



JGU hosts India-Japan Higher Education Forum in Tokyo

P9



India-New Zealand trade & tourism surge ahead FTA

P11

P12

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?



'Gandhada Gudi' still relevant, says MP Yaduveer

MYSURU

The iconic Kannada film Gandhada Gudi, starring the legendary Dr. Rajkumar, remains relevant even today. However, the concept and approach to forest conservation have undergone significant changes over the decades, opined Mysuru-Kodagu Lok Sabha member Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar.

Speaking after unveiling the cover of the book Gandhada Gudi: A Journey to Remember, authored by documentary filmmaker J.S. Amoghavarsha, during the second day of the Mysuru Sahitya Sambhrama held at a

private hotel in the city, he said the memorable scenes of the late Dr. Rajkumar riding a white horse through the forest and being lifted by an elephant with its trunk continue to remain etched in the minds of audiences. But today, they must view the film through the lens of contemporary environmental concerns.

Yaduveer observed that as the years have passed, society's understanding of forest conservation has evolved considerably. Today, in the name of conservation, they often attempt to bring nature under our control. What they need instead is a new way of thinking about protecting nature—one that respects its indepen-

dence rather than trying to dominate it.

The MP observed that forest management models adopted in countries ranging from the United States to Africa have created new environmental challenges. Despite being one of the world's most populous nations, he said, India has done a commendable job of safeguarding its forests.

Referring to Mysuru's heritage, the MP said discussions alone would not be enough to protect the historic Diwan Purnaiya Canal and Kukkarahalli Lake. Lasting conservation would be possible only with widespread public participation. "The campaigns to save Kukkarahalli Lake and

Diwan Purnaiya Canal should not remain merely government initiatives. They must evolve into people's movements. Only then can we preserve these priceless ecological and cultural assets for future generations," he said, assuring his full support to such public efforts.

Describing Gandhada Gudi as a symbol of Karnataka's environmental consciousness, Yaduveer said Diwan Purnaiya Canal and Kukkarahalli Lake represent Mysuru's rich cultural and ecological heritage.

Mysuru Literary Forum Founder-Director Shubha Sanjay Urs and Pankaj Singh were present.

21st Century belongs to women writers in Kannada literature: Prof Hampa

MYSURU

Women writers have carved a distinct identity in every genre of Kannada literature through their prolific contributions. Writing fearlessly and without hesitation, they have left an indelible mark on the world of Kannada letters, said senior litterateur and scholar Prof Hampa Nagaraiah.

Speaking at a panel discussion on "The Role of Linguistics, Research and Literature in the Upliftment of Contemporary Youth" during the 10th edition of Mysuru Sahitya Sambhrama, being held at a private hotel in the city, Prof. Nagarajaiah said women today are writing with remarkable freedom and confidence. They are making significant contributions to poetry, prose, novels, travel writing and every other literary genre. The 21st century is truly the century of women writers.

Highlighting the rich legacy of women in Kannada literature, he said Vijayambika is regarded as the first woman writer in Kannada. She composed poems during the reign



of Pulakeshin II of the Badami Chalukya dynasty. Although little historical information is available about her life, her poems have survived, though they were written in Sanskrit. The 12th-century Sharana movement had as many as 32 women writers, reflecting the longstanding contribution of women to literature.

Prof. Nagarajaiah asserted that no language is an enemy of Kannada, including English. They should cultivate friendship with English and other languages while continuing to strengthen Kannada. No language can diminish

Kannada because it has its own unique identity. There is no need for linguistic hostility; what they need is friendship among languages. Many Sanskrit words have, over time, become an integral part of Kannada, just as several English words have also been naturally assimilated into the language.

He said there is no reason to worry about the future of Kannada. The language will continue to thrive by evolving with time and maintaining harmonious relationships with other languages. The session was moderated by H. T. Shailaja.

Books are the beacon of knowledge and humanity: MP Dr C.N. Manjunath

MYSURU

Books are the guiding light of human knowledge and symbols of the wealth of civilization and what matters most in life is humanity; degrees and awards are secondary to it, said Bengaluru Rural Lok Sabha member Dr. C.N. Manjunath.

