation.

Farmers’ organisations and JD(S) leaders are preparing protests during the Chief Minister’s visit. They have announced plans to display black flags and black cloth as a mark of protest against the government’s handling of the drought issue. The proposed demonstration is expected to put additional political pressure on the Chief Minister during his visit.

The district’s political circles are witnessing mixed sentiments. Congress workers and supporters have expressed disappointment over the absence of representation from Gadag in the Cabinet. At the same time, the district has welcomed the elevation

CM DK Shivakumar is coming to Gadag district to fulfill his vow, but he has only declared drought on the pretext of observing drought. Although the farming community in the district is in distress due to lack of rain, only one taluk in the district has declared drought, which is an injustice to the farmers. We will show black clothes to the CM.

— Venkanagouda R Govindagouda, State Spokesperson

of one of its leaders to the prestigious post of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

People are also expecting Shivakumar to announce a special development package and additional grants for Gadag. Residents argue that the district, which has faced developmental challenges for years, requires substantial investment in infrastructure, agriculture and public services.

The Chief Minister’s visit will therefore be closely watched, with protests on one side and expectations of development announcements on the other. How Shivakumar responds to the drought concerns and demands for special grants will be significant for the district’s political climate.

Quick Read

Brother kills elder brother over mobile phone

Mangaluru

A 40-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by his younger brother following a dispute over a mobile phone near Kottara Cross in Mangaluru. The deceased, Adivappa, and his 36-year-old brother Raju were from Bailhongal in Belagavi district and lived with their mother in a rented house. Police said the brothers argued over a mobile phone around 10.30 p.m., and the dispute escalated. Raju allegedly stabbed Adivappa with a knife. Their mother later found him seriously injured and rushed him to Wrenlock Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Urwa police arrested Raju and began further investigation.

BPL cardholders asked to complete e-KYC

Chitradurga

Antyodaya and Priority Household (BPL) ration cardholders in Chitradurga district have been asked to complete e-KYC for eligible family members whose previous e-KYC was completed five years ago. The free e-KYC facility will be available at fair price shops from September 1 to 15. Cardholders must carry their latest caste certificate, active mobile phone and ration card when visiting the shop for biometric verification. Officials warned that beneficiaries who fail to complete e-KYC may lose access to government benefits. Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department Joint Director Shidram Marihal urged eligible ration cardholders to make use of the facility within the specified period.

Puttur MLA alleges corruption by KRIDL engineers

Rai has accused KRIDL Mangaluru Executive Engineer Vijay and Junior Engineer Prajwal of serious misconduct.

MANGALURU

Puttur MLA Ashok Kumar Rai has written to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar alleging corruption, irregularities and extortion by engineers of the Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited (KRIDL) in the execution of development works in the constituency.

Rai has levelled serious allegations against KRIDL Mangaluru Executive Engineer Vijay and Junior Engi-

neer Prajwal. He claimed that irregularities had occurred in the implementation and supervision of several development projects and sought the state government’s intervention into the matter.

According to the MLA, contractors and agencies involved in development works have faced difficulties due to the alleged conduct of the officials. He has raised concerns over the manner in which works are being executed and monitored and has

sought an inquiry into the alleged financial irregularities.

The MLA’s complaint comes amid concerns over transparency and accountability in the implementation of government-funded infrastructure projects. KRIDL undertakes several rural infrastructure and development works, making effective monitoring important to ensure that public funds are utilised properly.

Rai has maintained that the allegations should be investigated independently and that

responsibility should be fixed if any wrongdoing is established. He also called for measures to ensure that contractors and other stakeholders can execute development works without facing alleged harassment or pressure from officials.

The letter to the Chief Minister is expected to draw the government’s attention to the functioning of KRIDL officials in the region. Further action will depend on the state government’s response and any inquiry initiated into the allegations.

The allegations made by the MLA are yet to be established, and the concerned KRIDL officials are expected to have an opportunity to respond to the charges.

Chief Minister Shivakumar to take the allegations seriously and order a detailed investigation into the functioning of the concerned KRIDL officials, sought appropriate action if the allegations are established through the inquiry.

- Ashok Kumar Rai, Puttur MLA

Major Dhyan Chand remains a guiding light

HULKOTI

Major Dhyan Chand, regarded as one of India’s greatest field hockey players and an iconic figure in world sports history, continues to inspire generations of sportspersons through his exceptional skills, discipline and dedication, Sports Department Director Mahantesh said.

He was speaking at a National Sports Day programme organised by the Sports Department at Sri K.H. Patil Government First Grade College in Hulkoti under the IQAC, to mark the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand. Mahantesh said Dhyan Chand was renowned for his extraordinary control of the ball and remarkable style of play, earning him the title of the ‘Wizard of Hockey’.

He recalled that Dhyan Chand had served in the Indian Army and practised hockey under moonlight after completing his military duties. This practice was reportedly one of the reasons he came to be associated with the name ‘Dhyan Chand’. During India’s golden era in hockey, he played a key role in the country’s dominance at the international level and helped India win three consecutive Olympic gold medals.

Mahantesh said August 29, Dhyan Chand’s birth anniversary, is observed as National Sports Day across the country to honour his contribution to Indian sports. Physical education teacher Shobha Adike delivered the introductory address and explained the importance of National Sports Day and the role of sports in students’ lives.

Dr Tanuja Patil felicitated for new leadership role

HUBBALLI

Professor Dr Tanuja Patil (Jawali), who was elected president of the Inner Wheel Club Hubbali North, was felicitated by various organisations at a programme held at the residence of Prabhu Sattigeri in Hubbali.

The Horkeri Masthar Education Foundation, Rani Channamma Environment Service Committee and Basava Environment Conservation Committee jointly organised the programme. Dr Tanuja Patil was honoured with a shawl and garland in recognition of her new responsibility. Members and well-wishers congratulated her and wished her

success.

The organisers expressed confidence that the club would undertake more socially oriented activities during her tenure, particularly in education, social service, women’s empowerment, healthcare and environmental protection.

Sohan Suresh Horkeri, personality development trainer Rajashekar Patil, writer Kavita Hegde Abhayam, Anupama G.R., Ravi M.B., Sumangala Somanakatti and Kavya Sattigeri were among those present.

Dr Suresh D. Horkeri, K.S. Inamati, B.L. Lingshettar and several others also attended the programme.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

PUBLIC WORKS, PORTS & INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajanagara Division, Chamarajanagara

Phone/Fax: 08226-222027 Email:eeecn@kpwd.gov.in / pwdeechngr@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-Procurement portal only)

(Two Cover System: Section-1-Technical Bid and Section-2-Financial Bid)

Short Term Tender Notification No 14/2026-27 Date: 27-08-2026

Item rate tenders are invited through e-procurement portal only on behalf of Governor of Karnataka from Eligible registered civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document KW-4 form The Total no of works is 1, H/A :- 5054-04-337-0-01-132 MDR Improvements Works maximum estimated cost is Rs, 450.00 lakhs, Further changes in this Notification will be Published in E-Procurement Only. Date of events as follows:

1	Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the e-procurement portal	From 27.08.2026 to 28.09.2026 upto 16.30 Hrs.
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	10.09.2026 in Division Office Meeting Hall at 11.00 AM
3	downloading the tender document from the Last Date and Time	28.09.2026 after 16.30 Hrs.
4	Date & Time for opening of Technical bid	29.09.2026 after 16.30 Hrs.
5	Date & Time for opening of Financial bid	03.10.2026 Morning 11.00 AM.

More information can be had from the web site: <https://www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in> & Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

Executive Engineer
PWD Division,
Chamarajanagar.

NO: DIPR: CHANAGAR: 320:2026-27

RAGHAVENDRA SWAMY ARADHANA...



Devotees gathered in large numbers in Koppal for the 355th Aradhana Mahotsava of RagHAVendra Swamy, featuring a grand chariot festival, devotional music by Puttur Narasimha Nayak, and mass prasada distribution.

Quick Read

Turkey ignoring sea route in link with ASEAN

CH NEWS, New Delhi Turkey considers itself to be a bridge connecting continents. This is a good image for its connection with Southeast Asia, except that it focuses more on the land and its two extremes while neglecting the waters filled with container vessels, oil tankers and undersea cables, according to an article in India Narrative. These ships and cables are already connecting Turkey and Southeast Asia. Only Turkey policy is yet to catch up with that reality, states the article by Mehmet Enes Beşer.

CCPA fines United Biscuits Rs 1 lakh

NEW DELHI

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on United Biscuits Private Limited, formerly known as Pladis India Private Limited, over what it termed a misleading “wholewheat” claim in the marketing of McVitie’s Wholewheat Marie Biscuits.

The action followed suo motu cognisance of a social media article questioning the product’s ingredients and claims. The authority examined the biscuit packaging and its online listings before initiating proceedings. According to the CCPA order, the ingredient declaration showed whole wheat flour accounted for only 19.5 per cent of the biscuits, while refined wheat flour, or maida, made up 52 per cent. The authority said prominently using “wholewheat” in the product name could lead an average consumer to believe that whole wheat flour was the predominant ingredient.

The Directorate General (Investigation), tasked with examining the matter, submitted its report on July 16, 2026. It noted that the biscuits were marketed as “McVitie’s Wholewheat Marie Biscuits” despite containing only 19.5 per cent whole wheat flour.

Semiconductor push could create around 60K direct jobs: Min

NEW DELHI

The semiconductor ecosystem being developed in India is expected to create 50,000–60,000 direct jobs, Union Minister for Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, said on Monday. India achieved its target of developing 85,000 semiconductor engineers over a period of 10 years in just four years and has now set a new target of developing one lakh more engineers.

“In the coming years, close to 10 per cent of the global semiconductor industry’s market is expected to be in India. Students from Tier-II and Tier-III cities have already designed more than 250 chips,” he said while outlining the government’s vision for taking India’s semiconductor ecosystem to the next level.

“In one case, commercial production commenced within just 13 months of the groundbreaking, while approvals were granted within 200 days, 150 days and even 90 days in multiple cases,” said the minister.

The government has notified



all six pillars of the Semicon 2.0 Scheme, marking a significant step towards strengthening India’s semiconductor design and manufacturing capabilities. The scheme builds on the momentum generated by the first Semicon India Programme and provides fiscal and infrastructure support across the semiconductor value chain from chip design, fabrication and packaging to equipment, materials, research and development, and talent development.

