



India-Qatar
call for talks to
ease Mideast
tensions

P9



States likely
to raise up to
Rs 14 lakh cr
in FY27: ICRA

P11

P12

Padikkal credits
mindset shift
for white-ball
success with RCB



IRAN'S TOP TECH VARSITY BOMBED

34 killed as US-Israel jets bomb military and AI infra, and residential areas across Tehran | Iran says it will respond 'in kind' to any attacks, warns Trump threats an 'incitement to war crimes'; In response, Trump says striking Iran infra wouldn't be war crimes as "they're animals"

TEHRAN

At least 34 people have been killed, including six children, as the US and Israel carried out massive attacks across Iran, targeting a top university as well as residential areas, after US President Donald Trump set a Tuesday deadline for Tehran to fully reopen the Strait of Hormuz or face strikes on its power plants and bridges.

As per reports, an air attack killed 23 people, including four girls and two boys aged below 10 years, in Tehran province's Baharestan County.

At least five people were killed in an attack on a residential building in the city of Qom, according to the political and security deputy of the governor, Morteza Heydari. Six others were killed in Bandar-e Lengeh, in southern Iran, authorities said.

At least a dozen cities were hit across Iran, including Bandar Abbas, Ahvaz, Mahshahr, Shiraz, Isfahan and Karaj.

US-Israeli strikes also hit Sharif University in Tehran, one of Iran's leading scientific universities, often com-



pared with the US's Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

"The Sharif area has witnessed other attacks, including one on a gas facility," reports say. Other civil facilities, including roads, power plants and bridges were also targeted across Iran, it added.

"Iran's Ministry of Science and Technology told us that at least 30 universities have been hit" since the beginning of the war on February 28."

'They hit Iran's MIT': Tehran vows to retaliate

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Monday accused Israeli-US forces of attacking Sharif University in Tehran, which is also known as the MIT of Iran, saying the site was attacked following previous strikes on other educational institutes. "Israeli-US aggressors have bombed the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Iran," he posted on X, along with photos of destruction at the university. "Aggressors will witness our might." Araghchi invoked Prophet Muhammad, emphasising Iranian society's quest for knowledge: "1,400 years ago, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said that even if knowledge was situated in the distant Pleiades, Iranians would be capable of attaining it."

ISRAEL ATTACKS IRAN'S SOUTH PARS GAS FIELD AGAIN

TEHRAN

Israel struck a key petrochemical plant at Iran's massive South Pars natural gas field and killed two paramilitary Revolutionary Guard commanders on Monday, potentially challenging a new 45-day ceasefire proposal for Tehran and the United States as President Donald Trump's ultimatum looms within hours.

The gas field attack was aimed at eliminating a major source of revenue for Iran, Israel said. The field is critical to Iran's electricity production, but the strike appeared to be separate from Trump's threats to target power plants and bridges if Tehran doesn't reopen



the Strait of Hormuz to all shipping traffic. Iran's grip on the strait has caused oil prices to surge and shaken the world economy.

Israel's Defense Minister Israel Katz described "a powerful strike on the largest petrochemical facility in Iran." The gas field shared with Qatar is the world's largest and sits under the Persian Gulf. Iranian state media confirmed the attack and blamed the US and Israel.

'Trump yet to approve draft deal'

The White House said Trump has yet to approve any draft deal to end fighting, following media reports on a possible ceasefire proposal. A 45-day ceasefire is "one of many ideas, and POTUS (Trump) has not signed off on it," a White House official told AFP, ahead of a press conference by Trump at 1700 GMT at which he is due to address the conflict. Trump had given Iran until 0000 GMT Wednesday to open the Hormuz, a waterway that is crucial to global oil and gas flows, or else face strikes on bridges and power plants.

IRAN REJECTS LATEST CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL AS TRUMP DEADLINE APPROACHES

TEHRAN

Iran on Monday rejected the latest ceasefire proposal and instead said it wants a permanent end to the war, even as US President Donald Trump's ultimatum loomed for progress to avoid a major escalation in attacks against power plants and bridges. Tehran termed it "extremely ambitious", "unusual" and "il-

logical". "The US 15-point proposal is excessively demanding. We have compiled and formalised our own set of demands," it stated. "We won't merely accept a ceasefire," Mojtaba Ferdousi Pour, head of the Iranian diplomatic mission in Cairo, said. "We only accept an end of the war with guarantees that we won't be attacked again." Iran's state-run

IRNA news agency said Tehran had conveyed its response through Pakistan, a key mediator. Trump's deadline centers on Tehran opening the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil is shipped in peacetime. Ferdousi Pour said Iranian and Omani officials were working on a mechanism for administrating the shipping chokepoint.

IRGC intel chief killed in US-Israeli strike

TEHRAN

The head of the intelligence wing of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), Majid Khademi, was killed in what Iranian state media on Monday described as a "terrorist attack" by the "American-Zionist (Israeli) enemy."

Khademi, who took charge in 2025 after his predecessor was killed in an Israeli strike, is the latest senior figure to die in US-Israeli air strikes.

With decades of experience in intelligence and counter-espionage, he had risen through the ranks of Iran's security establishment.

Before becoming intelligence chief, he led the Guards' Intelligence Protection Organisation, responsible for internal

surveillance and counter-intelligence, and also served in senior roles within Iran's defence ministry.

The IRGC's intelligence arm is considered one of the country's most powerful security bodies, playing a central role in monitoring domestic activity and countering foreign influence, often functioning alongside the civilian intelligence ministry.

IRGC VOWS TO REVENGE SPY CHIEF'S ASSASSINATION

Following the assassination of Iran Guards intelligence chief Majid Khademi in US-Israel strikes, the IRGC has vowed to avenge the killing. With Khademi's killing, Iran lost yet another top leader to US-Israel strikes in the past one month.



SHORTS FROM WAR FRONT

- Israel strikes aircraft, helicopters, and other military infrastructure at 3 airports across Tehran
- Iran reviewing peace proposal but won't reopen Hormuz for 'temporary ceasefire': Report
- Iran, US receive framework by Pakistan to end hostilities, immediate ceasefire: Reports
- Strikes near Iran nuclear power plant and surrounding areas 'must stop': IAEA

11 key Iranian figures eliminated



US-Israeli strikes on Iran have killed several senior political and military figures, hitting the Islamic Republic's core leadership as the regional war disrupts energy markets and global shipping.

AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI

Supreme Leader of Iran - killed on Feb 28

- **Ali Shamkhani**
Close adviser to Khamenei- Feb 28
- **Gholamreza Soleimani**
Iran's Basij Paramilitary Force Commander - March 17
- **Esmail Khatib**
Iran Intelligence Minister - Killed on March 18
- **Mohammad Pakpour**
IRGC Commander-in-chief - Feb 28
- **Behnam Rezaei**
IRGC navy intelligence chief - March 26
- **Aziz Nasirzadeh**
Iran Defence Minister - Feb 28
- **Alireza Tangsiri**
IRGC navy commander - March 26
- **Abdolrahman Mousavi**
Chief of staff of Iran's armed forces - Feb 28
- **Majid Khademi**
IRGC intelligence head - April 6
- **Ali Larijani**
Supreme National Security Council secretary - March 17

Indian Navy escorts 9th LPG tanker via Hormuz under 'Op Urja Suraksha'

NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy on Monday escorted the LPG carrier Green Asha through the Strait of Hormuz as part of its ongoing maritime security mission, Operation Urja Suraksha.

This marks the ninth such escorted vessel amid heightened tensions in the region, with the tanker expected to reach India within 24 to 36 hours. The move follows the successful transit of another LPG carrier, Greensanvi, which is carrying over 46,000 metric tonnes of fuel and is set to dock at Dahej in Gujarat.

Officials said another vessel, Jag Vikram, is currently awaiting clearance for safe passage, indicating continued naval coordination in the stra-



tegically vital corridor.

The operation is being closely monitored by the Defence Ministry, with a focus on ensuring uninterrupted energy supplies. Authorities believe the steady arrival of LPG shipments will help stabilise domestic supply, which had recently been hit by shortages, hoarding and black marketing.

The mission underscores

India's proactive approach to safeguarding its energy lifelines, with naval task forces deployed in the Persian Gulf to escort Indian-flagged vessels through sensitive zones.

With imports sourced from over 40 countries, the government has reiterated its commitment to maintaining supply stability and easing pressure on domestic fuel markets.

Masked man smashes through Delhi Assembly gates, leaves bouquet; 3 held

NEW DELHI

A masked man drove an SUV into Delhi Assembly premises on Monday afternoon in a security breach and escaped after placing a bouquet outside the Speaker's office, but within hours the driver was apprehended, police said.

The SUV entered the premises by forcing its way through one of the boundary gates where the security is less compared to the main gate.

Police sounded a high alert in the capital following the incident even as investigators and bomb disposal squads



conducted intensive searches in the Assembly premises and adjoining areas.

The incident took place around 2 PM when the UP registered SUV entered the premises.

As soon as he entered the premises, officials said, the

driver proceeded towards the office of Speaker Vijender Gupta and placed a bouquet near the porch before rushing out in his vehicle. There was less security at the gate through which the driver entered, as the Assembly was not in session.

Authorities are treating the incident as a security breach, officials said, adding it has raised "serious" concerns.

Forensic teams also examined the bouquet, which was kept near the Speaker's office while the bomb disposal squad and dog squad, which conducted searches, ruled out any explosive threat.

MADURAI

A court in Tamil Nadu's Madurai district on Monday awarded death sentence to nine policemen in the custodial deaths of trader P Jayaraj and his son J Benicks in Thoothukudi district that triggered nationwide outrage six years ago.

The policemen are Inspector Sridhar, Sub-Inspectors Balakrishnan and Raghu Ganesh, and police personnel Murugan, Samadurai, Muthuraja, Chelladurai, Thomas Francis, and Veilumuthu.

Underlining that this was a "case of abuse of authority", the court maintained that there are many honest police officers in the state and that the ruling will



not "instill fear among police". "Father and son stripped, ruthlessly assaulted... Heart shudders reading about it," the court said.

Termining the brutal custodial torture and subsequent death of traders as the "rarest of rare" cases, the CBI had pressed for the maximum penalty of a death sentence or life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. The prosecution argued that

JUSTICE FINALLY SERVED

Custodial death: 9 TN cops get death penalty

WHAT'S THE CASE

The custodial torture dates back to June 19, 2020, when Jayaraj and Benicks, who ran a mobile shop, were arrested for allegedly keeping their shop open beyond permitted hours during the lockdown, a claim later found to be false. The men were tortured at the Sattankulam Police Station in Thoothukudi district the whole night till early morning, and were then put behind bars in the Kovilpatti Sub Jail after a local magistrate remanded them to judicial custody, ignoring their severe injuries from torture. However, over the next two days, both complained of breathlessness and died in a hospital on June 22 and 23. Relatives alleged that the men were assaulted through the night at the police station, pointing to injuries including rectal bleeding and other signs of severe physical abuse.

the ghastly nature of the crime, supported by the testimonies of three direct witnesses, shocked the collective conscience of society. Highlighting the grave hu-

man rights violation, the CBI noted that the victims were subjected to merciless beatings with weapons, warranting the highest degree of punishment.

Avani Trust offers financial help to young sportsperson

MYSURU

Avani Trust extended financial support of ₹50,000 to young skater P. Rishikesh, who has been selected to represent India at an upcoming international skating competition to be held in Indonesia next month.

Rishikesh, the son of Praveen Kumar and Yashaswini from Bengaluru, received this assistance during a programme organised on Sunday at Moodahalli village in Jayapura Hobli of Mysuru taluk. Office bearers of the trust transferred the amount directly to his bank account and conveyed their best wishes.

Speaking on the occasion, Trust President Sangamesh said that Rishikesh's selection to represent India at the international level is a matter of pride. However, around ₹4



lakh is required for his travel and participation in the competition in Indonesia. As his family is financially underprivileged, they had sought help from donors.

He further explained that upon learning about the situation, the trust extended ₹50,000 as encouragement

under its "Abhaya Movement" initiative. He emphasized that Rishikesh has earned this opportunity through hard work and consistent practice, and his talent should not be hindered due to financial constraints.

Appealing to the public, Sangamesh urged donors to

come forward and support the young athlete so that he can represent the country successfully on the international stage. Trust Secretary Surya, Treasurer Ganashree, basketball coach Rohith Urs, and physical education teacher Kavitha were present at the event.

Bypoll result won't impact our govt, asserts Dr Parameshwara

MYSURU

Exuding confidence and political clarity, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said that the Congress party is witnessing overwhelming public support in both by-election constituencies. "Wherever we go, people are standing firmly with us. Our guarantees are our strength — they will hold our hand and lead us to victory. In fact, we are already confident of winning both seats," he asserted with optimism.

Speaking to reporters during his visit to Mysuru on Monday, he brushed aside any speculation linking the by-election outcome to the future of the state leadership. These results will not impact the Congress leadership in Karnataka in any way. This election is neither a benchmark nor a direction-setter for polls. Let the BJP say whatever they wish.

Addressing the buzz around leadership change, the home minister made it clear that there is no vacancy for the Chief Minister's post. Under the current situation, Siddaramaiah will continue as Chief Minister for the full five-year term. Any decision on change rests solely with the high command, not individuals. So, as of now, there is absolutely no question of change. Some MLAs have been voicing opinions but added that the party high command is closely monitoring the situation. Every MLA has the capability to become CM, but the position is not vacant.

When questioned about Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar who is aspiring for the CM's post, Parameshwara dismissed any notion of discord. He is their respected leader, party president, and Deputy Chief Minister. There is no confusion at all. Everything is in the hands of the high command.

Asked about his own CM ambitions, he smiled it away: "Why discuss that now? Supporters always dream of their leaders becoming CM. But since the post isn't vacant, the question doesn't arise."

Rising prices, the minister warned of strict action against black marketers. If officials from the Food Department provide information about artificial price hikes in essential commodities like gas, police will immediately conduct raids and take stringent action. Cases have already been registered, and there will be zero tolerance for such illegal activities.

600 persons undergo a free kidney checkup camp at Sigma Hospital



MYSURU

Senior Kidney Transplant Specialist Dr. K. M. Madappa emphasized that everyone should undergo a health check-up at least once a year.

Speaking at the free kidney check-up camp organized by Sigma Hospital here on Sunday, he said individuals with high blood pressure and diabetes are at greater risk of complications affecting the kidneys, heart, eyes, and other organs. Early detection of kidney disease enables effective treatment. The hospital offers comprehensive facilities and a dedicated team for kidney care. Treatment becomes especially crucial after kidney failure, and people are encouraged to make full use of these services.

Nephrologist Dr. Aniket Prabhakar stated that individuals with diabetes should regularly undergo kidney check-ups. Kidney diseases can be detected through urine tests and kidney scans, after which appropriate treatment is provided. He also thanked the management for supporting the organization of such camps every year.

