



JGU hosts India-Japan Higher Education Forum in Tokyo

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Anvay Dravid Shines as India Under-19 Posts Competitive Total



DK Shivakumar rejects SIR irregularity charges, says Opposition 'worried'

CM denies poll revision violations, defends transparency & awareness campaign across K'taka

Exercise

Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls

Complaint

NDA alleges mass procedural violations

Demand

Inquiry and fresh door-to-door verification

Government stand

No interference in Election Commission process

Online beneficiaries

Around 4.5 crore caste and income certificates issued



"The government will not interfere in the SIR process. The Opposition is worried because the government is creating awareness about the process on such a large scale."

—D.K. Shivakumar, Chief Minister

Joshi, Shobha Karandlaje and Opposition leaders R. Ashoka and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, submitted a memorandum to Chief Electoral Officer V. Anbukumar alleging serious violations of SIR guidelines.

The delegation claimed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were not conducting mandatory door-to-door verification and instead were collecting enumeration forms at community halls, mosques and private residences. They sought

an immediate inquiry, mandatory re-verification of all forms through house-to-house visits and strict legal action against officials responsible for the alleged lapses.

Rejecting the charges, Shivakumar maintained that the government had no role in the revision process and accused the Opposition of attempting to create confusion.

He said nearly 4.5 crore people had already obtained caste and income certificates online, making it easier for citizens to participate in the exercise. Responding to allegations of illegal Bangladeshi migrants being enrolled, the Chief Minister challenged the Opposition to produce evidence and questioned why no action had been taken when they were in power.

Congress challenges SIR schedule, backs voter awareness

While supporting voter awareness efforts, the Congress government has maintained that it has reservations about the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) schedule. Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the party has already presented its arguments before the court and will continue to pursue legal remedies against the timeline of the exercise. Despite its objections, the government says it is cooperating with the Election Commission to ensure eligible voters do not lose their franchise. Shivakumar maintained that protecting voting rights remains the government's priority and insisted there has been no interference in the Election Commission's independent electoral revision process.

What is the controversy?

The BJP-JD(S) alliance has alleged that Booth Level Officers failed to conduct mandatory house-to-house verification during Karnataka's Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls and instead collected forms at common locations, violating Election Commission guidelines. The alliance fears such practices could compromise the accuracy and integrity of the electoral rolls. The Chief Electoral Officer has already instructed officials to ensure strict compliance with the prescribed door-to-door verification process, while the Congress government has denied any involvement and maintained that the revision is being carried out independently by the Election Commission.



PM Modi begins Indonesia visit amid warm welcome

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto welcomed PM Modi at airport with cultural reception.

JAKARTA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a rousing welcome from members of the Indian diaspora in Jakarta on Sunday as he began the first leg of his three-nation tour, with enthusiastic chants of "Bharat Mata ki Jai" and "Modi, Modi" filling the airport.

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto personally received the Prime Minister at the airport, where a cultural performance was also showcased as part of the ceremonial reception. Indonesian Air Force fighter jets escorted the PM's aircraft as it entered Indonesian airspace, marking a formal and high-profile welcome.

Expressing gratitude, PM Modi said he was touched by President Prabowo's gesture and noted that both leaders would hold discussions to further strengthen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two nations. He also confirmed plans to visit the Prambanan Temple complex, highlighting cultural ties between India and Indonesia.

- Visit duration: **July 6–8**
- Trade volume: **USD 24.78 bn (FY 2025–26)**
- Indian firms in Indonesia: **130+**
- Indonesia nickel reserves: **21% global share**

The visit marks PM Modi's fourth trip to Indonesia and the first bilateral visit since ties were elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2018. Over 130 Indian companies currently operate in Indonesia across multiple sectors, strengthening economic and cultural links between the two nations.

"During this visit, President Prabowo Subianto and I will hold discussions aimed at adding momentum to our partnership across diverse sectors."

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

The Prime Minister interacted with excited members of the Indian community, many of whom expressed joy at meeting him in person for the first time. "This is the first time I saw PM Modi up close. I am super excited," said

one diaspora member. Indonesia is India's second-largest trading partner in the ASEAN region, with growing cooperation in critical minerals, trade, and technology. Indonesia holds around 21% of global nickel reserves and is a key supplier of copper, bauxite, and tin, making mineral cooperation a major focus area of the visit.

R. ASHOKA DEMANDS INDUSTRIES SHIFT TO BARREN LANDS

ANEKAL

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka on Monday urged the Karnataka government to stop acquiring fertile agricultural land for industrial and layout projects, insisting that barren land should be utilised instead and future development be directed towards North Karnataka.

Addressing farmers protesting against the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) land acquisition at Sarjapura in Anekal taluk, Ashoka alleged that the KIADB was forcibly acquiring farmers' land despite court inter-

vention. He said many affected farmers own only small holdings and depend on silk cultivation and vegetable farming for their livelihoods. "Industries should not come up on fertile agricultural land. The government must identify barren land for such projects. Instead of concentrating industries around Bengaluru, they should be established in North Karnataka to ensure balanced regional development," he said. Ashoka also criticised the government's continued expansion of layouts around Bengaluru, warning that unchecked urbanisation would damage groundwater resources and lakes.



"Industries should not be established on fertile agricultural land. Barren land must be used, and development projects should be taken to North Karnataka."

—R. Ashoka, Leader of Opposition

Farmers oppose KIADB land acquisition

Farmers in Sarjapura have been protesting against the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board's acquisition of agricultural land, claiming the exercise threatens their livelihoods. They argue that many families depend on silk and vegetable cultivation and fear losing their only source of income. Protesters have also questioned the issuance of fresh acquisition notices despite legal challenges. The agitation has drawn support from BJP leaders, who have accused the state government of ignoring farmers' concerns and demanded that industries and layouts be developed on barren land instead of productive farmland.

Parameshwara warns of drought-like situation, seeks advance NDRF funds

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara on Monday said Karnataka is facing a drought-like situation, with several reservoirs reaching dead storage levels, and announced that the state will seek advance assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to tackle the emerging crisis.

Speaking to reporters, Parameshwara said he and Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had already directed officials to prioritise drinking water for people and livestock while preparing contingency measures for worsening conditions. The Deputy Chief Minister said review meetings had been held in Belagavi, Chitradurga and Tumakuru districts, where officials were

instructed to conserve available water exclusively for drinking purposes.

He expressed hope that rainfall over the next few days would improve the situation. "Rain has begun in parts of the Malnad region, and inflows into the KRS reservoir have started. If reservoirs receive sufficient inflow, drinking water shortages can be avoided," he said.

Relief measures intensified

The Karnataka government has stepped up drought preparedness by directing district administrations to conserve water, distribute fodder kits and establish fodder banks and goshalas in vulnerable areas. Officials have been instructed to monitor water availability closely and ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply for people and livestock.



Fund row: Ram Mandir Trust accepts resignations of Champat Rai, Anil Mishra



AYODHYA

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust on Monday accepted the resignations of general secretary Champat Rai and member Anil Mishra following allegations of irregularities in donation management linked to the Ram Mandir project.

The decision was taken after a detailed discussion lasting over three hours at a meeting held inside the Ram Janmabhoomi complex guest house. Seven of the nine per-

manent members of the Trust, including chairman Nritya Gopal Das, were present. Both Rai and Mishra were absent from the meeting.

According to officials, Krishna Mohan has been appointed as the interim general secretary of the Trust.

The announcement was made by treasurer Govind Giri after the meeting concluded. The Trust is also expected to review the ongoing SIT probe into allegations of donation-related financial irregularities and consider fur-

ther administrative changes if required.

Sources said the meeting also discussed internal restructuring and possible appointments to key positions within the temple administration. A large number of media personnel gathered outside the venue awaiting an official statement as proceedings continued.

The meeting was initially planned at Mani Ram Das Chhawani but was later shifted to the Ram Janmabhoomi complex citing security reasons. Tight security arrangements were in place, with additional police deployment along routes leading to the temple site.

The developments come amid heightened scrutiny over alleged mismanagement of donations, with authorities continuing investigations into the matter while the Trust moves ahead with administrative changes.

WhatsApp delays username rollout after Centre's concerns

New Delhi: Meta-owned WhatsApp has been granted three additional days to respond to the Centre's notice over its proposed username feature and has assured the government that it will not roll out the feature in India until consultations are completed. The government had raised concerns that the feature, which allows users to communicate without sharing phone numbers, could increase risks of online fraud, phishing, impersonation and digital arrest scams. According to sources, WhatsApp sought more time to submit its response to the IT Ministry. The company has assured authorities that the feature will remain on hold pending discussions. The Centre has also issued similar notices to Telegram and Signal over their username features.

Cabinet expansion buzz builds in K'taka

All eyes on the second round before Ashada

Shyam Sundar Vattam
CH NEWS

With the auspicious calendar fast running out, political activity in Karnataka has shifted from the corridors of Vidhana Soudha to whispered conversations in legislators' lounges and the drawing rooms of party leaders.

The possibility of the second phase of the State Cabinet expansion before July 15 has sparked intense lobbying, speculation and anticipation among Congress legislators.

The timing is considered crucial. Ashada, which begins on July 16, is traditionally regarded as an inauspicious period for major ceremonies and political events. Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, known to be deeply spiritual and someone who pays close attention to religious customs, is believed to be keen on completing the long-pending Cabinet expansion before the commencement of the month-long period.

Although ministerial aspirants have been making every possible effort to reach the Chief Minister, sources say they have been firmly advised against visiting his residence solely to press for Cabinet berths. The message from the Chief Minister's Office has reportedly been clear: avoid public lobbying and maintain party discipline.

Behind the scenes, howev-

er, political calculations are in full swing. Legislators who missed out during the first round of Cabinet formation continue to nurture hopes of finally making it to the ministry. At the same time, several first-time and second-term MLAs believe the leadership is inclined to reward fresh faces instead of recycling veterans who have already enjoyed ministerial positions in previous Congress governments.

Interestingly, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has maintained a studied distance from the exercise. MLAs who sought his intervention are understood to have received a polite but firm response.

"The Cabinet expansion is entirely between the party high command and the Chief Minister. I have nothing to offer in this matter," Siddaramaiah is learnt to have told those seeking his recommendation.

Sources within the party indicate that Shivakumar has already held multiple rounds of consultations with the Congress high command in New Delhi and is believed to have secured broad approval for the proposed list. If there are no last-minute political or regional adjustments, the expansion could take place within the next ten days.

The expected reshuffle is also likely to reflect the Congress leadership's strategy for

the 2028 Assembly elections by providing opportunities to younger legislators, regional representatives and leaders from under-represented communities. Senior leaders who have previously served as ministers may have to make way for a new generation of faces. The race, however, remains intense. "We have worked tirelessly for the party and stood with the leadership during difficult times. If the high command considers my name, I will discharge the responsibility with complete dedication," said one hopeful MLA, requesting anonymity.

Another first-time legislator remarked, "The Congress promised to encourage young leadership. We believe this is the right opportunity to give fresh energy to the government."

A senior legislator, who narrowly missed a berth during the first expansion, said, "I am not lobbying. The leadership knows my experience and contribution. Whatever decision the party takes, I will respect it."

For now, the Congress leadership has maintained complete silence, but within the party, every phone call, every meeting and every visitor is being closely watched. Until the official announcement is made, Karnataka's political circles will remain consumed by one question: who will make the final cut before the Ashada deadline?

QUICK READ



Applications invited for Gubbi Thotadappa charity hostel

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Gubbi Thotadappa Charitable Society has invited applications from eligible and meritorious economically disadvantaged Veerashaiva Lingayat students for admission to its free hostel in Bengaluru. Students pursuing B.E., MBBS, BVSc, B.Sc. (Agriculture), B.Sc. (Nursing), postgraduate courses, and other degree programmes are eligible to apply. Applications can be submitted online at <http://rbdgtc.org> or collected from the society's office. The last date for submitting completed applications is July 30. The office is located at No. 88, Gubbi Thotadappa Road, Bengaluru – 560023. For further details, applicants may contact 080-22879665.



Public seeks revision of vehicle towing charges

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Citizens have voiced concerns over the recently introduced vehicle towing charges, claiming the fees are disproportionately high compared to traffic fines. Under the current system, two-wheelers parked in no-parking zones attract a total penalty of 1,150, including a 500 fine and a 650 towing charge. For cars, the towing fee is 1,000. Residents pointed out that the earlier towing charges were 200 for two-wheelers and 300 for cars, making the revised rates a significant burden on middle-class motorists. They have urged the authorities to review and rationalise the towing fees in line with traffic regulations and public affordability.

Hoax bomb threat briefly halts Duronto Express

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A hoax bomb threat aboard the Howrah-SMVT Bengaluru Duronto Express triggered a major security operation at Bangarpet railway station on Sunday, briefly delaying the train before it resumed its journey after officials confirmed there was no explosive device on board.

According to railway officials,

Sub-Registrars seek 1-yr deferment of digital transfer counselling

In a fresh representation submitted to the government last week, the association sought postponement of the new transfer system by one year.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Less than a month after the Karnataka government introduced digital counselling-based transfers for the Stamps and Registration Department, the Karnataka State Stamps and Registration Department Officials' Association has urged the government to postpone its implementation by one year, citing practical and administrative difficulties.

The government notified the Karnataka Civil Services (Counselling-based Transfers in the Stamps and Registration Department) Rules, 2026 on May 27 to introduce transparency in transfers and curb lobbying, bribery and undue influence in securing lucrative postings, particularly in Bengaluru.

Before finalising the rules, the government considered a seven-page representation submitted by the association following the draft notification issued on April 27. Acting on its suggestions, the government exempted office-bearers of recognised employees' associations during their tenure, officials with less than one year of service before retirement, and approved separate seniority lists for Senior Sub-Registrars and Sub-Registrars.

In its latest representation, however, the association said that although it supports the digital counselling-based transfer policy, implementing it during the current academic year would create avoidable hardships. It pointed out that the counselling process, originally scheduled between April and June, has not yet commenced, making it impossible to complete the exercise within the prescribed timeline.

High Court triples compensation in fatal accident, cites victim's ITRs

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has substantially enhanced the compensation awarded to the elderly parents of a former Oracle employee who died in a road accident in Goa, holding that the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) failed to properly assess his income and future earning potential.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Jayant Banerji and Justice Tara Vitasta Ganju increased the compensation by ₹47.9 lakh, raising the total award from ₹22.2 lakh to over ₹70 lakh. The court also enhanced the interest payable from 6 per cent to 9 per cent per annum.

The beneficiaries, R. Shridharan and S. Bhuvaneshwari of Horamavu, lost their only son, S. Bhaskaran, in a bus accident on April 9, 2019. Court records show that Bhaskaran was travelling from Goa to Bengaluru when the bus allegedly crashed into a tree near Alyaband in Cuncolim, South Goa, after being driven rashly. He sustained severe head injuries and later succumbed at Goa Medical College.

The parents approached the MACT, stating that Bhaskaran, aged 30, had worked as a Technical Analyst at Oracle India Pvt. Ltd. before starting his own company. They submitted that he earned nearly ₹1 lakh per month and supported the family financially. However, in April



2022, the tribunal assessed his notional monthly income at ₹15,000 and awarded compensation of ₹22.2 lakh, including ₹20.1 lakh towards loss of dependency.

Challenging the award, the parents argued that the tribunal had ignored documentary evidence, including income tax returns, salary records and proof of his professional achievements. Allowing the appeal, the High Court observed that Bhaskaran had maintained continuous employment after graduation and had demonstrated steady career growth. His income tax returns reflected a consistent rise in earnings, he had received professional recognition during his career.

Relying on his Income Tax Return for the assessment year 2018-19, the Bench determined that his annual income, after tax deductions, was ₹5.71 lakh, translating to a monthly income of ₹47,655. The court also noted that Bhaskaran was repaying a monthly housing loan EMI of ₹10,500 for a house purchased for his parents. Being their only unmarried son, he was their sole source of financial support.

Observing that the parents had lost "an only son who undoubtedly had a bright future", the High Court recalculated the loss of dependency at ₹68 lakh, substantially increasing the overall compensation and directing payment with 9 per cent annual interest.

Rural students' education will remain top priority: S.T. Somashekar

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

MLA S.T. Somashekar on Monday said improving the educational standards of children in rural areas would continue to be a top priority and urged students to make the best use of opportunities provided to them.

Speaking after distributing 2,000 notebooks and 600 school bags free of cost to students from around 13 government schools in Channarayana Gram Panchayat of the Yeshwantpur Assembly constituency, Somashekar encouraged students to excel academically and become responsible citizens.

He said students should utilise the facilities provided by the government and society to achieve academic success and bring pride to their parents, schools and the community.

The MLA also recalled that around 1,800 students from government and private schools in the constituency who secured top ranks in the SSLC and PUC examinations were recently honoured under a talent award programme and provided financial assistance.

Specially abled beneficiaries were presented with wheelchairs, walking sticks, hearing aids and other assistive devices during the programme.

Bengaluru South Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Narayan, TPO Suresh, PDO K.G. Purushottam, former Gram Panchayat President Gangarevanna, Block Congress President Revanna Siddaiah, and several local leaders and public representatives attended the event.

children's education and increasing financial burdens.

The association has requested the government to continue transfers this year under the existing general transfer policy and implement the digital counselling-based system from the next financial year after adequate planning. However, the demand has drawn opposition from several Sub-Registrars, who argue that delaying the reform would only benefit influential officials accustomed to securing postings in high-revenue offices, especially in Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural districts.