The six pillars under Semicon 2.0 are Design; Machines and Materials; Setting up more Fabs; Further strengthening the ATMP/OSAT industry; Research and Develop-

ment; and Talent Development. Projects supported under Semicon 2.0 will generally have a duration of up to six years, while the scheme will initially remain open for applications for three years.

The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) will be the nodal agency for Semicon 2.0. It will invite applications, undertake technical and financial appraisal, recommend applicants, and oversee implementation.

ISM may implement the design and deployment categories with the assistance of C-DAC. The mission may also announce semiconductor deep-tech awards from 2026 to promote niche innovation, said the notification.

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GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel held a series of meetings with industry leaders in New Delhi on Monday, discussing proposed investments running into thousands of crores across automobiles, chemicals, renewable energy, green manufacturing and advanced technology ahead of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGS) 2027.

At the VGGS 2027 curtain-raiser at Bharat Mandapam, Patel met representatives of JBM Group, DCM Shriram, Schneider Electric India, JSW



MG Motor India and Tata Power Renewable Energy, among others. The meetings focused on expansion plans and investments in Gujarat.

JBM Group discussed a proposed Rs 3,500 crore invest-

ment to expand auto-component and electric bus manufacturing in the state. Patel said the company has maintained a 17-year manufacturing presence and employs more than 9,000 people across Sanand, Vithalapur

and Becharaji. Talks also covered potential partnerships for compressed biogas plants and advanced energy-storage systems. With DCM Shriram Chairman and Senior Managing Director Ajay Shriram and Aditya

On a growth note
■ Rs 3,500 crore: JBM Group’s proposed Gujarat investment.
■ Rs 8,000-10,000 crore: DCM Shriram’s planned Dahej investment over five to seven years.
■ JBM’s Gujarat operations have a 17-year manufacturing presence and employ more than 9,000 people.
■ Schneider Electric discussed its upcoming fourth facility and technologies for hyperscale data centres.

Shriram, Patel discussed plans to invest Rs 8,000-10,000 crore at Dahej over the next five to seven years. The plans include expansion of captive green-energy integration. Patel also congratulated the company after its

Jhagadia facility received Global Lighthouse recognition from the World Economic Forum.

Schneider Electric India Managing Director and CEO Deepak Sharma met Patel to discuss strengthening manufacturing operations in Gujarat, including the company’s upcoming fourth facility and specialised technologies for hyperscale data centres. The meetings are part of Gujarat’s preparations for VGGS 2027 and underline the state government’s efforts to attract large-scale investment across emerging and strategic sectors.

Indian economy posts robust growth

India’s GDP growth for April-June of FY 26-27, beat odds and the impact of the US-Iran war to come in at a resilient 7.8%.

NEW DELHI

India’s real GDP growth accelerated to an estimated 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of fiscal 2026-27, prompting Union Ministers to highlight the resilience of the economy and credit reforms and policy measures of the NDA government.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the performance reflected the strength of the Indian economy, with nominal GDP growth estimated at 10.3 per cent during the quarter. Real Gross Value Added (GVA) also recorded robust growth of 8.2 per cent.

Sitharaman attributed the strong showing to the hard work and resilience of the people, alongside reforms undertaken by the NDA government and what she described as agile management of the economy. She said the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, remained committed to expanding economic opportunities and creating conditions for sustained growth.

Growth holds firm amid global crisis
■ Real GDP growth estimated at 7.8%
■ Nominal GDP growth stood at 10.3%
■ Real GVA expanded by 8.2%
■ Ministers credited reforms and economic management
■ Growth came amid global uncertainties and oil shocks



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal welcomed the figures, saying the 7.8 per cent real GDP growth demonstrated India’s growing economic strength and resilience.

He said the performance was supported by the efforts of Indians and complemented by reform-oriented government policies.

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the growth was significant given global uncertainties, oil price shocks and supply-chain

disruptions.

He credited the collective strength of different sectors and the enterprise of India’s 1.4 billion people for helping the economy withstand external pressures.

Puri also highlighted India’s energy diplomacy as an important factor in navigating global challenges.

The remarks reinforced the government’s narrative that reforms and domestic economic activity are helping India maintain strong momentum despite global uncertainty.

India’s exemplary GDP growth a ‘herculean feat’: Modi

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India’s exemplary GDP growth of 7.8 per cent during the first quarter (Q1) of the current financial year (FY 2026-27) is a “herculean feat”.

In a post on X, PM Modi said: “The collective strength of our people ensured India delivered such growth despite oil price shocks and supply chain issues in the midst of global uncertainties”. “Doomsayers were doomed and India bloomed...yet again!” he posted.

Despite global headwinds, India recorded real GDP growth at Rs 81.36 lakh crore in the first quarter of this fiscal (Q1 FY27), against Rs 75.46 lakh crore in Q1 FY 2025-26 -- registering a robust growth



rate of 7.8 per cent, government data showed on Monday.

Nominal GDP (or GDP at current prices) in Q1 FY 2026-27 is estimated at Rs 88.27 lakh crore, against Rs 80 lakh crore in Q1 of FY 2025-26, showing a growth rate of 10.3 per cent, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said in a statement.

Notably, the real gross value added (GVA) in Q1 FY 2026-

27 is estimated at Rs 73.82 lakh crore, against Rs 68.21 lakh crore in Q1 FY 2025-26, showing a growth rate of 8.2 per cent. On the other hand, nominal GVA in Q1 FY 2026-27 is estimated at Rs 80.53 lakh crore, against Rs 72.24 lakh crore in Q1 of FY 2025-26, showing a growth rate of 11.5 per cent, according to the data.

The estimates of Quarterly GDP as per base year 2022-23 majorly follow the guidelines and standards as mentioned in the Quarterly National Accounts Manual of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), 2017, said the ministry.

The new series of National Accounts Statistics has adopted the ‘Double Deflation’ approach for estimating the GVA of the Manufacturing sector, said the ministry.

UPI set to expand in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT

Indian travellers visiting Uzbekistan will soon be able to make instant merchant payments through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), after NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) signed a commercial agreement with the National Interbank Processing Centre JSC (NIPC), operator of Uzbekistan’s HUMO payment system.

The agreement, signed on August 30 during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s bilateral visit to Uzbekistan, expands UPI’s international reach and enables Indian users to scan Uzbekistan’s national interoperable QR code, UZQR, using their UPI-enabled applications.

The partnership follows approvals from the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bank of Uzbekistan. The Uzbek central bank has designated HUMO as NIPL’s authorised partner for cross-border merchant accep-

UPI in Uzbekistan
■ Indian tourists, business travellers and students can make direct merchant payments.
■ UZQR will be scannable through UPI-enabled applications.
■ Payments can be made directly from Indian bank accounts.
■ Integration covers retail, hospitality and services.
■ The move reduces reliance on cards and cash while easing foreign-exchange payment friction.
■ Uzbekistan joins India’s expanding UPI international network.



UPI’s latest overseas expansion will let Indian visitors pay Uzbek merchants directly through familiar apps by scanning UZQR codes.

make person-to-merchant payments directly from their Indian bank accounts. The arrangement is expected to reduce de-

pendence on international cards and cash while easing foreign-exchange payment friction. It also marks another step in digital public infrastructure cooperation between the two countries and supports their economic engagement.

The development comes as India continues expanding UPI-linked payment systems overseas. The Maldives last month became the ninth country to announce the successful go-live of integration between its Maldives Instant Payment System, Favara, and UPI.

The Uzbekistan agreement adds another destination to India’s growing cross-border digital payments network, making transactions simpler for Indians travelling, studying or conducting business there.

Puri briefs India’s new envoy to Qatar on energy issues

NEW DELHI

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri met India’s newly appointed Ambassador to Qatar K Srikanth Reddy to discuss ways of strengthening bilateral energy relations between India and the Gulf country.

“Happy to meet Amb. Dr. K. Srikanth Reddy Ji, with whom I’ve had the opportunity of working during my tenure in the Ministry of Commerce between 2019-2021. It is wonderful to see him take on his new responsibility as India’s Ambassador to Qatar”, Puri said in a post on X.

“India and Qatar share a warm and enduring partnership, with energy cooperation as one of its key pillars. During my visit to Doha in April 2026, I had fruitful discussions with Qatar’s Minis-



ter of State for Energy Affairs and President and CEO of QatarEnergy, Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi on further strengthening our strategic partnership and building a reliable, long-term energy relationship,” the minister said.

Puri highlighted that the 20-year LNG agreement between India’s Petronet LNG and QatarEnergy, securing 7.5 million tonnes of LNG annually from 2028 to 2048, is a landmark achievement in the energy partnership between the two countries and an important pillar of India’s long-term

energy security.

Meanwhile, India’s LNG imports have shot up by 24 per cent to \$5.6 billion during April-July of the current financial year, up from \$4.5 billion in the same period of the previous financial year, with shipments being increasingly sourced from the USA amid the West Asia crisis.

India has gone in for a sharp increase in purchases of LNG and LPG from the United States as the choking of the Strait of Hormuz has disrupted supplies from the Gulf countries.

In July, India’s LNG imports increased by 9.1 per cent to \$1.2 billion from \$1.1 billion in July 2025. Import volumes during the month stood at 2,915 mmscm, up 1.5 per cent from 2,872 mmscm in July last year, official figures showed.

SEBI awaits clarification from NSE IPO bankers after observations

MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued observations on the National Stock Exchange’s (NSE) initial public offering (IPO) draft papers and is awaiting a response from its lead managers, a report has said.

As per analysis by Business Line, the regulator issued observations on NSE’s draft papers. The exchange and its appointed merchant bankers are expected to respond before the regulator takes a final view on the proposal, it added.

The development comes a day after SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said the regulator was close to approving NSE’s draft papers, signalling progress in an IPO process that has faced delays for nearly a decade.

NSE had filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI in June for an offer-for-sale (OFS) of up to 148.9

million equity shares with a face value of Re 1 each.

The proposed share sale represents about 6 per cent of the exchange’s paid-up capital. The issue does not include a fresh issue component and all proceeds from the offering will go to the selling shareholders.

NSE’s plans to go public have been held up for years due to regulatory concerns, including matters relating to the co-location and dark fibre cases. The listing proposal gathered momentum earlier this year after the exchange received a no-objection certificate from SEBI following which its board approved the IPO plan.

Last month, SEBI in-principle agreed to settle applications filed by NSE in the co-location and dark fibre matters for Rs 1,491.21 crore. According to the report, the exchange is currently estimated to be valued at around Rs 5 lakh crore in the unlisted market.

