



India Holds Strong amid Global Headwinds

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Jaishankar meets SCO foreign ministers in Bishkek



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Osaka Survives Tiebreak Test at US Open



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Drought declaration must follow scientific assessment: Shivakumar

Facing pressure from farmers and Opposition leaders, Shivakumar defended the government's cautious approach to expanding drought declarations.

HUBBALLI

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday said the Karnataka government cannot declare more taluks drought-affected without completing the prescribed scientific assessment and verification process.

Speaking to reporters in Hubballi while on his way to Gadag, Shivakumar said drought declarations had to be based on established parameters and official reports. He urged farmers and the public to remain patient while the assessment process is completed.

"Kanakapura taluk, which is my constituency, is also facing drought, but it has not been declared drought-hit. I cannot declare it so just because I am the Chief Minister. There are procedures and guidelines," Shivakumar said.

He said reports from the affected areas would have to be obtained and verified by officials before any decision was taken.

The government would also visit drought-hit areas and assess the difficulties faced by farmers before deciding on further measures.

Shivakumar warned that declaring drought without proper documentation could create complications when central teams verify the situation. He said the Centre would have to provide compensation and, therefore, the state must submit an accurate report.

"We cannot declare drought for political reasons," he said. The Chief Minister also ac-



Kanakapura taluk, which is my constituency, is also facing drought, but it has not been declared drought-hit.

-DK Shivakumar, CM

used the BJP of politicising the drought issue, claiming the Opposition had not raised the matter during the Assembly session and had instead

'Cong will counter': DKS takes dig at BJP padayatra

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday took a dig at the BJP's 10-day 'Ballari Chalo' padayatra, saying the Congress would plan a counter strategy. The BJP march from Lingasugur in Raichur district to Ballari is aimed at highlighting alleged failures, corruption and anti-people policies of the Congress government. Shivakumar said the BJP's agitation would give the ruling party an opportunity to respond. The nearly 185-km march will pass through several constituencies before concluding in Ballari. Shivakumar also condemned the FIR against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, calling it "purely political" and saying the party stood by him.

focused on former minister B Nagendra.

He dismissed the BJP's proposed padayatra to Ballari as politically motivated and said the Congress would respond appropriately.

Shivakumar also rejected allegations that youths were being forced to join Bharat Jodo Yuva Sanghas, saying many were joining voluntarily.

How drought declaration will work

Assessment
Ground-level drought conditions will be examined.
Parameters
Prescribed government guidelines must be met.
Verification
Officials will verify scientific reports.
Decision
Eligible taluks will be declared drought-hit.
Centre
A verified report will support the state's compensation claim.

K'taka seeks relaxed NDRF norms for drought declaration

Parameshwara's field visits highlighted growing distress among farmers facing crop losses caused by inadequate monsoon rainfall.

MYSURU

The Karnataka government has written to the Centre seeking relaxation of National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) norms for declaring drought, Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara said on Tuesday.

Parameshwara, who is on a two-day tour of Mysuru and Chamarajanagar to assess the drought situation, inspected affected villages in K R Nagar, Hunsur and Varuna Assembly constituencies. He interacted with farmers and heard their grievances over crop losses caused by deficient rainfall.

During his visit to Kanachugaranakoppalu in K R Nagar taluk, Parameshwara inspected ragi and tobacco crops along with K R Nagar MLA D Ravishankar.

He said both crops had been completely damaged in the village due to inadequate rainfall.

"Both crops are completely spoiled in this village due to deficit rainfall. Even as sowing is done in 10,000 hectare in K R Nagar taluk, all the crops are destroyed. The situation is the same in the entire State," Parameshwara said.

He said that the State would soon submit a memorandum to



Karnataka's drought response

- **NDRF norms:** State seeks relaxation in existing criteria.
- **Ground assessment:** Ministers inspecting affected farming areas.
- **Crop damage:** Ragi, tobacco and other crops reported affected.
- **Memorandum:** State to submit drought report to Centre.
- **Central team:** Expected to assess the situation.
- **Relief:** State seeks ex-gratia support for farmers.

Crops are completely spoiled in villages due to deficit rainfall.

-G Parameshwara, Deputy Chief Minister

the Union government detailing the drought situation.

"We will soon submit a memorandum to the Union government about the drought situation in the State," he said.

Parameshwara said the Centre was expected to send a team to assess the situation before releasing financial assistance. The State government would also discuss measures to support farmers and seek ex-gratia assistance for those affected.

On demands for farm loan waivers, the minister said the government would discuss

Crop losses mount

Deficient rainfall has caused extensive crop damage in several parts of Karnataka, with farmers seeking immediate relief. During his Mysuru tour, Parameshwara inspected affected ragi and tobacco fields in K R Nagar, where 10,000 hectares had reportedly been sown. The minister said the crops were completely destroyed in the area. The State plans to seek central assistance and ex-gratia for affected farmers after submitting a detailed memorandum to the Union government.

ways to provide support to farmers. He also said microfinance companies would be regulated to prevent harassment of farmers, noting that a law was already in place.

Mamata's niece found dead at Bengal home

KOLKATA: TMC supremo and former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee's niece Bristi Mukherjee was found hanging at her residence in Birbhum district on Tuesday, police said.

The body of Bristi Mukherjee (28), the daughter of Banerjee's maternal cousin Nihar Mukherjee, was recovered from a room on the second floor of her house at Kusumba village in Rampurhat area this afternoon, a senior officer said.

Nihar Mukherjee had previously served as the Trinamool Congress president of Rampurhat-I block.

"Bristi's body has been sent for post-mortem examination to the Rampurhat Government Medical College and Hospital. An investigation is underway.

The circumstances leading to the death will be established after the post-mortem and other procedural inquiries," he said.

NEET stir: SC quashes all FIRs against CJP protesters

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday quashed all FIRs registered against students who participated in the Cockroach Janta Party-led protests between July 20 to 25 across the country, prompting the group to call off its September 5 march in the national capital.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant also directed the Centre to provide within three months compensation to families of students who ended their lives over the NEET paper leak.

Closing the criminal proceedings against the protesters, the bench said, "Keeping in view the future prospects of the young protestors, we invoke our powers under Article 142 of the Con-

stitution to do complete justice."

Article 142 empowers the apex court to pass any orders to do complete justice.

According to the Centre's request, the apex court, however, permitted the Delhi police to register fresh FIRs against 2,873 individuals with serious criminal antecedents who were present in the Jan-tar Mantar protest.

CJP withdraws Sept 5 stir

The CJP has decided to withdraw its call for a protest march on September 5 after the Centre and four states urged the SC to quash FIRs registered against those who protested in Delhi and elsewhere over the NEET paper leak issue.



Terrorism can't be strategic asset: PM

BISHKEK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called on the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to take a united stand against terrorism, saying countries that use it as an instrument of policy must be confronted and that there should be no "double standards" in the fight against terror financing, recruitment and safe havens.

Speaking at the SCO Summit in the presence of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chinese President Xi Jinping and other leaders, Modi said terrorism remained a serious challenge to humanity.

Modi also spoke about the impact of the West Asia crisis, the need for disputes to be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy, and the importance of connectivity projects respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries.

Modi said that the time had come to move India's three pillars for the SCO — security, connectivity and opportunity — from vision to concrete outcomes.

"Terrorism continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity as a whole. In the fight against terrorism, we cannot remain confined to an action-reaction approach," Modi said. "We must dismantle the entire ecosystem of terrorist financing, recruitment, radicalisation, and safe havens. We must speak with one voice and make it clear that there can be no place for double standards on this serious issue." He

Modi's firm message at SCO



No double standards: PM Modi stated that countries must speak with one voice and allow no room for double standards or treating terror groups as strategic instruments.

Ecosystem destruction: He called for active steps to cut off terror financing, stop recruitment, halt radicalisation, and eliminate safe havens.

Zero tolerance: India reiterated its zero-tolerance stance against cross-border terrorism, separatism, and extremism.

Emerging threats: The Prime Minister emphasized the need to tackle modern dangers like cyber-terrorism and unmanned aerial/tech threats.

added, "We must send a strong message to countries that use terrorism as an instrument of policy and provide safe haven and support to terrorists that terrorism can never be a strategic asset for anyone."

Referring to the West Asia crisis, he said its effects were being felt far beyond the region. "In today's interconnected world, the scope of security has become even broader. The crisis in West Asia has demonstrated that a conflict in one region does not remain confined to that region," PM Modi added.

SHOWING THE DIGITAL PATH

Karnataka showcases digital governance to African delegation

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Tuesday hosted a high-level African delegation to showcase the State's experience in Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and e-governance.

The delegation, comprising senior officials from the African Union and six African countries — Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Zambia — is in India on an exposure visit supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

During its Bengaluru visit, the delegation held discussions with Chief Secretary Dr



Shalini Rajneesh, Principal Secretary to DPAR (e-Governance) Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Centre for e-Governance (CeG) Chief Executive Officer T Bhoobalan and other senior officials.

The discussions focused on Karnataka's use of digital technologies and platforms to strengthen governance, improve public service delivery and promote inclusive development. Officials briefed the

delegation on the State's approach to designing, implementing and scaling digital initiatives.

The delegation was also informed about the role played by CeG in supporting government departments in their digital transformation, developing integrated technology platforms, improving interoperability between government systems and enabling efficient and transparent delivery of citizen services.

Other areas highlighted included data-driven decision-making, strengthening the technology ecosystem and adopting emerging technolo-

gies and innovative digital solutions across government departments.

Karnataka has emerged as one of India's leading States in e-governance, with CeG contributing to the development, implementation and management of several technology-enabled platforms and digital systems supporting government departments and citizens.

The State government reiterated its commitment to knowledge exchange and collaboration with national and international partners to promote innovative, inclusive and scalable digital solutions.

BJP'S 'BALLARI CHALO'

Scam sword or political boomerang?

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM
MYSURU

The BJP's 10-day, 175-km "Ballari Chalo" padayatra, beginning from Lingasugur on Tuesday and culminating in Ballari on September 10, is much more than an agitation over the alleged multi-crore Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation irregularities.

For the saffron party, the march is an attempt to turn a corruption controversy into a political bridge to Ballari's influential ST electorate and consolidate its position in a district where the Scheduled Tribe population has considerable electoral weight.

The BJP had initially planned the march to mount pressure on the Congress government for the removal of B. Nagendra, but his resignation has changed the political script. The party has now widened the campaign to include alleged corruption, unemployment, drought and other government failures. BJP leaders are projecting Nagendra's resignation as a victory for their sustained agitation. State BJP President B.Y. Vijayendra has declared that the resignation will be one of the issues raised during the padayatra, while senior leader and former minister B. Sriramulu has alleged that funds meant for ST development were diverted for political purposes. "Nagendra's resignation is one of the issues. There are several other



pic for representation

issues, including drought and unfilled vacancies, which we will raise during the padayatra," added Vijayendra

But beneath the saffron show of strength lies a serious political dilemma. The BJP itself is not entirely united behind the march, with factional equations and competing leadership ambitions in the Ballari-Raichur belt threatening to dilute the impact of the campaign. The participation—or absence—of prominent leaders could therefore become as significant as the crowds along the route.

More importantly, the BJP risks walking into a political boomerang. Nagendra is an ST Nayaka leader, and his resignation marks the second time he has quit the ministerial post over the same controversy—first in 2024 and now in 2026. Congress is seeking to turn this into a narrative of an ST leader being politically targeted by the BJP. Nagendra himself has hit back, saying he is only an accused and not a convict. Congress is already preparing to rally the ST community around Nagendra and portray the BJP campaign as

an attempt to politically exploit the controversy. "We want to show the other face of the Congress party to the Dalit community," Leader of the Opposition in the State Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy.

The Congress counter, however, could be equally potent: "Why target an ST leader twice when the investigation is still underway?" That argument could resonate if the community views the BJP's campaign as political persecution rather than a fight for accountability. The BJP hopes the padayatra will convert the Valmiki controversy into anti-Congress sentiment in Ballari. But the real test will be whether it can separate the issue of alleged corruption from Nagendra's community identity.

If the BJP succeeds, "Ballari Chalo" could become the launchpad for its 2028 campaign in the Kalyana Karnataka belt. If the ST community rallies behind Nagendra, the same march could end up strengthening Congress instead. The road to Ballari, therefore, is not merely a padayatra—it is a high-stakes political gamble.

Inner purity, human values key to peace: MLC Raghu Kautilya

MYSURU

In a rapidly changing world, it is essential for people to strengthen themselves spiritually and lead their lives with a spirit of dedication, said MLC Raghu Kautilya. Speaking after participating in a Raksha Bandhan programme organised at the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya premises in Mysuru on Tuesday, he said that sacred festivals should not be viewed merely as traditional rituals, but should be celebrated by understanding their deeper significance. "True results can be achieved only when there is concentration and dedication in whatever we undertake. In this age of technology, along with external development, inner spiritual strength is equally important. Those in public life should give importance to self-purification before speaking about spiritual matters. Peace and harmony in society can be established only through inner purity, mutual love and a spirit of dedication. Everyone should embrace the broader human message of Raksha Bandhan, which strengthens bonds and relationships," he said.

Mysuru turns into a 'flex city', alleges social activist

MYSURU

Social activist Sandesh has expressed concern over the alleged rampant display of flex banners across Mysuru, accusing elected representatives and their supporters of violating civic regulations meant to keep the cultural city clean and beautiful.

In a statement, he alleged that flex banners had been put up at several locations in the city in connection with the birthday celebrations of MP Sunil Bose. He also alleged that banners welcoming MLA Harish Gowda and Minister Rizwan Arshad had been erected on roads, lanes and even lamp posts when the leaders visited the city. "It is unfortunate that elected representatives, who are expected to respect and protect the laws enacted by the government, are themselves allegedly violating them."

Sandesh questioned why the city administration was allegedly turning a blind eye to the unauthorised banners. He sought to know whether the Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner would also be held responsible for failing to act against such violations.

Sandesh urged the authorities to enforce the law uniformly against everyone and impose hefty penalties on those responsible for unauthorised flex banners. Referring to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's reported stand on penalties for illegal flexes, he demanded that the authorities impose a fine of up to ₹10 lakh wherever applicable.

"Who should ordinary citizens approach when elected representatives themselves are accused of violating civic rules? Are there separate laws for the common people and elected representatives?" he asked.

He appealed to the district administration and civic authorities to immediately remove unauthorised flex banners and take action against those responsible, irrespective of their political affiliation.

Sandesh also urged the judiciary to intervene and take note of the alleged violations, besides directing the district administration and elected representatives to strictly adhere to the rules governing public spaces. "D.K. Shivakumar has spoken about stringent penalties for illegal flex banners. The same rules should apply to everyone," Sandesh said.

"Govt must shoulder responsibility of protecting government schools"

MYSURU

The state government has the responsibility of protecting government schools, as these institutions are essential for the upliftment of children from middle-class and economically weaker sections, said former Minister B. Somashekar.

Speaking after inaugurating a seminar on "Save Government Kannada Schools" and presenting the Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Teacher Ratna Awards and Nannavva Seva Awards organised by Nannavva Cultural Art Troupe here on Tuesday, as part of Teachers' Day celebrations, he said it should be the Government's responsibility to open more Kannada-medium schools. The Government should take greater interest in establishing more government schools, particularly in rural areas. This would also provide women in rural communities and surrounding areas with better opportunities to pursue education.

The former minister said with the rapid increase in the number of English-medium private schools, people from lower-income groups are increasingly developing a mind-



set that they must send their children to private schools to learn English, even if it means borrowing money. As a result, several government Kannada schools are gradually being closed, which is a matter of great concern.

Somashekar stressed that the quality of teacher education at the primary-school level was extremely important. In the past, teachers who had completed TCH along with SSLC were appointed to primary schools. However, many of them did not possess adequate knowledge of important subjects such as science and mathematics after completing SSLC and becoming teachers. "Therefore, I had introduced a law making it mandatory for

those seeking appointment as primary-school teachers to complete PUC," he said.

He had fought strongly in the Assembly to bring about such legislation. If poor, socially disadvantaged and Dalit children were to receive quality education, teachers needed to possess adequate knowledge and skills. This would help students pursue higher education and build better futures.

The former minister recalled introducing the supplementary examination system to help rural students who were failing examinations in large numbers, and described the initiative as a social revolution, saying it had faced considerable opposition. "I

insisted before the Chief Minister and succeeded in getting the legislation implemented. As a result, many students were able to appear for supplementary examinations and pass. Many of them have today gone on to occupy higher positions and are serving in responsible posts".

On the occasion, Suma, head teacher of Sadvidya School, and Shantappa, head teacher of the school at Srikanthapura on the forest fringe near Gundlupet border, were honoured with the Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Teacher Ratna Award.

The Nannavva Seva Awards were presented to environmentalist Srikanthesh, Pratima Ramesh and Komalakshi Nagaraju in recognition of their service.

Dr. T. Padmashree, lecturer at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Research and Extension Centre; Suttur Gram Panchayat President G. Marahalli Rangaswamy; national award recipient Dr. N. Gangadharappa; trilingual poet and teacher Prabhasthi Joshyulu; and Nannavva Cultural Art Troupe president Yachenahalli Mahadev were among those present.

CIIL Launches Two-Week Orientation Programme on Indian Grammatical Tradition

MYSURU

The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru, inaugurated a two-week Orientation Programme on 'Indian Grammatical Tradition' in Mysuru. The programme brings together scholars, teachers and researchers from across the country to deepen their understanding of India's rich grammatical heritage and explore its relevance to contemporary language studies.

The programme, being held till September 14 at the Conference Hall of CIIL, witnessed the participation of scholars and language experts representing different linguistic and academic backgrounds.

Prof. Prasad Joshi, Vice-Chancellor, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune, is the Guest of Honour, while Prof. Saroja Bhate, former Professor of Sanskrit and Prakrit Languages, University of Pune, attended as the Special Guest.

