



**South Africa's
Democratic
Alliance challenges
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19 IN: CABINET SHAKE-UP SHAKES K'TAKA GOVT!

Last minute 'Nataka' in K'taka; 20 names cleared, but only 19 take oath; DKS admits to rumblings in Cong camp



The belated rejig sparked an immediate internal rebellion, with senior leaders protesting omissions, multiple MLAs resigning, and key figures skipping the swearing-in ceremony at Lok Bhavan.

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday inducted 19 leaders into his expanded Karnataka cabinet, completing the much-awaited ministry expansion while exposing the fault lines within the ruling Congress.

The swearing-in ceremony at Lok Bhavan came amid last-minute changes to the final list, simmering discontent among senior leaders and the conspicuous absence of former chief minister Siddaramaiah.

The portfolios of the newly-inducted ministers are expected to be announced separately. Among the notable developments was the induction of S S Mallikarjun, who replaced Mankal Vaidya after last-minute changes to the list approved by the Congress high command.

Among the biggest talking points of the cabinet expansion was the omission of Gayathri Shantegowda. The Congress MLC from the Kuruba community said her name had figured in the list approved by the party high command and that she had expected to be sworn in.

"I was supposed to take oath today, but it did not happen.

DKS hits back on ministerial berth row

With dissent spilling into the open, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar sought to play down the unrest, saying it was "not possible to accommodate everyone" in the expanded ministry. Recalling his own political journey, he said he too had once missed out on a cabinet berth in Siddaramaiah's government before eventually becoming a minister. "Earlier, I too had missed out on a cabinet berth in Siddaramaiah's cabinet. But didn't I become a minister later? "Similarly, we will ensure that everyone gets an opportunity in the future," he said, urging disappointed legislators to remain patient.



Naturally, I am disappointed," Shantegowda said. She declined to speculate on why she was dropped from the final list, saying she did not know the reason. Asked about Siddaramaiah's absence from the swearing-in ceremony, she said she was unaware of the matter and had only come to wish the former chief minister on his birthday.

The expansion also reflects the Congress's attempt to balance caste and regional equations. The ministry retains seven Lingayat ministers and five Vokkaliga ministers, while also including seven Scheduled Caste ministers, three Sched-

uled Tribe representatives, five OBC leaders and three Muslim ministers. The Congress has also approved Saleem Ahmed as Chairman of the Legislative Council, taking minority representation in key constitutional positions to four.

If the swearing-in celebrated those who made the cut, the political conversation outside the venue centred on those who did not.

Several senior Congress leaders, including HK Patil, Dinesh Gundu Rao, Lakshmi Hebbalkar, Shivanand Patil, RB Thimmapur, RV Deshpande, K Venkatesh, Krishnapa, Tanveer Sait, Appaji Nada-

Who missed the mark?

HK PATIL
DINESH GUNDU RAO
LAKSHMI HEBBALKAR
HC MAHADEVAPPA
SHIVANAND PATIL
RB THIMMAPUR
RV DESHPANDE
K VENKATESH
KRISHNAPPA
TANVEER SAIT
APPAJI NADAGOUDA

gouda and HC Mahadevappa, failed to secure ministerial berths.

The omissions sparked immediate unrest within the party.

Yashwantraya Patil resigned after missing out on a cabinet berth, while Belur MLA Gopalakrishna indicated that he too would step down. More than 15 disgruntled legislators later held a closed-door meeting at senior Congress leader P V Jayachandra's residence in Bengaluru to discuss their next course of action. Sources said senior leaders, including HK Patil and Dinesh Gundu Rao, attended the meeting.

Senior Congress leader KH Muniyappa also expressed dissatisfaction over his portfolio allocation and sought a change.

Siddu disgruntled

BENGALURU

The political storm over Karnataka's cabinet expansion intensified on Monday after former chief minister Siddaramaiah skipped the swearing-in ceremony at Lok Bhavan, where Chief Minister D K Shivakumar inducted the new council of ministers.

His absence from the high-profile event came amid growing dissent within the Congress over the final cabinet list. According to sources, Siddaramaiah was unhappy with the removal of Gayathri Shante Gowda's name from the list of ministers. Gowda, a prominent Kuruba leader, was reportedly dropped at the last minute.

On the dais were Governor Gehlot, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara, while newly inducted ministers, including Ajay Singh, took the oath of office.

Siddaramaiah's decision to stay away comes as the Congress grapples with discontent over the cabinet expansion, with resignations, closed-door meetings and public expressions of disappointment by leaders who missed out on ministerial berths.

Sources said Siddaramaiah was unhappy over the exclusion of Gayathri Shantegowda from the final cabinet list. An MLC from the Kuruba community, Shantegowda had been expected to be the only woman inducted into the ministry before her name was removed in the final round of changes.

The political intrigue deepened after Shantegowda herself confirmed that she had been expecting to take oath. Speaking to reporters, the Congress leader said her name was on the list approved by the party high command but she was ultimately left out. "I was supposed to take oath today, but it did not happen. Naturally, I am disappointed," she said, adding that she did not wish to comment further. Shantegowda said she had only come to wish former chief minister Siddaramaiah on his birthday and was unaware of why he skipped the swearing-in ceremony.

Her exclusion came only days after the Karnataka High Court ruled in her favour in a four-and-a-half-year legal battle, declaring her the successful candidate in the Legislative Council election against BJP's M K Pranesh. The last-minute omission has added another flashpoint to the Congress's cabinet expansion, which has already triggered

dissent from several party leaders.



Expansion exposes Cong internal bickering

With disappointed leaders weighing their options and fresh signs of unrest emerging from within the party, the Congress leadership now faces the challenge of restoring unity while keeping its Karnataka government stable.

swearing-in ceremony.

The development came alongside the resignations of two Congress MLAs who protested after being denied Cabinet positions, exposing growing discontent within the ruling party.

The dramatic developments unfolded hours before the oath-taking ceremony at Lok Bhavan in Bengaluru, where Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's expanded Cabinet was formally inducted.

The Congress high command had earlier finalised a list of 20 ministers. However, only 19 leaders eventually took oath, with Gayathri Shanthagowda being the only person from the approved list who did not become a minister.

According to party sources,

the decision to

drop Gayathri's name was taken following sudden political developments in the final hours before the ceremony. The intense competition among women legislators for the lone woman ministerial slot is believed to have played a key role in the last-minute change.

Gayathri's ministerial chance slips away

AV Gayathri Shantegowda, an MLC from the influential Kuruba community, who was expected to be the sole woman inductee, was dropped from the final list and was



My name was on the High Command's list. I was supposed to take oath today, but it did not happen. Naturally, I am disappointed.

—Gayathri Shantegowda, MLC

absent from the swearing-in ceremony. The omission comes amid growing discontent within the Karnataka Congress over the cabinet expansion, with several leaders expressing disappointment over ministerial berths and the final composition of the ministry.

The woman ministerial position had reportedly become the focus of intense lobbying, with competition involving Lakshmi Hebbalkar and Umashree despite Gayathri's inclusion in the initial list.

Her exclusion is particular-

Prashant Kishor scripts Bankipur stunner

...ends BJP's 30-yr Bihar bastion run

BANKIPUR

Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor on Monday scored a major political victory by winning the Bankipur Assembly by-election in Bihar, wresting a seat the BJP had held continuously since 1995.

Making his electoral debut, the noted political strategist defeated BJP candidate Neeraj Kumar by 19,324 votes.

Kishor secured 64,151 votes, defeating Kumar, a BJP youth wing leader who was fielded at short notice after the party's original nominee, Abhishek, withdrew from the contest at the last moment. The by-election was necessitated after BJP nation-



al president Nitin Nabin vacated the Bankipur seat.

The victory marks a significant breakthrough for Kishor and his Jan Suraj Party, with Bankipur long regarded as a BJP stronghold. It is the first time since 1995 that the constituency has slipped from the party's hands.

Hours before the announcement, the Jan Suraj founder lashed out at Bihar CM Samrat Choudhary, claiming his impending victory was a strong message to the BJP about the need for better leadership in the state.

Cong keeps MP's Datia

Datia: Congress candidate Ghanshyam Singh on Monday won the Datia Assembly by-election, defeating BJP's Ashutosh Tiwari by a margin of 6,016 votes, according to the Election Commission of India (ECI). Singh secured 66,757 votes, while Tiwari polled 60,741 votes after all 15 rounds of counting. The voting for the high-stakes Datia Assembly by-election in Madhya Pradesh was held on July 30. The bypoll was necessitated following the disqualification of sitting Congress MLA Rajendra Bharti in April, after a Delhi court convicted and sentenced him in a bank fraud and cheating case.

BJP retains Manjalpur

Vadodara: The BJP has retained the Manjalpur seat in Gujarat's Vadodara district, with its candidate, Satendrabhai Patel, defeating Congress nominee Bhikhabhai Rabari by over thirty thousand votes. According to the Election Commission, Mr Patel secured 55,481 votes, while Mr Rabari polled 24,851 votes after all 20 rounds of counting. The bypoll was necessitated after the seat fell vacant following the death of senior BJP MLA and former Gujarat minister Yogesh Patel.

TN moves SC seeking timely release of Cauvery water

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu government moved the Supreme Court on Monday for a direction to the Karnataka government to implement a Cauvery Water Management Authority decision of July 30 to ensure the release of 3,500 cusecs for 15 days from its two reservoirs at Kabini and Krishna Raja Sagara.

TN's approach to the SC for the release of 4.536 TMC (at the rate of 3,500 cusecs for 15 days) on or before August 12 has come even as Karnataka CM DK Shivakumar said the water situation has become "slightly better" while urging Kannada organisations to withdraw their State-wide bandh plan on August 13. TN urged the court to direct the CWMA to issue an appropriate direction to Karnataka to make good, on a pro-rata basis, the shortfall at the inter-state point of Billigundulu for the period from June 1 to August 12, and in this regard release 26.954 TMC of water forthwith.

Brij Bhushan Singh cleared in wrestlers' sexual harassment case

New Delhi: Former MP and chief of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) Brij Bhushan Singh on Monday was acquitted by Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court in the sexual harassment case filed by multiple women wrestlers.

The court also acquitted another accused, suspended assistant secretary of WFI, Vinod Tomar. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) Ashwini Panwar announced the judgement with a detailed order awaited.

In May 2024, a court had ordered the framing of a charge of criminal intimidation against Singh following six



women wrestlers' allegation against the BJP leader. It had, however, discharged him in a complaint filed by one of the six women wrestlers.

The Delhi Police had filed a chargesheet against Singh, a six-time MP, on June 15 under sections 354 (assault or criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354A (sexual harassment), 354D (stalking) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

Wrestlers to appeal against Bhusan's acquittal

After a Delhi court on Monday acquitted Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and co-accused Vinod Tomar in the sexual harassment case, World Championships medalist Vinesh Phogat said that all women wrestlers will appeal against a Delhi court's decision to acquit him. "The women wrestlers have instructed their lawyers to appeal against this decision, and the appeal will be filed as soon as possible. We have not lost hope, and the wrestlers will continue their fight," Phogat posted on 'X'.

Cabinet expansion sparks resignation of two Cong MLAs

Cabinet exclusions triggered resignations, exposing discontent within K'taka Cong

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The expansion of the Karnataka Cabinet on Monday triggered fresh unrest within the ruling Congress after Indi MLA Yashavantarayagouda V. Patil and Sagar MLA Belur Gopalakrishna resigned from the Legislative Assembly, expressing dissatisfaction over being denied ministerial berths.

Both legislators submitted their resignations shortly before the swearing-in ceremony of 20 new ministers at Lok Bhavan in Bengaluru, intensifying pressure on the party leadership.

Patil handed over his resignation to Pro-tem Speaker Rudrappa Lamani at Vidhana Soudha. His supporters later staged a protest, alleging that the Congress leadership had treated him unfairly after re-



The leadership failed to keep the promise made to me. I had no other option but to resign.

—Yashavantarayagouda V Patil

portedly assuring him a Cabinet position.

He claimed he had been promised a ministerial berth before the 2023 Assembly elections and was later assured he would be inducted after two-and-a-half years. However, his name was omitted from the final list despite allegedly remaining under consideration until Monday morning.

Patil clarified that he was

not quitting the Congress but said the circumstances had compelled him to resign as MLA. He described the decision as an insult to the voters of his constituency and said he would consult his supporters before deciding his next course of action.

Belur Gopalakrishna also resigned from the Assembly, although he did not immediately issue a detailed public

CABINET EXPANSION FALLOUT
• MLAs resigned: 2.
• Resigned legislators: Yashavantarayagouda V. Patil, Belur Gopalakrishna.
• Reason: Exclusion from Cabinet.
• Resignation submitted to: Pro-tem Speaker Rudrappa Lamani.

statement explaining his decision.

The twin resignations highlighted simmering resentment within the Congress, with several leaders reportedly unhappy over being left out of the Cabinet expansion undertaken nearly two months after D.K. Shivakumar assumed office as Chief Minister.

Shobha seeks CBI probe into KPSC recruitment irregularities

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Labour and Employment Shobha Karandlaje has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, seeking a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the alleged irregularities in the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) Veterinary Officers recruitment process.

In her letter, Karandlaje alleged that the recruitment process was tainted by corruption, abuse of official position, manipulation and criminal conspiracy, and maintained that only an independent central agency could conduct a fair and comprehensive investigation.

She stated that the allegations pointed to large-scale irregularities, including possible payment of illegal gratification and systematic manipulation of the recruitment process. According to the minister, failure to conduct an impartial inquiry would undermine public confidence in the transparency and integrity of government recruitment.

She argued that lakhs of aspirants deserved a recruit-



The integrity of KPSC is central to the constitutional guarantee of equality in public employment under Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution. Any compromise in its functioning weakens public trust in constitutional institutions and the rule of law.

—Shobha Karandlaje, Union MoS for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Labour and Employment

ment system free from corruption and undue influence and that the seriousness of the allegations warranted intervention by the CBI to uncover the full extent of the alleged conspiracy, identify those involved, trace the flow of illegal gratification and fix accountability without fear or favour.

Karandlaje urged Amit Shah to immediately entrust the investigation to the CBI in

Key Highlights

Shobha Karandlaje sought a CBI probe into the alleged KPSC Veterinary Officers recruitment scam, claiming the process was marred by corruption, manipulation and abuse of power. She said an independent investigation was necessary to identify those responsible, trace the alleged flow of illegal gratification and restore public confidence in the fairness, transparency and credibility of Karnataka's public recruitment system.

the interest of justice, transparency and public confidence in constitutional institutions. She expressed hope that the Union Home Minister would take prompt action on her request.

The letter came amid continuing allegations over the KPSC Veterinary Officers recruitment process and renewed demands for an independent investigation into the matter.

B'luru South Corporation clears 116.76 km of footpath encroachments

Fresh drive removed 1.20 km of encroachments to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru South City Corporation on Monday said it had cleared encroachments from 116.76 km of footpaths across its jurisdiction so far, as part of an ongoing campaign to ensure safer and obstruction-free movement for pedestrians. Acting on the directions of Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh, the civic body intensified its footpath clearance drive and removed encroachments from an additional 1.20 km of footpaths during Monday's operation.

The drive was conducted in coordination with the Traffic Police, Law and Order Police and other departments to remove unauthorised structures, pushcarts and commercial encroachments along major and internal roads.

In the Jayanagar Zone, officials cleared 0.50 km of footpaths on 9th Main and 10th Main roads, removing 10



pushcarts. In HSR Layout, 0.70 km of footpaths along 31st Main Road were freed by removing 15 petty shops, 10 AC sheet projections/canopies, 12 staircases and ramps, and three temporary sheds.

Corporation personnel used machinery and vehicles to dismantle illegal structures and clear pathways that had obstructed pedestrian movement.

Commissioner K.N. Ramesh said the campaign would continue in the coming days to reclaim public spaces and ensure that footpaths remain safe and accessible for all users.

FOOTPATH CLEARANCE DRIVE

Total footpaths cleared	116.76 km
Cleared on Monday	1.20 km
Jayanagar	0.50 km
HSR Layout	0.70 km
Pushcarts removed	10
Shops/petty shops removed	15
Canopies removed	10
Staircases/ramps removed	12
Temporary sheds removed	3

16 Karnataka districts report over 12% voters under ASDDO category

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

At least 16 districts in Karnataka, most of them classified as backward, have reported more than 12 per cent of voters under the Absent, Shifted, Duplicate, Dead and Others (ASDDO) category during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, raising concerns over migration and documentation gaps.