Fake porn apps target FB, Insta users

NEW DELHI

The National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit (NCTAU), operating under the Union home ministry’s Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), has warned users about a rise in financial fraud involving malicious Android applications disguised as pornography apps and promoted through advertisements on Facebook and Instagram.

In an advisory issued by the I4C, the agency identified several apps, including “Night Play”, “Reloop”, “Kyss”, “Vimo”, “Rivo”, “Nexo” and “Vixa”, along with similar variants, as part of the threat. According to the advisory, the malicious applications are primarily promoted through pornography-related advertisements or links on Facebook and Instagram.

Users clicking on these advertisements are redirected to websites hosting pornographic content, where they are prompted to download an Android Package Kit (APK) from outside the Google Play Store.

The websites involved are largely associated with “live” domains, the advisory said. After the initial application is installed, users may be prompted to download a secondary package disguised as an app update. This process can exploit permissions obtained or abused by the first application.

The malware subsequently seeks Accessibility and other sensitive permissions from the user. Once these permissions are granted, the malicious application can obtain extensive control over the device and continue operating in the background.

STREET FOOD

- SUGANTHI

There is a distinct, undeniable rhythm to a city’s street food culture. Long before high-end restaurants began curating farm-to-table menus or experimenting with molecular gastronomy, sidewalk vendors were quietly perfecting the art of feeding the masses. From the sizzling taco stands of Mexico City and the aromatic night markets of Bangkok to the vibrant chaat stalls of Mumbai, street food is far more than a convenient bite on the go. It is the living, breathing heart of a community’s culture, history, and daily life.

To truly understand a city, one must eat from its streets. While fine dining often reflects an idealized, curated version of a region’s cuisine, street food offers an authentic, unvarnished portrait of local taste. The recipes sold from tiny carts and humble pushwagons are rarely invented in modern test kitchens; they are time-honored traditions passed down through generations. Each dish tells a story of migration, trade, resourcefulness, and local agriculture. The fusion of spices in a single bowl of Vietnamese pho or the complex layering of a Nigerian suya skewered on the roadside carries centuries of heritage in every single



bite.

Beyond its historical roots, street food acts as one of society’s greatest democratic spaces. On any given afternoon, you will find corporate executives in tailored suits standing side by side with construction workers, students, and artists, all waiting patiently for the same hot off the grill skewers or freshly fried dumplings. At the street cart, class distinctions dissolve. Quality is judged not by white tablecloths, sommelier lists, or Michelin stars, but by the richness of the broth, the crunch of the crust, and the speed of the cook’s hands. It is an egalitarian dining experience where everyone shares the exact same counter, sidewalk, or bench.

Moreover, street food serves as a vital economic engine for local communities. It provides low-barrier entrepreneurial opportunities for working-class families, migrants, and culinary artisans who might otherwise lack the capital to open traditional storefronts. These vendors are micro-entrepreneurs who power local economies, source ingredients from neighborhood markets, and enliven public spaces. A bustling street food alley transforms ordinary concrete pavement into a vibrant social hub, bringing foot traffic, safety, and human connection to urban neighborhoods.

Of course, modern urban development and rising regulatory hurdles frequently threaten these traditional food ecosystems. Gentrification, strict zoning laws, and misplaced sanitation fears often push long-time vendors off the pavement. While food safety regulations are necessary to protect public health, city planning must find a balanced middle ground that preserves street vendors rather than erasing them. Losing street food means losing a city’s unique sensory identity the sizzle of hot oil, the cloud of fragrant smoke, and the welcoming warmth of a neighborhood cook.

Street food is not merely quick fuel for busy days; it is a celebration of human creativity, community resilience, and shared culture. The next time you walk past a bustling roadside stall, skip the chain restaurant, follow the aroma, and take a seat on a plastic stool. You aren’t just getting a meal you are partaking in the authentic soul of the city.

THE HIDDEN COST OF RAPID WARDROBE REFRESHES

- BENEDICT INBARAJ

In today’s hyper-connected world, trends no longer take seasons to evolve; they change with the pull of a scroll. Fast fashion has mastered the art of democratizing style, transforming high-fashion runway looks into affordable, everyday wardrobe additions within a matter of days. Consumers can effortlessly update their closets for the price of a morning coffee, indulging in the thrill of novelty without breaking the bank. Yet, beneath this illusion of accessible glamour lies a relentless global supply chain driven by overproduction, excessive waste, and significant environmental and human costs.

The underlying model of fast fashion thrives on hyper-consumption. To keep prices ultra-low and output extraordinarily high, speed and volume are prioritized above all else. Garments are increasingly made from low-grade synthetic fibers like polyester and nylon, which require fossil fuels to produce and take hundreds of years to decompose. As these cheap garments lose their appeal after only a few wears, millions of tons of discarded clothing end up directly in landfills or incinerators each year. Beyond solid waste, the manufacturing process pollutes local waterways through toxic chemical dyes and sheds vast quantities of microplastics into the world’s oceans, quietly damaging marine ecosystems.

The human dimension of this system is equally concerning. To maintain wafer-thin profit margins, manufacturing is frequently outsourced to regions where labor regulations are lax or poorly enforced. Garment workers the majority of whom are women often endure long hours, unsafe working environments, and wages that fall far short of a living standard. The pressure to meet aggressive production deadlines routinely squeezes the most vulnerable hands in the chain, creating a stark contrast between consumer convenience in one part of the world and systemic hardship in another.

BALANCING SCREEN TIME FOR HEALTHY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Smartphones have transformed from modern conveniences into central fixtures of childhood and adolescence. From early interactive gaming to social media platforms, children today are growing up saturated in digital media. While these devices offer unmatched educational resources and instant connectivity, their pervasive presence raises urgent questions regarding mental health, cognitive growth, and social development. As screen time continues to surge among young populations, parents, educators, and policymakers must confront the profound impacts of unmonitored smartphone use on the next generation.

At the heart of the debate is the impact of smartphone engagement on physical and mental well-being. Prolonged screen use is consistently linked to sedentary lifestyles, contributing to rising rates of childhood obesity and poor posture habits. More critically, the blue light emitted by

screens disrupts sleep architecture by suppressing melatonin production, leaving children chronically sleep-deprived. This lack of rest directly impairs emotional regulation, attention spans, and academic performance. Furthermore, the constant stream of curated content on social media exposes impressionable minds to unrealistic standards, cyberbullying, and relentless peer comparison, contributing to heightened anxiety and depression among youth.

Beyond psychological health, smartphone overuse fundamentally alters how children learn to interact with the physical world. Early childhood is a critical window for developing fine motor skills, spatial awareness, and face-to-face social intelligence. When interactive real-world play, reading, and outdoor exploration are replaced by passive swiping, foundational developmental milestones can be delayed. In classrooms, teachers increasingly

report fighting for students’ fractured attention. The instant gratification inherent to digital algorithms trains young brains to seek short-term dopamine hits, making the sustained focus required for complex problem-solving and deep reading far more difficult to cultivate.

However, demonizing technology outright is neither practical nor productive. Smartphones provide vital communication channels for safety, foster digital literacy essential for the modern workforce, and allow children to connect with diverse communities and learning tools.

The goal should not be complete isolation from the digital world, but rather the establishment of healthy digital boundaries and active parental guidance.

To foster a balanced relationship with technology, families and institutions must implement proactive solutions. Parents should establish clear household guidelines, such as

designating screen-free zones in bedrooms and during meals, while encouraging alternative activities like sports, arts, and face-to-face

tools that can either enrich or hinder a child’s development depending on how they are integrated into daily life. Ensuring that technology serves



socializing. Tech companies must also be held accountable to higher safety standards, enforcing strict age verification and designing algorithms that protect young users from addictive mechanics. Additionally, schools should implement digital literacy curricula that teach children how to navigate the online world critically and responsibly. Smartphones are powerful

our children rather than controlling them requires vigilant oversight, clear boundaries, and a shared commitment to prioritizing real-world experiences. By guiding youth toward intentional and balanced smartphone habits today, we protect their health, well-being, and capacity for meaningful connection tomorrow.

- MATTHEW C.R.

REVITALIZING GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS: THE FOUNDATION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Education is the single most powerful tool for social mobility, yet for millions of children, access to quality learning remains an unreachable privilege. At the heart of this divide sits the public education system. While private institutions often dominate discussions around academic excellence, government schools remain the backbone of society, educating the majority of the population particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds.

Reimagining and revitalizing these institutions is not merely a policy goal; it is a moral and economic imperative. For decades, public schools have struggled under the weight of systemic neglect. Inadequate infrastructure, shortage of trained teachers, and outdated learning materials have compromised the quality of education provided.

Outdated sanitation facilities, lack of digital access, and missing basic learning amenities have routinely led to high drop-out rates, particularly among young girls. When a school lacks electricity, clean water, or basic safety, learning naturally takes a back seat to survival.

However, writing off government schools overlooks their immense, irreplaceable potential. Public schools are democracy in action.

They bring together children from diverse socio-economic, cultural, and religious backgrounds into a shared space, fostering empathy, social cohesion, and mutual understanding. Unlike private academies driven by market logic, public schools exist solely to serve the public good. Every standard achieved within a government school lifts an entire family out of generational poverty.

In recent years, isolated success stories have proven that transformation is entirely achievable with dedicated political will and systemic reform.



Model public school initiatives across various regions have demonstrated that when governments invest heavily in modernizing classrooms, integrating digital learning, and

prioritizing comprehensive teacher training, students thrive. Upgrading physical infrastructure is only the first step; the true shift occurs when teaching methods are

tion. When local communities, parents, and civic organizations take an active interest in school governance, accountability increases.

A public school should function as the vibrant nucleus of its community, offering nutritious meal programs, basic health checkups, and safe extracurricular spaces alongside academic instruction.

Achieving equal opportunity demands that a child’s zip code or family income never dictates their future potential. Strengthening government schools is an investment in human capital that yields compounding returns in civic stability, innovation, and national prosperity.

To build a fair society, public education must be treated not as a secondary welfare program, but as the premier national priority.

- ALLAN B.

STRENGTHENING HOSPITALS: THE SACRED PILLARS OF PUBLIC HEALTHCARE

Hospitals stand as the ultimate sanctuaries of human vulnerability and resilience. Within their walls, life begins, healing occurs, and solace is offered in moments of deepest crisis. They serve not merely as physical structures filled with advanced medical equipment, but as the foundational pillars of public health, social stability, and economic vitality. Yet, as modern medicine advances at a breathtaking pace, hospitals worldwide face unprecedented strain, revealing a critical need for structural reform and sustained public investment.