Speaking after releasing the books Barahada Bagina, brought out to commemorate a decade of Mysuru Sahitya Sambhrama, and Bapuji Avra Nenapu on the second day of the 10th edition of the literary festival organised jointly by Mysuru Literary Forum and Charitable Trust and Mysuru Book Club Charitable Trust at a private hotel in the city, he said Mysuru has earned global recognition as a centre of education and culture. Continuous reading of books spreads the light of knowledge. Had there been no books, their minds would have become stagnant. One good book is equal to a hundred friends.

The MP observed that knowledge becomes nectar when accompanied by humility, but turns into poison when overshadowed by arrogance. Even in the era of advanced technology and artificial intelligence, the relevance of books has not diminished. Technology itself is built on



the foundation of knowledge preserved in books. Books may grow old, but the values they embody never become outdated.

Speaking on the topic "Challenges in Delivering Medical Services to the Marginalised Sections of Society," Dr. Manjunath said the Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences was expanded in 2010 with the vision of ensuring world-class healthcare for the poor. Despite being a government institution, the dream was to make Jayadeva function at international standards. Accordingly, the institute was developed on par with five-star private hospitals. Today, Jayadeva is no longer confined to Bengaluru but has

These days, many people approach me with complaints of insomnia. Earlier, I used to advise them to cultivate the habit of reading books. Today, however, excessive use of mobile phones is depriving people of sleep throughout the night. Libraries are the lifelines of our society and the very source of knowledge.

—Dr. C.N. Manjunath, MP

expanded its services to Mysuru, Kalaburagi and Hubballi, he said.

He noted that the true value of one's education and achievements is measured by the happiness one brings into the lives of others. Rather than merely increasing the country's population, society should strive to increase the number of people with com-

"Life comes before everything else"

"Our hospital has always functioned on the principles of 'Treatment first, payment later', 'Life is more important than files', and 'Humanity above all'. More than 7.5 lakh outpatients from Bengaluru, Mysuru and other centres have received treatment, while over 800,000 cardiac surgeries have been successfully performed. Not a single patient's treatment has ever been delayed due to lack of money," Dr. Manjunath said.

passion and human values. Those who wipe the tears of people in distress are the real human beings.

Dr. Manjunath also lauded author Shubha Sanjay Urs for mentoring and transforming 27 homemakers into published writers.

On the occasion, Kalisu Foundation founder Nikhilesh was felicitated, while Prof. N. Venkoba Rao's book Bapu Nenapu was also released.

Ace swimmer Ruthva qualifies for National Championship



MYSURU

Ruthva S., a swimmer from the Global Sports Academy in J.P. Nagar, Mysuru, has qualified for the national level after delivering an outstanding performance at the NRJ State Sub-Junior Swimming Championship 2026, held in Mangaluru from July 3 to 5.

Ruthva won gold medals in the 100m Butterfly and 50m Butterfly events, a silver medal in the 200m Freestyle, and a bronze medal in the 200m Individual Medley, emerging as one of the standout performers of the championship.

Based on this impressive performance, he has been selected to represent Karnataka at the 42nd Sub-Junior National Swimming Championship, scheduled to be held next month in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

The academy also commended the performances of its other swimmers—Krish P., Krithik, Samyuktha, Chetana, Likhith, Abhay, Subhash, and Benak—who trained under the guidance of chief coach Pawan Kumar.

Gold for Mysuru's Panishka K at NRJ State Sub-Junior Swimming Championship

MYSURU

Mysuru's talented young swimmer Panishka K delivered an outstanding performance at the NRJ State Sub-Junior Swimming Championship held at Yemmekere, Mangaluru, winning a gold medal and securing qualification for the National Sub-Junior Swimming Championship.

Representing the Association of Integrated Mysore Swimmers (AIMS), Panishka trains at the Merlin Aquatic Centre in Vijayanagar, Mysuru. Competing in her maiden State Sub-Junior Championship, she impressed with a remarkable performance that earned widespread appreciation.

In the Girls' Under-12 (Group D) 100m Butterfly event, Panishka clocked 1 minute 13.55 seconds to claim the gold medal. With this victory, she also earned the honour of representing



Karnataka at the upcoming National Sub-Junior Swimming Championship.