The districts include Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Ballari, Bidar, Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Koppal, Gadag, Dharwad, Kolar, Kodagu, Mysuru, Davangere, Shivamogga and Vijayanagar.

According to official data

available until 4 p.m. on August 2, Kalaburagi recorded the highest ASDDO percentage at 21.95 per cent, followed by Mysuru (20.59%), Yadgir (17.86%), Raichur (17.73%) and Ballari (17.50%).

Most of these districts were also identified as "most backward" or "more backward" in the Govind Rao Committee report on regional imbalances, which highlighted lower human development, literacy gaps and higher migration.

Booth Level Officers (BLOs) said many residents from these districts migrate seasonally to Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Goa

for work but continue to remain enrolled in their native constituencies. During the SIR exercise, such voters were often marked as "absent" or "shifted" because they were unavailable during door-to-door verification.

Many migrant workers reportedly possess only Aadhaar and ration cards and lack proof of residence required for updating voter records. Officials also noted that unlike routine electoral roll revisions, no individual notices are being issued before classifying voters under the ASDDO category, with verification relying largely on mahazars and local enquiries.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on Monday clarified that the serial numbers printed on the OMR answer sheet and the question paper for the Civil Police Constable recruitment examination were not required to be the same, addressing confusion that arose at a few examination centres during Sunday's test.

In a statement, KEA said it had never stated in any notification, instruction or examination guideline that the OMR sheet serial number and the question paper serial number must match. The authority explained that the OMR answer sheet contains separate fields for candidates to enter the question paper serial number and question paper ver-

sion code, indicating that the two numbers serve different purposes.

The clarification came after some candidates at Sharadamba PU College in Tikota, Vijayapura district, claimed there was a mismatch between the serial numbers on their OMR sheets and question papers. The misunderstanding prompted a section of candidates to leave the examination hall carrying their OMR sheets and question papers, leading to confusion at the centre.

KEA Executive Director H. Prasanna said a report had been sought from the Vijayapura Deputy Commissioner regarding the incident.

The authority maintained that the written examination for recruitment to 3,991 Civil Police Constable posts was

conducted successfully across Karnataka on August 2.

According to KEA, the examination was held at 884 centres across the State, including 149 centres in Bengaluru. A total of 4,54,532 candidates had registered for the recruitment test. Attendance stood at 92.52 per cent for the General Cadre and 94 per cent for the Kalyana Karnataka Cadre.

KEA also said that, for the first time, OMR answer sheets were scanned not only in Bengaluru but also at six additional centres across Karnataka to speed up the evaluation process. Authorities had made elaborate security arrangements and adopted multiple safeguards to ensure a fair, transparent and malpractice-free examination process.

UNSW Sydney opens Bengaluru campus; Australia inaugurates Consulate-General

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka strengthened its ties with Australia on Monday with the inauguration of the Australian Consulate-General in Bengaluru and the launch of the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Sydney's Bengaluru campus, marking a significant boost to cooperation in higher education, research, trade and innovation.

Speaking at the inaugural events, Karnataka Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil said the two initiatives aligned with the State's vision of emerging as a global hub for education, technology and innovation.

The UNSW Sydney campus, established at Manyata Tech Park, became the sixth international university campus to be set up in Karnataka. Patil said the campus would enable students to pursue an

internationally recognised Australian degree without leaving India while following the same curriculum and academic standards as the university's Sydney campus.

The Bengaluru campus will initially offer undergraduate programmes in Business, Computer Science, and Data Science and Decisions, besides a one-year postgraduate programme in Cyber Security. Each programme will admit an inaugural batch of 30 students.

"These initiatives reinforce Karnataka's position as a global destination for education, innovation and investment, while creating new opportunities for students, researchers and industry," Patil said.

He noted that Karnataka had emerged as a preferred destination for international universities because of its robust research ecosystem, thriving technology sector and innova-

tion-driven economy. Besides UNSW Sydney, leading institutions such as the University of Liverpool, Lancaster University, La Trobe University, Flinders University and Imperial College London have already established campuses in the State.

Earlier in the day, Patil inaugurated the Australian Consulate-General on Cunningham Road. He said more than 40 Australian companies currently operate in Bengaluru, while the Australian states of Queensland and Victoria have established trade and investment offices in the city.

He expressed confidence that the new Consulate-General would deepen cooperation between Karnataka and Australia in investment, higher education, research, technology and innovation, further strengthening bilateral relations.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Monday granted an interim stay on the State government's order constituting a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate allegations that the Ved Vignan Mahavidyapeeth Trust (VVMVPT) of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's Art of Living Foundation had encroached upon government land in Bengaluru South.

Justice E.S. Indiresch passed the interim order while hearing a petition filed by the trust challenging the government's July 17 notifica-

tion constituting the SIT. The court also issued notice to the Revenue Department, directing it to file its objections.

The Bench observed that the Revenue Department had failed to conduct a mandatory joint survey before recommending an SIT. Under the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964, officials are required to conduct a joint survey in the presence of the concerned parties before initiating action in alleged government land encroachment cases.

"The mandatory procedure prescribed under the Karnataka Land

Revenue Act appears not to have been followed before constituting the SIT," the court observed while granting interim relief.

Counsel for the trust argued that no survey had been conducted in its presence and no report had established illegal occupation of government land. The petitioner also informed the court that it had already applied to the Revenue Department for phodi and durasti (survey and rectification), which was still under consideration.

Opposing the petition, the State government submitted that the SIT had been constituted in accordance with law and urged the court not to interfere. However, after hearing both sides, the High Court stayed the July 17 order pending further proceedings.

The State had constituted the SIT to probe allegations of encroachment of nearly 290 acres of government gomala land in Bengaluru South. The trust subsequently approached the High Court seeking to quash the order.



Why the Court Granted Relief

The High Court held that the State had constituted the Special Investigation Team without first following the mandatory procedure under the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964. It observed that a joint survey involving revenue officials and the concerned parties should precede any action in alleged land encroachment cases. Pending further hearing, the court stayed the government's July 17 order and sought the Revenue Department's response.

LAND ROW EXPLAINED

Petitioner	Ved Vignan Mahavidyapeeth Trust (VVMVPT)
Foundation	Art of Living Foundation
Allegation	Encroachment of about 290 acres of gomala land
Government order	July 17, 2026
Court	Karnataka High Court
Judge	Justice E.S. Indiresch
Interim relief	SIT order stayed
Reason	Mandatory joint survey not conducted

Tanveer Sait questions party's inaction against anti-party elements

Sait questioned uneven disciplinary action, saying selective responses affected Congress party discipline, unity and public image

CH NEWS, MYSURU

Senior Congress leader and Narasimharaja MLA Tanveer Sait expressed disappointment after being left out of the Karnataka Cabinet expansion, saying the Mysuru region did not receive the representation and respect it deserved. However, he reaffirmed his loyalty to the Congress high command.

Speaking to the media on Monday, Sait said party workers and leaders from Mysuru were hurt by the Cabinet list. He said every Congress leader must accept the decision of the high command, but added that the absence of representation from Mysuru was disappointing for many loyal party members.

Sait also questioned the party's action against leaders involved in anti-party activities. He said K. L. Rajanna was removed quickly for making remarks against Rahul Gandhi,



Cong worker attempts suicide

Political tension rose after Tanveer Sait was not included in the state cabinet expansion. Supporters gathered outside his residence and protested against the decision. A Youth Congress worker allegedly consumed pesticide during the protest and was taken to hospital for treatment. Workers accused the party leadership of ignoring Sait's loyalty and demanded justice. They urged him to resign as MLA and fight against the alleged unfairness. The incident created political discussions within Congress circles. Supporters questioned the cabinet choices and expressed disappointment over the outcome. The situation remains watched.

but similar action was not taken against those who worked against the party openly. He stated that this affected party discipline and image.

Without directly criticizing the leadership's decision, Sait said he would speak about the reasons behind his exclusion at the right time. He added that he did not want to analyze the matter immediately and would wait before sharing his views.

Despite his disappointment, Sait congratulated all newly appointed ministers and said he would continue to remain a loyal Congress worker. He said he would not speak against anyone with anger or frustration.

Sait mentioned that his supporters were upset and putting pressure on him after the Cabinet announcement. He said he would observe the situation and consider future steps after discussing with his supporters and well-wishers.

Minister Eshwarappa offers prayers as Tunga river swells

SHIVAMOGGA

Former Deputy Chief Minister K.S. Eshwarappa visited the banks of the Tunga River in Shivamogga amid heavy rainfall across Karnataka and offered prayers seeking prosperity and well-being for the state.

Eshwarappa, along with his family members, performed special prayers to the Tunga River with devotion. His wife Jayashree Eshwarappa, son K.E. Eshwarappa, and Kantesh along with his family members were present during the religious ceremony.

The family offered special pujas to Mother Ganga and prayed for continued rainfall and prosperity. The visit came at a time when several parts of

Eshwarappa welcomed rising reservoir levels and river flows, praying for continued rains, drought-free conditions, and agricultural prosperity across Karnataka

Karnataka have been witnessing good rains, resulting in increased water levels in reservoirs and rivers.

Speaking on the occasion, K.S. Eshwarappa expressed happiness over the filling of reservoirs and the strong flow of rivers due to the favourable monsoon. He said that abundant water resources are a positive sign for agriculture and

the overall welfare of people. Eshwarappa prayed for the blessings of Lord Varuna to ensure a drought-free environment across the state and support farmers and communities dependent on agriculture.

The former Deputy Chief Minister also highlighted the importance of rivers as a symbol of prosperity and development. The prayer ceremony at the Tunga River concluded with family members and supporters participating in the special rituals.

The event attracted attention as Eshwarappa, a prominent political figure from Shivamogga, marked the occasion by expressing gratitude for the rains and hoping for continued water availability in the region.

M.K. Pranesh withdraws from Legislative Council polls

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Former Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Council M.K. Pranesh has announced that he will not contest the upcoming Legislative Council elections.

Pranesh stated that he has already received the opportunity

to contest the elections twice and was also given the prestigious responsibility of serving as Deputy Speaker. Considering this, he decided to step aside so that other party aspirants could get an opportunity to contest.

Clarifying his decision,

Pranesh said his withdrawal was not related to any recent developments or incidents. He mentioned that he had informed the party president and senior leaders about his decision nearly six months ago and had requested them to consider other candidates for the election.

Quick Read



Voter list revision progresses with forms digitized

CH NEWS, Karwar
The Special Comprehensive Revision of Voter List-2026 is progressing rapidly in Uttara Kannada district, Deputy Commissioner K. Lakshmi Priya said. Out of 12,30,037 voters, 11,21,755 enumeration forms have been computerized so far. During house visits, officials identified cases related to migration, deaths and duplicate entries. In Karwar constituency, 1,98,955 forms were computerized, while Kuma constituency recorded 1,77,293 completed forms. Officials said the verification process will help update voter records accurately. Authorities urged citizens to cooperate with officials during the revision process and ensure correct information is included in the electoral rolls before completion.

Rain boosts Karnataka reservoirs, ensuring water security

MYSURU

The southwest monsoon has brought abundant cheer to Karnataka, with the state's major reservoirs in the Cauvery basin witnessing healthy inflows and storage levels, strengthening hopes for a comfortable irrigation season and assured drinking water supply in the months ahead.

Among the reservoirs, Kabini continues to remain the star performer. The dam is just a little over a foot short of its Full Reservoir Level (FRL), with the water level touching 2,282.59 feet against the maximum 2,284 feet. The reservoir received a robust 31,746 cusecs of inflow on Monday, prompting authorities to release 27,000 cusecs downstream to regulate storage as the reservoir nears capacity.

KRS dam breaches 100 mark

The Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) reservoir, the lifeline of southern Karnataka, is also witnessing a strong monsoon revival. Against its maximum level of 124.80 feet, the reservoir now stands at 100.34 feet. It is receiving an impressive 32,048 cusecs of inflow, while only 1,821 cusecs is being released,

allowing storage to build steadily.

At Hemavathi Reservoir, the water level has reached 2,409.12 feet against the maximum 2,425 feet. The reservoir is receiving 176 cusecs of inflow, and no water is currently being released, helping conserve storage.

The Harangi Reservoir is also on the verge of reaching its full level. Against the maximum level of 2,859 feet, the water level has climbed to 2,857.01 feet. Strong inflows of 11,645 cusecs have enabled authorities to release 10,750 cusecs downstream, maintaining a safe reservoir level. Meanwhile, the KRS, Kabini, Harangi, and Hemavathi reservoirs together present an encouraging picture of Karnataka's water resources this monsoon. With continuous rainfall in the Cauvery basin and adjoining catchment areas, water storage across the state has improved considerably, offering a major boost to agriculture, hydropower generation, and urban drinking water needs. If the rains continue over the coming days, several reservoirs are expected to reach their full capacity, prompting further regulated releases.

Bharat Jodo Yuva Sangh registration drive begins in Shivamogga

SHIVAMOGGA

The process to establish 'Bharat Jodo Yuva Sangh' groups has been launched in Shivamogga district with the aim of promoting sports, culture, scientific thinking, and social harmony among youth. District authorities have instructed officials to ensure effective implementation of the initiative across the district.

Chairing a preliminary meeting at the District Administration Office on Monday, Deputy Commissioner Prabhuling Kavali Katti said that immediate awareness campaigns should be conducted under the jurisdiction of local and urban bodies to encourage youth participation.

The official registration application for forming the youth groups will be launched on August 6. Authorities have directed that youth groups with a minimum of 100 members should be formed in all Gram Panchayats, Town Panchayats, Municipalities, City Municipal Councils, and the



Bharat Jodo Youth groups to boost youth participation

UDUPI

Deputy Commissioner Swaroop T.K. directed officials to establish Bharat Jodo Youth Associations across Udupi district to encourage youth involvement in sports, culture, science and social service activities. The initiative aims to develop leadership skills, fitness, constitutional values and social responsibility among

youngsters. One association will be formed in each of the 155 Gram Panchayats, with similar groups planned in urban areas. Youth aged 16 to 35 can join these associations, which require at least 100 members. Registration will begin on August 6 through the BJYS website. Officials were asked to spread awareness and encourage participation among youth.

Municipal Corporation limits by August 15, 2026.

Under the scheme, each group will receive financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh annually to carry out activities aimed at youth empowerment

and community development.

A total of 262 youth groups will be established across Gram Panchayats in the district. In urban areas, Shivamogga City Municipal Corporation will have 40 groups,

Bhadravati City Municipal Council 17, Sagar City Municipal Council 7, Shikaripura Municipality 6, and other town panchayats will also have designated numbers of groups.

For membership, Aadhaar card verification is mandatory. Individuals can register in only one group and must be between 16 and 35 years of age. Members should also have been residing within the concerned local body limits for at least six months.

The initiative is being implemented through the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, with support from the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Urban Development Department, Revenue Department, and Education Department.

Officials including Zilla Panchayat CEO N. Hemant, Additional Deputy Commissioner Abhishek V., Assistant Director of Youth Empowerment and Sports Rekha Naik, and other department officials attended the meeting.

Chikkamagaluru gets new cabinet representative

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Newly elected Legislative Council member Gayathri Shantegowda has been inducted into the Karnataka Cabinet, marking a significant milestone in her political journey.

Gayathri Shantegowda had earlier sought a Congress ticket from the Chikkamagaluru Assembly constituency during the 2023 elections. Although she was not given the ticket at the time, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had reportedly assured her of an opportunity in

the future. That promise has now materialised with her inclusion in the state cabinet.

A senior political leader from the Malnad region, Gayathri's elevation has brought renewed enthusiasm among Congress workers in Chikkamagaluru district. She was recently elected as a Legislative Council member following a High Court order. In the election, she secured a victory with a margin of nine votes against Deputy Chairman M.K. Pranesh. Interestingly, she received the minis-

terial responsibility even before formally taking oath as a council member. Born on April 2, 1963, in Arkalgud of Hassan district, Gayathri Shantegowda belongs to the Kuruba community and has had a long association with active politics. She has contested Legislative Council elections three times from the local body constituency and has won twice. She has also served as the President of the Zilla Panchayat in the past and has built a strong political base in the region.

Seized rice auction scheduled in Yelaburga

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

The Yelaburga taluk administration will conduct a public auction of seized rice on August 6 at 11 am at the KSCSC wholesale market in Yelaburga. A total of 206 quintals of rice seized under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, will be auctioned in its current condition. APMC license holders can participate by submitting required documents and a 10 percent deposit before the auction.