In his welcome address, Dr. Sujoy Sarkar, L-JRO, CIIL and Programme Coordinator, welcomed the distinguished guests, scholars and participants and introduced the objectives of the orientation programme. He highlighted the importance of creating greater opportunities for systematic engagement with Indian grammatical traditions and welcomed participants selected from across the country. The strong response to the programme, reflected in the large number of applications received, underscored the growing academic interest in the subject.

Delivering the presidential

address, Prof. Basavaraja Kodagunti, Director, CIIL, said the response to the programme demonstrated the need for sustained study of India's grammatical traditions. CIIL had received around 900 applications from across the country and neighboring countries, with applicants representing different regions, languages and disciplines. The participants included those working with languages ranging from Tamil and Kannada to languages spoken in the north-eastern and other parts of India.

Prof. Kodagunti stressed that Indian grammatical traditions cannot be confined to Sanskrit alone. Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Pali, Prakrit and other Indian languages have their own traditions and histories of grammatical analysis. He pointed to the interaction among different linguistic traditions as an important feature of India's intellectual history.

He also announced CIIL's initiative to prepare around 75 introductory books in linguistics, incorporating greater representation of Indian languages and perspectives. Around 15 volumes are expected to focus on Indian grammatical traditions, while other books will incorporate Indian perspectives in areas including phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics.

Prof. Prasad Joshi, in his address, described the Indian grammatical scholarship as an important contribution to the scientific study of language. Referring to Panini and Patanjali, he explained that the Indian tradition developed systematic methods for analysing



language through rules and their application. He noted that Pāṇini's Aṣṭādhyāyī demonstrates how a carefully organised set of rules can account for a vast range of linguistic expressions.

Prof. Joshi further emphasised that the study of Indian grammatical traditions extends beyond Sanskrit and includes traditions associated with Pali, Prakrit, Tamil and other languages. He described grammar as a broad field concerned with different dimensions of language and highlighted its relevance to language preservation and linguistic research.

Prof. Saroja Bhate, in her special address, observed that Indian grammatical scholarship has contributed not only to the study of language but also to wider intellectual traditions. She noted that the work of Pāṇini and Patanjali had influenced the development of systematic approaches to knowledge and referred to the significance of Indian grammatical studies in the history of linguistics. She also drew attention to the recognition given by several Western scholars to India's contribution to linguistic thought, particularly in the study of Sanskrit and phonetics.

Prof. Bhate stressed that In-

dia's linguistic heritage should be viewed in its entirety, encompassing Sanskrit as well as Pali, Prakrit and regional languages. She urged participants to look beyond grammar as a narrowly defined subject and understand its relationship with language, culture, communication and intellectual development.

The inaugural session concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Pankaj Dwivedi, Assistant Director (Administration), CIIL.

The two-week programme features 56 academic sessions led by 22 experts from various Central and State Universities, IITs, IIITs and CIIL. It has 163 registered participants representing Central and State Universities, IITs, IIITs and various language research institutes from across the country.

The academic sessions, scheduled to continue until 14 September 2026, provide participants with intensive exposure to the diverse dimensions of Indian grammatical traditions and their relevance to contemporary language studies. The programme also aims to facilitate scholarly engagement and encourage further teaching, research and documentation in the field of Indian grammatical traditions.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CUP

Perfect Pass Academy clinches double national title

MYSURU

Perfect Pass Football Academy emerged as the double national champion, winning both the Under-10 and Under-12 titles at the Independence Day Cup 2026, a national-level football championship organised by Titans Football Club.

The Perfect Pass U-10 side dominated the tournament, winning all three of its league matches. It defeated VFC 3-1, Chikkamagaluru Football Club 3-0 and ARC 4-3 to finish on top of its group and qualify for the knockout stage.

In the title clash, Perfect Pass registered a convincing 5-1 victory over Titans Football Club. Jeeva Arun scored twice, while Manvik, Maurya M. Aras and Mohammed



Umar Khan scored one goal each.

Jeeva Arun captained the U-10 team, with Maurya M. Aras as vice-captain. The squad comprised Bhavin, Manvik, Shriskanda, Mokshith, Mohammed Umar Khan and Rishan Singh, with Tilak G. and Giridhar as support players.

The U-12 team also produced an impressive perfor-

mance to secure the second national title for the academy. Perfect Pass began its campaign with a 3-0 win over United Football Club, with Bhavin scoring twice and Vachan R. adding one goal. It then defeated Real Madrid Football Club 3-0, with M.D. Yousuf, Leeshan Devayya and Vachan R. finding the net.

Perfect Pass maintained its unbeaten run in the final, de-

feating Titans Football Club 2-0. Vachan R. and Bhavin scored one goal each.

Vachan R. led the U-12 team as captain, while goalkeeper Vishnu Nandan served as vice-captain. The squad included Harshajith, Adam, Bhavin, R.M. Kumar, Chirayu, Leeshan Devayya, Mohammed Yousuf and Sharav Singh.

Both teams were praised for displaying excellent teamwork, sporting spirit, tactical discipline and composure under pressure throughout the championship.

The academy expressed its gratitude to coaches Manjunath, K.B., Jabir, Devanand, Rizvi, Mohan, Safan, Shanesh, Mohith and Chandan, besides thanking the parents for their continuous encouragement and support.

MYSURU

BJP national vice-president and Rajya Sabha member Prof. M. Nagaraj, who visited Mysuru for the first time after assuming the two positions, was felicitated by Dr. E.C. Ningaraj Gowda, BJP co-in-charge for the Mysuru division.

During the meeting, the leaders held detailed discussions on strengthening the BJP organisation across the Mysuru division, expanding the party's activities effectively at the grassroots level and making party workers more active and involved in organisational activities.

Dr. Gowda also held consultations with Prof. M. Nagaraj on various organisa-



tional matters concerning the party in the Mysuru division. He sought his guidance and suggestions on the organisational programmes and initiatives to be taken up in the coming days.

The leaders discussed the need to further consolidate

the party's organisational structure in the Mysuru division, boost the morale of party workers and strengthen the BJP's organisational network from the grassroots. They stressed the importance of working together with unity and coordination to achieve these objectives.

The meeting assumes significance as the BJP seeks to further strengthen its organisational presence across the Mysuru division and energise its cadre ahead of upcoming political challenges.

Advocate A.M. Bhaskar, former Mayor Shivakumar, Ramesh, former Zoo Authority chairman Shivakumar and B.K. Supreeth, among others, were present on the occasion.

Quick Read

HC rules against mother-in-law in property dispute

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka High Court ruled that a mother-in-law cannot cancel a valid gift deed given to her widowed daughter-in-law. The court noted the transfer occurred in 2010 out of love, with no written maintenance condition included. After her son died, the mother tried using the Senior Citizens Act to reclaim the land. The judge stated the tribunal lacked jurisdiction because a civil court already validated the deed years ago. Without explicit terms requiring support in the original legal document, the daughter-in-law bears no forced upkeep duty, protecting her property rights.

Karnataka's rowdy control force launches statewide crackdown

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Acting on government orders, Karnataka's newly formed Rowdy Control Force has officially begun operations statewide. Over the past month and a half, officials have inspected more than 5,000 rowdy sheeters and their associates, issuing stern warnings against illegal activities. Local police officers must review operations bi-weekly, while senior officials conduct monthly evaluations. Records show the state's total rowdy-sheeter count has steadily decreased over recent years, dropping to 37,243 by July. This specialized anti-rowdy squad aims to closely monitor criminal backgrounds, income sources, and court appearances.

High Court issues notice over mosquito control tender

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka High Court issued notices to the Greater Bangalore Authority and related officials regarding a petition to cancel a recent mosquito control tender. Justice Suraj Govindaraj heard the challenge filed by the Greater Bangalore Mosquito Control Contractors Association. The association argued that authorities issued the July tender without addressing official recommendations concerning the employment rights of families of deceased and retired municipal workers. The court has officially adjourned the ongoing proceedings to September 7 for further hearings, demanding formal responses from the municipal corporation leaders named in the petition.

Government Service Rules Violated Online: Suresh Kumar

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Karnataka minister S. Suresh Kumar has strongly condemned a government official over a series of provocative social media posts targeting the Sanskrit language, Hindutva, and the Sangh Parivar. The controversy erupted after a user identifying as Sanjeev Poorya, reportedly a Kanyur Sub-Zonal Forest Officer, shared contentious statements on Facebook, triggering widespread public debate and immediate political backlash. According to online posts traced to the account, the official published inflammatory commentary criticizing foundational cultural and religious elements. A post - dated August 30 read, "Sanskrit is the language of shlokas and mantras that are pleasing to the ear so that no one can understand lies." Additional re-

ED challenges Lokayukta report in MUDA case

Enforcement Directorate disrupts Karnataka politics, challenging a clean chit given to the Chief Minister over MUDA.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The high-profile Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) land allocation controversy witnessed a dramatic escalation as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) formally approached the Karnataka High Court to challenge the acceptance of the Lokayukta police's closure report.

The development introduces a fresh legal dimension to the prolonged litigation surrounding Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his family members, and key administrative figures.

During the proceedings before a single-judge bench, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Arvind Kamath, representing the central anti-money laundering agency, contended that the Lokayukta Investigating Officer overlooked substantial incriminating material. The ED argued that critical evidence surfaced during its parallel financial investigation, including details concerning illegal land denotifications and unlawful property conversions, was entirely omitted from the final Lo-

LEGAL ARGUMENTS

Ignored Evidence: The ED claims investigators overlooked vital details, including illegal land conversions and faulty denotification processes.

Contradictory Rulings: Legal counsels point out that dropping charges against main beneficiaries while probing lower officials makes little sense.

Parallel Challenges: Social activist Snehamayi Krishna has also moved the court, demanding an independent investigation agency take over the case.

kayukta evaluation.

The core controversy revolves around 3 acres and 16 guntas of land situated in Survey No. 464 of Kesare village in Mysuru, previously belonging to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife, B.M. Parvathy. According to complaints lodged initially by social activist Snehamayi Krishna, MUDA acquired this parcel and subsequently allotted 14 high-value alternative com-

pensatory plots in prime localities of Mysuru, estimated to be worth approximately ₹56 crore.

Critics and investigators have alleged that official influence was improperly exercised to secure these allotments under the controversial 50:50 ratio scheme.

The legal trajectory shifted significantly when the Mysuru Lokayukta Superintendent of Police submitted a 'B' final

BSWML Waste Fee Triggers Citywide Poultry Bandh

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Tensions between local meat merchants and civic authorities have reached a boiling point, prompting the Karnataka Poultry Traders Association to call for a massive statewide protest and a sweeping citywide shutdown. Between 6000 and 7000 chicken and poultry retail outlets across Bengaluru are slated to close their shutters in a coordinated agitation against the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Corporation (BSWML).

The core controversy centers on a newly mandated solid waste management directive enforcing a collection fee of 5 rupees per kilogram for animal waste generated by commercial meat establishments. According to industry figures provided by the trade association, Bengaluru consumes roughly 700,000 kilograms of poultry daily, which results in an accumulation of 200,000 to 300,000 kilograms of organic waste. With an average daily output of approximately 30 kilograms of waste per individual shop, small-scale vendors face added operational expenses amounting to roughly 150 rupees daily, pushing monthly compliance costs to

Waste generation metrics	
Parameter	Estimated figure
Total daily chicken sales	~7 lakh kilograms
Daily waste generation	2 to 3 lakh kilograms
Average waste per shop	~30 kilograms daily
Proposed monthly fee	~₹4,500 per shop

nearly 4,500 rupees per outlet.

Traders have voiced vehement opposition to the weight-based assessment model, pointing out that routine cleaning procedures require large volumes of water. Because animal remnants and off-cuts are weighed while wet, merchants argue that absorbed moisture artificially inflates overall tonnage figures, driving actual monthly overhead costs significantly higher than anticipated. Furthermore, shop owners have questioned the fundamental fairness of the commercial arrangement. They contend that the collected organic material holds substantial commercial value, as private processing contractors frequently repurpose poultry waste into secondary commodities, including organic fertilizers and high-protein

Core conflict over waste disposal

The controversy erupted after authorities introduced a mandatory fee of five rupees per kilogram for handling daily poultry off-cuts and organic refuse. Store owners argue that weighing wet refuse alongside water used during cleaning drastically inflates daily totals, creating an unmanageable financial burden.

animal feed ingredients.

Challenging the logic of paying civic authorities for remnants that are later monetized upstream, the association has demanded an immediate rollback or substantial reduction of the fee structure. Following unsuccessful representations submitted to key municipal departments and state leadership, the trade body formalized plans for a large-scale demonstration at Freedom Park, accompanied by a partial closure of outlets on the first day and a total commercial shutdown across the capital city on the following day. The disruption is expected to temporarily stall the retail poultry supply chain, causing widespread inconvenience for everyday consumers and non-vegetarian dining establishments throughout the metropolitan area.

The investigation into illegal land denotification and conversion was incomplete and inadequate.

- Agency's counsel

report - effectively a closure report citing insufficient evidence of criminal culpability, to the 82nd Additional City Civil and Sessions Court (Special Court for People's Representatives) in Bengaluru. The Special Court formally accepted this closure report, granting a legal clean chit to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his wife B.M. Parvathy, his brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy, and landowner J. Devaraj.

Dissatisfied with the exoneration, social activist Snehamayi Krishna previously moved the High Court, arguing that the trial court's acceptance of the 'B' report suffered from profound internal contradictions.

The petitions claim it is legally untenable to exonerate the primary beneficiaries while simultaneously permitting further inquiries against administrative officials tied to the exact same transaction.

Cong prepares countermeasures as BJP launches padayatra

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Escalating the political friction across Karnataka, the ruling Congress party has initiated high-level counter-strategies to neutralize the Bharatiya Janata Party's newly launched "Bellary Chalo" padayatra. The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has formally convened a crucial emergency meeting targeting senior ministers, legislators, and key organizational functionaries from the Kalyan Karnataka region to draft an aggressive, localized defense against opposition attacks.

The political showdown unfolds as the BJP commences its massive 10-day foot march from Lingasugur in Raichur district, culminating in Bellary on September 10. Spearheaded by prominent opposition figures - including state BJP President B.Y. Vijayendra, Assembly Opposition Leader R. Ashoka, Council Opposition Leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa, and regional heavyweights like B. Sriramulu and Gali Janardhana Reddy - the opposition march aims to corner the Siddaramaiah administration over core governance issues.

CM dismisses Lalbagh concerns, announces park expansion

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has stepped forward to calm public concerns surrounding the recent Lalbagh land controversy. Addressing reporters in the city, the Chief Minister firmly assured residents that there is no cause for alarm regarding the historical park and vowed to personally re-examine the ongoing issue.

"No one needs to worry about the Lalbagh issue," Shivakumar stated clearly, emphasizing his commitment to safeguarding local land and public interests. "I know how to protect the law and the land. We will even create four or five more parks just like Lalbagh in Bengaluru to expand our green spaces."

The controversy follows recent protests and sharp criticism from opposition parties over park land near the iconic botanical garden. In response to the backlash, Shivakumar adopted a collaborative tone, expressing openness to alternative viewpoints. He noted that he is fully prepared to listen to constructive suggestions from both political opponents and ordinary citizens before making any final moves.

Beyond urban development, the Chief Minister addressed mounting anxieties over agricultural distress across the state. With rainfall turning scarce in regions like Dharwad and Gadag, Shiva-



No one needs to worry about the Lalbagh issue, I know how to protect the law and our land.

- DK Shivakumar, CM

kumar announced plans for immediate personal visits to assess ground realities. He reassured farming communities that the administration is actively monitoring moisture levels and weather patterns. "We have already declared 101 taluks as drought-hit, and

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar reassures the public over Lalbagh lands, addresses drought-hit taluks, and dismisses opposition protests.

surveys for many more are currently underway," he explained, noting that official assessment teams are expected to finalize further reports within the next two

weeks to meet central guidelines.

Turning to political developments, Shivakumar brushed off recent opposition protests and marches organized by the Bharatiya Janata Party. Suggesting that the opposition's campaign actually benefits the ruling party by keeping public dialogue active, he defended the historical legacy of the Congress party.

Additionally, the Chief Minister strongly condemned the recent filing of a legal case against national Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, dismissing the FIR as a politically motivated move.

'Not an MLA Yet, but making millions'

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has made a major breakthrough in the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) veterinary officer recruitment scam, arresting IAS officer and former examination controller Gyanendra Kumar alongside middleman Basavaraj Kannale.

A local court has remanded both accused to ten days of police custody as investigators unearth a massive web of corruption.

According to the CID remand application, former KPSC president Shivashankarappa Sahukar is listed as the primary accused (A1), while Kumar is named as the fifth accused (A5). The investigation reveals a deep-rooted conspiracy facilitated by a long-standing friendship between Kumar and Kannale, dating back to

their shared time in Bidar's Bhalki.

Investigators stated that Kannale enticed the official by suggesting they could leverage political connections to make a fortune. "I am not an MLA yet, let's make money by doing paper deals," Kannale allegedly told Kumar, successfully acquiring leaked question papers.

The syndicate targeted desperate job seekers, demanding between 40 to 80 lakh rupees per post. The network ultimately leaked question papers to 29 candidates, collecting crores of rupees in advance payments.

The conspiracy involved elaborate operational tactics. Deals were finalized at a commercial office in Bengaluru's Rajajinagar area, and question papers were digitally transmitted via WhatsApp after advance funds were secured.

PROTOCOL OR PRIVILEGE?

BC Patil slams Priyank over zero traffic chaos

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Senior politician and former Karnataka minister BC Patil has launched a scathing attack on state Home Minister Priyank Kharge, accusing him of misusing official authority by deploying disruptive "zero traffic" security protocols for a routine airport commute. The incident, which unfolded during the early morning hours, has reignited intense public debate surrounding VVIP protocol privileges, administrative accountability, and the recurring inconveniences inflicted upon everyday commuters and air travelers.

Taking to his official social media handle on X (formerly Twitter), Patil detailed his personal ordeal while traveling toward the Kempegowda International Airport. At approximately 5:30 AM, his vehicle was abruptly halted by traffic enforcement personnel stationed along the arterial route. When the former min-

ister inquired about the sudden roadblock, police officials informed him that temporary "zero traffic" measures had been enforced to clear the corridor for the Home Minister, who was en route to catch a flight.