Director Dr. Rajeshwari Madappa mentioned that the

hospital has been serving successfully due to the encouragement of people from Mysuru and surrounding areas. The hospital has successfully conducted 95 kidney transplant surgeries, which is a matter of pride. She expressed happiness that people are benefiting from the camp.

Managing Director S. Gnanashankar stated that prevention is better than cure. With experienced doctors available at the hospital, such camps aim to raise awareness and help people avoid serious health issues through timely care. The hospital offers excellent treatment for kidney diseases in Mysuru, and people are encouraged to seek guidance and benefit from these services.

Kidney Transplant Surgeon Dr. K. M. Madappa, Managing Director Gnanashankar, Director and Senior Pediatrician Dr. Rajeshwari Madappa, Kidney Transplant Surgeon Dr. D. N. Somanna, Senior Nephrologist Dr. Aniket Prabhakar, Physician Dr. Rakesh Raje Aras, Gastro Surgeon Dr. Dileep, Radiologist Dr. Nayana, Pathologist Dr. Sridevi, Senior Resident Urologist Dr. Hanumantha, Dr. Soumith, and Dr. Kanchil, along with other hospital doctors and staff, were present.

Focused Study During Student Years is the Foundation for a Bright Future

MYSURU

Senior Judge and Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, K.K. Amarnath, advised that there are ample opportunities for law students today, and if they engage in deep and focused study during their student years, their future will be bright.

Speaking after inaugurating the lecture series on "Multidimensional Aspects of Law" organized on Monday at Champa School of Law College in the city, he noted that earlier there was a perception that those without other career options pursued an LL.B. degree. However, today the scope and significance of law have expanded tremendously. Students should begin studying legal provisions, sections, and develop skills in reading, writing, and critical analysis during their academic years. Such in-depth preparation will ensure success in their

professional careers.

Amarnath explained that Legal Services Authorities have been established from the national level down to the taluk level. These institutions provide free legal aid to women, children, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, the underprivileged, and those living below the poverty line. Law students have a crucial role in spreading awareness about these services in society and advised them to start contributing in ways that benefit the public from now on.

KSLU Vice-Chancellor C. Basavaraju, in his absence, sent a voice message stating that students should be made aware of current laws, their importance, and various legal aspects through resource persons. He appreciated Champa School of Law College for initiating such a lecture series.

College Principal Asmathunnisa, lecturer Bharat Raj, students, and staff were present at the event.



Six-Crore Rama Nama Chant and Rama Taraka Homa on April 19

MYSURU

Under the divine guidance of His Holiness Jagadguru Sri Madhvacharya Moola Maha Samsthana, Sri Uttaradi Mutt Peethadhipathi, Paramapoojya Sri Sri 1008 Sri Satyatma Teertha Sripadangalavaru, a grand religious program has been organized to promote Sanatana Dharma, strengthen Hindu unity, and usher in the ideals of Rama Rajya.

On April 19, at the Sri Anjaneya Swamy Temple of Sri Uttaradi Mutt in Yadavagiri, a Rama Taraka Homa will be conducted at 9:00 AM, followed by a mass chanting of six crore (60 million) Rama Nama at 11:00 AM by devotees. The event poster was released at the Sri Anjaneya Swamy Temple of Sri Usiraj Mutt, located on KRS Road in

Yadvagiri, by Akhila Bharata Brahmana Ekikrita Parishat State President N. M. Naveen Kumar.

Speaking on the occasion, he appealed to people to participate in large numbers, transcending caste and political differences, and make the spiritual event a grand success.

Present at the event were former City Corporation member Prameela Bharat, Vishwa Hindu Parishad District President Mahesh Kamath, Hoysala Karnataka Sangha President K. R. Satyanarayana, AKBMS State Executive Member S. B. Vasudevamurthy, R. S. Satyanarayana, T. S. Arun, Pramod Achar, Vijaya Vittalachar Kadlur, Chief Priest Nagabhushan, Guru, advocate Chandrashekhar B. R., Charan, and several others.

Shivakumara Swamiji is a miracle man: G. Raghavendra



MYSURU

G. Raghavendra, President of Mayura Kannada Youth Association, said that Dr. Shivakumara Mahaswamiji was a great ascetic who put Basavanna's principle of "Kayaka" (dedicated work) into practice. Speaking at the 119th birth anniversary celebration of Dr. Shivakumara Mahaswamiji, organized by the Mayura Kannada Youth Association in front of K.R. Hospital here on Sunday, where Annadasoha (free food service) was conducted, he said that the seer was truly a miracle man. Through the practice of Trividha Dasoha (three forms of service), he spread the philosophy of Basava to every corner of the world

and achieved feats that are recorded in golden letters in history, making him a role model for humanity.

He further said that the Swamiji dedicated his entire life to society. Without ever considering caste or religion, he imparted education to all sections of society, breaking barriers of discrimination. Understanding the importance of education, he became an ideal figure by promoting literacy among people of all communities across the state.

On the occasion, Jeevadara Girish, KMPK Trust President Vikram Iyengar, Kala Utsav Trust President Amit, Harish Naidu, S.N. Rajesh, Rakesh, Durga Prasad, Hemanth, and others were present.

HEROES IN EVERY DROP Mysuru Celebrates Its Lifesavers!

MYSURU

In a heartwarming celebration of humanity and selfless service, the city of Mysuru witnessed a vibrant and meaningful Blood Donors' Festival, where more than 250 donors were honoured — including over 100 extraordinary individuals who have donated blood more than 100 times.

The event, held at the JK Grounds auditorium, turned into a powerful tribute to those who silently save lives, one drop at a time. Organised through the joint efforts of the Lions Blood Centre Jeevadhara, KMPK Charitable Trust, and Blood on Call Club, the festival saw enthusiastic participation from donors and volunteers alike, creating an atmosphere filled with gratitude, pride, and inspiration.

Presiding over the event, Trinetra Mahanta Shivayogi Swamiji, Peethadhipati of Chandravana Ashram and Babimath, Srirangapatna, delivered a deeply moving message. He



urged both the Central and State governments to officially recognise and celebrate Blood Donors' Day, just as food donors are honoured.

He also praised organisations like Jeevadhara and KMPK Trust for their genuine service, noting that while many institutions chase fame and wealth, such groups stand out for their selfless commitment. Highlighting India's cultural ethos, he said the spirit of sharing and caring is deeply rooted in Sanatana Dharma, and initiatives like International Yoga Day, introduced by Narendra Modi, showcase India's role in promoting global well-being.

From Personal Experience to Public Inspiration

Chief Guest K. Harish Gowda shared a touching personal anecdote, recalling how he donated blood for the first time before turning 18 for his grandmother. "Since my college days, I have donated blood more than 35 times," he said, inspiring the audience.

He lauded the relentless efforts of S.E. Girish, popularly known as "Jeevadhara Girish," whose identity has become synonymous with blood donation. He also appreciated the service-minded contributions of Manoj and Vikram Iyengar, who actively engage in social

initiatives like distributing blankets, providing food, and organising health check-ups for civic workers.

Celebrating True Champions of Humanity

The event also recognised remarkable donors like V. Bhupendran (310 donations) and S. Bhaskar Rao (275 donations), whose dedication stands as a shining example of commitment to society. Dignitaries including City Police DCP K.S. Sundar Raj, actress Meenakshi, and KPCC member Nazarbad Nataraj graced the occasion, adding to its significance.

In his vote of thanks, S. E. Girish expressed heartfelt appreciation to everyone involved in organising the event. At a time when people hesitate to give even small things, it is truly inspiring to see so many individuals voluntarily donating blood. Honouring them is not just a duty, but a privilege. The festival concluded on a powerful note — celebrating not just donors, but the spirit of humanity that binds society together.

Jagjivan Ram birth anniversary celebrated through service activities

MYSURU

The birth anniversary of the eminent national leader and pioneer of the Green Revolution, Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram, was meaningfully celebrated by the S. Prakash Priyadarshan Friends Group through a service initiative.

On this occasion, dry fruits, fresh fruits, and stationery items were distributed to the inmates of the Mahabodhi Karla Students' Hostel located in Saraswathipuram in the city.

Speaking on the occasion, Prakash Priyadarshan said that remembering Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram on his birth anniversary is our foremost duty and described him as a visionary national leader who gave voice to the oppressed and played a crucial role in leading India during the Green Revolution. He emphasized the importance of introducing the life and achievements of such great leaders to the younger generation. Dr. Ram was a great Dalit leader who fought



tirelessly at the grassroots level to eradicate social evils such as caste discrimination, inequality, and untouchability, which had persisted in Indian society for centuries. He worked with determination to bring about social change and gave a clear direction to the movement for equality.

Addressing the students, he urged them to read and learn about the lives of such great leaders and strive to imbibe their values. He encouraged them to grow with the vision of becoming responsible citi-

zens who bring pride to their parents and the nation, guided by the principle that "society does not change us; we must change society."

On this occasion, President of the Newspaper Distributors Welfare Association Homadev, Blood on Call Club Mysuru founder Devendra Parihariya, Sinchana Gowda (transgender), social worker Vidya, Chaya, singer Yashwant Kumar, senior sportsperson Mahadev, Subramani, Rajesh Kumar, Mahesh, Datta, and others were present.

COLOURS TAKE OVER THE STREETS



CREATIVITY UNLEASHED AT SVYM ART COMPETITION!

MYSURU

A vibrant splash of imagination and social awareness marked the beginning of the much-awaited Street Art Competition, where young creative minds stepped forward to transform blank spaces into powerful visual stories. The event, designed to “bring spaces to life,” witnessed an enthusiastic response from budding artists eager to showcase their talent and perspective.

Vanishree, Vice- President, Strategic Deals Management, Infosys Limited; Dhanraj, Ramdev

Traders, Manoj Sebastian, Head, Mysuru Center, SVYM and Dr. Rekha Shanmukha, Director,

Vivekananda Institute of Indian Studies, (VIIS) SVYM and all the participants were present. The

competition is a part of a project named “ Namma Parisara” started by SVYM in collaboration with University of Utah, USA.

Out of the nine students who registered for the competition, six participants reported on the opening day, while the remaining three are expected to join the artistic journey tomorrow. Despite the partial turnout, the atmosphere buzzed with excitement as colours, ideas, and passion began to blend beautifully.

To ensure thoughtful execution and originality, participants were first asked to sketch and paint their concepts on plain white sheets. This initial stage allows judges to assess the clarity of ideas, creativity, and alignment with the competition’s themes. Only after this evaluation will participants be assigned a street wall or boulder, where their final artwork will come to life on a larger canvas.

The competition revolves around socially relevant and environmentally conscious themes such as Environment, Urban Spaces and Nature, Climate Change and its Ef-



fects, and the message-driven “Don’t Throw Waste Here.” Each theme encourages artists to reflect deeply and communicate meaningful messages through their work, making art not just visually appealing but socially impactful.

Once selected, participants will be given three days to complete their artwork on the allotted surfaces. Over these days, ordinary walls and stones are expected to transform into striking pieces of public art, inspiring onlookers and spreading awareness. The final evaluation is

scheduled for Wednesday, when judges will carefully assess each painting based on creativity, execution, message, and visual appeal. The top three artworks will be honoured with cash prizes—₹5000 for the first place, ₹3000 for the second, and ₹2000 for the third—recognizing not just artistic skill but also the power of ideas.

As the competition unfolds, it promises to turn simple surroundings into colourful narratives, proving that art, when given space, can truly inspire communities and spark change.

Agniveer selection Rally in Mysuru from April 19 to 27
6,235 Candidates to Participate: Col Vivek Jamadar



MYSURU

An Agniveer recruitment rally will be held from April 19 to 27 at Chamundi Vihar Stadium in Nazarbad, Mysuru, with a total of 6,235 candidates expected to participate, informed Colonel Vivek Jamadar, Recruiting Officer of the Indian Army, Bengaluru.

Chairing a meeting of officials held here on Monday at the office of Department of Youth Services and Sports, he said that the written examination for the selection process was conducted in June last year, and the second phase (screening/physical tests) of the Agniveer rally will commence

from April 19. Out of the total participants, 6,043 are male and 192 are female candidates. Around 800 candidates will undergo physical and other tests each day. Only those who qualify in the physical test will be eligible for the medical examination. The rally for women candidates will be held on April 27. Accommodation arrangements have been made at Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry for the candidates participating in the rally. Only those who qualify in the physical tests will proceed to the medical examination stage. Each candidate will be allowed to stay for one to two days.

Col Jamadar instructed the



Health Department to arrange ambulances, necessary doctors, staff, and medicines during the rally days. The Mysuru City Corporation has been directed to provide drinking water, temporary toilets, and sanitation facilities. The Police Department will handle security arrangements, while Nirmithi Kendra will arrange necessary tents and CCTV systems.

He also mentioned that large-scale recruitment in the Indian Army is expected to continue until around 2030 and encouraged youth to apply in large numbers and participate in the recruitment process.

To create awareness and interest among students, ar-

rangements will be made for high school students, NCC, and NSS cadets to observe the rally and understand the selection process. The School Education Department has been instructed to facilitate student participation.

The meeting was attended by Major Kapil Kumar Sharma (Medical Officer, Army Recruitment Division, Bengaluru), Subedar Major Sham Singh (Deputy Recruiting Officer), Manjunath Reddy (Deputy Director, Sainik Welfare Department), Dr. Gopinath (Health Department), Bhaskar (Assistant Director, Youth Services and Sports Department), and other officials.

Ayur Vaidhya Sampath
Launched to Promote
Holistic Health in Mysuru

MYSURU

A new Ayurvedic initiative titled “Ayur Vaidhya Sampath” was officially launched in Mysuru, with the aim of promoting holistic health and reviving traditional Indian healthcare practices.

The initiative seeks to address the growing prevalence of lifestyle-related diseases such as digestive disorders, diabetes, liver complications, and joint pain, which are often linked to stress, unhealthy dietary habits, and sedentary lifestyles. The founders described the initiative not merely as a business venture but as a wellness movement dedicated to restoring the principles of Ayurveda through natural remedies based on ancient knowledge. They emphasized that the approach focuses on maintaining harmony between the body, mind, and soul while



providing treatments that are safe and free from harmful side effects.

Speaking on the occasion, K. K. Jagadish highlighted that good health is the greatest wealth and stated that the initiative’s primary objective is to bring holistic wellness solutions to every household. The organization is spearheaded by founders Ruth Jagadish and Jagadish, along with co-founders Ishwar Prasad Goyal and

Shilpa Goyal.

The team also announced plans to expand the availability of their products across Karnataka in the coming months and eventually reach a nationwide audience through digital platforms, wellness clinics, and partnerships with Ayurvedic practitioners.

The launch ceremony was attended by chief guests Srinivas Arka and Lakshminarayana Shenoy.

Sarada Vilas PE
Director
commissioned as
NCC officer



MYSURU

Shivakumar G, Physical Education Director of Sarada Vilas College, Mysuru, has successfully completed the NCC Officers Training PRCN course conducted from January 5, 2026, to April 4, 2026.