Friendship Day marked with creative kite celebrations

CH NEWS, MYSURU

The skies above Vijayanagar 4th Stage in Mysuru City transformed into a vibrant canvas of colour and joy as hundreds of kites soared high during a unique celebration of Founder's Day and International Friendship Day organised by the Tiger Adventure Foundation.

At a time when friendships are increasingly becoming transactional in today's fast-paced urban world, the Foundation chose to celebrate the true spirit of companionship through an event that brought together children, parents and volunteers under one sky.

Nearly 150 to 200 children, accompanied by their parents, enthusiastically participated in the lively kite-flying festival. The event symbolised the message that just as a kite flies higher when someone firmly holds its string, friendships too flourish through trust, support and togetherness.



The colourful kites added charm to the skyline. Some proudly displayed patriotic messages such as "I Love My Country," while others were shaped like birds, capturing the imagination of young participants. Several children also created handmade local kites on the spot, making the event a delightful blend of creativity, tradition and fun.

The excitement reached new

heights as kites danced in the breeze. While many soared effortlessly, some struggled to catch the wind. Experienced kite flyers and volunteers patiently stepped in to mentor the children, teaching them the finer techniques of kite flying, including how to tie the sutra correctly and fix the balanguchi to achieve the perfect balance. Their guidance ensured that even first-time flyers experienced the thrill of watching their kites climb into the blue sky. Adding a touch of nostalgia, a few enthusiastic participants revived the traditional excitement of kite flying by engaging in friendly kite duels, playfully attempting to cut one another's kites amid cheers and laughter, recreating the timeless charm of the sport.

The event not only filled the skies with colourful kites but also strengthened bonds between parents and children while encouraging teamwork, patience and outdoor recreation.

Kalaburagi celebrates MLA Ajay Singh's cabinet entry

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

The home district of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge has received a major boost in the latest Karnataka Cabinet expansion, with Jewargi MLA Dr. Ajay Singh being inducted as a minister. The announce-

ment has sparked celebrations across Kalaburagi district, with supporters expressing happiness over the increased representation from the region.

With Ajay Singh joining the state cabinet, Kalaburagi now has three ministers representing the district after nearly two

decades. Currently, Priyank Kharge holds the Home portfolio, while Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil serves as the Minister for Medical Education. The addition of Ajay Singh has further strengthened the district's presence in the state government.

Quick Read



Drug-free youth event invites young participants across district

CH NEWS, Chitradurga
A district-level program titled Drug-Free Youth for a Developed India-2026 will be held on August 5 at Don Bosco College in the city. Organized by My Bharat and the District Youth Center under the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the event aims to create awareness about a drug-free society. Various competitions, including folk songs, music, dance, painting, debate, short films and slam poetry, will be conducted. Youth aged 15 to 29 from schools, colleges, NSS, NCC and organizations can participate. Interested participants can register online through the provided form or QR code before the event.

Bagadala village gets major boost through development

Residents said completed works resolved waterlogging, poor roads and inadequate lighting issues, improving village conditions and daily life significantly

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Bagadala village in Bidar South assembly constituency is witnessing major development activities with a total grant of Rs 3.21 crore sanctioned under various schemes.
MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale has given priority to improving basic facilities, with completed works worth Rs 2.29 crore and new projects worth Rs 92 lakh launched recently.
The development works include construction of CC roads, improvement of drainage systems, veterinary facilities, hospital development, cowshed construction, community halls and installation of high mast lights. These projects are expected to improve transportation, cleanliness, safety and other essential services for villagers.
Residents said the completed works have helped address long-standing issues such as waterlogging during rains, poor



road conditions and lack of proper lighting at night. They added that community halls would support social and cultural programmes in the village and create better public spaces.
Speaking about the projects, MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale said the aim is to make every village in the constituency a model of development. He stated that development is not limited to building structures but also improving the quality of life of people. He assured that officials have been instructed

to maintain quality and complete works within the given time.
He added that further efforts will be made to bring more funds for roads, drinking water, drainage, street lights and other infrastructure needs. Villagers welcomed the initiatives and thanked the MLA for focusing on rural development.
The MLA said future projects will be planned based on public suggestions and local requirements. The development activities in Bagadala are ex-

Key updates from Bagadala's Rs 3.21 crore development drive

- Bagadala receives total development grants worth Rs 3.21 crore.
- Completed works worth Rs 2.29 crore improve village facilities.
- New projects worth Rs 92 lakh recently launched.
- CC roads, drainage, hospitals and veterinary facilities developed.
- Villagers demand better amenities, lighting and road connectivity.
- MLA assures quality works and timely project completion.

pected to bring lasting improvements and strengthen basic amenities for the people.

Mandya gets two ministers in cabinet expansion

CH NEWS, MANDYA

As expected, senior Congress MLAs N. Chaluvaryaswamy and P.M. Narendraswamy received ministerial berths during the Karnataka cabinet expansion announced recently.
The decision ended the wait over representation from the district and brought fresh attention to Mandya politics.
Chaluvaryaswamy and Narendraswamy were selected based on their experience, seniority and political influence in the region. Another senior MLA, Ramesh Bandisidde Gowda from Srirangapatna, missed the opportunity despite being a strong contender for the post.
Chaluvaryaswamy is a senior Congress leader who has handled several important portfolios earlier. He entered politics through the Zilla Panchayat and later became an MLA from Nagamangala constituency multiple times. He also represented Mandya in the Lok Sabha before joining the Congress party in 2018. Narendraswamy is a three-time MLA and has earlier served as a minister. He is considered an important Congress face representing the Dalit community in the district.
Both leaders have expressed



commitment to development works and public welfare after receiving the opportunity. The appointment is expected to strengthen Congress activities in Mandya and improve coordination among party workers.
The cabinet expansion has created discussions among political circles as several leaders were hoping for representation. While some aspirants succeeded, others were disappointed after the final list was announced. However, party leaders said the new ministers would focus on addressing public issues and bringing development projects to the district.
The inclusion of Chaluvaryaswamy and Narendraswamy has given Mandya a stronger presence in the state cabinet.
Supporters of both leaders welcomed the decision and hoped their experience would help accelerate progress in rural areas. The ministers are now expected to work towards fulfilling people's expectations.

VB-G RAM G scheme boosts rural employment opportunities

CH NEWS, HAVERI

The Gram Panchayats are responsible for providing wage employment to rural workers within their local limits under the Developed India Guarantee for Employment and Livelihood Campaign, said Panchayat Development Officer Somanand Barki.
He was speaking during an awareness programme held at Didagur village of Sangur Gram Panchayat while supervising water canal construction work. He said the scheme aims to strengthen economic security among rural families by increasing guaranteed employment from 100 days to 125 days annually. VB-G RAM G awareness campaigns and rallies are being organised across districts to educate people about the benefits of the programme and encourage proper use of available opportunities.
Tapam IEC Coordinator Girish Bannur explained the importance of the scheme and



PDO Somanand Barki said Gram Panchayats provide rural wage employment under Developed India Guarantee Campaign during canal construction awareness programme

said the initiative is designed to ensure that rural communities receive information about future generations. She added that giving importance to water conservation can help ensure availability of water in the coming years. Junior engineers Mahesh and Gautam, SDMC President Shekhar, teachers, and other staff members participated in the awareness program. The event highlighted the importance of responsible water use and encouraged citizens to make conservation a daily practice.

the daily wage to Rs. 382 and developing rural infrastructure. He explained that the scheme follows a 60:40 cost-sharing model between the central and state governments and aims not only to provide employment but also create permanent assets.
He said projects such as water conservation structures, rural roads and storage facilities will support long-term livelihood development in villages. The programme was attended by Kayakamitra members, labourers, mates and Panchayat staff. Officials encouraged workers to take advantage of the scheme and contribute to improving rural infrastructure through meaningful employment activities.

Rangoli event promotes Drug Free India mission

DHARWAD

A Rangoli competition was organized at Sampath Soudha in Dharwad as part of the 'Drug-Free India Campaign'.
The event was jointly organized by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat Dharwad, Department of Disabled and Senior Citizens Empowerment, Taluk Panchayat Hubli, and Sri Maithri Comprehensive Addiction-Free Rehabilitation Center with support from SELCO Foundation Bengaluru. Speaking at the program, Senior Health Inspector Dr. G.V. Omkarigowdra said young people play an important role in building a strong nation. He expressed concern that many youths are becoming addicted to harmful substances and facing health problems.

Modi launches campaign to build drug-free youth

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Drug-free Youth for a Developed India Sankalp Abhiyan' and called upon young people to stay away from drug addiction. He said a healthy and confident youth force is necessary to achieve the goal of a developed India.
The campaign was launched through video conference at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Girls' Hostel in Chitradurga city. Modi said the fight against drugs is not only an individual responsibility but also concerns families, society and the entire nation. He urged everyone to work together to create a drug-free environment.
The Prime Minister said permanent change can happen only through collective efforts. He added that lakhs of youngsters have already taken a pledge against drugs and a



PM stresses collective efforts against drugs as lakhs pledge support, with nationwide awareness campaign continuing for 100 weeks

special awareness drive will continue for 100 weeks across the country. The campaign, first started as a pilot project in Kashi, has now expanded nationwide with support from social organizations and insti-

tutions.
Various activities like sports events, discussions, meditation programs, cultural activities, street plays and painting competitions will spread awareness among youth. Around 450 girl students took the anti-drug pledge during the Chitradurga event. District Youth Officer Dhananjay Jagtap, Red Cross Secretary Mazhar Ullah, hostel warden Jyoti and other dignitaries participated in the programme, encouraging young people to support the mission for a healthier future.

Mandya citizens urged to save rainwater resources

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Municipal Corporation Junior Engineer Mukesh Gowda urged citizens to adopt rainwater harvesting systems in homes and commercial buildings to protect water resources.
He made the appeal during a rainwater conservation awareness program held at Hosahalli Higher Primary School in the city.
Gowda said municipal licenses are being issued only to buildings that have rainwater harvesting facilities. He explained that proper conservation of rainwater can help increase groundwater levels and prevent water shortages in the future. He also stressed the

need to save water as many lakes are losing their storage capacity and drying up due to changing conditions.
School head teacher Lilavati said rainwater should not be wasted and everyone must take steps to conserve it for future generations. She added that giving importance to water conservation can help ensure availability of water in the coming years. Junior engineers Mahesh and Gautam, SDMC President Shekhar, teachers, and other staff members participated in the awareness program. The event highlighted the importance of responsible water use and encouraged citizens to make conservation a daily practice.

Blood donation drive held in Mandya

CH NEWS, MANDYA

A meaningful birthday celebration featuring blood donation, sapling distribution and felicitation of achievers was held at the District Working Journalists' Association auditorium in the city on Monday.
The programme was organised by the well-wishers of Dr. Mohammad Zafrullah Khan and devotees of Dr. Trinetra Mahant Shivayogi Swami.
The event was inaugurated by Sri Dr. Nischalanandanath Swamiji of Kengeri Vishwa Vokkaligara Mahasamsthan Math. He said humanity should be the priority of every person and encouraged people to plant trees for protecting nature and increasing oxygen. He appreciated Zafrullah Khan's

social service and said such programmes inspire society.
MIMS Director Dr. Narasimhaswamy highlighted the importance of blood donation and said one unit of donated blood can save the lives of accident victims, cancer patients and pregnant women. He urged young people to remove misconceptions about blood donation and participate actively in such humanitarian efforts.
Karnataka State Working Journalists Association Vice President Mathikere Jayaram, who presided over the programme, said many birthday celebrations have become limited to celebrations and publicity. He praised the organisers for choosing social activities like blood donation and plant distribution, calling them ex-

amples of social responsibility.
During the event, several individuals were honoured for their contributions in different fields. Kannika Shilpa Navodaya Education Trust President H. R. Kannika was recognised for education service, environmentalist Salumara Nagaraju for nature conservation, MIMS Blood Bank Nursing Officer Mohammad Rafi for health service and blood donation support, and press photographer K. P. Kumar for his work.
A large number of donors and citizens participated in the programme organised with support from Jeevadhare Trust and MIMS District Blood Bank Centre. The celebration highlighted the importance of kindness, public service and community welfare.

Officials spread voter revision awareness among citizens

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Zilla Panchayat Chief Planning Officer C. S. Gayathri conducted an awareness drive about the Special Comprehensive Revision of Voter Lists in Sadhik Nagar and Ambedkar Nagar areas of Chitradurga city. She urged citizens to complete the SIR

census forms and submit them to Booth Level Officers. Gayathri advised people to verify their names in the voter list and ensure no eligible voter is excluded. Assistant Planning Officer D. S. Suma, Govt Fir st Class College lecturers, and NCC and NSS students participated in the awareness program.

Breastfeeding is nature's first vaccine for infants: B. Moogappa

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Initiating breastfeeding within an hour of birth can greatly reduce infant deaths.
Breastfeeding is nature's first vaccine and provides essential protection to newborns, said Taluk Health Education Officer B. Moogappa at a World Breastfeeding Week programme held at Badamakan Anganwadi Center in the city.
The programme was organised jointly by the Health Department and Women and Child Welfare Department to create awareness among mothers about the importance of breastfeeding. He explained that the week is observed from August 1 to 7, and urged families not to give honey or sugar water to newborns. The first milk, called colostrum, acts like nectar and strengthens the child's immunity for life.
Field Health Education Officer B. Janaki advised moth-

ers to ignore myths and keep babies close after birth. She said skin to skin contact improves bonding, increases milk production and helps mothers recover by reducing bleeding. She also explained correct breastfeeding positions. ASHA Mentor Tabitha advised giving only breast milk for six months, followed by soft foods while continuing breastfeeding for two years.
Health officials said awareness programmes help mothers understand the benefits of breastfeeding and improve child health. The event was attended by PHCO Bhagyamma, Vinci, Anganwadi Assistant Mansoor, ASHA workers Kavita and Kausar, pregnant women, lactating mothers and other participants. The organisers encouraged families to support mothers and ensure every newborn receives proper nutrition and care from the beginning.

Senior citizens need legal protection for dignity: R. Gururajan

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Legal protection and awareness are essential to ensure a dignified life for senior citizens, said Justice R. Gururajan, retired Karnataka High Court judge and Chairman of the NALSA scheme for senior citizens.
He was speaking after inaugurating a legal awareness programme, assistive device distribution event and free health check-up camp in Mandya.
The programme was jointly organised by the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Au-



thority, district administration, Zilla Panchayat, health department and other organisations. Justice Gururajan said senior citizens are valuable members of society and laws protect them from neglect, abuse and violation of their

rights. He urged elders to understand their legal rights and seek assistance whenever needed.
He said a request has been made to increase the annual pension amount provided to senior citizens, and the gov-

ernment has responded positively. Various assistive devices were distributed to elderly people during the programme.
Principal District and Sessions Judge C. Chandrashekar said governments have introduced several welfare schemes for senior citizens and encouraged eligible people to use these facilities. He advised elders to maintain health through regular check-ups, exercise, balanced food and a healthy lifestyle.
District Judge H. Shashidhar Shetty said protecting the rights of senior citizens is the responsibility of every citizen. He informed

Quick Read

Mane congratulates Lamani on cabinet appointment

CH NEWS, Hanagal
MLA Srinivas Mane congratulated Rudrappa Lamani after his induction into Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's cabinet. In a press statement, he said he had requested the party high command to give Haveri district cabinet representation, and the request was accepted. Mane expressed confidence that the new minister would accelerate development across the district while strengthening the party organization. He said he respected the high command's decision despite missing a ministerial position. Mane assured full cooperation from Hanagal party leaders, office bearers, workers and supporters for development initiatives and stronger organizational work in the coming years with unity always.

Traffic restricted for Nandi Hills marathon safety

CH NEWS, Chikkaballapura
As the second edition of the Nandi Hills Monsoon Marathon will be held on August 9, the district administration has restricted all public vehicle movement from the foothills to Nandi Hills from 11 pm on August 8 until 12 noon on August 9. Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu said the measure aims to ensure the safety of participating athletes. Visitors are requested to plan their travel accordingly and cooperate with officials during the restriction period. Essential emergency services will be allowed as required. Authorities urged the public to follow traffic instructions and avoid unnecessary travel to the area.

LPG Customers Must Complete e-KYC Before August 15

Chikkaballapura
District authorities have urged all LPG consumers to complete their e-KYC by August 15. Following government instructions, customers should visit their respective gas agencies with required documents and finish the process in person. Officials said updating customer records will help eligible beneficiaries receive uninterrupted gas cylinder services. Failure to complete e-KYC before the deadline may cause temporary service disruption. Consumers can also visit special camps organized by gas agencies or nearby distributors for assistance. Authorities requested everyone to complete the verification promptly to avoid inconvenience and ensure continued access to LPG services without delays in the district.