They contend that the new digital counselling system will ensure transparent, merit-based transfers and eliminate discretionary practices that have long plagued the department. "The reform is intended to protect honest officers and ensure fairness in postings. It should be implemented without any further delay," a Sub-Registrar said. The government is yet to take a final decision on the association's latest request.

Kharif sowing reaches only 43% target as erratic monsoon slows farm activity

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka's kharif sowing has covered only 36.5 lakh hectares against the seasonal target of 84.1 lakh hectares, achieving just 43 per cent of the planned acreage, according to Agriculture Department data available up to July 3. The slow pace reflects the impact of patchy and delayed monsoon across several parts of the state, raising concerns over a possible drought-like situation if rainfall does not improve soon.

District-wise figures highlight sharp regional disparities. Chikballapur has recorded the lowest sowing coverage at just 9 per cent of its target, followed by Bengaluru Rural at 24 per cent. Neighbouring Kolar has also reported poor progress, while Bengaluru Urban and Dakshina Kannada, despite their relatively smaller cultivable area, continue to trail behind normal levels.

Overall sowing remains significantly below last year's 50.6 lakh hectares, representing a decline of nearly 28 per cent. However, it is still about 94 per cent of the state's five-year average, indicating that the situation, though worrying, has not yet reached drought proportions. Foodgrain crops

Court orders Amazon refund after camera buyer receives perfume instead

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A Bengaluru consumer has won a case against Amazon after ordering an action camera worth nearly ₹39,000 but receiving a perfume gift set instead. Holding the e-commerce platform liable for deficiency in service, the Bengaluru District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission directed Amazon to refund the purchase amount with interest and pay litigation costs.

The complainant, S. Chiragvendra, a 21-year-old resident of Nagarabhavi II Stage, had ordered an Insta360 Ace Pro 2 Action Camera priced at ₹38,990 on July 12, 2025. The parcel was delivered two days later, but instead of the camera, it contained a Bellavita perfume gift set.

Chiragvendra immediately lodged a complaint with Amazon through its customer care and by email. Although the company arranged for the incorrect parcel to be picked up on July 15, no refund was processed.

After serving a legal notice on July 21 seeking a refund, compensation for mental agony and reimbursement of legal expenses, Chiragvendra ap-

proached the Consumer Commission on August 20, alleging negligence in handling his grievance.

Amazon contested the complaint, arguing that the product had been sold by an independent third-party seller, Clicktech Retail Private Ltd., which had issued the invoice. It also contended that the complaint had incorrectly named Amazon Seller Pvt. Ltd. instead of its registered corporate entity, Amazon Seller Services Pvt. Ltd.

The Commission rejected these arguments, observing that customers transact through Amazon's platform and cannot be expected to distinguish between the marketplace and individual sellers. It noted that the company had repeatedly maintained that the correct product had been delivered despite the complainant's evidence.

The Commission remarked that an online marketplace cannot evade responsibility by merely claiming to be an intermediary after facilitating the transaction, likening the platform to a shopping mall that remains accountable for services provided through its premises.



The season's uneven start, driven by patchy and delayed monsoon across Karnataka's dryland regions, has left foodgrain sowing lagging sharply, while cotton and sugarcane continue to outperform normal trends.

have been the worst affected. Cereal sowing has reached only 27 per cent of the target, while pulses have achieved 44 per cent, taking overall food grain coverage to 34 per cent. Among major crops, ragi has recorded only 1 per cent of its 8.2 lakh-hectare target, while wheat sowing is yet to begin.

In contrast, commercial crops have shown strong performance. Cash crops have achieved 76 per cent of their target and stand at 121 per cent of the five-year average. Cotton has emerged as the stand-out performer, reaching 141 per cent of its normal acreage, reflecting farmers' preference for irrigated and commercially

Rainfall outlook raises drought concerns

Former Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) Director and meteorologist G.S. Srinivasa Reddy said rainfall during the crucial monsoon period has remained below normal and forecasts indicate that significant rainfall may not continue beyond the second week of July. Since July typically contributes the highest share of Karnataka's seasonal rainfall, any prolonged deficit could severely impact agriculture and water resources. While drought declaration depends on several parameters, including rainfall, reservoir levels and crop conditions, he cautioned that continued rainfall deficiency would increase the likelihood of drought-like conditions across several districts.

viable crops amid uncertain rainfall. Sugarcane cultivation has also remained relatively stable.

Fake WhatsApp profile used to cheat B'luru firm

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A Bengaluru-based real estate company has lost ₹65 lakh in an impersonation scam after cyber fraudsters allegedly created a fake WhatsApp profile using the photograph of the firm's managing director and tricked an accountant into transferring the money.

According to a complaint filed by B.K. Rajendran, Managing Director of Mythreyi Promoters and Developers Pvt.

Ltd., the fraud began on June 26, when the company's accountant, Yashwanth, received a WhatsApp message from a mobile number displaying Rajendran's name and profile picture.

Believing the message to be genuine, Yashwanth responded. The sender first sought the company's bank statement and later instructed him to urgently transfer ₹65 lakh to a specified bank account, claiming it was an official business transaction.

Trusting the instructions, Yashwanth transferred the amount through RTGS from the company's account on June 29.

The fraud surfaced only after the accountant informed Rajendran about the transfer.

On verification, the beneficiary account was found to belong to Fly Hind Tours and Travels Pvt. Ltd., revealing that fraudsters had impersonated the company owner through a fake WhatsApp profile.

Head constable stabbed near Mekhri Circle

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A head constable attached to the D.J. Halli Police Station was allegedly stabbed by an unidentified assailant near Mekhri Circle late on Sunday night. The injured officer, Vijay Rathod, is undergoing treatment at a hospital. According to police, Rathod was returning home on his two-wheeler after completing his duty when he noticed a man behaving suspiciously. As he stopped to question him, the suspect allegedly attacked him with a knife and fled the scene.

ALARMING REALITY CHECK

Street Atlas maps Bengaluru's roads, exposes widespread footpath gaps

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Even before the Supreme Court reaffirmed pedestrians' right to safe footpaths and Karnataka launched its pavement reclamation drive, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) had begun a citywide exercise to digitally map the city's road and pedestrian infrastructure.

Since March, the GBA has been carrying out a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based survey of Bengaluru's 1,300 km arterial and sub-arterial road network to prepare a

comprehensive "Street Atlas", which officials describe as the city's first digital database of road and pedestrian infrastructure. The survey, undertaken with urban planning organisation Sensing Local, supported by WRI India and the Sustainable Mobility Network (Bengaluru), aims to provide a scientific baseline for future road planning and infrastructure investment.

So far, more than 750 km of roads have been surveyed. Since both sides of every road are assessed separately, nearly 1,500 km of footpaths have



been documented.

The preliminary findings reveal that Bengaluru's biggest pedestrian challenge is not always the lack of space but the poor quality and continuity of footpaths. Around 680 km of the surveyed footpaths are wider than 2.5 metres, indicating that many major roads have adequate pedestrian space. However, the survey has identified extensive stretches of damaged pavements, missing footpaths, encroachments and physical obstructions that compromise pedestrian safety.

Survey teams are documenting a wide range of street features, including carriageway width, pavement height and surface quality, pedestrian crossings, bus shelters, public toilets, streetlights, signage, bollards, tactile paving for the visually

impaired, medians, traffic islands, seating, tree cover and other roadside infrastructure. Data is being collected at 100-metre intervals and will be integrated into a dedicated GIS platform that will help authorities identify infrastructure gaps and prioritise investments.

GBA Chief Engineer (Planning and Coordination) K. Hemalatha said the survey is expected to be completed by the end of July. "This will become Bengaluru's baseline GIS layer for road infrastructure. We have already mapped projects executed

under different government grants, this database will help us identify gaps, plan future interventions and ensure optimum utilisation of public funds," she said.

The field survey has been carried out by students from BMS College of Architecture, Dayanand Sagar College of Architecture, RV College of Architecture, SJB School of Architecture and Planning, NITTE, Acharya NRV School of Architecture, Sir M. Visvesvaraya School of Architecture and Christ University, Yeshwanthpur.

QUICK READ

NWKRTC launches special buses to Jog Falls

Hubballi

NWKRTC has arranged special buses to Jog Falls for tourists during monsoon season on weekends and public holidays from Hubballi Gokul Road Central Bus Stand. The service runs on second Saturday, fourth Saturday, Sundays and public holidays, offering easy travel for visitors. On the way, buses stop at Sirsi Marikamba Temple for a short visit. At Jog Falls, passengers get enough time to enjoy the waterfall, nature, food and rest. Officials said the service helps increasing tourist comfort and supports travel demand during rainy season in Malnad region.

Young man stabbed outsideBasavapattana police station

Davanagere

A young man was seriously injured after being stabbed outside Basavapattana Police Station in Channagiri. Siddesh, from Kanchagaranahalli village, had recently married a woman he loved despite family opposition. The couple had visited the police station seeking protection. Police said the woman's father in law, Nagaraj, allegedly tried attacking her with a knife. Siddesh stepped forward to protect his wife and was stabbed on his hand, shoulder, and side. Police, with help from locals, shifted him to hospital. Nagaraj was taken into custody, and a case was registered for further investigation.

MLA Doddanagouda urges students to use technology wisely

Koppal

MLA Doddanagouda Patil said that students must use technology properly to pursue higher education and bring respect to society while speaking at a Pratibha Puraskar and felicitation programme held in Hanumasagar town. The programme was organised in collaboration with Devanga Samaj and other community associations to honour talented students from different fields. He highlighted that online systems are now part of daily life and urged students to make full use of digital tools for learning and progress. Addressing the gathering, he announced a grant of five lakh rupees for students educational development and assured continued support for community growth and welfare projects including construction of a community pavilion. He also promised support for the construction of a welfare pavilion for the community and said development work will continue with government assistance.

DELAYED MONSOON IMPACT

Navagraha Homa performed to invoke monsoon rains

BALLARI

At Ballari city, devotees and farmers organized special Varunayaga, Ganapati Homa, Navagraha Homa, and other rituals at Kanaka Durgamma Temple to pray for rain. The event was held on the instructions of MLA B Nagendra after delayed monsoon raised concern across the district. Farmers depend heavily on water from Tungabhadra reservoir, and the poor rainfall situation has increased worry among rural communities and local agricultural families in

Cancel SIR survey process: Sriramulu

Sriramulu alleged that Congress leaders, including D. K. Shivakumar, are misusing the SIR process for vote-bank politics, weakening the electoral system

BALLARI

Former Minister B. Sriramulu demanded cancellation of the Special Intensified Revision (SIR) process in Karnataka, saying there were doubts over transparency and implementation. He said some Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were not following Election Commission rules and were working from community halls instead of conducting door-to-door surveys, raising serious concerns about the integrity of the process. He alleged that the state government and Congress leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, were misusing the SIR process for vote bank politics and weakening the electoral system. He further demanded that the SIR survey be cancelled



immediately and strict action be taken against officials who violated rules, warning that such actions threaten the fairness of elections in the country. Weakening trust in the electoral process, he said the SIR exercise must be reviewed thoroughly to ensure transparency and fairness in voter verification across Karnataka. Several BJP leaders including Municipal Corporation Opposition Leader Motakar Srinivas, Veerasekar Reddy and

others attended the media conference along with former BUDA officials and party members. He urged authorities to act on irregularities, stating that failure to correct the SIR process would damage public confidence in elections and democratic institutions. He also insisted that genuine field verification must be restored to maintain accuracy in voter lists and prevent misuse of administrative machinery. According to him, the government should ensure strict compliance with Election Commission rules and hold accountable those responsible for violations. He concluded that only a fair and transparent revision process can safeguard democracy and restore trust among citizens. Present leaders reiterated demand for immediate inquiry and corrective administrative action in the state.

MLA urges transparency in welfare distribution process

KARWAR

In Karwar, the municipal administration organized a distribution programme under the Amrita Urban Upliftment Phase-4 scheme, where electric autos, tricycles and water storage tanks were given to eligible beneficiaries. MLA Satish Sail said the process must remain fully transparent and free from misuse. He stressed that only genuine beneficiaries should receive support and warned that any irregularities would be checked through official records. Under the scheme, the city aims to support economic empowerment of poor and middle class families by distributing electric autos, tricycles and Syntex water tanks. Officials said 11 electric autos worth Rs 5.40 lakh each, 14 tricycles worth Rs 24 lakh total, and 965 Syntex tanks worth Rs 1.90 crore have been arranged for distribution. The MLA directed that RTO verification must be done to ensure no beneficiary has already received similar bene-



fits earlier. If duplication is found, the vehicle will be recovered and reassigned to the needy. Speaking at the event, MLA Satish Sail said efforts are underway to improve healthcare facilities in Karwar, including steps to establish a well-equipped super specialty hospital. He said a 400-bed district hospital and trauma care centre are being strengthened, along with cancer screening facilities for early detection and treatment. He also said temporary tanker supply is being used to manage drinking water shortage in some wards, while permanent storage tanks will soon be installed under the scheme. MLA Ganapathy D. Ulvekar said reserved grants for SC, ST and backward classes must be properly used for development works and timely delivery of welfare schemes. Officials said awareness was created about the Special Comprehensive Revision of Electoral Roll 2026 and assistance was also provided to beneficiaries under various welfare schemes. The administration confirmed that development works including the Keravadi Bridge will begin within the next six months.

Community announces protest over missing Class Eight education

KOPPAL

Parents and community leaders have announced a major protest, demanding the immediate start of Class 8 at the Government Higher Primary School in Kuvempu Nagar Ashraya Layout on Kunikeri Road. School SDMC President Mallikarjun Poojaar said the school currently offers classes from Class 1 to Class 7, forcing many children from poor families to travel long distances for further education. He said the school would be locked on July 8 as part of the protest if officials failed to respond. Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Poojaar said most families in the

area depend on daily wage work and cannot afford extra travel costs. Students must walk nearly five kilometres to attend Class 8 in another locality. The route passes around five cemeteries, creating fear among children and concern among parents. He said the school has enough land, a compound wall, and space for additional classrooms. A proposal has already been submitted to the MLA and the government seeking approval for higher classes. Poojaar alleged that education department officials have ignored repeated requests to begin Classes 8, 9, and 10 at the school despite several appeals.

Gadag cooperatives promote dairy and livestock development

GADAG

Cooperative societies and dairy institutions in Gadag district organized a special program at Khanapur. The event marked five years of the Central Cooperative Ministry and focused on livestock health and dairy development. Officials inaugurated a free animal health camp and cattle breed exhibition at Milk Producers Cooperative Society premises in Khanapur village. Farmers, veterinarians, and cooperative members participated actively, highlighting rural economic growth through cooperation efforts in region. Speaking at the event, Karnataka Milk Federation director H. G. Hiregoudra highlighted India's leading position in global milk production. He said the dairy sector supports rural development, improves farmer income, and strengthens the cooperative

economy across Karnataka. Experts stressed modern dairy technology, better milk processing, and expansion of value-added products for future growth. Speakers encouraged cooperatives to adopt digital systems, increase efficiency, and ensure fair benefits to farmers everywhere region. A free health camp for animals and awareness session for farmers were held alongside the cattle exhibition. Doctors and cooperative officers explained blood pressure risks, nutrition, and healthy lifestyle practices for rural communities. They also discussed modern dairy farming methods, artificial intelligence use, and improved milk storage systems in villages. The initiative aimed to strengthen livestock care, improve productivity, and support sustainable income for small farmers across cooperative rural sector.

Donor's selfless decision strengthens Gadag's spirit unity

GADAG

A recent decision by donor Firasab Kautal has brought relief to many people in Gadag after a debate over the name displayed on the wheels of the new chariot of Sri Durgadevi Temple and Jagadguru Veereshwara Punyashram in Gangapurpet. The issue had been discussed across the district for the past two weeks and had raised concerns among residents. To help maintain peace and unity, Kautal voluntarily requested the District Collector to remove his name from the chariot. His gesture has been widely appreciated as a step that places social harmony above personal recognition. Social worker Krishna H. Hadapada described the move as an example for the entire state and urged everyone to support peaceful solutions.

Speaking through a press statement, Hadapada said Gadag has always been known for religious harmony and mutual respect. He recalled the teachings of respected spiritual leaders who encouraged unity among people from different communities. He also highlighted the district's long tradition of people celebrating festivals together, regardless of religion. According to him, Gadag has earned a special place because of its culture of peace, and small disagreements should never be allowed to damage that legacy. He appealed to citizens to protect the district's reputation by promoting understanding and respect. Hadapada also requested senior leaders, including MLA H. K. Patil, D. R. Patil, the District Commissioner, temple authorities, donor family members, religious lead-

ers, and community representatives, to hold a friendly meeting. He believes that open discussions in the presence of respected elders can remove misunderstandings and prevent unnecessary tensions. He stressed that no one should feel hurt, ignored, or treated unfairly during the process. He further said humanity is greater than caste or religion because every person is born equal. He urged people to reject hatred and strengthen bonds of love and brotherhood. Hadapada expressed confidence that, with wise guidance from elders, the dispute will end peacefully. He hoped future Durgadevi Jatra and Punyashram celebrations would continue with joy, faith, and unity, sending a strong message of harmony across Karnataka.

Tribute paid to Swami Vivekananda in Hubballi

HUBBALLI

On memorial day of great saint Swami Vivekananda, several educational and social groups gathered to honor him at Hubballi. They garlanded his statue with devotion and paid respects. The program marked respect for his contribution to youth empowerment. NSS volunteers and committee members joined the tribute activity. Organisers said the event aimed to spread awareness among youth. The event showed respect for his life and philosophy. Dr D K Waghmode and Dr Preeti S Patil attended the program along with NSS members and local committees. They said Swami Vivekananda inspires youth to build self confidence and strong character. Speakers urged students to study his life and teachings.