Panishka's achievement reflects her dedication, discipline, and consistent hard work. Her success has been shaped by the expert guidance of her coach, Mahesh K. S., along with the unwavering encouragement and support of her parents.



PERSISTENT EFFORT IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS: EDUCATIONIST

MYSURU

Persistent effort is the true secret of success, said M. Shivamadappa, Joint Director of the School Education Division, JSS Mahavidyapeetha, while addressing the inaugural programme of the Students' Council at JSS English Medium School, Metagalli, Mysuru.

Presiding over the event, he said that a life without discipline is like a ship without a captain. The students must cultivate discipline and develop a habit of continuous learning. They must adopt a healthy lifestyle, maintain good dietary habits, and make it a practice to learn something new every day to lead a meaningful and successful life.

Inaugurating the programme, senior journalist Amnshi Prasannakumar said that students can achieve success only when they respect their teachers and elders, value punctuality, practise disci-

pline and honesty, maintain a positive attitude, and lead a stress-free life.

Headmaster N. P. Satish welcomed the gathering. P. Rajashekharamurthy, Assistant Teacher and Secretary of the Students' Council, outlined the activities planned by the council for the academic year 2026–27. Teacher N. Deepa administered the oath of office to the newly elected office-bearers of the Students' Council for 2026–27, while Pranathi Patel announced the names of the members of the School Parliament.

Students' Council President R. Sanjana also addressed the gathering. Krishnamurthy served as the secretary for the programme.

The event began with a prayer by Sahana and team. L. Harsha and V. N. Vaishnavi compered the programme, while S. Vatsalya proposed the vote of thanks. The event concluded with colourful cultural performances presented by the students.

Graduation Day held at ATME College

MYSURU

The graduation day of ATME College of Engineering was held at its premises. Karisiddappa, former Vice-Chancellor of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), who was the chief guest over the function, urged the graduates to continuously upgrade their knowledge and technical skills to keep pace with the rapidly evolving technological landscape. They must embrace innovation, uphold ethical values, commit themselves to lifelong learning, and contribute positively to society.

Addressing the concerns regarding employment, he stated that the notion



of limited job opportunities for engineering graduates is merely a myth and that employability largely depends on an individual's mindset, skills, and adaptability. They must equip themselves with advanced tools and disruptive technologies to enhance their career prospects in the competitive job market.

Arun Kumar, Chairman, ATMECE, distributed degree certificates to students

who successfully completed the various Engineering and MCA program. A total of 557 Engineering graduates and 89 MCA graduates received their degrees during the ceremony.

Doctors' Day observed in Mysuru College

MYSURU

National Doctors' Day was observed at Vishwakavi Kuvempu College in Mysuru recently.

The chief guest, Dr. Jayasheelan M. R., Senior Interventional Cardiologist, Associate Professor of Cardiology, and Unit Chief at SJICSR, Mysuru, delivered an informative talk on maintaining a healthy lifestyle and protecting heart health. He stressed the importance of regular exercise, balanced nutrition, stress management, adequate sleep, and avoiding smoking to prevent cardiovascular diseases.

He also highlighted the need for regular health check-ups and monitoring of blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, and body weight for early detection of heart-related problems. In



addition, he created awareness about emergency first-aid measures such as CPR and the timely use of medicines during emergencies.

The programme was graced by Dr. J. Shashidhara Prasad, President of Sri Kuvempu Vidya Vardaka Trust; Ramesh, Trustee; and Dr. Manasa R., Principal of the college.



Monsoon finally breathes life into Cauvery Basin Reservoirs

Kabini Shows Early Promise, KRS Still Awaits a Big Boost

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM
MYSURU

After weeks of anxious skies and an unusually sluggish southwest monsoon, the first signs of relief are finally visible in the Cauvery basin. Fresh rainfall over the catchment areas has improved inflows into the Kabini and Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) reservoirs, offering hope to farmers, drinking water managers and irrigation authorities.

Kabini reservoir received 18 mm of rainfall during the last 24 hours, pushing the inflow to 5,774 cusecs. The reservoir level stood at 2,258.40 feet against its full reservoir level of 2,284 feet, while the storage increased to 6.74 TMC out of its total capacity of 19.52 TMC. With irrigation canals remaining closed, only 500 cusecs was released downstream, allowing authorities to



conserve every possible drop of the precious inflow.