Following the completion of the rigorous training program, he has been commissioned with the rank of Sub Lieutenant by the Directorate General of the National Cadet Corps (DGNCC). The PRCN course is designed to equip officers with leadership, discipline, and organizational skills essential for training NCC cadets. Shivakumar’s achievement reflects his dedication to youth development and commitment to nation-building through the NCC.

Free distribution of textbooks
marks the service Initiative
under the new team

MYSURU

In a compassionate start to the new Alliance year, the Alliance Club of Mysore Rajivnagar organized a Sweet and Stationery Distribution Program at JeevaNadi Seva Samsthe , Hanchya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Mysore District.

The initiative was led by Club President Samira Sultana, reflecting her vision of service, care, and community upliftment. The program witnessed active participation from Secretary Zeba Unnisa , Treasurer Saima Sadiya , the Board of Directors K.M Khayyum , Nadeem Ahmed and local residents.

Sweets were distributed among children, spreading happiness and celebration, while stationery items such as

books and pens were provided to encourage education and support the young learners.

Addressing the gathering, President Samira Sultana emphasized the importance of starting the year with meaningful service and highlighted that empowering children through education and extending kindness to the needy are the true foundations of a progressive society. Her inspiring words encouraged members to actively engage in community service throughout the year.

With this impactful beginning, the Alliance Club of Mysore Rajivnagar has set a strong example of leadership and compassion, promising many more such service-oriented activities in the coming months under the guidance of President Samira Sultana.



SSLC answer scripts evaluation:
Prohibitory Orders imposed in City

MYSURU

SSLC answer paper valuation for the academic year 2025–26 will be conducted at six centres in Mysuru city. To maintain the sanctity of the evaluation process, prohibitory orders have been imposed within a 200-meter radius of these centres until the completion of

the evaluation.

The centres include: Gopalaswamy Shishuvihara Higher Primary and High School, Lakshimpuram, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Jayalakshimpuram, Jnanaganga High School, Kuvempunagar, Good Shepherd Convent High School, Lashkar Mohalla St. Philomena’s High School, N.R. Mohalla, Nirma-

la High School, V.V. Mohalla.

Unauthorized persons are prohibited from entering these areas. Carrying objectionable items is also banned, and nearby xerox and browsing centres have been ordered to remain closed during the evaluation period, according to Mysuru City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar.

APOLLO WOMEN ACHIEVER AWARDS SHINE IN MYSURU

MYSURU

In a vibrant celebration of resilience and achievement, Apollo BGS Hospitals, in collaboration with Young Indians (Yi), hosted the Apollo Women Achiever Awards 2026 at the Gaana Bharathi Auditorium in Kuvempunagar, turning the evening into a powerful tribute to inspiring women from diverse walks of life.

The event brought together healthcare professionals, community members, and distinguished guests in a shared moment of pride and admiration, recognising women whose journeys reflect determination, courage, and social impact.

Adding regal grace to the occasion, Trishika Kumari

Wadiyar, wife of Mysuru-Kodagu Lok Sabha Member Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, attended as the Chief Guest.

In her address, she emphasised the importance of empowering women and celebrating their contributions across all spheres of society, inspiring the audience with her thoughtful words.

The ceremony commenced with the traditional lamp lighting, followed by a warm welcome from Dr. Rashmi, setting the tone for an evening dedicated to honouring real-life heroes.

Among the dignitaries’ present were N. G. Bharateesha Reddy, along with doctors from Apollo BGS Hospitals and rep-



representatives of Yi, including Priyanka. The highlight of the evening was the felicitation of six remarkable women whose stories deeply resonated with the audience.

From Sowmya, an auto driv-

er who has boldly carved her space in a male-dominated profession, to Mangalamma, a farmer sustaining livelihoods through dedication to the land, each awardee symbolised strength in everyday life. Anu,

a courier professional balancing responsibility with resilience, Dr. Bharathi, committed to healing, and nurse Sheela, known for her compassion, were also honoured. Social worker Dolma Yangchen re-

ceived special recognition for her tireless efforts in uplifting lives.

Each story stood as a testament to perseverance, breaking barriers and redefining possibilities, leaving the audience in-

spired and moved.

The event also marked the official launch of a collaborative initiative between Apollo BGS Hospitals and Young Indians, signalling a shared commitment to community engagement and youth empowerment.

The evening concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Seethalakshmy, followed by an informal high tea where attendees continued to exchange stories and celebrate the spirit of the occasion.

Through initiatives like the Women Achiever Awards, Apollo Hospitals continues to spotlight unsung heroes, fostering a more inclusive and inspired society where every achievement—big or small—is celebrated.

QUICK READ

2 killed while crossing highway, biker booked

BENGALURU
Two men were killed in an early morning accident on National Highway 44 near Vidyashilpa Cross in Yelahanka. The victims, Sid-dartha (18) and Shan-thappa Metri (35), residents of Allalsandra and natives of Sedam in Kala-buragi, worked as labourers. Police said they had returned from Hyderabad on a private bus and got down near Vidyashilpa Cross, where there is no designated stop. While attempting to cross the highway, they were hit by a speeding KTM Duke heading towards Devana-halli. The impact caused fatal injuries, killing both on the spot. The rider, Altaf Pasha (19) from Mathikere, sustained fractures. Police suspect he was racing with friends, had borrowed the bike, and did not possess a valid licence.A complaint has been filed against the rider, the bus driver for stopping at an unauthorised point, and the National Highways Authority of India for failing to install median barriers.



Power disruption in parts of city today

BENGALURU
The work of connecting the lines of 66 KV Jadi-genahalli and 220 KV Vi-karajpura power stations will be carried out on Tuesday, from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. There will be power disruption in areas of Hoskote 66/11 KV. Areas covered by electricity distribution includes Hoskote town, Upparahalli, Lakkondahalli, Alapanahalli, Kallahalli, Vabasandra, Venkatapura, Thimmasandra, Pettana-halli, Doddagattiganabbe, Chikkagattiganadde, Sarkar Guttahalli, Bhaktarahalli, Poojenagrahara, Kannurahalli, Dandupalya, Kolathur, Attur, Dasarahalli, Halasahalli, Attivatti, Nidagatta, and surrounding areas. The Assistant Executive Engineer, BESCOM Hoskote Division has requested customers to cooperate.

Student dies after mobike collides with electric pole

BENGALURU
In a tragic incident, a student died on the spot after his two-wheeler rammed into an electric pole on the Budigere-Bagalur road late on Sunday night. The deceased has been identified as Prashanth (22), who was riding a two-wheeler, while Teja (22) is undergoing treatment at Devanahalli Government Hospital. The incident took place under Chan-narayapatna police station limits.

B'luru needs more infra to ease congestion: BTP report

Bengaluru needs 25 underpasses, 35 flyovers, 101 skywalks to ease traffic, with bus-stop shifts and waterlogging fixes recommended

BENGALURU

Bengaluru will need 25 new underpasses, 35 fresh flyovers and 101 skywalks if the city truly hopes to ease its paralysing traffic congestion, according to a detailed infrastructure audit submitted by the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). The BTP has flagged 25 key junctions where underpasses or signal free junctions would help cut weaving and turning conflicts, while 35 locations have been shortlisted for new flyovers and elevated corridors to by-



pass busy intersections. Planners say these structures should work in tandem with 101 skywalks designed to pull pedestrians off the road, allowing smoother flow for

buses, autos and private vehicles and cutting accident prone crossing conflicts.The audit also calls for relocating 103 unscientifically placed bus stops within 50 metres of

major junctions, which currently act as friction points that choke entire corridors. Authorities have identified 137 chronic waterlogging spots and plan to fix them before the monsoon, while the GBA intends to weave these recommendations into the next infrastructure budget to fund new underpasses, flyovers and skywalks.Urban mobility experts, however, warn that building more concrete structures will not suffice unless last mile connectivity, public transport priority lanes, and strict enforcement of traffic rules are integrated into the same plan.

K'taka orders probe into Hutti gold mines tendering row

BENGALURU

In a serious embarrassment, Karnataka government has ordered a probe into 2025 tendering irregularities at Hutti Gold Mines Co Ltd, the only active gold-producing unit in the country. The Secretary of the commerce and industries department ordered the probe in late Feb into the tendering process at HGML, owned by Karnataka govt. Its chairman is JT Patil is a Congress MLA. Hutti mines are in Raichur district. Bids had been called for purchase of forged steel grinding balls, a basic component to grind materials into fine powders, essential for efficient processing and production. Two key allegations under probe are: Tendering process was redefined midway through disqualifying bidders, and a second modification kept bidders from some countries out of the process. Calling the controversy not major, Patil told, the tendering process is being set right. He said a meeting of HGML board will take place in the second week of April soon after bypolls to Bagalkot and Davanagere assembly constituencies are completed. The investigation was ordered based on some changes made in the tender conditions by

local officials. It is not a big problem. The technical committee has submitted its report.

Based on it we will take further action, Patil added.

A three-member technical panel led by N Mallikarjun, head of mechanical engineering department, SJ Government Polytechnic, is looking into the unauthorised modifications to the tender conditions, and the resulting violations of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (KTTP) Act and suggest remedial measures and administrative due diligences to overcome discrepancies for the smooth functioning of the company. The genesis of the probe began with a tender being called for the purchase of forged steel grinding balls on July 1 2025. Following the receipt of bids by bidders (4 bidders for 125 mm and 6 bidders for 65 mm), the technical evaluation was purportedly completed on September 18, 2025.

However, it is observed that the HGML failed to conduct evaluation in accordance with prescribed procedures, arbitrarily disqualifying all participating vendors on the same day, noted the Secretary, adding that the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of all the bid-

ders were refunded prematurely within a single day of the tender cancellation. Acting on the appeal of the bidders, revisional authority passed an order on November 14, 2025, directing the tender accepting authority to adopt a comprehensive and suitably calibrated approach to document scrutiny in future tenders, ensuring both substantive capability and compliance requirements are duly appreciated.

Based on this, and the nature of the requirement for uninterrupted operations to draw gold, HGML was asked to call for a fresh tender on February 3, 2026.Even in this fresh tender, the department found that due diligence and proper application of mind did not appear to have been exercised.

The government found that HGML had modified the tender clauses to impose new restrictions on public procurement from bidders of certain countries, necessitating the registration of a land border sharing declaration certificate.

The clause was considered as one without recording cogent reasons or proper justification which effectively forbid early participants from taking part in the new bidding process.

Centre has not supplied even minimum amount of gas to state: GP

BENGALURU

Home Minister G Parameshwar expressed his displeasure that the Central Government has not supplied even the minimum amount of gas to the state. This is the reason for the problem.Speaking about the LPG shortage, the Minister said, we have made a demand to the Centre. The allotment that should be given to a state should be given. There is some difficulty. Everyone knows this. Everyone has been in trouble due to the war. The Central Government has not supplied the gas that the state should have. Should it at least supply the minimum That is why there is a problem.

SILK BOARD METRO GAP



250-metre walk now, travelator link months away

BENGALURU

A key interchange gap at Silk Board Junction in Bengaluru is raising concerns among commuters, as two metro lines under the same hub remain unconnected internally.

The issue arises from the design of the interchange between the operational RV Road-Bommasandra corridor and the under-construction Silk Board-KR Puram line. While both stations are part of the Silk Board hub, there is currently no direct internal link between them.

The RV Road-Bommasandra stretch has been functional since August 2025, providing connectivity to south Bengaluru, including Electronic City.

Until a proper connection is completed, passengers shifting between these two lines will have to exit one station and walk through the busy Silk Board junction to reach the other. This involves covering a distance of around 250 metres, which is a major inconvenience considering Silk Board is one of the most congested traffic points in the city.The timing of the solution has also become a concern. Although the KR Puram-bound line is expected to open later this year, the proposed travelator connection will take about nine months after construction

begins. Once completed, however, the project is expected to significantly improve connectivity. Silk Board is a crucial junction linking south Bengaluru with the eastern IT corridor. An internal connection will allow passengers to switch between lines without stepping out into traffic, making travel smoother and safer.

According to project details, the plan includes a dedicated elevated walkway supported by structural elements, along with proper architectural finishing to handle heavy passenger movement.

The design aims to offer more than a basic path, ensuring a proper interchange experience at one of the busiest transit points in the city.A travelator, also known as a moving walkway, is a flat motorised belt that helps passengers cover distances faster. Unlike escalators, it has no steps and allows people to either stand or walk while being carried forward. It does not replace walking but reduces time and effort, particularly in large transit spaces.

In the case of Silk Board, the travelator is not just an added feature but a necessary link. Without it, commuters must navigate one of the city's busiest junctions on foot. With it, the interchange will become seamless, allowing passengers.

4 RESCUED UP CHILDREN SLIP OUT OF MOVING VEHICLE

BENGALURU

Four children rescued from suspected child labour slipped out of a moving vehicle and vanished into traffic in central Bengaluru on April 2, raising concerns over safety protocols during child protection operations. The children, aged between 13 and 16, had been picked up a day earlier from BMTC bus station in Majestic, following a tip-off.

According to a complaint filed by BOSCO, a not-for-profit, the boys, all from a village in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, were allegedly brought to the city to work as painters by a man identified as Brijesh. Rescue teams traced the children around 11.15am on April 1 and took them to a shelter facility in Gandhinagar. The next day, as per procedure, they were produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for further directions.Officials said the children, along with

three others rescued in similar circumstances, were transported in a Mahindra Bolero to appear before the committee around 11am. A doctor and staff members accompanied them. Following the hearing, the team began transporting the children back to the shelter home later in the afternoon. The escape occurred at about 2.05pm near an Urdu school on the Mysore Road down ramp along Dr TCM Royan Road. With traffic congestion slowing the vehicle to a crawl, the four boys, seated at the rear, managed to open the back door and jump out. They took advantage of the slow-moving traffic and ran towards a side road behind the school. By the time staff realised what had happened and gave chase, the children had already dispersed and could not be located, a police officer said. Initial findings point to negligence, with officials confirming that the rear door of the

vehicle had not been secured. The incident has also drawn attention to the city's persistent traffic bottlenecks, which inadvertently created the conditions for the escape.

A case has been registered under Section 137(2) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for kidnapping at Cottonpet police station. Investigators are scanning CCTV footage from nearby areas, including roads around the school and the KSR Bengaluru City Railway Station, to trace the children. Police have also contacted the father of one of the boys, who works as a labourer in Bengaluru, to check if the children have attempted to return home. So far, there has been no contact.

Officials said all four children are school dropouts and may have travelled voluntarily in search of work. At this stage, it does not appear to be a trafficking case, but we are examining all angles, the officer added.

FREE BUS TRAVEL FOR BOYS UP TO SECOND PUC IN THE STATE



BENGALURU

The Karnataka government is preparing to introduce a student-friendly transport system with the aim of ensuring safe and smooth travel for school children across the state. In this regard, the government has planned to extend the benefits of free travel in KSRTC buses to male children up to class 12.

Action is being taken following the recommendations made by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of

Child Rights. The Transport Department has directed all State Transport Corporations to examine this proposal and take action.

The initiative seeks to improve the safety and provide reliable transport facilities to students who rely heavily on public buses, especially in rural and backward areas. Officials said that several cases of children falling from buses and getting injured have been reported. Thus, it highlights the need for a safe system. Currently, free travel is avail-

able only to girl students in the state.

To address congestion and accessibility issues, the plan includes introducing special school and college buses on routes with high numbers of students, especially in rural areas. Additional trips are proposed during morning and evening peak hours, in line with school timings.Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said that the system will be implemented in a phased manner. A child-friendly transport system is being in-

troduced in the state. In the first phase, it will be implemented in the districts around Bengaluru, and then it will be gradually expanded, he said. Efforts are being made to purchase more buses to support this initiative.The proposed framework includes several safety measures. All buses will have to be equipped with CCTV cameras, GPS tracking systems and emergency panic buttons. It will be mandatory to display the child helpline number 1098 on every bus. The authorities plan to strictly

enforce route adherence and timings in bus services.

In addition, drivers and transport staff will undergo mandatory annual refresher courses on child rights. This training will include awareness of laws related to child protection. It is also recommended to deploy female conductors on routes with a large number of girls.Officials said the aim of the initiative is to build a safer and more accessible public transportation system for students, supporting their continued education.

QUICK READ

Grand puja event marks Rakkasamma anniversary celebration

Hunsur

The 52nd anniversary of Goddess Rakkasamma will be celebrated with a grand puja on April 9 at 7 p.m. in Shiva Jyoti Nagar near Shankar Math, Ward 20. Community leaders including Parveen Taj, Syed Rizwan, and Wasim Tanzeem donated essential items for anna santarpana. Temple head Prasadi Mahadevswamy and others were present. Devotees are expected to gather in large numbers for prayers, food offerings, and community celebrations during the festive occasion.

Mandya taluk to accept public complaints

Mandya

A program to receive public complaints and inquiries in Mandya taluk will be held on April 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the taluk office, supervised by Karnataka Lokayukta Mandya unit police officers. Notices about the program will be displayed in all government offices, and taluk-level officers and subject managers will be present at the central location to assist citizens. The Mandya Taluk Tahsildar has requested all officials to announce the program publicly and ensure participation to address public grievances efficiently on the scheduled day.

Bagalkote by-election: 2.59 lakh voters ready

Over 2.59 lakh voters will vote across 322 booths with staff, security, webcasting, and special polling stations to boost participation

BAGALKOTE

The Bagalkote Assembly by-election is set for April 9, and all arrangements for smooth voting have been completed, said District Election Officer Sangappa at a press conference on Monday at the District Collector's Hall.

A total of 2,59,797 voters are eligible to cast their votes, including 1,26,999 men, 1,32,775 women, and 23 others. Among them, 385 are service voters, 170 have postal ballots, and 90 are persons with disabilities. For the election, 322 polling booths have been set up, each staffed by one presiding officer and three polling officers. A total of 1,564 personnel, including additional staff, micro observers, and armed police, will oversee the polling process. Webcasting arrangements have been made for all booths.

Special booths have been established for youth, persons with disabilities, and theme-based polling to encourage maximum participation. A



mustering center has been set up at the Government First Grade College in Sector No. 43 of Navanagar.

In strict enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct, trading in liquor shops within 10 km of the constituency has been suspended until midnight on April 9. Authorities have seized cash worth Rs. 94.03 lakh, liquor worth Rs. 39.73 lakh, 14,637 liters of liquor, 194 liters of illegal liquor, nine vehicles, and sarees worth Rs. 1.20 lakh since the code came into effect.

Open campaigning will be banned from 6 pm on April 7. Political workers brought from outside the constituency must leave, and only five people per candidate can conduct door-to-door campaigns in the

Prohibitory orders issued around SSLC centers

MANDYA

Authorities in Mandya have issued a prohibitory order around six SSLC 2026 Annual Examination-01 evaluation centers starting April 8. The move aims to ensure smooth and uninterrupted evaluation work. The District Collector and District Magistrate approved the restriction after a request from the Deputy Director (Administration) of the Public Education Department. The order applies to a 200-meter radius around the evaluation sites until all evaluation work is completed.

The six centers under restriction include Carmel Convent, S.P.P.K. Kallukattada, St. John's High School, St. Joseph's High School, Rotary High School, and Lakshmi Janardhan Balika High School, all in Mandya. Only officers and staff appointed for evaluation will be allowed inside these areas.

Officials stressed that the measure is temporary and necessary to maintain order and prevent any disruptions. Residents and visitors are advised to avoid the restricted zones during the evaluation period to ensure the process runs efficiently.

Lokayukta flags lake encroachments, seeks quick action

BENGALURU

The Lokayukta has raised serious concerns over large-scale encroachments and irregularities in lakes across Kolar district and directed officials to take swift, time-bound action. B S Patil reviewed the status of lake surveys and encroachment clearance during a meeting with revenue and survey officials. He asked them to complete pending work and submit a detailed report before the next hearing.

Officials shared updates from different taluks. In KGF, out of 325 lakes, surveys have been completed for 200, while re-survey work is pending for 46 lakes due to outdated records and fresh encroachments. In Bangarpet, all 377 lakes have been surveyed, and most identified encroachments have either been cleared or issued notices. Srinivaspur reported 617 lakes, many of which have shrunk into smaller water bodies, with several encroachments including residential buildings. In Mulbagal, 803 lakes were identified, with 381 found encroached. In some cases, lake lands were reportedly recorded under private ownership and removed from official records.

In Kolar taluk, 566 lakes were identified, and surveys have been completed for 565, but encroachments still exist in several areas.

The Lokayukta observed that illegal occupation, delays in surveys, and administrative lapses have led to the deterioration of water bodies. Officials cited staff shortages and technical issues for the delays.

Justice Patil warned of strict action if officials fail to comply. He directed authorities to speed up re-surveys, remove encroachments, and ensure proper documentation.

A compliance report has been sought before the next hearing scheduled on May 26, with a warning that costs may be imposed on officials for any delay or negligence in completing the work.

Magadi Basava Jayanti celebrated, Shivakumaraswamiji honoured

MAGADI

Srimalaya Shantamuni Desikedra Shivacharya Mahaswamiji praised Dr. Shivakumaraswamiji during the inauguration of the Rural Basava Jayanti and the 5th anniversary of the Sri Shiva-

kumaraswamiji Community Hall in Gudemaranahalli village. He said that had Dr. Shivakumaraswamiji been born in the Christian faith, he might have received the Nobel Peace Prize for his service, which, he claimed, exceeded that of Mother Teresa.

Shivacharya Mahaswamiji highlighted that Dr. Shivakumaraswamiji worked to please God rather than seek public recognition, and his ideals teach people to lead meaningful lives. The celebration emphasized Basava Jayanti in villages, encourag-

ing everyone to take part in religious and cultural programs. Regular Shivanubhava gatherings on new moon and Ponami days, led by monks of Jagannaiah's Math, were credited with enriching knowledge and spiritual understanding in the community.

Channabasava Swamiji of Gudemaranahalli Jagganayya Mutt stressed the teachings of Basavanna, advocating for an equal society free from caste and creed discrimination. A historical play by Jagajyothi Basaveshwara Nataka Mandali was performed as part of the

festivities. The event saw attendance from MLA Srinivas, Siddalingaswamiji of Thama-dihalli Mutt, Veerashaiva Lingayat Seva Trust President Shantaraju, former members Shankarappa and Anasuya Kantaraju, teacher Aaradhya, and many others.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client by name Sri. Narayana son of Sri. Abbaiah, residing at: Sanjivayyanadoddi Village, Harohalli Hobli, Harohalli Taluk and Bangalore South District, has lost Original Registered Sale Deed dated 18-02-2008, executed by Sri. Thammaiah @ Narasaiah and his family members in favour of Sri. H.C. Shekhar, which is duly registered as Document No. KNK-1-07350/2007-08, CD. No. KNKO-87, Book-1, Registered on 22-02-2008 and Registered at Sub Registrar Office, Kanakapura, while Xerox at Harohalli Town on 03-04-2026. Hence, if anyone found the said document, please intimate the same or my client. Contact Address: Rajini, M.S., B.A., LL.B. Advocate., 1st Floor, Society Building, PLD Bank Road, Opposite Old Bus Stop, Ramanagara Town-562159. Mob: 8884242935. Date: 24-03-2026.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DIMPLE THAPA D/o AJIT THAPA, R/o No 1, Flat F04, Kenchappa Road, Frazer Town, Pulakeshinagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560005, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have embraced ISLAM and renounced HINDUISM with effect from 31.01.2024. I also changed my name from DIMPLE THAPA to HAYAT SYEDA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, LAKSHMINARASIMHASWAMY C S/o CHIKKEGOWDA R/o 44, Somedevanahalli, Magadi, Ramanagar, Karnataka-562127, have changed the name of my minor son SUPREETH GOWDA L aged 7 years and he shall hereafter be known as RISHABH.

CHANGE OF NAME

Veeresh S/o Shivamadaiah, residing at: Doddagangavadi Village and Post, Kootagall Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District. Have changed my name VEERESH to VEERESH S. for all future purposes as per Affidavit sworn before M. C. Devendra, Notary, Ramanagara. dated: 06-04-2026 All my transaction will be held in the Name of VEERESH S. only.

BEFORE THE COURT OF PRL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC, BANGALORE RURAL, AT DODDABALLAPUR Criminal Misc. Petition No. 147/2024 BETWEEN: Smt. Gangamma W/o Mariyappa, Aged about 38 years, Hamblager Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk. Petitioners AND The Registrar of Birth and Deaths, CMC Respondent

PAPER PUBLICATION/PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been made on this court under section 13(3) of the Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969, r/w rule 9 (3) of Karnataka registration of birth and deaths act 1969. For the death certificate of petitioner's mother Smt Muniyamma died on 15/02/2020. Be it known that no caveat has been and the said petitioner is posted for hearing on 14/05/2026 at 11:00 Clock any Person's claiming to have any interest may come and participate in the proceedings before the grant death certificate. Given under my hand and seal of the court, this the day of 06.04.2026

By Order of the Court
Shristedar, COURT OF THE IND ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPUR
Advocate for Petitioners: VASUDHA B S, Advocate, #533/1262, Kuchappappet, Doddaballapur

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPURA CRL.MIS. NO. 124/2026
Petitioner : Smt Anitha.G W/o Late Punith, Aged about 31 Years, R/t #48 Durganahalli Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk
Vs
Respondent : The Tahashildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore rural District
DRAFT PAPER PUBLICATION
The petitioner has filed a petitioner for grant of death certificate of Sri Punith S/o late Muniraju Was died on -09.06.2020 at her house i.e, Durganahalli, Village Tubagere hobli, Doddaballapura taluk, Bangalore rural distric As the Petitioner is wife of the Deceased Punith.
If any person has right interest may appear before this Hon'ble court on at Doddaballapura 11.5.2026 at 11:00 AM in person or through pleader to file your objections if any.
Take Notice that in default of your appearance of the date before/above mention in the Notice it will be heard and determine ex-parte.
Given under by hand seal of the on the day of 2.4.2026.
By Order of the Court
Shristedar
Additional Civil Judge & J.M.F.C At Doddaballapura
Advocate for service : Sri Harish.K, Advocate

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMED ASGAR AKBAR, S/o. Mohammed Akbar, Resident of No.806, 2nd Cross, Avalappa Block, Chamundiagar, R T Nagar, Bengaluru-560032, have changed my name to MOHAMMED ASGAR, Vide Affidavit Dated: 06.04.2026 before notary V. RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AKESHA R S/o RANGAPPA D R/o 1108, 4 2 n d C r o s s , Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore South, J P Nagar, Bangalore South, Bengalore, Karnataka-560078, have changed the name of my minor son HARSHA A aged 14 years and he shall hereafter be known as HARIPRASAD A.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VISHWANATH MUNAVALLI S/o BABURAO SIDALINGAPPA MUNAVALLI, R/o 415, A Block, Brocade Vista Apartment, Gattigere, Near Baleyele Narasimha Temple, Rajarajeshwari Nagara, Rajarajeshwari nagara, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560098, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VISHWANATH BABURAO MUNAVALLI.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAVI MADHVA VAIDYA S/o MADHVA S VAIDYA, R/O E608, Pridespring Fields Apartments, Gubbala Main Road, Vasanthapura, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560061, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAVINDRA MADHVA VAIDYA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, LAKSHMINARASIMHASWAMY C S/o CHIKKEGOWDA R/o 44, Somedevanahalli, Magadi, Ramanagar, Karnataka-562127, have changed the name of my minor son MITHUN GOWDA L aged 10 years and he shall hereafter be known as ADVIK.

NAME CHANGE

I, NARASIMHA RAJU S, Resident of No. 20, Parvi Golden Nest, 2nd B Main Road, NagarabHAVI Main Road, Bengaluru -560072, Kamataka, have changed my name to NARASIMHA RAJU SOSTALLI RAMAKRISHNAIAH, vide affidavit dated: 02.04.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, SRINIVAS SONNENAHALLI HANUMANTHAPPA, Resident of No. 12/3, Sonnenahalli, 3rd Block, Ulial Upanagara Post, SMV Layout, Bengaluru -560056, Karnataka, have changed my name to SRINIVAS HANUMANTHAPPA, vide affidavit dated: 02.04.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, RADHA NAGAPPA, Resident of No. 12/3, Sonnenahalli, 3rd Block, Ulial Upanagara Post, SMV Layout, Bengaluru -560056, Karnataka, have changed my name to RADHA MANI NAGAIHA, vide affidavit dated: 02.04.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, HANUMANTHE GOWDA SONNENAHALLI SRINIVAS, Resident of No. 12/3, Sonnenahalli, 3rd Block, Ulial Upanagara Post, SMV Layout, Bengaluru -560056, Karnataka, have changed my name to VINU SRINIVAS, vide affidavit dated: 02.04.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, LAKSHMAMMA W/o LATE NARAYANA A M, R/o 56, 2nd Main Road, Gayathri Layout, Ramasandra, Kengeri Hobli, Sulikere Post, Kengeri, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560060, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BHADRAMMA.

Elephant herd sparks fear, night traffic halted

BELUR

A herd of 28 wild Asian elephants spotted in Bommenahalli has caused fear among residents. The elephants roamed in search of food and later rested near DC garden after drinking water from Gauri

Lake. A lone elephant was also seen in Kittavar Estate, adding to panic. Forest Department officials have stopped night movement in the area and are monitoring the situation. Residents have been warned through loudspeakers to avoid venturing out at night for safety.