Koppal hosts ancient palm leaves handover program

KOPPAL

The district administration of Koppal organized a special ancient palm leaves handover program on Monday at Agastya Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital near KIMS Medical College on Kidadala Road. Deputy Commissioner Suresh B. Itnal said that palm leaves are an important link in passing knowledge from ancestors to future generations. He said the initiative helps protect heritage and bring awareness among people. India has a rich historical, cultural and scientific heritage

preserved in manuscripts written in Sanskrit, Kannada and Telugu. These palm leaves are not just old records but living evidence of culture, science, literature and medicine. The deputy commissioner appealed to the public to help preserve these documents and hand them over for digitization. Former MP Karadi Sanganna, who presided over the programme, said manuscripts contain knowledge of history, agriculture, astrology and literature. He said collecting and preserving them is a commendable effort by the district administration.

QUICK READ

MLA inaugurates new public library at Tibet camp

Chamarajanagar
M. R. Manjunath inaugurated new public library at Odiyarapalya Tibetan Camp in Hanur taluk. Speaking later he advised rural students to use books well for study and reading habits change society. He said reading opportunities for youth and public support education and knowledge growth in the region. Managing Director Tuptan Psering and others were present at the event. It was highlighted that the new library will improve education access and encourage competitive exam preparation among rural youth while promoting reading culture and community development in Hanur taluk and surrounding villages in Chamarajanagar district.

SIR forms distributed in Koppal District Koppal

The door-to-door visit for the Special Comprehensive Revision of Voter Lists 2026 continues in Koppal district. A total of 11,19,647 census forms have been distributed to voters from June 30 to July 6, said District Election Officer Dr. Suresh B. Itnal. Out of 11,90,214 voters across five assembly constituencies, printed forms have been delivered to booth level officers. So far, 11,19,647 enumeration forms have been distributed and 1,71,362 forms have been digitised. Officials said the process is moving steadily and voters are cooperating well with field staff during the ongoing revision exercise across all areas.

Free Bala Aadhaar card camps start in Magadi

MAGADI
A special camp has been organized by the post office to issue Bala Aadhaar cards free of cost for children aged zero to five years who do not have Aadhaar cards, said Magadi Child Development Project Officer B L Surendra. The camp will be held at the town Child Development Project Office on July 8 from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm and at Kudur Gram Panchayat Office on July 9 from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. Required documents include Aadhaar card of father or mother and child birth certificate. It is mandatory for parents to bring Aadhaar linked mobile number for registration. The public is requested to use this camp and get free Bala Aadhaar cards for their children. For more information contact 08029784488.

RAMANAGAR

Legislative Council member Ramojigowda said that unopposed elections reflect unity among teachers and strengthen their organisation while speaking at the oath-taking ceremony of the District Primary School Teachers Association held at a local Kalyana Mantapa in Ramanagar city. He said the unopposed election of teachers associations in Bengaluru South, North and Rural districts is an example of cooperation



MB Patil pushes global collaborations for industrial development

The minister said Karnataka will showcase chip design, electronics, IoT technologies, and its startup ecosystem to Hong Kong investors

BENGALURU

Karnataka is looking to strengthen investment and business ties with Hong Kong by expanding cooperation in key sectors such as Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM), startups, semiconductors, fintech, biotechnology, clean mobility and advanced manufacturing. Large and Medium Industries Minister M. B. Patil announced the plan after meeting Rajesh Narayan Naik, Consul General of India in Hong Kong and Macau. He said the state is committed to creating new opportunities that will attract global investors and encourage innovation-driven industrial growth across Karnataka.

The minister said Karnataka

will highlight its strengths in chip design, electronics, Internet of Things technologies and its fast-growing startup ecosystem before investors and venture capital firms in Hong Kong. He explained that the initiative will build on the relationship developed through Invest Hong Kong's Bengaluru outreach programme for Indian startups. The state government has also proposed closer cooperation between Invest Karnataka and the Consulate General of India in Hong Kong. This partnership is expected to support a Karnataka-focused investment roundtable in Hong Kong and establish a dedicated channel to connect investors with business opportunities in the state.

Patil said Karnataka is also



seeking investments from Hong Kong's financial institutions, family offices, venture capital funds and investor networks for priority sectors. He noted that Hong Kong's position as a leading international financial centre and its strong links with Mainland China, North Asia and South-east Asia make it an ideal

partner for Karnataka's expanding industries. He added that Karnataka and Hong Kong already share strong business links in electronics, telecommunications equipment and advanced manufacturing, while several Hong Kong-linked companies have established operations in the state. The minister said stronger

partnerships will help Karnataka attract more global investment, create jobs and encourage technological innovation. He pointed out that trade between India and Hong Kong reached US\$25.81 billion during 2024-25, reflecting the growing economic relationship between both sides. Patil expressed confidence that deeper collaboration would open new opportunities for businesses, strengthen Karnataka's position as a preferred investment destination and support long-term industrial development. He said the government will continue working with international partners to promote sustainable economic growth, encourage innovation and build stronger global business relationships for the benefit of the state and its people.

KKRTC staff suspended after bus incident case

KALABURAGI

Three employees of Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation were suspended after a bus was reportedly operated at night using mobile phone torchlights due to a faulty headlight.

The incident occurred on July 4 when a KKRTC bus from Kalaburagi to Chincholi developed a headlight failure and continued its journey in darkness. As a result, conductor and passengers used mobile phone flashlights to light the road until the bus reached Chincholi safely.

Taking serious note of the case, the Kalaburagi Division-I of KKRTC suspended driver Akash, technician Shivanand and supervisor Basavaraj for negligence. The incident has raised concerns over vehicle maintenance and passenger safety, with the corporation promising strict action to prevent future lapses.

Chitradurga tops state voter survey drive

CHITRADURGA

The Special Comprehensive Revision of Voters' Lists (SIR)-2026 house-to-house survey is progressing successfully in Chitradurga district, where officials have achieved 96.91 percent distribution of census forms, placing the district first in Karnataka.

According to election officials out of 14,40,534 voters across 1,661 polling parts 13,96,020 forms have been distributed under the Election Commission of India directive and the drive will continue till July 29.

Officials said work across six assembly constituencies including Molakalmuru, Challakere, Chitradurga, Hiriyur, Hosadurga and Holalkere showed strong progress with high computerisation of forms and identification of deaths migration and duplicate entries recorded during verification.

In Molakalmuru constituency officials reported 2,51,685 voters with 2,45,251 forms distributed along with verification detecting deaths migration and duplicate entries while Challakere and Chitra-



durga constituencies also recorded strong progress in form distribution and computerisation work.

Hiriyur Hosadurga and Holalkere constituencies also showed steady progress with thousands of forms digitised and cases of death permanent migration and double entries recorded during verification by polling staff. District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner T Venkatesh reviewed the progress and said the house to house survey is essential for ensuring accurate voter lists and strengthening democratic processes in the district. Officials said the district has achieved top ranking in the state due to coordinated efforts of election staff booth level officers and public par-

Officials said six constituencies made strong SIR progress, identifying deaths, migration, duplicate entries, and completing form computerisation

ticipation and the ongoing revision will continue till July 29 with focus on completing remaining verification and ensuring no eligible voter is left out.

The administration has urged citizens to cooperate with booth level officers verify their details and ensure corrections are made in time so that the electoral roll is accurate transparent and inclusive for the upcoming election process in Karnataka while officials continue door to door verification work across all assembly segments with strict monitoring and reporting mechanisms to avoid duplication errors and missing entries and to ensure that deaths and migration cases are properly updated in the system strengthening the credibility of voter data and supporting fair democratic participation in future elections.

MLA Ashok Rai prioritises constituency over temple

PUTTUR

MLA Ashok Rai chose to stay with people in his constituency rather than attend a family-organised pooja at the Mahishamardini Temple in Puttur.

His family had arranged the pooja, which began in the morning with the MLA's participation and continued with a special programme in the evening. Family members had called him to return for the temple event.

At the same time, guddali pooja ceremonies marking

the start of road works were underway in various parts of Idkidu village in his constituency from Sunday evening. When his family called him again during these events, the MLA responded that they should complete their pooja and pray to God for him as well as for the people of his constituency. He explained that he was currently present at the guddali pooja in his area and could not leave the people to come home. He requested them to pray that God brings good to everyone.

Residents protest road encroachment in Surapura Town

SURAPURA

Jaya Karnataka Rakshana Sena members staged a protest in front of the Municipal Council office in Surapura on Monday, alleging that a private individual had encroached upon a public road in Ward No. 29 of Divalagudda area. The protesters demanded immediate removal of the encroachment and restoration of free access to the road for public use.

Residents said the encroachment has severely affected movement of ambulances fire engines and school vehicles which are unable to enter interior lanes.

Police housing project begins in Harapanahalli Taluk

HARAPANAHALLI

MLA M. P. Latha Mallikarjun on Monday inaugurated the construction of 24 residential houses for police personnel attached to Haluvagal Police Station. The housing project, estimated to cost Rs. 5 crore, is being taken up under the Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board (KKRDB) grant. The initiative aims to provide better living facilities for police staff and improve their overall working conditions.

Speaking at the foundation ceremony, the MLA said the new houses would help police personnel and their families enjoy safe and comfortable accommodation. She urged

the beneficiaries to make good use of the facilities and instructed contractors to complete the construction within 11 months. She also said Harapanahalli Police Station requires additional staff quarters and assured that efforts would be made to obtain approval for more residential houses in the near future. She advised police personnel to build friendly relations with the public and encouraged people to approach the police with confidence instead of fear. Vijayanagar District Superintendent of Police S. Jahnavi said residential quarters near police stations would help personnel respond quickly to emergencies and improve public service.



which affects basic services. He also said that gram panchayat PDOs must respond quickly to local issues and borewell demands are increasing in villages. He assured that after funds from KKRDB are released, development works will be taken up after consulting villagers and officials.

He accused senior officials of irresponsibility and said that government grants worth five thousand crore rupees are not being effectively used for Kalyana Karnataka development. He demanded that the government tighten action against non performing officials to speed up development and avoid loss of public trust. He said that only strict monitoring and proper planning

can bring real improvement to drought affected regions. He also appealed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar to focus more on ground level implementation rather than announcements.

He said that the Kalyana Karnataka region deserves development on par with other advanced regions and promised to continue raising the issue. He warned that if immediate action is not taken, the suffering of farmers will increase further in the coming months.

He concluded by saying that development should not remain only on paper but must reach every village and farmer for real change needed.

Ambedkar principles should guide every employee: Gaddagi

YADGIR

Leaders at the KKRTC Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Employees' Organisation awareness conference called on members to uphold the ideals of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and work united for justice and equality. Speaking at the meeting held at the old tourist temple in Yadgiri on Monday, Kalyana Karnataka North East Zone President Chandrakant Gaddagi said education, organisation and struggle remain the foundation for social progress and employee welfare.

Gaddagi urged office bearers not to compromise on the organisation's principles under any circumstances. He said the organisation must protect employees facing injustice in matters such as caste discrimination, transfers and promotions. He stressed that courageous and honest leadership is essential for safeguarding members' rights. He also advised members to remain alert against individuals who act against the interests of the organisation for personal gain or official favour.

He said corruption, slavery and dishonesty should have no place within the organisation. Members should have the courage to question wrongdoing and work according to the organisation's values.

Ramojigowda praises cooperation among teaching community leaders



and sends a positive message to the government about unity in the teaching community. He assured teachers that he is working

in the Legislative Council to solve their problems, including promotion issues and financial concerns, and said he will continue efforts as a

member committed to teacher welfare and service support. Leaders also discussed expansion of the Teachers Cooperative Society to rural areas, housing schemes in Channapatna, internet facility in schools, promotion benefits, and request for five day working system while urging the government to address teachers demands soon.

State Teachers Association leaders said steps will be taken to promote thousands of eligible teachers, improve school facilities, and address

issues like egg price increase in mid day meals, free notebooks for students, and better digital access in government schools.

They also said a request has been submitted to the Chief Minister for free internet and offline attendance systems. Leaders further demanded extension of second and fourth Saturday holidays to teachers, similar to other states, and said discussions are positive with officials. The programme also saw transfer of leadership from outgoing president Ramesh

to new president H Hanumaiah in the presence of several district and taluk level office bearers. Participants said unity among teachers will strengthen their voice and help in solving long pending administrative issues. Ramojigowda assured continued support and said he is available for teachers at any time for assistance and coordination. The meeting concluded with a call for strong organisation and cooperation between teachers and government for better education system.



QUICK READ

Chitradurga recruits volunteers for larva survey work

Chitradurga
Temporary volunteers will be selected for Aedes larva survey work in urban wards of Chitradurga district. They will visit one hundred houses daily and check indoor and outdoor water containers. They will receive four hundred rupees per day directly to bank accounts. SSLC qualification is required for applicants attending verification on July fourteen. Candidates must bring Aadhaar, marksheet, and bank passbook for document checking. Selection will be held on July fourteen at District Health Office Chitradurga. No travel allowance will be given and priority is first come basis.

Direct interview announced for multiple job posts

Chikkaballapura
District Employment Exchange Office Chikkaballapura and NEETEX KNITTING NEEDLE INDIA Pvt Ltd Chintamani will hold a direct interview on July 8 at Masthenahalli Industrial Area Phase 1 Kaiwara post Chintamani taluk. Candidates with PUC degree ITI or diploma, passed or failed, can attend. Posts include Operator Trainee and Quality Control Trainee. Applicants must carry two sets of biodata, mark sheets, Aadhaar card and Voter ID. For details contact 7760921872 and 9611880265.

Free workshop for SC ST entrepreneurs

Chitradurga
A free Vendor Development Workshop for SC ST entrepreneurs will be held on July 21 at IMA Hall near Madakari Circle in Chitradurga city under National SC ST Hub ARIS Institute District Industries Centre and SC ST Entrepreneurs Association. The aim is to support youth women and entrepreneurs to start new businesses. Experts will explain government schemes financial support market links and procurement opportunities. There is no fee for participation.

Officials urged ensure full crop insurance coverage in Mandya

CEO Nandini urged crop insurance awareness via jingles, promoting diversification and better farmer communication for rural stability

MANDYA

District Commissioner Dr. Kumar held a review meeting in Mandya to discuss crop insurance registration under the Karnataka Raitha Suraksha Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana. He instructed agriculture officials to ensure that every eligible farmer is covered under the scheme. The meeting focused on increasing awareness so that farmers do not miss insurance benefits



during crop loss caused by natural disasters and changing weather conditions. Officials also planned village visits.

Officials said that crop insurance protects farmers from financial loss due to drought, floods, pests and unexpected

natural disasters. They were instructed to visit villages and educate farmers directly about the benefits of enrollment. Awareness campaigns will be conducted in rural milk dairies, farmer contact centres and self help groups. Posters and local outreach activities will be used to ensure maximum participation from farming families across the district. regular monitoring.

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer K. R. Nandini

suggested that awareness should also be spread through jingles in rural vehicles and public systems to educate farmers about crop insurance. She emphasized crop diversification with crops like ragi, jowar, maize and togari to reduce agricultural risk. Officials were asked to strengthen communication and ensure that farmers understand both insurance registration and alternative crop benefits for better rural stability and sustainable

growth.A separate meeting discussed the upcoming mass tree plantation drive scheduled on July 12 at Nagamangala taluk under the campaign One Tree for Mother. Officials said High Court judges, students and local residents will participate. Arrangements for cleanliness, food and accommodation were reviewed to ensure smooth conduct and successful environmental awareness event completion in the district.

Authorities seize illegal seeds across Karnataka districts

HASSAN

Separate teams from the Agriculture Department carried out inspections in Hassan, Tumkur and Mandya districts and seized illegally stored seeds and micronutrients from fertilizer sales centers, officials said on Monday.

Acting on instructions from Agriculture Department Commissioner Dr B C Satish, officials conducted a lightning drive to prevent unauthorized storage and sale of agricultural inputs across the state. Authorities said the drive will continue in coming days. In Hassan district, officials found 180 kg of hybrid

maize seeds worth Rs 85,000 stored without permission at Karthika Traders in Kondajjikoppal of Salagame hobli, and 30 kg of hybrid maize worth Rs 12,000 at Pushpagiri Agro Center in Javagal hobli of Arsikere taluk.

At Sri Venkateshwara Traders in Madihalli of Arehalli hobli in Belur taluk, 88 bags of urea and phosphogypsum worth Rs 1.77 lakh were seized, officials said. In Tumkur district, 22 liters of micronutrient mixture worth Rs 86,000 was seized, and in Mandya, 300 bags of urea were intercepted during illegal transport.

CHITRADURGA

The Irrigation Implementation Struggle Committee has urged the state government not to hide the real situation regarding the Upper Bhadra irrigation project, which is expected to support farming in central Karnataka. The committee submitted a petition to Water Resources Minister Ramalinga Reddy at the Bhadra Upper Chief Engineer's Office hall, expressing concern that the project work has slowed down badly and needs urgent revival. They said releasing small funds is not enough and demanded full project implementation.