For decades, healthcare systems have grappled with mounting pressures. Rising population density, growing rates of chronic illness, and recurring global health emergencies have repeatedly

pushed hospitals to their operational limits. Emergency rooms are often overburdened, medical staff face widespread burnout, and rural communities frequently lack immediate access to specialized care. These challenges highlight a fundamental reality: when hospitals struggle, the entire safety net of society begins to fray. Healthcare cannot function effectively if its frontline institutions are perpetually under-resourced.

Reimagining the modern hospital requires a dual commitment to technical innovation and compassionate care. On the technological front, integrating digital health records, modern diagnostic imaging, and smart triage systems can dramatically streamline hospital workflows, reducing waiting times and eliminating medical errors. Infrastructure modern-

izations such as expanding intensive care capacity, ensuring reliable supply chains, and modernizing sanitation systems are indispensable steps to ensuring patient safety and operational efficiency.

However, advanced equipment alone does not heal; human beings do. The true core of any hospital is its dedicated workforce of doctors, nurses, paramedics, and support staff. Sustained investment in healthcare infrastructure must prioritize the well-being and professional growth of medical workers. Expanding training programs, improving working conditions, and establishing competitive compensation packages are essential steps toward building a resilient healthcare workforce capable of meeting growing medical demands.

- GERALD JOSEPH

HARMONIZING MIND AND BODY: THE MODERN POWER OF YOGA

In an era defined by constant notifications, relentless productivity, and rising stress levels, the quest for inner peace has shifted from a wellness luxury to an urgent necessity. Amidst countless modern lifestyle trends, an ancient practice continues to offer the most enduring solution. Yoga, a discipline refined over thousands of years, transcends simple physical exercise to serve as a comprehensive blueprint for mental clarity, emotional balance, and physical vitality. As the pace of global life accelerates, rediscovering this holistic discipline is vital to restoring individual and collective well-being. At its core, yoga is far more than a sequence of physical postures performed

on a mat. Rooted in the Sanskrit word yuj, meaning "to unite," the practice establishes a conscious bridge between the breath, physical body, and conscious mind. In modern fitness culture, physical health is frequently measured through high-intensity exertion or muscular strength alone. While these attributes have value, yoga introduces a essential counterweight focused on flexibility, postural alignment, and nervous system regulation. Through controlled movements (asanas) and deliberate breathwork (pranayama), practitioners learn to move through discomfort with grace a skill that translates directly into everyday stress management.

- SHAZHA KHAN

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Regulating Children Screen Time

Smartphones are increasingly dominating childhood, replacing active play with passive screen consumption. This shift contributes to sleep deprivation, shortened attention spans, and heightened anxiety among impressionable youth. While technology offers educational value, unrestricted usage impairs emotional regulation and face-to-face social development. Parents must establish clear boundaries, such as designating screen-free zones at home, while schools should promote digital literacy. Regulating device habits early is essential to ensure technology enhances childhood rather than dictating it.

- Rohit Denzil T.

Protecting Young Mental Health

The rising prevalence of smartphones among children presents severe mental health risks that require urgent community action. Exposure to idealized social media content fosters peer pressure, low self-esteem, and persistent sleep disruption. Children need structured time away from digital screens to engage in real-world creative exploration, physical activity, and interpersonal relationships. Tech companies must strengthen child safety controls, but lasting change begins at home through balanced guidelines and active parental engagement.

- Teena Rachel

Rethinking Classroom Mobile Devices

Smartphones in schools have turned into constant distractions that disrupt the learning environment. Constant notifications and instant access to entertainment fragment students’ focus, making deep reading and complex problem-solving difficult. While digital tools can enrich education, unmonitored device access in classrooms undermines academic performance and social interaction during breaks. School boards should implement strict phone-free policies during school hours to restore focused, engaging learning environments for all students.

- Venkatesh



Quick Read

Delhi police arrest two in bus gang-rape case

CH NEWS, DELHI
Delhi Police arrested a bus driver and conductor for allegedly gang-rape of a 17-year-old girl inside a moving bus on August 4. The survivor was travelling from Mainpuri to visit a relative in Sector 63, Noida, when she was picked up near Pari Chowk. Police said she was assaulted inside the bus and later dropped near Ring Road in Delhi's Kashmiri Gate area. After her complaint was filed late that night, police registered an FIR under relevant POCSO Act sections on August 5, seized the bus and arrested both accused.

Three killed in Kaushambi factory explosion

CH NEWS, UTTAR PRADESH
Three people were killed and five injured after a massive explosion at a firecracker factory near Manauri Bazar on the Kaushambi-Prayagraj border in Uttar Pradesh on Monday. The blast followed a fire that triggered several explosions, damaging nearby houses and causing panic. District Magistrate Vipin Pal reached the site and directed officials to speed up rescue efforts and provide medical care. Firefighters, police, administrative teams and six to eight ambulances were deployed. The injured were taken to SRN Hospital in Prayagraj, while rescue teams continued searching the debris.

Deputy CM promises rights and dignity for nomadic tribes

MUMBAI
Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Monday said denotified and nomadic communities need constitutional rights, dignity and justice rather than sympathy. Speaking at the Shiv Sena Nomadic and Denotified Tribes Rights, Justice and Development Convention 2026, he said the state government was committed to helping these communities build stable and worry-free lives. Shinde recalled that the British government had branded several working communities as "born criminals" under the Criminal Tribes Act. He noted that they were freed from this

Bindu Krishna opposes Kanthapuram's women restriction

MALAPPURAM
Keralam's Women and Child Development Minister Bindu Krishna has criticised All India Jamiyyathul Ulama general secretary Kanthapuram A.P. Aboobacker Musliar over his reported directive to Muslim organisations on women's participation in public religious celebrations. Kanthapuram had urged Muslim organisations to restrict women from mingling with men during public religious events. His remarks have drawn criticism from the minister, who said such directions could affect women's freedom to participate in public spaces. Krishna said directives aimed at restricting women could push them "centuries back". She questioned the acceptability of such restrictions in a society that guarantees equal rights to men and women. The minister made the remarks on Monday in Malap-

PINK TICKET EXTENSION

Delhi extends pink tickets for women commuters

NEW DELHI
The Delhi government has extended the use of paper-based pink tickets for women availing free travel on Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and Cluster buses until September 17. The decision gives women commuters additional time to shift to the Pink Saheli Smart Card, which will become mandatory for free bus travel from September 17. Delhi Health Minister Pan-kaj Kumar Singh said the earlier deadline of August 31 had been extended. He said the paper tickets would remain available



until September 17, after which women will have to use the smart card to continue receiving the free travel benefit. The government plans to end the existing system of paper tickets and move completely to the Pink Saheli Smart Card.

IN FOCUS	
■ 18.13 lakh+	Pink Saheli Smart Cards issued.
■ September 17 —	New deadline for paper tickets.
■ August 31 —	Earlier paper-ticket deadline.
■ Free travel —	Available on DTC and Cluster buses.
■ September 17 —	Smart card becomes mandatory.

The card, which works as a National Common Mobility Card, is designed to digitally record journeys. It will also be linked to the user's Aadhaar and mobile phone, according to officials. Officials said eligible women

can continue receiving paper-based pink tickets and travelling free on DTC and Cluster buses until the revised deadline. The government has asked depot managers, regional managers, conductors and enforcement staff to inform passengers about the change and encourage women to obtain their smart cards before September 17. The Transport Department will run awareness campaigns through announcements at depots and inside buses, as well as through social media and print media. According to government records, more than 18.13 lakh Pink Saheli Smart Cards have already been issued. The extension is intended to provide a smoother transition for women commuters before the smart card becomes the only method for accessing free bus travel.

will then be examined before the final electoral roll is prepared. Voters can check whether their names appear in the draft roll through the Election Commission's voter services portal. Officials have advised citizens to carefully verify their names and other details. Those who find their names missing should use the claim

process within the given deadline to avoid problems later. The exclusion of such a large number of voters has made it important for residents to check the revised list. Being left out of the draft roll does not mean an eligible citizen has permanently lost the right to vote. Eligible voters can still apply for inclusion

by following the prescribed procedure and submitting the necessary documents. The September 30 deadline gives voters limited time to check their status and file claims. After considering claims and objections, authorities will publish the final electoral roll on November 4. The revision process is aimed at updating Delhi's voter records and ensuring that eligible citizens are included. Voters are therefore urged to check their names soon and complete the required process before the deadline. This will help them remain part of the electoral process and exercise their voting rights in future elections

Delhi's draft electoral roll has excluded 47.7 lakh voters after the Special Intensive Revision, leaving nearly one in every three voters outside the published list.

NEW DELHI
Delhi's draft electoral roll has excluded 47.7 lakh voters after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), leaving nearly one in every three voters out of the newly published list. The draft roll was released on Monday and covers around 1.45 crore electors in the national capital. The final electoral roll will be published on November 4. Delhi Chief Electoral Officer Ashok Kumar said voters whose names are missing from the draft list can request inclusion. They must submit Form 6 along with the required supporting documents by September 30. The claims

“Those left out can seek inclusion through Form 6 with supporting documents by September 30”
- Ashok Kumar, Delhi Chief Electoral Officer

Nine Naga MLAs seek action against Kuki leaders

The letter was sent amid fresh Naga-Kuki clashes in Manipur. At least four Naga civilians were killed in an ambush on Thursday, while reports said two Kuki men were killed in Kangpokpi on Monday. The recent violence has added to concerns over the fragile security situation. Ethnic violence in Manipur began between Meitei and Kuki communities in May 2023 and later affected other communities. The conflict has killed at least 260 people and displaced around 60,000. The Naga MLAs said their demands were aimed at protecting civilians and restoring peace and normalcy in the state.

The AIIMS CRE-5 re-exam disrupted by server failure

JAIPUR
The AIIMS Common Recruitment Examination (CRE)-5 re-examination was disrupted at an examination centre in Jaipur on Monday after a server failure delayed the test. The examination was scheduled from 9 am to 12 pm at the iON Digital Zone centre in Sitapura, but began around 9:30 am due to the technical problem. Candidates said the server failed again about 20 minutes after the examination started, leading to protests outside the centre. They demanded cancellation of the examination and another opportunity to appear under proper conditions, citing repeated technical disruptions at the venue. The incident came a day after the same Sitapura examination complex faced technical problems during the NEET-PG 2026 examination. The NEET-PG test, conducted nationwide on Aug 30, could not be completed at two centres in the complex because of internal power supply issues. According to the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS), the NEET-PG disruption affected 2,445 candidates. The board subsequently announced a re-examination for the affected candidates on Sept 5 at 3 pm in Jaipur.