Teachers key to successful census work, says Commissioner

RAICHUR

Teachers play a crucial role in ensuring the success of census work, said Municipal Corporation Commissioner Zubin Mohopatra during a training workshop held in the city. The programme was organised for supervisors and enumerators at the Government Girls' Pre-University College. He said the census is a national responsibility and a legal duty, urging teachers to actively support the process with dedication.

A total of 434 blocks have been identified in Raichur urban area, with 75 supervisors and 435 enumerators assigned for the task. The house listing survey will begin on April 16 and continue until May 15. The Commissioner explained that proper mapping of areas in the first phase will make the census process easier and more accurate. He added that an

online system has been introduced to align the census with modern digital practices.

Highlighting its importance, he said the census, which began in 1872, has now reached its 16th edition and holds special significance as the eighth national census after independence.

Enumerators will collect responses to 33 questions from households. Mohopatra advised them to be patient and polite, especially if people hesitate to share information, and to clearly explain the purpose of the census. Officials including Ravi Angadi, Shalam, Member Secretary Krishna, Nodal Officer Sudarshan, and Master Trainer Saddashivappa attended the event along with several teachers.

The workshop aimed to prepare staff for smooth data collection and ensure accurate results through teamwork and proper training.

Yedrami prepares digital census with full training

YEDRAMI

The 2027 census in Yedrami will be fully digital, and enumerators will undergo training in three stages to ensure accurate and transparent data collection, said Tahsildar Yellappa Subedar on Monday. He spoke while inaugurating a workshop for census enumerators and supervisors at Kanya High School in the town.

The taluk administration has appointed 196 enumerators and 29 supervisors for rural areas. A three-day compulsory training will be held from April 6 to 8 to prepare staff for the census. The actual house listing and housing census will take place from April 16 to May 15 across urban and rural areas. Enumerators and supervisors are already assigned to specific localities.

The administration has warned

that strict action will be taken against absentee staff. Under the Census Act of 1948 and the Indian Civil Security Code 2023, non-compliance may lead to FIR registration, suspension, and other disciplinary action.

An automatic online system will allow the public to submit census information conveniently. Tahsildar Yellappa emphasized that proper training will help avoid errors and maintain transparency in data collection.

Census Nodal Officer Raghavendra, Town Panchayat RI Basavaraj, Education Department CRP Mallanagowda, and Prashanth Kunnur were present during the training workshop.

Officials urged all enumerators and supervisors to participate actively and ensure every household is counted accurately.

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

QUICK READ

APCM hails capture of 2 rogue elephants after fatal attacks

ITANAGAR

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Monday lauded forest officials and wildlife experts for the successful tranquilization and capture of two rogue elephants following a prolonged period of fear that led to the loss of at least seven human lives. Officials from the Arunachal Pradesh Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department, in collaboration with counterparts from the Karnataka government, carried out the operation to capture the elephants. The animals had been responsible for multiple human deaths and widespread damage to crops, property, and other assets in Tirap and Lohit districts.

Nation first for BJP while it's family first for Cong: Modi

GUWAHATI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday took a veiled swipe at the Gandhi family while addressing a public rally in Assam's Hojai, accusing the Congress party of prioritising dynastic interests over public welfare. Without naming individuals directly, PM Modi criticised Congress for what he described as its family-first approach, contrasting it with the BJP's focus on development and governance. Taking an indirect jibe at the Nehru-Gandhi family, he said the party remains preoccupied with serving a shahi parivar (royal family) in Delhi, while in Assam too, its leadership revolves around a single family.

Sunetra Pawar files nomination for Baramati bypoll

BARAMATI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP national president Sunetra Pawar on Monday filed her nomination for the Baramati Assembly by-election, describing the contest as a mission to fulfil the unfinished dreams of her late husband and veteran leader Ajit Pawar. The seat fell vacant following the tragic demise of Ajit Pawar in a plane crash earlier this year. Accompanied by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Revenue Minister Chandrashekar Bawankule, her sons Parth and Jay and a host of NCP leaders including Praful Patel, Chhagan Bhujbal, Sunil Tatkare, Dilip Walse Patil among others, Sunetra Pawar struck a somber yet determined tone, framing the election not as a political contest, but as a mission to fulfil Ajit Dada's unfinished dreams.

SMASHING RECORDS

UPI payments surge 33% to 228.5 bn transactions in 2025

NEW DELHI

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) processed 228.5 billion transactions in 2025, marking a 33% year on year increase, while total transaction value touched Rs. 299.74 trillion, a report said on Monday.

The report from Worldline said that UPI's growth was broad based, with both person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions rising, with the latter recording a 34% growth to 143.82 billion transactions.

The overall average ticket size for UPI fell 9 per cent to Rs. 1,314, while merchant

KHAWAJA ASIF'S KOLKATA REMARK UNDER SCANNER

Indian security agencies have upped vigilance following a controversial remark Pak Df Min that any false flag op by India could trigger retaliation extending to Kolkata.

NEW DELHI

India's security agencies have intensified their vigilance following a controversial statement by Pakistan's Defence Minister, Khawaja Asif, who warned that any alleged false flag operation by India could trigger retaliation extending to Kolkata.

Officials in India have described the statement as provocative and indicative of an attempt to shift narratives by portraying India as a potential aggressor.

A false flag operation, often defined as a covert act designed to appear as though it was conducted by another party, is typically used to justify retaliation or sway public opinion. Experts believe that Asif's remarks are aimed at preemptively shaping global

perception while reinforcing Pakistan's defensive stance.

A senior Indian official reiterated that New Delhi's position on cross-border threats remains firm and unchanged. According to the official, any act of aggression or terror linked to Pakistan would be treated as an act of war. The official pointed to India's previous response during Operation Sindoor as an example of how the country would retaliate against any misadventure. He further emphasized that dialogue between the two nations would only be possible once Pakistan dismantles its terror infrastructure.

Another official highlighted that the mention of Kolkata must be viewed in the context of the ongoing electoral process in West Bengal. Intelligence assessments suggest

that such statements could be aimed at inciting extremist groups like Harkat-ul-Jihad Islami and Jamaat-ul Mujahideen Bangladesh to carry out disruptive activities during the elections. An Intelligence Bureau official revealed that multiple intercepts indicate heightened activity among these groups, with possible plans to target regions in West Bengal and Assam.

This has prompted security agencies to increase surveillance and preparedness in sensitive areas. Additionally, officials noted that Pakistan's frustration may stem from improving relations between India and Bangladesh, as both countries strengthen cooperation in economic and security sectors.



Raje highlights ideology, legacy of BJP founding figures

JAIPUR

On the occasion of the 47th Foundation Day of the Bharatiya Janata Party, senior leader and former Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje shared a message reflecting on the party's ideological roots and the sacrifices of its founding figures.

In her message, Raje recalled the contributions of prominent leaders such as Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Deendayal Upadhyaya, and Vijayaraje Scindia, stating that their sacrifices continue to inspire generations of party workers.

She also acknowledged stalwarts like Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani, noting that their legacy is not merely a chapter in history but a solemn responsibility for those carrying forward the party's mission.

Emphasising the guiding principle of Nation First, Party Next, Self Last, she paid tribute to leaders whose vision and dedication laid the foundation of the party.

Raje stressed that politics, in its truest sense, is about service to society. She highlighted that uplifting every section of the population and striving to position India as a

global leader remain central to the party's vision. In a message shared on social media, she extended greetings to citizens and party workers, describing the day as a tribute to millions of dedicated individuals who have served the nation selflessly without expectations.

She also underlined the importance of the philosophy of Antyodaya, which focuses on the upliftment of the last person in society, as a core principle guiding the party's policies and actions. According to her, the lives and teachings of the party's founding leaders serve as a constant reminder that national service is the highest duty.

Meanwhile, celebrations were held at the party's state office in Jaipur, where Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and State President Madan Rathore inaugurated the event by hoisting the party flag.

FIR against TMC-linked BLO member over stir outside CEO office

KOLKATA

The Kolkata Police has registered a First Information Report (FIR) against a female member of the Trinamool Congress-backed BLO Rights Protection Committee for staging a protest outside the office of the State Chief Electoral Officer in Kolkata, officials confirmed on Monday.

According to police officials, the accused, identified as Booth Level Officer Tanushree Modak Bhattacharya, has been served a notice directing her to appear at the Hare Street police station within three days of receiving it. Authorities have instructed her to fully cooperate with the investigation and submit all relevant documents. The notice also cautions her against engaging in similar protest activities, destroying evidence, or attempting to obstruct the probe, warning that non-compliance could lead to arrest. The action follows directives from the Election Commission of India amid ongoing tensions linked to election-related duties in West Bengal.

The FIR is believed to have been filed based on instructions issued by the Election Commission, which has been closely monitoring developments surrounding protests by

a section of Booth Level Officers aligned with the Trinamool Congress. These protests began shortly after the launch of the Special Intensive Revision process in West Bengal in November last year.

Members of the BLO Rights Protection Committee had organised a sit-in demonstration outside the CEO's office, alleging excessive workload and claiming that several BLOs had taken extreme steps due to mounting work pressure. The protest highlighted growing dissatisfaction among field-level election staff responsible for carrying out electoral roll revisions.

Officials noted that this marks the first instance of an FIR being filed against a female Booth Level Officer in connection with such demonstrations outside the CEO's

office, indicating a significant escalation in the administration's response.

Tensions had previously flared on February 24 when Suwendu Adhikari, Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal, visited the CEO's office and raised slogans. The situation escalated further as supporters of the Bharatiya Janata Party gathered at the location, resulting in unrest in the area.

In the aftermath of that incident, Bhattacharya had filed a complaint against BJP supporters, accusing them of misconduct. However, in a reversal of circumstances, the latest FIR has now been lodged against her in connection with the protest gathering, underscoring the increasingly charged political atmosphere surrounding election-related activities in the state.



India-Japan science & tech ties one of strong pillars: Singh

NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh delivered a virtual address at the grand finale of the India-Japan Year of Science, Technology and Innovation Exchange, held at the Embassy of India in Tokyo on Monday. Opening his address, Singh greeted attendees and expressed his pleasure at being part of the significant occasion. He emphasised that cooperation between the two nations in science and technology has grown into one of the strongest pillars of their bilateral relationship. The event marked 40 years of collaboration, reflecting sustained efforts to deepen ties in research, innovation, and technological advancement. The minister highlighted four decades of strong bilateral cooperation between India and Japan, describing it as a cornerstone of international scientific engagement.



12 hurt in Indore lift crash at wedding function

INDORE

Twelve members of a family who were injured in a lift crash during a wedding celebration in Indore are now reported to be out of danger, police said on Monday.

The incident, which occurred in the Chandan Nagar area, has raised serious concerns about safety violations and negligence after an overloaded lift in a factory building collapsed. According to police officials, the mishap

took place on Sunday when the victims had gathered at a factory premises in the Rajkumar Bank locality for a wedding function.

The group had gone to the second floor to meet the bride and were returning when around 12 people boarded a lift simultaneously.

Due to excessive load, the lift suddenly snapped and fell, leading to panic and chaos at the venue.

Most of the injured were

women and children, all of whom sustained leg injuries in the crash. They were immediately rushed to a nearby hospital, where they are currently undergoing treatment. Authorities confirmed that all injured individuals are stable, although some remain under observation for possible fractures.

Police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita against the event organiser, and a detailed investiga-

tion is underway. Preliminary findings suggest gross negligence, as the lift involved was meant strictly for transporting goods and not passengers. Despite this, it was reportedly being used regularly to ferry guests during the wedding function.

A senior officer from the Chandan Nagar police station stated that overloading was the immediate cause of the accident, but the deeper issue appears to be a blatant disregard for safety norms.

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Forest Department
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests
Hunsur Wildlife Sub-Division, Hunsur
Ph : 08222-252041
E-mail-acfhunsurwlsd2020@gmail.com
No:ACF/HWLS/RB/Tender/CR-16/2025-26
Dated : 25/03/2026

Tender Notification

E-Tenders for the works in Hunsur Wildlife Range of Hunsur Wildlife Sub-Division for the year 2025-26 are invited through e-procurement portal (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka from competent firms for the following works subjected to KW-4 terms and conditions.

Description of Work	Quantity	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)
Erection of railway barricade work including procurement of used rails	6.75 Km (1 Units)	964.49

(*Subject to release of funds from Govt.)
Last date of receipt of tender through e-portal : 27.04.2026 upto 16:00 hrs. If no contractors participate on 27/04/2026; re-tender will held on 05.05.2026 upto 16:00 hrs. No further notification will be published regarding Re-Tender. For more information contact the under signed office on working hours.
Phone : 08222-252041
Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Hunsur
Wildlife Sub-Division, Hunsur
DIPR/DDMYS/015/KSMCA/013/2025-26

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Yettinahole Project Division No.4, Madhugiri, Tumkur Dist-572132, Ph: 08137-282112
E-mail: eeyetlmadhugiri4@gmail.com
NO:EE/VJNL/YHP/Div-No.4/Madhugiri/NIT-15&16/2025-26
Date: 02.04.2026

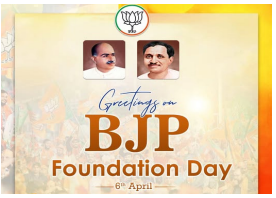
Tender Notification
(Through KPP-Portal)

On Behalf of Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigama Limited, Bangalore the Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division No.4, Madhugiri, Karnataka invites two tender document system for 05 works of Nelamangala Constituency and 02 works of K.G.F Constituency, total of 07 works amount Rs.253.39 Lakhs to Rs.418.23 Lakhs on "Percentage basis" through KPP-Portal. The contractor's can download and submit the completed bid documents through e-procurement website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 06.04.2026 to 16.04.2026 upto 5.30 PM, tenders shall be submitted through KPP-Portal only. Details for EMD amount, Tender Processing fee, Tender Clarifications, Qualification of bidders, Tender Conditions etc., may be obtained through KPP-Portal.

The queries if any may be clarified from this office up to 10.04.2026, at 3.00 PM. The bid will be opened on 18.04.2026, at 11.00 AM in office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL, YHP Division No.04, Madhugiri The undersigned reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.
Sd/-Executive Engineer,
V.J.N.L, YHP Division No.4, Madhugiri.
DIPR/TUM/13/KSMCA/2026-27



QUICK READ



BJP celebrates 47th Foundation Day with leaders

PATNA

The Bharatiya Janata Party celebrated its 47th Foundation Day in Patna with enthusiasm and participation from senior state leaders and party workers. The event highlighted the party's ideological journey, organisational strength, and commitment to national service. The celebrations in Patna witnessed the presence of prominent state leaders, office-bearers, and a large number of party workers, who gathered to mark the occasion with pride and unity. The programme began with the hoisting of the party flag, followed by tributes to the founding leaders who laid the ideological foundation of the organisation. Leaders recalled the contributions of visionaries such as Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Deendayal Upadhyaya, whose principles continue to guide the party's policies and governance approach.

CAG report flags alarming decline of lakes in J&K

JAMMU

A recent report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has revealed a worrying environmental trend in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that 518 out of 697 lakes in the region have either disappeared or shrunk significantly. The findings have raised serious concerns about ecological degradation and water resource management. According to the report, the rapid decline of lakes across Jammu and Kashmir is attributed to a combination of factors including encroachment, urban expansion, pollution, and lack of effective conservation measures. The shrinking water bodies not only threaten biodiversity but also impact the livelihoods of communities dependent on these ecosystems. The audit highlights that many lakes have suffered due to unregulated construction activities and encroachments, which have reduced their size over time.

'Cong failed to pass Women's Reservation Bill during UPA rule'

PANCHKULA

Bharatiya Janata Party MP Rekha Sharma has criticised the Congress for failing to enact the long-pending Women's Reservation Bill during the tenure of the United Progressive Alliance government. Her remarks come amid renewed political debate over women's representation in legislative bodies. Rekha Sharma stated that despite being in power for two consecutive terms, the Congress-led UPA government did not succeed in passing the Women's Reservation Bill, which aims to provide 33 percent reservation for women in Parliament and state legislatures. She argued that the failure reflected a lack of political will on the part of the Congress leadership.

Democracy thrives on collective leadership: Rahul

Senior Cong leader Rahul launched a sharp attack on Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, stating that no individual is uniquely capable of governing the state.

THRISSUR

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched a sharp attack on Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, stating that no individual is uniquely capable of governing the state.

He argued that portraying oneself as the sole capable leader undermines the intelligence and dignity of the people of Kerala. He said such messaging reflects political arrogance and diminishes the contributions of other leaders, particularly within the Left Democratic Front.



According to him, democratic leadership must be inclusive and grounded in humility rather than personality-driven narratives. Addressing a campaign rally in Thiruvananthapuram, he emphasised that Kerala has many capable leaders defined by humility and empathy, and warned against projecting any one leader as indispensable.

Escalating his criticism, Gandhi alleged that the political contest in Kerala is not a traditional bipolar fight. Instead, he claimed

there is a tacit understanding between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Left Democratic Front, positioning the Congress-led United Democratic Front as the only genuine opposition force in the state.

'Why Modi silent on Sabarimala gold smuggling'

He also targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi, questioning his silence on the alleged Sabarimala gold smuggling issue during visits to Kerala. Gandhi noted that while Modi frequently invokes religious themes in his speeches, his lack of comment on this issue raises questions. He suggested that such selective silence could indicate an attempt to shield or indirectly support the Left leadership.

Further, Gandhi claimed that while he has faced action from central agencies for crit-

icising the Prime Minister, no similar scrutiny appears to affect Vijayan or his family. He said this disparity strengthens the perception of an understanding between the BJP and Left leadership.

Criticising Vijayan's campaign style, Gandhi pointed to the widespread display of posters across Kerala prominently featuring the Chief Minister. He argued that this creates an impression of centralised leadership, which he compared to governance styles associated with leaders like Amit Shah and Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Concluding his remarks, Gandhi stressed that democracy thrives on collective leadership and respect for institutions. He warned that any attempt to project supremacy by a single individual weakens institutional balance and undermines public dignity.

Poll panel tightens rules on political ads in print

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India on Monday released detailed guidelines on the pre-certification of political advertisements in print media for upcoming Assembly elections and bye-elections, aiming to ensure a level playing field and a free, fair campaign environment across poll-bound states.

As per the new directives, no political party, candidate, organisation, or individual will be permitted to publish political advertisements in print media on the day of polling or one day prior without prior approval from the Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC). The move is part of the Commission's broader strategy to curb misinformation and regulate campaign content during sensitive periods.

The Commission clarified that candidates and other applicants must approach the District-level MCMC for certification, while recognised political parties headquartered in a state or union territory can apply to the State-level MCMC. All applications must be submitted at least two days before the intended date of publication to allow sufficient time for scrutiny and approval. The guidelines come in the wake of the election schedule announced on March 15 for Assembly polls in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal, along with bye-elections in six states. According to the schedule, polling in Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry will be held on April 9, making pre-certification mandatory

As per the new directives, no political party, candidate, organisation, or individual will be permitted to publish political advertisements in print media on the day of polling or one day prior without MCMC approval.

for advertisements published on April 8 and 9.

For Tamil Nadu, which will go to the polls on April 23, advertisements appearing on April 22 and 23 will require prior approval. In West Bengal, where elections will be conducted in two phases on April 23 and April 29, pre-certification will be required on April 22 and 23 for the first phase, and April 28 and 29 for the second phase.

To ensure effective implementation, MCMCs at both state and district levels have been activated to examine advertisement content and grant timely approvals. These committees have also been tasked with closely monitoring instances of paid news and taking strict action against violations.

Meanwhile, the Commission highlighted significant enforcement measures already underway in poll-bound states. On April 5, it reported that agencies have seized illegal cash, liquor, drugs, precious metals, and freebies worth over Rs 650 crore. A total seizure of Rs 651.51 crore has been recorded since the activation of the Electronic Seizure Management System on February 26.



Excise case: CBI opposes Kejriwal's plea for Justice recusal

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Monday opposed an application filed by former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the Delhi High Court, seeking the recusal of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma from hearing an appeal related to the Delhi excise policy case.

The agency described the development as a serious matter with wider implications.

During the proceedings, the CBI strongly objected to Kejriwal's request, which sought to prevent Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma from hearing the agency's appeal against a trial court order that had discharged him and 22 others in the alleged excise policy irregularities case.

The investigating agency argued that such a plea raises significant concerns, particu-



larly given the sensitive nature of the case and its impact on public institutions.

The Delhi excise policy case has been at the centre of political and legal debates, involving allegations of irregularities in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped policy. The trial court had earlier discharged Kejriwal and several other accused, prompting the CBI to challenge the decision be-

Ind candidates raises potential bogus voting in Payyannur

PAYYANNUR

Independent candidate V Kunjikrishnan, once a prominent functionary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), has filed a formal complaint with election authorities alleging large-scale irregularities in the electoral roll.

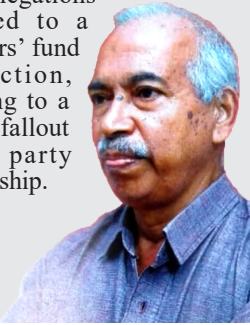
He claimed that names of deceased individuals and those no longer residing in the constituency continue to appear on the voters' list, raising concerns over potential bogus voting. The developments have intensified the spotlight on the constituency, reflecting broader shifts in the state's political landscape.

In his complaint to the District Election Officer, Kunjikrishnan pointed to alleged lapses by Booth Level Officers, accusing them of failing to remove ineligible names. He further alleged that some officials, influenced by Left sympathies, may have enabled the continuation of such names, thereby facilitating fraudulent practices. The com-

plaint also highlighted the alleged creation of fake voter identity cards at illegal centres operating in and around Payyannur.

He stated that he had compiled a list of questionable entries before submitting his complaint and warned that he would approach the courts if votes were found to have been cast in the names of deceased or absent individuals. Stressing the importance of electoral integrity, he called for ensuring a free and fair voting process.

The political significance of his candidature has added further intrigue to the contest. Once part of the CPI(M)'s influential Kannur district committee, Kunjikrishnan was expelled following allegations related to a martyrs' fund collection, leading to a bitter fallout with party leadership.



ceedings.

Describing the situation as something serious, the agency highlighted that such developments could affect the integrity and continuity of judicial processes, especially in high-profile cases. Legal experts suggest that recusal requests are generally considered carefully by courts, balancing the need for fairness with the risk of forum shopping or unnecessary delays.

The High Court is expected to examine the merits of the plea and the objections raised by the CBI before taking a final decision on whether the case should continue before the same bench.

The outcome of this development could have significant implications for the ongoing legal battle surrounding the Delhi excise policy case and its broader political ramifications.

Dhami thanks Centre for approving KV for Tehri Garhwal

DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday expressed gratitude to the Central Government for approving the establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Madannegi, district Tehri Garhwal.

The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has granted approval for setting up the new school, which will begin operations in the civil sector from the academic session 2026-27, according to a press release from the Chief Minister's office.

The Chief Minister stated that the opening of a Kendriya Vidyalaya will provide quality education to children in Madannegi and nearby areas, while also strengthening the local educational infrastructure. He added that both



the Central and State Governments are committed to advancing youth in the field of education and shaping their future, the release stated.

As per the release, in the initial phase, the new Kendriya Vidyalaya will start with classes 1 to 5, with one section in each class. Based on need and approval, it will be gradually expanded in the coming years. The admission process will begin within 30 days after the completion of all necessary formalities. It is noteworthy that this decision

has been taken in line with prior approval from the Government of India, under which 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas are to be established across the country.

The school in Madannegi, Tehri Garhwal, is one of the institutions included in this initiative. Earlier on Saturday, CM Dhami addressed police constables undergoing training at the Police Lines in Dehradun. He emphasised strengthening law and order in the state, playing an active role in disaster management, and ensuring smooth traffic management. He also inaugurated the renovation and restoration of Jugmandar Hall at the Dehradun Municipal Corporation, a project executed at a cost of Rs 2.32 crore as part of efforts to preserve and promote the city's cultural heritage.

Gogoi questions Assam CM's kin on foreign assets

GUWAHATI

A political war of words erupted in Assam on Monday after Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi raised a series of questions targeting Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his family over alleged foreign assets and links, and the CM's wife rejecting the allegations. In a post on X, Gogoi sought answers from the Chief Minister on five specific points, including whether Sarma's wife holds a golden visa for Dubai, whether such a visa is linked to an Indian passport, and whether any member of the Chief Minister's family owns property or runs businesses abroad. He also questioned whether any such assets had been disclosed in Sarma's election affidavit. Himanta Biswa Sarma should welcome an investigation if he has nothing to hide, Gogoi said, escalating the political confrontation between the BJP and the Congress in the poll-bound state.

SETBACK FOR VEDANTA

SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO STAY ADANI'S ₹14,543 CR JAL PLAN

NEW DELHI

In a setback to Vedanta Group, the Supreme Court of India on Monday declined to stay the implementation of Adani Enterprises' resolution plan for debt-ridden Jaiprakash Associates Ltd.

The court observed that the matter is already scheduled for final hearing before the appellate tribunal, making immediate intervention unnecessary.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant, along

with Justice Joymalya Bagchi, stated that since the insolvency appeals are listed before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal on April 10, there was no justification to halt the process at this stage.

The bench directed the tribunal to take up the matter on an out-of-turn basis and continue hearings, if required, on the following working day.

The apex court further ordered that any significant policy decision by the monitoring committee during the in-

terim period must be taken only after obtaining permission from the appellate tribunal, considering the case's complexity and implications.

Vedanta had approached the court seeking a stay on Adani Enterprises' Rs 14,500-crore resolution plan, alleging a lack of transparency in the insolvency

process. The company claimed that it had submitted a higher bid of Rs 16,726 crore and was initially declared the highest bidder before the outcome was reversed without sufficient explanation. It also criticised the decision-making of the Committee of Creditors, calling the approval process unfair and inequitable.

However, lenders defended their choice, arguing that under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, resolution plans are not selected solely on the basis of the highest financial offer.

They emphasised that factors such as upfront payment, feasibility, and repayment timelines play a crucial role.

According to lenders, Adani Enterprises' proposal was favoured due to its higher upfront payment of approximately Rs 6,000 crore and a shorter repayment

schedule of around two years. They also pointed out that Vedanta's revised bid was submitted after the bidding deadline, making it ineligible without restarting the process.

Earlier, the appellate tribunal had declined to grant interim relief against the approval of Adani Enterprises' plan by the National Company Law Tribunal, allowing the insolvency proceedings to continue while seeking responses from all stakeholders.



Arsenal face stern Sporting test as Arteta demands strong response

Arteta urges resilience as Arsenal look to bounce back in Europe

LONDON

Arsenal FC manager Mikel Arteta has called on his players to show character and resilience as they prepare for a crucial UEFA Champions League quarter-final clash against Sporting CP following a dip in form.

Arsenal head into Tuesday's encounter in Lisbon on the back of two damaging defeats that have derailed their momentum. A shock FA Cup quarter-final loss to Southampton FC came shortly after a League Cup final defeat to Manchester City, ending their hopes of a historic quadruple.

Despite suffering only their fifth defeat of the season, the back-to-back losses have triggered concern among supporters, with the club still chasing its first major trophy since the 2020 FA Cup. Questions have



resurfaced over Arsenal's ability to deliver silverware, especially after three successive runner-up finishes in the Premier League.

Arteta, however, remains confident that his side can overcome this difficult phase. He described the current situ-

ation as a natural challenge in a long season and urged his players to respond positively. Emphasising belief and unity, the Spaniard said the team must stand up and deliver in what he termed the most important phase of the campaign.

Arsenal still hold a strong

position domestically, maintaining a healthy lead at the top of the league table, while also being considered favourites against Sporting based on their previous dominant display in last season's group stage. The Gunners will look to key players like Viktor Gyokeres, who has found form in recent weeks, to provide the attacking spark. However, injury concerns over Declan Rice, Bukayo Saka and Gabriel Magalhães could complicate their plans.

Midfielder Christian Norgaard echoed the manager's sentiments, stressing the need for positive body language and focus as the team navigates a demanding schedule.

With the Champions League dream still alive and the Premier League title within reach, Arsenal now face a defining test of their season.

Real Madrid bank on European magic to tame Bayern challenge

MADRID

Real Madrid will look to summon their famed European resilience when they face Bayern Munich in a blockbuster UEFA Champions League quarter-final clash on Tuesday.

The meeting marks the 29th encounter between the two giants in the competition, the most between any two clubs, adding another chapter to one of football's fiercest rivalries. While Madrid boast a record 15 titles, Bayern arrive as one of Europe's most in-form sides this season. Despite a turbulent domestic campaign, Madrid once again showed their pedigree by eliminating Manchester City in the previous round. Their ability to deliver in high-pressure situations has kept their Champions League hopes alive even when consistency has eluded them elsewhere. Coach Alvaro Arbeloa faces the challenge of balancing a star-studded squad featuring Kylian Mbappe, Vinicius Junior and Jude Bellingham. The trio's attacking prowess will be crucial against a Bayern side known for its aggressive pressing and clinical finishing.



Bayern, under Vincent Kompany, have been in formidable form, going unbeaten in recent months. The likely return of Harry Kane, who has scored prolifically this season, further strengthens their attacking threat alongside dynamic forwards.

Midfielder Joshua Kimmich expressed confidence in Kane's availability, underlining the striker's importance to Bayern's ambitions. The German side's blend of physicality, pace and tactical discipline makes them slight favourites heading into the tie.

However, Madrid will draw confidence from their remarkable history at the Santiago

Bernabeu, where they have repeatedly produced dramatic comebacks against top opposition. The influence of the home crowd and the club's deep-rooted Champions League pedigree remain intangible advantages.

Bayern officials have acknowledged the challenge posed by Madrid's aura in Europe, noting that handling the pressure at the Bernabeu requires exceptional composure and mental strength. With both teams chasing continental glory, the clash promises to be a high-stakes encounter where form meets history, and where Madrid will hope their enduring Champions League magic prevails once again.

UCLA rout South Carolina to win maiden NCAA women's title

PHOENIX

UCLA Bruins women's basketball capped a historic season by clinching their first-ever NCAA Women's Basketball Championship title with a dominant 79-51 victory over South Carolina Gamecocks women's basketball.

Led by standout performances from Gabriela Jaquez and Lauren Betts, the Bruins delivered a commanding display on both ends of the court to complete their redemption arc after last year's Final Four disappointment.

Jaquez starred with 21 points, along with 10 rebounds and five assists, while Betts contributed 16 points and 11 rebounds, anchoring a suffocating defensive effort. The Bruins, who finished the season with a remarkable 37-1 re-

cord, controlled the game from the outset and never allowed South Carolina to settle.

UCLA's aggressive start set the tone, racing to a double-digit lead in the opening quarter as South Carolina struggled with poor shooting. The Bruins extended their advantage before halftime through disciplined defence and efficient scoring inside the paint.

The game was effectively decided in the third quarter when UCLA unleashed a decisive scoring run, stretching their lead beyond reach. Their defensive intensity restricted the Gamecocks to one of their lowest-scoring performances of the season.

Canada from June 11 to July 19. Beyond logistical concerns, the minister also pointed to broader geopolitical tensions, suggesting that international sporting bodies should uphold fairness and consistency in their decisions. He highlighted what he described as double standards in global sports governance, calling for greater adherence to the principles of fair play.

Despite the uncertainty, Iranian players continue their preparations for the tournament. The team remains focused on competing at the highest level, provided the necessary conditions are met.

With time running out before the tournament, all eyes are now on FIFA's response, which will ultimately determine whether Iran's request is accepted and how the situation unfolds.



The minister also criticised remarks made by Donald Trump regarding the safety of the Iranian team in the United States, describing them as inconsistent. He stressed that under FIFA regulations, host nations must ensure the safety of all participating teams.

"If such guarantees are not provided, the possibility of Iran playing its matches in the US is very low," Donyamali said, adding that relocating games to Mexico could offer a viable solution. The 2026 World Cup will be jointly hosted by the United States, Mexico and

Inter rout Roma to move nine points clear in Serie A race

MILAN

Inter Milan took a decisive step towards the Serie A 2026 title with a commanding 5-2 victory over AS Roma, stretching their lead at the top of the table to nine points. The win marked a strong response from Inter after a brief dip in form, with the return of captain Lautaro Martinez proving pivotal. The Argentine striker scored twice and led from the front in a dominant attacking display at the San Siro.

Inter wasted no time asserting control, as Martinez opened the scoring inside the first minute, finishing off a clever assist from Marcus Thuram. The early goal set the tone for a high-tempo encounter, though Roma briefly fought back through a header from Gianluca Mancini. However, Inter regained the lead just before half-time with a stunning long-range strike from Hakan Calhanoglu, restoring their advantage at a crucial moment. The hosts carried that momentum into the second half, effectively



Martinez inspires Inter as Roma crumble in high-scoring San Siro clash

sealing the contest within minutes of the restart.

Martinez added his second goal in the 52nd minute, again benefiting from Thuram's creativity, before the French forward got on the scoresheet himself with a well-placed header. Nicolo Barella then capitalised on poor defending to net Inter's fifth, putting the result beyond doubt.

Roma managed a late

consolation through Lorenzo Pellegrini, but it did little to mask a disappointing performance that dented their hopes of securing a Champions League spot. They remain outside the top four, facing an uphill battle in the closing stages of the season.

Inter's emphatic victory not only strengthens their grip on the title race but also sends a strong message to rivals AC Milan and Napoli.

With momentum firmly on their side and key players returning to form, Inter appear well on course to secure their 21st league crown.

Spaun rallies late to clinch Texas Open title in dramatic finish

SAN ANTONIO

J. J. Spaun produced a stunning late surge to win the Texas Open, securing his first title since last year's U.S. Open with a one-shot victory in challenging conditions.

The 35-year-old carded a five-under 67, finishing at 17-under 271 to edge out a tightly packed field. Spaun's triumph was built on two crucial moments late in the round — a precise tee shot on the 16th for birdie and a brilliant drive on the 17th that set up an eagle opportunity, ultimately sealing the win.

It marked his second career victory at the Texas Open,

though this triumph carried added significance after a modest start to the season. Spaun had not recorded a top-20 finish in his previous seven outings, making the win a timely boost ahead of the upcoming Masters.

"I've just tried to stay patient and trust the process," Spaun said, reflecting on the pressures following his major success last year.

Scotland's Robert MacIntyre, who had led for much of the tournament, mounted a late challenge but fell short after a costly error on the final hole. He finished tied for second alongside Matt Wallace and Michael Kim.

Cousins surpasses Brady in earnings after blockbuster Raiders deal



LAS VEGAS

Veteran quarterback Kirk Cousins has climbed to third place on the NFL's all-time career earnings list, overtaking legendary Tom Brady following a lucrative new contract with the Las Vegas Raiders.

Cousins, 37, has now earned over \$341 million across his 14-year career, surpassing Brady's approximate \$333 million despite the latter's record-breaking 23-season run that included seven Super Bowl titles. The milestone highlights the rapid rise in player salaries in the National Football League over the past decade.

The latest surge in Cousins' earnings comes after he signed a five-year deal reportedly worth \$172 million with the Raiders. However, the contract structure is heavily back-loaded, with a guaranteed \$20 million for the 2026 season and additional bonuses lined up in subsequent years.

Cousins now trails only Matthew Stafford and Aaron Rodgers on the all-time earnings list, both of whom have benefited from high-value contracts in recent seasons.

The Raiders' decision to bring in Cousins is seen as a strategic move aimed at adding experience and stability to the roster. Despite holding the top pick in the 2026 NFL Draft, the franchise appears keen to avoid rushing a young quarterback into the spotlight.

Reports suggest that highly rated prospect Fernando Mendoza could still be part of the team's long-term plans, with Cousins expected to play a mentoring role while continuing as a starting option in the short term. His extensive experience across multiple franchises is viewed as a valuable asset in guiding emerging talent.

While Cousins' recent on-field performances have shown signs of decline, his consistency and leadership qualities remain respected across the league. The Raiders believe his presence can help bridge the gap between rebuilding and competitiveness.

The financial milestone also reignites debate over legacy versus earnings, as Cousins surpasses one of the sport's greatest icons without matching his championship success, underscoring the evolving economics of professional football.

Woods faces retirement calls as Masters begins amid personal turmoil

AUGUSTA

As the Masters Tournament 2026 gets underway at Augusta National, the spotlight has shifted away from the course to the uncertain future of Tiger Woods, with growing calls from those close to him urging the legendary golfer to consider retirement.

The 15-time major champion is absent from this year's Masters following a recent DUI-related arrest and a rollover car crash in Florida on March 27. The incident has forced Woods to step away from the game temporarily as he undergoes treatment, reportedly at an overseas facility, prioritising

his health and recovery.

Despite the setback, Woods has expressed a strong desire to compete at Augusta, a venue where he has produced some of the most iconic moments in golf history. However, concerns over his physical and mental well-being have intensified, with friends and associates reportedly advising him to shift focus away from competitive golf.

Sources close to the golfer suggest that Woods remains determined to return to the top, often reflecting on his peak years and believing he can regain that level. This mindset, while reflective of his competitive spirit, has raised concerns among his inner circle, who fear he may be struggling to accept the changing realities of his career.

Adding another dimension to the situation is the attention surrounding his relationship with Vanessa Trump. Reports indicate that some within Woods' circle are worried that his personal life is not helping him recalibrate his priorities during this critical phase.

Woods himself acknowledged the seriousness of his situation, stating that he is stepping away from golf for a period to focus on his health. His candid remarks underline the challenges he faces as he balances recovery with his enduring passion for the sport.

Just days before the accident, Woods had reiterated his desire to play at the Masters, highlighting his deep connection to the tournament.

Iran seeks World Cup venue shift, awaits FIFA response on security

TEHRAN

Iran has reiterated its request to FIFA to relocate its fixtures in the FIFA World Cup 2026 from the United States to Mexico, citing security concerns, even as it awaits an official response from the global governing body.

Iran, which has qualified for the expanded 48-team tournament, is currently scheduled to play its group-stage matches in Los Angeles and Seattle. However, Sports Minister Ahmad Donyamali said the request to shift venues remains active and is crucial for ensuring the team's participation.

Donyamali stated that Iran's involvement in the World Cup would depend on receiving adequate security guarantees. He emphasised that while preparations are ongoing, the final decision on participation would rest with the government based on the assurances provided.

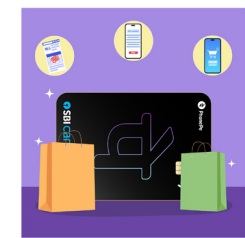


QUICK READ

Edible oils and essentials boost FMCG sector growth

NEW DELHI

The FMCG sector in India is showing signs of gradual recovery, driven primarily by strong demand for edible oils and other essential products, according to a recent industry report. Consumers continue to prioritize staples and everyday necessities, which has helped maintain steady revenue growth for companies despite broader economic pressures. While discretionary spending remains cautious, the consistent performance of essential goods is supporting overall sector stability. Analysts note that targeted marketing, supply chain efficiency, and product availability will be key factors in sustaining growth momentum, as the FMCG industry gradually navigates post-pandemic market challenges.



PhonePe SBI card launches with zero joining fee

BENGALURU

PhonePe and SBI Card have launched a co-branded credit card that comes with zero joining fee and offers 5% rewards on all online spends. The card aims to attract digital-first consumers who frequently shop online, providing cashback and reward points across e-commerce platforms, bill payments, and other digital transactions. Users can manage payments, track rewards, and redeem benefits seamlessly through the PhonePe app, enhancing convenience and financial control. The card also features standard security measures, contactless payments, and EMI options, making it suitable for a wide range of online purchases. With this launch, PhonePe and SBI Card aim to strengthen their presence in India's growing digital credit ecosystem.



India steps up efforts to secure fertiliser supplies

NEW DELHI

India is intensifying efforts to secure fertiliser supplies ahead of the key sowing season, amid global supply disruptions. The government has floated international tenders to import urea and other essential fertilisers, aiming to ensure stable availability for farmers. Domestic production has been constrained due to limited liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply, a critical input for urea manufacturing. Authorities are increasing gas allocations to fertiliser plants to boost output. Additionally, India is exploring multiple international partners to diversify imports and reduce dependency on a single region. These measures aim to prevent shortages, stabilize prices, and support agricultural productivity.



States likely to raise up to Rs 14 lakh cr in FY27: ICRA

ICRA Limited projects Indian states' borrowings to rise modestly to Rs 13.4–14 lakh crore in FY27, reflecting steady fiscal expansion.

NEW DELHI

ICRA has projected that Indian state governments are likely to raise between ₹13.4 lakh crore and ₹14 lakh crore in FY27, marking a year-on-year increase of about 5 to 9%. This anticipated rise in borrowings reflects growing fiscal requirements as states continue to invest in infrastructure, social welfare programs, and economic development initiatives. The increase in borrowing is expected to be driven by higher capital expenditure,

particularly in sectors such as roads, power, irrigation, and urban development. States are focusing on improving infrastructure to support long-term growth, which requires substantial financial resources. At the same time, revenue generation remains a challenge for many states, prompting a greater reliance on market borrowings. Despite the rise, the growth in borrowing is considered moderate compared to previous years, suggesting a cautious approach toward fiscal management. States are likely to balance

their development needs with concerns about debt sustainability and fiscal deficits. Efforts to improve tax collections and enhance efficiency in public spending may also help reduce excessive dependence on borrowing over time. The broader macroeconomic environment, including interest rates and inflation trends, will play a crucial role in shaping borrowing strategies. Higher interest rates could increase the cost of borrowing, thereby impacting state finances. Conversely, stable economic conditions



may provide some relief and support planned expenditures. Overall, the projected borrowing levels highlight the continued importance of prudent fiscal planning as states aim to sustain growth while maintaining financial stability.

Telecom sector outlook positive, ARPU-tariffs to drive performance

NEW DELHI

India's telecom sector is expected to maintain a positive outlook, supported by steady growth in average revenue per user (ARPU) and anticipated tariff hikes. Rising data consumption, increasing smartphone penetration, and expanding digital services are contributing to improved revenue streams for telecom operators across the country. Higher ARPU remains a key driver of financial performance. Telecom companies are focusing on increasing per-user revenue through premium data plans, bundled services, and value-added offerings. As users consume more data for streaming, gaming, and digital transactions, operators are better positioned to enhance their earnings without necessarily expanding their subscriber base significantly. Tariff hikes



are also likely to play a crucial role in boosting sector profitability. With intense competition gradually stabilizing, telecom providers are expected to revise pricing structures to improve margins. These increases are seen as necessary to offset rising operational costs, including spectrum charges, network maintenance, and infrastructure investments. Major players such as Reli-

ance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea are expected to benefit from these trends. Their focus on expanding 4G and 5G networks, improving service quality, and enhancing customer experience will further support growth. Additionally, ongoing investments in 5G infrastructure are expected to unlock new revenue opportunities in areas such as enterprise solutions.

Bonanza Enterprises eyes strong profit growth

NEW DELHI

Bonanza Enterprises has reported an impressive profit growth of over 27 percent, signaling strong operational performance and strategic expansion in India's rapidly evolving logistics sector. The company's growth reflects rising demand for efficient supply chain solutions, driven by e-commerce expansion, infrastructure development, and increasing industrial activity across the country. The firm has focused on optimizing its operations through technology adoption, improved route planning, and enhanced warehousing capabilities. These initiatives have helped reduce costs while improving delivery efficiency.