Vijayanagara receives Rs 2,944 crore through guarantee schemes

P.T. Parameshwar said five guarantee schemes launched in 2023 aim to deliver benefits statewide and resolve issues for eligible beneficiaries

CH NEWS, VIAYANAGARA

A total of Rs 2,944 crore has been directly provided to eligible beneficiaries in Vijayanagara district under the state government's five guarantee schemes during the last three years, said Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee State Vice-President P.T. Parameshwar. Speaking at a press conference held at the District Collector's Office on Monday, he said schemes including Annabhagya, Grihalakshmi, Grihajyoti, Shakti and Yuvanidhi were launched in 2023 with the aim of reaching benefits to people across the state. He said efforts are being made to remove difficulties and ensure that benefits reach deserving beneficiaries.

He explained that under the Annabhagya scheme, Rs 285 crore was transferred to around 3.47 lakh families in the district through direct benefit transfer between August 2023 and December 2024.



Later, beneficiaries received five kilograms of rice. Under the Grihajyoti scheme, Rs 468.26 crore was provided to 3,21,966 beneficiaries from June 2023 to June 2026.

Parameshwar said Rs 1,727 crore was deposited into the accounts of 3,02,017 registered beneficiaries under the Grihalakshmi scheme from August 2023 to May 2026. He added that Rs 31.38 crore for June would soon be credited. Under the Shakti scheme, 10.76 crore passengers in the district used free bus travel facilities, costing Rs 430 crore.

He also said 12,982 people registered under Yuvanidhi, including graduates and diploma holders, and Rs 32.93 crore assistance was distributed. A special awareness campaign will be conducted to increase registrations. The district has also started a survey to identify eligible beneficiaries and remove ineligible names from schemes.

District officials and committee members attended the press conference and discussed measures to improve implementation of the guarantee programmes.

Authorities said continuous

Key Highlights of the meeting

- Rs 2,944 crore distributed under five guarantee schemes.
- Annabhagya provided Rs 285 crore to 3.47 lakh families.
- Grihajyoti benefited 3,21,966 beneficiaries with Rs 468.26 crore.
- Grihalakshmi transferred Rs 1,727 crore to beneficiaries.
- Shakti scheme enabled 10.76 crore free bus journeys.
- Yuvanidhi distributed Rs 32.93 crore to youth beneficiaries.

efforts will be made to ensure that government benefits reach the right people effectively.

Aadhaar verification before issuing death certificates: DC

CH NEWS, KARWAR

Deputy Commissioner K. Lakshmi Priya has directed all birth and death registration officers in the district to verify the Aadhaar number of every deceased person before issuing death certificates.

She said accurate verification is essential to prevent errors that could affect living individuals and their access to government services.

Speaking at the District Level Birth and Death Registration Coordination Committee meeting on Monday, the Deputy Commissioner warned that entering the Aadhaar number of a living person instead of the deceased could result in serious problems, including the loss of government benefits. She instructed officials to carefully verify the name, address and Aadhaar details before completing registrations and warned that strict action would be taken against those responsible for such mistakes.

Deputy Commissioner directed timely death registrations, regular inspections, monthly meetings, and training programmes to improve coordination and strengthen the registration process

She also advised officials to examine all supporting documents before issuing unavailability certificates and said the public should be informed about their right to appeal if they are dissatisfied with any decision related to birth or death registration. She instructed that every death record should include the medical certificate stating the cause of death and that all certificates must be issued with digital signatures. The Deputy Commissioner asked officials to ensure timely registration of deaths occurring at homes and directed Tahsildars to hold monthly coordination committee meetings.

MCC Bank opens twenty third branch at Katapadi

CH NEWS, KATAPADI

MCC Bank Ltd. expanded its banking network by inaugurating its 23rd branch at Katapadi. The new branch, located at Global Residency Building on Old Post Office Road, Moodabettu, was opened to provide better banking services to customers in the region and strengthen the bank's growing presence across Karnataka.

The branch was inaugurated by Chairman Anil Lobo, while Coastal Development Board President M. A. Gafoor opened the safe room. Rev. Fr. Rajesh Prasanna blessed the new premises by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Several dignitaries, including religious leaders, public representatives and bank officials, attended the inauguration.

Addressing the gathering, Chairman Anil Lobo said MCC Bank remains commit-

ted to cooperative banking, transparent governance and customer-focused service. He expressed confidence that the Katapadi branch would achieve a business turnover of Rs.10 crore within six months. He highlighted that the bank's total business has grown from Rs.500 crore to more than Rs.1,600 crore during the past eight years through improved services, digital banking, branch expansion and strong financial discipline.

Speakers praised the bank for its steady growth, ethical practices and contribution to community development. They said MCC Bank has earned public trust by providing reliable banking services while supporting educational and social initiatives.

Guests congratulated the management and staff for their teamwork and professionalism.

Officials reunite lost children with their families

CHNEWS, VIJAYANAGARA

Three minor boys who were found roaming suspiciously near a railway station were rescued by the District Child Protection Unit and Akkapade team.

The children were later handed over to their parents after completing the required legal procedures.

The Railway Police Station had informed the District Child Protection Unit about the children's presence near the station. Following the information, officials immediately reached the spot and safely brought the boys to the District Child Protection Unit office. During questioning, the children said they had left home without in-

forming their families to visit Huligemma temple but lost their way.

The rescued children were identified as Shankar from Kureguppa village in Sandur taluk, Yashwanth from Gadag district and Harsha, a student of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose English Medium School. Officials contacted their parents and advised them to provide better care and supervision to avoid such incidents in the future.

After receiving a written assurance from the parents, the children were safely sent back home. Yashwanth's father Rajashekar agreed to take responsibility for all three children and was asked to appear before the District Child Protection Unit office in Ballari.

Supporters protest after Hitnal misses ministerial position

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Congress workers and supporters of Koppal MLA K. Raghavendra Hitnal expressed disappointment after he was not included in the newly expanded state cabinet.

Hitnal, who has been elected three times consecutively from the Koppal Assembly constituency, was widely expected by his supporters to receive a ministerial position. The decision led to protests

and strong reactions from party workers in the district.

Former municipal council member and social worker Manvi Pasha, a close supporter of Hitnal, criticized the Congress high command for overlooking the senior MLA. He said Hitnal has earned the trust and respect of people through his service and deserved a place in the cabinet.

Pasha expressed confidence that Hitnal would receive an

Hadapada Appanna Jayanti highlights Sharana values

HAVERI

Hadapada Appanna's contribution to spreading Basavanna's ideals by challenging social ignorance was remembered during his Jayanti celebration held at Sri Math in Haveri.

Sri Basava Shantaliga Mahaswamiji of the new Math said Appanna played an important role in promoting awareness and equality through his teachings. He added that Appanna shared Basavanna's vision and stood firmly with Sharane Lingamma during life's struggles.

ANJUMAN COLLEGE STUDENTS JOIN GREEN DRIVE

BHATKAL

A tree plantation program was organized at Anjuman Arts, Science and Commerce College as part of Vanamahotsava-2026 on Monday.

The event aimed to create awareness among students about the importance of protecting the environment and increasing green cover.

The program was presided over by college principal Prof. Mohammad Yusuf Kola, while Bhatkal subdivision Assistant Conservator of Forests Hasta Shetty attended as the chief guest. She said students have an important role in environmental conservation and encouraged everyone to plant trees and ensure their proper

care. Prof. Mohammad Yusuf Kola said protecting and nurturing trees is the responsibility of every citizen.

He added that spreading awareness among youth about environmental protection is essential in today's world. Guests, teaching and non-teaching staff, and students actively participated in planting trees on the college campus. NSS Officer Prof. Damodar Nayak, IQAC Coordinator Dr.

D.S. Prabhu, Scouts Coordinator K. Kalimulla, Eco Club Coordinator Bibi Noora Kasma, and other staff members were present during the program. The event encouraged students to take part in protecting nature.

Puttarangashetty returns as minister after four wins

CHAMARAJANAGAR

Senior Congress MLA C. Puttarangashetty, who has won the Chamarajanagar Assembly constituency four consecutive times, has received a ministerial position for the second time. His inclusion in the D.K. Shivakumar cabinet has brought importance to the district's representation.

Puttarangashetty had earlier sought a ministerial post in Siddaramaiah's cabinet but was given the MSIL chairmanship. He was later considered for the Deputy Speaker position before finally being inducted into the state cabinet. Chamarajanagar district, where Congress won three of four assembly seats, has now received cabinet representation.

The 68-year-old leader defeated senior BJP leader V. Somanna in the previous election and became the only MLA from the Uppara community in Karnataka. A strong supporter of Siddaramaiah, Puttarangashetty has remained active in politics for several years and has worked for the representation of backward communities.

Born on November 30, 1954, in Uppinamole village of Yalandur taluk, Puttarangashetty completed his BA degree and briefly worked as a government APMC clerk before entering agriculture and politics.

Healthy lifestyle helps prevent brain diseases, says Doctor

VIJAYANAGARA

A healthy lifestyle and timely medical care can help prevent brain-related diseases, said District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. T. Lingaraju.

He was speaking after inaugurating a World Brain Day programme held at the District

Government Public Hospital in collaboration with the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Karnataka Brain Health Initiative and Health Department.

Dr. Lingaraju said the brain controls all functions of the human body and any disturbance can affect a person's health, family life and financial condi-

tion. He explained that increasing stress, high blood pressure, diabetes, unhealthy food habits, addictions and lack of exercise are contributing to a rise in brain-related problems.

He advised people to follow healthy habits such as getting seven to nine hours of sleep daily, eating nutritious food, avoiding junk food, exercising

regularly and learning new skills to improve brain health. He said early diagnosis and proper treatment are important to prevent serious complications. Administrative Medical Officer Dr. Bharat said stroke cases, which were earlier common among elderly people, are now increasing among younger generations.

Judge highlights importance of senior citizens in society

CH NEWS, CHIKKAALAPURA

Senior citizens are not a burden on society but the foundation of a stable and value-based community, said Chief District and Sessions Judge and District Legal Services Authority Chairman Justice T.P. Ramalingegowda. He was speaking after inaugurating a one-day workshop on the rights of senior citizens and government welfare programmes at the Government First Grade Women's College on Monday.

The programme was jointly organised by the District Legal Services Authority, district



administration, Zilla Panchayat, Women and Child Development Department and the Department for the Empowerment of Disabled and Senior Citizens. Justice Ramalingegowda said Indian culture teaches respect for parents,

teachers and elders through the values of "Matrudevobhava, Pitrudevobhava and Acharyadevobhava." He said the experience and wisdom of senior citizens strengthen society and should always be valued.

He encouraged young people to care for elders just as parents cared for them during childhood. He also urged senior citizens to understand their legal rights and approach the District Legal Services Authority whenever they face problems. The workshop provided information about legal protection, welfare schemes and solutions available for senior citizens.

Sub-Divisional Officer D.H. Ashwin explained that laws protect elderly people from neglect and allow them to seek maintenance from children if required. He said property transferred through

force or fraud can be restored to senior citizens through legal action. He urged elders to seek help from legal authorities whenever their rights are violated. The programme was attended by Member Secretary and Senior Civil Judge Shilpa B., Bar Association President K.V. Abhilash, education department officials, representatives of senior citizens' associations, government officers, students and elderly participants. Speakers stressed that respecting and protecting senior citizens is a shared responsibility that helps build a caring, just and compassionate society.

Janardhan Reddy questions Nagendra's ministerial appointment

GANGAVATHI

Ballari Rural MLA Nagendra getting a ministerial berth has become a matter of discussion, with Gangavathi MLA G. Janardhan Reddy saying that the people of Ballari district should decide on the issue.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Janardhan Reddy said the investigation into the Valmiki Development Corporation scam is still incomplete. In such a situation, he questioned the decision to give a ministerial position to a person facing allegations and said the government must

take responsibility for its choices. He said that giving ministerial posts to leaders with controversies attached would be judged by the people. However, he welcomed the appointment of Basavaraj Rayareddy from Yelburga constituency and Shivaraj Thangadgi from Kanakagiri constituency as ministers.

Janardhan Reddy said it was a matter of happiness that two leaders from the district received ministerial positions. He expressed hope that both ministers would work towards the overall development of the region and cooperate in making the district progress.

Quick Read

2 women among 8 militants arrested

Imphal

Eight militants, including two women cadres, belonging to different banned insurgent outfits were arrested and arms, ammunition and other incriminating materials recovered in separate joint security force operations across Manipur during the past 24 hours, officials said on Monday. A senior police official said that the eight militants, including two women, were apprehended from Imphal West, Imphal East, and Bishnupur districts during coordinated operations jointly carried out by the Manipur Police and other security agencies.

Meghalaya to give laptops to Class 10, 12 students

Shillong

The Meghalaya government will provide free laptops to meritorious students who successfully cleared the 2026 Class 10 and Class 12 Board examinations, officials said on Monday. The Directorate of Information Technology and Communications (DITC) has initiated the process for identifying eligible students who appeared in examinations conducted by the Meghalaya Board of School Education (MBOSE), the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE), and the Indian School Certificate (ISC).

Global energy, goods price surge drive WPI inflation: Govt

NEW DELHI

The increase in wholesale price inflation in June was largely driven by price pressures in goods that are sensitive to global commodity and energy prices, the Parliament was informed on Monday.

However, the government has been actively undertaking a series of measures to control inflation and mitigate its impact on consumers, which has helped to rein in retail inflation based on the consumer price index (CPI), Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary told the Lok Sabha in a written reply to a question.

These measures include augmenting buffer stocks for essential food items, selling procured grains in the open market to bring down prices, and calibrating trade policies, he added.

On a year-on-year basis, wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation increased from 9.68 per cent in May to 9.87 per cent in June.

However, as a result of the steps taken by the government to control inflation, the retail or Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation rate has been 3.1

MSC ELSA 3 SINKAGE

Foreign crew get travel relief

The chief officer and second engineer of the ship had been detained in Kochi for more than a year after the ship capsized

KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Monday permitted two more foreign crew members of the sunken cargo vessel MSC Elsa 3 to return to their home countries while directing them to fully cooperate with the ongoing investigation into the shipwreck off the Kerala coast.

Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas passed the order while hearing petitions filed by the Chief Officer and the Second Engineer of the Liberian-flagged vessel, which sank off the Kerala coast on May 25, 2025. The crew members had remained in India for more than a year after the incident.

SC refuses to stay Madras HC order on Thiruparankundram Deepam

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice on a plea filed by the Tamil Nadu government challenging a Madras High Court order permitting the lighting of the traditional Karthigai Deepam at the 'deepa thoon' (lamp pillar) situated atop the Thiruparankundram hill near a dargah in Madurai district.

A Bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M. Pancholi sought responses from the original writ petitioners before the Madras High Court and other respondents and tagged the matter with a connected pending case for further hearing.



The court allowed both officers to leave the country subject to stringent conditions. Each has been directed to execute a bond of Rs 10 lakh with two sureties and deposit Rs 1 lakh as cash security before the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court in Kochi.

The officers have also been instructed to submit an undertaking stating that they will cooperate with the investigation under the relevant

What's the matter

- Two foreign crew members allowed to return home.
- Rs 10 lakh bond and Rs 1 lakh cash security mandated.
- Must cooperate with the ongoing investigation.
- Five of seven petitioning crew members granted relief.

legal provisions. Additionally, they must provide their permanent residential address, mobile number and other contact details before departing from India.

The High Court had earlier indicated that it was inclined

KERALA PSC STIR GAINS POLITICAL BACKING

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The indefinite protest by Kerala Public Service Commission (PSC) Lower Primary (LP) School Teacher rank holders outside the Secretariat gained further momentum on Monday, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) intensifying its attack on the state government and extending support to the agitating candidates.

The protest has also drawn support from a section of Malayalam film and television personalities, who urged the government to address the grievances of the rank holders without further delay.

BJP leaders have been visiting the protest venue daily to express solidarity with the candidates. Leading the party's campaign, Kerala BJP President and MLA Rajeev

NEET effect?

- BJP intensified its support for the protesters.
- Rajeev Chandrasekhar highlighted rank holder Gopika's case.
- BJP alleged merit was being ignored in appointments.
- Malayalam film and television personalities backed the agitation.

Chandrasekhar highlighted the case of Gopika, who secured the ninth rank in the LP School Teacher examination.