Expressing deep exasperation over the incident, Patil highlighted the immediate gridlock and cascading delays that paralyzed traffic on the crucial airport highway. He pointed out that dozens of ordinary citizens and domestic and international travelers were left stranded, anxiously watching the clock as the artificial bottlenecks threatened to make them miss their scheduled flights.

The former minister argued that such stringent, unannounced traffic halts are completely unwarranted for cabinet ministers, serving only to inflate VVIP ego at the direct expense of public convenience.

In a sharp display of political sarcasm, Patil targeted the



When I inquired about who was traveling, officers informed me that the Home Minister was heading to catch a flight.

-BC Patil, Former Karnataka minister

Controversy details

Commuter Panic: Everyday passengers rushed to catch early flights faced intense anxiety over potential delays and missed schedules due to sudden road blocks.

Protocol Violations: Critics argue that standard state guidelines do not legally authorize absolute traffic clearance protocols for cabinet-level home ministers.

Political Nepotism: Public figures have questioned whether unwarranted privileges are being extended due to familial political lineage.

Khader Says Guarantees Improved Beneficiaries' Lives

Khader said welfare schemes boosted women's independence, eased electricity and travel costs, strengthened food security, and supported unemployed youth financially

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Dakshina Kannada District In-charge Minister U.T. Khader said the state's five guarantee schemes have become successful examples of people-friendly programmes.

He said the initiatives, once criticised for affecting Karnataka's finances, are now helping families and youth improve their economic conditions. He was speaking at a taluk-level beneficiaries' conference in Mangaluru on Tuesday.

The event was organised by the Zilla Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat and Mangaluru Taluk-level Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee at Kudmul Ranga Rao Town Hall. Khader said the schemes were not merely election promises, but programmes that had brought visible changes to beneficiaries' lives through government support.

He said Grihalakshmi had helped women gain greater financial independence, while Grihajyothi provided free electricity to eligible households. The Shakti scheme of-



Mangaluru Dasara preparations ordered to boost tourism

District In-charge Minister U.T. Khader directed officials to make systematic preparations for the upcoming Mangaluru Dasara and attract more tourists. At a meeting, he stressed creating a festive atmosphere through cleanliness, decorations and attractive electric lighting on major roads and important Dasara routes. Traffic police must ensure smooth vehicle movement, while proper parking facilities should be arranged for visitors. The Health Department was asked to provide round-the-clock health centres during the celebrations. Khader also instructed the RTO to extend city bus services and urged commercial establishments to remain open longer at night. Officials from several departments attended the meeting.

ferred free bus travel to women, and Annabhagya strengthened food security among poorer families. Yuvanidhi, he said, provided financial assistance to eligible unemployed

youth and helped them support their families.

Khader said beneficiaries were using the assistance to build self-confidence, improve household finances and

live with greater dignity. He added that the schemes had also contributed to strengthening the economic position of families. Effective administration and proper implementation, he said, were important reasons for the programmes' success.

Karnataka State Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority chairman H.M. Revanna presided over the programme. Several elected representatives, board chairpersons, officials and committee members attended the event. Among them were Legislative Council member Ivan D'Souza, MESCOM chairman Harish Kumar, Zilla Panchayat CEO Narwade Vinayak Karbhari and District Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority chairman Bharat Muddodi. Mangaluru Taluk Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee chairman Surendra Kambali organised the programme. Taluk Panchayat Administrative Officer Shakuntala Shenoy welcomed the gathering, while Assistant Director Mahesh Ambekal presented the programme.

Ballari politics heats up as Nagendra targets Reddy

CH NEWS, BALLARI

Former minister B. Nagendra on Tuesday strongly criticised former ministers Janardhana Reddy and B. Sriramulu over allegations raised during the BJP's protest march. Calling Reddy an "uncirculated coin," Nagendra said people of Ballari had already rejected him and questioned his claim of winning all ten Assembly constituencies in the district.

Nagendra pointed to the Sandur by-election, where Reddy was BJP's in-charge, and asked why the party lost despite his leadership. He also rejected allegations concerning an alleged Rs. 187 crore misappropriation case, saying the matter was before the court. He maintained that he was only an accused and had not been found guilty.

He said investigations had been completed and claimed that the Special Investigation Team had recovered the money. Nagendra also explained his resignation from the ministerial post, saying he stepped down to protect the party's



image despite senior leaders asking him to continue. He described the resignation as a sacrifice for Congress.

Nagendra challenged Reddy to an open debate on Manusmriti and Manuvad after Reddy allegedly called him "Shambuka." He also challenged Reddy to resign as Gangavathi MLA and contest another election, saying he was ready to face him wherever he contested. Nagendra said Congress would not conduct a counter-march but would respond through its party programme.

Congress leaders also criticised the BJP. MLA Bharat Reddy said Congress would win all ten constituencies in Ballari in 2028. MP E. Tu-

AT A GLANCE

- Nagendra calls Janardhana Reddy an "uncirculated coin"
- Challenges Reddy to resign and contest elections
- Denies wrongdoing, says case remains before court
- Says SIT recovered money during investigation
- Congress targets BJP over Bellary political allegations
- Congress predicts victory across ten Bellary constituencies

karam alleged that BJP members were avoiding legislative discussions. Rajya Sabha member Naseer Hussain said documents, if available, should be produced and discussed in the Assembly. Kampli MLA Ganesh said BJP leaders were ignoring farmers, poor families and drought-related concerns. The Congress leaders said voters would decide the political outcome in 2028.

CEO directs speedy completion of drinking water project

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Nandini K.R. has directed officials and the contracting agency to complete the multi-village drinking water supply project by December 2026.

The project aims to provide clean drinking water to 790 settlements across Pandavapura, K.R. Pete and Nagamangala taluks.

Nandini inspected the jackwell and water treatment unit works being carried out under the project. She instructed the agency to speed up pending work and ensure that families receive water through overhead tanks already constructed under the scheme. Water can be supplied to these tanks from borewells developed under the Jal Jeevan Mission or other available village borewells.

During the inspection, the CEO obtained detailed information about the progress of different project components. She fixed separate deadlines for pending works and directed the officials and contractor to complete each task within the specified period. She stressed that delays should not affect the



planned water supply.

Nandini also instructed officials to maintain regular coordination with concerned departments to secure pending approvals. These include permissions from the Forest Department, the National Highways Authority and the Railway Department. She asked officials to complete all necessary procedures quickly so that construction activities can continue without interruption.

The CEO said providing safe drinking water to all targeted settlements within the

stipulated period was the main objective of the project. She directed officials and the contracting agency to work together and monitor progress regularly. Any issue affecting the schedule should be addressed immediately, she said, adding that the project must move forward without unnecessary delays.

Assistant Executive Engineer Mamatha of the Pandavapura subdivision of the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department and representatives of L&T were present during the inspection.

Quick Read

Hostel applications open for eligible students

UDUPI

The Backward Classes Welfare Department has invited online applications for admission to post-matric boys' and girls' hostels in the district. Students belonging to Category 1, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities can apply. Applicants must be studying professional degree or postgraduate courses during the current academic year. The department said applications must be submitted online by September 30. Students seeking admission can contact the department's district or taluk offices for further details. They may also call the helpline number 8050770004 for assistance regarding eligibility, application procedures and hostel admission. The department urged eligible students to apply before the deadline.

KRS backwater encroachments survey ordered within 15 days

MANDYA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar has directed officials to complete a joint survey of encroached government lands in the backwaters of the KRS Sagar Dam within 15 days and submit a detailed report with a map.

The instruction came during a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Tuesday to discuss the increasing number of encroachment cases in the KRS backwater area. Dr. Kumar asked Revenue Department officials and Cauvery Corporation authorities to work together and identify the encroached lands accurately.

He said the survey report must clearly mention each land's survey number, area, boundaries and the nature of the encroachment. Officials were also instructed to verify relevant documents and conduct inspections at the sites to

prevent confusion or mistakes during the survey process.

Dr. Kumar directed the Cauvery Corporation to provide all necessary documents, technical information and local support for the survey. He stressed that protecting government land in the backwater area and controlling encroachments was a priority, adding that officials should not show any negligence.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the concerned officers to complete the work within the fixed deadline and submit the comprehensive report. Mandya Sub-Divisional Officer Shiva Murthy, DDLR Virupaksha, Pandavapura Tahsildar Adarsh, K.R. Pete Tahsildar Shreyas, Srirangapatna Tahsildar Chetana Yadav and other officials attended the meeting. The survey is expected to provide clear records for further action against encroachments.

National Lok Adalat set for Sep 19 across Mandya

MANDYA

The Karnataka State Legal Services Authority will conduct a National Lok Adalat across the state on September 19, 2026. Preliminary hearings are already being held in seven taluks of Mandya district to help settle cases through mutual agreement.

The Lok Adalat will consider property and civil disputes, money recovery claims, motor vehicle accident cases, matrimonial matters, cheque bounce cases, inheritance disputes and eligible criminal cases. Judges and experienced lawyers will assist both sides in finding acceptable solutions without lengthy court proceedings.

Cases settled through Lok Adalat will not require court fees, while fees already paid will be refunded. The settlement will have the same legal value as a court judgment, and no appeal can be filed against the decision. The process is intended to save time and reduce expenses for litigants.

Pre-litigation matters, including bank loan recovery, electricity and water bill disputes, labour issues, matrimonial matters and other civil cases, can also be settled through mediation. Parties can approach the legal services authority directly or through lawyers to begin the process.

A 90-day special campaign, "Arbitration for the Nation 3.0," will run from October through December 2026. During the campaign, eligible pending cases can be referred to mediation centres in district and taluk court complexes.

K'taka govt asks Belagavi corporation to follow resolution

BELAGAVI

The Karnataka government has directed the Belagavi City Corporation (BCC) to follow the resolution adopted by the state legislature in 1988 on the Karnataka-Maharashtra border dispute.

The move comes after Kannada organisations in Belagavi continued their agitation for nearly five months, demanding that the civic body pass a resolution supporting Karnataka's position.

The border issue has re-

mained a longstanding political and linguistic dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra, with Maharashtra claiming several areas in and around Belagavi. Karnataka has consistently maintained that Belagavi is an integral part of the state and has opposed demands for its merger with Maharashtra.

Kannada organisations have been pressing the BCC to adopt a pro-Karnataka resolution similar to the stand taken by the state legislature. The groups have argued that the

civic body should clearly support Karnataka's position on the border issue and reflect the sentiments of Kannada-speaking residents of the region. The government's direction is expected to put pressure on the corporation to act on the demand. Officials have been asked to adhere to the 1988 legislative resolution, which represents Karnataka's formal position on the dispute. The issue has also remained sensitive in Belagavi because of its linguistic and political significance.

TEMPLE UPKEEP UNDER FIRE

Minister Basavanthappa flags poor upkeep at Huligemma Temple

KOPPAL

Muzrai, Fisheries, Ports and Inland Water Transport Minister K.S. Basavanthappa expressed strong dissatisfaction over poor cleanliness and administrative arrangements at Sri Huligemma Temple in Huligi, Koppal taluk.

During his visit on Tuesday, the minister offered prayers and later inspected the temple premises for about an hour along with MP K. Rajashekar Hital.

Basavanthappa said the temple premises were visibly unclean and questioned officials over what he described as irresponsible administration. He stressed that thou-

sands of devotees visit the shrine every day and deserve clean surroundings and proper facilities. He questioned temple administrative officer M.H. Prakash Rao and staff about the condition of the premises.

The minister inspected drains near the Dasoha Bhavan and found stagnant water and moss. He also checked rooms rented to devotees and expressed displeasure over their condition. Basavanthappa said better maintenance was necessary because the temple is a place of worship and should provide a comfortable environment for visitors.

He also inspected a room where devotees' offerings, in-



cluding sarees, coconuts and other worship materials, were stored. Finding several items piled up and deteriorating, he questioned why they had not been disposed of properly. He

directed officials to follow rules and conduct the required tender process for disposing of such offerings.

Basavanthappa further inspected the temple toilets and

Minister sets 15-day deadline for temple cleaning

Minister K.S. Basavanthappa has directed officials to clean the famous Huligemma Devi Temple and surrounding areas in Huligi within 15 days. During his visit, he said the temple premises, roads, gates, Dasoha Bhavan, kitchen, toilets, bathing ghat, Pushkarana and river surroundings must be cleaned thoroughly. He warned of action if the work is not completed on time and announced an unexpected inspection. Officials said a comprehensive development plan includes roads, parking, queue lines, shops, toilets and other facilities. Villagers also sought a bus stop, more staff and strict action against road encroachments to improve devotees' experience.

instructed officials not to collect money unfairly from devotees for maintenance. He suggested giving toilet upkeep responsibility to trustworthy local people. At the

footwear counter, he warned staff against charging excessive amounts and asked them to assist poor devotees who could not afford the fee. Deputy Commissioner Suresh It-

HIGHLIGHTS

- Minister expresses dissatisfaction over temple cleanliness
- Officials told to improve sanitation and management
- Clogged drains and moss draw minister's ire
- Devotee rooms found poorly maintained and unclean
- Tender ordered for disposal of offerings
- Locals urged to maintain temple toilets properly

nal, temple development authority members and villagers were present during the inspection.

Quick Read

Artisans invited to join Delhi Trade Fair

CH NEWS, GADAG
Artisans and M.S.A.E. units in Karnataka have been invited to apply for stalls at the 45th India International Trade Fair 2026 in New Delhi. The fair will be held at Bharat Mandapam from November 14 to 27, 2026, and offers participants an opportunity to showcase their products. September 10 is the final date for submitting applications. Applicants must download the prescribed form from the Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre website and submit it with required documents. The completed forms should be sent to the Director (Recruitment), VTPC Building, Kasturba Road, Bengaluru.

Koppal job fair offers new career opportunities

CH NEWS, KOPPAL
The District Employment Exchange will hold a job fair on September 4 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the District Administration Building. Unemployed youth aged 18 to 30 can attend interviews for various employment opportunities. Candidates with SSLC, PUC, ITI, diploma qualifications in electronics, automobiles or mechanical fields, B. Com, and other degrees are eligible. Applicants must bring three attested copies of educational certificates, an Aadhaar card copy, resume, and two passport-size photographs. Interested candidates can also register through the provided Google form. Officials urged eligible youth to attend the fair and make use of this valuable opportunity.

Ten-day entrepreneurship training opens for aspirants

CH NEWS, KOPPAL
A free ten-day training programme for aspiring entrepreneurs has been announced in Koppal under the Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood and CIDAC. Interested candidates have been invited to apply for the programme. The training will explain how to start a business, understand different stages of launching an enterprise, and access support from government departments and financial institutions. Participants will also learn about self-employment schemes, loans, banking services, market surveys, project reports, advertising, marketing and business management. They will meet successful entrepreneurs and learn practical ways to manage businesses effectively. Applicants must be aged between 20 and 45 years and have passed at least Class 8. Candidates from Koppal district must submit applications by September 9. Applicants should attach photocopies of Aadhaar card, caste certificate and ration card, along with three passport-size photographs.

Jagadguru gives cryptic hint on Shivakumar’s future

GADAG
Jagadguru Sri 1008 Vimala Renuka Veeragangadhara Swamiji of Muktimandir Mahakshetra in Lakshmeshwar offered a cryptic response to questions about Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar’s political future. Speaking to reporters, the seer said political positions are never permanent and that everything would remain well as long as God’s blessings continued. The Swamiji recalled Shivakumar’s earlier visit to the mutt, saying he had received a Rudraksha and an idol associated with his grandfather. According to the

Minister Promises Lawful Solution to Mining Dispute

Truck movement will continue under current rules until a mining corridor is built, with September 4 guidelines covering safety, dust, and violations

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Dispute over mining truck movement in Bhimasamudra village will be resolved within the law, District In-charge Minister T. Raghumurthy said on Tuesday.
He said the government would respect court orders while protecting public interest and maintaining peace in the village. The minister spoke after meeting officials, farmers and truck owners at the District Collectorate.
Farmers and truck owners have faced tension for about 15 days over a four-kilometre road used by mining vehicles. Residents say the traffic causes inconvenience, dust and crop damage, while owners say the stoppage has affected nearly 700 to 800 trucks and the livelihoods of drivers and workers. Raghumurthy said the issue should be settled without force.
The court had earlier directed that truck movement continue under existing ar-



rangements until an alternative mining corridor is built, with police protection if needed. The minister said officials would not use force unless necessary. A District Mining Task Force meeting on September 4 will set rules for truck operations. These will include load limits, speed controls, covered loads, regular watering and measures to prevent dust and crop damage. Trucks breaking rules could face a permanent ban.
Work is underway to im-

prove the damaged four-kilometre road at a planned cost of Rs. 22 crore, while a separate mining bypass is estimated at Rs. 400 crore. Land acquisition has begun for the larger project, with a preliminary notification covering 143 acres. Officials have been asked to fill potholes and keep traffic moving until permanent roads are ready. The administration will also review compensation for affected farmers and landowners.
Raghumurthy also ordered reports on environmental ef-

AT A GLANCE

- Court orders to guide truck movement
- 700–800 trucks affected by ongoing stoppage
- Four-kilometre road causes dust, crop damage
- ₹22 crore road improvement project planned
- ₹400 crore bypass corridor under development
- September 4 meeting to set operating rules

fects, crop damage and possible harm to livestock from dust and polluted water. He warned that violence, traffic violations, or pressure on farmers to avoid filing cases would not be tolerated. Police were told to register accidents promptly and investigate them properly. He said the final goal is a peaceful arrangement protecting residents, farmers and truck workers alike.