The picture at the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) reservoir is relatively subdued. The water level stood at 81.55 feet against the maximum level of 124.80 feet, with storage at 11.487 TMC out of its full capacity of 49.452 TMC. The reservoir received an inflow of 4,291 cusecs, while 764 cusecs, including drinking water supply and canal releases, flowed out.

This year's southwest monsoon has arrived with a no-

ticeable delay across much of Karnataka. Although the monsoon reached the State on time, its advance slowed considerably during June, leading to prolonged dry spells and well-below-normal rainfall in several districts. The delayed and uneven rains affected sowing operations, reduced inflows into major reservoirs and raised concerns over irrigation and drinking water availability.

However, the weather has turned favourable over the past few days. Widespread

rainfall across Kodagu, Wayanad and other catchment regions of the Cauvery basin has begun feeding the reservoirs, reviving hopes that storage levels will improve steadily if the current spell continues.

Despite the encouraging trend, reservoir levels remain significantly lower than the seasonal requirements, and water managers are expected to continue exercising caution in releasing water for irrigation. With the monsoon forecast to strengthen further during July, officials remain optimistic that the State's lifeline reservoirs will receive a much-needed recharge in the coming weeks.

For now, every shower over the Western Ghats is being watched with anticipation, as Karnataka looks to the skies for the rains that could transform this hesitant beginning into a season of abundance.



Manjunath
nominated as UTT
league referee

Mysuru
K.R. Manjunath, International Blue Badge Umpire and National Referee from Mysore has been nominated as a Referee for the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) League, Season 7, to be held at Goa from July 9 th to 26 th 2026. The Mysore District Table Tennis Association has congratulated him. It has wished him success while discharging his responsibilities during the league.

Interruption
in power
supply today

Mysuru
Power supply will be disrupted on July 7 from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. in several areas coming under the 66/11 KV Ayarahalli (Devalapura-NJY Feeder) and 220/66/11 KV Vajamangala (Harohalli-NJY Feeder) power receiving stations due to emergency maintenance works. Under the Devalapura-NJY Feeder, power supply will remain suspended in Hadajana, Marashettihalli, T.M. Hunthi, Prashantha Chaya Layout, Sreesha Hill View Layout and surrounding areas. Under the Harohalli-NJY Feeder, the affected areas include Bannur Main Road, Halagayyanahundi, Mellahalli, Harohalli, Shivapura, Lakshmi-pura, ATME College and nearby localities, according to the Executive Engineer of the CESC N.R. Mohalla Division.

Police protection sought for BJP BLAs during SIR Verification in sensitive areas

MYSURU

Mysuru-Kodagu Lok Sabha member Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, MLA T. S. Srivatsa and MLC Raghu Kautliya on Monday met Mysuru Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy and submitted a memorandum seeking police protection for the BJP's Booth Level Agents (BLAs) during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in communally sensitive areas.

The BJP delegation alleged that several of its BLAs were being prevented from accompanying Booth Level Officers (BLOs) during door-to-door verification of voter details in certain sensitive localities. According to the delegation, local residents had allegedly threatened the party's BLAs, making it difficult for them to verify the documents submitted by voters while filling up the enumeration forms.

The leaders contended that preventing BLAs from participating in the verification process defeats the very objective of the SIR exercise,



which is intended to ensure transparency and accuracy in the electoral rolls. They maintained that the absence of BLAs during verification could compromise the credibility of the revision process and, in turn, undermine democratic principles.

Responding to the representation, Deputy Commissioner Lakshmikanth Reddy assured the delegation that adequate police protection would be provided to BJP BLAs in areas identified as sensitive. He also said Booth Level Officers would be instructed to ensure that BLAs are allowed to accompany them during the door-to-door distribution of forms and verification process, in accordance with the prescribed guidelines.

The Deputy Commissioner further clarified that verification of documents should be conducted only at the residences of individual voters and not at places of worship or any other common gathering points. He emphasized that the district administration is committed to conducting the SIR exercise in a fair, transparent and impartial manner without favour or fear.