In a social media post, Chandrasekhar said that despite achieving a top rank through merit, Gopika was compelled to stage a protest outside the Secretariat instead of serving as a teacher in a

classroom. He described her situation as representative of the struggles faced by hundreds of qualified young job aspirants in the state.

The BJP leader alleged that deserving candidates were being denied appointments while backdoor recruitments allegedly benefited those with political connections. He accused both the Opposition CPI(M)-led LDF and the ruling Congress-led UDF of failing to safeguard merit and employment opportunities for Kerala's youth.

Using the slogan Randalla, Onnanu (Not two, but one), Chandrasekhar claimed that both political fronts were equally responsible for denying jobs to deserving candidates. He reiterated that the BJP-led NDA would continue to stand with the protesting rank holders.

Dipke reflects on 'biggest achievement' of Delhi stir

NEW DELHI

Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke on Monday said the group's immediate priority is to strengthen its organisation following the student-led protests, asserting that the movement's biggest success was not securing the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan but the willingness of people to question the government on matters of public interest.

Dipkesaid that the organisation would first regroup with its volunteers before deciding its future course of action.

Right now our focus is to regroup. When we started this protest, our team was very small, around 10 to 20 people. But as the movement progressed, many people and volunteers came forward. Today, our volunteer team has grown to more than 300 people. First, we want to take feedback from them on what we could have done better and what mistakes could have been avoided. After that, we will decide what kind of organisation should be built and how we should move ahead,

he said.

Dipke said he viewed the movement's greatest achievement as encouraging citizens to speak up against the government without fear.

For me, the biggest achievement of this protest is not the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan. The biggest achievement is the courage and determination shown by people to question the government, demand answers, and come out on the streets to fight for their rights.

For the last 10-12 years, people were afraid to speak against the government because they feared police action, legal cases or even jail, he said.

Calling public participation the cornerstone of democracy, Dipke argued that governments must respond to citizens' demands. This is how democracy should function. When people express their concerns, the government should listen and act on them. When lakhs of students were demanding the removal of Dharmendra Pradhan, he should have been removed, he said.

CM remark case: MLA gets bail

CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Monday granted regular bail to DMK's Vilathikulam MLA G.V. Markandayan, who was arrested over an alleged public remark that his party legislators would break the bones of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay inside the Assembly.

Justice G.K. Ilanthiraiyan allowed the bail petition after imposing several conditions, including an undertaking from the legislator that he would not make similar speeches against the Chief Minister in the future.

The court directed Markandayan to file an affidavit before the jurisdictional magistrate in Thoothukudi affirming that he would refrain from making such remarks. He was also instructed to appear before the investigating officer twice daily until further orders, except on days when his attendance is required for the Tamil Nadu Assembly's Budget session, which begins on August 5.

During the hearing, senior counsel P. Wilson, representing the MLA, argued that the alleged statement was made during a political speech and did not justify his arrest or continued detention.

State Public Prosecutor R. John Sathyan submitted that

Court conditions

The High Court directed Markandayan to submit an affidavit promising not to make similar remarks in future. He must also appear before the investigating officer twice daily, except during Assembly sittings. The Tamil Nadu Budget session is scheduled to commence on August 5.

the Budget session was set to commence shortly and said the court could consider granting bail if the legislator expressed remorse. He also requested that the MLA file an undertaking before the jurisdictional magistrate.

Markandayan approached the High Court after a sessions court in Thoothukudi rejected his bail plea last week, citing the seriousness of the alleged remarks made at a public meeting.

Earlier, the MLA had challenged his judicial remand dated July 20 before the High Court, where orders had been reserved on July 28. After failing to obtain relief from the sessions court, he filed the present regular bail petition, which has now been allowed.

'Party consumed by infighting': Mann takes swipe at Cong

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday slammed the Congress over its internal discord, saying the party is preoccupied with infighting and has little concern for the interests of Punjab.

Speaking exclusively to IANS, Mann said, Good luck to the Congress for its ongoing fight. They keep fighting for positions and chairs. Earlier too, they had a rate list where the Chief Minister's post was allegedly worth Rs 500 crore, while other ministerial posts were assigned different amounts. Attacking the Congress party, Mann alleged that the party is producing dealers instead of leaders.

They fought among themselves in Sangrur, Barnala, and Mansa, yet they keep claiming that Bhagwant Mann is sending people there. What is the need for that? Bhupesh Baghel was appointed by their own party, but today they are not even accepting him, Mann said.

Referring to protests against the Congress leader-

ship, he added, Posters were put up saying 'Go Back, Baghel'. The Congress is busy with its infighting and does not care about Punjab. We are here to work for Punjab. So, congratulations to the Congress for its fight.

The Chief Minister also claimed that no paper leak had taken place in Punjab and accused the BJP of attempting to tarnish his government's image.

No paper leak has happened in Punjab. The BJP is still unable to recover from what happened earlier. They did not expect Gen Z to protest on such a large scale, and Arvind Kejriwal supported them. Sonam Wangchuk was also there. Now they are targeting the Punjab government and trying to defame us.

He clarified that the issue involved only instances of digital cheating and that appropriate action had been taken. There was a minor issue related to cheating. Digital cheating was taking place, and action was taken against those involved.

Jharkhand on alert after gangster Sinha killed in encounter

RANCHI

An alert has been issued in several districts of Jharkhand, including Dhanbad, Ranchi, Palamu, Ramgarh, and Jamtara, on Monday after gangster Sujit Sinha was killed in a police encounter.

The killing of the notorious gangster in a late-night police encounter in Jamtara has brought to a close one of the state's most feared chapters of organised crime.

Accused in more than 75 criminal cases, including murder, extortion, kidnapping, Arms Act violations and other serious offences, Sinha had for nearly two decades remained a symbol of fear across several districts, particularly in the coal belt and Palamu region.

Although serving a life sentence in the high-profile Palamu double murder case, Sinha was allegedly continuing to run his criminal syndicate from behind bars.

According to police, he was being transferred from Sahibganj Divisional Jail to Dhanbad Divisional Jail late evening when the incident

occurred.

Police said the prison convoy was travelling along the Sahibganj-Govindpur National Highway when one of the escort vehicles suffered a tyre puncture between Supaidih and Kendbona in Jamtara district.

During the process of shifting Sinha to another vehicle, he allegedly seized a weapon from a security personnel and attempted to flee.

Officers claim that he opened fire on the police team, prompting retaliatory action. Sinha sustained critical injuries in the exchange of fire and later died. News of the encounter spread rapidly on Monday, drawing a large number of local residents to the spot.

Jamtara Police cordoned off the area and launched a detailed forensic examination.

A team from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) collected evidence, while senior police officials inspected the site and reviewed the sequence of events. The crime scene was scientifically documented and all material evidence secured.

BOOMING PROGRESS

Rail freight records robust growth

NEW DELHI

Indian Railways recorded a strong 9% year-on-year growth in freight loading during July 2026, transporting 141.3 million tonnes of cargo compared with 129.7 million tonnes in the corresponding month last year.

The rise in freight movement boosted revenue and reflected increased demand from key sectors of the economy, according to an official statement issued on Monday.

Several major commodity groups posted double-digit growth during the month.



Iron ore loading registered the highest increase at 22.2%, while coal and foodgrains recorded an 11.5% rise. Fertiliser loading grew by 12%, and the

balance other goods category increased by 12.1%, indicating sustained demand from infrastructure, manufacturing and agriculture.

To meet higher power

generation requirements, Indian Railways also enhanced domestic coal supply to thermal power plants by 20% in July compared with the same month last year.

The surge in freight operations translated into an additional freight revenue of Rs 1,137 crore, marking an 8% increase over July 2025. Among the zonal railways, East Central Railway and Eastern Railway recorded the highest growth in freight revenue at 33% each. West Central Railway posted a 23% increase, while South Eastern Railway registered

a 10.33% rise.

Passenger traffic also witnessed healthy growth during the month. Indian Railways carried 63.35 crore passengers in July 2026, compared with 62.19 crore passengers in July 2025. Growth was recorded across both suburban and non-suburban services.

The Railways said it remains focused on strengthening freight logistics, improving passenger services and expanding modern infrastructure to support India's economic growth, energy security and seamless mobility.

Quick Read

ABVP to step up campus campaigns across Kerala

Kochi
The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) has decided to intensify its 'Campus to Campus Vande Mataram' and 'Screen Time to Activity Time' campaigns across Kerala. The decision was taken at the organisation's two-day Central Working Committee meeting held in Ernakulam. The meeting discussed education, student issues and the organisational road map for the coming year. ABVP said Kerala would receive special attention in the months ahead. The two campaigns will be expanded across colleges and educational institutions.

Red Fort bomb threat email triggers security alert

New Delhi
Ahead of the Independence Day celebrations, security agencies in Delhi sprang into action to comb the entire area around the Red Fort on Monday as an email sent to the Delhi Mayor's office threatened multiple bomb blasts at the iconic monument on August 15, an official said. Soon after receiving the alert, police personnel, bomb disposal squads, and other security teams rushed to the Red Fort and carried out an extensive sanitisation and inspection of the premises, said the official.

SC enhances child accident compensation

New Delhi
The Supreme Court has enhanced compensation from Rs 45.40 lakh to Rs 83.38 lakh for a girl who suffered severe and permanent disabilities in a road accident when she was six months old. A bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and N.V. Anjaria observed that catastrophic injuries deprive a child not only of physical abilities but also of the joys of childhood, dignity.

Goyal calls for doubling India-Uzbek bilateral trade in 3 years

NEW DELHI
Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday invited businesses from India and Uzbekistan to co-invest, co-manufacture and co-innovate, while calling for concerted efforts to double bilateral trade between the two countries over the next three years. Addressing the India-Uzbekistan Business Forum here along

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS, DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajanagara Division, Chamarajanagara

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

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only)
H(Two Cover System: Section-1-Technical Bidand Section-2-Financial Bid)
Short Tender Notification No 12/2026-27Date: 29-07-2026

Item rate tenders are invited through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only on behalf of Governor of Karnataka from Eligible registered civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document KW-4 form The Total no of works is 2, H/A :- 5054-80-190-0-01-132 KRDC Bridge Works Minimum estimated cost is Rs, 200.00 lakhs, & maximum estimated cost is Rs, 500.00 lakhs, AND The Total no of works is 1, H/A :- 5054-03-337-0-17-154 SH Improvements Works Further changes in this Notification will be Published in Kppp.karnataka.gov.in Only. Date of events as follows:

1	Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal	30.07.2026 to 12.08.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	05.08.2026 in Division Office Meeting Hall at 11.00 AM
3	downloading the tender document from the Last Date and Time	12.08.2026 Up to 16.00
4	Date & Time for opening of Technical bid	13.08.2026 after 16.30 Hrs
5	Date & Time for opening of Financial bid	15.08.2026 Morning 11.00

More information can be had from the website: <https://www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in>
Any other details required can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Executive Engineer
PWD Division,
Chamarajanagar.

NO: DIPR: CHANAGAR: 270: 2026-27

India airport capacity hits 580 million: Govt

Airport expansion and airline fleet additions are strengthening India's aviation infrastructure to meet rising domestic and international travel demand

NEW DELHI

India's aviation infrastructure has reached a major milestone, with the country's total annual passenger handling capacity crossing 580 million, the Centre informed Parliament on Monday.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol, in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, said the increase reflects sustained efforts by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and private airport operators to expand and modernise airport infrastructure across the country.

He said these expansion projects are planned after assessing passenger traffic growth, operational requirements, airline demand, financial viability and techno-economic considerations. The enhanced capacity is intended to meet future growth in do-



mestic and international air travel while easing congestion at busy airports.

According to the government, India's airports handled around 420 million passengers during the 2025-26 financial year, well below the newly created annual handling capacity of over 580 million. The additional capacity is expected to support the aviation sector's long-term growth and improve passen-

ger experience.

India currently has 166 operational airports. To further strengthen aviation infrastructure and improve regional connectivity, the government has granted in-principle approval for 25 greenfield airport projects. Of these, 14 airports have already become operational.

In a separate written reply, Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu informed the Rajya Sabha that 11 scheduled and scheduled commuter

What data shows

- Airport handling capacity exceeds 580 million passengers annually.
- Passenger traffic stood at 420 million in FY 2025-26.
- India has 166 operational airports.
- 25 greenfield airports approved in principle.
- 14 greenfield airports already operational.

airlines are currently operating in the country. He reiterated the government's commitment to creating a supportive ecosystem for the expansion of existing airlines while encouraging new players to enter the aviation sector, ensuring that infrastructure development keeps pace with the rising demand for air travel.

Hyderabad all set for BRICS Anti-Corruption Meet

HYDERABAD

India will host the second meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) and the second meeting of the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery in Hyderabad on August 4 and 5 under its BRICS Presidency 2026.

Organised by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the meeting will bring together representatives from BRICS member countries, senior policymakers, experts, practitioners and officials from anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies.

According to an official release issued on Monday, the event aligns with the theme of India's BRICS Presidency, Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability. Department of Personnel and Training Secretary Rachna Shah will inaugurate the two-day meet-

Focus areas

- Venue: Hyderabad.
- Dates: August 4–5.
- Organiser: Department of Personnel and Training.
- Focus: Asset recovery, cross-border corruption and governance reforms.
- Side event: Ethical Governance through Innovation and Tech-Driven Systems.
- Theme: Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.

ing. The deliberations will focus on strengthening international cooperation for asset recovery, combating cross-border corruption and promoting transparency and accountability in governance. Member countries will also discuss ways to improve informal cooperation for trac-

ing fugitive offenders involved in corruption cases and facilitating extradition proceedings.

Another key agenda item will be enhancing information-sharing and operational cooperation through the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery.

Delegates will also exchange experiences and best practices to address corruption-related risks arising from financial technology, digital assets and emerging digital financial instruments.

A dedicated side event titled Ethical Governance through Innovation and Tech-Driven Systems will be held on August 5. The session will showcase technology-driven governance initiatives, including digital public procurement, citizen engagement, transparency and accountability measures, along with innovative practices to strengthen integrity in public administration.

CWG 2026 weightlifting medallists feted

NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Mansukh Mandaviya, on Monday, felicitated India's Commonwealth Games 2026 weightlifting medallists, lauding their historic performances in Glasgow, with cash rewards.

Indian weightlifters competed in 11 weight categories and returned with eight medals one gold, six silver and one bronze. The Indian contingent registered multiple Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth records, while several athletes also achieved personal-best lifts.

The minister presented cash awards of Rs 30 lakh to gold medallists, Rs 20 lakh to silver medallists and Rs 10 lakh to bronze medallists in recognition of their outstanding achievements at the Commonwealth Games, where Indian weightlifters delivered one of the country's strongest campaigns.

India updates digital survey framework

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has adopted digital survey platforms, artificial intelligence tools and advanced quality frameworks to modernise the National Sample Survey system, Parliament was informed on Monday.

Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation Rao Inderjit Singh, in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, said the ministry has introduced Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) platforms integrated with the e-Sigma system, AI-enabled chatbots and multilingual interfaces to improve the efficiency and reliability of data collection.

The minister said MoSPI has also launched short-duration surveys to generate high-frequency socio-economic indicators in response to emerging policy requirements. These surveys are expected to provide timely insights for evidence-based decision-making.

To improve survey efficiency, the ministry has integrated administrative datasets into sampling frameworks for selected surveys. This has strengthened data collection processes and contributed to the timely compilation of official statistics.

The Centre has introduced AI-powered tools and digital survey platforms to modernise statistical data collection and improve accuracy nationwide

The government has also undertaken significant reforms in macroeconomic statistics, including the base revision of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

According to the minister, MoSPI has adopted the National Metadata Structure (NMSD 2.0), introduced the Statistical Quality Assessment Framework (SQAF) and aligned statistical practices with national and international classification standards. The ministry continues to study global statistical standards and best practices for their suitability in the Indian context to enhance the accuracy, transparency and credibility of official statistics.

MoSPI has also developed the Sustainable Development Goals–National Indicator Framework (SDG-NIF), aligning it with the United Nations' Global Indicator Framework while customising indicators to reflect India's development priorities, policy requirements and data ecosystem.

Centre proposes rules for 2-wheeler ambulances

NEW DELHI

In a bid to strengthen emergency healthcare delivery in hard-to-reach areas, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) on Monday proposed a regulatory framework for two-wheeled road ambulances.

The draft notification seeks to formally recognise and regulate such vehicles, which can play a crucial role in providing rapid medical assistance in rural, remote and hilly regions where conventional ambulances face mobility challenges.