They said for the past one

year, people's representatives have been giving false hopes to farmers through statements that water will reach Gonur Lake soon. No proper planning has been made for what will happen after supplying water to the lake. They warned that without a pipeline distribution network; the entire project will fail to benefit farmers. The committee also said the government is focusing only on canal works while neglecting other critical sections of the Upper Bhadra system. Progress on the Tumkur branch canal remains slow, and a 150-meter canal near Yagadihalli in Ajjampura taluk is still incomplete due to rocky terrain. Contractors

Farmers said promises of water to Gonur Lake lack planning and pipeline network, while delays, unpaid contractors, and slow canal work hinder the Upper Bhadra project

have stopped work because payments are delayed, which has further slowed construction.Officials said towers should be constructed on both sides in the first phase from Tunga to Bhadra, but forest clearance is still pending. Former chief minister Siddaramaiah had sanctioned Rs 410 crore, but most of it was used to clear pending bills. Contractors have lost interest due to irregular funding and lack

of assurance. The committee also pointed out that repeated inspections by former minister D. Sudhakar and other officials have not resulted in visible progress. They urged the government to ensure steady funding and complete the Upper Bhadra project without further delay.

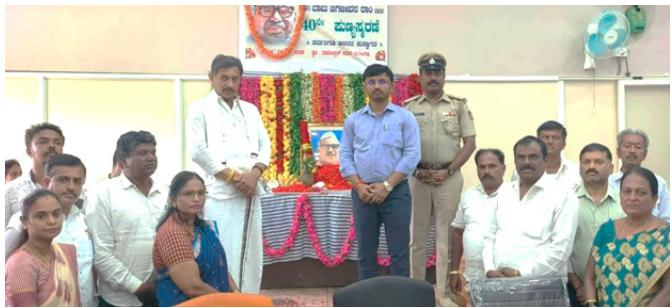
The committee urged Water Resources Minister Ramalinga Reddy to take immediate action and complete the Upper Bhadra project within the current government term. Leaders including B A Lingareddy and other farmer representatives said only full funding and coordinated work can solve the long pending issues.

MLA announces early construction of Jagjivan Ram Bhavan

MAGADI

MLA H.C. Balakrishna announced that the long-awaited Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram Bhavan will be built soon in Magadi. He made the announcement after paying floral tributes to Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram on his 40th death anniversary at the Taluk Office Hall. He said land behind the Taluk Office has already been reserved for the building. Once the final government order is issued, construction will begin. He explained that the project was delayed because of financial issues and changes in the ministerial leadership. He also said the new building will eventually house the taluk office and several important government departments under one roof for the convenience of the public.

Balakrishna praised Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram for his outstanding service to the nation. He said the veteran leader served efficiently in several ministries, including Defence, Labour and Agriculture. According to him, Jagjivan Ram played a key role in bringing



the Green Revolution to India through modern farming methods and scientific agricultural policies. These reforms helped improve food production and made the country self-reliant in agriculture. He said the nation would always remember Jagjivan Ram's valuable contribution to India's development and progress. The MLA also spoke about the proposed Bidadi Township project and said efforts are continuing to convince farmers by explaining the benefits, compensation, and future opportunities linked to the development.

Tahsildar Ranjit K.R. said Jagjivan Ram belonged to the entire nation and not to any single community. He assured people that the administration

would work closely with elected representatives for the welfare of the taluk. Dalit leaders, including Doddaiyya and Vanaja, urged officials to follow the ideals of great leaders through action instead of limiting celebrations to formal events. They also raised concerns over delays in welfare schemes, misuse of SCP funds, untouchability, and the continued exploitation of women.Fomer public representatives and community leaders also demanded faster action on pending government work and disciplinary measures against officials absent from the programme. They said remembering great leaders should inspire responsible governance and better public service.

ADC said that HIV awareness should be increased to show it is preventable and treatable, and reduce stigma around testing and care

ADC CALLS FOR STRONG HIV PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. N. Bhaskar chaired a meeting in Chikkaballapura on AIDS Suraksha Abhiyan and instructed officials to run a strong campaign for HIV prevention through widespread blood testing. He said early detection and timely treatment are key to controlling infection in the district and urged departments to work together for public health safety.

He directed health officials to identify people in high risk groups and ensure mandatory blood testing along with counseling and medical support. He said Integrated

Counseling and Testing Centres, Anti Retroviral Therapy centres and Sexually Transmitted Infection clinics must be made easily accessible. Awareness should be increased so that people understand HIV is preventable and treatable and there should be no stigma in coming forward for testing and care.

He stressed that the health department, other government departments and voluntary organisations must coordinate to control the spread of infection. Awareness programmes should be conducted in both rural and urban areas to remove myths about HIV and encourage people to seek timely testing and treatment.

He also mentioned that information on services and treatment is available on the Break Free India website and citizens should use it responsibly.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner released an awareness pamphlet to educate the public about HIV and its prevention. Officials from various departments and representatives of organisations attended the meeting. He appealed to citizens to undergo regular testing and adopt safe practices to protect their health.

The meeting concluded with a call for collective responsibility and stronger awareness efforts to reduce HIV infection in the district.

MLA highlights rural growth through cooperative banking

CHITRADURGA

At the inauguration of the renovated building of the Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank near ABC Book Center in Chitradurga, MLA K.C. Veerendra Pappi said cooperative banks are very important for farmers economic empowerment and rural growth. He said these institutions provide loans at low interest rates and help farmers avoid private money lenders and debt traps.

Veerendra Pappi added that cooperative banks provide agricultural loans, machinery purchase support and other financial help that enables farmers to lead a self sufficient life. He said the government is also strengthening the cooperative sector through various schemes and urged farmers to become members of these banks to make full use of available benefits.

Bank director J Shivaprakash said the cooperative bank system in Chitradurga was established before independence with foundations laid by Kengal Hanumanthaiyya and has since supported farmers through structured credit facilities. He said the institution has grown steadily and its profits and services are directly benefiting rural development and

agricultural progress. Other officials said the renovated bank building will strengthen services and improve access to credit for farmers in Chitradurga district. MLA K.C. Veerendra Pappi also announced a grant of ten lakh rupees for the development of cooperative agriculture activities during the event. He urged bank members and farmers to use schemes responsibly and said transparency and cooperation are essential for rural economic progress.

Weeks of cooperative efforts by directors, vice presidents, government nominees and local leaders were highlighted at the programme where many representatives including J Shivaprakash, MS Sharanappa, Ravi, Jagadish, Vijayakumar, Satish, Maruti, Mounesh, Kotresh, Padma, Vanajakshamma, Sunil, Nagappa and government nominee director Niranjan Murthy attended and discussed future plans for farmer welfare, credit expansion, digital banking services, rural outreach programmes, financial literacy and strengthening of cooperative institutions in the district while also stressing that timely repayment of loans and responsible borrowing habits will ensure long term sustainability.

Veereshwar Punyashram hosts grand Gawai festival

GADAG

The 82nd and 83rd birth anniversaries of L. Panchakshari Gawai were celebrated at Veereshwar Punyashram in Gadag along with the 16th remembrance of Puttaraja Kavi Gawai Religious leaders said the two gurus were rare personalities who balanced service to people and spiritual life and their festival continues to attract devotees from many places across Karnataka and beyond

Pujyashri Mallikarjuna Mahaswamy of Dharwad Murughamath said the two gurus are precious gems who dedicated their lives to music and society. He said their fair is unique because it unites devotion culture and public participation. He praised their contribution in making Gadag a strong centre of spiritual music traditions that inspire thousands of followers every year

Other spiritual leaders said Puttaraja Kavi Gawai's vachana literature and musical contribution elevated art and culture across the country. They compared Vireshwar Punyashram to a training centre that produces musicians and artists.

Influencer marketing reshapes modern advertising industry

HEPSIBA.S,CH NEWS

In an era where consumers spend more time scrolling through social media than watching television, influencer marketing has emerged as one of the most powerful tools in modern advertising. From fashion and food to technology and travel, brands are increasingly collaborating with digital creators to build trust, engage audiences and influence purchasing decisions in a more personal and authentic way.

Influencer marketing is a digital strategy where brands partner with content creators who have established loyal communities on social media platforms. Unlike traditional advertisements that deliver one-way communication, influencer marketing allows brands to connect with audiences through relatable content, personal experiences and recommendations. As consumers increasingly seek authenticity, influencers have become an important bridge between brands and their target customers.



■ 61% — Trust influencers before buying
■ 89% — Positive ROI reported by marketers
■ 86% — Brands use influencer marketing
■ \$24B — Global market size
■ 49% — Purchase through recommendations

David Dharmaraja, an independent Creative Director, Media consultant, he emphasised that influencer marketing should not be viewed as a replacement for traditional advertising but as an additional marketing channel. According to him, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the primary adopters of influencer marketing because it is more af-

fordable than television commercials, newspaper advertisements or outdoor campaigns. Larger brands, however, continue to invest heavily in traditional media while partnering with celebrities as brand ambassadors. He further explained that the choice between celebrities and micro-influencers depends largely on a brand's objectives, target audience

and marketing budget.

He also highlighted several challenges within the industry. He noted that many businesses continue to judge influencers by follower count rather than audience engagement and credibility. Fake followers, poor audience relevance and collaborations with competing brands can reduce campaign effectiveness and damage consumer trust. he stressed that authenticity remains the foundation of successful influencer marketing

As digital media continues to evolve, influencer marketing is expected to grow alongside traditional advertising rather than replace it. Instead, it is likely to become an integral part of a broader marketing strategy, helping brands combine the reach of conventional media with the authenticity and targeted engagement that digital creators bring.

In today's marketing landscape, influence alone is no longer enough credibility is what truly drives consumer trust.





QUICK READ

Three-day free training on organic farming

Chitradurga

A three-day free residential training on natural and organic farming will be held from July nine to eleven at the District Agricultural Training Centre in Babbur Farm, Hiriyur taluk under the National Agricultural Development Scheme. Farmers will learn organic methods like Jeevamruta, Bijamruta, Dashaparni and compost preparation through practical demonstrations. Experts will explain bio-fertilizers, pest control, water management and crop nutrition. The training will also include vermicompost and areca husk compost techniques. Free compost culture will be given to participants. Only first fifty registered farmers will be selected. For registration call 8277931058.

Notorious goat and bike thief arrested

Hunsur

The Hunsur City Police, under Inspector Shivamadhaya and PSI T M Tajuddin, arrested notorious thief Manju alias Koli Manja during a swift operation. Acting on information that he was stealing a goat and moving towards the market, police staff quickly caught him. Officers Arun HC 130, Irpan PC 363, Dilip PC 502, Mahendra PC 525 and Chandu PC 120 helped in the arrest. A stolen bike and a goat were seized. Several cases were already registered against him in Hunsur and nearby stations.

Chitra Shetty urges protection of rural Kannada schools

Subrahmanya

Emphasising the need to protect and strengthen rural Kannada-medium schools, speakers at a programme in Panja said that declining student enrolment is pushing several government schools towards closure. Speaking after distributing free notebooks to 200 students of Government Model Higher Primary School, Panja, Chitra R. Shetty, honorary president of the Om Shakti Mahila Sangha, Kalyan (Mumbai), said it is essential to preserve Kannada schools in the modern era while also promoting their growth and relevance. The notebooks were distributed under the joint initiative of Sri Durga Seva Sangha, Kenya branch, Panja, and the Om Shakti Mahila Sangha, Kalyan. The initiative aimed to support rural education and encourage students to continue their studies in government schools. The event highlighted concerns that several rural Kannada schools are facing closure due to a lack of admissions.

UT Khader expresses concern over rising stray dog population

Mangaluru has about 53,000 stray dogs; a rehabilitation centre is planned at Bondanthila with RS1 crore allocation

MANGALURU

Health and Family Welfare Minister U.T. Khader expressed concern over the increasing number of stray dogs in urban areas, even after annual sterilisation drives are being carried out.

He was chairing a disaster management and drinking water review meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Mangaluru, where legislators and senior officials were present.

Khader questioned officials on why the stray dog population continues to rise despite regular sterilisation surgeries. He noted that the issue ap-



pears to be more severe in urban areas compared to rural regions.

Responding to the minister's concerns, Mangaluru City Corporation Commissioner Ravichandra Naik said that the problem is partly due to pet dog owners abandoning puppies on streets, which then contribute to the stray population despite sterilisation ef-

forts.

Officials informed that Mangaluru city alone has an estimated 53,000 stray dogs. The corporation has identified 12.5 acres of land in Bondanthila for a proposed rehabilitation centre, with ₹1 crore allocated in the budget. A private rehabilitation centre is already functioning in Shaktinagar, and similar facilities

are being planned in Puttur and Bantwal.

During the meeting, the minister also reviewed recruitment of doctors in rural health centres and instructed officials to intensify awareness on diseases such as malaria, dengue and rat fever.

Khader stressed the need for coordinated efforts among departments including reve-

nue, PWD, RDPR, MES-COM, fire and police services for effective disaster management during the monsoon season.

He also reviewed delays in highway works and instructed officials to improve coordination with central agencies. The minister assured that issues would be taken up with the Union Road Transport Ministry if required.

Officials were directed to ensure proper desilting of stormwater drains and rivers to prevent urban flooding, while identifying 88 vulnerable disaster-prone locations in the district for precautionary measures.

Strict rules ordered for voter list accuracy

CHITRADURGA

Voter List Observer and Regional Commissioner of Bengaluru Division Amlan Aditya Biswas held a progress review meeting on Special Comprehensive Revision of Voter Lists 2026 at the Zilla Panchayat Hall in the city.

He directed officials to take strict steps as per rules to ensure that no eligible voter is left out of the voter list and that ineligible names are not added.

He chaired the review meeting and assessed the progress of the voter enumeration form distribution and related verification work with registration officers and assistant registration officers.

Mukherjee ideals inspire youth says BJP leader

BIDAR

The birthday of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee was celebrated with devotion at the Bidar BJP office on Monday, where leaders paid floral tributes and remembered his contribution to national unity and public life.

Addressing the gathering, BJP district in-charge Gurnath Jyantikar said that Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee symbolised national unity, cultural nationalism and dedication to nation building, and his ideals continue to inspire youth across the country.

Bidar South MLA and BJP State Secretary Dr. Shailendra

Beldale urged young people to adopt patriotism, discipline and service spirit, saying Mukherjee's "Nation First" philosophy remains a guiding example for social work and national development.

District BJP president Somnath Patil said party workers should spread the message of Dr. Mukherjee's life and strengthen patriotism and national values in society. Former Legislative Council Speaker Raghunath Rao Malkapure, former Union Minister Bhagwant Khooba, and several senior leaders, including district office bearers and mandal presidents, attended the program.

Jal Jeevan Mission progress reviewed in Kasaragod

KASARAGOD

A detailed review meeting on the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission projects in Kasaragod district was held at the mini conference hall of the Collectorate, focusing on progress, infrastructure development, and administrative approvals required for timely completion of works.

The meeting was chaired by Additional District Magistrate P. Udayakumar and attended by senior officials from various departments involved in water supply and infrastructure development. The discussion centred on evaluating the current status of ongoing projects, addressing operational challenges, and ensuring that targets under the scheme are

met without delay.

Officials informed the meeting that a total of 87,835 household drinking water connections have already been provided in the district under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The progress was reviewed in detail, with emphasis on ensuring that remaining households are covered in a phased and efficient manner.

The meeting also discussed the extension of validity for third-party inspection agencies responsible for monitoring quality and compliance of the works. Officials noted that continued supervision by these agencies is essential for maintaining standards in project execution.

Another key agenda was the approval process for road

cutting permissions, which are required for laying pipelines across different regions of the district. Delays in permissions and restoration works were also reviewed, with directions issued to streamline coordination between departments.

In addition, the meeting considered requests for extending the completion timelines of several ongoing works under the mission. Officials stressed the importance of completing infrastructure projects without compromising quality, especially in rural and semi-urban areas where water supply connectivity is being expanded.

District Panchayat Vice President K.K. Soya, District Planning Officer Rajesh, Joint

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, 87,835 water connections provided; officials reviewed progress, planned full coverage, and extended third-party inspections for quality and compliance

Director of the Local Self Government Department K.V. Haridas, engineers from the Kerala Water Authority, Irrigation Department officials, and other technical experts participated in the review meeting. The session concluded with directions to accelerate project execution and ensure that benefits reach all eligible households at the earliest.

Out of 3,314 screened, 45 tested positive; 94.6% began treatment, with concern over rising infections among youth

No negligence in HIV care and treatment: Dr Ravi

KOLAR

In Kolar Deputy Commissioner Dr M R Ravi held a review meeting on HIV/AIDS control and directed health officials to ensure there is no negligence in identification and treatment of HIV positive persons in the district under the government programme.

Officials informed that since January 2026 the district has achieved 88 percent progress in the first 95 target of identifying HIV positive persons. Against the annual target of 6000 tests more than 6400 tests have already been conducted exceeding the goal.

Out of 3314 screened 45 positive cases were detected and 94.6 percent were immediately brought under treatment. Officials expressed concern over higher prevalence among youth aged 18 to 30 years and said testing counselling and treatment are available at ICTC ART and STI centres in government hospitals.

The meeting also discussed zoonotic diseases including dog bite cases and Dr Ravi instructed officials to strengthen vaccination drives



emergency response and maintain adequate blood stock in all blood banks to avoid shortages. He said HIV welfare benefits should reach patients at their doorstep and urged ASHA workers and health staff to work in coordination to remove stigma and misinformation about HIV AIDS in society. He also instructed departments to conduct regular field visits and respond quickly during health emergencies while monitoring implementation of all programmes.