CITU DEMANDS WITHDRAWAL OF FOUR LABOUR CODES

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) will hold a Vidhana Soudha Chalo protest in Bengaluru on September 8, seeking higher minimum wages and withdrawal of four labour codes.
CITU district secretary Nirupadi Benakal announced the programme at a press conference at Patrika Bhawan on Tuesday. He urged workers across Koppala district to join the protest in large numbers.
Benakal demanded immediate withdrawal of the cabinet sub-committee decision that has kept the revised minimum wage pending. He also sought wage revisions for workers in 19 industries, including beedi, plantation, handloom, garment and APMC loading and unloading sectors. He said workers should receive wages that meet their basic needs and provide greater financial security.

The union also called for comprehensive social security, pensions and healthcare for workers in the unorganised sector. It demanded an end to contract and outsourcing systems, permanent status for those doing regular jobs and equal pay for equal work. Anganwadi, Akshardasohi and ASHA workers should also be brought under minimum wage rules, Benakal said.
CITU further demanded withdrawal of the four central labour codes and adoption of policies supporting workers. It opposed the acquisition of fertile farmland and sought scientific, remunerative support prices for farm produce.
The union also urged the government not to privatise public services such as food, healthcare, education, electricity and transport.
The demands also include housing for homeless workers and a higher income limit for BPL cards. CITU leaders

DEMANDS RAISED BY CITU

- Higher minimum wages for workers across sectors
- Withdraw four central labour codes immediately
- Revise wages across 19 key industries
- Ensure social security, pensions and healthcare
- End contract outsourcing; provide permanent employment
- Guarantee equal pay for equal work

M.D. Nada Gowda, Hanumesh Kalkangi, Manjunath Daggi and women leader Lalita Angadi joined Benakal in appealing to workers to participate. The union said strong participation would help highlight workers’ demands before the government.

Koppal children celebrate Dhyan Chand through sports

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Koppal Inner Wheel Club President Meenakshi Santha Bhavi said taking part in sports is more important than winning or losing.
She was speaking at a National Sports Day celebration held at the Government Higher Primary School in Dadegal village near Koppal. She presided over the programme, organised to mark the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand. Students from Classes One to Eight took part in several fun and challenging events, including running races and lemon-and-spoon competitions.
Club members awarded prizes to about 20 students who performed well and encouraged them to continue participating. Bhavi said regular sports can improve physical fitness, mental strength and team spirit. She added that developing sportsmanship among children can help create a healthier society.



Minister Lamani orders crackdown on illegal liquor sales

CH NEWS, HAVERI

Sugar and Textile Minister and Haveri District In-charge Minister Rudrappa Manappa Lamani has directed Excise Department officials to take strong action against illegal liquor sales in the district.
During a meeting at the District Collector’s Office, he said cases must be registered against people selling liquor without valid licences.
Lamani said complaints had been received about illegal liquor being sold through grocery shops and tea stalls. Officials were instructed to conduct regular inspections and identify unauthorised sellers. He stressed that alcohol must not be sold near schools and colleges, warning that the issue should be treated seriously to protect young people from harmful habits.
The minister ordered the Excise Department to create a special team to identify and stop illegal liquor sellers. He warned officials against negligence and said he would form his own team if the department failed to act. Lamani

recalled that he had personally detected an illegal liquor case in Guthala earlier and said officers who worked sincerely would be supported.
Lamani said excessive drinking could disturb family life and push households into serious difficulties. He urged officials to work carefully in the interest of society and ensure that illegal liquor sales were completely stopped. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Vijayamantesh Danammavara directed officials to inspect villages and investigate people suspected of purchasing liquor in large quantities.
Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Nagaraj asked officials to monitor liquor entering the district from outside Karnataka and other districts. Excise Deputy Commissioner M. Vanajakshi said 620 illegal liquor cases had been detected since January, with immediate raids conducted when violations were found. She added that 89 percent of the department’s target had been achieved and vehicles from outside areas were being checked at border posts.

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS TO RECEIVE ON-THE-SPOT ATTENTION

A taluk-level Praja Seva Andolan meeting will be held on September 5 at Sri Kumareshwara Mutt under the leadership of Minister Rudrappa Manappa Lamani. District Collector Dr. Vijayamantesh Danammavara said application forms and document lists are being delivered door to door before the meeting. Separate counters will receive public applications and complaints. People can raise issues related to drinking water, roads, streetlights, ration cards, pensions, land records and other government services. Officials from all departments will examine complaints and take necessary action during the meeting. Department stalls will also provide information about available services. The public has been urged to participate.

Minister S.S. Mallikarjuna says 'no comments' on Rayareddy's statement

GADAG

Minister S.S. Mallikarjuna was extremely embarrassed to respond to Minister Basavaraja Rayareddy’s controversial statement that "Islam is the best". Speaking to reporters at Muktimandir in the taluk, he did not directly answer the journalists’ questions about Rayareddy’s statement and said 'no comments'. "Rayareddy has already responded to his statement. He has made it clear that he wants all religions and that he will be with people of all religions," Mallikarjuna defended himself.
All religions are the same: Responding to a media question about how right it is to demonize one religion, the minister said,



"He has already said that he wants people of all religions. But as far as I am concerned, all religions and societies are the same." He expressed his stance. That is his personal opinion: "When going on a Haj pilgrimage, people of other religions are not allowed in. Even so, Rayareddy is saying that he will go on a Haj pilgrimage,

Rayareddy has already said that he wants people of all religions. But as far as I am concerned, all religions and societies are the same.

- Minister S.S. Mallikarjuna

isn't he?" To another question from the journalists, the minister shrugged and said, "That is his personal matter." Also, "Even after talking so much, Rayareddy is still visiting monasteries and temples. Through this, he has given the message that all religions are needed," the minister demonstrated political diplomacy.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

(A Government Of India Undertaking) Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch, 2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road Bengaluru-560001 Ph:080-25310066, E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank**, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 19.09.2026 (10.30 AM to 11.30 AM)**, for recovery of **Rs. 88,74,13,090.84 as on 01.09.2026** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from (1) M/s Rafah-UI-Muslimeen Educational Trust (Regd) Represented by its Hon. Secretary – Mr. Taj Mohammed Khan, Farooqia Educational Complex, Umar Khayyam Road, Eidgah, Tilaknagar, Mysore 570 021, (2) Mr. (Prof) Riaz Ahmed, President & Trustee, (3) Mr. Taj Mohammed Khan, Secretary & Trustee, (4) Mr. K C Shoukath Pasha, Joint Secretary & Trustee, (5) Dr. Abdur Rahman, Trustee, (6) Dr. M Sayeeb Ahmed, Trustee, (7) Mr. S P Ahmed Jan, Trustee, (8) Mr. (Prof.) Syed Akheel Ahmed, Trustee, (9) Mr. Ahmed Agha, Trustee, (10) Mr. Arif Mehkri, Trustee, (11) Dr. Muneer Ahmed, Trustee, (12) Mr. A S Sardar, Trustee, (13) Mr. Akbar Sayeed, Trustee (now reportedly died), Address of the above 2 to 13 M/s Rafah-UI-Muslimeen Educational Trust (Regd), Farooqia Educational Complex, Umar Khayyam Road, Eidgah, Tilaknagar, Mysore-570021. The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (<https://baanknet.com/>) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **18.09.2026-5.00 pm.****

Lot	Description of the immovable	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. A, Municipal Khatha No. A-1 to A-14, Situated at Laskar Mohalla, Mahadevpura Road, Udayagiri Mysore-570019, Measuring East to West 500 Feet and North to South 170+150/2 feet" and bounded on East By: Road West By: Road North By: Road South By: Road. Total extent of the property is 32,084 Sq.ft. Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.3243566 Longitude- 76.6749867	₹. 575.00	₹. 57.50	₹. 1.00
2	All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. A, Municipal Khatha No. A-1 to A-14, Situated at Laskar Mohalla, Mahadevpura Road, Udayagiri Mysore-570019, Measuring East to West 500 Feet and North to South 170+150/2 feet and bounded on East By: Road West By: Road North By: Road South By: Road. Total extent of the property presently valued is 47916.99 Sq.ft out of 80,000 Sq.ft. Latitude- 12.3243566 Longitude- 76.6749867	₹. 797.00	₹. 79.70	₹. 1.00
3	All that piece and parcel of 4 Acres of land in Sy. No. 93/2-P-1, Belavatha Village @ Manti Village, Kasaba Hobli, Mysuru Taluk, Mysuru District bounded by East By : Land of Sanjeev Nayak West By : Land, Mohammed Saheb North By : Purniahana Nala South By : Land of Chikkanna. Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.3537780 Longitude- 76.6470830	₹. 278.00	₹. 27.80	₹. 1.00
TOTAL		1650.00		

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com/) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (<https://baanknet.com/>) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 9866977711, 9486092152, 9901642631 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 01.09.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

AI AND HEALTHCARE

- NIVEDITHA SREEJITH

In recent years, AI has merged into different sectors, offering support and guidance to various professionals in different fields of work and study. Healthcare has also welcomed this rising beast with affinity, blending AI into regular diagnosis and prediction, increasing the efficiency of the medical care provided to patients. With AI speeding up the regularities of the medical field, professionals have been able to pour their focus into tasks that are more intellectually stimulating and yield more efficient results.

But simultaneously, AI is also being misused by the common man who has turned to prompt based treatments from chatbots such as ChatGPT and Gemini instead of seeking medical care. They blindly believe the answers given by AI without medical confirmation and thus run a risk of harming themselves. Responsible use of AI is more likely to do good than harm; but in recent years, the line between responsible and irresponsible use of AI is getting increasingly blurred. It has thus become critical to value the selfless and careful services provided by doctors, one which can never be replaced by soulless technology. Those who have the resources required to receive proper care by medical professionals still avoid seeking medical help and instead prefer the consultation of their favourite AI platform, claiming that it saves their time and energy. Though it certainly is a cheap solution for those who cannot afford hospital consultations, it also increases the risk of misdiagnosis, which can worsen the patient's health and prolong the treatment that would have solved their issues early on. This could even threaten the person's life and healthy living, running the risk of death, disabilities, and diseases. However advanced technology has become, it can never match the years of experience and medical intuition that professionals possess, which makes them apt for their role.

This overreliance on AI chatbots could thus lead to fatal accidents and ignorance that in the long run affects the patient, all due to the blind trust placed in the hands of technology that does not have a mind of its own. While chatbots are certainly inventions that can be used for convenience and assistance, it is important to remember that these are only tools that assist medical professionals and thus can never fully replace the work done by doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals.

It is highly advisable to consult a doctor before undertaking any sort of medication or treatment, which may sound inconvenient in the beginning but can definitely assure the patient's safety and quick recovery.

THE ILLUSION OF ORIGINAL THOUGHT

- DR. THEJAS GIGY THOMAS

What makes a piece of art stand out? Perhaps it's the choice of colour, the depth of the brushstroke, the intricacy of pattern qualities we praise when they align with our idea of effort and detail. But what if that same craftsmanship had already been explored by someone else? Someone who never had the platform to show it. Would the work still be original, or does visibility alone decide authenticity? The uncomfortable truth is that our admiration is rarely built on merit. It is built on accession exposure. And in this age, visibility can be manufactured while substance goes unnoticed. Which raises a harder question: if your knowledge is entirely borrowed, if your conclusions are entirely predictable, what actually belongs to you? We're taught to treat "thinking differently" as a mark of intellectual maturity. But most of the time, it's just a longer road to the same destination a reframing of what's already been said, not a transformation of what's understood. Most "original ideas" are variations on earlier ones. This happens more often than we'd like to admit. But that isn't even the deeper problem. Knowledge today isn't growth it's accumulation without reflection. Memorization without digestion. A race to appear informed rather than to be informed.

Knowledge has become a form of status, spent carelessly in conversations that carry no real weight. Everyone learns to repeat. Almost no one learns to question, to contradict, to push back. The very system that claims to teach "critical thinking" often punishes anyone who actually practise it. So, people fall in line sharper in vocabulary, thinner in substance. The rat race isn't just a career path anymore; it's a cognitive condition. Students, workers, creators many repeat ideas they've never fully understood, chasing grades, followers, validation. Not because they're curious, but because they're afraid of falling behind. And in that fear, they quietly guarantee their own intellectual stagnation. Every generation believes itself more educated than the last. The truth is less flattering: we are more decorated, not more educated. Faster, not wiser.

We know where to find information but not always how to sit with it. We are flooded with facts and starved of meaning. And it doesn't stop there this shallowness gets celebrated. Those who choose slower, deeper paths are made to feel out of step. In a culture that mistakes fast consumption for intelligence, patience starts to look like incompetence. Silence looks like ignorance. Reflection looks like weakness. Knowledge, in this climate, becomes noise used to impress, to defend, to perform. It's no surprise that real wisdom tends to disappear quietly. It rarely survives in spaces where the loudest voice wins and the most careful thought gets dismissed as "too complicated." Knowledge was supposed to make us more human. Today, it mostly just makes us more marketable. Anyone who still seeks to know rather than simply to appear knowledgeable may find little company for it.

They may feel alienated, misunderstood, even mocked. But in that isolation, they remain closer to the truth than the crowd running in circles, chasing a race they never truly wanted to enter. Consider how quickly a new idea now travels and how little of it survives the journey intact. A single sentence, stripped of its context, becomes a slogan. A slogan becomes a slide. A slide becomes a talking point repeated in a hundred rooms by people who never read the source. This is not the spread of knowledge; it is the erosion of it, one repetition at a time. We have mistaken circulation for comprehension. Even our institutions, built to nurture original thought, have quietly shifted their purpose.

AI in Modern Healthcare

The integration of artificial intelligence into modern medicine is transforming patient outcomes. AI tools excel at analyzing complex medical data, enabling earlier diagnostic accuracy and tailored treatment plans for chronic conditions. Beyond diagnostics, automation reduces administrative overhead, allowing physicians to spend more quality time with patients. However, technology must complement rather than replace human judgment. Safeguards surrounding patient privacy, algorithmic bias, and ethical oversight remain crucial. As healthcare systems adopt these advanced tools, maintaining a patient-first approach ensures that technological innovation genuinely serves humanity without diminishing the essential empathetic connection between doctors and patients.

- Willy Khaimonlin Lhungdim

FERTILE VARUNA LAND NEXT ON ACQUISITION RADAR?

Even as the controversy over the proposed Bidadi township project is yet to settle, another land acquisition issue has surfaced in Mysuru, this time involving over 165 acres of fertile agricultural land in the Varuna Assembly constituency.

The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) has reportedly issued notices to landowners in Madahalli and Maralli villages, signalling its intention to acquire more than 165 acres. The notices have come as a shock to farmers, many of whom depend on these lands for their livelihood and regard the property as an ancestral inheritance.

The development has raised several uncomfortable questions for the State government. Why is fertile agricultural land being targeted when large stretches of barren and less productive land are available elsewhere in Mysuru district? More importantly, what exactly is proposed on these 165-plus acres?

On Thursday, a group of affected landowners staged a dharna in front of the KIADB office in Mysuru, demanding that the acquisition process be dropped. Their protest reflects growing resentment among farmers who fear that the loss of their land could permanently sever their connection with their traditional livelihood.

The latest controversy comes against the backdrop of a larger farmers' agitation in Mysuru district. For nearly three months, farmers have



- SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

"The answer could determine not only the fate of 165 acres in Varuna but also the Congress government's approach to land acquisition across Karnataka".

been opposing the proposed acquisition of land for setting up a hospital on the lines of NIMHANS. They have repeatedly questioned the government's insistence on acquiring fertile agricultural land when alternative parcels are reportedly available.

The farmers' argument is

less damaging alternatives have been seriously examined. The reported KIADB notices have also triggered questions about the government's priorities. KIADB's mandate is primarily linked to industrial development, making it all the more important for the authorities to clearly explain the pur-



simple: development is necessary, but it should not come at the cost of productive farmland when other options exist. Their resistance has at times gone beyond conventional protests. Farmers have reportedly obstructed survey operations, declaring that they are prepared to sacrifice their lives rather than surrender their ancestral property. Such statements underline the emotional and economic significance of land in rural Karnataka.

Land acquisition is never merely an administrative exercise. For a farmer, land represents livelihood, security, family history and a legacy handed down through generations. Any government seeking to acquire it must therefore establish a compelling public purpose and demonstrate that

pose for which such a large tract is being acquired. Keeping farmers in the dark only fuels suspicion about possible vested interests.

The government must come clean on the proposed project, the agency or institution for which the land is being acquired, the exact extent of land required and whether alternative government or barren land was considered before issuing the notices.

The political dimension of the issue cannot be ignored either. Varuna is represented by former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who has built much of his political career around championing the interests of disadvantaged sections. Interestingly, Siddaramaiah had, during his tenure, dropped a land acquisition proposal in the Devanahalli

area of Bengaluru following protests by local farmers who highlighted their emotional and traditional bond with their land.

The present government now faces a similar test. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who heads the government, has to decide whether development should proceed by overruling the farmers or whether their concerns deserve a fresh hearing. He would do well to follow the principle that governments must first win the confidence of landowners before attempting to acquire their most valuable asset.

There is no shortage of land in Karnataka. What is scarce is fertile agricultural land. Once concrete replaces cultivation, the change is virtually irreversible.

The government should therefore put the acquisition on hold, conduct a transparent review and explore alternative sites before proceeding further. Public projects should certainly be welcomed, but development cannot mean indiscriminate conversion of fertile farmland.

The question before the government is not whether Karnataka needs development. It certainly does. The question is whether development must necessarily come at the expense of fertile land and unwilling farmers.

Will Shivakumar follow Siddaramaiah's earlier example and reconsider the acquisition, or will the government proceed despite the farmers' opposition?

WHEN POWER FORGETS HUMANITY

The viral video from Noida, showing a woman screaming at a security guard, using abusive language and allegedly attempting to kick him during an argument, has understandably drawn widespread condemnation. What is disturbing is not simply the language captured on camera, but the attitude behind it: the apparent belief that frustration, social position or financial power can justify treating another person without basic respect. It cannot.

A disagreement with a security guard, domestic worker, driver, cook or employee can be handled in a number of ways. A complaint can be made. A supervisor can be approached. A matter can be taken to the appropriate authority. If someone has made a genuine mistake, the facts can be established and the necessary action can follow. What is never necessary is humiliation. This distinction matters because workplaces and homes are built on relationships in which economic power is rarely equal. One person may sign the pay cheque while another depends on that income.