Hindu activist found dead in Lucknow canal

LUCKNOW
Lucknow Police found Hindu activist Dharendra Pratap Singh dead with bullet wounds in a canal in Lucknow's Dubagga area after he had been missing for two days. Preliminary investigation suggests Singh was killed inside his Fortuner SUV before his body was dumped in the canal. Police suspect his driver may have colluded with rivals over an alleged land dispute. Singh's abandoned vehicle was earlier recovered in the Sushant Golf City area, about 15 km away. The driver has been taken into custody, while forensic teams continue examining the scene.

SC declines to restrict CJP's September 5 march

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday declined to interfere with the Cockroach Janta Party's proposed September 5 protest march in Delhi. A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said there were no compelling circumstances to presume the mobilisation would turn violent. Participants were expected to remain peaceful there. The court said decisions on permission and law-and-order arrangements should be taken by the Centre and Delhi government. The bench was hearing petitions seeking restrictions on gatherings. Petitioners also sought postponement of the march until after the BRICS Summit scheduled for September 12 and 13. The CJP has announced the march from India Gate to Delhi Police headquarters. The group described it as peaceful and said it would protest the Centre's alleged failure to honour assurances after its earlier Jantar Mantar agitation. Families of students who died by suicide following the NEET controversy and people alleging police excesses during the July 20 protest are expected to participate. The Supreme Court also refused to summon CJP representatives, saying there was no identified organised group before it. It said authorities were responsible for deciding what was legal and maintaining public order. Petitioners may approach the court again if an alarming situation arises. The bench directed that copies of the petition be served on the Centre and Delhi government and posted the matter for September 10. It also connected the case with the Supreme Court-appointed enquiry committee examining allegations surrounding the July 20 protest. The committee is looking into police excesses, violence by protesters, injuries to police personnel and damage to public property.

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revised plan. The minister's statement provided a clearer indication of the government's current approach during the next stage of planning. Arjuna further said that construction work would begin within six months after the revised plan receives approval. The exchange in the Assembly has brought renewed focus on the future of the proposed sports city, which was planned as a major sports facility in Chennai. For now, the government is working on the revised DPR, with the project's next phase depending on its approval.

Delhi CM orders playschool sealed after assault

NEW DELHI
Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has ordered the sealing of a playschool in Maujpur following the alleged assault of a three-year-old child. Gupta condemned the incident as "deeply disturbing" and said the Delhi government would ensure that responsibility is fixed. She also directed officials to take strict action against those found guilty. Police said the child was allegedly tied to a chair for hours and physically assaulted at the playschool. The incident came to light after the child's parents noticed behavioural changes and bruises on his body. A medical examination reportedly indicated signs of physical assault, including swelling in both ear canals. The parents approached the school and sought access to CCTV footage after taking their child to a doctor. The footage reportedly showed the

The child "had been scared of visiting the washroom for several days, remained agitated, and cried uncontrollably through the night."

- Police officer, Delhi

alleged abuse. Following a complaint from the child's father, police visited the school, seized the CCTV recorder and registered an FIR under relevant sections. An attendant has been arrested in connection with the case. A teacher, the school principal and the director have also been booked. Police are continuing their investigation into the alleged assault and are examining the evidence collected from the premises.

Udhayanidhi questions TVK over Chennai sports city status

CHENNAI
A political dispute broke out in the Tamil Nadu Assembly over the ₹261-crore Chennai Global Sports City project at Semmenchery. The issue was raised by Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin after reports suggested that the project had been dropped. The proposed sports city had earlier received attention as a major plan to strengthen sports infrastructure in Chennai. Udhayanidhi questioned Sports Minister Aadhav Arjuna about the status of the project. He said the DMK government had planned the facility across 128 acres to train athletes to Olympic standards and create international-level sports infrastructure. The project was also intended to provide facilities for a wide

The ₹261-crore Chennai Global Sports City project faces uncertainty as Udhayanidhi Stalin questions its status, while Sports Minister Aadhav Arjuna proposes a revised plan.

Responding to the concerns, Arjuna said the government was preparing a fresh Detailed Project Report for the sports city. The revised plan will cover facilities for around 42 sports, according to the minister. His response indicated that the project has not been completely abandoned, but is being reconsidered through a new development plan. The disagreement centred on whether the earlier proposal would continue in its original form or be replaced by a

range of sporting activities.

Meeting Highlights

- ₹261-crore project at Semmenchery.
- Udhayanidhi questioned its current status.
- Fresh DPR planned for 42 sports.
- Work to begin within six months of approval.</

Quick Read

Two trafficked women rescued from GB road brothel.

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI Two women allegedly traf-ficked from West Bengal and forced into prosti-tution were rescued from a GB Road brothel, Delhi Po-lice said. Three women, identified as Geeta, Manju and Paro Khatoon, were arrested for their alleged involvement. Police began the operation after a 60-year-old woman re-ported her daugh ter miss-ing. The 26-year-old later contacted her mother and sought help from the brothel. Another 28-year-old woman was also res-cued. She alleged she was promised a cleaning job but was forced into prosti-tution.

Bengal police bust ₹72 crore cybercrime racket

CH NEWS, Kolkata Bankura district police in West Bengal have busted a major cyber fraud racket operating from Ranibandh and arrested seven people, officials said Monday. The racket is estimated to in-volve around ₹72 crore. Po-lice used data analysis, bank account tracing, transaction records and criminal links to identify suspects. They also tracked money transfers and ATM withdrawals. Authorities seized 34 bank passbooks, 13 ATM cards, nine cheque books and identity docu-ments. Police suspect the accused are linked to a larger pan-India cybercrime network and are question-ing them to identify its masterminds.

Andhra CM pushes ahead with Amaravati city plan

AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minis-ter N Chandrababu Naidu is pushing ahead with an ambi-tious plan to build Amaravati as a modern capital city, hop-ing to create an urban centre that can meet the needs of a growing population. The project is being developed on the banks of the Krishna River and is being presented as a future-focused city with modern infrastructure and technology. Thousands of workers are currently engaged at the large construction site, where roads, canals and government build-ings are taking shape. The planned city includes a major legislative assembly building, government offices and high-rise administrative towers. The design also includes a large freshwater lake and a planned grid-based layout. A major part of Naidu’s vi-sion is the development of the

Cites public health concerns and the risks of tobacco consumption.

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat has extended its ban on the manufacture, storage, distribution and sale of gutkha and pan masala contain-ing tobacco or nicotine for another year. The renewed prohibition will come into effect from September 13, 2026, and remain in force un-til September 12, 2027. The Commissioner of Food Safe-

ty issued the notification on August 31, citing public health concerns and repre-sentations received from var-ious non-governmental or-ganisations.

The ban, which has been in place in Gujarat since 2012, will continue to cover tobac-co and nicotine-laced gutkha and pan masala regardless of the name under which they are sold. The order also ap-plies to ingredients marketed separately when they are in-tended to be mixed later to prepare prohibited products. Authorities have been di-rected to take action against violations involving the man-ufacture, storage, distribution



or sale of products covered under the order. Officials warned that strict legal action would be taken against any-one found violating the pro-hibition. The extension will ensure that the restrictions continue without a break af-

ter the current period ends. The notification cited re-search by Tata Memorial Hospital, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and HAMER, which indicated that gutkha and pan masala consumption is carcinogenic

and can substantially in-crease the risk of oral cancer. The government said health protection remained a key reason for continuing the re-strictions.

The notification also re-ferred to findings from the Global Adult Tobacco Sur-vey. According to the cited data, 35 per cent of adults in India consume tobacco, while 21 per cent use smoke-less tobacco. With the latest order, Gujarat will continue its long-standing restrictions on tobacco-laced gutkha and pan masala for another year, while enforcement agencies remain responsible for pre-venting violations.

Why Gujarat Extended the Ban
■ Cancer risk: Gutkha can increase oral cancer risk
■ Public health: Ban extended to protect citizens.
■ 35% tobacco use: Adults con-suming tobacco nationwide.
■ 21% smokeless use: A major health concern.
■ Since 2012: Gujarat has main-tained the ban.
■ Strict action: Violators face legal action.

Supreme Court seeks Roy’s interrogation records

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Mon-day directed the West Bengal government to place on record the interrogation details of Su-mit Roy, personal assistant to Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee, in the Sal-boni land-grabbing case. The court passed the direction after Roy claimed investigators had barely questioned him about the alleged offence. A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, along with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, also extended Roy’s protection from arrest until September 7. Roy has challenged a Calcutta High Court order that denied him pre-arrest bail. The Supreme Court had stayed his arrest in the case. Roy’s lawyer, senior advo-cate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, said the interrogation was au-dio and video recorded and that Roy had fully cooperated. He

claimed Roy was questioned for several hours over 11 days, but investigators focused main-ly on his family background and the Trinamool Congress rather than the alleged land transaction. The West Bengal government disputed the claim. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the court that Roy had been questioned about cash de-posits in his bank account and that investigators had docu-ments bearing his signature. He also referred to another deposit of Rs 2 crore and sought fur-ther questioning. The bench asked for Roy’s responses regarding the depos-its and sought details of their source. The court also noted that the case involved wider allegations of a substantial land scam, rather than only the al-leged Rs 10-lakh transaction cited by Roy’s lawyer. The matter will be heard again on September 7, when the court will consider the records and Roy’s protection from arrest.

LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh govern-ment has launched an initia-tive to encourage Gen Z and other young residents to pro-mote their cities through short videos. Under the ‘Visit My State Uttar Pradesh’ cam-paign, participants have been invited to create 60-second reels showcasing the culture, food, traditions and attrac-tions of their hometowns. The campaign aims to give young people a direct role in promoting tourism. Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh said Uttar Pradesh’s cultural identity could be found across its cities, villag-



“The campaign puts local residents at the centre of tourism storytelling and that short videos can combine a place, personal voice and local experience”

- Amrit Abhijat, UPSTDC Chairman

es and districts. He said young residents could become cultural ambassadors by shar-

J&K medical interns strike over seven-year-old stipend

JAMMU

MBBS and BDS interns across Jammu and Kashmir began an indefinite strike on Monday, demanding an in-crease in their monthly stipend from Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000. The interns said the current amount, which works out to nearly Rs 400 a day, has remained unchanged for almost seven years despite re-peated requests and protests. The protesting interns said they were left with no option but to stop work after the gov-ernment failed to act on their long-standing demand. They said their stipend does not match the workload and re-sponsibilities they handle during their internship. Their duties include attending to pa-tients, working in emergency departments, handling night shifts and serving at rural postings. The protest was held at sev-eral medical institutions across the Union Territory. Interns gathered outside med-ical college hospitals, includ-ing SKIMS Bemina and GMC

Srinagar, while similar demonstrations were reported at different locations in Jam-mu. They carried out the pro-test peacefully and called for the government to address their concerns. The interns also pointed to a wide difference between their stipend and the amounts paid to medical interns in sev-eral other States. They said interns elsewhere receive sig-nificantly higher payments despite performing similar clinical duties. According to the protesters, the financial gap has increased frustration among students who are al-ready dealing with demanding working hours. “We have been forced to abandon work and take to the streets. All we are demanding is a stipend commensurate with the number of hours we work,” a protesting intern said. The interns are seeking a revision of the stipend to Rs 30,000 and have indicated that the strike will continue until their demand receives a response from the govern-ment.

Delhi girl dies after alleged school punishment



NEW DELHI

A 10-year-old girl studying at a government school in east Del-hi’s Vinod Nagar died during treatment after her family al-leged that she was made to stand in the sun as punishment for not bringing a book. Police sources said the incident took place at Sarvodaya Kanya Vidy-alaya on August 27. According to the family, the school called the girl’s mother, Anjali, after her health reported-ly worsened. She alleged that when she reached the school, she found her daughter standing outside in the sun and appearing unwell. The girl was then taken to a hospital for treatment. The family alleged that a teacher had punished the child for failing to bring a book to school. The girl later died during treatment on August 27.

“An inquiry would be conducted and strict action would be taken against any school staff member found guilty.”

- Ravinder Singh Negi, BJP MLA Police said the allegations are being investigated and that the exact circumstances leading to her death are being examined. Following the incident, the girl’s family and local residents protested outside the school, de-manding strict action against those responsible. BJP MLA Ravinder Singh Negi also visit-ed the spot and said an inquiry would be conducted. He said action would be taken against any school staff member found guilty. Police are continuing to in-vestigate the case and establish what happened at the school before the girl’s health deterio-rated.

Bomb threat diverts Air India flight

AHMEDABAD

An Air India flight travelling from Dammam in Saudi Ara-bia to New Delhi made an emergency landing at Ahmed-abad airport on Monday after a crew member found a tissue paper carrying a bomb threat.

The aircraft had 32 passengers on board, all of whom were reported safe, police said. The Delhi-bound flight was diverted after the crew mem-ber discovered the message. The pilots decided to land at Ahmedabad International Airport as a precautionary

measure. The aircraft touched down at around 4.30 pm, following which security agencies be-gan a detailed inspection. As-sistant Commissioner of Po-lice V N Yadav said the threat was written on a tissue paper found by a crew member.

Two Kerala women killed in California

NEW DELHI

Two women from Kerala were allegedly killed in Milpitas, California, with police detain-ing a woman described as their friend. The victims were iden-tified as Anjana Hari, 35, from Thrissur, and Ann Mathew, 40, from Thiruvananthapuram.

The incident occurred around 1.53 am on August 28, accord-ing to police. Reports said one woman was allegedly killed inside a flat, while the other was hit by an SUV. Union minister Suresh Gopi said efforts were underway to bring their mortal remains back to Kerala.

Ganpati special trains see 1.17 lakh bookings

MUMBAI

More than 1.17 lakh passen-gers have booked tickets on special trains being operated for the Ganpati festival, as In-dian Railways prepares for a major festive rush. Central Railway has announced 262 special train trips to help pas-sengers travelling from Mum-bai, Pune and Nagpur to des-tinations across the Konkan region of Maharashtra and Goa. Of the total services, 200 will be reserved special trains while 62 will be unreserved services. The reserved trains will include air-conditioned coaches along with Sleeper and General coaches, giving passengers different travel op-tions during the festival peri-od. According to Central Rail-way Chief Public Relations Officer Dr Swapnil Nila, the

200 reserved special trips in-clude 112 to-and-fro services to Sawantwadi Road, 64 trips to Ratnagiri and 24 trips to Madgaon. The special train services are scheduled to be-gin from September 9, 2026. The large number of book-ings has highlighted the ex-pected increase in passenger movement during the Ganpa-ti festival. Railways has ad-vised travellers to plan their journeys in advance and fol-low official travel instructions to avoid difficulties during the busy period. The special trains are aimed at providing additional travel capacity and easing pressure on regular services. With thousands of passengers ex-pected to travel towards Ma-harashtra’s Konkan region and Goa, the additional ser-vices are expected to make festive travel more convenient and organised.

Centre defers Manipur Census amid NRC demands

GUWAHATI

The Centre on Monday de-cided to defer the Census exercise in violence-hit Manipur amid growing protests demanding an update of the National Reg-ister of Citizens (NRC) before the population count. The de-cision was announced after Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high-level meeting in New Delhi to re-view the situation in the state. The meeting was attended by Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh, Union Home Secretary Gov-ind Mohan and other senior



officials. According to the Chief Minister’s Office, the decision followed demands from people in Manipur who want the NRC updated before the Census. Chief Minister Singh thanked Prime Minister Nar-



endra Modi, Home Minister Shah and other central leaders for considering the concerns raised by people in the state. The decision came as protests, shutdowns and clashes with security forces were reported in the Valley over the NRC de-

“The meeting discussed in detail on the demand raised by the people of Manipur to defer the Census exercise in the State before the implementation of the NRC.”

- Manipur, Chief Minister’s Office

mand. The Manipur High Court also withheld Census opera-tions on Monday while hear-ing two petitions seeking di-rections to begin the NRC update process. The petitions called for 1951 to be used as the base year and sought mea-sures against alleged threats from illegal migration, partic-

ularly from neighbouring Myanmar. Several Meitei and Naga or-ganisations have been de-manding the NRC update be-fore the Census, saying it could help address the conflict between communities. Repre-sentatives of various commu-nities recently met central of-ficials in New Delhi to press their demand. Some ruling BJP MLAs also supported the call. However, Kuki groups have opposed the NRC update. The Centre’s decision to defer the Census has now given au-thorities more time to consider the issue amid continuing ten-sions in Manipur.

Quick Read

Swiss police arrest suspect after rave shooting

Aarau

Swiss police said on Monday that they had arrested a 43-year-old suspect in relation to a deadly shooting incident at a rave in the town of Aarau on the weekend. A 22-year-old Italian woman was killed and five people injured after the shooting at the event at a covered horse race track in the early hours of Sunday morning. Police launched a massive operation and just before 1am on Monday arrested a 43-year-old Swiss man on suspicion of carrying out the attack, it said. Investigations into the exact circumstances of the incident, as well as its background and possible motive, are currently underway.

Mother tells how daughter slipped away in Cyprus

KYRENIA

Ayten Bicer felt her 12-year-old daughter slip from her hands and disappear as a ferry capsized off northern Cyprus on Sunday, killing at least eight people. Her daughter Miray, and 6-year-old son Mehmet Asaf, were among nearly 20 people still missing on Monday as search teams looked for survivors in waters more than 500 metres (1,640 feet) deep. "She was saying, 'Don't let go'. And I didn't let go of my daughter. I swear, I didn't let her go," Ayten Bicer sobbed. A suitcase fell on top of her, forcing the girl from her grasp.

Spanish PM blames Israel for Ceuta migrant crisis

MADRID

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Monday there were signs Russia and Israel had spread the disinformation over Spain's migration policy that triggered last month's rush of migrants into Ceuta, but no evidence of Moroccan involvement.

Over 72,000 migrants irregularly crossed from Morocco into the tiny Spanish territory between July 30 and 31 in an unprecedented surge at one of the European Union's only two land borders with Africa, prompting alarm across the bloc. At least 100 people died in the attempt, according to Ceuta's local authorities.

Spanish opposition parties and some human rights groups have accused Rabat of deliberately allowing the mass crossing, an accusation Morocco has denied.

"When people talk and speculate about the participation of Moroccan authorities, I deny this outright," Sanchez told radio station SER. Videos on Instagram, TikTok and other social media spread misleading claims

Nepal races to rescue workers trapped in tunnels

Chinese and Indian experts are helping Nepal search tunnels and underground areas of about half a dozen hydropower projects following the Himalayan flood disaster.

KATHMANDU

Nepal's rescue teams, backed by Chinese and Indian experts, intensified efforts on Monday to reach hundreds of workers believed trapped inside tunnels at hydropower projects after last week's Himalayan flood. Officials said 933 workers were believed to be trapped across 11 hydropower projects, many inside tunnels in the hard-hit districts of Rasuwa and Nuwakot. Rescue teams used excavators, searchlights and controlled blasts to clear huge amounts of mud, rocks and water blocking access. The Nepali army said teams had recovered three bodies after entering two tunnels, while other sections remained buried and continued to be searched. Army spokesperson Raja Ram Basnet said the enormous debris deposits



were making it difficult to reopen the tunnels, adding that reaching the trapped workers remained the main priority.

The disaster followed a surge of ice, rock, mud and debris through Himalayan valleys and settlements on Wednesday. A glacier collapse is believed to have triggered the flood, which caused destruction in Nepal and across

Nepal tragedy deepens, thousands still missing

■ 933 workers feared trapped at 11 hydropower projects

■ 903 deaths confirmed in Nepal

■ 4,247 people reported missing

■ Three bodies recovered from two tunnels

■ Controlled blasts, excavators used in rescue

■ About 590 foreign nationals remain missing

affected areas. The Red Cross estimated that more than 90,000 people were likely affected. As bodies began decomposing in humid conditions, hundreds of unidentified victims were buried in shallow graves, adding urgency to the continuing rescue and recovery operation.

Ukraine frontline towns face destruction

FRUZHKKIVKA

Frontline reality

Russian forces are about 15 km from Druzhkivka

Ukraine's eastern and southern front stretches about 1,200 km

Thousands of drones operate near frontline areas

Druzhkivka forms part of the strategic "fortress belt"

Burned-out cars, flattened buildings and deserted streets have become the grim reality in Druzhkivka, an eastern Ukrainian town where a small number of civilians remain alongside soldiers fighting Russian forces only 15 km away.