District TB officer Dr Prasanna informed that TB mortality has reduced from 6 percent to 3 percent under the National TB Elimination Programme and more than 6827 Nikshay kits have been distributed through PMTBMB

and 84 Nikshay Mitras are supporting patients.

He added that TB HIV co infected patients identified during January to May 2026 have received full ART and CPT coverage and screening is being extended to high risk groups including tobacco users and diabetic patients.

Senior district officials including CEO Dr Praveen B Bagewadi District Health Officer Dr G Srinivas District Surgeon Dr Sharif and others attended the meeting and supported coordinated action Officials said strict monitoring awareness campaigns and community participation are essential to eliminate HIV AIDS stigma and ensure effective healthcare delivery across Kolar.

Byranahalli road works begin with development push

MAGADI

MLA H.C. Balakrishna led bhoomi puja for concrete road and drainage works worth Rs 40 lakh at Byranahalli village in Magadi taluk. The project is taken up under Cauvery Irrigation Development Corporation and aims to improve basic infrastructure in the village, said officials and local leaders during the ceremony.

Bamul Director H.N. Ashok said MLA Balakrishna is working to achieve Gram Swarajya vision of Mahatma Gandhi through rural development. He said Rs 40 lakh grant has been released and work has started, while another Rs 60 lakh proposal has been submitted for remaining road development in Byranahalli. A larger development push has also been made for Satanur Panchayat, where Rs 20 crore has been sanctioned for concrete roads and drainage works across the area. Leaders said this is a major step in rural infrastructure development and will benefit many villages under the con-

stituency.

Block Congress President K. Krishnamurthy said that MLA H.C. Balakrishna has not failed in meeting public expectations and is actively working for village development across the constituency. He said funds should be used with strict quality standards and villagers must monitor road and drainage works regularly to ensure durability and transparency in implementation. Several local leaders, including contractors and community representatives, participated in the bhoomi puja ceremony and expressed confidence that the project will improve connectivity and living conditions in Byranahalli village. Officials said the initiative will strengthen rural infrastructure and support agricultural and social development, ensuring long-term benefits for residents and fulfilling the government's commitment to Gram Swarajya vision in the region and improving rural quality of life sustainably in future years across Magadi taluk.



CITY BEAUTIFICATION PLAN

MLA Pappi pushes urban development for Chitradurga city

CHITRADURGA

MLA K.C. Veerendra Pappi said his main aim is to develop Chitradurga city in a beautiful way and promote tourism by improving urban facilities. He was speaking at the Chitradurga Urban Development Authority general meeting held in the city and instructed officials to work together for city beautification projects.

He said Chitradurga, known for its historic seven round fort, attracts many tourists daily and needs better parks, roads, street lights and lake



development to improve its appearance. He instructed officials to develop parks like Turuvanur model park, install solar street lights, improve Murugha Math lake, protect

Pushkarani and ensure cleanliness in all public spaces.

He also suggested installing welcome boards like I Love Chitradurga at city entrances, placing CCTV cameras for

safety and preparing new development plans for future growth.

"My main objective is to develop Chitradurga city beautifully and make it a city that tourists will recognize and remember For this various development projects have already been formulated and they will be implemented step by step" - K.C. Veerendra Pappi, MLA

K.S. Naveen said the Urban Development Authority should prepare strong new plans that reflect the identity of Chitradurga city and im-

prove basic infrastructure for citizens.

Officials including Urban Development Authority chairman, commissioner and municipal officers attended the meeting and discussed future steps for coordinated development across the city.

Officials said that priority will be given to improving tourist facilities around the historic fort and ensuring better roads, lighting and cleanliness in all wards of Chitradurga city. They also added that lakes, parks and heritage sites will be developed in a

planned manner so that Chitradurga becomes a model city for tourism and urban development in Karnataka. Special focus will be given to installing CCTV cameras, improving traffic management and responding quickly to public complaints received by the Urban Development Authority.

The meeting concluded with a decision to prepare new development proposals and implement them in phases with coordination between all departments for faster and sustainable urban growth.

Officials noted that various awareness activities are being conducted under the guidance of the Zilla Panchayat CEO and Taluk Panchayat EO to ensure widespread understanding of SIR among voters, particularly first-time voters and marginalized groups.

Teachers from Sri Jwalamalini Girls High School, including Sujata Kumari, Sharada, Ajitha, Nishchitha, P. Suresh, and Gunapal Jain, along with local representatives Lata, Prasanna, Poornima, Anamma, and Jayakumar, participated in the programme.

QUICK READ

NIA court extends judicial custody of 9 accused till July 13

New Delhi

In the Red Fort blast case, a Special NIA Court here extended the judicial custody of nine accused till July 13 and decided to scrutinise on the same day a forensic report filed by the probe agency on the body parts of those killed in the incident, a lawyer said on Monday. The Special NIA Court in Patiala House Court complex is also likely to consider the chargesheets filed against all accused on July 13. The forensic report was filed by the NIA after a detailed analysis. On June 27, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) chargesheeted three more accused, including an absconder, in connection with the November 10, 2025, car bomb explosion that killed 11 persons near the Red Fort.

BJP races to retain majority in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation

Thiruvananthapuram

The BJP's fight to secure bail for jailed Thiruvananthapuram Corporation Councillor, R. Sugathan, has acquired enormous political significance, with the party battling against time to protect its wafer thin majority in Kerala's largest civic body. Sugathan, detained under the Kerala Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act (KAAPA), is preparing to move the Kerala High Court after the KAAPA Advisory Board delayed its decision on his bail plea despite hearing the matter on June 29. The urgency stems from another legal hurdle. The High Court had recently disqualified 20 councillors of the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation for violating their oath of office and directed them to take the oath afresh within four weeks.

Every girl's dreams valuable, voice powerful: J&L L-G

Srinagar

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said he envisions a J&K where every young girl grows up believing that her dreams are valuable, her voice is powerful, and her future holds limitless possibilities. In his address, the Lieutenant Governor hailed the fellows as symbols of J&K's ongoing transformation toward a future built on self-confidence, equal opportunities and dignity for all. He lauded the efforts of women's organisations for creating a robust platform where Nari Shakti from the region could move forward confidently, embrace their talent, ideas, and identities, and play a meaningful role in building a bright future for J&K.

Fadnavis Urges Warkaris to Avoid Flood-Hit Alandi amid Crisis

Maharashtra Chief Minister appealed for caution as severe flooding disrupted pilgrim routes and intensified emergency response across the state

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday appealed to Warkaris and devotees travelling to Alandi to immediately halt at safe locations due to severe flooding caused by the swollen Indrayani River. With all four bridges leading into Alandi completely submerged, the Chief Minister urged pilgrims to avoid entering the town and instead join the annual Wari procession from Pune city.

Addressing the worsening flood situation, Fadnavis stressed that the safety of devotees and residents remains the government's highest priority. He instructed Warkaris and citizens to strictly follow directions issued by the district administration, police authorities, and disaster management teams.

The Chief Minister also advised devotees to skip visits to both Dehu and Alandi until

conditions improve, warning that attempts to enter the flood-affected areas could put lives at risk. Warkari groups that have already reached Pune were requested to remain within the city limits and avoid travelling towards flooded regions.

Fadnavis cautioned people against believing rumours or unverified information circulating on social media and appealed to citizens to rely only on official updates issued by government agencies. He also urged the public to stay away from riverbeds, ghats, submerged roads, and bridges that have been closed because of dangerous water levels.

As heavy rainfall continues across several parts of Maharashtra, the Chief Minister said the state government has placed the entire administrative machinery on high alert. He assured citizens that emergency response teams are working around the clock and



that 24-hour control rooms have been activated to provide immediate assistance during emergencies.

The government has operationalised multiple emergency helplines to assist affected residents. Citizens can contact the State-Level Main Control Room through the toll-free number 1070, while district-level control rooms have activated the toll-free number 1077 across Maharashtra to coordinate local rescue and

relief operations. Additional mobile and telephone helplines have also been made available for emergency support.

Fadnavis said authorities have been instructed to take extra precautions in landslide-prone and other vulnerable areas where continuous rainfall has increased the risk of disasters. He appealed to people not to panic and to seek assistance promptly through official emergency channels whenever required.

Earlier in the day, while addressing the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister informed lawmakers that all emergency response agencies have been placed on the highest level of preparedness. He noted that the India Meteorological Department had issued red alerts for multiple districts, warning of extremely heavy rainfall accompanied by wind speeds ranging between 70 and 90 kilometres per hour.

Assam Announces Two New Gauhati HC Benches

GUWAHATI

Assam Law Minister Susanta Borgohain on Monday announced in the State Assembly that new benches of the Gauhati High Court will be established in Dibrugarh and Barak Valley. The decision is expected to significantly improve access to justice for people living in Upper Assam and the southern districts of the state by bringing judicial services closer to litigants.

Assam government approved new High Court benches to improve judicial access for residents of Upper Assam and Barak Valley

The proposed High Court bench in Dibrugarh is also expected to benefit residents of Upper Assam. Litigants from districts in the region currently depend on the principal bench in Guwahati for High Court matters, requiring extensive travel. Once operational, the Dibrugarh bench is expected to make judicial services more accessible and reduce the burden on citizens pursuing legal remedies.

According to legal experts, decentralising the functioning of the High Court will not only improve convenience for litigants but also contribute to faster disposal of cases. The creation of additional benches is expected to strengthen judicial infrastructure, reduce travel time and litigation expenses, and encourage more efficient case management across the state.

Mumbai deaths not natural, but man-made disaster: Maha Congress

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Congress President Harshwardhan Sapkal on Monday demanded that a case of culpable homicide be registered against Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for deaths in various incidents across the Mumbai region.

He said that torrential rains are wreaking havoc in several parts of the state, causing massive loss of life and property. While it is imperative to take precautionary measures during the monsoon, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Mahayuti government and the administration appear completely unprepared.

He claimed that the deaths are not due to a natural calamity, but are a result of the Fadnavis government's tyrannical mismanagement.

Speaking to the media, Sapkal stated that although Rs 7,181 crore was spent on the 'Missing Link' project, the government has faced the embarrassing situation of having to close the road to traffic just two months after its operation.

During Prithviraj Chavan's tenure as state CM, experts had raised 13 serious objections regarding the safety of this project. These included alignment issues near the Lonavala dam, tunnel safety, geological stability, and other technical concerns. Instead of addressing these objections, the work was rushed through to host grand inauguration

V.D. Satheesan urged humanity to embrace compassion and peace while inaugurating a major spiritual centenary celebration in Kerala

SATHEESAN CALLS FOR COMPASSION AT WORLD PEACE CENTENARY EVENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURA

Calling for a world guided by compassion instead of conflict, Kerala Leader of the Opposition V. D. Satheesan on Monday said that true spirituality lies in standing beside those who suffer and offering hope to people facing hardship. He made the remarks while inaugurating the Vishwa Shanthi Sandesha Yajnam organised as part of the birth centenary celebrations of Navjyothisree Karunakara Guru at the Santhigiri Ashram.

Addressing a large gathering at the Ashram, Satheesan said the world is currently witnessing an unprecedented period of wars, humanitarian



crises, and social unrest, making the Guru's teachings of universal love, peace, and brotherhood more relevant than ever. He stressed that spirituality should not be confined to rituals or religious practices but should be reflected in acts of kindness,

compassion, and service towards those experiencing pain and adversity.

Speaking about his personal connection with the Guru's philosophy, Satheesan recalled that he was first introduced to Karunakara Guru through the celebrated literary work Gurusagaram by renowned writer O. V. Vijayan. He noted that the author had described himself as a tiny fish that had reached the vast ocean that was the Guru, illustrating the profound spiritual influence that Karunakara Guru had on those who encountered his teachings.

Satheesan said the Guru opened new dimensions of spiritual consciousness by promoting ideals of universal

love, harmony, and peace through humanitarian initiatives such as community feeding, social service, and spiritual awakening. According to him, these values continue to inspire people across communities and remain relevant in addressing the challenges facing modern society.

Drawing comparisons between the devastation caused by the First and Second World Wars and the conflicts taking place around the world today, he expressed concern over the persistence of violence and intolerance. He said that only a philosophy rooted in universal humanism, mutual respect, and compassion could provide a lasting path towards peace and coexistence.

PM Modi realised Syama Prasad Mookerjee's dream: Gujarat CM

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Monday paid floral tributes to Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his 125th birth anniversary, describing the founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh as an eminent nationalist thinker whose ideals of national unity and public service continue to inspire generations.

Patel offered flowers before Mookerjee's oil portrait at the podium of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly during a commemorative programme attended by senior legislators, elected representatives and government officials.

In a message posted on social media platform X, the Chief Minister said Mookerjee had fought till his last breath for the complete integration of Kashmir and for equal civil rights for all citizens.

Syama Prasad Mookerjee's vision of ending the policy of

'one country, two constitutions, two prime ministers and two flags' has been realised today under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mookerjee's ideals and his spirit of 'Nation First' will continue to keep the flame of dedication towards the motherland forever alive in everyone's hearts, he said.

Syama Prasad Mookerjee, born on July 6, 1901, was an educationist, parliamentarian and politician.

He served as the youngest Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, became independent India's first Minister for Industry and Supply in Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet, and later founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1951 after resigning from the Union government.

His political legacy is closely associated with his advocacy of national integration and his opposition to the special constitutional status then in place for Jammu and



Kashmir.

He died in custody in Srinagar in 1953 after being arrested while entering the erstwhile state without a permit.

The Central government has been observing the 125th birth anniversary of Mookerjee through a two-year nationwide commemoration programme, highlighting his contributions to politics, education, industry and public life.

Among those present at the Gujarat Legislative Assembly

were Deputy Speaker Purnesh Modi, Chief Whip Balakrishna Shukla, MLAs Rita Patel and Alpesh Thakor, Gandhinagar Mayor Mira Patel, city BJP president Dr Ashish Dave, the Deputy Mayor, municipal office-bearers, Gujarat Legislative Assembly Secretary Pandya and other officials.

The tribute in Gandhinagar formed part of observances held across the country to mark Mookerjee's 125th birth anniversary.

ARMY CHIEF-PRESIDENT MEET

Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth calls on President Droupadi Murmu

NEW DELHI

Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth, along with spouse Komal Seth, called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, an official said on Monday.

While assuming charge as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff on July 1, Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth vowed to lead the force with an unwavering commitment to the ideals of duty, honour

and 'Nation First'.

Earlier this month, during his meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) outlined his plans for the force.

Army Chief Gen Seth said, The Indian Army is a combat-ready and battle-hardened force, fully prepared and capable of meeting every challenge in the operational domain. To respond effectively to the

evolving security environment, we must take forward the modernisation of the Army with renewed energy and firm resolve.

We aim to build a technology-enabled, future-ready Army which is fully empowered and capable of operating across multiple domains, Gen Seth said.

The COAS spoke about the 'Decade of Transformation' while identifying his



key focus areas.

I have put them together in the acronym 'VIJAY'. Each letter of 'VIJAY' reflects my priorities, which I will briefly outline. 'V' stands for Vigilance. We will maintain constant vigilance along our borders and against emerging threats. We will also ensure a high level of operational readiness to respond effectively to any challenge to national security.

Innovation will remain an

integral part of our thinking, our systems and our capability development. At the same time, necessary transformations will be undertaken in keeping with the changing character of warfare. 'J' stands for Jointness and Integration, he said.

The letter 'A' stands for Atmanirbharta, he said, adding that 'Y' stands for Yodha First, reflecting training and welfare of personnel, he said.

Assam Budget to Outline Five-Year Development Vision, Says Sarma

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said the state Budget, scheduled to be presented later this week, will serve as a comprehensive economic roadmap for the next five years. He stated that the Budget would be centred on fulfilling the commitments made in the election manifesto of the BJP-led alliance while laying out a long-term vision for the state's development.

The Budget session of the Assam Legislative Assembly commenced on Monday, marking the first financial session after the BJP-led alliance returned to power for a third consecutive term in the state. The government views the upcoming Budget as a significant policy document that will define its development priorities for the next term.

Speaking to reporters, Sarma said the Budget, which will be presented by Finance Minister Jayanta Mallabrahua on July 10, would go beyond routine annual financial allocations. Instead, it would outline a broader strategy aimed at accelerating Assam's economic growth over the next five years.

According to the Chief Minister, the government has designed the Budget around the promises made to the people during the Assembly elections. He said it would provide a clear direction

for the state's future while focusing on sustainable development, investment promotion and inclusive economic progress.

Sarma identified agriculture, industrial expansion, micro, small and medium enterprises, self-help groups, employment generation and renewable energy as the government's priority sectors. He noted that these areas would receive significant policy attention as the administration seeks to strengthen Assam's economy and generate new opportunities for citizens.

The Chief Minister said the Budget would introduce several initiatives aimed at encouraging investments, supporting entrepreneurship, expanding employment opportunities and enhancing the state's overall economic competitiveness. He added that the government intends to ensure that the benefits of economic growth reach both urban centres and rural communities alike.

He further emphasised that the administration is committed to balanced development across multiple sectors while creating an environment conducive to long-term investment and industrial growth. Strengthening the livelihoods of farmers, supporting small businesses and promoting renewable energy are expected to be among the major themes of the Budget.

Ram Temple probe given to SIT, not central agencies due to BJP ‘rift’, claims Akhilesh Yadav

LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday launched a veiled attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), alleging that the investigation into the alleged Ram Temple donation theft case was entrusted to a Special Investigation Team (SIT) instead of central agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) due to an internal power struggle within the party.