The proposed rules aim to address the absence of a ded-

icated regulatory structure for such vehicles, which are increasingly being viewed as an effective solution for delivering emergency medical services in areas with difficult terrain, narrow roads and limited access for conventional ambulances.

According to the ministry, two-wheeled road ambulances can significantly improve emergency response times and facilitate last-mile access to healthcare, particularly in rural and remote regions as well as hilly areas.

At present, these vehicles are not recognised as a separate category under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules.

Bengaluru South Zilla Panchayat
Office of the Executive Engineer
PANCHAYATHRAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION
Ramanagara, Bangalore South Dist.

No.EE/PRED/RMG/JE/09/2026-27Date: 30.07.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through KPP Portal system)

The Executive Engineer, Panchayathraj Engineering Division, Ramanagara, invites the Itemwise tender. Contractors registered in KPWD, enrolled in PRED/PWD Licence for the works under different Head of Account. Minimum Estimated amount **Rs.5.20 lakh**. Maximum Estimated amount **Rs.55.00 lakh**. Last Date for submission of Tender Dated: **14.08.2026 by 4:00 PM**. Opening of the Tender Dated: **17.08.2026 at 4:30 on wards**. For details & further information visit the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office in office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Panchayathraj Engineering Division

DIPR/BSD/214/SA/2026-27

(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Madhugiri

No:EE/PWD/Dvn/JE-Tender/2026-27Dated: 31.07.2026

Invitation For Short Term Tender
Tender ref no:15/2026-27

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Madhugiri, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers, for the works. (Madhugiri Taluk) Approx. amount for the work is Rs.233.91 Lakhs. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz.<http://KPPP.gov.in>.Tenders must be submitted through KPPP portal on or before 17-08-2026 (up to 4.00 pm), Technical bids will be opened on 18-08-2026 after 4.15 Pm, Financial bid will be opened on 19-08-2026 after 4.15 Pm. Further any other information can be seen from the KPPP portal or can be had from the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Madhugiri

DIPR/TUM/191/KSMCA/2026-27

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER-4th Call
(only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design, QA, Building & IT),
9th floor, cauvery bhavan, K G Road, Bangalore -09

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
Building	BWSSB/EE (Building)/PB/ 472/26-27 dtd. 31.07.2026	Rs.8,39,508/-	10.08.2026 upto 4:00 PM	11.08.2026 after 4:00 PM
		Rs.25,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Building)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> For further details contact the abovesigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/1954/MAA/2026-27

(Govt of Karnataka)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER P.W.D DIVISION SEDAM

No. EE/PWD/Dvn/Sed/TS-2/2025-26/1159Date : 31-07-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Details of Works: 1. Total no of work 02 in Sedam Taluka indent No's are **33021/Call-2 & 35127/Call-2**, 2) Head of Account: Under KKRDB For the year 2025-26, 3) Amount Put to Tender : **Lowest Estimate Cost Rs. 150.00 Lakh, Highest Estimate Cost: Rs. 160.00 Lakhs**, 4) Eligibility of Contractor : Class-I contractor & Above, 5) Pre-Bid Meeting Date: **12-08-2026, Morning 11:30 Hrs**, 6) Date & time for Tender Queries of tenders: **13-08-2026 - 17:30:00 Hrs**, 7) Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **14-08-2026 - 16:00:00 Hrs**, 8) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **17-08-2026 - 16:30:00 Hrs**, 9) Date & Time for opening of Financial Bid : **18-08-2026 - 16:30:00 Hrs**, 10) Tender Form Fee & EMD Amount: Tender processing fee & EMD As per e-portal, 11) Communication Address: Office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D Division Sedam, 12) Internet Address: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in, 13) If any changes for Cancellation : Any Changes and cancellations are done in www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Note: 1) The undersigned has to power to postponement/rejecting the tenders, 2) If any changes are there in upcoming days These Tenders are not published in tender bulletin it should be read in <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> Portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.W.D Division Sedam

DIPR/Kalaburagi/393/KSMC&A/2026-27

Quick Read

Ukraine's top negotiator Umerov to head FIS

Ukraine's Rustem Umerov, its top negotiator in U.S.-backed talks with Russia, will be appointed chief of foreign intelligence servie (FIS), Ukraine's public broadcaster reported on Monday, citing President Volodymyr Zelenskii.

2 die as firefighting helicopters collide in Greece

AGIOS KONSTANTINOS Two firefighting helicopters collided in Greece while helping to control a huge wildfire that has destroyed more than 100 homes northwest of Athens, while people fled another blaze on the tourist island of Kefalonia. Two people on one helicopter a Greek and a Danish national died, while the crew on the other, one person from Greece, one from Britain, survived, the fire service said. Investigations had started into what caused the collision, it added.

'Close ties with US Pacific Command boost defence readiness'

Taipei Taiwan's cooperation with the United States may be closer than many imagine, the island's Defence Minister Wellington Koo said on Friday, as it strives to deepen military exchanges with the U.S. Pacific Command to boost defence capabilities. The command helps maintain peace and security in the Indo-Pacific, Koo said, and it views Taiwan as occupying a key position in the first island chain that stretches from Japan through Taiwan and the Philippines.

Our cooperation with the United States may be far closer than many people imagine, Koo said in an interview with a small group of reporters, as he voiced gratitude for Washington's support. We continue to enhance our defensive combat capabilities through military exchanges and cooperation with the Pacific Command at all levels. Such efforts have helped Taiwan boost its defensive combat capabilities through military exchanges, he said. The United States is Taiwan's most important international backer and arms supplier, despite a lack of formal diplomatic ties. China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory despite the island's rejection of the sovereignty claim, has repeatedly denounced military exchanges between Taipei and Washington.

The effort has spurred drills by Taipei simulating Chinese escalation, including the prospect of a blockade. Koo said a Chinese blockade of Taiwan would carry major risks for Beijing, which relies on external trade and the importance of its ports to global shipping.

US-IRAN WAR

Mideast crisis: Iran denies Trump's claim of new talks

DUBAI Iran on Monday denied that any negotiations with the United States were underway or scheduled, directly contradicting U.S. President Donald Trump's claim that talks would begin later in the day, a statement he used to justify calling off planned military strikes.

Speaking aboard Air Force One, Trump said he preferred reaching an agreement over military action and announced that negotiations with Iran would begin the following afternoon. However, he did not disclose the

DA challenges expropriation act

South Africa's Democratic Alliance has argued that the act threatens investment, while ANC defends it as essential to correct apartheid-era land ownership inequity.

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's Democratic Alliance (DA), the second-largest party in the country's governing coalition, approached a court on Monday to challenge the Expropriation Act, a controversial land reform law that allows the government to seize land in the public interest, including in certain cases without compensating owners. The legislation, signed into law by President Cyril Ramaphosa in January 2025, seeks to address the historical inequalities created during apartheid, when the country's white minority accumulated ownership of most privately held farm-



land. Despite its enactment, the government has not expropriated any land under the law so far. The DA, a pro-business party largely supported by white South Africans, argues that the Act grants the government vague and excessive powers, creating uncertainty that could discourage domestic and foreign investment.

SYNOPSIS

■ DA challenges Expropriation Act in court.

■ Law permits land seizure in public interest.

■ No land has been expropriated so far.

■ ANC says law addresses apartheid-era inequalities.

The party has challenged the legislation in court, intensifying tensions within the coalition government led by the African National Congress (ANC). The legal challenge comes ahead of South Africa's municipal elections scheduled for November, adding polit-

GREEK WILDFIRE BATTLE ENTERS FOURTH DAY

PSATHA

Hundreds of Greek firefighters continued battling a massive wildfire northwest of Athens for a fourth consecutive day on Monday as strong winds fuelled flames that destroyed homes, scorched thousands of hectares of farmland and pine forests, and forced large-scale evacuations by land and sea.

The firefighting effort suffered a major setback when two crew members aboard a firefighting helicopter a Greek pilot and a Danish national were killed after their aircraft collided mid-air with another helicopter near the coastal community of Psatha, about 40 miles from Athens. The second helicopter, carrying a Greek and a British crew member, landed safely and its occupants survived.

Authorities deployed hundreds of firefighters, water

Wildfire at a Glance

■ Firefighters battle blaze for fourth day.

■ Two helicopter crew members killed in mid-air collision.

■ Homes, forests and farmland destroyed.

■ Twenty-one aircraft deployed for firefighting.

tankers and 21 aircraft to contain the blaze around the communities of Kandili and Agia Skepi.

Thick black smoke and towering flames continued to engulf dense pine forests as emergency crews used heavy machinery to create firebreaks aimed at preventing the wildfire from reaching nearby residential areas.

The wildfire is part of a wider wave of devastating

blazes that have swept across Europe this summer following prolonged heatwaves and below-average rainfall. Scientists have linked the increasing frequency and intensity of such fires to climate change. While France and Spain have also battled destructive fires, conditions there improved over the weekend.

Greek authorities have launched an investigation into the helicopter collision.

Preliminary findings also suggest that the wildfire in Boeotia, which later spread toward forests near Athens, may have been triggered by sparks from vibrating conductors on a private electricity line connected to wind turbines.

Two Greek nationals, an electrical engineer and a contractor, have been arrested and face felony arson charges in connection with the suspected cause of the blaze.

About 60,000 ordered to evacuate from fires in Spokane

NEW YORK

Around 60,000 people have been ordered to evacuate as wildfires threaten the city of Spokane in Washington state, local officials, adding the fires in the region had destroyed 600 buildings, including homes and businesses.

The Spokane Area Fire, which contains three separate blazes, was threatening the areas under evacuation orders, Spokane Fire Chief Tom Williams. The fires had burned 5,390 acres, according to a federal incident management team.

Williams said the fires had yet to be contained. No injuries or deaths had been reported, officials said at a Sunday afternoon news conference. Spokane Mayor Lisa Brown called it the worst natural disaster our region has faced. Around 10,000 electricity customers in the region had no power as of Sunday afternoon, Avista Utilities CEO Heather Rosentrader said. State officials have said that more than 250,000 acres (101,171 hectares) are burning across Washington state.

ical significance to the dispute. Independent political analyst Sandile Swana described the court battle as shadowboxing, suggesting that while the ANC and DA would publicly confront each other over land reform, the disagreement is unlikely to collapse the coalition.

The Expropriation Act also attracted international attention after U.S. President Donald Trump cited it while suspending aid to South Africa last year.

The South African government has consistently rejected Trump's criticism, maintaining that its land reform framework is comparable to expropriation laws in several other countries.

Flavio Bolsonaro closes in on Lula in Nexus/BTG poll for Brazil election

SAO PAULO

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Senator Flávio Bolsonaro are virtually tied ahead of the country's October presidential election, according to a Nexus/BTG Pactual opinion poll released on Monday, highlighting an increasingly competitive electoral contest.

The survey found that in a simulated second-round runoff, Lula would secure 46% of voter support, while Flávio Bolsonaro would receive 45%, placing the two candidates within the poll's margin of error and indicating a statistical tie.

The findings reflect a significant narrowing of the gap since the previous Nexus poll conducted on July 27, which showed Lula leading Bolsonaro by 47% to 43%.

Former Mali Prime Minister Moussa Mara Released After Serving Prison Sentence

DAKAR

Former Mali Prime Minister Moussa Mara has been released from prison after spending nearly a year in detention over social media posts that criticised the country's military-led government and expressed support for jailed political opponents.

Mara confirmed his release over the weekend through a video message posted on Facebook, marking the end of a high-profile case that drew attention to growing concerns over political freedoms and freedom of expression in Mali under military rule.

The former prime minister had been sentenced in October 2025 to two years in prison, with one year to be served in custody and the remaining year suspended on probation. The conviction stemmed from a social media post in which he criticised restrictions imposed by the military government on democratic processes and civil liberties.

Mara was first detained in August 2025 and charged

Ukraine drone strike hits resort

MOSCOW

Russia on Monday accused Ukraine of carrying out a drone attack that killed four people, including a child, and injured 10 others at the Black Sea holiday resort of Gendzhik in the southern Krasnodar region.

According to regional governor Veniamin Kondratyev, the attack targeted civilian infrastructure near the resort, particularly the nearby village of Arkhipo-Osipovka. He described the incident as a tragedy and said emergency response teams had been rushed to the affected area.

Local authorities said the death toll rose to four after drone debris struck the village. Among the injured were two adults and one child, who were taken to hospital for treatment.

A specialist disaster medicine team was also deployed on the governor's instructions to assist victims and coordinate rescue efforts.

Unverified videos circulating on social media appeared to show a drone crashing into a beach area before triggering a powerful explosion. Reuters could not independently verify

A Ukrainian drone attack reportedly killed four people, including a child, and injured 10 others in Russia's Krasnodar region

the authenticity of the footage.

Ukraine did not immediately comment on the Russian claims. Both Kyiv and Moscow have repeatedly maintained that they do not deliberately target civilians during the conflict, though both sides have frequently accused each other of attacking civilian infrastructure.

The latest incident comes amid continuing cross-border drone attacks that have increasingly affected areas far from the front lines. Russia has regularly reported Ukrainian drone strikes on regions bordering or near the Black Sea, while Ukraine has accused Russia of launching sustained missile and drone attacks on its cities and civilian facilities.

The war, now well into its fifth year, continues to witness escalating aerial attacks despite repeated international calls for restraint and civilian protection.

Death toll from migrant rush to Ceuta rises to 72

CEUTA

The death toll from a mass rush of migrants from Morocco into the Spanish enclave of Ceuta last week reached at least 72, as five more bodies were found along the North African coast, officials said.

The number of fatalities was considerably higher than what was announced by Moroccan authorities. More than 50,000 people crossed into Ceuta by land and sea in an unprece-

dent ed surge that began on Thursday at one of the European Union's only two land borders with Africa, prompting alarm across the bloc. More than 48,000 returned to Morocco within 48 hours and more did so over the weekend, Spanish authorities said.

The Spanish government representative in Ceuta, Miguel Angel Perez, told reporters that in addition to the 72 fatalities, over 1,000 had been treated by health services.

The case centred on a July 2025 social media post in which Mara expressed solidarity with government critics who had been arrested and imprisoned. He was subsequently summoned several times by investigators before being formally detained and prosecuted.

IN THE COURT OF THE HONOURABLE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT BHADRAVATHI O.S.No.520 / 2024.

Plaintiff : Canara Bank V/s

Defendant : Anitha & Others

Summons / Notice to the Defendant No.1 & No.2 (a) and (b).

Defendant No.1. Smt. Anitha, K D/o Kumar, Aged about 38 Years,

Defendant No.2. Sri.Kumar Since dead by his LRS.

2. (a) Smt. Gangamma, W/o Late Kumar Aged about 50 years, 2. (b) Sri. Rav Kumar, S/o Late Kumar, Aged About 30 Years, All are Agriculturists, All R/o Door No.7/ 165, Ward No.1, 3rd Cross, Paper Town, Bhadravathi.

NOTICE.

Whereas the Plaintiff has filed the above case against 1st & 2nd of you seeking recovery suit claim of Rs.2,34,885.02/- with cost and future interest @9.95% +2 Penal interest being the Agricultural loan. It is learnt that 2nd defendant is no more and defendant No.2 (a) & (b) are the only legal heirs to the deceased 2d defendant i.e. deceased Sri.Kumar. Hence Defendant No.1 and 2 (a) & (b). You all are directed to appear before the Principal Civil Judge & JMFC Court at Bhadravathi, Shimoga District, on 05-09-2026 to attend the above case at 11. A.M. and also to answer the case. If you failed to appear before this Court on that day either in person or through your Counsel, you will be placed exparte in the above case, and the case will be disposed off in accordance with law.

By Order of the Court

Sheristedar, Pri. Civil Judge, Bhadravathi

Advocate: B.S.Mahesh Kumar.

Dt: 21-07-2026

NAME CHANGE

I, Shabana Bano W/o Muejeb Ahmammad & D/o Abdul Khuddus M., residing at #52, 3rd Cross, Ward No. 22, Rehamaniya Nagar, Kothipura, Ramanagara-562159, do hereby declare that my name has been incorrectly mentioned as SHABHAN KOUSAR BANU W/o Majeed Ahmad and D/o Abdul Khuddus M. in certain records and documents. My correct and actual name is SHABANA BANO W/o Muejeb Ahmammad and D/o Abdul Khuddus M. only.