That difference creates responsibility, not permission to behave without restraint. Paying for someone's labour does not purchase their dignity. A security guard may be employed to enforce the rules of a residential society. A driver may be responsible for getting someone safely to their destination. A cook, cleaner or domestic worker may be em-

ployed to perform specific tasks. An office employee may be accountable for their work. In every case, the employment relationship establishes responsibilities on both sides; it does not make one person inherently



more deserving of respect than the other.

There is also a simple principle that seems worth remembering: being in a place of power does not give us the right to be cruel. Even when a person has a legitimate grievance, there are standards of conduct that should not be abandoned.

Anger does not excuse threats. Frustration does not justify abuse. And disagreement does not give anyone permission to use physical intimidation.

If the security guard in the video had made a mistake, the appropriate response would have been to establish why he had stopped the person, speak to his supervisor and allow the matter to be resolved through the proper channel. If there was misconduct, it could have been

reported and addressed. The same principle applies in any workplace or household: establish the facts, follow the process and take proportionate action. That is not weakness. It is responsible use of power.

The dignity of labour is often discussed as though it were a principle reserved for speeches, ceremonies and public occasions. Its real test comes in ordinary moments, particularly when something goes wrong. It is easy to be courteous when dealing with someone who has equal or greater social and economic power. Character is revealed when we are dealing with someone who has less.

How we speak to people who cannot easily answer back tells us something about who we are. India's growing prosperity should make this principle more important, not less. As cities expand and more households and businesses depend on a vast network of service workers and employees, the relationship between economic privilege and human dignity deserves greater at-



- PRADIVYA NAMBIAR

"And no one should ever mistake the ability to pay another person's wages for the right to diminish the person earning them".

tention. Development cannot be measured only by the size of our homes, the cars we drive or the salaries we earn.

It should also be reflected in the standards by which we treat the people whose work keeps our homes, offices and communities functioning. This is not an argument against accountability. Quite the opposite. Workers should be held responsible when they fail in their duties, just as employers and institutions should be held responsible when they fail in theirs. But accountability must be based on facts and exercised through appropriate channels. Humiliation is not accountability, and intimidation is not authority. Perhaps that is the larger lesson in the Noida incident.

We do not need to know someone personally to owe them basic decency. We do not need to agree with them to treat them with respect. And we certainly do not need to be wealthy or influential to understand that another person's livelihood does not make their dignity expendable. A society's values are not demonstrated only in how it treats those at the top.

They are revealed in how it treats people who have less power. The security guard at the gate, the worker in a home, the driver on the road or the employee in an office is there to do a job. That work deserves accountability when necessary, but it also deserves respect. Money can provide comfort, influence and opportunity. It cannot confer moral superiority.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Prioritizing Ethics in Technology

Rapid advancement in artificial intelligence demands immediate ethical accountability. As automated systems influence critical sectors from hiring practices to criminal justice unchecked algorithms risk amplifying historical biases and structural inequalities. Developers and policymakers must collaborate to establish clear regulatory frameworks that mandate transparency and fairness. Innovation should not outpace responsibility; progress loses its purpose when it compromises fundamental human rights and dignity. Public trust depends on holding tech creators accountable for the societal impact of their systems. Establishing rigorous oversight today ensures that emerging technologies empower communities, safeguard vulnerable populations, and foster a more equitable, transparent, and balanced future for everyone.

-Anna B.

NAVIGATING THE DELICATE BALANCE OF HUMAN LIFE

Life is an extraordinary journey defined by constant change, quiet resilience, and profound discovery. From our first breath to our final moments, existence presents a dynamic tapestry woven from joy, hardship, triumph, and uncertainty. It is not a static destination to be reached or a simple equation to be solved, but an ongoing process of learning and adaptation. In a fast-paced world increasingly driven by digital acceleration and material pursuits, taking time to reflect on the deeper purpose and nature of life becomes essential for maintaining inner balance, emotional well-being, and genuine human connection.

At its core, the essence of living lies in how we navigate contrast and uncertainty. Light is best appreciated after stepping out of darkness, and true strength is often forged during periods of adversity. Hardships, failures, and unexpected setbacks are not disruptions to the jour-

ney they are integral parts of the human experience that build character and empathy. When we accept that unpredictability is a natural law of existence, we shift our mindset from resisting change to embracing growth. Growth requires us to cultivate resilience, celebrate small victories, and remain curious even when faced with unfamiliar terrain.

Furthermore, human life gains its richest meaning through authentic relationships and shared experiences. No individual thrives in complete isolation; our lives are deeply intertwined with the family members, friends, mentors, and communities around us. Empathy, kindness, and love form the invisible threads that hold social structures together and elevate daily routines into memorable moments. Simple acts of compassion listening intently to a friend, offering a helping hand, or sharing a quiet moment of connection foster a deep sense of belonging that



no material success or digital metric can ever truly replace.

Living meaningfully also requires cultivating mindfulness and presence in an age dominated by distraction. Modern society frequently encourages us to focus on the next milestone, the next purchase, or future achievements, often at the expense of experiencing the present moment. True fulfillment is found not in accumulating wealth or status, but in developing self-awareness and ap-

preciating the simple wonders of everyday life. Pausing to admire a sunset, enjoying a shared meal, or pursuing a personal creative passion grounds us in the present, reminding us that time is our most precious, non-renewable resource.

Ultimately, life is a delicate gift that calls for conscious, intentional living. It challenges us to align our actions with our core values, seek purpose over convenience, and leave a positive

mark on the world around us.

How we choose to spend our days ultimately shapes the legacy we leave behind. By embracing challenges with courage, nurturing meaningful relationships, and practicing daily gratitude, we honor the extraordinary privilege of being alive, ensuring that our personal journey remains vibrant, purposeful, and deeply fulfilling.

- WILLY KHAIMONLEN LHUNGDIM

REDEFINING FITNESS FOR LIFELONG HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Fitness is often misunderstood as an exclusive pursuit reserved for competitive athletes or an aesthetic goal measured by physique alone. However, physical fitness is a fundamental pillar of overall health, mental clarity, and longevity that belongs to everyone. In an era dominated by sedentary desk jobs, automated conveniences, and prolonged screen time, incorporating regular movement into daily life is no longer a luxury it is a vital necessity. Redefining fitness as a sustainable lifestyle rather than a temporary trend is essential for cultivating physical resilience and enhancing our overall quality of life.

At its core, physical fitness encompasses cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and functional mobility. Engaging in regular exercise strengthens the heart, improves blood circulation, and optimizes metabolic health. It significantly reduces the risk of chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and hypertension. Beyond preventative health benefits, physical activity enhances energy levels, improves sleep quality, and keeps our bodies capable of performing everyday tasks with ease. Maintaining joint mobility and core strength ensures independence and vitality as we age, allowing us to navigate life's physical demands without injury or fatigue.

Equal in importance to physical health are the profound psychological and emotional benefits of regular exercise. Movement acts as a powerful, natural mood booster by releasing endorphins, serotonin, and dopamine neurotransmitters that alleviate stress, anxiety, and symptoms of depression. Whether it is a brisk morning walk, an intense weightlifting session, a yoga practice, or a recreational sport, exercise provides a healthy outlet to clear the mind and build mental fortitude. The discipline required to maintain a workout routine fosters confidence and self-efficacy, proving to ourselves that we can overcome challenges through consistent effort and dedication.

The primary obstacle to maintaining fitness is the misconception that it requires extreme, grueling workouts or rigid regimes. Unrealistic goals often lead to burnout, frustration, and injury, causing many to abandon physical activity altogether. The key to long-term success lies in consistency, balance, and finding activities that bring genuine enjoyment. Movement should feel like a celebration of what the body can do rather than a punishment for what it ate. Incorporating micro-movements throughout the day taking the stairs, walking during lunch breaks, stretching, or gardening collectively contributes to a healthier, more active lifestyle.

Ultimately, fitness is an ongoing, personal journey of self-care and self-improvement rather than a destination. It is an investment in our future selves, ensuring that we live not just longer lives, but healthier, more vibrant ones. Governments, communities, and workplaces must also support this journey by creating accessible green spaces, walkable urban environments, and workplace wellness initiatives. By embracing physical activity as an essential element of daily living, we unlock our body's full potential, strengthen our mental resilience, and pave the way for a healthier, happier society.

- SHARON FAUSTINA J.

THE DEVASTATING HUMAN COST OF GLOBAL CONFLICT



War represents the most profound breakdown of human diplomacy, moral responsibility, and international order. Throughout history, armed conflicts have left behind trails of destruction, displacement, and immense human suffering. In an increasingly interconnected global era, the consequences of war extend far beyond immediate battlefields, destabilizing global economies, destroying cultural heritage, and fracturing social fabrics for generations. While political rhetoric often frames armed conflict around strategic interests and national security, the stark reality remains that war inflicts irreparable damage on civilian populations and undermines humanity's shared future.

The immediate human toll of war is catastrophic and heartbreaking. Modern warfare disproportionately impacts non-combatants, subjecting millions of innocent civilians to physical harm, psychological trauma, and forced displacement. Families are uprooted overnight, transforming vibrant communities into desolate landscapes of rubble and loss. Refugees and internally displaced persons face severe shortages of basic necessities clean water, food, shelter, and medical care while enduring long-term emotional scars that linger for decades. Children raised in conflict zones are deprived of safe education, stable environments, and peaceful childhoods, perpetuating cycles of trauma across generations. Beyond the immediate loss of life, war wreaks havoc on essential infrastructure and natural environments. Bombed hospitals, targeted power grids, destroyed agricultural lands, and ruined water treatment facilities leave entire regions uninhabitable long after the fighting stops. The environmental footprint of war is equally devastating; military operations release massive amounts of carbon emissions, contaminate soil with toxic munitions, and destroy delicate ecosystems. Rebuilding war-torn nations requires astronomical financial resources and decades of effort resources that could otherwise be invested in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and combating global climate change.

Furthermore, the economic and social fallout of conflict propagates globally. War disrupts international trade routes, spikes fuel and food prices, and creates widespread supply chain crises that severely impact vulnerable populations thousands of miles away from the conflict zone. Systemic violence also fuels regional instability, empowering extremist groups and encouraging global proliferation of armaments. The illusion that a military conflict can be isolated or won cleanly fails to acknowledge that in modern warfare, destruction is mutual, and systemic fallout is universal.

Ultimately, preventing war demands unwavering commitment to international law, transparent diplomacy, and proactive conflict resolution. Global leaders and international bodies must prioritize peacebuilding, disarmament, and equitable economic development over aggressive militarization. True national security cannot be built on the destruction of others; it is achieved through mutual respect, cooperation, and shared prosperity. By investing in dialogue, protecting human rights, and addressing the root causes of international disputes, humanity can reject the devastating cycle of armed conflict and build a more peaceful, secure world for all.

- HARSH VARDHAN

PROTECTING ANIMALS AND PRESERVING OUR SHARED PLANET

Animals are integral to the intricate fabric of life on Earth, playing essential roles in maintaining ecological balance, supporting biodiversity, and enriching human existence. From vast wildernesses to suburban neighborhoods, our planet is home to millions of species, each uniquely adapted to survive and contribute to their environments. Far more than passive inhabitants of nature, animals are active architects of ecosystems pollinating crops, dispersing seeds, regulating predator-prey dynamics, and sustaining natural balances that keep our world healthy. In an era dominated by human expansion and environmental change, recognizing our shared connection with animals is vital for preserving the global ecosystem.

Beyond their ecological significance, animals possess remarkable emotional, social, and cognitive capabilities. Scientific research continues to reveal the depth of animal sentience, demonstrating that species



expression, and a profound sense of wonder, reminding us of nature's vast creativity and complexity.

However, animals around the globe face unprecedented threats stemming primarily from human activities. Habitat destruction, deforestation, industrial pollution, climate change, and illegal wildlife trade have accelerated global species loss at an alarming rate. Pristine forests, oceans, and wetlands are being fragmented or destroyed to accommodate urban growth and industrial agriculture.

When wildlife habitats vanish, species are pushed to the brink of extinction, disrupting delicate food webs and destabilizing ecosystems that humans rely on for clean air, water, and agricultural sustainability.

Protecting animal life requires a fundamental shift in how human societies interact with the natural world. Conservation must evolve from isolated efforts into comprehensive, global action plans. Expanding protected wildlife reserves, restoring degraded natural habitats, enforcing strict anti-poaching laws, and ending illegal wildlife commerce are critical steps toward safeguarding endangered species. Additionally, promoting sustainable land management, reducing plastic pollution in oceans, and mitigating global carbon emissions directly benefit wildlife populations while ensuring a healthier, more resilient planet for future human generations.

- ANNA B.

UNLOCKING PERSONAL INSIGHTS THROUGH THE ZODIAC SIGNS

For thousands of years, humans have turned their gazes toward the night sky, seeking meaning in the movement of celestial bodies. Astrology, through the framework of the twelve zodiac signs, has provided generations with a symbolic language to explore personality, human connections, and the rhythms of life. While modern science views astrology as a cultural belief system rather than an empirical study, its enduring popularity highlights a fundamental human desire: the search for self-awareness, identity, and personal reflection. Understanding the zodiac signs offers a creative lens through which we can explore our inner worlds and

better understand those around us.

The zodiac system divides the year into twelve distinct signs, each associated with specific personality traits, elements, and natural tendencies. Categorized into Fire, Earth, Air, and Water, these elements represent fundamental aspects of the human experience. Fire signs bring passion, drive, and spontaneous energy, while Earth signs ground us in practical stability, patience, and tangible results. Air signs foster intellectual curiosity, communication, and social connection, whereas Water signs provide emotional depth, intuition, and profound empathy. By grouping these archetypes,

the zodiac offers a rich system for categorizing human temperaments and celebrating diversity in thought and behavior.

Beyond individual personality profiles, the zodiac signs serve as a valuable framework for examining relationships and social dynamics. Exploring sign compatibility encourages individuals to reflect on how different personality types interact, communicate, and resolve conflict.

Recognizing that an Earth sign might prefer structure while an Air sign values mental spontaneity allows for deeper understanding and patience in personal interactions.

- SUSANA RODRIGUZ

SAFEGUARDING WATER TO SECURE OUR GLOBAL FUTURE

Water is the fundamental foundation of all life on Earth, essential for human survival, ecosystem stability, and global economic prosperity. Covering over seventy percent of the planet's surface, this vital resource sustains agriculture, fuels industries, generates energy, and maintains the delicate ecological balance that keeps our world functioning. Yet, despite its abundance, clean and accessible freshwater represents less than three percent of the global water supply. In an era marked by rapid urbanization, population growth, and climate change, the management and preservation of our freshwater resources have emerged as one of the most critical challenges of the modern age.

The global water crisis is a multi-dimensional emergency affecting billions of people worldwide. Millions still lack reliable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, leading to severe public health risks, waterborne diseases, and economic stagnation in vulnerable communities. Furthermore, climate-induced shifts in weather patterns are exacerbating water scarcity, triggering prolonged droughts in some regions while causing catastrophic flooding in others. Glaciers and natural reservoirs are receding at alarming rates, threatening the long-term water security of major agricultural zones and densely populated metropolitan areas dependent on seasonal river flows.

Beyond human consumption, freshwater ecosystems including rivers, lakes, wetlands, and aquifers are suffering from systemic degradation and pollution. Industrial runoff, untreated sewage, synthetic fertilizers, and microplastics contaminate critical water bodies, devastating aquatic life and reducing the quality of available water supplies. When wetlands and natural watersheds are drained or paved over for urban development, nature loses its built-in filtration systems and natural flood buffers. Protecting these vital ecosystems is not only essential for preserving biodiversity, but also for maintaining the natural water cycles that supply clean water to human populations.

Addressing the water crisis requires a comprehensive shift toward sustainable water management, innovative technology, and global cooperation. Efficient irrigation techniques in agriculture, such as drip irrigation and precision farming, can drastically reduce water waste in a sector that accounts for the majority of global freshwater usage. Cities must invest in modernizing aging infrastructure to eliminate pipeline leaks, expand wastewater treatment facilities, and implement large-scale rainwater harvesting systems. Simultaneously, industries must transition toward circular water economies, treating and recycling industrial effluent to minimize fresh resource extraction.

Ultimately, water must be recognized and treated as a priceless public good and a basic human right rather than an infinite commodity.

- BILLU PRASHANTH

Quick Read

Man arrested for assaulting toddler in Gujarat

Gujarat

A 20-year-old man was arrested in Bhopal on Sunday evening for allegedly kidnapping and sexually assaulting a one-and-a-half-year-old boy. The incident took place around 6:30 pm at a hospital canteen, where the child's mother worked. She had asked the accused to watch the toddler for 15 minutes. When she returned, both were missing. A shepherd later alerted the family after seeing the man take the child to an abandoned building. The mother rescued the boy, and police arrested the accused under BNS and POCSO provisions.

Mechanic arrested for nurse's murder

HYDERABAD

Telangana Police arrested 34-year-old bike mechanic Mohammed Sanaullah on Monday for allegedly raping and murdering a 21-year-old nurse in Tukkuguda, Hyderabad. The incident took place on August 28 and came to light after the nurse failed to report for work the next day. Police formed five special teams and used CCTV footage and technical evidence to identify the accused, who lived near the hospital quarters. Police said he entered the nurse's room while she was sleeping and attacked her. The accused has been booked for murder, rape and trespass.

CM Vijay releases Mettur water for samba cultivation

Tamil Nadu released Mettur Dam water for drinking needs and samba cultivation, as officials moved to manage scarce Cauvery resources amid monsoon concerns

METTUR

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Tuesday released water from the Mettur Dam to meet drinking water needs and support samba cultivation in the Cauvery delta districts. The delta is a major rice-growing region.

The dam's water level stood at 91.56 feet on Tuesday morning, with storage of 54.452 tmc ft and an inflow of 10,857 cusecs. Officials said the release would be monitored and regulated based on irrigation needs.

The Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Water Resources, and Revenue and Disaster Management departments



have been asked to coordinate with district administrations. The government directed officials to ensure efficient use and reach farmers.

Joint teams from the Electricity Distribution Corporation, Water Resources Department, Revenue Department, and Police will patrol areas day and night to prevent ille-

"Tamil Nadu would continue to protect its legal entitlement to Cauvery water."

C Joseph Vijay, CM

gal pumping and unauthorised water extraction. Farmers have also been encouraged to use medium-duration rice varieties and water-saving methods such as direct seeding.

Bihar police seize liquor worth Rs 1.28 crore

PATNA

Bihar's Prohibition Department seized 10,694.800 litres of illegal foreign liquor worth about Rs 1.28 crore from a 16-wheeler truck at the Bhaljor check-post in Banka district on Tuesday. The liquor was allegedly being transported from Jharkhand and hidden under paddy husk. Officials recovered 1,214 cartons and arrested driver Mohan Lal, 23, from Rajasthan. The truck and a Samsung smartphone were also seized. Authorities have registered a case and launched an investigation to identify others involved.

West Bengal launches Arjun Vahini for emergencies

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Tuesday launched Arjun Vahini, a new team created to provide quick help during disasters and emergencies. The force will begin with 200 personnel, with most members coming from retired soldiers and former Agniveers.

Speaking at the state secretariat in Kolkata, Adhikari said the force would focus on early-stage response, when fast action can save lives and reduce damage. Of the 200 personnel, 100 will be based in Kolkata, while 50 each will be posted in the hills and the Sundarbans.

"The force will be tasked with responding to disasters and emergencies."

Suwendu Adhikari, CM

The force will be led by a commander known as Veer Nayak, who will receive a monthly honorarium of Rs 40,000. Other members, called Veers, will be paid Rs 25,000 each. Their payment will rise by three per cent every year, according to the chief minister.

Adhikari said the personnel would also receive financial protection while serving. If a member dies on duty, the family will get Rs 10 lakh as compensation. A permanent

disability will bring an ex-gratia payment of Rs 5 lakh. These benefits are intended to support personnel and their families during difficult times. The government plans to expand Arjun Vahini in the future and develop it on the lines of the National Disaster Response Force, with more manpower and better technology. The aim is to create a trained first response team that can reach affected areas quickly, before larger rescue operations begin. With teams placed across Kolkata, the hills and the Sundarbans, the new force is expected to strengthen West Bengal's disaster preparedness and provide faster help.

ED SEARCHES SEVEN SITES IN CHHATTISGARH PSC CASE

RAIPUR

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday searched seven locations in Chhattisgarh as part of a money laundering investigation linked to alleged irregularities in the state Public Service Commission. The searches were carried out in Bhilai, Durg and Raipur under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Among the places searched was the premises of K K Chandrakar, a former personal assistant to former chief minister Bhupesh Baghel. Officials said the investigation is connected to alleged corruption in the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission, which conducts recruitment examinations for

important government posts.

The money laundering case is based on an FIR registered by the Chhattisgarh Economic Offences Wing and a subsequent complaint filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation in July 2024. The investigation concerns allegations of question paper leaks, unfair selection and manipulation of examination results.

Former PSC chairman Taman Singh Sonwani was arrested by the ED in July in connection with the case. He had also been arrested by the CBI in 2024. The ED has alleged that Sonwani worked with public officials and private individuals to leak examination papers and influence selections in return for illegal

payments. Some selected candidates were allegedly his relatives or other favoured persons.

According to the agency, changes made to recruitment rules in 2021 removed the word "nephew" from the definition of family, which allegedly helped relatives of Sonwani gain selection. The ED has also alleged that illegal payments were received partly in cash and partly through bank transactions. Some money was reportedly shown as donations to a family-linked organisation for a college that the agency described as non-existent. The searches are expected to provide further evidence as the investigation continues.

Manipur strike disrupts life over NRC demand

IMPHAL

Normal life was disrupted across at least five valley districts of Manipur on Tuesday as a 24-hour general strike was observed demanding an update of the National Register of Citizens before the Census. Shops, markets and educational institutions remained closed, while roads largely stayed empty.

The strike was called by the Campaign for Just and Fair Delimitation, which has been seeking an NRC update before the population exercise. Public transport stayed off the roads in Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Bishnupur and Kakching districts. Only a few private vehicles were seen moving. In Yairipok, supporters placed bamboo poles across roads to

stop traffic.

The Union government on Monday deferred the Census exercise in Manipur following a high-level review meeting in New Delhi. The Census had been scheduled to begin in the state from September 1. State Home Minister Govindas Konhoujam had appealed to the campaign group to withdraw the strike after the decision was announced.

However, the Campaign for Just and Fair Delimitation said late Monday that it would continue the protest because it had not received an official written order confirming the postponement. The group maintained that its demand for updating the NRC before the Census remained important.

The decision to defer the



Census followed a meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhal-la, Chief Minister Y Khemchand Singh,

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and other senior officials attended the meeting. The demand for

postponing the Census until the NRC is implemented was discussed. Chief Minister Singh thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Shah for considering the concerns raised by people in the state. The strike nevertheless affected daily activities across several districts.

CBI corruption cases face long delays in courts

NEW DELHI

More than 7,200 corruption cases investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation are awaiting trial in courts, with 409 cases pending for over 20 years, according to the latest Central Vigilance Commission report. The figures show the long delays fac-

ing corruption cases across the country.

As of December 31, 2025, a total of 7,229 cases were pending trial. Of these, 1,612 had been pending for less than three years, while 860 were pending for three to five years. Another 1,901 cases had remained pending for more than five years and up to

10 years. As many as 2,447 cases were pending for over 10 years and up to 20 years.

The report also said 14,083 appeals, revisions and writ petitions connected with such cases were pending in the Supreme Court and various high courts. Meanwhile, 473 corruption cases were still under CBI investigation. The agen-

cy had 39 cases pending for more than five years, while 292 had been under investigation for less than one year.

The CVC said the CBI is expected to complete investigations within a year of registering a case and file a chargesheet wherever necessary. However, delays can occur because of difficulties

in obtaining documents, responses from authorities and information from other countries. Economic offences involving large volumes of records and witnesses living in distant places can also take longer.

During 2025, the CBI registered 1,005 regular cases, preliminary inquiries and

Lokpal references. It registered 615 corruption-related cases involving 855 public servants and laid 265 traps to detect bribery. The agency disposed of 654 cases during the year. The figures highlight the need for faster investigations and trials so that corruption cases do not remain unresolved for decades.

Maharashtra gives traders one year for oil compliance

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government has given traders one year to comply with restrictions on selling loose edible oil, providing relief to traditional businesses facing pressure over the new food-safety requirements. The decision was taken during a meeting between Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and trader representatives on Tuesday. The government will form a joint committee comprising Food and Drug Administration officials and traders. The panel will identify changes needed by traditional oil businesses and suggest steps to make the transition easier. The move follows strong opposition from traders to restrictions on loose or unpackaged edible oil. On August 20, the FDA ordered that cooking oil must be sold in sealed, tamper-evident and properly labelled food-grade packaging. Labels must include important information such as the source and expiry date.

NEW SEPT NORMS

LPG hike and new visa rules bring changes

Several important changes have come into effect from Tuesday, September 1, affecting household budgets, businesses and international travel. The latest changes include a rise in commercial LPG prices and new rules linked to immigration and US visas. These changes could influence costs and travel plans for many people.

Oil marketing companies have increased the price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders by Rs 9.50 across India. In Delhi, the price

amid higher costs linked to global developments, including the West Asia crisis.

September also brings changes to India's immigration process and new US visa-related rules.

These measures are expected to affect people planning international travel, particularly those applying for or preparing to use visas. Travellers will need to remain aware of updated procedures and requirements before making plans.

The changes introduced from September 1 high-

has reached Rs 2,738 per cylinder. The increase is expected to affect businesses that depend heavily on commercial cooking gas, including hotels, restaurants and other food estab-

lishments.

There has been no change in the price of 14-kg domestic LPG cylinders used by households.

The latest commercial LPG increase follows two consecutive monthly price

cuts. Prices were reduced by Rs 183.50 per cylinder on July 1 and by another Rs 192 on August 1. The subsequent increase comes

IN FOCUS

■ Commercial LPG Hike: Rs 9.50 per cylinder

■ Delhi LPG Price: Rs 2,738

■ Cylinder Size: 19 kg

■ Domestic LPG: No price change

■ Visa Changes: New US visa and immigration norms take effect

Quick Read

22 minor girls allege molestation at Maharashtra school

MUMBAI

A kitchen helper, Ganpat Gawli, was arrested after 22 minor girls at a tribal boarding school in Maharashtra alleged sexual assault and molestation. The case came to light after a student complained on August 23 about inappropriate touching after mealtime. Twenty-one other girls later made similar allegations. Police arrested Gawli on August 26 and registered a POCSO case. Investigators said he had earlier faced a POCSO case in 2024 and was later reinstated.

Ten houses burnt in Manipur village

IMPHAL

At least 10 houses were set ablaze and one person was injured after unidentified armed men attacked three Liangmai Naga villages in Manipur's Kangpokpi district early Tuesday, police said. The attack took place around 4am in Tapon Khullen, Tapon Khunou and Makui Pipuram. Several vehicles and properties were also damaged. The injured, identified as 49-year-old N Luituibou, suffered bullet wounds. Security forces reached the area and launched a search operation. The incident followed Monday's attack that killed three Kuki civilians.

JEE advanced may adopt adaptive testing system

NEW DELHI

The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced could move to an adaptive testing system as early as 2030, as Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) study whether the new method can reduce students' dependence on coaching and better assess their abilities. The proposal has now entered a pilot stage involving around 4,000 first-year students across several IITs. Data on their answers and performance has been collected and is being examined. IITs are using the exercise to understand how students perform and develop a system in which question difficulty can change according to a candidate's progress. Under the proposed method, students would first receive different types of questions. Their performance would then determine the difficulty of questions given later in the test. The aim is to focus more on reasoning, critical thinking and ability rather than repeated practice and memorisation. The idea was formally discussed at the IIT Council meeting in August 2025. IIT Kanpur director Professor Manindra Agrawal raised concerns about the

growing influence of the coaching industry and the financial and emotional pressure faced by students and families. IIT Kanpur is also studying whether AI-based tools can automatically create questions at different difficulty levels, giving students fresh questions and reducing opportunities for copying and cheating. The IIT Council has asked the Joint Admission Board and IIT Kanpur to examine the plan's feasibility and its possible impact on coaching dependence and examination security. Researchers will compare students' adaptive-test results with their JEE Advanced scores and later academic performance. Agrawal said at least three years of research and validation would be needed. If the system is introduced in 2030, IITs would need to announce the change by early 2027. The final decision will be taken jointly by IIT directors and the Union education ministry.

WB PUBLIC NUISANCE FINES

West Bengal introduces fines for public spitting, littering

KOLKATA

West Bengal has introduced fines for spitting, littering and other unhygienic activities in public places as part of a cleanliness drive across cities in the state. The government said the step is aimed at improving public behaviour and keeping streets and other common areas cleaner. Under the new enforcement drive, anyone caught spitting in a public place will be fined ₹100. People found dumping garbage or spreading filth in public areas will have to pay a penalty of ₹200. The same fine will apply to



people caught urinating or defecating in open public spaces. The government has also included the use of thin single-use plastic carry bags in the list of offences. People using plastic bags measuring less than 125 microns will face a ₹200 fine. Officials said these measures are intended to discourage habits that contribute to pollution and poor sanitation. Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Minister Agnimitra Pal said the fines were introduced mainly to change public behaviour and should not be viewed as a way to collect money. She said the penalties had been kept relatively low so that people would understand the rules and become more responsible about cleanliness. The move comes despite existing laws and civic rules against public spitting, littering and other forms of nuisance. Officials and local authorities have often faced difficulties in enforcing these provisions effectively. The latest drive is expected to strengthen enforcement and

INITIATIVE PLAN
₹100 — Fine for spitting in public
₹200 — Fine for littering or spreading filth
₹200 — Fine for public urination or defecation
₹200 — Fine for using plastic bags below 125 microns

make residents more aware of their responsibilities in public spaces. At the same time, the government acknowledged that civic infrastructure is still being developed in several parts of the state. Officials said better facilities and stronger enforcement would need to work together for the cleanliness campaign to succeed. The initiative is expected to cover urban areas across West Bengal, with authorities focusing on reducing litter, improving sanitation and encouraging cleaner public spaces.

MP woman killed by father, uncle over choices

BHOPAL

A 21-year-old woman, Nandani Yadav, was allegedly murdered by her father and uncle in Gwalior district's Dabra town after they objected to her working outside Madhya Pradesh, keeping short hair and bringing a male colleague home, police said. Police said her father Bhagwan Singh Yadav and uncle Santosh Singh Yadav locked her mother and 17-year-old sister in a room before attacking Nandani. Her colleague, Mahendra Pandey, escaped after being assaulted.

CBI books eight in ₹28.87 crore FCI scam

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a corruption case against three Food Corporation of India officials and five others over alleged irregularities in the sale of rice to the North Eastern Regional Agriculture Marketing Corporation in Guwahati. The alleged wrongdoing caused a loss of about Rs 28.87 crore to FCI. The accused FCI officials are former Delhi Region General Manager Kunhiraman Padmini Asha, Assistant General Manager



Brahm Prakash and Manager Amarendra Vikram. The other accused include former NERAMAC officials Bhaskar Barua, Anjal Kumar Dutta and Dilip Saha, along with private company representatives Rajesh Bajaj and Pankaj Saraf. The case followed a complaint from the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry and a probe into rice allotted by the FCI Delhi Region. The investigation found that

IN FOCUS
■ People Booked: 8
■ Alleged FCI Loss: Rs 28.87 crore
■ Rice Allotted: 62,000 metric tonnes
■ Rice Lifted: 50,645 metric tonnes
■ Concessional Rate: Rs 23,200 per tonne

62,000 metric tonnes of rice were allotted to NERAMAC, with about 50,645 metric tonnes lifted in April 2026 at a concessional rate of Rs 23,200 per tonne. According to the CBI, the prevailing reserve price was Rs 28,900 per tonne. NERAMAC, being a central government-owned company, was allegedly not eligible to receive the rice without an e-auction under the Open Market Sale Scheme policy. The agency also alleged that payments were routed through private rice millers and dealers, while re-

records did not establish that the rice was used for its stated purpose. The CBI said selling the lifted quantity through an auction at the reserve price could have earned FCI an additional Rs 28.87 crore. The agency has registered the case under provisions dealing with cheating, criminal conspiracy and corruption. Required approvals for prosecution had been obtained for six government officials named in the FIR. The investigation will now examine the alleged transactions and determine the role of each accused.

Karnataka pushes centre on four key water projects

NEW DELHI

Karnataka Water Resources Minister N Cheluvaryaswamy led a state delegation at the two-day National Water Departments Conference 2026 in New Delhi, pressing the Centre to speed up approvals for four major water projects. Presenting details of the projects, Cheluvaryaswamy stressed the importance of the Mekedatu project for drinking water security in Bengaluru, Mandya, Ramanagara and Chamarajanagar districts. He urged the Central Water Commission to immediately approve the revised Detailed Project Report for the balancing reservoir. On the Upper Krishna Project, the minister asked the Centre to quickly issue a Ga-



"Water has no boundaries, and water conservation is our collective national responsibility," Cheluvaryaswamy, Minister

zette notification for the final award of the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II. He said this would help Karnataka make proper use of its allocated 130 TMC of Krishna River water. For the Kalasa-Banduri project in the Mahadayi basin, the minister sought speedy forest and wildlife clearances from the concerned authorities. He said the project is important for meeting the drinking water needs of Hubballi-Dharwad. Cheluvaryaswamy also requested financial support for the Bhadra Upper Project. He urged the Centre to complete

the Public Investment Board recommendation for the revised estimate and release Rs 5,300 crore promised in the Union Budget. Karnataka also presented reforms aimed at reducing project delays, including compensation models, settlement of land disputes through Lok Adalats, an Estimate Review Committee, transparent e-tendering through KPPP and piped irrigation. "Water has no boundaries, and water conservation is our collective national responsibility," the minister said. During the conference, he also held discussions with Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil on water conservation, rainwater harvesting and sustainable drinking water management. Senior officials and ministers, including Eshwar Khandre, were present.

BJP, SP CLASH OVER AI VIDEOS BEFORE UP POLLS

NEW DELHI

The political fight between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Samajwadi Party (SP) has taken a new turn ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, with both sides using AI-generated songs and videos to attack each other. The latest exchange started after BJP-backed social media accounts shared an AI-generated song targeting SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. The song called him "Teepu" and blamed his government for lawlessness in the state. An AI-generated video showing Yadav was also shared along with the song. The SP media cell responded by releasing its own AI-generated video aimed at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, whom Yadav often calls "Baba". The video raised issues such as unem-





"The Samajwadi Party feels its defeat in 2027 is certain, so by doing things like this, they want to spoil the atmosphere." Dayashankar Singh, BJP leader

ployment and alleged examination paper leaks. Its song changed the BJP's message to target Adityanath, saying that Uttar Pradesh had become infamous because of "Baba". Yadav said that if the BJP used AI to make songs against him, the SP would answer with songs of its own. He also alleged that AI-made videos were being circulated to damage the image of opposition leaders. Yadav warned against using artificial intelligence for political attacks and said the SP could move ahead of the BJP in using the technology. Uttar Pradesh minister Dayashankar Singh criticised the SP over the video and accused the party of trying to create tension before the elections.