The BJP leaders welcomed the assurance and expressed hope that the revision of electoral rolls would be carried out in a free and transparent atmosphere with the active participation of all stakeholders.

National Lok Adalat on July 11

24,702 CASES IDENTIFIED IN MYSURU

MYSURU

The National Lok Adalat, organised by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), will be held across the country on July 11, 2026. In Mysuru district, the District Legal Services Authority has completed all necessary preparations to facilitate the amicable settlement of pending court cases.

Litigants whose cases are pending before courts in Mysuru district have been urged to participate in the Lok Adalat and resolve their disputes through mutual compromise. Cases settled in the Lok Adalat will qualify for a refund of

the court fee paid, as provided under law. The settlement will be final and binding, with no provision for appeal against the award.

The Lok Adalat will take up compoundable criminal cases, cheque bounce cases, bank recovery matters, money recovery suits, motor accident compensation claims, employee compensation cases, labour disputes, matrimonial and family disputes, land acquisition matters, revenue cases, partition suits, vacant possession suits, specific performance suits, domestic violence cases, birth and death registration matters, and other civil disputes that are legally eligible for settlement

through compromise.

According to the District Legal Services Authority, 1,35,901 cases are currently pending before courts in Mysuru district, of which 24,702 cases have been identified for settlement during the National Lok Adalat.

Senior Civil Judge and Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, Nagaraj Siddappa Ankasaddodi, has appealed to litigants, advocates, banks, insurance companies, government departments and members of the public to actively participate in the Lok Adalat and make use of the opportunity to resolve disputes amicably.

₹2,000 special darshan fee at Chamundi Hill; Vedike holds stir

MYSURU

The Karnataka Sena on Monday staged a symbolic protest in front of the old Deputy Commissioner's Office in Mysuru, demanding that the State Government withdraw the newly introduced ₹2,000 special darshan ticket for devotees visiting the Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hill during the Ashada festival.

Submitting a memorandum to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, through the Deputy Commissioner, the organisation alleged that the government was commercialising one of Karnataka's most revered pilgrimage centres. Protesters raised slogans stating that only those who could afford ₹2,000 would be able to avail special darshan, while ordinary devotees were being sidelined.

The organisation criticised the decision of the Chamundi Hill Authority and the district administration to discontinue the earlier ₹50 and ₹300 special darshan tickets, saying the move would deprive thousands of devotees of affordable access during the annual Ashada celebrations.

The sena leaders alleged that the government, struggling to fund its welfare guarantee schemes, was attempt-



ing to generate revenue from Hindu religious institutions. They claimed that the temple, established under the patronage of the Mysore royal family, should not be converted into a commercial enterprise. They also pointed out that major pilgrimage centres such as Tirumala Venkateswara Temple, Dharmasthala Manjunatha Temple and Kukke Subramanya Temple do not have a ₹2,000 special darshan category.

The protesters questioned the temple authority's claim that devotees purchasing the ₹2,000 ticket would receive a special kit, alleging that the distribution could lead to misuse of funds. They further claimed that Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar and Pramoda Devi Wadiyar had also opposed the introduction of the new

ticket and urged the authorities to restore the previous ₹50 and ₹300 darshan facilities.

The organisation also termed as "false assurances" the government's announcement that devotees climbing the hill steps would be provided biscuits, drinking water and buttermilk. Instead, it demanded direct darshan facilities for pilgrims reaching the temple on foot, along with adequate drinking water and toilet facilities on the trekking route.

The protest was led by Karnataka Sena district president Tejesh Lokesh Gowda, with several office-bearers and members participating. The organisation urged the Chief Minister to immediately revoke the ₹2,000 special darshan fee in the interest of lakhs of devotees visiting Chamundi Hill.

'Beti bachao', 'Beti padhao' awareness Programme held at Jayapura GP.

MYSURU

An awareness programme under the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) campaign was organised at the Jayapura Gram Panchayat in Mysuru on Monday.

The programme was jointly organised by the District Administration and others and it was inaugurated by watering a sapling, symbolising care and growth.