Henceforth, I shall be known and recognized by the name SHABANA BANO W/o Muejeb Ahmammad and D/o Abdul Khuddus M. for all legal, official, personal and all other purposes. Sworn before

Ramanagara Notary

Puttaraju P., Date: 03.08.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is given to the General public that my client, Canara Bank, Madaluru branch, Sira Taluk, Tumkur Dist, is going to sanction loan in favour of Smt. Susheelamma w/o Srinivasa.S, aged about 43 years, Resident of Hariyajihalli village, Hulikute Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur Dist, against security of below mentioned schedule property. As per the information from Smt.Susheelamma, has Unfortunately misplaced Original Grant certificate dt.24.12.1998, in CR NO.441/1991-92. In this regard she has lodged complaint online portal, vide No. 2342575/2026 Report, dt.01.08.2026 Hence anybody having title interest, and right in any manner over the schedule property, may intimate the same in writing with documentary evidence to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of this publication, failing which my client will proceed with the loan transactions as not claimed. Further it is requested that if anybody finds above said Original Grant certificate dt.24.12.1998, the same may be handed over either to me or to my client Bank. SCHEDULE: Land bearing Sy No.645 (old Sy No.440) Measuring 2 acres 20 guntas, situated at Madaluru village, kasaba Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District.

Advocate and Notary

H.Wajid Ahmed

R.T.Road Sira Town

Mob: 9448101786



venue or identify the participants involved.

Iran's Foreign Ministry swiftly rejected the assertion. Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said there were no negotiations with Washington and no meetings planned. He

added that Iran had no intention of hosting foreign delegations or sending negotiators abroad in the coming days.

Baghaei said all Iranian negotiators were currently in the country except Foreign Minis-

ter Abbas Araqchi, who was on a religious pilgrimage in Iraq. The only ongoing discussions, he clarified, involved Oman and focused on managing navigation through the strategically significant Strait of Hormuz.

A senior Iranian source also confirmed that no talks with the United States were scheduled and said Araqchi would remain unavailable until at least the end of the week.

The exchange reflects a recurring pattern since Trump launched Operation Epic Fury alongside Israel more than five months ago. On several occasions, Trump has threatened large-scale mili-

tary action against Iran before citing diplomatic engagement as the reason for stepping back.

The disagreement also highlights continuing tensions over the Strait of Hormuz, a vital global shipping route. While Washington says previous understandings required Iran to ensure unrestricted access, Tehran insists the agreement preserved its authority over the waterway. Trump's latest decision to refrain from military action contributed to a decline in oil prices, with Brent crude falling more than 4% to around \$84 a barrel.

Chelsea sign Valentin Barco until 2033

Barco will join Xabi Alonso and his new Chelsea teammates later in pre-season

LONDON

Chelsea FC have confirmed the signing of Argentine international Valentin Barco from RC Strasbourg, with the 22-year-old midfielder agreeing to a long-term contract that will keep him at Stamford Bridge until 2033.

Barco is expected to join manager Xabi Alonso and his new Chelsea teammates later in the pre-season as the club continues preparations for the upcoming campaign.

The talented Argentine began his professional career at Boca Juniors, where he progressed through the club's academy before making his senior debut at the age of 16. During his time with the Buenos Aires-based side, he won several titles and established himself as one of Argentina's most promising young players.

In 2024, Barco moved to England to join Brighton & Hove Albion. He later gained valuable experience during loan spells with Spanish club

Sevilla and French side RC Strasbourg. Following an impressive period in France, Strasbourg secured his services on a permanent basis.

Barco enjoyed a breakthrough 2024-25 campaign and played an important role in helping Strasbourg qualify for European football. Last season, he registered 12 goal contributions in 43 appearances across all competitions and was part of the Strasbourg team that reached the semi-finals of the UEFA Conference League.

His consistent club performances earned him a place in Argentina's squad for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. At 21, Barco was the youngest member of the team that reached the final before suffering a narrow 1-0 defeat to Spain.

Barco has made five appearances for Argentina's senior national team and scored twice. He netted his first international goal in a 5-0 friendly victory over Zambia and added another during a World Cup warm-up match

against Iceland in June 2026. He also made his World Cup debut in Argentina's group-stage win over Jordan. Chelsea will hope Barco's versatility, creativity and international experience strengthen their midfield options in the coming seasons.



Duleep trophy begins August 23

BENGALURU

The 2026-27 Indian domestic cricket season will begin with the Duleep Trophy, with the prestigious red-ball tournament scheduled to be held from August 23 to September 10 at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

The competition will follow the zonal format, featuring six teams representing different regions of the country. The tournament will be played across three rounds, including the opening matches, semi-finals and final.

Defending champions Central Zone, led by Rajat Patidar, have received a direct entry into the semi-finals after winning the title last season. South Zone, the runners-up in the previous edition, have also secured an automatic place in the last four.

The opening round will feature East Zone against North-



East Zone at COE Ground 2, while North Zone will face West Zone at COE Ground 1. Both matches will be played from August 23 to 26, beginning at 9.30 a.m. The semi-finals are scheduled from August 30 to September 2. Central Zone will play the winner of one opening-round match, while South Zone will face the remaining qualifier. The final will be held from September 6 to 10 at COE Ground 1.

Several prominent domestic and international players are

expected to feature. South Zone will be captained by Tilak Varma, while Ishan Kishan will lead East Zone. Rajat Patidar will captain Central Zone, with Rinku Singh serving as vice-captain.

West Zone will be led by Ruturaj Gaikwad and includes experienced players such as Prithvi Shaw, Sarfaraz Khan and Shardul Thakur. The tournament is expected to provide an important platform for players seeking national selection.

Chhetri calls Jamshedpur exit "Punch in the gut"

NEW DELHI

Indian football legend Sunil Chhetri has expressed deep disappointment over Jamshedpur FC's decision to withdraw from the upcoming Indian Super League season, describing the development as "a punch in the gut" and urging the club's management to reconsider its decision.

Jamshedpur FC announced its withdrawal from the ISL on July 31, shortly after missing the deadline for payment of the participation fee for the new season. The upcoming ISL campaign is scheduled to begin on September 4.

Chhetri said the club's exit would be a major setback for Indian football, particularly because Jamshedpur FC has established a strong identity and built a loyal fan base since joining the league.

The club enjoyed one of its finest seasons in 2021-22 when it won the ISL Winners' Shield after finishing at the top of the league standings. The achievement remains a significant milestone in the club's history and highlighted its growth as a competitive force in Indian football.

The former India captain called on the management to reconsider the withdrawal, stressing that the club has contributed significantly to the development and popularity of football in the country.



Jamshedpur FC's decision has raised concerns among supporters and the wider football community, with questions emerging over the impact on players, staff, fans and the structure of the upcoming ISL season.

Chhetri's reaction reflects the concern surrounding the future of one of the league's prominent clubs. His appeal adds to calls for a resolution that could allow Jamshedpur FC to remain part of the competition and continue its contribution to Indian football.

Cullinan calls for format-specific cricket squads

NEW DELHI

Former South Africa batter Daryll Cullinan has argued that cricket should move towards dedicated squads and specialist player development for each format, saying the expectation that batters can consistently excel in Tests, One-Day Internationals and T20s is no longer realistic.

Writing in his column, Cullinan said modern scheduling, franchise cricket and T20-focused coaching have produced players with "hybrid techniques" that often struggle in demanding Test conditions. He noted that players are frequently required to shift rapidly between aggressive white-ball cricket and the patience and technical discipline needed in the longest format.

Cullinan cited India's recent tour of the United Kingdom as an example, claiming



Bumrah ruled out; Nabi gets call-up

NEW DELHI

India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the two-Test series against Sri Lanka later this month as he continues to recover from a left knee injury, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced on Monday.

Bumrah sustained the injury while fielding during a One-Day International against England in Cardiff in July. He was initially included in the squad, subject to a final fitness assessment, and had been undergoing rehabilitation at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

However, persistent discomfort in his left knee led the selectors to withdraw him from the squad. Uncapped Jammu and Kashmir fast

bowler Auqib Nabi has been named as his replacement.

The 29-year-old Nabi earned his maiden senior India call-up following impressive performances in domestic cricket. He claimed 104 wickets across the last two Ranji Trophy seasons and played a key role in Jammu and Kashmir's historic first Ranji Trophy title in the 2025-26 season, taking 60 wickets.

The BCCI added that batter Sai Sudharsan's participation remains subject to fitness clearance.

India will begin the two-Test series against Sri Lanka in Galle on August 15. The second and final Test will be played in Colombo from August 23.

Shubman Gill will lead the Indian side, with KL Rahul serving as vice-captain. The squad also includes Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna



Kohli's passion keeps cricket entertaining: Chaudhary

NEW DELHI

Former international umpire Anil Chaudhary has said that energetic and expressive players like Virat Kohli are essential to keeping cricket exciting and entertaining.

Speaking on JioHotstar, Chaudhary said he had known Kohli since his early playing days and described the former India captain as highly competitive but free of malice. He noted that Kohli may react aggressively during matches but also appreciates fair decisions and maintains a friendly relationship with officials.

"Players like him should be there; otherwise, the game will get boring," Chaudhary said, highlighting the value of strong personalities in modern cricket.

Reflecting on heated on-field exchanges, including Kohli's famous IPL confrontation with Gautam Gambhir, Chaudhary said aggression is a natural part of the competitive culture among many northern Indian players. However, he stressed that such behaviour must remain within acceptable limits.

Chaudhary also defended run-outs at the non-striker's end, saying batters who leave



the crease early gain an unfair advantage. He predicted that cricket authorities could introduce a structured system involving warnings and run penalties to discourage repeated early starts.

Former India opener Aakash Chopra recalled a humorous exchange involving Virender Sehwag and veteran umpire Steve Bucknor, while former fast bowler Umesh Yadav admitted that players sometimes use light-hearted banter to distract or challenge officials during tense situations.

Chaudhary's remarks underline the importance of passion, personality and controlled aggression in preserving cricket's appeal.

MONSOON PICKLEBALL championship draws 1,200

MUMBAI

The Monsoon Pickleball Championship 4.0 concluded at the Andheri Sports Complex after attracting more than 1,200 athletes who competed across 48 categories over five days. Organised by Global Sports, the tournament was held from July 29 to August 2 and featured intense competition among leading professional players and emerging talents. The large participation highlighted the growing popularity of pickleball across India.

Harsh Mehta and Arjun Singh claimed the Pro Men's Doubles title after defeating Tejas Gulati and Kashyap Baranwal. Arjun also secured the Pro Mixed Doubles crown alongside Naomi Amalsadiwala. The pair prevailed in a closely contested three-set final against Pearl Amalsadiwala and Divyanshu Kataria, winning the deciding set 13-11.

Pearl and Naomi Amalsadiwala continued their strong run in the Pro Women's Doubles category, defeating Khushi Desai and Snehal Patil in the final.

Diwakar Agarwal won the Pro Men's Singles title after beating Rashein Samuel 11-9, 11-6. Earlier, Agarwal had defeated home favourite Arjun Singh in the semi-finals. Khushi Desai emerged victorious in the Pro Women's Singles final, overcoming Shreya Chakraborty 11-9, 11-0.

The final-day medals were presented by Maharashtra Legislative Council Deputy Chairperson Sachin Ahir, who praised the organisers for promoting talent and helping expand the sport's reach.

The championship's record participation and competitive depth underlined pickleball's rapid growth in India and its increasing appeal among athletes across age groups and skill levels.



Aiden Markram downplays LSG captaincy speculation

LONDON

South Africa T20I captain Aiden Markram has played down speculation linking him with the vacant captaincy position at Lucknow Super Giants, saying the franchise has several quality leaders and that the decision rests entirely with the management.

The leadership role became vacant after Rishabh Pant stepped down in May following LSG's bottom-place finish in IPL 2026. Pant was later traded to Delhi Capitals in exchange for left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav.

Markram is considered a strong contender because of his leadership experience with teams owned by the RPSG Group in the SA20 and The Hundred. However, the South African batter said he had not given the IPL captaincy much thought. "I've got no idea. They can decide whatever they think is best. There are some quality leaders in the group, so I'm not too fussed about it," Markram said.

Australia T20I captain Mitchell Marsh and former West Indies captain Nicholas Pooran are also among the leading options within the current LSG squad. The franchise may additionally consider leadership choices during the IPL mini-auction.

Markram also discussed his experience of captaining in The Hundred, describing the 100-ball format as fast-paced and challenging. He credited England white-ball veteran Jos Buttler for providing valuable support.

The 31-year-old recently ended a run of low scores with a half-century, although his team lost the match. Markram said the innings helped him regain rhythm and confidence, and he hopes to build on the performance in upcoming games.



Quick Read

Sberbank surpasses Tesla in Global 500 ranking

NEW DELHI

Sberbank has secured the 64th position in the Fortune Global 500 ranking, surpassing Tesla at 116th and Nike at 336th. The Russian banking giant climbed 152 places over the past two years, with annual revenue rising 36.8 per cent to \$135.1 billion and profit increasing 19.5 per cent to \$20.4 billion. Sberbank was the highest-ranked among nine Russian companies on the list. The Fortune Global 500 companies generated combined revenue of \$43.1 trillion in 2025 and employed 70.2 million people. Sberbank, operating in India for over 15 years, is also developing a new business centre in Delhi.

Google selects 20 Indian AI startups

NEW DELHI

Google has selected 20 AI-powered Indian startups for the 2026 cohort of its Play Accelerator India programme. The three-month, equity-free initiative will provide hands-on support in AI integration, app quality, security, growth and monetisation. The selected startups operate across education, healthcare, gaming, agriculture, finance, e-commerce, productivity, lifestyle and entertainment. Google said the programme combines Play's product expertise with its wider technology ecosystem to help developers build scalable and globally relevant products. Participants will receive mentorship and practical guidance to strengthen their applications, expand user reach and explore opportunities in international markets.

Essar marks 15 years at Stanlow

STANLOW

Essar Group has celebrated 15 years of ownership of the Stanlow Manufacturing Complex, one of Europe's advanced refining assets. Since acquiring the site in 2011, Essar has invested £1 billion in modernisation, improving efficiency, expanding crude-processing capabilities and upgrading key infrastructure. The company recently completed a £100 million refinery turnaround, increasing throughput by around 8 per cent, and commissioning the UK's first hydrogen-ready refinery furnace. Essar is advancing a £4.3 billion investment pipeline to transform Stanlow into an energy-transition hub, with hydrogen production, retail expansion and potential data-centre development forming key parts of its future growth strategy.

Free services carry hidden economic costs

NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran has cautioned against the growing dependence on "free services" in public policy, saying below-cost pricing of utilities and infrastructure can weaken public finances and undermine long-term development. Speaking at the CII Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Summit 2026, Nageswaran said providing essential services below their economic cost creates financial distortions that must eventually be absorbed by taxpayers or reflected in the deterioration of public assets. "Free is the most expensive word in public policy,"



ASSOCHAM signs trade partnership agreements

They will also organize trade fairs, exhibitions, conferences, and various other business-development activities

NEW DELHI

Apex industry body ASSOCHAM has signed strategic Memorandums of Understanding with Business France and the India & Arab Countries Chamber of Commerce (IACCIA) to strengthen trade, investment and business cooperation between India, France and Arab nations.

The agreements were signed during the ASSOCHAM MoU Signing Ceremony and aim to deepen India's global economic partnerships through institutional cooperation, business exchanges, investment facilitation, technology collaboration and improved market access across multiple sectors.

Under the partnership with Business France, the organisations will promote trade and investment opportunities, en-



The agreements reflect ASSOCHAM's commitment to building stronger institutional links that help businesses connect with global partners, explore new markets and create sustainable long-term value.

-Saurabh Sanyal, ASSOCHAM Secretary General

courage technology partnerships and joint ventures, support business delegations and exchange market intelligence. They will also organise trade fairs, exhibitions, conferences and other business-development activities.

ASSOCHAM Secretary General Saurabh Sanyal said India's increasing engagement with international markets offers significant opportunities for companies to expand investments, partnerships and

innovation.

Vianney Meynier, Head of the Agricultural Export Division at Business France, said the partnership would support stronger commercial ties between French and Indian enterprises through greater engagement among companies, institutions and investors.

The MoU with IACCIA focuses on promoting trade and investment between India and Arab countries. It includes facilitating business delega-

American Bitcoin posts \$57.2M quarterly loss

The decline pressured crypto companies & devalued digital asset holdings.

NEW YORK

American Bitcoin, the cryptocurrency mining company backed by two sons of U.S. President Donald Trump, reported a second-quarter loss of \$57.2 million on Monday as a sharp decline in Bitcoin prices weighed on its financial performance.

The company had recorded a profit of \$3.4 million during the corresponding quarter last year. Despite the loss, its revenue more than doubled to around \$67 million from \$30.3 million a year earlier, reflecting increased mining activity and expansion of its Bitcoin holdings.