SC CLOSES NCERT JUDICIARY CHAPTER CORRUPTION CASE

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday closed suo motu proceedings over a controversial chapter in the NCERT Class 8 social science textbook that referred to corruption in the judiciary. The court was informed that the chapter had been withdrawn and replaced with a revised version. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana took note of the changes made following recommendations from an expert panel set up by the Centre. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the court that textbooks containing the new chapter



were already in circulation. The Supreme Court also clarified an important point from its earlier proceedings. It said a statement recorded in its May 22 order, suggesting that the curriculum had not been placed before committees at different levels, was only a submission made by the Solicitor General. The court said it was neither a judicial observation nor an order. The clarification came after senior advocate Arvind Datar, representing one of the academicians, expressed concern that the statement could be wrongly understood as a finding by the court and could harm the academicians. Mehta clarified that he had not accused them

of failing to place the curriculum before the committees. The case had earlier involved three academicians, Professor Michel Danino, Suparna Diwakar and Alok Prasanna Kumar. The court had previously recalled remarks stating that they had knowingly misrepresented facts to create a negative image of the judiciary. After considering their explanation that textbook drafting was a collective process, the court allowed government institutions to take independent decisions without being influenced by earlier observations. With the textbook chapter now replaced, the Supreme Court brought the proceedings to an end.

Tech layoffs cross 175,000 as AI reshapes industry

NEW DELHI

More than 175,000 technology jobs have been cut worldwide so far in 2026, as major companies reduce their workforce amid artificial intelligence changes, restructuring, weaker demand and cost-cutting. The figure, tracked by TrueUp, shows that job losses are continuing at a fast pace across the technology sector. Oracle has reported one of the biggest workforce reductions. In a financial filing in June, the company said it had cut about 21,000 jobs over the previous year, representing around 13 per cent of its workforce. Apple has also joined the latest wave, cutting at least 60 positions in its Vision Group and reducing

some roles connected to its artificial intelligence operations. Microsoft announced 4,800 job cuts in July, with its Xbox gaming division among the areas most affected. Visa is cutting about 2,600 jobs, while software company Monday.com plans to eliminate around 630 positions. Uber has reportedly reduced part of its customer service workforce, and Amazon has cut jobs in its artificial general intelligence division as it focuses on selected AI projects. Earlier in the year, Meta began cutting around 8,000 jobs, while Intuit planned to remove about 3,000 positions. Cisco, Cloudflare, PayPal and Coinbase have also announced significant workforce reductions.

Delhi raises solar subsidy, free panels for homes

NEW DELHI

Under the revised policy, the Delhi government will provide a subsidy of up to ₹78,000 for a 3-kilowatt solar system. This will be combined with an equal central subsidy under the PM Surya Ghar scheme. For households using up to 400 units, the state will also provide an additional top-up of ₹19,000 for a 3-kilowatt system, bringing total support to ₹1.75 lakh, which covers its estimated installation cost. For households using 0-200 units a month, a 2-kilowatt system costing around ₹1.30 lakh will receive ₹60,000 from the Centre, ₹52,000 from Delhi and an additional ₹18,000 top-up. The government estimates that such systems could help families save around 200 units of electricity each month. A 3-kilowatt system could provide further income by sending surplus power to the grid. For households consuming 201-400 units, similar subsidies will apply, while those using more than 400 units will not receive the additional state top-up. The government estimates that solar users could gain monthly savings and earnings depending on their electricity use and system size. Gupta said the government aims to install rooftop solar systems in 230,000 households across Delhi by March 2027 as part of its "Green Delhi" initiative. She said the programme would help reduce electricity bills while supporting clean energy. Around 10,000 buildings in Delhi currently have rooftop solar systems, most of them government buildings.

MP woman killed by father, uncle over choices

BHOPAL

A 21-year-old woman, Nandani Yadav, was allegedly murdered by her father and uncle in Gwalior district's Dabra town after they objected to her working outside Madhya Pradesh, keeping short hair and bringing a male colleague home, police said. Police said her father Bhagwan Singh Yadav and uncle Santosh Singh Yadav locked her mother and 17-year-old sister in a room before attacking Nandani. Her colleague, Mahendra Pandey, escaped after being assaulted.

Quick Read

Global bond rout deepens as Japan yield hits key milestone

TOKYO
A sell-off in global bond markets deepened on Tuesday, with Japan's 10-year bond yield hitting 3% for the first time since 1996, the latest manifestation of trader angst about energy-driven inflation, monetary tightening and worsening fiscal conditions. The rout took in major economies from the United States to Germany as well as Britain, where bond yields surged 10 basis points, playing catch-up with global moves after Monday's UK public holiday. Euro zone yields hit fresh over-10-year highs as the Middle East crisis stokes price pressures globally, driving market bets central banks will raise interest rates soon.

Chinese shipper COSCO collects intel for Beijing

WASHINGTON
China's state-owned shipping giant COSCO uses concealed equipment on board its ships to spy on military communications near the coastlines of target nations including the U.S., two senior Trump administration officials said. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the U.S. assessment of the Chinese program, said COSCO has a decades-long intelligence-collection partnership with Beijing. The arrangement allows China to collect communication signals from vessels and aircraft operating across Europe, North America and Asia, they said.

Railways okays Rs 233 crore electronic signalling system at 21 stations

NEW DELHI
Indian Railways has approved a proposal for the provision of modern Electronic Interlocking (EI) at 21 stations of Samastipur Division (Bihar) of East Central Railway with an investment of Rs 233 crore, according to an official statement issued on Tuesday.
The approved work involves the replacement of existing panel interlocking with electronic interlocking at these stations in Bihar. The electronic system will strengthen railway signalling infrastructure across the division and facilitate the implementation of Kavach, the indigenous Automat-



ic Train Protection system, to enhance safety.
Electronic interlocking is a modern signalling technology that replaces ageing relay-based systems with computer-based interlocking, ensuring higher reliability, faster fault diagnosis, easier maintenance and enhanced operational flexibility.
The initiative is part of Indian Railways' continued efforts

India, Denmark deepen cooperation on MSME development, innovation & IP

NEW DELHI
India and Denmark agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation on micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) development, innovation and intellectual property during the fourth meeting of their Joint Working Group in Copenhagen, an official statement said on Tuesday.

The meeting provided a platform for India and Denmark to exchange perspectives on their respective MSME and innovation ecosystems and to explore opportunities for greater institutional cooperation, the statement from Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises said. Discussions covered areas including technology adoption,

innovation, intellectual property, technology commercialisation, entrepreneurship and cluster-based MSME development.
The discussions also reviewed the outcomes of previous engagements and deliberated upon priorities for future collaboration and opportunities to expand cooperation under the existing JWG framework.

Gujarat Agro Gives Rs 15 Crore Dividend



culture and Farmers Welfare) R.C. Meena.
The total includes Rs 11.14 crore as dividend for 2023-24 and Rs 4.23 crore for 2024-25.
During the meeting, officials briefed the Chief Min-

ister on the corporation's operations and its agricultural support network. Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation, established in 1969, supplies fertilisers, non-fertilisers and other agricultural inputs through

around 1,156 Agri Business Centres across the state.
The corporation also promotes agricultural machinery and equipment, supports agro-processing industries and develops agricultural infrastructure.
It has established facilities at Bavla, Ahmedabad Airport, Jhagadia, Naroda and Mahuva.
An Agri Business and Innovation Hub is currently under construction at Tragad in Ahmedabad, officials informed Patel. The meeting also reviewed Detailed Project Reports being prepared for proposed

initiatives, including projects involving Geographical Indication tags, a millet value-addition unit and banana fibre extraction and powder processing.
Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Sanjeev Kumar and Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Managing Director Vijay Khatri were also present.
Earlier, Patel and Assembly Speaker Shankar Chaudhary attended a special training workshop for newly appointed district and taluka panchayat office-bearers, focused on the Panchayati Raj system.

"Rs 15.37 crore dividend" — Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation presented cheques covering two financial years to Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.
"Around 1,156 Agri Business Centres" — The corporation's network supplies fertilisers and other agricultural inputs to farmers across Gujarat.
"Agri Business and Innovation Hub" — A new facility is being constructed at Tragad in Ahmedabad, alongside proposed projects involving GI tags, millet value addition and banana fibre processing.

NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said India remains on a strong growth trajectory despite global economic uncertainty, pointing to 7.8 per cent GDP growth in the first quarter of FY27 as evidence of the economy's resilience.
Sitharaman said the performance reflected Indian citizens' hard work and highlighted broad-based expansion across key sectors. Manufacturing grew 9.2 per cent, while financial and professional services expanded 12.1 per cent, she said. India's foreign exchange reserves stood at around \$700 billion.
Sitharaman said government reforms, supported by states, have helped the economy withstand external pressures. She

pointed to efforts to reduce compliance burdens, simplify regulations and remove outdated laws. According to her, more than 1,000 laws have been removed and around 40,000 regulations simplified.
The Finance-Minister said sustained engagement with industry, businesses and trade has also supported the investment climate. The government is advancing bilateral trade agreements and pushing investor protection agreements to strengthen India's position amid global uncertainty.
She expressed confidence that the momentum seen in the first quarter could continue through the remaining quarters of the financial year. Sitharaman said the strong opening quarter would support annual growth.



She also criticised Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi for describing the Indian economy as a "dead economy", arguing that such remarks undermine citizens whose efforts are driving growth. While acknowledging that a strong Opposition is essential in a democracy, she urged political leaders to recognise the contribution of Indians driving economic progress in India and the broader goal of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Growth Push Strengthens Viksit Bharat Roadmap:

- Q1 FY27 GDP growth: 7.8 per cent,
- Manufacturing growth: 9.2 per cent,
- Financial & professional services: 12.1 per cent,
- Forex reserves: Around \$700 billion,
- Reforms: 1,000+ laws removed; around 40,000 regulations simplified,
- Focus: Bilateral trade and investor protection agreements,
- Goal: Stronger growth towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

Omar Pushes J&K Business Reforms

SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday chaired a comprehensive meeting to review measures aimed at enhancing the ease of doing business across the Union Territory, with a focus on simplifying procedures, reducing compliance burdens and removing delays.
The Chief Minister directed concerned departments to identify bottlenecks in business-related processes and undertake targeted reforms to create a more supportive environment for investors and businesses. The measures are intended to encourage investment, promote innovation and accelerate eco-

nommic growth across Jammu and Kashmir.
The Office of the Chief Minister said on X that Abdullah called for reforms that would "remove bottlenecks, simplify compliances and reduce delays", stressing the need for a facilitative ecosystem for investment and economic activity.
Jammu and Kashmir has already accelerated its Ease of Doing Business reforms through digitisation, compliance reduction and the introduction of the J&K Single Window System. The system brings multiple departmental portals together to provide end-to-end online Government-to-Business services.
The Union Territory has also eliminated requirements for

several prerequisite No Objection Certificates, reducing the number of clearances needed for setting up business units. Other measures include self-certification, restrictions on repeated inspections and removal of obsolete compliance requirements.
The reforms have received recognition under the Business Reforms Action Plan, with Jammu and Kashmir ranked fifth among Indian states and Union Territories and recognised as a top achiever.
Abdullah's latest review signals an effort to build on these reforms by addressing remaining procedural hurdles and improving the experience of businesses and investors.

6.83 pc electric power tariff hike comes into force in J&K

SRINAGAR

Electric power consumers in Jammu and Kashmir will have to pay 6.83 per cent increase in their monthly bills with effect from Tuesday. The revised power tariff was approved by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh (JERC-JKL). The commission has approved an average 6.83 per cent increase in retail electricity tariffs for the 2026-27 financial year. The revised rates will apply to electricity consumed from September 1, 2026, through March 31, 2027.
For metered domestic consumers, the energy charge has been fixed at Rs 2.45 per unit for monthly consumption up to 200 units, Rs 4.20 per unit for consumption between 201 and 400 units and Rs 4.60 per unit for consumption above 400 units. The fixed charge has also been revised to Rs 10 per kW per month.
The revised tariff also introduces Time-of-Day (ToD) billing for consumers with a sanctioned load exceeding 10 kW, except those in the agri-

cultural category.
Under the system, the electricity charge varies according to the time at which power is consumed, with different rates applicable during designated peak and off-peak periods.
The tariff revision follows JERC's assessment of the revenue requirements of the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) and Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL).
According to the commission's order, the combined annual revenue requirement of the two distribution companies was assessed at Rs 10,275.72 crore, while the projected revenue at existing tariff levels was Rs 7,352.87 crore, leaving a gap of Rs 2,922.85 crore.
The commission noted that meeting the entire gap through consumer tariffs alone would have required an increase of around 40 per cent. The Jammu and Kashmir government has committed financial support of Rs 2,420.78 crore, helping limit the average tariff increase to 6.83 per cent.

India's refurbished smartphone volumes up 13 pc in Jan-June period

NEW DELHI

India's refurbished smartphone volumes grew 13 per cent (year-on-year) in the January-June period, even as new smartphone volumes declined by around 11 per cent, a report showed on Tuesday.
According to Counterpoint Research, the growth in India's refurbished smartphone market is being supported by increasing price pressure in the new smartphone market, particularly in the entry and mid-range segments, where consumers are more price sensitive.
Samsung led India's refurbished smartphone market with a 30 per cent share, followed by Apple with a 23 per cent share.
Apple is benefiting particularly well from this transition in the organised market. The iPhone 13 has emerged as one of the most preferred refurbished models, combining a relatively premium experience with an affordable price tag.

PAKISTAN'S GSP+ RENEWAL NOT GUARANTEED, SAYS EU ENVOY

NEW DELHI

Pakistan's continuation under the European Union's preferential trade scheme GSP+ from 2029 is "not certain or guaranteed" and will hinge on the country's implementation of United Nations human rights conventions, according to the EU Ambassador to Pakistan, Raimundas Karoblis, a new report has said.
The decision would be based on assessments by UN monitoring bodies and stressed that legal ratification alone would not be enough but on ground implementation, according to the report in voicepk.net.
He also highlighted that there were 27 conventions now, and the new system will hold 32 conventions. The Pakistan gov-

ernment must present an action plan with concrete measures for implementing or improving the implementation of the United Nations conventions. "It will also need concrete timeframes and concrete performance indicators. So, indeed, implementation is really important," he added.
Pakistan has enjoyed from preferential access to the EU market with its GSP+ status since 2014. In compliance with the GSP Regulation, Pakistan has ratified all 27 core international conventions on human rights, labour standards, environmental protection, and good governance.
The country ranked as the largest beneficiary among all GSP+ countries in terms of imports. Under the existing GSP+

scheme, Pakistan benefits from tariff exemptions estimated at around 732 million euros, with the textile sector among the major beneficiaries.
Though the ambassador noted some advancements in implementing UN convention during the last two years, he maintained that some elements of human rights regressed.
"The main areas of concern are enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, freedom of expression, the rights of journalists, and minority rights," he said.
However, the ambassador also specified that Pakistan's failure to reapply for GSP+, successfully meeting the conditions would revert the country to an ordinary GSP member which have some preferential trade treatment.

RDI fund needs greater awareness, Says Minister

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Jitendra Singh called for greater awareness about the Rs 1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund. He said applicants should clearly understand its purpose, eligibility and application process. Addressing the Technology Development Board's 30th Foundation Day, Singh cautioned against treating the fund as a conventional loan facility. He urged the board to help translate laboratory research into market-ready technologies.

Quick Read

Nepal families struggle to identify flood victims

Kathmandu
Three families in Nepal are reportedly struggling to identify a body recovered after devastating floods, highlighting the difficulties authorities face in confirming victims. The body was found far downstream and taken to a hospital for identification. Families have been examining photographs, physical features and personal belongings to determine whether the deceased is their missing relative. However, the condition of bodies recovered from flood-hit areas has made identification difficult. The case reflects the wider challenges faced by families searching for loved ones after floods. Authorities are working to match unidentified bodies with missing-person reports and relatives, while families continue to wait anxiously for confirmation.

One Indian among 12 killed in Russian strikes

Kyiv
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said one Indian national was among 12 people killed in Russian strikes on Ukraine. The attacks caused casualties as Russia continued its military operations against Ukraine. Zelenskyy shared details of the casualties while speaking about the latest strikes. The death of the Indian national has raised concerns over the safety of Indians living or working in the conflict-hit region. Authorities are working to establish further details about the victims. The strikes also reportedly caused damage in affected areas, adding to the continuing humanitarian concerns amid the ongoing conflict.

US proposes ending H-4 work permits for spouses

Washington
The United States has proposed ending work permits for certain spouses of H-1B visa holders, potentially affecting thousands of families living in the country. The proposal concerns H-4 visa holders who currently qualify for Employment Authorization Documents (EADs). Under existing rules, eligible H-4 spouses can work in the US after obtaining an EAD from the Department of Homeland Security. The proposed change could remove this employment option and require affected spouses to stop working if the rule takes effect. The move could have financial and professional consequences for H-1B families, particularly those relying on two incomes. Indian-origin families may be among those affected, as Indians form a large share of H-1B visa holders.

Jaishankar meets SCO foreign ministers in Bishkek

JAISHANKAR MET CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG YI TO DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS.

BISHKEK

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a series of bilateral meetings with foreign ministers of several Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member countries on the sidelines of the 26th SCO Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Tuesday. The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral ties, regional developments and cooperation in various areas.

Jaishankar met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and discussed issues concerning bilateral relations and regional developments. After the meeting, Jaishankar described the interaction as a good engagement with Wang Yi. The meeting came weeks after the two ministers held extensive discussions in Manila in July on bilateral relations, border stability and important regional and global issues.

The External Affairs Minister also held brief interactions



with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. Jaishankar said he had a quick catch-up with both ministers on the sidelines of the SCO summit. His engagement with Lavrov follows a detailed discussion last week covering bilateral cooperation, regional hotspots, global challenges and multilateral matters. With Araghchi, Jaishankar had earlier met in New Delhi in May to discuss developments in West Asia and their wider implications.

Jaishankar also met Uzbek Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov and Tajik Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhriddin. During his interaction with Saidov, the two sides reviewed their strategic partnership, with focus on energy, infrastructure, trade, defence, education and culture. They also discussed regional challenges and ways to expand multilateral cooperation. Jaishankar had met Saidov during his recent visit to New Delhi, where the partnership was reviewed in detail.

Key Points

Jaishankar met Iranian and Russian counterparts.

Discussed bilateral cooperation and regional hotspots

Met Uzbek Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov.