Addressing a press conference here, Akhilesh Yadav, without naming the BJP, suggested that it had two centres of power -- one in Lucknow and the other in Delhi and alleged that the handling of the investigation was influenced by this internal rivalry.

Offerings, donations, and contributions have fallen into the hands of a gang of thieves. They are unable to face the public's anger. As you mentioned, they are afraid of public outrage, which is why they are staying indoors, he said.

You mentioned the ED, CBI, and Income Tax. You did not understand what I said. I said this is a power struggle. This gang of thieves, who thrive on offerings and donations, is unable to face the public's outrage. They are terrified of this backlash, which is why they are

staying holed up at home, he said, addressing the reporters.

Elaborating on his allegation, Akhilesh Yadav questioned why the matter was not investigated by central agencies.

You haven't quite grasped the point regarding the ED, CBI, and Income Tax departments. I was talking about a power struggle. If the ED, CBI, or Income Tax were involved, who would be controlling the investigation? Before the Delhi leadership could even react, the Lucknow faction seized control of everything. Can't you understand even that much? What is this SIT? To whom was the report submitted? You fail to grasp even this simple fact, he said.

The former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister further alleged that the choice of the investigating agency itself reflected the internal political dynamics within the ruling party.

If it were the ED, CBI, or Income Tax, who would hold the reins of the investigation? And in whose hands does the SIT investigation lie?... All of this is happening because of a power struggle. There is a saying: 'Give a man power, and you will see his true character', Akhilesh Yadav stated.

Govt Amends Legal Metrology Rules For High Capacity Scales

NEW DELHI

The Department of Consumer Affairs has amended the Legal Metrology (General) Rules, 2011 to reduce the mandatory standard weight requirement for verification of high-capacity weighing instruments by introducing a scientific, repeatability-based verification approach, an official statement said on Monday. The move will cut compliance burden for industries, warehouses, logistics operators and weigh-bridge owners as well as lower transportation and handling costs to move large quantities of standard weights, the statement from Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution said. The amendment replaced the earlier rule that required standard weights of at least one tonne or 50 per cent of an instrument's maximum capacity whichever was greater with a scientific, repeatability based approach.

NAME CHANGE	NAME CHANGE
I hitherto know as SANGHANI AMAN FIROZALI S/o Firozali Babubhai Sanghani, R/O 006, B Block, Oak Building, Adarsh Greens, Kogilu Main Road, Adarsh Greens Apartment, Prkruthi Nagar, Agrabara, Po: Yelahanka, Dist: Bengaluru, Kamataka - 560064, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AMAN SANGHANI .	I hitherto known as TABASSUM ARRRA W/o MUKESH JAISWAL, R/o No. 234 DS Max Stonescape, Tulsipura Main Road, BJS Office, Anjanapura 5th Block, VTC Anjanapura, PO Anjanapura, Sub District Bangalore South, District Bengaluru, Kamataka-560062, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MUSKAN JAISWAL . I have changed my name only not my religion.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ EComp. No.:254893 F:CMCDNL-REV0SHOP/4/2026-REVN ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ				
ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಯಬಹುದಾದುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ 2024-25 ರೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರೋತ್ಸವ (ಮುನಿಸಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ) ಪಂತ-3 ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಜಿಎಸ್.ರಸ್ತೆ ವಸತಿ ಗೃಹಗಳ ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತುಕ ಮಂದಿರದ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾದ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆಯನ್ನು, 12 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗಾಗಿ ಮಾತುಕ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆಗೆ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್ ಫರ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಶುಲ್ಕದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಂ.ಸಾಂ/301/ಜಿಎಸ್/2017 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-07-2019 ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್ ಯೋಜನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕಾರವಾರ ರವರ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಡಿಎಂಡಿ-3/ಅಂಗೆಡಿ ಮಳಿಗೆವಿವ-46/358/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29-06-2026 ರಂತೆ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಮೂಲಕ ನೀಡುವುದನ್ನು ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕಾಲಂ ಸಂ: 04 ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಡಿಡಿಯನ್ನು ಪೋರಾಯಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ ಎಂಬ ತಿರೋನಾಮೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದು ಒಂದು ದಿನ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ನಗರಸಭೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಟೋಕರ್ ಸಂಬರ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವರು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಂದಾಯ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.dandelicity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.				
(1) ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವವರು ಶೇವಕೆ ಡಿಡಿಯನ್ನು ದಿ: 06-08-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5-00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗಾಗಿ ನಗರಸಭೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ಟೋಕರ್ ಸಂಬರ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವರು.				
(2) ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ದಿ: 07-08-2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11-00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು.				
ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆ ವಿವರ: ಜಿ.ಎಸ್. ರಸ್ತೆ ಮಾತುಕ ಮಂದಿರದ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ				
ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅವಧಿ	ನಿಗದಿತ ಪಡೆದ ಭದ್ರತಾ ಶೇಖರೆ	ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ
1	ನವಿಲು ಮಹಡಿ	12 ವರ್ಷ	3316334.00	2,08,723.00
2	ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ	12 ವರ್ಷ	3316334.00	1,87,850.00
3	ಎರಡನೇ ಮಹಡಿ	12 ವರ್ಷ	3316334.00	1,66,975.00
4	ಒಟ್ಟು	12 ವರ್ಷ	9949002.00	563548.00
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/253/26-27 dt. 06.07.2026			ಸಹ/- ಪೋರಾಯಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ	

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday praised the simplicity, humility and grounded nature of senior BJP leader Nitin Nabin, sharing a social media post that highlighted his modest student life in Delhi. The Prime Minister's remarks came amid a heated political exchange between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Opposition, which has led to a fresh war of words over recent allegations and counter-allegations.

Sharing a post written by one of Nabin's college friends, who is now a noted journalist, Modi described the leader's simplicity and straightforwardness as a matter of pride for every BJP worker. The

post portrayed Nabin as someone who remained grounded despite coming from a political family and never sought special treatment because of his background.

According to the journalist, he first met Nabin in 1998 when both moved to Delhi to pursue higher education after completing their Class 12 examinations. Although Nabin was the son of a sitting legislator from Bihar, he reportedly never projected his family's political status or attempted to use it for personal advantage.

The journalist recalled that the two shared a modest lifestyle while studying in the national capital. They often lived on limited resources, splitting inexpensive meals to reduce daily expenses and travelling on Delhi Transport



Corporation buses instead of opting for costlier modes of transport. The account described Nabin as someone who preferred ordinary living and avoided displaying any sense of privilege.

In another post, the journalist narrated their days in Delhi's IP Extension locality, where Nabin and a group of friends rented modest accommodation in Patpar-

ganj because they could not afford a larger or more comfortable residence. He wrote that Nabin followed a strict monthly budget of around Rs 2,000, covering rent, food and educational expenses through careful planning and disciplined spending.

The journalist further recalled that the group shared household responsibilities equally, including preparing breakfast, washing utensils and cleaning their room. According to him, Nabin never hesitated to contribute to routine chores and maintained a disciplined lifestyle throughout his college years.

Describing his longtime friend, the journalist said Nabin was known for being disciplined, approachable and unassuming.

 बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda		ROSARB Regional Office , Bengaluru North No 41/2, 4th Floor, Vijaya Towers, Trinity Circle, M G Road, Bengaluru 560001, Tel: 080-25011368, E-mail: sarben@bankofbaroda.bank.in Web: www.bankofbaroda.com	
ABRIDGED VEHICLE E-AUCTION NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF MOVABLE ASSETS/VEHICLES			
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that Bank has repossessed/seized the Hypothecated Motor Vehicle mentioned below in exercise of the powers conferred under Hypothecation/Loan Agreement executed by the parties and Vehicle will be sold on “As is where is”, “As is what is”, and “Whatever there is” basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/ Guarantor/s/ Vehicle/Total Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -			
Sr No	Name & address of Borrower/s / Guarantor. Loan Account no Total Dues	Vehicle Make & Model RTO Regd No/Engine No/Chassis No.	1.Reserve Price- 2.Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)- 3.Bid Increase Amount
1	C GANGADHAR No 5 Ellumada Layout, Ramachandra puram, Jahalahalli, Bangalore 560013 89590600003610 Rs 23,74,670.04	2021/TATA ULTRA 1918 T 5L BSVI TEMP REG NO. T0422KA7311X/ MAT790213N7B03949/ 5LNGDICR21BX504565	1.Rs 6,66,000/- 2.Rs 66,600/- 3.Rs 10,000/-
2	SURESH M No 5 Ellumada Layout, Near Nalanda theatre, Ramachandra puram, Jahalahalli Bangalore 560013 89590600003605 Rs 26,04,679.84	2021/TATA ULTRA 1918 T 5L BSVI TEMP REG NO. T0222KA33002/MAT790213M7K 17147/5LNGDICR21KY520358	1.Rs 6,66,000/- 2.Rs 66,600/- 3.Rs 10,000/-
3	VASANTH.S No 63 C Lane Anjanappa Garden, Mysore Road, Chamaraipet, Bangalore 560018 89590600003432 Rs 25,27,911.61	2021/TATA ULTRA 1918 T 5L BSVI TEMP REG NO/ MAT790213M7J16050/5LNGDIC R21JYX518867	1.Rs 6,66,000/- 2.Rs 66,600/- 3.Rs 10,000/-
4	RAVINDRA A No 43 2nd Floor 4TH Cross Near Nandini Theatre, Flower Garden, Mysore Road, Bangalore 560018 89590600003713 Rs 26,14,558.78	2021/TATA ULTRA 1918 T 5L BSVI TEMP REG NO/ MAT790213N7C07240/5JNGDIC R21CX508514	1.Rs 6,66,000/- 2.Rs 66,600/- 3.Rs 10,000/-
5	VENKATESH No 38/3 Muneshwara Block, 1st Main Road, Nagashethalli, Bangalore 560094 89590600003714 Rs 26,36,830.49	2021/TATA ULTRA 1918 T 5L BSVI TEMP REG NO. T0422KA7309X/ MAT790213N7C07711/5LNGDIC R21CX507693	1.Rs 6,66,000/- 2.Rs 66,600/- 3.Rs 10,000/-
6	LOKANATH C No 8 Queens Road, Rajeev Gandhi Colony, Near Veterinary Hospital, Shivajinagar Bangalore 560005 89590600003519 Rs 25,26,857.43	2021/TATA ULTRA 1918 T 5L BSVI TEMP REG NO/ MAT790213M7J16044/ 5LNGDICR21JYX519196	1.Rs 6,66,000/- 2.Rs 66,600/- 3.Rs 10,000/-
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link https://www.baanknet.com Prospective bidders may contact to Mr. Shreekrushna Marandi on Tel.No. 080-25011368, Mobile 832889592			
Date : 06.07.2026 Place : Bengaluru		Sd/- Authorized Officer Bank of Baroda	

 KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking) Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti- 586201. E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com No: KBJNL/DDA/Quotation/2026-27/704 Dated:06.07.2026				
ENQUIRY OF RATES				
Almatti dam is Major Multi-purpose Reservoir Project of National Importance. The Dam is provided with 26 No's of Spillway radial crest gates with hydraulic hoisting system. It is requested to submit the quotation rates for the following item of works pertaining to hoisting components to spillway radial crest gates of Almatti Dam for the purpose of preparation of estimate. The details of items under work are as follows				
Sl No	Description of Item	Unit	Qty	Rate per unit quantity (Excluding GST)
1	Hydraulic hoisting system: Detailed Site investigation, Design, Supply, Installation and commissioning of Hydraulic Hoisting Cylinders two numbers per gate, each of 115 Ton hoisting capacity (Total 230 Ton) along with 1.7225 (42CrMo4) piston rod with Cobalt-based laser Welded coating for each spillway radial crest gate of Almatti Dam with all necessary accessories including cost of dismantling existing hoisting system, all materials, machinery, labor, transportation, testing against full load, etc., complete with all leads and lifts as directed by Engineer in charge The Technical specifications of the Hoisting system are as under: 1. Hoisting Capacity: Each cylinder of 115 Ton hoisting capacity 2. Stroke Length :9.60 M 3. Length of Cylinder: 11.00 M 4. Design Pressure :220 Kg/cm2 5. Piston Rod Material: 1.7225 (42CrMo4) with Cobalt laser welded cladding coating on piston rod as per EN/DIN Standards. 6. Hydraulic hoist system shall have an onboard HPU mounted on the cylinder.	Each	52	
For further information, it is requested to visit the office of the undersigned in person to collect complete details of the work. It is also advised to visit & inspect the site prior to submitting your quotation for better understanding of scope of work. Quotations may be submitted either in sealed cover or via email. Last date for submission of quotation: 20.07.2026. Contact e-mail Address: dam_division@rediffmail.com Contact Mobil No: Sri Jayanna K, EE Mob No: 9448025208 Sri Vithal Jadhav, AE Mob No: 89713 61932				
ಮಾಸಾಂಕ/ನಿಜಯಮರ/191/ಕೆಎಂಎಂಎ/2026-27 Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti				

Government of Karnataka Department of Fisheries Directorate of Fisheries, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V. Tower, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560 001, Phone: 080-2286 4681/4604, Fax: 080-2286 4619 E-mail: dfkamataka@rediffmail.com	
Ref: TECHOINL/53/2026; E-2213727	Date: 03.07.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION	
Sub: Inviting tender for the supply of Extruded Floating Pelleted Brood stock Fish Feed and other items for various fish seed Production farms of the department of fisheries in the state.	
The Department of Fisheries has invited tender for supply of Extruded Floating Pelleted Brood stock Fish Feed and other items for various fish seed production centers of the State from manufacturers or their authorized dealers. Tender forms and documents may be downloaded from Govt of Karnataka e procurement website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 06.07.2026 . Last date for uploading tender is 21.07.2026 .	
Sd/- Director of Fisheries	
DIPR/CP/SHIRDISAI/1511/2026-27	

 BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Zone-01) Meyo Hall, Public Utility Building, 17th Floor, MG Road, Bangalore-560001	
No: SADH(Zone-1)TENDER/81/2026-27	Date: 06.07.2026
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (SHORT TERM) (SINGLE COVER AND TWO COVER SYSTEM)	
(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)	
The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture Zone-01, (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement in accordance with KPPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies/Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour department for Maintenance of Parks.	
Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.09 Hoysala Nagara Central. Estimate Cost : Rs. 38,02,000.00, EMD : Rs. 76,040.00. Category : Others
2.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.12 Kasthuri Nagara. Estimate Cost : Rs. 24,40,000.00, EMD : Rs. 48,800.00. Category : Others
3.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.13, Krishnaiahna Palya. Estimate Cost : Rs. 13,03,000.00, EMD : Rs. 32,575.00. Category : Others
4.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.15, Indiranagara. Estimate Cost : Rs. 18,00,000.00, EMD : Rs. 45,000.00. Category : Others
5.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.16 New Thippasandra. Estimate Cost : Rs. 12,00,000.00, EMD : Rs. 15,000.00. Category : ST
6.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.17, Kaggadasapura. Estimate Cost : Rs. 1,78,000.00, EMD : Rs. 4,450.00. Category : Others
7.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.19, Jeevanbhima Nagara. Estimate Cost : Rs. 24,05,000.00, EMD : Rs. 48,100.00. Category : Others
8.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.20, Kodihalli. Estimate Cost : Rs. 21,64,000.00, EMD : Rs. 43,280.00. Category : Others
9.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.22, Dommaluru. Estimate Cost : Rs. 58,30,000.00, EMD : Rs. 58,300.00. Category : CAT-I
10.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.23, Jogupalya. Estimate Cost : Rs. 24,75,000.00, EMD : Rs. 24,750.00. Category : CAT-II(A)
11.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.25 Ashok Nagara. Estimate Cost : Rs. 31,98,000.00, EMD : Rs. 31,980.00. Category : SC
12.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.27, Ambedkar Nagara. Estimate Cost : Rs. 93,000.00, EMD : Rs. 2,325.00. Category : Others
13.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.28, Neelasandra. Estimate Cost : Rs. 10,00,000.00, EMD : Rs. 12,500.00. Category : ST
14.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.29 Austin Town. Estimate Cost : Rs. 19,20,000.00, EMD : Rs. 24,000.00. Category : SC
15.	Maintenance of Parks in Ward No.31, Shanthi Nagara. Estimate Cost : Rs. 12,00,000.00, EMD : Rs. 30,000.00. Category : Others
Calendar of Events : (1) Date of Notification : 06.07.2026 (2) Tender can be downloaded from : 07.07.2026 (3) Last Date for Queries : 10.07.2026 (4) Pre bid Meeting : 15.07.2026 at 11.30 AM (5) Tender Closing Date : 18.07.2026 at 4.30 PM (6) Technical bid opening date : 20.07.2026 at 11.30 AM (7) Financially bid opening date : After Approval of Technical bid.	
Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Zone-01), BCCC	

England Defeat Mexico to Reach Third Straight World Cup Quarterfinal

MAXICO

England produced a determined and resilient performance to defeat co-hosts Mexico 3-2 in a dramatic FIFA World Cup Round of 16 encounter at the Azteca Stadium. Despite being reduced to ten men early in the second half, Thomas Tuchel's side held their nerve to secure a place in the quarterfinals for the third consecutive World Cup. The victory also ended Mexico's remarkable record at the iconic stadium, handing the hosts their first-ever FIFA World Cup defeat at the Azteca. England will now face Norway in the quarterfinals after the Scandinavian side stunned Brazil with a 2-1 victory earlier in the day.