Bitcoin prices fell by more than 11% during the April-June quarter as rising geopolitical tensions pushed investors towards safer assets and triggered a broader risk-off sentiment across financial markets. The decline placed pressure on cryptocurrency-related companies and reduced the value of digital as-



set holdings.

American Bitcoin continued to expand its operations despite the market downturn. Its Bitcoin holdings increased by 14% from the previous quarter to more than 8,000 coins.

The company also achieved record quarterly production, mining approximately 932 Bitcoin during the second quarter. The increase was driven by its continued focus on expanding mining capacity and improving operational performance.

Chief Executive Officer Mike Ho said the company remained focused on factors within its control despite challenging market conditions.

"Despite Bitcoin headwinds in the second quarter, we stayed focused on what we

American Bitcoin expands despite loss

Revenue more than doubled to \$67 million as mining activity surged. Despite holding over 8,000 coins, falling Bitcoin prices triggered a quarterly loss, contrasting with last year's profit, amid broader financial market pressures.

can control," Ho said.

The results highlight the volatility faced by cryptocurrency mining companies, whose earnings are heavily influenced by changes in Bitcoin prices, mining costs and broader investor sentiment.

While higher production and revenue demonstrated continued operational growth, the substantial quarterly loss underscored the financial risks associated with sharp movements in digital asset markets.

Global factories face demand, cost pressures

LONDON

Manufacturing activity across major economies faced weaker demand and elevated production costs in July as the prolonged Iran war disrupted energy supplies and increased uncertainty in global markets.

Surveys showed that factory activity in China slowed, with growth in new orders falling to its weakest pace since January. The five-month conflict in the Middle East has severely affected shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for Gulf energy exports, contributing to higher energy costs for manufacturers. In the euro zone, the S&P Global Manufacturing Purchasing Manag-

ers' Index rose to 51.9 in July from 51.4 in June, reaching its highest level since April. A reading above 50 indicates expansion. However, the increase was largely driven by companies clearing existing order backlogs rather than a significant improvement in new demand.

Economists said the euro zone economy remained more resilient than expected but was likely to experience only modest growth unless conditions in the Middle East improved.

Inflation in the euro area increased to 2.9% in July from 2.8% in June, strengthening expectations that the European Central Bank could consider another interest-rate increase.



Higher borrowing costs may further weaken consumer spending and business demand.

Germany's manufacturing sector expanded at the start of the third quarter, although analysts warned that sustained growth could be difficult without a resolution to the Middle

East conflict and greater stability in oil prices.

France returned to manufacturing contraction, while growth in Italy slowed. Britain's factory activity expanded for a ninth consecutive month but recorded its weakest pace in four months.

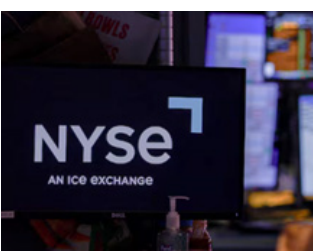
AMERICAN DEPOSITORY SHARES

Londian Wason targets \$1.7B US IPO

NEW YORK

Chinese copper foil manufacturer Londian Wason New Energy Tech is targeting a valuation of up to \$1.7 billion through its planned initial public offering in the United States, potentially making it the largest New York listing by a Chinese company this year.

The Shenzhen-based company plans to raise up to \$78.6 million by offering around 3.6 million American Depositary Shares at a price range of \$20 to \$22 per share. If the over-allotment option is fully exercised, the offering could generate up to \$90.4



million.

The proposed listing will test investor appetite for Chinese companies in the United States amid heightened geopolitical tensions between Washington and Beijing. Chinese IPO activity in New York has slowed over the past year as regulatory scrutiny increased and Beijing encour-

Williams expects inflation to ease gradually

John Williams expects disinflationary forces to strengthen in the second half and persist through 2027.

NEW YORK

New York Federal Reserve President John Williams said he expects inflationary pressures in the United States to ease gradually, but stressed that the central bank would act, including through interest-rate increases, if price growth fails to return towards its 2% target.

In an interview with Reuters, Williams said inflation could moderate if energy prices and trade-related pressures peak while the economy remains on a stable footing. He expects disinflationary forces to strengthen during the second half of the year and continue into 2027.

Williams said he is closely monitoring core inflation data to determine whether the economy is moving towards a sustainable return to the Federal Reserve's 2% target by 2028.

The Federal Reserve's preferred inflation measure rose 3.7% year-on-year in June, remaining well above the target. Inflation has not been at or below 2% for more than five years.

At its latest meeting, the Federal Open Market Committee kept the federal funds target range unchanged at 3.50% to 3.75%. Williams said he strongly supported the



Summary

- Fed's preferred inflation measure rose 3.7%.
- Target range kept at 3.50% to 3.75%.
- Further monetary tightening remains possible.
- Markets expect a potential rate hike.
- Uncertainty surrounds energy and trade.

decision, describing the current policy stance as "well positioned."

However, he added that if the economy does not move towards lower inflation, further monetary tightening would be appropriate. Financial markets have also increased expectations of a possible rate hike by the end of the year.

Williams acknowledged uncertainty surrounding energy prices, trade tariffs and the conflict in the Middle East but said inflationary pressures could ease quickly if conditions improve and shipping activity normalises.

He also said the Federal Reserve would make policy decisions based on its own economic assessment rather than market expectations.

On artificial intelligence, Williams expressed confidence that investment in the sector does not currently pose major financial-stability risks, noting that many companies involved have strong earnings and manageable debt levels.

KKR BUYS INTEGER HOLDINGS FOR \$5.7B

NEW YORK

Private equity giant KKR & Co. will acquire medical-device outsourcing company Integer Holdings in an all-cash transaction valued at \$5.7 billion, the companies announced on Monday.

Under the agreement, KKR will pay \$127 per share for Integer Holdings, representing a premium of about 4.8% over the company's closing share price on Friday.

Shares of the Plano, Texas-based company rose around 2% in premarket trading following the announcement.

The acquisition will provide KKR with control of a major contract developer and manufacturer serving the global medical technology industry. Integer designs and produces critical medical-device components and technologies used by several leading healthcare equipment companies.

Its products are incorporated into a wide range of medical devices, including pacemakers, defibrillators, catheters and neurostimulation implants. The company also supplies components used in heart treatment systems, pain-management therapies and other advanced medical technologies.



The transaction reflects continued investor interest in the healthcare and medical-device sector, where demand is supported by technological innovation, ageing populations and increased healthcare spending.

Integer operates as an outsourcing partner for medical technology companies, providing development, engineering and manufacturing services.

Its specialised capabilities allow medical-device manufacturers to outsource the production of complex components while focusing on research, product development and commercial expansion.

The deal is expected to be completed by the end of 2026, subject to customary closing conditions and regulatory approvals.

Following the completion of the acquisition, KKR is expected to support Integer's long-term growth strategy and expansion in the global medical technology market.



Rahane hails India's fantastic CWG campaign



NEW DELHI

Former India cricketer Ajinkya Rahane praised the Indian contingent for its impressive performance at the Common-

wealth Games 2026, describing the campaign as “fantastic” and congratulating the athletes for making the nation proud.

India concluded the Glasgow Games with a strong overall performance, securing 39 medals, including 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze medals, to finish fourth in the final standings.

Rahane said the athletes had delivered memorable performances and brought immense pride to the country through their achievements on the international stage.

The former India Test captain also encouraged athletes who narrowly missed out on

Rahane praised the medal winners for their unwavering dedication, determination, and consistent effort throughout the competition

podium finishes, urging them to continue working hard and remain focused on their future goals. His message highlighted the importance of perseverance and learning from every competition.

India's campaign featured notable performances across several sporting disciplines, with athletes displaying strong technical ability, resilience and competitive spirit.

The contingent's medal haul reflected the growing depth of Indian sport and the impact of improved training, infrastructure and athlete-development programmes.

Rahane's appreciation added to the widespread praise received by the Indian team following the conclusion of the Games. The former batter, who recently retired from international cricket, has continued to support Indian athletes and celebrate their achievements.

The successful CWG campaign is expected to provide further confidence to Indian athletes as they prepare for upcoming international events, including the Asian Games and other major global competitions.



The campaign brought medal success, breakthrough achievements, new national stars, and shattered barriers across sports

MUMBAI

India's memorable Commonwealth Games 2026 campaign in Glasgow produced a string of historic firsts and introduced several promising new stars, raising hopes ahead of next month's Asian Games.

India finished fourth in the overall standings with 39 medals, including 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze. The achievement exceeded expectations, particularly as the Glasgow edition featured a reduced sporting programme that limited India's traditional medal opportunities.

Several sports that contributed significantly to India's medal tally at the 2022 Commonwealth Games were excluded from the 2026 pro-

Glasgow success offers India fresh hope

gramme. Six of the 12 disciplines in which India won medals in Birmingham were removed, accounting for 30 of India's 61 medals in the previous edition.

Despite the reduced number of events, Indian athletes delivered impressive performances across the available disciplines. The campaign was marked not only by medal success but also by breakthrough achievements, new national stars and barriers being broken in several sports.

For many athletes, however, Glasgow was viewed as an important checkpoint rather than the main target of the season. The Asian Games, scheduled for next month,

will provide a tougher and more realistic assessment of India's progress.

Unlike the Commonwealth Games, the Asian Games will feature stronger competition from major sporting nations, including China, Japan, South Korea, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Indian athletes will face greater depth and higher standards across disciplines.

The Glasgow campaign has nevertheless provided confidence and momentum. Established champions maintained their consistency, while emerging athletes demonstrated their ability to perform under international pressure.

India's success in Scotland has created optimism about the country's sporting future. However, the upcoming Asian Games will determine whether the promising performances and new stars from Glasgow can translate into sustained success against stronger continental competition.

Mandaviya honours CWG weightlifting medallists

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated India's Commonwealth Games 2026 weightlifting medallists with cash rewards, praising their historic performances in Glasgow.

Indian weightlifters competed across 11 weight categories and won eight medals, including one gold, six silver and one bronze. The contingent also set several Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth records, while multiple athletes achieved personal-best lifts.

Mandaviya presented cash awards of Rs 30 lakh to gold medallists, Rs 20 lakh to silver medallists and Rs 10 lakh to bronze medallists. Congrat-



KEY POINTS
• Mandaviya presented cash awards to medallists.
• Athletes made the nation proud.
• Minister recognized Coach Vijay Sharma.
• Mirabai won three consecutive golds.
• Multiple athletes set new records.

ulating the athletes, he said their achievements had made the entire nation proud and were celebrated even in Parliament. The minister also recognised the contribution of coaches, including Dronacharya Award recipient Vijay Sharma, describing their role as vital in developing champions.

Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu created histo-

ry by becoming the first Indian weightlifter to win three consecutive Commonwealth Games gold medals. Rishikanta Singh and Valluri Ajay Babu set new Commonwealth Games records in the snatch, while Gyaneshwari Yadav and Harjinder Kaur recorded personal-best performances.

Mandaviya highlighted the role of Khelo India and Sports Authority of India training

centres in nurturing athletes. He urged the medallists to visit schools and colleges and inspire young people to pursue sports.

The minister encouraged athletes preparing for the Asian Games 2026 to continue improving and assured them of the government's support, emphasising India's long-term vision of building a stronger sporting culture.

Yogi hails India's glorious CWG campaign

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath congratulated the Indian contingent for its impressive performance at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow, describing the campaign as a “glorious chapter” in India's sporting journey.

India finished fourth in the overall medal standings with a total of 39 medals, including 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze. The Indian athletes delivered strong performances across several disciplines and exceeded expectations despite the Games featuring a reduced sporting programme.

In a post on X, Adityanath

praised the athletes for their outstanding achievements and said their performances had brought pride to the country. He highlighted India's historic results in boxing, athletics, judo and para-athletics, describing the campaign as a significant milestone for Indian sport.

The Chief Minister credited the country's improving sporting ecosystem to sustained investment in world-class infrastructure, athlete welfare and grassroots talent identification. He said the growing support system was helping Indian athletes compete more confidently and consistently on the international stage.

Sakshi's left jab powers golden arrival

GLASGOW

India's Sakshi Chaudhary announced her arrival on the senior stage by winning the women's 51kg boxing gold medal at the Commonwealth Games 2026, defeating England's unbeaten Ruby White by a commanding 5-0 verdict.

White entered the final with an impressive 70-fight winning streak, but Sakshi used her sharp left jab, long reach and disciplined movement to control the contest. The Bhiwani boxer prevented her opponent from closing the distance and combined her jab with effective right straights, left hooks and counterattacks.

The gold medal ended a long wait for Sakshi, whose career had been disrupted by a serious shoulder injury that kept her out of action for



nearly 18 months. During her recovery, she struggled with frustration and uncertainty but received strong support from her family, coach Jagdish Singh and close friend Nitu Ghanghas.

Sakshi began boxing after being inspired by Olympic medallist Vijender Singh. She enjoyed major success at the junior and youth levels, winning a World Junior title in 2016 and youth titles in 2017 and 2018. However, the transition to senior boxing proved challenging.

After competing in the 54kg category, Sakshi moved down to 51kg and defeated leading contenders, including Nikhat Zareen and Minakshi Hooda, during the selection trials to secure her place in the Commonwealth Games squad.

Seema seeks stronger support for athletics

HARYANA

Commonwealth Games 2026 bronze medallist Seema Kaliramma has expressed hope that athletics will receive the same level of enthusiasm and support in Bhiwani as boxing, which has made the Haryana city a prominent sporting hub.

Seema's medal-winning performance at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games has brought attention to her achievements and highlighted the growing potential of athletes from the region. She said she hopes her success will encourage more young people, especially girls, to take up athletics and pursue competitive sport.

Bhiwani is widely known for producing several accomplished boxers and has earned a strong reputation as a centre for the sport. Seema believes athletics can also develop a similar culture if young athletes receive proper coaching, facilities and encouragement.

The bronze medallist said increased public interest could motivate children to participate in track and field events and help identify talented athletes at an early age. She also emphasised the importance of support from families, coaches and local authorities in helping athletes progress.

India finished fourth at the Commonwealth Games 2026 with 39 medals, including 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze.

als, including 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze. The campaign featured historic performances in athletics, boxing, judo and para-athletics, reflecting the country's growing sporting depth.

Seema's achievement has added to the optimism surrounding Indian athletics. She hopes her medal will inspire a new generation in Bhiwani and help create a stronger sporting culture beyond the city's traditional success in boxing.

Indian athletes delivered notable performances across several disciplines, showcasing the country's growing



GLASGOW

The Commonwealth Games 2026 concluded in Glasgow with Scotland formally handing over the baton to India, which is set to host the 2030 edition in Ahmedabad.

The closing ceremony marked the end of a successful Games and signalled the beginning of India's preparations to stage one of the world's biggest multi-sport events. The handover placed Ahmedabad in the global sporting spotlight as the city prepares to welcome athletes and delegations from across the Commonwealth in 2030.

India enjoyed a strong campaign at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, finishing fourth in the overall medal standings. The Indian contingent won 39 medals, comprising 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze.

Indian athletes delivered notable performances across several disciplines, showcasing the country's growing



sporting depth and competitive strength. The medal tally reflected the contribution of established champions as well as emerging athletes who impressed on the international stage.

The successful campaign also provided momentum for India's long-term sporting ambitions. With the Commonwealth Games returning to the country after two decades, preparations are expected to focus on developing world-class infrastructure, strengthening athlete support systems and ensuring a memorable

experience for participants and spectators.

Ahmedabad's hosting of the 2030 Games is expected to boost sports development, tourism and infrastructure while creating opportunities for young athletes and local communities.

The formal handover from Scotland to India brought the Glasgow Games to a close and marked the start of a new chapter. India will now look to build on its 2026 performances and deliver a successful Commonwealth Games on home soil in 2030.

PM Modi hails India's CWG success

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the Indian contingent for its impressive performance at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow, praising the athletes for their skill, determination and dedication.

India concluded the Games with 39 medals, including 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze, finishing fourth in the overall medal standings. The strong campaign featured several historic achievements and outstanding performances across multiple disciplines.

In a message appreciating the contingent, the Prime Minister said the athletes had displayed exceptional commitment and brought pride to the nation. He noted that their hard work and achievements would continue to inspire



young people to pursue sports and strive for excellence.

India's campaign was marked by notable performances from both established champions and emerging athletes. The contingent produced several record-breaking displays and achieved important milestones despite competing in a reduced sporting programme.