Reviewed strategic partnership covering energy and trade.

His meeting with Tajik Foreign Minister Muhriddin also covered matters of mutual interest on the sidelines of the SCO summit. The series of engagements highlighted India's efforts to maintain active diplomatic contacts with key SCO partners and strengthen cooperation on regional and global issues.

The meetings also provided an opportunity for India to exchange views on developments affecting the wider Eurasian region.

Nepal floods leave hundreds trapped inside tunnel

KATHMANDU

Rescue teams in Nepal are continuing efforts to reach hundreds of workers trapped inside a tunnel following severe flooding, as survivors described desperate attempts to escape rising water and debris.

Workers caught inside the tunnel recounted frightening moments as floodwaters rapidly entered the underground passage. Many scrambled to reach safer sections, while others remained trapped as the water and debris blocked routes to the outside.

Rescue personnel have been working against difficult conditions to evacuate those still inside. Heavy equipment and controlled blasting operations are being used simultaneously to widen the tunnel opening and accelerate the rescue effort.

Officials and rescue teams are facing major challenges because of the unstable conditions and the volume of material obstructing access. The

Residents scrambled to safer areas while others remained trapped as water and debris blocked all exit routes.

operation requires workers and machinery to clear the blocked sections while ensuring the safety of rescuers and those trapped underground.

Those who managed to escape described the situation as chaotic and dangerous. The sudden flooding left workers with little time to find safe routes, forcing them to move quickly through the tunnel in search of higher and safer ground.

Rescue authorities are concentrating their efforts on creating wider access points and clearing debris. Heavy machinery is being deployed to remove obstructions, while blasting is being carried out where necessary to speed up the operation.

Families and colleagues of the trapped workers are waiting anxiously for updates as rescue operations continue.



Media cooperation key to sustainable development goals'

ULAANBAATAR

Media cooperation and stronger international partnerships were highlighted at the 17th Conference of Parties (COP17) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) as important tools for advancing sustainable development and increasing public awareness of environmental challenges.

Participants at the conference stressed that effective media engagement can help communicate complex issues related to land degradation, drought, water security and climate change to wider audiences.

International media cooperation can also support the exchange of information, experiences and successful solutions among countries and communities.

The discussions underlined the need for accurate and accessible reporting on sustainable development. Media organisations can play an important role in explaining the impact of land degradation and drought on agriculture, food security, livelihoods and local economies. Greater public awareness, participants said, can encourage communities and governments to support land restoration and sustainable resource management.

The role of international media in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals was also discussed during COP17.

Participants emphasised that stronger cooperation between journalists, media organisations, governments, international institutions and civil society can help bring environmental issues into wider public debate.

The discussions came as COP17 focused on strengthening global action against desertification, land degradation and drought.

The conference in Ulaanbaatar advanced initiatives on drought resilience, land restoration and sustainable management, including new efforts to mobilise finance and support practical implementation.

Experts have warned that land degradation and drought are becoming increasingly serious challenges worldwide. Up to 40 per cent of the world's land is estimated to be degraded, while droughts are affecting more regions with greater frequency and intensity.

The conference therefore stressed the importance of combining policy, finance, science, technology and public communication to achieve sustainable development. Media cooperation was consequently seen not merely as a communication exercise but as an important component of global efforts to build awareness, encourage participation and accelerate action for resilient communities, healthy land and sustainable development.

Iran ready to reciprocate if US returns commitments

BISHKEK

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday said Iran would immediately reciprocate if the United States returned to its commitments under a 14-point Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Addressing the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek, Pezeshkian said Tehran remained committed to international obligations and treaties.

Pezeshkian criticised what he described as unilateral policies, military force, sanctions and geopolitical competition, saying these were threatening regional and global stability. He alleged that US and Israeli strikes against Iran on June 13, 2025, and February 28, 2026, violated the UN Charter and international law. He also referred to developments in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank as examples of the dangers posed by policies based on force and pressure.

The Iranian president said the attacks on Iran had caused extensive casualties and cited strikes on a school in Minab and a stadium in Lamerd, Fars Province. He described the conflict as a 40-day war and claimed that Iran's resistance prevented the US and Israel from achieving their stated objectives. He also thanked SCO members and other countries that condemned the

PEZESHKIAN CONDEMNS US AND ISRAELI STRIKES

Pezeshkian denounced US-Israeli strikes, citing heavy casualties and a collapsed MoU. He criticized unilateral policies, warned of global instability, praised regional solidarity, and stated Iran remains open to dialogue if Washington honors previous agreements.

attacks and expressed solidarity with Iran.

Pezeshkian said negotiations mediated by Pakistan and Qatar later resulted in the 14-point MoU. However, he alleged that the US commitment to the agreement lasted less than two weeks before Washington made additional demands and withdrew from its commitments. He said Iran had responded proportionately but remained ready for dialogue if the US returned to the agreement.

The Iranian president said his country did not seek war but would respond firmly to aggression. He stressed that regional instability harmed all countries and called for greater cooperation to achieve economic and security goals. The SCO summit brings together 10 member states, 15 partner countries and two observer countries to discuss regional and global issues, including peace, security, economic cooperation and development.

BILATERAL PARTNERSHIPS EXPANDED

India calls Pacific vital to shared Indo-Pacific

KOROR

India has described the Pacific region as an integral part of the shared Indo-Pacific and reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening partnerships with Pacific island countries. Union Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita made the remarks while addressing the Dialogue Partner Session of the 55th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in Koror on Tuesday.

Margherita said India's engagement with Pacific nations had expanded under its Act East Policy through bilateral



partnerships, the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) and India's association with the Pacific Islands Forum. He said New Delhi attached the highest importance to its partnership with the "Blue Pacific Continent" and viewed Pacific is-

land countries as large ocean states.

He said India's Indo-Pacific vision was based on a free, open, peaceful and prosperous region, respecting international law, sovereignty, territorial integrity and freedom of navigation and overflight. India launched the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative in 2019 to promote cooperation in securing an open maritime domain while protecting ocean health.

Highlighting India's development partnership, Margherita referred to initiatives announced at the third FIPIC Summit in Papua New Guinea in 2023. These include coop-

eration in healthcare, education, digital capacity building, water and renewable energy. He said India was working to translate these commitments into practical outcomes through bilateral development assistance and demand-driven projects supported by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

Margherita also highlighted climate change and rising sea levels as major concerns for Pacific island nations. He said India was contributing through the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and Global Biofuel Alliance,

and invited Pacific countries to participate in these initiatives.

He further highlighted India's humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts across the Indo-Pacific, including early warning systems, disaster preparedness, resilient infrastructure and timely emergency support. Margherita said the Pacific also had an important voice in the Global South and assured that India would continue supporting efforts to ensure Pacific priorities receive greater attention in global decision-making.



Culinary & Hospitality, covering food, restaurants, hotels and the hospitality industry.

Gulf Education will feature dedicated sections covering classroom teaching and learning, families and student well-being, future skills and careers, universities and higher education, and international education trends viewed from a Gulf perspective.

The magazine will be dis-

tributed through print and digital platforms, supported by its website and social media channels. This is expected to help connect education professionals, students and families across the region.

The launch is part of Thumbay Media's broader strategy to build a diversified publishing and media business. Besides its magazines, the company provides branding, public relations, social media, events, graduation ceremonies and awards-related services.

With the addition of Gulf Education, Thumbay Media is expanding its presence across specialised sectors while creating dedicated platforms for organisations and communities in the Gulf to share their stories and developments.

NAME CHANGE

I, FAZIL SHARIFF, Resident of # 12, 6th Main Road, Shamanna Nagar, Bangalore-560026, have changed my name to **FAZIL SHARIF**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 01.09.2026 before Notary M.K. DEVAKI, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, MARALWADI RAHEEM MUNEER AHMED, S/o Mr. Abdul Raheem, Resident at No.13, 4th Cross, Nagaraj Garden, 22nd Main, J.P. Nagar 5th Phase, Bengaluru-560078, have changed my name to **MUNEER AHMED**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 01.09.2026 before Notary L. PUTTARAJU, Bengaluru

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Unnati Hooda Exits China Masters Early

Unnati Hooda's China Masters campaign ended in the opening round as Kim Ga-eun produced a composed straight-games victory over India's teenage badminton prospect

SHENZHEN

India's Unnati Hooda suffered an early exit from the China Masters after the 18-year-old lost in straight games to South Korea's world No. 12 Kim Ga-eun in the women's singles first round at the Shenzhen SportsCentre Gymnasium on Tuesday.

The world No. 25 Indian went down 21-10, 21-18 in 37 minutes in their first BWF World

KIM GA-EUN ENDS UNNATI HOODA'S RUN

• Result: Kim Ga-eun beat Unnati Hooda 21-10, 21-18

• Duration: 37 minutes

• Ranking: Unnati No. 25, Kim No. 12

• Kim's form: Macau Open champion in June

• Unnati's recent run: Reached second round at World Championships

• Other Indian setback: Arjun-Amsakarunan retired in first-round men's doubles

Tour meeting. Kim, who arrived in China after winning the Macau Open in June, controlled the opening game from the outset.

The Korean raced to a 4-0 lead and extended her advantage to 11-3 at the interval. Unnati struggled to establish a rhythm as Kim continued to dictate the rallies, eventually closing out the game comfortably.

The second game was more competitive. Unnati started strongly and moved 3-0 ahead before Kim recovered to take a 7-5 lead. The Indian fought back and regained the advantage at 15-14, setting up a tense finish.

Kim, however, held her nerve in the closing stages. After trailing 18-16, she levelled the score and then won the next three points to seal victory.

The defeat comes soon after Unnati's World Championships debut in New Delhi, where she reached the second round. She remains one of India's promising young players.

India also suffered disappointment in men's doubles, with MR Arjun and Harisharan Amsakarunan retiring while trailing 8-11 in the opening game against China's Chen Boyang and Liu Yi.



Ferrari Unveils Schumacher-Inspired Monza Livery

Ferrari will honour Michael Schumacher at Monza with a special livery celebrating his legacy and seven Formula 1 world championships.

DUBAI

Ferrari will carry a special Michael Schumacher-inspired livery at the upcoming Italian Grand Prix in Monza, with Lewis Hamilton and Charles Leclerc set to race the SF-26 in a tribute to one of the most influential drivers in the team's history.

The predominantly red design features white detailing on the upper section, gradually blending into the Ferrari red. Seven white stars appear on the nose, representing Schumacher's seven Formula 1 world championships, including the five consecutive titles he won with Ferrari between 2000 and 2004. His

personal logo is also incorporated into the design.

The special livery comes alongside commemorative race suits prepared for Hamilton and Leclerc. The suits feature seven stars on the back, white striping on the front and Schumacher's personal logo.

Ferrari's tribute coincides with two significant milestones. The Monza weekend marks 30 years since Schumacher made his Ferrari debut in 1996 and 20 years since his final season with the Maranello-based team.

Schumacher joined Ferrari after winning consecutive championships with Benetton in 1994 and 1995. He became central to Ferrari's resurgence, helping develop the team before delivering five successive drivers' championships from 2000 through 2004.

His seven world titles remain jointly the most in F1 history, with Hamilton later

A livery fit for home. Our Monza livery is here, inspired by the lasting impact of Michael Schumacher on our team.

— Ferrari

Schumacher's Ferrari Legacy

• Joined Ferrari: **1996**

• Ferrari titles: **5**

• Consecutive titles: **2000–2004**

• Career world titles: **7**

• Ferrari final season: **2006**

• Monza tribute: **30 years** since his Ferrari debut

matching the record.

Ferrari has regularly introduced special Monza liveries in recent years. The team used yellow and black accents in 2022, a Le Mans-inspired design in 2023 and a retro 312T-inspired livery in 2025.

Ruturaj Gaikwad backs himself to make strong India comeback

COIMBATORE

Chennai Super Kings skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad remains confident of returning to the Indian team, saying his immediate focus is on scoring consistently and being prepared when another opportunity arrives.

Speaking to reporters at an event in Coimbatore, Gaikwad said he is determined to return to the national setup through strong performances in domestic cricket. He stressed the importance of patience and maintaining his run-scoring form. "Very much confident. It is just about going back again, making runs again," Gaikwad said.

Asked about the anticipated contest between Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan and young Indian batter Sooryavanshi, Gaikwad said he had not followed the matchup closely as he usually watches less cricket when he is not playing. However, he emphasised his continued support for the Indian team.

Gaikwad said his attention is now firmly on domestic tournaments and preparation.

Misbah-ul-Haq resigns as Pakistan selector after sweeping changes in Test squad

NEW DELHI

Misbah-ul-Haq has offered his resignation as selector of Pakistan's men's selection committee after the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) made sweeping changes to the squad for the ongoing three-match Test series against England.

Misbah was part of the four-member selection committee, which also includes Aaqib Javed, Sarfaraz Ahmed, and Asad Shafiq and was formed in March earlier this year.

However, according to a Cricinfo report, the former Pakistan captain has offered to resign from the selection panel. The PCB has yet to accept his resignation, although Misbah has also reportedly resigned from his role as batting consultant at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore.

This came a day after the PCB released seven players and head coach and bowling coach Sarfaraz Khan and Umar Gul from the Test squad, following their recent drubbing against England at Lord's. Pakistan have already

conceded the series as England have an unassailable 2-0 lead following the 194-run win in the second game at Lord's. The PCB pushed the panic button and released Mohammad Rizwan, Imam-ul-Haq, Salman Agha, Ali Usman, Aamer Jamal, Awaiz Zafar, and Khurram Shahzad.

They also decided to bring in five uncapped players - Arafat Minhas, Mohammad Imran Jnr, Saad Baig, Mohammad Imran Randhawa, and Razaullah - to bolster the struggling squad, along with the capped Saim Ayub and Abdullah Fazal.

The shake-up extends beyond the playing squad, with red-ball head coach Sarfaraz and bowling coach Gul relieved of their duties following Pakistan's poor run of form, a stretch that



also saw Shan Masood replaced by Babar Azam as Test captain.

White-ball head coach Mike Hesson and Ashley Noffke will take over backroom duties for the remainder of the tour. "Additionally, Sarfaraz Ahmed and Umar Gul have also been released and will be replaced by Mike Hesson and Ashley Noffke in the backroom staff," added the PCB.

'Want to win trophies and make history': Bruno Guimaraes on joining Arsenal

NEW DELHI

Having joined Arsenal from Newcastle, midfielder Bruno Guimaraes has his sights set on winning trophies with the Gunners as he looks to make an impact at the Emirates Stadium. Guimaraes joined Arsenal during the 2026 transfer window from Newcastle for a fee of GBP 75mn, where he won the Carabao Cup in 2025. He made his Arsenal debut in the Premier League in the 1-0 win over Aston Villa, coming on as a substitute. The midfielder is elated to be with the Gunners. "It feels amazing to join Arsenal. I'm grateful for this opportunity," Guimaraes told JioHotstar. The Brazilian international added that he

was "excited" right after he spoke to club manager Mikel Arteta, calling the Emirates Stadium the "right place" to be at. "When I first spoke to Mikel Arteta, I felt excited right away. I knew inside that I needed a new challenge, and Arsenal felt like the right place.

"The club has a great history and a clear vision. I want to be part of that and help the team achieve big things. I'm looking forward to getting started and giving my best for the fans," he added.

Arsenal are the current Premier League champions, having won the title last year after a late, close battle with Manchester City.



Osaka Survives Tiebreak Test at US Open

NEW YORK

Naomi Osaka began her bid for a third US Open title with a hard-fought straight-sets victory over Anastasia Zakharova on Arthur Ashe Stadium, advancing to the second round after being pushed into two deciding tiebreaks.

The former world No. 1, who won the tournament in 2018 and 2020, appeared in control of both sets after establishing early advantages. Osaka led 5-2 in the opening set and 5-3 in the second, but world No. 101 Zakharova repeatedly fought back to level the scores and force tiebreaks.

OSAKA'S ASHE RESILIENCE

Osaka held her nerve when it mattered most, taking the first breaker 8-6 before winning the second 7-3. She completed the victory in a little over two hours.

The result strengthened Osaka's impressive Grand Slam season. She has now won 10 major matches in 2026, taking her combined record across the four Grand Slam tournaments to 10-2. Her previous double-digit total came in 2019, when she recorded 12 major victories.

Her serve proved particularly effective. Osaka fired 11 aces, including one on match point, with 10 coming in the second set. Her season tally has reached 208 aces, making her the ninth player to hit at least 200 in 2026.

The Japanese star also improved her US Open first-round record to 9-1 and has now collected 79 Grand Slam match wins. She is closing in on Japan's Ai Sugiyama and China's Li Na among Asia's leading Grand Slam winners. Zakharova, meanwhile, remains without a top-20 victory.

"It's my tribute to Iverson."

Osaka made the remark after walking onto Arthur Ashe Stadium in an all-white gown before changing into a black outfit inspired by former NBA star Allen Iverson. She said Nike's basketball theme gave her the chance to express herself through fashion.

"I love expressing myself through clothes. I'm glad you guys appreciate it."

SCHEDULE - MEN'S INDIA TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND		
MATCH	DATE	VENUE
T20I SERIES		
1 ST T20I	22 OCTOBER	CHRISTCHURCH
2 ND T20I	24 OCTOBER	CHRISTCHURCH
3 RD T20I	27 OCTOBER	WELLINGTON
4 TH T20I	30 OCTOBER	AUCKLAND
5 TH T20I	1 NOVEMBER	HAMILTON
ODI SERIES		
1 ST ODI	4 NOVEMBER	AUCKLAND
2 ND ODI	7 NOVEMBER	WELLINGTON
3 RD ODI	10 NOVEMBER	HAMILTON
4 TH ODI	13 NOVEMBER	MOUNT MAUNGANUI
5 TH ODI	15 NOVEMBER	MOUNT MAUNGANUI
TEST SERIES		
1 ST TEST	19-23 NOVEMBER	WELLINGTON
2 ND TEST	27 NOVEMBER-1 DECEMBER 2026	CHRISTCHURCH