INDIA FY27 GROWTH SLOWS AMID ENERGY SUPPLY DISRUPTIONS

NEW DELHI

India's GDP growth forecast for FY27 has been revised downward to around 6.8–6.9 percent, reflecting concerns over energy supply disruptions and global uncertainties. The downgrade highlights how external factors, especially those linked to energy markets, can significantly influence domestic economic performance. Disruptions in the supply of key fuels such as liquefied natural gas and crude oil have raised input costs for industries, thereby affecting production levels and overall economic activity. Higher energy prices tend to create inflationary pressures, as transportation and manufacturing costs increase. This, in turn, reduces consumer purchasing

power and slows demand across sectors. Industries that are heavily dependent on energy, including manufacturing, fertilizers, and metals, are particularly vulnerable to such fluctuations. As production slows, it can have a cascading effect on employment and investment, further moderating growth. Geopolitical tensions, especially in energy-exporting regions, have also added to the uncertainty. Trade routes and supply chains face potential disruptions, which can impact both imports and exports. Since India relies significantly on energy imports, any instability in global markets directly affects its economic outlook. Despite the downgrade, the projected growth rate still places

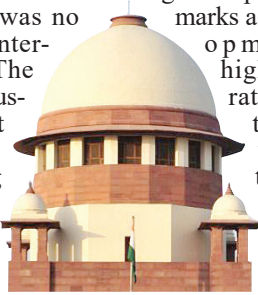
SC denies interim relief to Vedanta in insolvency dispute

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India on Monday refused to grant interim relief to Vedanta Ltd in its legal challenge against the resolution plan of Adani Enterprises Ltd for the insolvent Jaiprakash Associates Ltd (JAL). The top court declined to stay or halt the implementation of the resolution plan approved for Adani, reinforcing lower tribunal decisions and indicating that Vedanta's appeal will be dealt with by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal

(NCLAT). Vedanta approached the Supreme Court after both the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and the NCLAT refused to provide interim relief by staying the resolution process in favour of Adani. The dispute stems from Vedanta's contention that its own bid for JAL—claimed to be of higher value—was not properly considered during the insolvency proceedings, raising questions over the transparency and fairness of the process. The company argued that the Committee of Creditors

(CoC) erred in selecting Adani's plan despite Vedanta's revised offer being financially superior. In refusing relief, the Supreme Court observed that since the NCLAT is scheduled to hear Vedanta's appeal soon, there was no legal necessity to interfere at this stage. The bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant urged the NCLAT to expedite the hearing and directed all parties to present their contentions before it. The court



Nifty Sensex rebound driven by banks realty midcaps

MUMBAI

Indian equity markets witnessed a strong rebound as both the Nifty 50 and Sensex closed with notable gains, fueled by heavy buying in banking, real estate, and midcap stocks. Investor sentiment improved following positive cues from domestic economic indicators and stable global markets, which encouraged renewed buying interest across key sectors. The banking sector led the rally, with major private and public banks recording robust gains.

Analysts attribute this to expectations of improved credit growth, healthy asset quality, and strong quarterly earnings from several lenders. Financial stocks often act as a market bellwether, and their recovery helped lift broader indices. Realty stocks also contributed significantly to the upswing. With renewed investor confidence and government initiatives to support housing and infrastructure development, real estate companies witnessed strong trading volumes and price appreciation. Midcap stocks, often

sensitive to market sentiment, experienced substantial inflows as investors sought growth opportunities beyond large-cap segments. Market experts noted that global cues, including stable crude oil prices and easing geopolitical tensions, provided additional support to domestic equities. Furthermore, sector-specific developments, such as policy announcements and corporate earnings updates, reinforced investor optimism. Trading volumes were healthy, indicating strong participation from both retail and institu-

STRENGTHENING ROLE OF BOARDS

Boardroom engagement central to corporate governance reforms

Mumbai

SEBI Chairman emphasized that boardroom engagement will be central to the next phase of corporate governance reforms in India. Strengthening the role of boards is seen as essential to improving transparency, accountability, and sustainable business practices across listed companies. According to the SEBI Chairman, active participation of board members in strategic decision-making and oversight is vital to ensuring that

governance reforms translate into meaningful outcomes. This includes enhancing risk management, ethical conduct, and compliance with regulatory frameworks. Boards are expected to move beyond routine compliance checks and engage deeply with business strategy, sustainability, and stakeholder concerns. Recent reforms have focused on disclosure norms, independent director responsibilities, and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) reporting. The next

phase aims to ensure these measures are effectively implemented through proactive board involvement rather than mere procedural adherence. By fostering a culture of accountability at the board level, SEBI seeks to improve investor confidence and overall market integrity. The Chairman also highlighted the importance of board diversity, skill development, and continuous learning to handle complex corporate challenges. Technology adoption, including data-driven



governance tools, is expected to support boards in monitor-

ing performance and mitigating risks effectively. SEBI's

approach underscores that good governance is not only about regulatory compliance but also about embedding ethical and strategic thinking into corporate decision-making. Active board engagement will therefore be a cornerstone of reform, driving transparency, efficiency, and long-term value creation for shareholders and stakeholders alike. This focus signals a shift toward more robust, proactive, and accountable corporate governance in India's evolving market landscape.



Work ethic key as ‘ASHWIN’ backs young CSK amid slump

NEW DELHI

Indian spin veteran Ravichandran Ashwin has urged Chennai Super Kings to focus on building a strong work ethic and positive dressing-room environment as the team grapples with a difficult start to the Indian Premier League 2026 season.

CSK slumped to their third consecutive defeat after a crushing 43-run loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Sunday, leaving them at the bottom of the points table. The loss has intensified concerns over the team’s form and morale, especially with a relatively young and inexpe-

rienced

squad. Speaking on JioHotstar, Ashwin acknowledged the emotional toll such defeats can have on a team. He noted that the dressing room would be “hurting” but stressed that harsh criticism would not help a side still finding its feet. Instead, he emphasised the importance of cultivating discipline, unity, and a healthy team culture as the pathway to improvement.

Ashwin also pointed out that it would be unfair to demand accountability from in-

Struggling CSK urged to build strong culture and patience amid tough phase

experienced

players, who are still developing their game at the highest level. According to him, young cricketers should be allowed to enjoy their cricket without the burden of living up to the legacy associated with a franchise like CSK.

The match saw a dominant batting display from RCB, powered by Tim David, who smashed a blistering 70 off just 25 balls to propel his side to an imposing total. CSK’s

inability to contain the onslaught further exposed gaps in both bowling and execution. Former South African captain Faf du Plessis, who joined the discussion, backed CSK’s batting unit to bounce back. He expressed confidence in skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad and players like Sanju Samson, asserting that their proven quality would eventually come through.

Du Plessis added that the current adversity could prove valuable for Gaikwad’s growth as a leader, noting that challenging phases often shape resilient and effective captains.

Padikkal credits mindset shift for white-ball success with RCB

BENGALURU

Devdutt Padikkal has credited a conscious shift in mindset and technique for his growing success in white-ball formats, saying it was not easy to “change the foundation” of his batting but the effort is now paying off in the Indian Premier League 2026.

The Royal Challengers Bengaluru batter has been in impressive form, following up his 61 against Sunrisers Hyderabad with a fluent half-century against Chennai Super Kings, helping his side secure a convincing win.

Speaking after the match, Padikkal said adapting to the demands of white-ball cricket required him to step out of his comfort zone and re-think his approach.

He admitted that altering a batting style developed over years was challenging, but sustained hard work and self-belief enabled the transition.

Padikkal also acknowledged the role of the RCB support staff in guiding him through the process, helping him refine his technique and expand his scoring options.

The left-hander emphasised that modern T20 cricket demands versatility, with batters constantly working to improve their range-hitting abilities.



Kerala Blasters face fan backlash as Manjappada announces home boycott

KOCHI

Kerala Blasters FC have suffered a major setback off the field in the Indian Super League 2026, with their largest supporters’ group Manjappada announcing a boycott of all home matches following the team’s poor run of form.

The decision comes amid a dismal campaign that has seen the Blasters lose six of their seven matches so far, leaving them near the bottom of the standings in the 14-team league. The mounting frustration among fans has now culminated in a strong and public protest against the club’s management.

Manjappada, regarded as one of Asia’s biggest football fan groups, commands a massive social media presence, with over a million followers across platforms. Known for their vibrant presence at the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium in Kochi, their absence is expected to significantly impact the matchday atmosphere.

In a strongly worded statement, the group declared that their boycott is a united stand against what they described as an “unacceptable” situation at the club. They emphasised that continued support with-



out accountability would only enable the ongoing decline, adding that their passion and voices have been ignored for too long.

The irony of the situation was evident as the boycott announcement came just days after Manjappada passionately supported the Indian national team during an AFC Asian Cup qualifier at the same venue.

Their withdrawal from ISL matches, therefore, signals dissatisfaction specifically with the club rather than the sport itself.

On the field, matters continue to worsen for the Blasters. Their first game following the boycott announcement ended in a 0-2 defeat to SC Delhi, further deepening con-

cerns over the team’s performance and morale.

With three crucial home fixtures remaining, the absence of Manjappada’s iconic tifos and chants at Kochi could further dent the team’s confidence. The supporters’ group has made it clear that their return hinges on concrete actions from the management, demanding transparency and meaningful change.

So far, the club management has not issued an official response, leaving the situation unresolved as pressure continues to mount.

VAISHALI CLIMBS TO SECOND AS TAN BLUNDER PROVES COSTLY IN CANDIDATES

PEGEIA

India’s R. Vaishali continued her impressive run in the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026, capitalising on a crucial error by former world champion Tan Zhongyi to secure her second consecutive win in the women’s section. Tan’s costly blunder led to the loss of a piece, and Vaishali showed composure and precision to convert her advantage into a full point. The victory lifted her to second place with four points after seven rounds, just half a point behind leader Anna Muzychuk, who played out a draw against Bibisara Assaubayeva. Meanwhile, fellow Indian Divya Deshmukh had to settle for a draw against Russia’s Kateryna

Lagno despite holding a promising position. The marathon encounter stretched to 135 moves before the players agreed to split the point, leaving Divya tied in the mid-table. In the open section, Anish Giri halted the winning streak of Uzbekistan’s Javokhir Sindarov, forcing the young leader into a draw. Sindarov, who had won his previous four games, remained at the top of the standings with six points, maintaining a comfortable lead.

Second seed Fabiano Caruana was also held to a draw by India’s R. Praggnanandhaa, who delivered a solid performance to neutralise the higher-ranked opponent.



India eye Billie Jean King Cup play-offs amid Shrivalli setback

NEW DELHI

India will aim to capitalise on home conditions as they begin their campaign in the Billie Jean King Cup Asia-Oceania Group I ties, with a coveted play-offs berth in sight, despite a late setback caused by the withdrawal of Shrivalli Bhambidipaty.

The tournament, being held at the DLTA Complex, marks India’s re-

turn to the regional competition after a disappointing outing in the 2025 play-offs in Bengaluru, where they finished third in their group. This time, the hosts face stiff competition from teams such as Indonesia, Korea, New Zealand, Thailand and Mongolia, with only the top two sides progressing

and the bottom two facing relegation. India’s preparations suffered a blow after Shrivalli, who had been a key performer in previous campaigns, pulled out due to a back spasm. Team captain Vishal Uppal confirmed that Zeel Desai would replace her after reserve player Vaidehee Chaudhari was ruled out with an ankle injury.

The responsibility in singles will now largely rest on Sahaja Yamalapalli and Vaishnavi Adkar, both of whom have shown promise on the international circuit. Sahaja has been consistent on the ITF tour and gained valuable exposure at the WTA level, while Vaishnavi’s recent rise, including a strong run in a W100 event, has boosted India’s depth.

Experienced campaigner Ankita Raina is expected to anchor the doubles alongside Rutuja Bhosale, forming a crucial combination that could prove decisive in tight contests. Indonesia, led by top-ranked Janice Tjen, start as favourites, while Korea and New Zealand also present strong line-ups. Thailand’s balanced squad adds to the competitive field, making the race for the top two spots intense. Despite the absence of a top-200 singles player, India will rely on home advantage and team cohesion to bridge the gap. A disciplined showing in singles and consistency in doubles could pave the way for a return to the play-offs.

SAMSON finding his feet at CSK, desperate to deliver: Fleming

BENGALURU

Sanju Samson is still adjusting to life at Chennai Super Kings and remains eager to make a meaningful impact despite a slow start to the Indian Premier League 2026, head coach Stephen Fleming said on Monday.

Samson, who made a high-profile move from Rajasthan Royals ahead of the season, has struggled in his first three outings, scoring 6, 7 and 9. His modest returns at the top have denied CSK strong starts, adding pressure on the middle order.

Fleming, however, downplayed concerns over the wicketkeeper-batter’s form, stressing that adapting to a new franchise takes time. He said Samson is “going through the process of connecting” with the team environment, pointing out that building a sense of belonging is as important as performance on the field.

Despite the early setbacks, the coach emphasised that Samson is highly motivated to succeed. Drawing from his past performances, including his impactful international outings, Fleming expressed confidence that the Kerala batter would soon find his rhythm and become a key contributor. CSK’s campaign has also been affected by frequent changes in the playing XI, with five to six adjustments disrupting stability. Fleming noted that efforts are underway off the field to strengthen team bonding and create a cohesive unit capable of handling pressure situations.

The coach also called

Coach backs struggling Samson, urges patience as CSK rebuilds team balance.

for patience with emerging talents such as Ayush Mhatre, highlighting the balance between nurturing potential and accepting inconsistency. He believes the young core will play a vital role in shaping CSK’s future.

Reflecting on the recent defeat to Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Fleming identified the late onslaught by Tim David as the turning point. He added that lapses in execution during the death overs allowed the opposition to post an imposing total, which ultimately proved decisive.

While results have not gone CSK’s way, Fleming maintained that sustained support and patience would help the team rediscover its winning touch.



NIRVIKA shines at Augusta, wins Drive, Chip and Putt title

AUGUSTA

Fourteen-year-old Nirvika Koduru, a US teenager of Indian origin, delivered a sensational performance to win the Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals in the girls’ 14-15 category at Augusta National Golf Club.

Nirvika, whose family hails from Nellore in Andhra Pradesh, showcased remarkable composure under pressure to top the field in record fashion. After finishing second in driving and third in chipping, she produced a clutch display in putting, sinking a 30-foot putt on the iconic 18th green to seal victory. Her total of 30 points matched the all-time record across categories, while her 7.5-point winning margin was the biggest among all winners this year. With this triumph, she became the first American of Indian origin to win the prestigious title.

“I just tried to stay calm and focus on consistency,” said Nirvika, who began playing golf at the age of five.

Her achievement highlights the growing presence of players of Indian origin in global golf, joining the likes of Sahithi Theegala and Akshay Bhatia.

SATWIK-CHIRAG WITHDRAW; Lakshya, Sindhu lead India’s title push

NINGBO

India’s campaign at the Badminton Asia Championships 2026 has suffered a setback with the withdrawal of star doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, even as Lakshya Sen and P. V. Sindhu gear up to spearhead the country’s challenge in singles. The former champions, who clinched the title in 2023, opted out of the

tournament after Satwik continued to struggle with a shoulder injury. The duo had earlier withdrawn from the Swiss Open as well, raising concerns over their fitness ahead of a packed international season. With the absence of India’s top doubles combination, the focus now shifts to the singles contingent, which will be aiming to end a decades-long drought at the continental meet. India

has not produced a men’s singles champion since Dinesh Khanna won gold in 1965, and Lakshya will be eager to rewrite history following his recent runner-up finish at the All England Championships. Lakshya begins his campaign against Hong Kong’s Lee Cheuk Yiu, while compatriots H. S. Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth also feature in a competitive men’s singles draw.