The match, delayed by an hour because of thunderstorms, began in a charged atmosphere as a packed home crowd urged Mexico forward from the opening whistle. The hosts dominated the early exchanges and created their first major opportunity in the 15th minute when Raul Jimenez met a cross with a diving header. However, England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford produced an outstanding save to keep the scores level. Pickford's appearance was another significant milestone as he equaled Peter Shilton's record of 17 FIFA World Cup appearances for England's men's national team. The experienced goalkeeper continued to play a vital role throughout the contest with several crucial interventions.

England gradually settled into the match and struck first just after the half-hour mark. Midfielder Jude Bellingham opened the scoring with a superb diving header after meeting an inviting cross from Bukayo Saka. The goal shifted momentum in England's favour.

Only two minutes later, Bellingham doubled England's advantage with his second goal of the evening. Captain Harry Kane provided the assist following another well-worked attacking move down the right flank, giving the visitors a commanding 2-0 lead.

Mexico refused to surrender and quickly responded. Winger Julian Quinones reduced the deficit by volleying home from close range after England failed

England overcame Mexico despite playing with ten men to secure a thrilling World Cup quarterfinal berth.



to clear a dangerous free-kick situation, reigniting hopes among the passionate home supporters. England nearly restored their two-goal cushion shortly after halftime when Nico O'Reilly struck the post. However, the match took another dramatic turn in the 54th minute when defender Jarell Quansah received a red card following a Video Assistant Referee review. His high-footed sliding challenge on Jesus Gallardo left England with ten players, making him only the

fourth English footballer to be sent off in a FIFA World Cup match. Despite the numerical disadvantage, England remained composed and continued to threaten on the counter-attack. Their persistence paid off when Anthony Gordon raced clear on goal and was brought down by Mexican goalkeeper Raul Rangel inside the penalty area. Harry Kane stepped up and calmly converted the resulting spot kick to restore England's two-goal advantage.

Ten changes for South Africa as they take on Scotland

PRETORIA

South Africa rang the changes to their team for the weekend's Nations Championship clash with Scotland, after starting the new competition with a resounding 45-21 win over England last Saturday, including a first start in eight years for scrumhalf Embrose Papier. Papier last played for the Bulls in 2018 but was recalled after a stellar season in the United Rugby Championship for the Bulls.

We have good depth in our squad, and this will be a great test for the team, said Erasmus as he named the side.

We told the players from the outset that we would give as many of them a chance as possible to play this season, while we are also trying to manage some players, while others are not available for selection this week, so it was important to select a team with some continuity from last week, while bringing in players we believe will be the right fit for what we are expecting from Scotland, he added.

Team: 15-Aphelele Fassis, 14-Edwill van der Merwe, 13-Jesse Kriel, 12-Damian Willemse, 11-Canan Moodie, 10-Handre Pollard, 9-Embrose Papier, 8-Evan Roos, 7-Pieter-Steph du Toit (captain), 6-Paul de Villiers, 5-Ruan Nortje, 4-Cobus Wiese, 3-Wilco Louw, 2-Johan Grobbelaar, 1-Boan Venter.

Replacements: 16-Jan-Hendrik Wessels, 17-Ntuthuko Mchunu, 18-Zach Porthen, 19-Ben-Jason Dixon, 20-Vincent Tshituka, 21-Elrigh Louw, 22-Grant Williams, 23-Quan Horn.

Ferrari chief Fred Vasseur urged caution despite recent victories strengthening the team's Formula One title ambitions this season.

Ferrari Stay Grounded Despite Renewed Formula One Championship Challenge

LONDON

Ferrari team principal Fred Vasseur has played down growing speculation about the team's Formula One championship prospects despite the Italian constructor securing its second victory in three races at the British Grand Prix. While Ferrari's recent resurgence has significantly narrowed the gap to championship leaders Mercedes, Vasseur insisted that the team remains focused on continuous improvement rather than title talk.

Ferrari celebrated another memorable weekend after Charles Leclerc claimed victory at the British Grand Prix, just a month after teammate Lewis Hamilton secured a win at the Spanish Grand Prix. The im-



pressive results have reignited hopes that Ferrari could mount a serious challenge for both the Drivers' and Constructors' Championships during the remainder of the season.

Despite the recent success, Ferrari still trails Mercedes by 78 points in the Constructors' Championship standings. In the Drivers' Championship, seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton occupies third place, sitting 32 points behind Mercedes driver Kimi Antonelli, who continues to lead the standings. Leclerc, meanwhile, is fourth overall and trails his Ferrari teammate by seven points while remaining 39 points behind the championship leader.

Addressing questions about Ferrari's growing momentum,

Vasseur rejected suggestions that the team had suddenly become championship favourites. He recalled how opinions surrounding Ferrari had shifted dramatically over recent races, with some declaring the team back in title contention after the Spanish Grand Prix before others dismissed their chances following a less successful outing in Austria. The Ferrari chief stressed that maintaining a balanced perspective was essential for the team. According to Vasseur, Ferrari has made encouraging progress but still has considerable work ahead before it can consistently challenge for championships.

He emphasized that the team's focus would immediately shift to the upcoming Belgian Grand Prix at Spa-Francorchamps rather than celebrating recent victories.

WASHINGTON

The United States' FIFA World Cup campaign took a dramatic and controversial turn as FIFA suspended the match ban imposed on striker Donald Trump reportedly following a personal appeal by the American President to FIFA President Gianni Infantino to review the disciplinary decision.

The unprecedented development has placed FIFA's disciplinary procedures under intense global scrutiny while triggering criticism from Belgium, who are scheduled to face the United States in their Round of 16 clash for a place in the quarterfinals. The decision has quickly become one of the tournament's most debated issues, shifting attention away from on-field preparations to questions surrounding the relationship between international football administration and political influence. Within minutes of FIFA's announcement, sports



FIFA cleared Folarin Balogun to play after suspending his World Cup ban following extraordinary intervention and widespread debate.

broadcasts and discussion panels across the world were dominated by reactions from former players, analysts, and commentators. While some viewed the decision as a fair exercise of FIFA's disciplinary discretion, others questioned whether the governing body had compromised the integrity and consistency of its own rules.

FIFA did not immediately

respond to requests seeking clarification regarding the circumstances surrounding the reported conversation between Trump and Infantino or the reasoning behind the disciplinary review. The lack of further explanation has added to the growing debate over the transparency of the governing body's decision-making process.

Balogun had been shown a red card during the United States' 2-0 victory over Bosnia and Herzegovina after a Video Assistant Referee review determined that he had planted his boot on the ankle of defender Tarik Muharemovic. The dismissal came despite protests from United States head coach Mauricio Pochettino, who maintained that the challenge did not warrant a straight red card.

The 25-year-old forward had been in outstanding form before the incident, scoring his third goal of the World Cup during the same match. His

suspension was expected to rule him out of the crucial knockout encounter against Belgium, creating a significant setback for the American side.

According to a source familiar with the matter, President Trump contacted FIFA President Infantino and requested that world football's governing body reconsider the decision. Although FIFA has not overturned the original red card, it has suspended the immediate implementation of the one-match ban under the provisions of Article 27 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

In an official statement, FIFA explained that the suspension of the sanction would remain in effect for a probationary period of one year. Should Balogun commit another offence of similar nature and severity during that period, the suspended punishment would automatically be reinstated in addition to any further disciplinary action arising from the new incident.

Spurs sign Tonali for a club-record £100 million

LONDON

Tottenham Hotspur announced the signing of midfielder Sandro Tonali from fellow Premier League club Newcastle United on Monday, as media reports said the move set a transfer record for Spurs with a deal worth up to £100 million (\$133 million).

Tottenham paid an initial fee



of £92.5 million for the Italy international, the reports added. The undisclosed transfer fee represents the second-largest fee ever received for a player in Newcastle United's history, said Newcastle, who had sold Alexander Isak to Liverpool for £125 million last September.

The 26-year-old played a key role as Newcastle reached the Champions League round of 16 for the first time

last season. He joined Newcastle in 2023, helped them win the League Cup in 2025 and signed a contract extension until 2029.

I'm very happy to be here (at Spurs). When I arrived at the club today, it felt fantastic.

People said about there being four or five clubs - there was only one, Tonali said in a statement.

Spurs, who finished 17th last season, have also signed Mateus Fernandes from West Ham United to bolster their midfield.

SANTA CLARA

European soccer body UEFA has lashed out at FIFA's decision to suspend U.S. striker Folarin Balogun's red-card ban in the World Cup, after U.S. President Donald Trump called FIFA to ask it to review the case, saying world soccer's governing body had crossed a red line and undermined the integrity of the game.

We express our disbelief at such an unprecedented, incomprehensible and unjustifiable decision, UEFA said in a statement on Monday. When the

certainty of rules is no longer guaranteed by its guardians, the integrity of the game is at stake and the credibility of a competition is undermined.

Balogun, who has scored three goals for the U.S. in the tournament, was sent off after a VAR review for dragging his cleats down the back of defender Tarik Muharemovic's leg and onto his foot during their win over Bosnia in the round of 32.

Trump had asked FIFA president Gianni Infantino to review Balogun's red card, which would have automatically sus-

pended the player from Monday's round of 16 clash with Belgium.

FIFA suspended the implementation of the ban for a probationary period of one year, however, without rescinding the red card.

The stunning move has thrust FIFA's disciplinary process into the spotlight and prompted an angry response from the Royal Belgian Football Association (RBFA), which said it was astonished by FIFA's decision. The Athletic reported that the RBFA has written to FIFA to lodge an appeal in the matter.



FANS UPSET AFTER DEFEAT

Brazil's World Cup Exit Deepens Fans' Growing Tournament Frustration

RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazilian football fans were left heartbroken after the national team's 2-1 defeat to Norway in the FIFA World Cup Round of 16 extended the country's long wait for another global title. Thousands of supporters gathered at Rio de Janeiro's famous Copacabana Beach to watch the match, but the picturesque setting offered little comfort as Brazil suffered a sixth consecutive early exit from the tournament.

The defeat ended Brazil's



hopes of winning a record-extending sixth FIFA World Cup title, a feat the nation has been

chasing since lifting the trophy in 2002. The latest elimination also marked Brazil's worst

World Cup finish since 1990 and prolonged their longest-ever title drought to six successive editions of the competition.

Supporters expressed frustration not only with the result but also with the team's inability to capitalize on crucial opportunities during the match. Many believed Brazil had enough chances to secure victory but lacked the clinical finishing needed in knockout football.

One of the defining moments came early in the first half when midfielder Bruno

Guimaraes failed to convert a penalty. Brazil also came close to scoring through young forward Endrick but was unable to find the breakthrough. Fans pointed to those missed opportunities as the turning point of the contest.

Norway, on the other hand, made the most of their chances. Star striker Erling Haaland delivered another outstanding performance, scoring twice in the second half to inspire his side to a famous victory. His brace took his tournament tally to seven goals, placing him

among the leading scorers of the competition.

Many supporters watching at Copacabana reflected on Brazil's inability to punish their opponents when they had control of the game.

Several described the defeat as a familiar story in which missed chances eventually proved costly against an efficient opponent.

The spotlight also turned toward Brazil head coach Carlo Ancelotti, who was managing the national team in his first major international

tournament. While the Italian arrived with an impressive club coaching résumé, some fans questioned his tactical approach and suggested that his emphasis on defensive organization did not align with Brazil's traditional attacking style.

Critics argued that generations of Brazilian teams built their success on creative, attacking football, and they felt the current side lacked the freedom and ambition that have historically defined the national team.

QUICK READ

Ola Electric shares fall over 5 percent

MUMBAI

Ola Electric Mobility shares declined more than 5 per cent in intra-day trading after reports emerged that two of its suppliers have approached the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) seeking insolvency proceedings over alleged unpaid dues exceeding ₹40 crore. The suppliers, Sterling and Anevolve Mando, claim overdue payments from Ola Electric Technologies, prompting legal action. The NCLT Bengaluru bench is expected to hear the petitions shortly. The development added pressure on the stock, which was already under market scrutiny amid earlier payment-related disputes. Despite broader market gains, Ola Electric shares continued to underperform, reflecting investor concerns over financial stress and supplier relations.

Hyundai Oilbank indicted in major price fixing case

SEOUL

South Korean prosecutors have indicted HD Hyundai Oilbank and two of its officials in a major price-fixing case involving petroleum products after the outbreak of the US–Iran war. The alleged collusion, valued at around 26 trillion won, is said to have involved coordinated price hikes alongside other refiners, including SK Energy, GS Caltex, and S-Oil. Authorities claim the companies exploited global energy price surges to artificially raise domestic fuel prices and restrict competition. Some firms were not indicted under leniency provisions. The case also includes allegations of unfair contracts with gas stations and destruction of evidence during regulatory inspections.

FTAs boost manufacturing, innovation: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said India's new free trade agreements (FTAs) are creating fresh momentum for manufacturing and innovation while opening global opportunities for the country's youth. Addressing the launch of the online bilingual BBA programme at IIM Udaipur, he urged students to develop practical skills and adapt to technology-driven learning to benefit from emerging global markets. He highlighted that India's large internet user base can help expand access to quality education through digital platforms. Goyal also said bilingual education and hybrid learning models can bridge the rural-urban divide and make premier management education more inclusive and widely accessible.

Strong loan growth to drive Indian banks' profitability

NEW DELHI

Strong growth in bank lending is expected to remain the key driver of profitability for Indian banks, even as net interest margins (NIMs) are likely to remain stable or slightly decline in the first quarter of FY27, according to a report released on Monday.

The report by Systematix Institutional Equities noted that banking system advances grew 17.7% year-on-year as of May 2026, a sharp increase compared to 9% growth recorded in May 2025. This marks the highest annual loan growth rate since June 2024, indicating a strong credit demand cycle.

It added that earnings growth for banks is expected to accelerate in Q1FY27, projected at over 13.7% (excluding select large lenders), compared to 11.9% in the previous quarter. This improvement is expected to be driven primarily by robust loan expansion and lower provisioning requirements.

Among different segments, the services sector led credit growth with a 20.4% rise, driven largely by non-banking financial companies, which surged 33.7%. Industrial lending also strengthened, rising 17.5%, with micro and small industries recording 26.2% growth.



India-New Zealand trade & tourism surge ahead FTA

India–New Zealand FTA boosts exports, tourism, agriculture, and aviation ties ahead of implementation bringing early economic gains rapidly

NEW DELHI

Export volumes and visitor arrivals from India to New Zealand have risen sharply ahead of the formal implementation of the India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA), according to recent reports, indicating early economic gains even before the pact takes full effect.

New Zealand Trade Minister Todd McClay said that the agreement has already generated a “halo effect,” with businesses and consumers responding positively to improved trade expectations. He noted that export volumes are increasing as market confidence builds around the deal’s benefits.

A report cited that around 8,000 Indian visitors arrived in New Zealand in April 2026, reflecting a notable rise compared to previous years. Tourism growth is being seen as one of the early indicators of stronger bilateral engagement.

Among key trade gains, apple exports from New Zealand have surged by 63 per



cent in 2026 so far, increasing from 27,000 tonnes in 2024 to about 45,000 tonnes. India has now become New Zealand’s fourth-largest apple market, rising from seventh place within two years.

Under the FTA, apple tariffs are expected to be reduced to 25 per cent from the day of implementation, initially covering a quota of 32,500 tonnes and expanding to 45,000 tonnes by year six. Kiwifruit will receive tariff-free access under a quota starting at 6,250 tonnes and rising to 15,000 tonnes over time.

Outside quota limits, tariffs will also be reduced, providing additional relief for ex-

porters. Forestry exports are also seeing renewed momentum, with Matariki Forests shipping logs to India for the first time since 2020, along with rising chip and pulp shipments.

In the aviation sector, Air New Zealand is reportedly exploring a joint venture with Air India to potentially launch direct flights between the two countries, further boosting connectivity.

Overall, the developments suggest that the India–New Zealand trade relationship is already strengthening ahead of the agreement’s enforcement, with agriculture, tourism, and aviation emerging as key beneficiaries.

FIIIs sell \$3 billion, DIIs buy \$9 billion equities

FIIIs sold \$3 billion in June while DIIs bought \$9 billion, stabilising Indian equity markets amid global uncertainty and sustained domestic inflow strength.

NEW DELHI

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) turned net sellers of Indian equities in June, offloading around \$3 billion, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) absorbed the selling pressure by purchasing about \$9 billion worth of shares, according to a recent market report.

The data, released by JM Financial Institutional, highlights a continued divergence in investor behaviour, with domestic funds providing strong support to the Indian equity market despite sustained foreign outflows.

Over the past 12 months, Indian primary markets saw FII net inflows of \$8.1 billion, but secondary markets witnessed much larger net outflows of \$49.3 billion, indicating persistent selling pressure in listed equities even as primary issuances attracted capital.

Sector-wise, BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance), capital goods, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, and oil and gas remained the top five sectors in terms of FII shareholding. These sectors collectively account for about 60 per cent of total FII assets under custody in India.

Within these holdings, BFSI continues to dominate with a 30.8 per cent share, up from 29.5 per cent in May. Capital goods stood at 7.5 per cent, while pharma rose to 7.4



- FIIs sell while DIIs buy support
- Domestic investors offset foreign selling pressure
- BFSI remains top FII holding sector
- Secondary markets see heavy FII outflows
- Markets await monsoon and earnings cues

per cent, reflecting selective accumulation. However, capital goods, autos, and oil and gas saw sequential declines in FII exposure.

During June, BFSI recorded inflows of \$357 million, followed by consumer durables at \$204 million, services at \$130 million, and real estate at \$85 million.