Presiding over the programme, Bhagyashree Y. Nookapura, Assistant Child Development Project Officer, Department of Women and Child Development, emphasised the importance of maintaining gender balance in society. Earlier child sex ratio of 916 girls per 1,000 boys and the the imbalance had resulted from female foeticide, social prejudices, illiteracy and gender discrimination, which often led to child marriages. Karnataka's current child sex ratio has improved to 986 girls per 1,000 boys, marking significant progress.

Resource person Kumudar, President of V-Care, spoke about the status of women in society and observed that girls deprived of education are more vulnerable to exploitation, even within their families and among relatives. The parents and society must ensure that every girl child receives at least basic education.



Basavanna, Panchayat Development Officer spoke about the facilities being provided for girls through the Gram Panchayat. He also appreciated the growing role of elected women representatives, noting that they are increasingly taking independent decisions in local governance.

Representing Childline, Mr. Ganesh explained the significance of the 1098 Child Helpline and elaborated on children's rights and the importance of protecting them. On this occasion, the oath was administered on the protection of child's rights.

Among those present were village leader Mr. Mahadevayya, Panchayat Secretary Mrs. Annapoorna, school teacher Mrs. Bhagya, Anganwadi workers Pallavi, Ajira Begum, Sudhamani, Bhavya, Asha, Kamakshi and Jagadamba, members of Stree Shakti self-help groups, mothers, parents and schoolchildren.

Education is key to holistic growth: Chamarajanagar University VC

MYSURU

Education is the foundation for social, economic and holistic development, said Prof. M. R. Gangadhar, Vice-Chancellor of Chamarajanagar University.

Inaugurating the "Deeksharambh" (Student Induction Programme) at JSS College for Women in Mysuru on Monday, Prof. Gangadhar said that Deeksharambh signifies the formal beginning of a student's journey towards knowledge and is aimed at familiarising newcomers with the college environment, helping them build friendships, and instilling discipline, life skills and academic values. Success comes only through consistent hard work and urged students to honour the sacrifices made by their parents by remaining focused on their goals, maintaining punctuality and discharging their responsibilities sincerely.

Dr. Jyothishankar, Associate Professor in the Department of Kannada at KSOU, Mysuru, advised students to remain determined and alert until they achieve their ambitions and described knowledge as the greatest asset in life and underlined the importance of respecting teachers and mentors.

She also encouraged women to establish their own identity in society through merit, competence and achievements rather than depending solely on gender identity.

Presiding over the programme, Prof. Morabada Mallikarjuna, Director, College Education Division, JSS Mahavidyapeetha, said students should understand the deeper values and truths of life while drawing inspiration from the

accomplishments of eminent personalities in Indian culture.

Pointing out that women have the potential to achieve remarkable success in every field, he said JSS Mahavidyapeetha has always been committed to promoting women's education and empowerment.

Principal Dr. Rechanna and Deeksharambh Convener Dr. D. M. Lokeshwari were present. R. S. Kumar, Head of the Department of Kannada, welcomed the gathering, while H. S. Siddamallikarjuna, Assistant Professor in the Department of Kannada, proposed the vote of thanks. Kum. Dhathri and her group presented the invocation, and Pushpalatha J., Assistant Professor, Department of Kannada, compered the programme. Staff members and students attended the event in large numbers.



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.

The association said the transfer process involves preparation of vacancy lists, inviting options from eligible officials, verification of seniority and eligibility, counselling, and issue of transfer orders. Completing all these stages within the current transfer cycle would be difficult. It also highlighted the personal difficulties faced by employees whose children have already secured admissions to schools and colleges for the ongoing academic year. Mid-year transfers would compel many families to relocate, disrupting

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.

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 Chunchanakuppe 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.

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. Chikkaballapur 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

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.

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.

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.

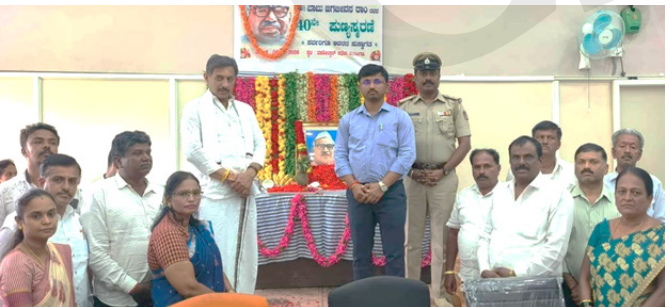
The committee urged Water Resources Minister Ramalinga Reddy to take immediate action and complete the Upper Bhadra project within the current government term. Leaders including B A Lingareddy and other farmer representatives said only full funding and coordinated work can solve the long pending issues.

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.Former 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.

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 PMTBMA

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 ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಮಂದಿರದ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲಾದ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆಯನ್ನು, 12 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗಾಗಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆಗೆ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್ ಫ್ಲರ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಶುಲ್ಕದೇ ಸಂ.ಸಾಂ/301/ಜಿಎಸ್/2017 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-07-2019 ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್ ಯೋಜನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕಾರವಾರ ರವರ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಡಿಎಂಡಿ-3/ಅಂಗಡಿ 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 ಟೋರ್ನ್ ನಂಬರ್ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. 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 ಟೋರ್ನ್ ನಂಬರ್ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.				
(2) ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ದಿ: 07-08-2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11-00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು.				
ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆ ವಿವರ: ಜಿ.ಎಸ್. ರಸ್ತೆ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಮಂದಿರದ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ದಾಂಡೇಲಿ				
ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಮಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅವಧಿ	ನಿಗದಿತ ಪಡೆದ ಭದ್ರತಾ ಶೇರಿಕೆ	ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ತೆರಿಗೆ ದಾಡಿಗೆ
1	ನವ 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			ಸಹಿ/- 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 he 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. Date of e-Auction Time of E-auction - Start Time to End Time. 2. Last date and time of submission of Bid. 3.Vehicle / Movable Asset Inspection date & Time
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/-	1. Date of e-Auction 28.07.2026
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/-	Time of E-auction - Start Time 02:00 PM to End Time 06:00 PM.
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/-	2. Last date and time of submission of Bid. 28.07.2026, 02:00 PM.
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/-	3. Inspection : With prior permission from authorised officer
6	LOKANATH C No 8 Queens Road, Rajeev Gandhi Colony, Near Vetemary 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/-	(All vehicles are at Bhiwadi, Rajasthan)

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

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

Whereas the petitioners have filed above petition for obtaining Death certificate of RATHNAMMA D/O. LATE.YERRANNA is sister of petitioners who died on 18-06-2004 at Gundamange Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore rural district, if any persons having claim, may appear before Hon'ble court in person or through pleader on this 29- 08-2026 at 11.a.m failing which the petition will disposed of according to law.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court On 6-07-2026.

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, PwI Civil Judge & JMFC
Doddaballapura

Advocate for petitioners D/O Address for service-
MANJUNATHA & ADVOCATE, MS.LAW ASSOCIATES
AT OPPCOURT COMPLEX, ROJIPURA
DODDABALLAPURA TOWN

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 de-

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.

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

Nepal's economy expanded 3.51%, slower yearly growth

- 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 strug-

gled 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.

Tesla opens first in-mall EV charging facility at Delhi

NEW DELHI

Tesla, the electric vehicle maker, has launched North India’s first in-mall EV charging facility at Nexus Select CityWalk in Delhi, marking an expansion of its charging network in India. The new facility includes six destination AC chargers rated at 11 kW each, enabling Tesla owners to charge vehicles while shopping or dining inside the mall environment. With this installation, Tesla now operates six charging locations across India, combining superchargers and destination chargers in its growing infrastructure network. The company said the site is designed for high reliability with claimed uptime of 99.95 per cent and is located in the P1 parking area of the mall. Alongside the charging station, Tesla has set up a pop-up store from July 6 to July 10 showcasing the Model Y L and the 2026 Model Y Premium Rear-Wheel Drive. The Model Y L is a six-seater all-wheel-drive SUV with a three-row layout offering a claimed range of up to 681 km and acceleration from 0 to 100 kmph in about five seconds.

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.

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

levels since acquisition. The renewed facility will allow Essar to diversify crude sourcing and expand marketing options for its refined products. It also improves feedstock security at a time when global energy markets remain volatile, helping the

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-

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

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.

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.

Anvay Dravid Shines as India Under-19 Posts Competitive Total

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 Maharithana.

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.