Artillery fire and the high-pitched buzz of attack drones punctuate daily life as Russian troops gradually move closer. The devastation in Druzhkivka reflects conditions across much of the 1,200-km front in eastern and southern Ukraine, where apartment blocks, markets and shops have been destroyed and entire communities are becoming increasingly uninhabitable.

Druzhkivka sits along a strategic route connecting towns and cities known as

Ukraine's "fortress belt". Russia is seeking to break through this defensive chain as it pursues control of the wider Donbas region, one of President Vladimir Putin's central objectives in the war.

Yet more than four years after Russia launched its full-scale invasion, Ukrainian forces continue to resist the advance.

For civilians who remain,

danger comes from above as well as from artillery. Thousands of Russian and Ukrainian drones operate near the front, searching for targets. Roads in Druzhkivka and surrounding towns are covered with protective netting to reduce the threat from unmanned aircraft.

Iryna Litovchenko, 56, said her home had been destroyed and described the loss as though her entire past had disappeared. Another resident, 63-year-old Zoya, continues selling basic food despite knowing she could be killed by a bomb.

"I know a bomb could come flying in and I'll die," she said.

Still, she refuses to abandon her hometown, saying she was born and raised there. For residents like her, staying has become an act of attachment amid destruction.

'Italy's population to shrink by 4 mn by 2050'

ROME

Italy's population will shrink by almost 4 million by 2050, undermining the sustainability of its economy and welfare system as the proportion of elderly people increases, national statistics bureau ISTAT warned on Monday.

In new demographic projections extending to 2080, ISTAT said Italy's resident population would fall to 55 million in 2050 from 58.9 million at the start of 2025, before dropping to 45.8 million by 2080. Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said when she took office in 2022 that boosting the birth rate would be a government priority, but her efforts have produced scant results. Births have declined steadily since 2008 and fell last year to around 355,000, the lowest number since Italy's unification in 1861, while deaths have risen as the population ages.

Italy to extend border checks on Spain as Ceuta row escalates

ROME

Italy said on Monday it would suspend its open-border arrangements with Spain for another 15 days, extending restrictions it imposed after a mass rush of migrants into the Spanish enclave of Ceuta a month ago.

In response, Spain said it would also keep checking passengers arriving from Italy by air and sea for 15 more days, prolonging tit-for-tat restrictions that have undermined the European Union's passport-free Schengen zone.

Rome's right-wing government initially brought in the restrictions on August 1, saying it wanted to make sure no migrants entering Ceuta could travel on to Italy. Those curbs had been due to expire on Monday.

The decision to extend the suspension "was taken ... due to the persistence of the

factors that had led to the reintroduction of the measures," Italy's interior ministry said.

Spanish authorities say between 5,000 and 8,000 people remain in Ceuta after at least 72,000 crossed from neighbouring Morocco on July 30.

At least 82 migrants were found dead on the Spanish side of the border and Morocco confirmed 14 more deaths. The ministry said Italy was aware of "the steps already undertaken by Spain, together with the European Union, to help bring the situation in the area back to normal in the near future." Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who has taken a hard line against illegal immigration, is under pressure from a new far-right party, Futuro Nazionale, whose rhetoric is resonating with some voters ahead of elections due next year.

Meloni on the cusp of history

ROME

Giorgia Meloni is poised to make political history as Italy's longest-serving consecutive prime minister since World War II.

Meloni, who came to power in October 2022, has outlasted Italy's long tradition of unstable governments by maintaining a durable coalition and moderating some of her earlier populist positions in favour of pragmatic governance. She plans a rally on September 4 to mark the milestone and present the government's longevity as a crowning political achievement.

Italy has gone through 68 governments in 80 years, yet its current administration has proved more resilient during a period of conflict than governments in France and Britain.

France has had five prime ministers since autumn 2022, while Britain has gone through four.

However, Meloni's political stability may face a tougher test after the 2027 parliamentary elections. Opinion polls point towards a more fragmented parliament, raising concerns that Italy could return to coalition instability.

Analysts say one of Meloni's strongest achievements has been restoring investor confidence in Italy's public finances. Her government

'COALITION BENEFITED FROM BUDGET DISCIPLINE'

MELONI'S COALITION HAS BENEFITED FROM BUDGET DISCIPLINE AND STRONGER INVESTOR CONFIDENCE, WHILE EMPLOYMENT HAS RISEN. ANALYSTS, HOWEVER, SAY ECONOMIC GROWTH AND BROADER REFORMS REMAIN LIMITED, LEAVING QUESTIONS OVER WHETHER TODAY'S POLITICAL STABILITY CAN SURVIVE A MORE FRAGMENTED PARLIAMENT AFTER THE 2027 ELECTIONS.

has maintained budget discipline and moved away from costly policies such as the Superbonus home renovation scheme.

Coalition officials point to employment gains, saying 1.2 million workers have been added to the labour market and unemployment has fallen below 6%.

Still, economists argue that the government's record on economic growth and reform is weaker.

Former Treasury chief economist Lorenzo Codogno said fiscal responsibility had improved, but little progress had been made on promoting growth and reforming the economy.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHABOOB JAN, W/o. Abdul Samad, Resident of No. 12, 6th Cross, Chokkasandra Road, T Dasarahalli, Bengaluru -560057, Karnataka, have changed my name to **MAHABOOB JAN**, vide affidavit dated: 31.08.2026 before notary G. DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, MUDASIR SHAFI AHMED KHAN, S/o.Shafi Ahmed Khan, residing at Flat No.010, 3RD Floor, 'A' Block, A-310, Sunrise Brundavan Garden, Vasantha Vallabha Nagar, Near Gokulam Apartments, Gubbalala, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru-560 061, have changed my name to **MUDASIR**, Vide Affidavit Dated : 31.08.2026, before notary PRAKASHA. C, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KUMAR SAURABH S/o DHIRENDRAPRASADSINGH R/o B301, Midtown Opulent Apartment, Harohalli Road, Near Registrar Office, Varthur, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560087, have changed the name of my minor son AARYAV RATHORE aged 13 years and he shall hereafter be known as AYAAN SIINNGH.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BHARATHI W/o VENKATARAO B R, R/o No. 20, 1st Floor, Sai Nivas, 6th A Main, 50 Feet Road, Hanumantha Nagar, Gaviopuram Extension, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560019, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BHAGYABHARATHI.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NALAWADE SAYALI SAYAJI (old name), a resident of FLAT NO 425 ETERNITY ECSTASY APARTMENT, MYLASANDRA MAIN ROAD, BEGUR, Bengaluru, 560068, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to SAYALI ABHAY PAWAR (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 31-08-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SABHA MOHAMMADI SYEDA (old name), a resident of NO 59, 5TH CROSS, JP NAGAR, 1ST PHASE, NEAR RV DENTAL COLLEGE, Bengaluru, 560078, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to SYEDA SABBA (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 31-08-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per the statement given by our client **Sri. Chandra Shekar R., S/o Ramakrishna C**, residing at House No. 30/2, Kumbeshwara Nilaya Basaveshwara Layout, Dombarahalli, Madanayakanahalli Post Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru – 562123, it is hereby informed to the general public that:

That, on 03-11-2006, a vacant residential site bearing Site No. 16, formed out of the sites carved out in Assessment No. 16, situated at Lakshmiapur a Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, measuring 40 feet East to West and 15 feet North to South, totally measuring 600 square feet, was conveyed to me by Sri. T. N Ramakrishnaa under a registered Sale Deed bearing Registration No. Cd No:352/2006-07 Document No. 49092, registered in Book-I.

The original said Sale Deed was lost/misplaced while travelling from Madanayakanahalli on 22-08-2026, the original document could not be traced. In this regard, a complaint was lodged through e-mail with the concerned Police Station on 29-08-2026, and the e-Lost Report No. 2395338/2026 was issued.

Therefore, through this Public Notice, it is hereby informed to the general public that the aforesaid Site No. 16, formed out of the sites carved out in Assessment No. 16, Lakshmiapura Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, belongs to Sri Chandra Shekar R Son of Sri Ramakrishna C and that they are the legal heirs/persons claiming rights over the said property.

Hence, if any person purchases or enters into any transaction of any nature whatsoever in respect of the said property/documents with any person other than the above-mentioned persons and his family members shall not be held responsible or liable for the same.

Therefore, any person having any claim, objection, right, title, interest or concern in respect of the said property or transaction is hereby called upon to bring the same to the notice of the undersigned. If the original documents are found by anyone, the same may be handed over to Sri. Chandra Shekar R at the address mentioned below, or to the concerned Police Station.

PROPERTY DETAILS

The schedule and boundaries of Vacant Site No.16, formed out of the sites carved out in Assessment No. 16, Lakshmiapura Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, are as follows:**East:** Road, **West:** 27, **North:** The property of the northern half of this number, **South:** Site No. 17 No. The said property measures 40 feet East to West and 15 feet North to South, totally measuring 600 square feet.

D.S. Salyanarayana,
Advocate,
No. 33, Bailapanapalya, Madavara Post, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru – 562162

Place:Bengaluru
Date:29/08/2026

WANT AN END TO WAR

'Iran still seeks dialogue with US'

TEHRAN

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday that Tehran still wants a negotiated solution to its conflict with the United States, even as the two countries resumed hostilities and oil prices rose sharply.

Speaking to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of a regional security meeting in Kyrgyzstan, Pezeshkian said continuing the war was in nobody's interest and called for dialogue and cooperation to prevent the conflict from spreading.

His remarks came a day after US forces struck two Iranian launchers on Larak Island, according to a US official. Iran subsequently struck two US bases in Jordan, Iranian media reported. Two people were killed and others injured in the Larak attack.

Iranian state news agency IRNA quoted the local governor as saying.

The renewed fighting followed weeks of escalating US sanctions against Tehran and its business partners, while diplomatic efforts remained stalled.

Tensions also rose after US President Donald Trump posted an AI-generated video that



he claimed showed Iran's Kharg Island oil hub being destroyed. Reuters found the footage was most likely synthetically generated, while a US official said the military had not targeted Kharg Island.

Iranian officials dismissed Trump's post as laughable. National Iranian Oil Company

chief Hamid Bovard said conditions on Kharg remained calm and oil operations continued.

Kharg handled about 90% of Iran's oil exports before the war began on February 28. Any attack on the facility could severely disrupt energy trade and intensify economic pressure on Tehran.

"Continuing the war is in no one's interest, neither ours, nor the region's, nor humanity's." — Masoud Pezeshkian

"We believe the solution to the existing issues is dialogue and cooperation." — Masoud Pezeshkian

NAME CHANGE

I, WASEEM SALEEM, Resident of No. 30, Risaldara Street, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru -560020, have changed my name to **MOHAMMED WASEEM S**, vide affidavit dated: 31.08.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

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INDIA FINALISE U23 WOMEN'S WRESTLING SQUAD

India's women wrestlers have completed U23 world selection trials, with Haryana leading the results and Maharashtra also producing multiple winners across the 10 weight categories for the upcoming global championships.

NEW DELHI

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has finalised India's women's squad for the upcoming U23 World Wrestling Championships in the United States after selection trials at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi Stadium.

Wrestlers competed across all 10 women's weight categories, with athletes from Haryana, Maharashtra, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh fighting for places in the national contingent. The winners will represent India at the championships, while runners-up will join the national camp as sparring partners to strengthen preparation and squad depth.

Haryana emerged as the dominant state at the trials, securing top positions in several divisions. Parveen won the 50kg category, Sweety topped 53kg, Komal took 59kg, Neha won 62kg and Diksha Malik finished first in 76kg. Maharashtra's Ahilya Shinde, Vaishnavi Patil, Mansi Lather and Amruta Pujari won the 55kg, 65kg, 68kg and 72kg categories respectively.



INDIA'S U23 WOMEN WRESTLERS SELECTED FOR WORLDS
• Trials held at Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi
• Selection covered all 10 women's weight categories
• Haryana dominated with five category winners
• Maharashtra produced four winners
• Runners-up will join the national camp
• Preparations will also focus on senior global assignments
• Winners will represent India at the U23 Worlds

Delhi's Neha Sharma secured the 57kg title.

WFI President Sanjay Singh praised the competitive standard at the trials, saying the

performances demonstrated the depth and strength of Indian women's wrestling. He expressed confidence that the selected wrestlers would per-

form strongly at the U23 World Championships in the USA and the Senior World Championships in Kazakhstan.

The selected contingent will now assemble for an intensive preparatory camp before leaving for their international assignments. The runners-up will also remain involved through the national camp, providing quality competition and helping the federation build greater depth ahead of major global events. The trials underlined intense competition in domestic women's wrestling and gave selectors a strong pool of contenders.

FIH World Rankings: Indian Women Rise to Eighth

India's historic fifth-place World Cup finish has lifted the women's hockey team to eighth in the latest FIH World Rankings.

MUMBAI

India's women's hockey team climbed to eighth in the FIH World Rankings after producing their best World Cup finish in 52 years. The rise followed their fifth-place finish at the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, lifting the Olympic semifinalists one place in the rankings.

The rankings were updated after the World Cup concluded, with Argentina winning the women's title and Germany claiming the men's crown. India collected 2,938 ranking points to move ahead of Australia, who dropped to ninth with 2,812 points.

The Netherlands remain at the top despite suffering their first World Cup defeat since 2010. They lead the standings with 4,083 points, while champions Argentina strengthened their second position with 3,757. Belgium are third on 3,494 after returning to the World Cup podium for



the first time in 48 years.

China remain Asia's highest-ranked women's side in fourth with 3,182 points. Spain, Germany and England occupy fifth, sixth and seventh respectively, with only 45 points separating the three teams.

India's eighth-place ranking represents another positive marker after their World Cup campaign. Their fifth-place finish was their strongest showing in more than five decades and has provided momentum for the team internationally.

Australia now sit ninth, followed by the United States in 10th. Japan, New Zealand, Ireland and Scotland occupy positions 11 to 14, while

Chile, France and Korea follow. South Africa, Italy and Uruguay complete the top 20.

The Indian men's team retained eighth place despite another disappointing tournament. The Olympic bronze medallists retained their position at eighth.

FIH on India: The governing body highlighted India's fifth-place World Cup finish as their best showing in 52 years. The result earned the women's team 2,938 ranking points and moved them above Australia into eighth position. The Netherlands retained the top spot, while Argentina strengthened second place after winning the World Cup. Belgium completed the women's top three.



Koren's UFC journey ends in Shanghai

IMPHAL

Manipuri fighter Chungreng Koren's Road to UFC Season 5 campaign ended in Shanghai after a unanimous-decision loss to Japan's Ryo Tajima in the bantamweight semifinal. Entering as a short-notice replacement, the 28-year-old impressed by submitting previously unbeaten Ryuho Miyaguchi in Macau. Known as "The Indian Rhino", Koren's semifinal run marks a significant milestone for Indian MMA. He holds an 8-2 professional record and won the 2024 Matrix Fight Night Interim Bantamweight Championship.

PATNA

Bihar Cricket Association officials congratulated young batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi for becoming the youngest player to score a half-century in Duleep Trophy history during East Zone's ongoing semi-final against Central Zone in Bengaluru. At the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) Ground in Bengaluru, Sooryavanshi, who became the youngest debutant for India in international cricket via the T20I series in England in July, reached his milestone fifty off 42 deliveries before eventually ending up making a sparkling 92 off 81 balls, an innings featuring seven fours and seven sixes.

In doing so, he surpassed a 57-year-old mark set in 1969 by Laxman Singh, who scored a fifty at 16 years and 23 days. "On behalf of the Bihar Cricket Association, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Vaibhav Sooryavanshi on this historic achievement. Breaking a 57-year-old record in the Duleep Trophy at such a young age is an extremely proud moment for Bihar cricket. "Vaibhav has once again proved through his talent, confidence and hard work that he is a star for the future. We are confident that he will go on to achieve many more milestones in the years to come," BCA President Harsh Vardhan said in a statement on Monday.

The teenager's record-breaking knock laid the foundation for a 161-run opening partnership with Abhimanyu Easwaran, thus placing East Zone in complete control of the match after they previously bowled out Central Zone for 266.

BCA Secretary Ziaul Arfin added that the young batter's composure under pressure pointed toward a promising career on the national stage. "Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's achievement is a matter of great pride for the entire Bihar cricket family. Becoming the youngest player to score a half-century in the Duleep Trophy at the age of just 15 years and 157 days reflects his exceptional talent and dedication.

BIHAR CRICKET ASSN HAILS SOORYAVANSHI'S DULEEP FIFTY



BENGALURU

Sports can build character while strengthening students physically and mentally, Bengaluru University's physical education director said. Sports play an important role in developing human values and helping students grow physically and mentally, said Dr T.C. Krishnaswamy, Director of Physical Education at Bengaluru University.

He was speaking after inaugurating the International Sports Day celebrations and the 21st annual sports meet of Seshadripuram Academy of Business Studies in Kengeri, held at the Bengaluru University Physical Education Stadium.

Dr Krishnaswamy said sports provide physical nourishment while contributing to students' physical and mental development. He urged students to develop a sporting spirit and use sports as a platform to discover and demonstrate their abilities.

"Winning and losing are both part of sport and should be accepted equally," he said, adding that while victory brings happiness, defeat provides valuable experience. Such experiences, he said, can eventually become a stepping stone to future success.

Dr C.M. Parthasarathi,



Treasurer of the Seshadripuram Educational Trust, said sports help students develop a competitive spirit in today's increasingly competitive environment. Participation in inter-collegiate, state and national-level sporting events also helps athletes build friendships, camaraderie and healthy relationships, he said.

Such exposure can further encourage talented students to aim for higher levels of competition and eventually seek recognition on international platforms.

Principal Dr Jayaram urged students to spend less time on mobile phones and devote more time to sporting activities. Regular participation in sports, he said, can help students maintain good health and physical fitness. Former Indian sol-

dier Rajendra Singh H, Physical Education Director Suresh C and students and staff members were present at the event.

Students should reduce the time spent on mobile phones and participate more actively in sports, Principal Dr Jayaram said. Regular sporting activities can help maintain physical fitness, promote good health and encourage a more active lifestyle among young people.

DHASH Bengaluru Half Marathon returns on December 6

BENGALURU

The DHASH Bengaluru Half Marathon (DBHM) will return for its second edition on December 6, 2026, bringing together the city's running community for a premium and accessible race experience. Powered by the Bengaluru Runners Association, the event will be anchored at Kanteerava Stadium, with

participants running through Bengaluru's Central Business District. Built around the philosophy "For the Runners, By the Runners," DBHM promotes fitness, community and social impact. Its "One Runner, One Tree" initiative encourages environmental responsibility. Indian cricketer Shreyanka Patil will be the face of DBHM 2026. Registrations are currently open.



NEW YORK

Novak Djokovic suffered his earliest Grand Slam exit in more than two decades after the 39-year-old Serb was knocked out in the first round of the US Open by unseeded Argentine Mariano Navone on Sunday.

Djokovic, who arrived at Flushing Meadows targeting a fifth US Open title and a record 25th Grand Slam crown, lost 7-6(5), 5-7, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 in a stunning five-set contest at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The defeat marked Djokovic's first opening-round loss at a Grand Slam since the 2006 Australian Open. His hopes were further hampered by shoulder and back problems, while he also

vomited during the match as his physical struggles intensified.

"I pretty much despised every moment I spent on the court for that," Djokovic told reporters after the defeat.

The result sent shockwaves through the year's final Grand Slam, particularly with world number one Jannik Sinner absent and defending champion Carlos Alcaraz returning after a lengthy injury layoff. Djokovic had appeared to have a major opportunity to challenge for another historic title.

Navone, ranked 49th in the world, recovered from a nervous start to produce the biggest victory of his career. He admitted being overwhelmed by facing his idol but remained composed as Djokovic's condition deteriorated.

DJOKOVIC'S SHOCK EXIT

Djokovic Suffers Shock US Open Exit

"I was 0-3 down, feeling a bit nervous out of respect for the star I was up against," Navone said.

Former champion Daniil Medvedev, meanwhile, avoided an upset and advanced comfortably with a 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 victory over French qualifier Hugo Gaston. Medvedev, who suffered a chaotic first-round defeat last year, said he was pleased to produce high-level tennis after difficult weeks.



It's tough to play against Novak, he's an idol. You don't get many chances to play an idol on a stage like this. Mariano Navone

I pretty much despised every moment I spent on the court for that. Novak Djokovic