Market analysts say future institutional flows will depend on key macro triggers, including the progress of the monsoon season, which affects rural demand, inflation trends, and agricultural output. The upcoming Q1FY27 earnings season will also be closely watched for corporate performance signals.

Global factors such as crude oil price movements and geopolitical developments, including US-Iran negotiations, are expected to influence inflation expectations and investor sentiment.

Despite near-term risks and FII caution, analysts believe much of the uncertainty is already priced in, leaving scope for incremental positive triggers in the Indian equity market.

China faces heavy economic risks if Taiwan strait is blocked

NEW DELHI

China could suffer severe economic disruption if the Taiwan Strait is blocked or becomes a conflict zone, according to a report by the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

The report titled “Troubled Straits: Analyzing Trade Chokepoints in the South China Sea” states that military action in or around Taiwan could have a greater economic impact on China than disruptions in other major shipping routes such as the Malacca Strait.

According to the study, nearly \$1.3 trillion worth of Chinese trade passes through the Taiwan Strait, making it one of the most critical maritime corridors for China’s economy.

The report notes that this volume is around 33% higher than the trade flow-

ing through the Malacca Strait.

It highlights that the Taiwan Strait is not only vital for Taiwan’s economic lifeline but also essential for China’s imports of key resources such as oil, coal, natural gas, ores, and metals sourced from resource-rich regions.

In 2024, about 33% of China’s total imports and 58% of its maritime imports reportedly moved through the Taiwan Strait.

The strait also plays a major role in China’s internal logistics, linking major industrial hubs in the south—such as Shenzhen and Guangzhou—with economic centres in the east and north, including Shanghai, Ningbo, and Tianjin.

The report warns that if maritime routes are disrupted, China could shift some transport to land routes, but at significantly higher costs.

Nepal’s economy expanded 3.51%, slower yearly growth

Nepal’s economy grew 3.51% in Q3, slowing due to weak manufacturing, agriculture, and uneven sectoral performance overall growth

NEW DELHI

Nepal economy grows slower at 3.51

Manufacturing and administration sectors drag growth

Electricity and finance sectors drive expansion

Agriculture growth weak amid paddy decline

Structural reforms needed for stronger growth

KATHMANDU

Nepal’s economy is estimated to have expanded by 3.51 per cent in the third quarter of fiscal year 2025-26, reflecting a continued period of subdued growth, according to the country’s National Statistics Office (NSO).

The growth rate is lower than the 4.05 per cent recorded in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year, highlighting ongoing challenges in sustaining post-pandemic economic recovery. Officials noted that the country has struggled to achieve a strong rebound since COVID-19, amid persistent structural and political constraints.

Out of 18 major economic sectors, 16 recorded positive growth during the review period. However, manufacturing and public administration and defence registered negative performance, dragging overall momentum. Manufacturing, in particular, remained weak despite signs of partial recovery in the previous fiscal year.

Experts attributed the slowdown in manufacturing to long-standing bottlenecks, reduced industrial capacity utilisation, and external shocks, including rising global energy prices.

The sector reportedly operated at just over 42 per cent of installed capacity in the first half of the fiscal year.

The NSO noted that higher electricity generation, increased financial sector activity, and expansion in wholesale and retail trade helped support overall growth.

Electricity and gas output recorded the highest sectoral growth at 24.88 per cent, followed by financial services at 10.27 per cent and transport at 7.83 per cent.

Agriculture, which remains Nepal’s largest economic sector, grew modestly by 1.58 per cent, down from 2.84 per cent a year earlier.

Lower paddy production weighed on output, though gains in livestock, vegetables, fruits and forestry provided partial support.

Meanwhile, wholesale and retail trade grew by 5.25 per cent, driven by increased domestic production and trade flows.

Despite these gains, officials said overall growth remained moderate due to weak imports of construction materials, lower agricultural yields and uneven industrial performance.

Economists warn that sustained structural reforms will be needed for Nepal to achieve stronger and more balanced growth in the coming years.

India Inc set for strong earnings growth outlook

NEW DELHI

India Inc is expected to deliver a strong corporate earnings performance, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 15 per cent during FY26–FY28, supported by improving macroeconomic conditions, easing geopolitical tensions, and better earnings visibility, according to a report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd. (MOFSL).

The report noted that India is entering a more favorable phase after nearly two years of market consolidation, with attractive valuations positioning domestic equities to benefit from potential global capital rotation beyond artificial intelligence-focused sectors. It added that easing energy prices and improving macro stability are strengthening the overall corporate earnings environment.

For the June quarter of FY27, the brokerage expects earnings across its coverage universe to decline 3 per cent year-on-year, mainly due to weakness in oil marketing companies.

However, excluding oil marketing firms, profit after tax is projected to grow 14 per cent year-on-year, indicating underlying strength in most sectors.

Sector-wise, financials and metals are expected to lead earnings growth. Banking, non-banking financial companies, metals, technology, capital goods, retail, consumer durables, and building materials are also likely to report healthy performance during the period.

In contrast, oil and gas, automobile, healthcare, and cement sectors may weigh on overall earnings growth in the near term, reflecting uneven sectoral trends across the economy.

The report highlighted that investors should closely monitor foreign institutional investor (FII) flows and the market’s ability to absorb a strong pipeline of initial public offerings (IPOs) and capital raising activities without affecting liquidity conditions.

Despite short-term volatility, the long-term outlook for Indian equities remains positive, with growth increasingly expected to be driven by company-specific performance, operational execution, and sectoral leadership rather than broad-based market momentum.

Overall, the report suggests that India’s corporate sector is entering a phase of sustained earnings expansion, supported by structural economic resilience and improving business conditions across key industries.

CRUDE FACILITY RENEWAL

Essar renews \$300m crude deal with Petraco

STANLOW

Essar Energy Transition has renewed a \$300 million crude oil facility with Petraco Oil Company SA, strengthening its strategic partnership and reinforcing confidence in its refining and trading operations in the UK energy sector.

The renewed agreement is between Essar Energy Transition Fuels and Petraco Oil Company SA and will run for three years. It is aimed at supporting crude procurement and product marketing flexibility while enhancing financial stability for the company’s operations.

Essar Energy Transition Fu-



els, which owns and operates the Stanlow Refinery in the United Kingdom, said the deal reflects strong market confidence in its performance following a major investment phase. The company has also reported its highest-ever domestic sales and production

company respond more effectively to shifting demand and price conditions.

In addition, the arrangement strengthens the company’s capital structure by ensuring greater liquidity support for trading and refining activities. Essar is also continuing investments in low-carbon energy solutions and broader industrial decarbonisation initiatives as part of its energy transition strategy.

Company executives said the partnership highlights long-term trust between both organisations. Essar’s Chief Financial Officer Satish Vasooja said the renewed facility

reflects the strength of the relationship with Petraco and supports continued commercial growth.

Petraco Oil Company SA also described the agreement as a mutually beneficial collaboration that reinforces its role in global energy trading partnerships.

Overall, the renewed \$300 million facility is expected to provide operational stability, improved trading flexibility, and stronger financial backing for Essar Energy Transition as it navigates evolving global energy market dynamics and accelerates its transition toward more sustainable energy solutions.



Amarya Bajaj Clinches Dutch Junior Open Under-13 Squash Crown

AMSTERDAM

India's emerging squash talent Amarya Bajaj produced an outstanding display of skill and determination to win the prestigious Dutch Junior Open 2026 Under-13 Boys' title, marking another major milestone in his rapidly progressing career. The young player defeated England's Daniel Stevenson 3-1 in the championship match after an impressive run that saw him overcome several of the world's top junior competitors.

Amarya's title-winning campaign demonstrated exceptional consistency, confidence, and mental strength against opponents from leading squash nations. From the opening round to the final, the Indian youngster displayed remarkable composure while adapting to different playing styles and maintaining a high level of performance under pressure.

He opened the tournament with a commanding 3-0 victory over an opponent from Egypt, setting the tone for an impressive campaign. In the second round, Amarya comfortably defeated England's Arlo Smith by the same 3-0 margin, securing his place in the pre-quarterfinals with another dominant performance.

One of the biggest highlights of his tournament came in the pre-quarterfinal



stage, where he stunned Singapore's top-seeded Kaelen Low, winning convincingly in straight games by a 3-0 scoreline. The victory underlined his ability to compete against some of the highest-ranked junior players in the world.

In the quarterfinals, Amarya faced another tough challenge from Egypt's Badr Hassan. Despite dropping a game, the Indian youngster maintained his composure to register a 3-1 vic-

tory and advance to the semifinals.

The semifinal proved to be one of the tournament's toughest contests, with Amarya taking on Hungary's European No. 1 Alex Kosztyu. Delivering one of his finest performances, he secured a straight-games victory to earn a place in the championship match.

Young Indian squash sensati on Amarya Bajaj claimed the Dutch Junior Open Under-13 title after defeating elite international opponents convincingly throughout.

Facing England's Daniel Stevenson in the final, Amarya once again rose to the occasion. Displaying excellent shot selection, movement, and tactical awareness, he defeated the English player 3-1 to lift the coveted Dutch Junior Open trophy.

The triumph follows closely on the heels of another significant achievement, as Amarya recently won the silver medal at the 2026 Asian Junior Championships in China. At just 13 years of age, he has already collected two Asian Junior medals and now added a major European junior title to his growing list of accomplishments.

His latest success is being viewed as an important moment for Indian squash, reflecting the emergence of a promising new generation of players capable of challenging and defeating the best young athletes on the international circuit. As Amarya continues to achieve impressive results against world-class competition, expectations are growing that he could become one of India's leading squash stars in the years ahead. His Dutch Junior Open victory further strengthens his reputation as one of the country's brightest young sporting talents and offers encouraging signs for the future of Indian squash on the global stage.



India need to experiment, take hard decisions to become trophy contenders: Reema Malhotra

NEW DELHI

Former India cricketer Reema Malhotra believes the national women's T20I team needs to make some 'hard decisions' and embrace tactical changes if they are to transition into a side capable of consistently challenging for global silverware.

Reema's comments come after Australia won their seventh Women's T20 World Cup at Lord's on Sunday. Analyzing the road ahead for the Indian women's T20I team, who failed to enter the semi-finals, Reema also stated that relying solely on individual brilliance will not suffice. You will have to do better in all three depart-

ments. You cannot remain dependent on just Shafali Verma because she has that X-factor. You also need a player like Phoebe Litchfield at number three, who, even if a wicket falls in the Powerplay, does not let the run rate drop and plays freely without the fear of losing her wicket, she said on JioStar.

She also strongly advocated for promoting explosive wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh up the order to maximize her impact in the shortest format.

If you have a player like Richa Ghosh, then bat her higher up the order. You cannot have an extraordinary talent like that facing just 10 balls.

To beat Australia, teams need to be ruthless, strategically a step ahead: Saba Karim

NEW DELHI

Former India cricketer and national selector Saba Karim believes that opposing teams must adopt a more ruthless approach and out-think Australia strategically if they wish to challenge the dominant side, who won their seventh Women's T20 World Cup title.

At the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground, Australia again showed their big-game mentality when they comprehensively beat England by seven wickets in the title clash by chasing 151 with 17 balls to spare, after restricting the hosts to 150/4.

The other teams can compete with this Australian side only when they are a bit more ruthless and one step ahead of them strategically, because in a player-to-player comparison, they simply cannot match them. This is a very big lesson for India as well, that to compete against and defeat Australia, they need to think ahead about the kind of players they require, players who can score heavily in T20 internationals at a higher strike rate, Karim said on JioStar.

Praising the work ethic of veteran Australian players who refuse to stay in their comfort zones, Karim urged other international cricketers to ask

themselves difficult questions to bridge the gap. Look at Ellyse Perry; this is her 10th World Cup. Why does she need to work so hard and improve her strike rate from 120 to 140? She could have stayed in her comfort zone, thinking Australia would win the World Cup even if she didn't score runs.

But she put in that effort to improve. Beth Mooney is striking at 140. That is the difference in the T20 format. Until players ask themselves uncomfortable questions, reaching that level will be difficult, he added.

He further pointed out that a timid batting approach cannot put a side like Australia under pressure. England scored only 39 runs in the Powerplay and lost two wickets. They lost half the match right there. Nat Sciver-Brunt is the captain and a brilliant batter, but she scored just 58 runs off 53 balls, at a strike rate of 109.

How can you defeat a team like Australia with such a timid approach? You need to score at least 175-180 runs in 20 overs, have that fearless approach, only then can you build pressure on this team. Contrasting England's approach with Australia's clinical run-chase, Karim highlighted how the target of 151 was brought down effortlessly in the initial overs.



Anvay Dravid's fluent 87 guided India Under-19 to a fighting total against Sri Lanka in the second Youth ODI.

HAMBANTOTA

Promising wicketkeeper-batter Anvay Dravid delivered an impressive batting performance, scoring a fluent 87 off just 67 deliveries to help India Under-19 post a competitive total of 285 against Sri Lanka Under-19 in the second Youth One-Day International at the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket Stadium on Monday.

After winning the toss and electing to bat, India endured a difficult start as the top order struggled against disciplined Sri Lankan bowling. The visitors found themselves in deep trouble at 81 for the loss of four wickets in the 19th over, raising concerns about their ability to post a challenging score.

With the innings under pressure, the 17-year-old Anvay joined forces with Arjun Rajput to produce a match-defining partnership. The duo combined for an outstanding 145-run stand for the fifth wicket, rebuilding the innings with a perfect blend of aggression and caution. Their partnership not only rescued India from a vulnerable position but also laid the

foundation for a strong total.

Anvay played with remarkable confidence and attacking intent throughout his innings. He struck nine boundaries and one six while maintaining a strike rate of 129.85. The young batter reached his maiden Youth ODI half-century in just 47 balls, showcasing his ability to score quickly without compromising his technique. Looking well set for a deserved century, Anvay's innings came to an end when he was dismissed by left-arm pacer Gimhan Mendis, who emerged as Sri Lanka's standout bowler with outstanding figures of five wickets for 41 runs.

At the other end, Arjun Rajput provided valuable support with a composed knock of 76 from 81 deliveries. His innings helped stabilize the middle order and ensured India recovered strongly after the early setbacks. Rajput was eventually run out following a sharp piece of fielding by Dimantha Mahavithana.

Following Anvay's dismissal with the team score at 263 for seven, India lost momentum in the closing stages of the innings. The lower order failed to capitalize on the platform built by the two middle-order batters, losing the final three wickets for just 22 runs. India were eventually bowled out for 285 in 47.2 overs.

Anvay's latest performance further strengthens his growing reputation as one of India's brightest young cricketers. He recently captained Karnataka in the Vinoo Mankad Trophy, where he accumulated 220 runs, and is regarded as a strong contender for selection in India's squad for the next Under-19 World Cup. His elder brother, Samit Dravid, had earlier been named in the India Under-19 squad for the series against Australia but was ruled out because of a knee injury.

GUKESH, ARJUN ERIGAISI HEADLINE FIELD

Chennai Grand Masters returns for fourth edition

CHENNAI

India's strongest classical chess tournament, the Chennai Grand Masters, returns for its fourth edition from July 16-22 at The Westin Chennai Velachery, bringing together one of its strongest fields yet.

Featuring eight elite Masters competing for a combined Rs 75 lakh prize pool, the tournament once again offers valuable FIDE Circuit points as players continue their pursuit of qualification for the next Candidates Tournament.

The Masters field is headlined by reigning World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju and India's second-ever 2800-rated player Arjun Erigaisi. Joining them are former World Rapid Champion Nodirbek Abdusattorov, two-time Grand Chess Tour champion Alireza Firouzja, 2026 Bullet Chess Champion Nihal Sarin, former



Candidates challenger Dmitry Andreikin, American Grandmaster Hans Niemann, and last year's Challengers champion Pranesh M, who earns promotion to the Masters after his title-winning campaign.

Entering our fourth year, Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters stands as a testament to MGD1's commitment to elevat-

ing Indian chess. Every edition strengthens our resolve to build a tournament that the world's best players are proud to compete in while creating meaningful opportunities for Indian talent to test themselves against the very best. This year's field reflects how far the tournament has come and where we want to take it in the years ahead, said Manu Gurtu, tournament director.

For the first time, the tournament will introduce the Opening Moves Photoslot ticket, giving fans an exclusive opportunity to enter the tournament hall with their phones and cameras and film some of the world's biggest chess stars. Combined with an expanded fan experience, including live expert commentary and interactive fan activities, this year's edition brings spectators closer to elite chess than ever before.

Sachin Tendulkar Hails Australia's Dominant Women's T20 World Cup Triumph

NEW DELHI

Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar has applauded the Australian women's cricket team for their remarkable consistency and dominance after they captured their seventh ICC Women's T20 World Cup title with an unbeaten campaign. The latest triumph further strengthened Australia's reputation as the most successful team in women's cricket, taking their tally to 14 ICC World Cup titles across the One-Day International and Twenty20 formats. Congratulating the champions through a social media post, Tendulkar highlighted the team's ability to

Sachin Tendulkar praised Australia's consistency after their unbeaten campaign ended with another ICC Women's T20 World Cup triumph.



handle different match situations while maintaining exceptional consistency throughout the tournament. He noted that such stability is often the defining factor behind championship-winning teams.

Congratulations to Australia on another World Cup title! The unbeaten run really shows how well they managed different match situations and stayed consistent throughout. That kind of stability is usually what brings trophies home, Tendulkar wrote on X. Australia completed their flawless campaign with an impressive seven-wicket victory over hosts England in the final at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground.