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WB CM meets Finance Minister over Tea, Textile Sectors



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India-Fiji expand sustainable development cooperation



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'...Greed for runs worsened slump'

UPI charges may not stay at **ZERO** forever!

LS passes Bill to permit banks to levy charges on UPI transactions, which is currently free for users, while banks and payment firms seek sustainable revenue models for infra.

NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed amendments to the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007, paving the way for the Centre to allow banks and payment service providers to levy charges on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions and other notified digital payment modes.

The amendment removes the existing legal provision that bars banks and payment system providers from imposing a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on notified electronic payment modes. However, the Bill does not immediately impose charges on UPI transactions. Instead, it empowers the central government to notify the digital payment modes on which such charges may be permitted in the future. The change is part of the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which was passed by voice vote in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

At present, electronic payment modes covered under Section 269SU of the Income Tax Act are exempt from MDR. Sec-



tion 269SU requires businesses with an annual turnover of more than Rs 50 crore to offer specified digital payment options, including BHIM-UPI and RuPay debit cards. The amendment replaces the

existing reference to payment modes prescribed under the Income Tax Act with "one or more electronic modes of payment as the central government may, by notification, specify", giving the government greater flexibility to decide which digital payment methods may attract charges.

The move comes as banks and payment companies have been seeking a sustainable revenue model to support the country's rapidly expanding digital payments infrastructure.

BILL ZERO MDR RULE MAY END SOON

Legislative details

■ **CORE CHANGE:** Removes the legal restriction that previously barred banks and payment system providers from charging zero-fee rules on notified digital payments.

■ **APPROVAL METHOD:** Passed via a voice vote in the Lok Sabha without a formal debate due to opposition protests.

■ **BROADER SCOPE:** Introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the omnibus bill also implements updates to the Income Tax Act and the Finance Act.

Impact & implementation

■ **NO IMMEDIATE CHARGES:** The amendment does not automatically impose fees; it only grants the government enabling flexibility to notify charges later.

■ **STATED OBJECTIVE:** Designed to build a sustainable revenue model for banks, payment infrastructure firms, and digital service providers.

■ **ECOSYSTEM CONCERNS:** Observers note potential friction regarding future impacts on small businesses, consumer costs, and overall digital transaction volume growth..

Bill to boost foreign investment, electronics production gets LS nod

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which seeks to attract foreign investment, promote domestic manufacturing, provide greater tax certainty and replace the Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026. The Bill amends the Income-tax Act, 2025, the Finance Act, 2026 and the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. The changes are aimed at mitigating external economic shocks, supporting sectors affected by global conditions, ensuring domestic economic stability and improving ease of doing business.

Electronics manufacturing rebates

Extends the income tax exemption for foreign entities supplying tooling, machinery, and capital goods to Indian electronics contract makers from 2031 to March 31, 2041.

Replaces broad terminology with a precise list of "specified electronic goods"—including mobile phones, laptops, tablets, personal computers, servers, wearables, and hearables.

Introduces a 15-year tax waiver for foreign firms storing electronic components in customs-bonded warehouses to supply local manufacturers

'I trust Gen Z blindly..'

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat says protest doesn't make them anti-national, their grievance over NEET paper leak genuine, and a lot needs to be done in India's education system

MUMBAI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat Thursday strongly backed the students who were protesting against NEET irregularities, saying that the "grievances of the Gen Z is genuine" and he would "trust" them blindly.

Speaking at an interaction with Gen Z and Gen Alpha on 'The Role of Youth in Uniting the World, the Indian Way' in Mumbai, the Sangh supremo said, "If the Gen Z is agitating, they certainly aren't anti-nationals; they are our own people, our next generation."

'Will never say Gen Z should not protest'

Calling "protest is a way of dialogue", Bhagwat said he did not know the exact circumstances surrounding the recent confrontation between police and protesters, but maintained that his faith in young people remained un-



Bhagwat opens up...

NOT ANTI-NATIONAL: Bhagwat stressed that young protesters are "our own people" and the country's next generation rather than enemies of the state.

GENUINE GRIEVANCES: He acknowledged that student concerns and protests regarding flaws and systemic issues in Indian education are legitimate.

PROTEST IN DEMOCRACY: Protest functions as a legitimate form of dialogue and a way to reach consensus in a democracy.

HONESTY OF YOUTH: He praised Gen Z and Gen Alpha as being more honest than the current older generation, stating that appeals centered on service and patriotism resonate deeply with them.

LOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL: He described today's youth as adaptable, emotional, and responsive to authenticity, noting they look for logical answers rather than blind obedience unlike previous generations.

Educational reforms

BUDGETARY SUPPORT: He expressed support for expanding educational funding, suggesting that the budget allocation for education should rise to 6% and that education must not be treated as a commercial business.

wavering.

"Democracy is a way to make consensus after discussion. Grievance is genuine, and a lot has to be improved in our nation's education system. So dialogue is important," he said.

Bhagwat said earlier generations rarely questioned authority, but Gen Z and Gen Alpha ask questions and seek logical answers with empathy.

"We never used to question authorities, but Gen Z and Gen Alpha question authority and want logical answers, that too with love," he said.

"I will never say that Gen Z should not protest, but there should also be a way given in democracy. We need to see

that if youth is shouting, it is not for opposing but for improvement," Bhagwat said.

There are shortcomings in the system that need to be rectified and students have a democratic right to raise their voice and seek improvements, he said.

He stressed that protests aimed at bringing about positive change should be seen as a legitimate expression of democratic participation.

Rejects anti-national label On allegations that questioning youth are often labelled anti-national, Bhagwat called for greater compassion and understanding. He cautioned against branding every agitation as anti-national.

Ex-Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal gets 10-year jail for rape

MUMBAI

Former Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal has been sentenced to 10 years in jail after being convicted for the rape of his junior colleague in 2013. The Goa Bench of Bombay High Court on Thursday overturned a trial court's 2021 acquittal of Tejpal and held him guilty of rape.

The court gave Tarun Tejpal two weeks to surrender. The former editor told the court after the verdict that he is a "victim of politics" and that he would appeal against his conviction in the Supreme Court.

The case relates to allegations by a former junior colleague that the veteran journalist sexually assaulted her inside a hotel elevator during the ThinkFest event in Goa in November 2013.

Trial began in Mapusa trial court in 2017 and Tejpal was acquitted in 2021 after which the state government appealed in High Court. A division bench comprising Justices Dr Neela Gokhale and Amit Jam-sandekar delivered the judgement following detailed arguments from both sides.

Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta argued the state government's appeal seeking to set aside the acquittal, while senior advocate Abad Ponda represented Tejpal.

During the hearing on the state's appeal, Mehta argued that the sessions court committed a serious error by assessing the complainant's conduct based on preconceived notions of how a victim of sexual assault should behave.

In its acquittal order, the trial court had said the complainant did not demonstrate any kind of "normative behaviour" that a survivor of sexual assault "might plausibly show".

There is no universal standard governing the reaction of a survivor, as responses differ depending on an individual's



'Trapped like Umar Khalid'

Tarun Tejpal claimed he was a victim of political vendetta after the Bombay HC overturned his acquittal in the 2013 rape case. Comparing himself with jailed activists Umar Khalid and

Sharjeel Imam, Tejpal alleged that he was being targeted over Tehelka's past investigative reporting and said he would challenge the verdict in the Supreme Court. The HC relied on the survivor's testimony, apology emails and CCTV evidence while also highlighting Tejpal's position of authority over the junior colleague.

education, personality, social background and circumstances, the Solicitor General said.

Rejecting the trial court's conclusion, the High Court stated: "The (trial) Court relied on stereotypical assumptions about how an "ideal" victim should physically resist or emotionally react, going so far as to hold her smiling demeanour during subsequent work events against her."

After the conviction order, Tushar Mehta demanded Tejpal's immediate arrest. "Despite the victim being his daughter's age, he committed an offence. He was a father figure for the victim and should have not indulged into this (crime). A precedent must be set. Victim refused but he kept advancing. This court must give out a clear message to the society that when a girl says no, it means no."

Will challenge HC verdict

Alleging that he had been singled out due to his work with Tehelka, Tejpal said he will be moving the SC against the order.

CM moots 'Naa Nayaki' reform to promote women leadership

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday assured the All Karnataka State Government Women Employees Association (AKSGWEA) that the government would provide plot for its office, preferably near Vidhana Soudha, or a larger site elsewhere if required.

Addressing office-bearers of the Association after they met him at his home office Krishna, the CM said the government had come to power with the support of women and had fulfilled its promises by implementing the five guarantee schemes — Griha Jyoti, Griha Lakshmi, Shakti, Anna Bhagya and Yuva Nidhi.

He said the government was spending ₹52,000 crore annually on the guarantee schemes, which had brought about a "revolutionary change" and had become a model for other states. He also highlighted the government's initiative to digitally scan and correct citizens' property records.

Urging women employees to organise themselves, the CM said women and youth were the driving force for social change. He noted that the government had earlier introduced Anganwadi and ASHA programmes for women and encouraged the Association, which has around 5,500 members, to hold a large convention at Palace Grounds, assuring government support.

On the Association's demands, he said the Chief Secretary and senior officials would examine them within the legal framework before taking a decision.

Calling for greater political participation by women, he said every woman should aspire to become a leader and announced plans to revive his earlier 'Naa Nayaki' initiative in a new form to promote leadership among women.

He expressed confidence that women's reservation in politics would become a reality in the future and cited former minister Motamma's rise from being a staff member to becoming Minister for Women and Child Development as an example of leadership opportunities.

The Chief Minister also appealed to the women employees to continue supporting the government, saying it had consistently stood by women through its welfare initiatives.



Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Government of Karnataka

Bengaluru City Corporations
• North • South • East • West • Central

Shri Krishna Byre Gowda
Hon'ble Minister for Greater
Bengaluru Development

Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

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Horatti to resign as Council Chairman on August 14

Horatti opts to quit, citing bid to preserve dignity of constitutional office

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti on Thursday announced that he will resign from his post on August 14, saying he chose to step down rather than face a no-confidence motion proposed by the ruling Congress government.

Addressing the media, Horatti said Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, accompanied by Cabinet ministers, met him on Wednesday night and conveyed that the Congress high command wanted him to resign. According to Horatti, the Chief Minister informed him that the party was under pressure from the high command and was considering moving a no-confidence motion against him.

Horatti said he decided to resign voluntarily to protect the dignity of the constitutional office. He added that if he were defeated through a no-confidence motion in the House, it would diminish the respect attached to the Chair. He said several ministers requested him to continue, describing him as a fair and non-partisan Chairman. However,



To uphold the dignity of the Chair, I have decided to resign on August 14. I would rather step down voluntarily than face a no-confidence motion.

-Basavaraj Horatti, Karnataka Legislative Council Chairman

Horatti bows out before trust vote

Resignation date: August 14

Post: Legislative Council Chairman

Reason cited: Proposed no-confidence motion

CM's message: High command sought resignation

Congress nominee: Saleem Ahmed

BJP stand: Constitutional office should remain above party politics

Political backdrop

The resignation announcement comes after the Congress gained a majority in the Karnataka Legislative Council following recent elections. The party has chosen Saleem Ahmed as its candidate for the Chairman's post. Horatti said he preferred to resign instead of facing a no-confidence motion. The BJP termed the development unprecedented, arguing that constitutional positions should not be changed solely because the ruling party has secured a legislative majority.

ever, he claimed Shivakumar expressed personal respect for him but said he was bound by the Congress high command's decision.

Expressing disappointment, Horatti said he had witnessed 18 Chief Ministers and 10 to 12 Council Chairmen during his political career and had never seen such a situation

before. He maintained that he had discharged his responsibilities impartially and treated all members equally.

The development follows the Congress securing a majority in the Legislative Council after recent elections to four seats. The party has reportedly finalised senior leader Saleem Ahmed

as its nominee for the Chairman's post.

The BJP criticised the move, with Leader of the Opposition in the Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy stating that the Chairman's constitutional office should not be altered merely because the ruling party enjoys a numerical majority.

D.S. Ramesh orders action on civic violations

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru East City Corporation Commissioner D.S. Ramesh on Thursday directed officials to leave no room for negligence in clearing garbage black spots, removing illegal advertisements, eliminating footpath encroachments and disposing of abandoned vehicles across the Corporation limits. Chairing a comprehensive review meeting with officials from the Engineering, Health and Solid Waste Management Departments, he stressed that public health and civic cleanliness remain top priorities. Ramesh instructed officials to ensure uninterrupted door-to-door waste collection and scientific disposal of garbage to prevent black spots from emerging. He warned that ward officials would be held accountable if garbage heaps were found within their jurisdiction.

The Commissioner also ordered continuous drives against unauthorized flex boards, banners and buntings, directing officials to remove illegal advertisements immediately and take action under relevant rules. To strengthen enforcement, he instructed the Corporation to constitute a dedicated enforcement team and brand Marshal vehicles similar to Police patrol vehicles for better public visibility.

Special emphasis was placed on clearing footpath encroachments and removing abandoned vehicles after issuing statutory notices. Junior Health Inspectors were directed



CIVIC ENFORCEMENT DRIVE INTENSIFIED

Focus areas	Sanitation, enforcement and public health
Top priority	Eliminate garbage black spots
Illegal targets	lex boards, banners and buntings
Action	Remove footpath encroachments and abandoned vehicles
Health focus	Dengue control, maternal and child healthcare
Officials warned	Accountability over excuses

ed to report for duty within seven days and take complete responsibility for their assigned wards.

With dengue cases rising in Gunjur, Varthur and Doddakannahalli, Ramesh ordered intensive door-to-door larval surveys, elimination of mosquito breeding sites and legal action against unlicensed nurseries. He also directed health officials to strengthen maternal and child healthcare by ensuring registration of pregnant women, universal immunization and nutrition awareness.

"We are not prepared to hear reasons, we want results, and excuses over civic violations would not be accepted.

Key directives issued

Commissioner D.S. Ramesh directed uninterrupted door-to-door waste collection, immediate removal of illegal flex boards, continuous clearance of footpath encroachments and abandoned vehicles, formation of a dedicated enforcement team, deployment of Junior Health Inspectors within seven days, intensive dengue prevention in vulnerable areas, strict action against unlicensed nurseries, and strengthened maternal and child healthcare, including universal immunization and pregnancy registration.

The Commissioner also felicitated Health Department officers and staff for their outstanding contribution to the successful implementation of the Pulse Polio Programme.

—D.S. Ramesh, BECC Commissioner

Quick Read



Apartment associations help residents complete SIR forms

CH News, Bengaluru Apartment associations across Bengaluru have stepped up efforts to help residents complete Special Intensive Revision (SIR) enumeration forms by organising help desks, awareness sessions and camps in coordination with Booth Level Officers (BLOs). The Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF) has been conducting daily online sessions to answer queries and guide residents through the process. Associations are also assisting senior citizens, working professionals and overseas flat owners facing documentation challenges. Residents said tracing the 2002 electoral mapping and matching voter records remains difficult in several cases. Evening camps are being organised to improve participation and ensure eligible residents complete the SIR process before the deadline.



Trial traffic diversions begin at Madiwala to ease congestion

CH News, Bengaluru Bengaluru Traffic Police on Thursday introduced trial traffic diversions at Madiwala during peak morning hours to reduce congestion caused by heavy vehicle movement on NH-44. The restrictions will be in force daily from 8 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. until further notice. Vehicles from Sarjapur Road Junction towards Madiwala Police Station Junction and those approaching from 100 Feet Road via Water Tank and Ayyappa Junction will face restrictions. Motorists have been advised to use Madiwala Market Road and Hosur Main Road as alternative routes. The initiative aims to improve traffic flow and ensure smoother movement of buses and emergency vehicles, including ambulances.

North Corp's Freedom from Waste campaign gains pace

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pomma-la Sunil Kumar conducted a surprise inspection of the Marenahalli Debris Disposal Site on Thursday as part of the 'Freedom from Waste' campaign, reviewing construction and demolition (C&D) waste management and directing officials to strengthen infrastructure and operational efficiency.

The Commissioner inspected debris collected from different parts of the corporation limits, the scientific disposal process, vehicle movement and the overall functioning of the facility. He also reviewed the site's current disposal capacity and discussed measures to improve infrastructure to handle larger quantities of debris in the coming days.

Interacting with security personnel, Sunil Kumar sought details on daily vehicle movement, unloading procedures and operational challenges. Officials informed him that the Marenahalli facility disposed of 2,019 metric tonnes of C&D waste between August 1 and 5, with the highest single-day disposal of 801 metric tonnes recorded on August 5.

The Commissioner directed officials to provide proper accommodation and electricity facilities for security personnel and improve essential infrastructure at the disposal site. He also instructed them to streamline logistics, transportation and vehicle movement to ensure uninterrupted



DEBRIS-FREE CITY DRIVE INTENSIFIES

• Campaign: Freedom from Waste.

• Total C&D waste cleared: 2,495 metric tonnes.

• Marenahalli disposal: 2,019 metric tonnes.

• Equipment deployed: 18 tippers, 4 loaders.

• Trip permits issued: 108.

• Focus: Scientific disposal of construction debris.

Freedom from Waste drive

Between August 1 and 5, Bengaluru North City Corporation scientifically disposed of 2,495 metric tonnes of construction and demolition waste. Marenahalli handled 2,019 metric tonnes, while Yarappanahalli and Vittasandra processed 431 and 46 metric tonnes, respectively. The campaign deployed 18 tippers, four loaders and 108 trip permits, aiming to eliminate illegal debris dumping and strengthen sustainable waste management across the city.

ers and issued 108 trip permits to transport waste for scientific disposal. Citizens were urged not to dump construction debris on roadsides, drains or vacant sites and instead use the Corporation's authorised disposal system.

Khandre seeks action against erring PDOs

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B. Khandre has directed officials to initiate strict action against Panchayat Development Officers (PDOs) who failed to generate person-days or provide employment to rural beneficiaries under the VB-G RAM G scheme, which replaced MGNREGA from July 1.

Chairing a review meeting with senior department officials at Vikas Soudha on Thursday, Khandre instructed authorities to issue notices to PDOs in panchayats where employment was generated under MGNREGA in July 2025, but not a single benefi-

ciary was provided work under VB-G RAM G during July 2026.

The Minister observed that while workers around Bengaluru may be reluctant to accept wages of ₹382 per day, such a situation should not exist in rural areas. He said PDOs who failed to provide employment to eligible rural beneficiaries should be issued show-cause notices. If negligence or dereliction of duty is established after obtaining their explanations, they should be suspended, he directed the department's Secretary and Commissioner.

Daily review meetings Khandre also instructed the department to conduct daily

virtual review meetings until the scheme achieves the target of generating five lakh person-days every day.

He said the Department Secretaries and Commissioners should hold daily video conferences with Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of all Zilla Panchayats to monitor progress. Similarly, Zilla Panchayat CEOs should conduct regular review meetings with Executive Officers (EOs) and PDOs to ensure effective implementation of the scheme.

The meeting was attended by Department Secretaries Sameer Shukla and D. Ran-deep, Commissioners Divya Prabhu and Fauzia Tarannum, along with other senior officials.

BMRCL to energise Reach-6 underground Metro third rail from August 10

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has announced that it will progressively energise the 33kV traction cables and 750V DC third rail on the underground section of Reach-6 from August 10, marking a key milestone in the commissioning of the corridor.

The phased energisation will cover the stretch between Pottery Town and Nagawara stations. The sections to be energised include Pottery Town–Tannery Town, Tan-

nery Town–Venkateshpura, Venkateshpura–Kadugondanahalli and Kadugondanahalli–Nagawara.

BMRCL has issued a strong public safety advisory, warning that direct contact with the live 750V DC third rail or 33kV traction cables can be fatal. Once the electrical systems are commissioned, members of the public have been strictly advised not to enter any part of the underground metro corridor without prior authorisation.

The corporation said the energisation is an essential step

before trial runs and the eventual opening of the underground section for passenger services. Officials will carry out the work in phases to ensure operational safety and system testing.

Residents living near the corridor and workers engaged around the project have been urged to exercise caution and strictly follow safety instructions issued by BMRCL. The corporation also appealed to the public to stay away from restricted areas and cooperate with officials during the commissioning process.

AI CROP SURVEY

K'taka launches AI-powered digital crop survey initiative

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has launched the Composite Digital Crop Survey (CDCS) initiative, marking a significant step towards technology-driven agriculture by integrating satellite imagery, drones, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) for more accurate crop data collection and evidence-based policymaking.

The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (e-Governance), in collaboration with the Revenue, Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Fisheries and IT-BT Departments, organised a stakeholder workshop on CDCS at the CAAS Officers'

Research and Training Centre in Bengaluru.

Karnataka has been implementing the GIS-based Digital Crop Survey (DCS) since 2018 to collect authenticated crop information at the plot level. The new CDCS model enhances the existing system by combining high-resolution satellite imagery, Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), drone surveys, GIS data, AI and ML technologies for greater precision and scientific validation.

The project will initially be implemented on a pilot basis in five selected hoblis representing different geographical regions of the state before being expanded across Karnataka.

The workshop brought to-



gether policymakers, research institutions, technical experts and technology partners to discuss the technical framework, infrastructure requirements and implementation strategy. Presentations were made by the Department of

e-Governance, Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Centre (KRSAC) and ISRO-National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), while private technology firms and startups showcased innovative digital solutions.

Why CDCS matters

The Composite Digital Crop Survey combines satellite imagery, drones, GIS, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning with Karnataka's existing Digital Crop Survey system. The pilot project in five hoblis aims to generate highly accurate crop data, improve policy decisions, strengthen disaster and insurance assessments, enhance agricultural planning and ensure better delivery of government schemes through reliable, technology-driven information across the state's farming sector.

AI boosts crop surveys

■ **Project:** Composite Digital Crop Survey (CDCS)

■ **Technology:** AI, ML, drones, GIS, SAR, satellite imagery

■ **Pilot:** Five hoblis across Karnataka

■ **Departments involved:** Six government departments

■ **Objective:** Accurate crop mapping and scientific validation

■ **Outcome:** Better planning and evidence-based governance: Better planning and evidence-based governance

CM plans three Lalbagh-style parks across Bengaluru

CM unveils green vision, invites citizens to Lalbagh flower show celebrations.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday announced plans to develop three Lalbagh-style gardens across Bengaluru, saying the initiative is aimed at preserving the city's green cover while enhancing public spaces and improving the quality of urban life.

Speaking after inaugurating the 220th Lalbagh Flower Show, themed "Glory of the Ganga Dynasty" as part of the Independence Day celebrations, Shivakumar said the government has written to the Defence Ministry seeking permission to develop one of the parks on Defence land in Bengaluru. He added that the remaining two parks are proposed on forest land within the city after consultations with the Forest Department.

The Chief Minister said agencies such as the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) and the Horticulture Department would be entrusted with implementing the ambitious project.

Describing Lalbagh as a symbol of Karnataka's rich



Lalbagh is not just a park; it is history. We are committed to protecting Bengaluru's greenery and creating more such iconic gardens for future generations.

—D.K. Shivakumar, Chief Minister

CM'S GREEN VISION FOR BENGALURU	
New proposal	Three Lalbagh-style parks
Permission sought	Defence land in Bengaluru
Other locations	Two forest land sites
Flower show theme	Glory of the Ganga Dynasty
Next announcement	Farmer-Govt partnership on Aug. 15
Congress strength	140 MLAs, 40 MLCs

Expanding Bengaluru's green spaces

The Karnataka government plans to create three Lalbagh-style gardens to improve Bengaluru's environment and public spaces. One park is proposed on Defence land, subject to Central approval, while two others are planned on forest land. The project will involve the GBA, BDA and Horticulture Department. The government also plans to launch a Farmer-Government Partnership Programme on August 15 to boost greenery and support farmers.

heritage, Shivakumar invited citizens to visit the 10-day flower show, which showcases the legacy of the Ganga dynasty through elaborate floral displays celebrating the region's culture, agriculture and history.

The Chief Minister also announced that the government

would unveil a Farmer-Government Partnership Programme on August 15 to increase green cover and strengthen farmers' livelihoods as part of a 100-day governance initiative. Responding to questions on Congress affairs, Shivakumar dismissed speculation of

internal differences, stating that all party legislators were capable of becoming ministers but of constitutional limits allowed only 33 ministerial berths despite the Congress having 140 MLAs and 40 MLCs.

Quick Read



Governor hails young maths prodigy Pranav C. Gowda

CH News, Bengaluru

Karnataka Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot felicitated young human calculator and maths prodigy Master Pranav C. Gowda, who has created several world records in mathematics and general knowledge categories. Pranav met the Governor at Lok Bhavan, along with his parents. Pranav's parents shared details of his national and international achievements and sought encouragement and guidance for his future academic and talent development efforts. Appreciating the youngster's exceptional abilities, the Governor wished him success and a bright future. He also encouraged Pranav to continue nurturing his talent and bring more laurels to Karnataka and the nation.



Brahmin Mahasabha protests over Cabinet exclusion

CH News, Bengaluru

The Akhila Karnataka Brahmin Mahasabha staged a protest at Freedom Park on Thursday against the Congress government for not giving the Brahmin community representation in the State Cabinet. Protesters claimed it was the first time in nearly three decades that no Brahmin MLA had been inducted as a minister. They urged the government to fill the remaining Cabinet berth with either Dinesh Gundu Rao or R.V. Deshpande. The Mahasabha also expressed concern over the absence of women ministers and warned that the agitation would be intensified if the community's demand for Cabinet representation remained unaddressed.

KSRTC to launch Kozhikode Flybus from Bengaluru airport

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) will launch a new inter-State Flybus service connecting Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru with Kozhikode in Kerala from August 15, offering direct overnight connectivity for air passengers and intercity travellers.

The premium non-stop Volvo multi-axle airport coach has been introduced to provide seamless travel between Bengaluru airport and north Kerala while also serving passengers from Mysuru, Kodagu and Wayanad. The service will depart from KIA daily at 10.45 p.m. and reach Kozhikode at 7.15 a.m. the next day. The return journey will leave Kozhikode at 7.30 p.m. and arrive at Bengaluru airport at 4.15 a.m.

The Flybus will operate via Yelahanka, Hebbal, Nayandahalli Metro Station, Mysuru, Hunsur, Gonikoppa, Ponnampet, Kutta, Mananthavadi and Kalpetta, providing direct air-



The new service will provide a convenient and reliable airport travel option for passengers from Kerala, Kodagu and Mysuru, eliminating the need for multiple transfers.

KSRTC official

port access to travellers from these regions.

The fare between KIA and Kozhikode has been fixed at ₹1,500. Intermediate fares include ₹960 to Mysuru, ₹1,200 to Gonikoppa, ₹1,350 to Mananthavadi and ₹1,400 to Kalpetta. Passengers will also receive complimentary snack kits containing water, beverages and local snacks during the journey.

The new route marks KSRTC's return to the inter-State airport bus segment after its earlier services to Salem and Tirupati were discontinued.

KSRTC EXPANDS FLYBUS NETWORK	
• Launch: August 15, 2026.	
• Route: Bengaluru Airport–Kozhikode.	
• Departure from KIA: 10.45 p.m.	
• Arrival at Kozhikode: 7.15 a.m.	
• Fare: ₹1,500 (KIA–Kozhikode).	
• Major stops: Mysuru, Gonikoppa, Mananthavadi, Kalpetta.	

The corporation expects strong patronage from both airport users and long-distance passengers seeking comfortable overnight travel.

NORTH CORPORATION CLEARS 188.85 KM OF ENCROACHED FOOTPATHS

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru North City Corporation has cleared 188.85 km of encroached footpaths since July 1 under a special drive to restore pedestrian spaces and improve public safety across the city.

The campaign is being carried out under the directions of Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and the guidance of Corporation Commissioner

Pommala Sunil Kumar.

During Thursday's operation, officials cleared 1.10 km of encroached footpath along 5th Main Road in HRBR 2nd Block, from Kulappa Circle to Rajkumar Park in the Sarvajnanagar Division.

The enforcement team removed 17 shops and petty shops, four push carts, eight AC sheet projections and canopies, and 16 steps and ramps that blocked pedestrian movement. Officials also cleared

18 tonnes of construction debris and soil from the footpath using one JCB, six tractors and a team of 18 personnel.

Between July 1 and August 6, the drive removed 471 shops, 618 push carts, 1,452 canopies, 1,352 steps and ramps, 1,408 advertisement pillars and name boards, and 45 temporary and permanent sheds. Authorities also removed 1,688.20 tonnes of construction debris and repaired 8 km of footpaths.

Bengaluru treated water use up, below summer demand

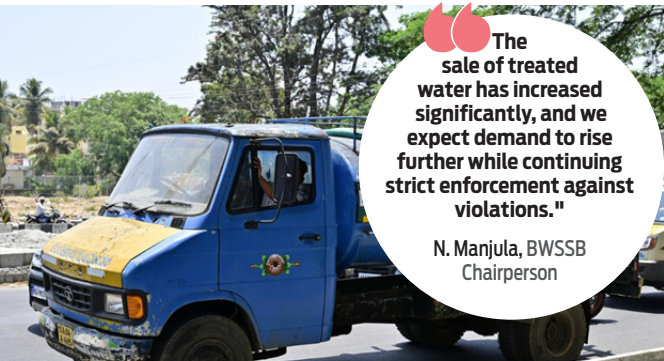
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSB) has reported a sharp rise in treated water sales following restrictions on the use of potable water for non-drinking purposes. However, demand remains well below the peak summer levels, indicating that implementation of the new water conservation norms is still gaining momentum.

BWSSB data showed treated water sales increased by 80 per cent, from 31.68 lakh litres in June to 57.32 lakh litres in July. Despite the increase, July sales were 42 per cent lower than the 1.05 crore litres supplied through tankers in April during the peak summer season.

Since July 5, BWSSB has prohibited the use of drinking water for activities such as construction, gardening and vehicle washing, making treated water mandatory instead. The board also intensified enforcement, booking nearly 800 violations and collecting around ₹30 lakh in penalties during July. By comparison, treated water sales generated only ₹2.23 lakh in revenue.

The construction sector remains the largest consumer of treated water, with major developers largely adopting its use. However, smaller proj-



The sale of treated water has increased significantly, and we expect demand to rise further while continuing strict enforcement against violations."

N. Manjula, BWSSB Chairperson

July treated water: 57.32 lakh litres
Increase over June: 80%
April peak: 1.05 crore litres
Violations booked: Nearly 800
Penalties collected: Around ₹30 lakh
Revenue from sales: ₹2.23 lakh

BWSSB's water conservation push

BWSSB has made treated water mandatory for non-drinking purposes, including construction and landscaping, to conserve potable water during the deficient monsoon. The Board is cracking down on violations while promoting the reuse of treated water from apartment sewage treatment plants. Authorities also plan to link apartment STPs with nearby industries and construction projects to improve recycled water utilisation and reduce dependence on freshwater supplies.

Three accused seek approver status in Renukaswamy murder case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Renukaswamy murder case witnessed a fresh twist on Thursday after three accused approached a Bengaluru court seeking to become approvers, offering to testify in exchange for a pardon.

Accused No. 13, Pradosh Rao, filed an application before the CCH-59 Court under Section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), requesting that he be treated as an approver. His counsel also sought his transfer to a separate prison cell, stating that he is currently lodged with the co-accused.

During the hearing, counsel representing Ravishankar and Vinay informed the court that their clients were also willing to turn approvers and would file similar applications. However, Pradosh's counsel

objected, arguing that his client's plea had been filed first and should be considered independently.

Special Public Prosecutor Prasanna Kumar submitted that the court should first decide the application before allowing the accused to record his statement. He argued that objections from the co-accused were not required at this stage and that the approver's testimony could assist the prosecution.

Appearing for actor Darshan, advocate Hashmath Pasha opposed the plea, contending that an accused has the right to know the proceedings and that pardon cannot be granted merely because an accused volunteers to testify. He argued that the statement of the applicant must first be recorded and that an approver must aid the cause of justice

Case background

Renukaswamy, a resident of Chitradurga, was allegedly murdered on June 8, 2024. Three days later, actor Darshan, actress Pavithra Gowda and 15 others were arrested by Kamakshipalya Police in connection with the case. Investigators alleged that about ₹30 lakh was paid to conceal the crime, while several accused also face charges of assault, conspiracy and destruction of evidence.

rather than simply support the prosecution.

After hearing arguments from all sides, the court adjourned the matter for further proceedings.

South Corporation to fast-track auction of abandoned vehicles

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru South City Corporation has decided to expedite the auction of abandoned vehicles shifted to its dumping yard, with Additional Commissioner Dr. Naveen Kumar Raju directing Regional Transport Office (RTO) officials to submit valuation reports within two days to speed up the disposal process.

Chairing a virtual review meeting with officials from the RTO, Traffic Police and the Corporation on Thursday, Dr. Raju reviewed the progress of identifying, removing and auctioning abandoned vehicles across the corporation limits. Officials informed the meet-

ing that 328 abandoned vehicles had been served notices in areas under Jayanagar, JP Nagar, KS Layout, Tilak Nagar and other police station limits. Of these, 40 vehicles have already been shifted to the dumping yard.

The Corporation is also identifying 18 to 20 more abandoned vehicles, with notices being issued to their owners. If owners fail to respond within the mandatory seven-day notice period, the vehicles will be removed and shifted to the dumping yard for further action.

To ensure faster coordination, Dr. Raju directed officials to create a dedicated WhatsApp group involving

Traffic Police, RTO officials and Corporation engineers. The group will monitor daily progress on vehicle identification, notices issued and valuation reports submitted.

Following receipt of valuation reports, the abandoned vehicles will be auctioned through the Government-authorized Registered Vehicle Scrapping Portal in accordance with Central and State government guidelines. The Additional Commissioner stressed that the process should be completed without delay, in line with directions issued by Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda to clear abandoned vehicles from city roads.

PARA STAR HONOURED

Commonwealth Para bronze medallist Shilpa gets State reward

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka para athlete K.S. Shilpa, who won a bronze medal in the shot put at the 2026 Commonwealth Para Games in Glasgow to receive a ₹15 lakh cash award and a Group B government post, the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports announced on Thursday.

Shilpa was felicitated at a function organised at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, where Legislative Council Member and Karnataka Olympic Association President Govindaraju hailed her achievement as an

inspiration to aspiring athletes, particularly those from rural Karnataka.

He said the State government has introduced one of the country's most comprehensive sports incentive policies, including cash rewards and government employment for international medal winners. Karnataka was also the first state to provide reservation for sportspersons in government jobs, he noted.

Department Commissioner M.N. Anucheth said the government had already honoured all eight Karnataka athletes who represented India at the



Commonwealth Para Games with ₹5 lakh each. In recogni-

Winning the bronze medal is a proud moment. Dedication and hard work always bring success, and the government's encouragement will inspire many more athletes.

—K.S. Shilpa, Karnataka para athlete

₹15 lakh, a Group B government appointment, and all benefits available under the State's sports incentive policy.

She also thanked her coaches for their guidance and support. Earlier, the athlete received a grand welcome at Kempegowda International Airport, where officials, sportspersons and folk artists

Karnataka rewards Para medallist Shilpa

• Athlete: K.S. Shilpa
• Event: Commonwealth Para Games 2026
• Medal: Bronze (Shot Put)
• Cash award: ₹15 lakh
• Government job: Group B post
• Venue of felicitation: Sree Kanteerava Stadium

greeted her on arrival. Chief coach Raghavendra and assistant coaches Satya Narayana and Pushpa Niranjan Prasad were also felicitated during the programme.

Quick Read

Dr. B. Srikantachar appointed in-charge director of EMRC

Mysuru
Dr. B. Srikantachar has been appointed as the In-Charge Director of the Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMRC), a prestigious autonomous institution of the University of Mysore, with effect from August 4, based on seniority and with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor. Dr. Srikantachar holds a Master's degree in Journalism from Bangalore University and earned his Ph.D. from the University of Mysore. He brings with him more than 35 years of experience in the production of educational television programmes. During his distinguished career, he has produced several acclaimed documentaries that have received numerous national awards. The appointment was announced in a press release issued by the Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMRC), one of the University of Mysore's premier autonomous institutions.

Power supply interruption in parts of Mysuru tomorrow

Mysuru
Power supply will be disrupted in several parts of Mysuru on August 8 (Saturday) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. due to underground cable works being undertaken on the 11 kV SLV feeder under the VV Mohalla Sub-Division, according to a press release issued by the Executive Engineer of Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC), VV Mohalla Division. The areas that will be affected include Gokulam First Stage, Hasukaru Circle, Gokulam Main Road, areas around B.C. Lingaiah Park, VV Mohalla Second Main Road, Temple Road, Suvarna Mahotsava Park, DRM Hospital, VV Puram Police Station, and surrounding localities. Consumers in these areas have been advised to make necessary arrangements in advance to avoid inconvenience during the scheduled power shutdown.

Kampli MLA pledges loyalty to party discipline

Kampli
Kampli MLA J.N. Ganesh said party discipline is his priority and he will accept any responsibility given by the high command regarding a ministerial position. He thanked the people of his constituency, supporters and party workers for expressing their support and raising the demand before the leadership. Ganesh added that he would perform every duty honestly and give more importance to party organization than power. He said the party's decision would be final and he would not seek power over organizational values. He mentioned that the Tungabhadra reservoir currently has 64 TMC water due to good rains in Malnad region. The storage is important for farmers of Ballari, Vijayanagara, Koppal and Raichur districts as well as neighbouring states Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Ganesh said farmers are facing difficulties as crops are drying due to shortage of water despite the available reservoir storage. He urged the government to call a Tungabhadra Irrigation Advisory Committee meeting immediately and decide on releasing water for crops.

Kemmanu power issues raised, MLA assures action

The MLA urged regular police deployment, coordinated departmental action, and resolution of local issues to ensure public convenience and development

UDUPI

MLA Yash Pal Suvarna visited Tonse Gram Panchayat office with officials and received public complaints regarding village problems and demands. During the meeting, villagers highlighted electricity issues in Kemmanu area and sought immediate solutions. The MLA assured that a substation has already been sanctioned and the problem will be resolved after government land approval. He said MESCOM officials would be instructed to address the issue urgently if required. Villagers also raised concerns over cancelled pensions including old age pension and requested government attention again during the upcoming session. They demanded a bridge from Timmanna Kudru in Kemmanu to Haradi to improve travel convenience towards Brahmarav. Residents objected to unauthorized building activities



near Hoode and alleged that several constructions received approval without proper permission. Responding to this, the MLA directed officials to conduct a detailed inquiry and take action against those violating rules. He also instructed police officials to control traffic problems caused by roadside parking during Thursday religious gatherings in Kemmanu and ensure smooth movement of vehicles. The MLA asked police to deploy personnel regularly at the location and help the public

avoid inconvenience. He said that resolving local issues through coordination with departments is important for development and public welfare. The meeting was attended by Udupi Municipal Corporation Executive Officer Vijaya, Malpe Circle Police Inspector Ramachandra Nayak, Kemmanu Gram Panchayat officials and villagers. Discussions focused on improving basic facilities and addressing complaints effectively. The MLA assured citizens that their concerns would be followed up

At a Glance
Power issue: Villagers raised electricity problems in Kemmanu area.
Solution assured: Substation approval received to resolve power issues.
Pension concerns: MLA promised to raise pension issues again.
Bridge demand: Villagers sought Timmanna Kudru-Haradi connectivity bridge.
Illegal buildings: Officials ordered investigation into construction violations
Traffic action: Police directed to manage weekly traffic issues.

with concerned departments and timely steps would be taken to provide better services for everyone.

Minister Lad assures action after drought assessment

DHARWAD

Minister Santosh Lad visited drought-hit fields in the district and assured farmers that their crop loss concerns would be presented before the State government after a detailed assessment of the situation. He said irregular rainfall during the season had affected farming activities and created difficulties for farmers across the region. During the visit, Lad said around 96% of the cultivable land in Dharwad district had been sown. Green gram, black gram, maize, soybean, cotton and other crops faced damage due to rainfall shortage and poor distribution. He explained that even though some fields looked green, crop growth remained weak because rain did not arrive at important growth stages. Reports would be prepared after discussions with farmers, leaders and experts before sending them to the government for action. The Minister said farmers would receive support

Lad assured farmers of insurance and relief support, incorporating suggestions, while emphasizing drought assessment, rainfall timing, and adherence to central guidelines

through crop insurance benefits and relief schemes available from government agencies. He added that suggestions from legislators and farmer representatives would be included in the report. Lad said drought declaration would follow central guidelines and technical conditions. He noted rainfall timing was as important as rainfall quantity while assessing crop losses and this issue would be communicated to State and Central governments for consideration. MLA N.H. Konaraddi said green gram and cotton crops suffered heavy damage despite appearing green externally. He requested flexible loss assessment rules and timely insurance payments for farmers.

Mysuru Wadiyar statue faces neglect at Hardinge circle

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM CH NEWS, Mysuru

The marble statues of Mysuru's former rulers near the iconic Palace have become symbols of neglect instead of pride as dust, pollution and poor maintenance slowly damage their beauty. Installed at Hardinge Circle, the monuments were created to honour Sri Jayachamarajendra Wodeyar and other royal leaders who helped transform Mysuru into a progressive state. Over the years, the statues lost their shine because vehicle smoke and dust from heavy traffic covered the marble surfaces. The Mysuru City Corporation manages the site, but citizens say cleaning happens mostly during Dasara celebrations. Broken glass, weak fencing and waste around the area have increased concerns about safety and respect for the heritage landmark. Residents believe the royal figures need regular care, proper lighting and stronger protection to preserve their historical value for future generations. Heritage experts have suggested scientific cleaning, CCTV cameras and better security arrangements to protect the statues from further damage. They also believe that restoring the damaged canopy and improving surroundings can bring back the lost dignity of the monument. Many visitors who come to Mysuru Palace every day see these symbols and hope authorities will act soon. The neglect of such important monuments affects Mysuru's image as a famous heritage city and cultural destination. Protecting them is not only about cleaning statues but also about respecting the history and contributions of the Wodeyar family. Officials now face the responsibility of ensuring these royal statues receive timely restoration and care. A planned approach with



regular maintenance, security measures and public awareness can help protect the monuments for years ahead. The marble figures have silently witnessed Mysuru's growth and changes through decades. Their restoration will not only revive their appearance but also strengthen the city's connection with its royal past. Citizens hope the authorities will soon bring back the lost charm of these landmarks and preserve them as proud reminders of Mysuru's rich heritage. With proper attention and care, the statues can once again represent the glory and respect that the Wodeyar rulers earned while shaping the city's remarkable cultural identity forever.

Kampli BJP leader marks birthday with service

KAMPLI

BJP Mandal President C.D. Mahadeva's birthday was celebrated in a simple manner near Ambedkar Circle and Bellary Road at the town's private bus stand on Thursday. The event focused on social service as free uniforms were distributed to auto drivers followed by cake cutting and sweets distribution. The programme was attended by C.D. Mahadeva and several local leaders. Auto driver Suresh appreciated the initiative and said the uniform distribution showed concern towards drivers and society. He wished Mahadeva success and greater responsibilities in the future. The gesture received appreciation from many drivers who attended the celebration and highlighted the importance of supporting working communities through helpful activities. Leaders including Metri Shivakumar, Nagalinga, Mahantesh, Jadeppa, Anand and Puneeth attended along with auto drivers and supporters.

Restoration of historic Prasanna Nanjundeshwara temple demanded

MYSURU

Members of the Mysuru Kannada Vedike staged a protest in front of the historic Prasanna Nanjundeshwara Temple at Old Santhepet in Mysuru on Thursday, alleging official apathy towards the upkeep of the centuries-old shrine and urging the Muzrai Department to take up immediate restoration works. The protesters claimed that despite the temple generating substantial rental income from its surrounding commercial properties, the shrine has been

neglected for years. They alleged that portions of the temple's inner premises and roof are in a dilapidated condition, with sections showing signs of collapse, posing a risk to devotees. Addressing the gathering, Mysuru Kannada Vedike President S. Balakrishna said the temple complex houses nine shrines, but only one priest has been appointed to perform daily rituals. According to him, regular floral decoration is offered only to the main deity, Lord Prasanna Nanjundeshwara, while the other shrines

receive floral offerings only when devotees sponsor them. There are no sanitation workers to maintain the temple premises, resulting in poor cleanliness. Some devotees have reportedly undertaken temporary repairs to damaged portions of the structure at their own expense by patching up cracks and weakened areas. The officials of the Muzrai Department had allegedly failed to inspect the temple despite repeated representations. Even the complaints submitted to elected representatives and govern-

ment authorities had not yielded any results. The Vedike accused the Executive Officer of the department of focusing primarily on collecting rent from the temple's commercial properties while paying little attention to the preservation and maintenance of the temple itself. Warning of intensified agitation, the organisation said it would be forced to stage a protest in front of the Muzrai Department office if restoration work is not initiated immediately.

Prepare for possible water scarcity till June, 2027: Dr Yathindra

MYSURU

The Mysuru district is facing a serious rainfall shortage, with a 58 per cent deficit, prompting authorities to take steps to prevent drinking water problems in coming months. Urban Development and District-In-Charge Minister Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah directed officials to make advance plans during a review meeting held at the Mysuru City Corporation Zone-3 Office on Thursday. He said recent rainfall should not reduce preparedness and instructed officials to use reservoir water to fill lakes and tanks on priority. The Minister warned that

drought-like conditions may continue until June next year and stressed the need for proper planning. Filling lakes would help recharge borewells in rural areas, while cities need new methods to improve groundwater levels. Officials were also asked to test drinking water sources regularly to prevent diseases during the dry period. The Agriculture Department has advised farmers to avoid water-intensive crops like paddy and sugarcane and choose alternatives such as ragi, jowar and millets. Dr. Yathindra appealed for cooperation and said farmers should support drought management efforts. MLA G.T.

Devegowda urged fair distribution of water released for lakes and asked city bodies to improve waste management. Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshminathan Reddy said tankers are supplying water to several areas including Hootagalli, Bogadi and Rammanahalli due to shortage concerns. He added that farming reduced this year because of low rainfall and sowing covered about 1.66 lakh hectares. Officials and public representatives attended the meeting and discussed ways to manage the situation. Authorities said contingency plans must be ready if groundwater levels decline further. Regular monitoring, careful

water use and cooperation from citizens will be important to face the challenge ahead. The district administration hopes these measures will protect drinking water supplies and support people during the difficult period. With continued planning and responsible action, Mysuru can reduce the impact of drought conditions and ensure that residents receive safe water without major difficulties. The efforts of officials and communities together will play a key role in overcoming the shortage and building a stronger water management system for the future of the district with hope and careful preparation ahead.

Tribal community urged to join World Tribal Day

BALLARI

Karnataka Adivasi Rakshana Parishad State Organizing Secretary H.P. Shikari Ramu called upon tribal community members to participate in large numbers in the 32nd World Tribal Day celebrations scheduled at Nehru Stadium in Hubballi-Dharwad on August 9. Speaking at an organizational meeting held at Tulja Bhavani Temple in Shikari Colony, Kampli, he said the event aims to highlight the rights, culture and de-

velopment issues of tribal communities. He explained that World Tribal Day has been observed since 1995 under the inspiration of the United Nations and has been celebrated meaningfully in Karnataka for the past 15 years. Shikari Ramu said Karnataka has around 50 Scheduled Tribe communities with a population of over 42 lakh as per the 2011 census. He expressed concern that some tribal groups are still facing difficulties and living a nomadic life due to livelihood challenges.

Quick Read

Buddha statues distributed to Social Welfare hostels

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
Students who practice continuously can achieve success in life, said Sub-Divisional Officer Dr. K.J. Kantharaju during a program where bronze Buddha statues were distributed to Social Welfare Department hostels in Chitradurga. He urged students to use hostel facilities wisely and follow Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's ideals for growth and progress. He shared his experience of studying in a hostel and achieving his position through dedication. Prof. Nataraj highlighted Buddha's teachings and encouraged everyone to adopt good values in life. The event inspired students to pursue education with confidence and dedication.

Grihalakshmi funds reach Koppal beneficiaries through installment

CH NEWS, KOPPAL
The 32nd installment of Grihalakshmi scheme funds has been deposited into eligible beneficiaries' accounts in Koppal district. Reddy Srinivas, Chairman of the District Level Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authority, said Rs. 62,63,66,000 was released for 3,13,183 beneficiaries for June 2026. Each eligible woman will receive Rs. 2,000, and the process will finish within two to three days. He added that the 33rd installment will be released soon and document verification will not trouble beneficiaries. Officials also recovered Rs. 86,67,608 from accounts of deceased beneficiaries.

Dr. Akash reviews lake works in Chitradurga

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. S. Akash urged rural workers to avoid migration and use employment opportunities available in their villages under the VB-G Ram Ji scheme. He said local work can help families improve their financial condition and build stronger rural communities. Dr. Akash inspected lake development works at Dyamavvanahalli in Chitradurga taluk and Dodderi and Doddagalli gram panchayats of Challakere taluk on Thursday. During the visit, he recorded

workers' N.M.M.S. online attendance through the mobile application and checked job cards and bank passbooks to confirm regular wage payments. He informed workers that the scheme provides 125 days of guaranteed employment for each family in a financial year. He also said both men and women receive equal wages of Rs. 382 per day without discrimination. The CEO advised labourers to make use of government employment programmes instead of travelling to cities for jobs. He said these schemes aim to provide stable income

and support rural development. Taluk Panchayat Executive Officers Y. Ravikumar and Shashidhar, VB-G Ram Ji Assistant Director Shivamurthy, Assistant Programme Coordinator Mohan Kumar, technical coordinators, IEC coordinators and other officials were present during the inspection. The officials encouraged workers to participate actively in local projects and benefit from available employment opportunities. They said effective implementation of such schemes would help reduce migration and improve the economic strength of rural families.

CH NEWS, KOLAR

The district administration has intensified preparations for Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's visit to Malur on August 10, where he will launch development projects, inaugurate completed works and distribute benefits to beneficiaries at Chokkandahalli village.

Deputy Commissioner M.R. Ravikumar inspected the venue and directed officials to coordinate effectively for the public programme. The administration expects over 35,000 people to attend the event and has arranged seating, transport and basic facilities. KSRTC will operate 600 buses, including regular and

additional services, to help visitors reach the venue. Officials were asked to prepare route plans and begin transport operations from 6 a.m. on the programme day. The food committee will provide quality vegetarian meals and drinking water for attendees. Separate counters for men and women will prevent

crowding while security teams arrange parking and safety measures. Health officials will keep medical facilities and emergency services ready. Departments will display welfare scheme information stalls to create awareness among citizens. Ravikumar urged officials to work with dedication and

coordination for the success of the event. The visit is considered important for Kolar as several projects and public benefits will be introduced. The administration said proper arrangements would ensure a smooth programme and comfortable experience for all participants.

Rain gauge repairs ordered amid drought review



collect detailed information about farmers, crops, irrigated and rain-fed agriculture. Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh informed that

MINISTER INSPECTS CHALLAKERE FARMS
Severe drought has affected Challakere taluk due to poor monsoon rains. Minister T. Raghuramurthy visited Kaparahalli and Hottappanahalli villages and inspected damaged crops. He said farmers faced losses as borewells dried and urged officials to provide support under government schemes. He directed authorities to help affected farmers and promote suitable crops. The minister also advised farmers to register ragi crop insurance before August 14. He assured compensation support for eligible farmers facing sowing failures under insurance rules. Officials and local representatives joined the visit and reviewed the ongoing drought situation.

ported that only 16.5 per cent sowing has been completed in the taluk. The

minister directed officials to ensure water supply through the multi-village drinking

DC warns officials against delays in development plans

CH NEWS, CHIKKAALLAPURA

Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhush warned officials that delays in preparing action plans for development works under urban local bodies would not be tolerated.

He said grants are available, but late planning could postpone public projects and basic facilities. Officials were instructed to identify works under each grant category and submit plans quickly for approval.

The Deputy Commissioner directed local bodies to submit action plans under the 15th Finance Commission, State Finance Commission, special grants and other schemes by August 8. After approval, tender procedures should be completed and work orders issued by September 15, he said. Ongoing works must be completed on time and all approved projects should begin immediately.

He instructed officials to finish existing works by August 30, maintain transparency through photographs and GPS information in files. He also ordered inspections of public toilets, bus stops and other civic facilities and immediate action on complaints. Tax collection should be improved by identifying defaulters and taking necessary steps to strengthen finances of urban bodies.

Officials were asked to regulate street vendors systematically by creating designated vending zones with basic facilities. The meeting reviewed progress of development

Developments

- Action plans:** Urban bodies directed to submit plans by August 8.
- Project deadlines:** Ongoing works must finish by August 30.
- Tender process:** Work orders to be issued by September 15.
- Completion target:** Approved projects must conclude by October 30.
- Transparency steps:** GPS-tagged photos mandated for completed works.
- Civic improvements:** Officials instructed to improve public facility maintenance

works, fund utilization and future plans of municipalities across the district.

District Urban Development Cell Director Manjunath, Executive Engineer Sri-devi, municipal commissioners and other officers participated in the discussion.

The administration stressed that timely execution of projects and transparent use of funds are essential for better public services.

The Deputy Commissioner directed departments to follow deadlines strictly and ensure that development works benefit citizens without delay. The initiative aims to improve urban infrastructure.

Court invites bids for old materials sale

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Principal District and Sessions Court has invited bids for selling cardboard boxes and broken furniture from various courts in the district. Interested people can inspect the items and submit their price offers in sealed envelopes by August 18 during office hours.

No child should miss deworming pills

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sidrameshwara has directed officials to ensure that every child in the district receives deworming tablets under the National Deworming Programme scheduled on August 10. He gave the instruction at a district-level coordination meeting held at the District Collector's Hall on Wednesday. He said a healthy child is the strength of the nation and called upon all departments to work together to create awareness about the programme. District RCH Officer Dr. Prakash V. informed that Albendazole tablets will be provided to children aged one to 19 years through Anganwadi centres, schools and colleges across the district.

Children absent on August 10 will receive tablets on August 17. Those who have left school will also get them at An-

At a Glance

Target: Officials aim to cover all children aged 1–19 years

Schedule: Deworming tablets will be distributed on August 10.

Follow-up: Absent children will receive tablets on August 17.

Distribution: Anganwadi centres, schools and colleges will provide tablets.

Goal: Programme aims to prevent worm infections and anemia.

ganwadi centres. Children aged one to two years will be given half a tablet, while older children will receive a full dose. Officials said the programme is conducted every six months to

prevent worm infections, malnutrition and anemia, supporting children's physical and mental growth.

Health workers, ASHA workers, Anganwadi staff and teachers are being trained for successful implementation of the campaign across the district. The meeting was attended by district health officials and representatives from various departments who discussed ways to spread awareness among families and ensure maximum participation.

The administration appealed to parents to cooperate with officials and send children for the deworming programme. The initiative aims to protect children's health and build a healthier future for all children in the district and make the campaign successful. The authorities will continue monitoring the process and take steps to improve child health services throughout Koppal in the future.

Hunsur farmers to receive land rights

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

GD Harish Gowda, MLA and President of the Bagar Hukm Committee, said that farmers who applied for land sanction will soon receive their documents.

Addressing the committee meeting at Mini Vidhana Soudha, he said pending applications with technical issues will be cleared soon and eligible farmers will get cultivation certificates after submitting required documents.

He said many farmers had waited for years to get land rights and should not stop their efforts due to delays. During his tenure, hundreds of farmers received ownership rights over land.

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

Minister T. Raghuramurthy has directed officials to repair faulty rain gauges and prepare accurate rainfall and sowing reports during a drought management meeting held at Challakere on Thursday.

He questioned the mismatch between rainfall figures and reduced sowing levels in the district.

The minister said a central drought assessment team would soon visit the district and stressed the need for correct data.

He instructed officials to

Quick Read

Hi-Tech Harvester Hubs invite farmer applications

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
Applications have been invited for establishing Hi-Tech Harvester Hubs under the 2026-27 scheme to promote farm machinery use and provide rental services to farmers. The Agriculture Department announced support for general and Scheduled Caste categories, organizations and farmer producer companies. Two units will be established in Chitradurga district for individual beneficiaries. Farmers can use machines for harvesting and earn income through rentals. Subsidies and loan support are available under government schemes. Interested applicants should submit forms between August 5 and 20 at taluk agriculture offices. Officials advised farmers to apply.

Minister Basavaraj Rayareddy will visit Gadag today

CH NEWS, GADAG
State Cabinet Minister Basavaraj Rayareddy will visit Gadag district from August 7 to 9. He will review drought conditions and meet officials and farmers across different taluks. The tour includes discussions at the District Collector's office and inspections of affected areas. Meetings are planned in Mundargi, Shirhatti, Lakshmeshwara, Rona, Gajendragad and Nargund taluks. Officials requested people not to arrange garlands or felicitations at government offices and public places during the visit. The minister's tour aims to understand farmers' problems and assess relief measures for drought affected regions in the district.

Free checkup camp to cover multiple health issues

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
The Amrutha Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital along with Inner Wheel Club and other groups will organize a free health checkup camp on August 8th from 10am to 3pm at Gayatri Shivaram Inner Wheel Bhavan in Dhavalagiri Layout. The camp will provide free consultations for various health issues including joint pain, diabetes, skin problems and other conditions. Yoga and physiotherapy facilities will also be available along with a 20% discount on Panchakarma treatment. More details are available from organizers for interested people seeking better health support through this special camp.

OFFICIALS-URGED-INTEGRITY

Justice Phanindra urges officials to serve honestly

CH NEWS, GADAG
The Honorable Upalokayukta Justice K.N. Phanindra advised government officials to perform public service with honesty and responsibility, stating that government work should reflect the spirit of serving people. He spoke at a complaint review meeting held at the Zilla Panchayat Hall in Gadag on Thursday. He said the phrase "Government work is God's work" should not remain only on office walls but should guide every employee's actions. Justice Phanindra warned

Ministers Review Drought Situation

Ministers inspected drought-hit crops, met farmers, assessed losses, and assured support and fair compensation after evaluating agricultural damage

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Ministers Shivaraj S. Thangadgi and Basavaraj Rayareddy conducted a joint review of the drought situation in Koppal district and inspected crop damage in several taluks on Thursday.

They visited affected fields in Kushtagi, Kuknoor, Yelaburga and Koppal areas and interacted with farmers.

Minister Shivaraj Thangadgi inspected damaged maize, tur and millet crops at Navalahalli in Kushtagi taluk. In Kuknoor and Yelaburga taluks, the ministers visited farms where crops including groundnut and sunflower were affected due to insufficient rainfall. They also held discussions with farmers at Rajura village and collected details about their problems.

Basavaraj Rayareddy said drought conditions are not



new in the region, but the present rainfall shortage has affected farming activities. He assured farmers that the government would study the situation and provide fair compensation. He said farmers should not worry as necessary support would be extended after assessing the damage.

Thangadgi said a detailed report would be prepared after reviewing crop losses and the matter would be discussed in the Cabinet. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh Itnal informed that the district has

recorded a 40 percent rainfall deficit and only 63 percent sowing has been completed.

He said officials would collect field reports, photographs and videos to submit an accurate report to the government. Agriculture officials informed that Koppal received only 98 mm rainfall against the normal 158 mm. District-level officials, agriculture, horticulture and other department officers participated in the review. The ministers assured that steps would be taken to support farmers facing

At a Glance
Field inspection: Ministers inspected drought-affected crop fields across Koppal taluks.
Crop damage: Maize, togari, saje and sunflower crops suffered losses.
Rainfall deficit: Koppal district recorded a 40% rainfall shortage.
Sowing impact: Only 63% of the expected area was sown.
Farmer support: Government assured fair compensation for affected farmers.
Future action: Drought declaration will be discussed in the Cabinet.

drought-related difficulties.

Students take pledge for addiction-free society

CH NEWS, HULAKOTI

Students of Sri K.H. Patil Government First Grade College took a pledge to lead an addiction-free life during a programme held to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. Mahant Shivayogi Swamiji. Cultural unit coordinator Ramesh Hulakunda said Swamiji created social awareness through the 'Mahanta Jolige' movement to protect families affected by addictions.

He urged students to follow Swamiji's message of building a moral and addiction-free society.

Narendraswamy offers special prayers for country's prosperity

CH NEWS, MADIKERI

Minister P.M. Narendraswamy visited Bhagamandeshwara temple and Talakaveri holy site on Thursday and offered special prayers seeking prosperity and good rainfall for people across the country.

He first prayed at Triveni Sangam and Bhagamandeshwara temple before offering prayers to Lord Mahaganapati, Mahavishnu and Subrahmanya.

At Talakaveri, the minister performed special prayers to Mother Cauvery and conducted Kumkummarchana. Speaking to reporters, he said the

Collector urges water saving for future generations

CH NEWS, MANDYA

District Collector Dr. Kumar urged people to use water carefully and focus on groundwater conservation.

He was speaking after inaugurating a painting competition for students on groundwater protection at the Horticulture Department premises in Mandya.

Dr. Kumar said conserving lakes, ponds and other water sources is essential for the future. He called upon students to understand the importance of water and spread awareness among their families and communities. He stressed that rainwater harvesting, lake restoration, tree plantation and controlling unnecessary borewell drilling can help improve groundwater levels.

He said the painting competition was organised to develop environmental awareness among children and encourage responsibility towards protecting natural resources.

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer K.R. Nandini said that although water covers most of the earth, exces-

sive groundwater usage is creating concerns. She urged citizens to avoid wastage and adopt rainwater harvesting methods.

Nandini said protecting every drop of water is necessary to ensure water security for future generations.

She appreciated students who participated in the competition and encouraged them to continue taking part in environmental awareness activities.

Vishnu Prasad H.B. from Boppsaduram Government High School,

Maddur taluk, secured first place, Bhargavi from Nagavanahalli Government High School, Srirangapatna taluk, won second place, and Arjun Gowda H.A. from Chinakurli Public School, Pandavapura taluk, secured third place. Groundwater Department senior geoscientist Rajashree, Education Department officials Vijay Kumar and other district officials were present.

The programme highlighted the importance of protecting water resources through collective efforts.

Mandya ensures fair ration and Urs celebrations
District Collector Dr. Kumar directed officials to ensure fair price shops function properly and distribute ration without weight differences to beneficiaries across the district. He said transparency must be maintained while supplying food grains and approved the opening of 24 new fair price shops according to government guidelines. Adequate stock should be maintained and public complaints regarding ration distribution must be checked immediately for suitable action. The meeting also discussed steps to help eligible families receive benefits under food security schemes including An-nabhagya without delays or irregularities.

Gadag newspapers inspired freedom movement, says Gadada

CH NEWS, GADAG

Rajendra Gadada said newspapers of Gadag district made a memorable contribution during India's freedom struggle by creating awareness among people and spreading national spirit.

He was speaking at the 350th Shivanubhava programme of Advindraswamy Math near Khulagunda Naka where he delivered a lecture on the role of newspapers in the freedom movement. He said Kannada newspapers inspired citizens to oppose British rule and carried messages of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi to villages using simple methods.

Dr. Rajendra explained that

publications including Karmataka Bandhu, Kalki, Vishwa Bandhu and Desh Bandhu supported the movement in Gadag district and strengthened journalism through fearless reporting. He said many journalists after independence also enriched the field with dedication and commitment.

During the programme, singer S. Janaki's musical tribute was presented by young artist Ashwini Somanagouda. The event also honoured Suvarna Sadashivayya Madarimath with the Nari Samman Award and provided Guru Raksha to devotees who completed the Kashi Yatra.

Advindraswamy Math Dharmadarshi Maheshwara Swamy highlighted the im-

portance of newspapers and maths in the freedom movement of Gadag district. Various dignitaries including writers, social workers and devotees attended the gathering.

The programme was organised with prayers and cultural activities remembering the rich heritage of journalism and social service. Dr. Rajendra Gadada emphasized that newspapers continue to inspire society by preserving history and values of democracy. He added that the contribution of local publications during the freedom struggle will always remain a significant chapter in India's history and future generations should learn about their courage and dedication.

Puttarangashetty warns defamation action over false allegations

CHAMARAJANAGAR

Minister C. Puttarangashetty has strongly reacted to allegations made against him and warned that he would file a defamation case if false statements were spread. He said all previous allegations against him had already been investigated and cleared.

Speaking to reporters during his drought assessment tour in Chamarajanagar, the minister responded to an alleged audio conversation involving former minister Thimmapura and Congress leader S.G. Nanjayyanamatha.

He said he was searching for the audio and investigating who made such statements and why.

Puttarangashetty said he would not tolerate attempts to damage his reputation through false accusations. He added that he would submit a report to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar regarding the drought situation in the district and request suitable action, including declaring the district drought-hit if neces-

sary.

During the tour, the minister, along with MLA Ganesh Prasad, KADA President Mariswamy and officials, inspected damaged cotton, maize and banana crops in several villages of Chamarajanagar and Gundlupet taluks. Farmers explained their losses due to lack of rain and falling groundwater levels and requested relief assistance.

The minister also listened to public grievances during the visit.

Residents raised issues related to delayed disability pension, poor roads, drinking water shortage and drainage problems.

He directed officials to take necessary steps to address the complaints.

Puttarangashetty assured farmers and villagers that the government would study the situation and provide support measures to affected people. The minister said the administration would work towards resolving local problems and improving conditions in drought-affected areas.

Health officials spread breastfeeding message

CH NEWS, GADAG

World Breastfeeding Week was observed in Gadag with health officials highlighting the importance of mother's milk for a child's growth and development.

Health Education Officer Dr. Rajendra S. Gadada said breastfeeding creates a strong emotional bond between mother and child and plays a major role in ensuring a healthy future.

Job seekers demand transparent KPSC recruitment process

KOPPAL

Job Seekers' Struggle Committee and All India Democratic Youth Organization members held a protest at Ashoka Circle in Koppal demanding a transparent and corruption-free Karnataka Public Service Commission recruitment process.

The protesters demanded a judicial inquiry into alleged irregularities in KPSC examinations and strict action against those responsible. Addressing the gathering, organi-

zation leader Sharanu Patil said repeated allegations of question paper leaks, recruitment delays and corruption have created uncertainty among lakhs of job aspirants.

He said incidents from previous years, including examination irregularities, question paper leaks, marks manipulation allegations and issues in various recruitments, have affected the confidence of unemployed youth. The government should ensure that merit is given priority over money and

influence, he added.

The protesters demanded implementation of recommendations of the P.C. Hota Committee, use of technology in recruitment, timely filling of vacancies and appointment of subject experts as KPSC members. They also urged regular transfer of staff and protection of the interests of job seekers. The organization requested a refund of application fees collected from candidates for posts shifted from KPSC to Karnataka Examination Au-

thority. After the protest, members submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister through the District Collector. Election Tahsildar Ravikumar Vastrad received the petition on behalf of the district administration.

Several organization members, job aspirants and workers participated in the protest. The protesters said that a fair recruitment system is essential to protect the future of educated youth and restore public confidence in government recruitment procedures.

SFI warns protest over Koppal University fee hike

KOPPAL

The Students Federation of India (SFI) district committee has demanded immediate withdrawal of the increased admission fees for first, second and third-year students under Koppal University.

The organization warned that it would stage a protest and besiege the university if the fee hike order was not cancelled.

SFI members submitted a petition to Koppal University Chancellor Prof. S.B. Dani on Thursday, urging authorities to continue the previous fee structure. District Secretary

Balaji Challari said education is a basic right and the increased fees would create additional financial pressure on students and parents. He said the decision could affect students from rural, farmer, labour, Dalit, backward and minority communities who depend on affordable education opportunities. District Vice President Nagaraj U. said students are already facing higher expenses for college fees, examinations, books, accommodation and transportation. He expressed concern that the fee increase may force many students to discontinue their studies.



Quick Read

ED Raids Munger Music Director's Residence

Patna
The Enforcement Directorate conducted a search operation on Thursday morning at the residence of Jitendra Kumar Rajiv, director of Jollywood Music Company, in Naya Tola Phulka under the Jamalpur police station area of Munger district. A team of more than half a dozen Enforcement Directorate officials arrived at the premises of Jitendra Kumar Rajiv, in the morning on Thursday and began the search operation even before most local residents had started their day. The Enforcement Directorate officials informed the local police before conducting the raid.

Wrong To Label Entire Community: BJP

New Delhi
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leaders on Thursday criticised the All India Imam Association President Maulana Sajid Rashidi over his remarks on Kanwariyas, saying it was wrong to label an entire community in such a manner. Amid several videos of Kanwariyas allegedly consuming alcohol, engaging in unruly behaviour, and creating disturbances going viral on social media, Rashidi said on Thursday that those involved in such acts cannot be called devotees of Lord Shiva.

MP positioning itself as leading renewable energy hub: CM Mohan Yadav

BHOPAL
Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday said Madhya Pradesh is positioning itself as a leading renewable energy hub, with the state focusing on uninterrupted green power supply through large-scale expansion of renewable energy and storage infrastructure. CM Yadav made the remarks while speaking to IANS on the sidelines of the 7th International Renewable Energy Conference and Expo 2026 in New Delhi, where he participated along with Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi. The Chief Minister said Madhya Pradesh has witnessed significant growth in renewable energy over the past 12 years and is now working to ensure round-the-clock availability of green energy.

NHAI acts after expressway cracks trigger safety concerns

NEW DELHI
The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has taken strict action after cracks and erosion appeared on sections of the recently opened Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway. The authority suspended the project director, barred him from further project work, and also suspended the head of the independent engineering team following reports of construction lapses. The construction agency has been served a show-cause notice and directed to explain the reasons behind the damage within the stipulated time. The action follows complaints from commuters after cracks developed along the edges of the 63-km expressway, raising concerns about the quality of construction and road safety.



Opposition opposes removal of mosque loudspeaker

Opposition leaders criticised the removal of loudspeakers from several mosques in West Bengal, accusing the BJP of politicising religious issues

NEW DELHI

Opposition leaders strongly criticised the removal of loudspeakers from several mosques in West Bengal, alleging that the issue was being politicised instead of focusing on governance, development and public welfare. AJUP chief and MLA Humayun Kabir said no one opposed the Supreme Court's directions on the use of loudspeakers, but questioned why issues such as 'Azaan', animal sacrifice and loudspeakers were repeatedly dominating public discourse. He said governments should prioritise development and welfare rather than diverting attention to religious matters. Congress MP Isha Khan



Choudhary said that if regulations governing loudspeaker use exist, they must be implemented uniformly across the country without targeting any particular community. Samajwadi Party MP Iqra Hassan alleged that the BJP's politics was centred on creating divisions between religious communities. Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy also criticised the action, describing it as an attempt to

- Opposition alleges politicisation of mosque loudspeaker issue.
- Congress demands uniform enforcement of rules nationwide.
- BJP says action targets noise pollution, not religion.
- Imam Association says Muslims are following Supreme Court guidelines.

disturb communal harmony and alleging that it was part of a broader political agenda. Responding to the criticism, BJP West Bengal President and MP Samik Bhat-tacharya maintained that all religious communities should be allowed to practise their faith peacefully without

CENTRE EXTENDS TENURE OF TWO TOP BUREAUCRATS

NEW DELHI

The Central government has extended the service of Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somana-than and Home Secretary Govind Mohan by one year. The decision, approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, ensures that both senior officials will continue in their key roles beyond the completion of their fixed two-year tenures this month. According to the Personnel Department, T.V. Soma-na-

than's tenure has been extended beyond August 30, 2026, until August 30, 2027. A 1987-batch IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, he was appointed Cabinet Secretary in August 2024 and has been overseeing the country's top administrative machinery. Home Secretary Govind Mohan, a 1989-batch IAS officer of the Sikkim cadre, will continue in office until August 22, 2027. He assumed charge as Home Secretary in August 2024 and has been responsible for handling key

internal security and administrative matters under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The extension has been granted under the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, which allow certain senior government secretaries to continue in service beyond the retirement age of 60 years. The move is aimed at ensuring continuity in important administrative positions and maintaining stability in the functioning of the Central government.

BTC Chief Hagrama Mohilary leads relief mission in flood-hit Sivasagar

GUWAHATI

Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) Chief Hagrama Mohilary on Thursday led a 104-member relief team to the flood-ravaged Sivasagar district, where essential relief materials were distributed among families affected by the floods. Mohilary, accompanied by MLA Arup Kumar Dey, visited several inundated areas to assess the situation and personally hand over relief supplies to residents struggling in the aftermath of prolonged flooding. Sivasagar MLA Akhil Gogoi received the delegation on its arrival and accompanied the team during the relief distribution programme. The BTC team brought thousands of bedsheets, mosquito nets, hygiene kits and other essential relief materials aimed at supporting families

whose lives have been severely disrupted by the floods. The relief drive focused on areas where waterlogging has persisted for several days, leaving many households displaced and dependent on external assistance. Residents welcomed the initiative, with local volunteers assisting in the distribution of relief materials to ensure that aid reached the worst-affected families. Expressing gratitude to the visiting delegation, Akhil Gogoi said the people of Sivasagar deeply appreciated the BTC Chief and his team's decision to travel from Kokrajhar to stand by the flood victims during the crisis. We are grateful to Hagrama Mohilary and the entire team. They have brought bedsheets, mosquito nets, essential hygiene products and other relief items for the flood victims.

SC refuses to relax Ashish Mishra's bail conditions

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected an application filed by the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case prime accused Ashish Mishra, seeking relaxation of his bail conditions to permit him to visit his hometown in Uttar Pradesh's

Lakhimpur Kheri. A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana declined to entertain the plea, in which Mishra sought modification of the travel restrictions imposed as part of his bail conditions. There is no ground to entertain

this prayer at this stage, the CJI-led Bench said while rejecting the application. During the hearing, Mishra's counsel submitted that the existing bail conditions prevented him from attending family functions, including his daughters' birthday celebrations, and sought further relaxation of the restrictions.

‘Vetri Vaanmagal’ scheme for women launched in TN

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Thursday announced the launch of the ‘Vetri Vaanmagal’ scheme to train women farmers in operating agricultural drones, aiming to modernise farming practices and create new livelihood opportunities in rural areas. Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Minister R. Vinoth unveiled the initiative while presenting the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government’s first Agriculture Budget for 2026-27 in the Legislative Assembly. Under the scheme, 500 eli-



gible candidates, including 100 women, will receive professional training in drone operations and support to obtain certified drone pilot licences. The state government has allocated Rs 1.50 crore to fund the training, which will

be conducted through the Remote Pilot Training Organisation of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU). To encourage women to adopt drone technology, the government will also provide drones at a 50 per cent subsidy to 50 trained women. An additional Rs 2.50 crore has been earmarked from state funds to finance the subsidy component. Vinoth said drone technology was emerging as a major employment generator in sectors such as agriculture, construction, freight transportation, surveillance and disaster management. In farming,

Vijay hails inclusive state budgets

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Thursday congratulated Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson and Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Minister R. Vinoth for presenting the Revised Budget and Agriculture Budget for 2026-27, describing them as comprehensive roadmaps for inclusive development and people's welfare. In a statement issued after the Agriculture Budget was tabled in the Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister said both budgets reflected the government's commitment to balanced economic growth while ensuring that every section of society benefited from development initiatives. Vijay appreciated Finance, Planning and Development Minister Marie Wilson for presenting the Revised Budget and praised Agriculture Minister R. Vinoth for unveiling a detailed Agriculture Budget focused on strengthening the state's rural economy. Vinoth delivered his Budget speech for more than two hours, outlining schemes aimed at boosting agricultural production, farmers' welfare and allied sectors. The Chief Minister said the Revised Budget had been framed with a long-term vision to create opportunities

“The revised and agriculture budgets have been prepared with the welfare of all sections of society at their core and will strengthen Tamil Nadu's long-term development.”
-C. Joseph Vijay, Chief Minister

and improve the quality of life for students, youth, women, children, persons with disabilities, transgender persons, workers, fishermen, weavers, entrepreneurs and government employees. Highlighting the Agriculture Budget, Vijay said it prioritised farmers' welfare while promoting growth in agriculture, livestock, fisheries and dairy farming. He noted that the proposals also encouraged food processing and value-added industries to strengthen the agricultural economy and generate additional employment opportunities. According to the Chief Minister, the government's fiscal strategy seeks to ensure that economic progress reaches all regions and communities in Tamil Nadu. He expressed confidence that the initiatives announced in both budgets would enhance rural prosperity, strengthen livelihoods and support the state's long-term economic and social development.

Row over revocation of permission for RaGa's student event in UP

NEW DELHI

The withdrawal of permission for Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's ‘Chhatron ki Goonj’ event, slated to be held in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, has snowballed into a major controversy with many Congress leaders calling out shameful conduct, allegedly at the behest of the BJP government in the state. Rahul Gandhi was set to address a gathering of students at KP Ground on August 8, but the venue permission has been revoked just two days before the scheduled address. The Kayastha Pathshala Trust, which owns the KP Ground, cancelled the permission citing ‘unsafe conditions’ in light of incessant rains and also a court order. However, a string of Congress leaders cried foul over the abrupt cancellation of the venue, accusing the BJP of crushing dissent and throttling democracy. UP Congress chief Ajay Rai saw a BJP design in disrupting Rahul's ‘Chhatron ki Goonj’ events across the country and claimed that the ruling dispensation was making futile attempts to block the LoP's dialogue with students. First Kota (Rajasthan), then Dehradun (Uttarakhand), and now Prayagraj - the BJP government is making futile attempts everywhere to stop this historic dialogue between the



youth and Rahul Gandhi, he said on X. He asserted that the programme will go on in Prayagraj and also made a fervent appeal to students and examination aspirants to reach the city on the day. Many Congress MPs and leaders reacted to the cancellation of permission for Rahul's much-publicised students' event venue, with Priyanka Gandhi Vadra telling scribes in a one-liner, don't know what they are afraid of. Congress MP Vivek Tankha, speaking to scribes on Parliament premises, said, this amounts to throttling democracy and questioned the government's approach in upholding democratic values. Another Congress MP, Imran Pratapgarhi, called out the shameful conduct and slammed the administration over attempts to stop students' engagement. What could be more shameful than this? You are afraid of a students' programme. You are unwilling to engage with students yourselves, and when the Leader of Opposition goes to interact with them, you cancel the permission for the programme, he said.

Vetri Vaanmagal at a Glance

- 500 candidates, including 100 women, to receive drone pilot training.
- Rs 1.50 crore allocated for training through TNAU.
- 50 trained women to receive agricultural drones at a 50% subsidy.
- Rs 2.50 crore earmarked for drone subsidies to encourage women-led agri-tech adoption.

nities across rural Tamil Nadu.



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Quick Read



PML-N leader wins PoK polls amid probe

London

Former Pakistani state minister Rukhsar Ahmed, a leader of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), has reportedly won a Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) Assembly election despite remaining on police bail in the United Kingdom. Ahmed was arrested in July 2024 over allegations of raping vulnerable girls and trafficking children linked to Manchester grooming gang investigations. Reports said he missed a scheduled UK bail appearance, claiming illness, but was seen campaigning in PoK. British authorities may seek his arrest or extradition if he fails to comply with bail conditions. The case has intensified UK-Pakistan tensions over extradition and deportation issues.

Indian envoy pays tribute at Hiroshima Memorial Park

Hiroshima

India's Ambassador to Japan paid tribute to the victims of the 1945 atomic bombing at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park on Thursday, marking the 81st anniversary of the devastating attack. The envoy joined dignitaries and citizens in honouring those who lost their lives while reaffirming India's commitment to global peace, nuclear disarmament and a world free of nuclear weapons. The solemn ceremony included wreath-laying, moments of silence and remembrance for the victims. Hiroshima continues to serve as a global symbol of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear warfare and the enduring importance of peace and reconciliation.

Imran supporters protest; Over 100 detained nationwide

ISLAMABAD

Supporters of former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan staged demonstrations across several cities on Wednesday to mark three years since his imprisonment, with authorities detaining more than 100 protesters during the nationwide rallies.

The protests were organised by Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), whose leaders and supporters demanded his immediate release and called for fresh elections. Demonstrations took place in major cities, including Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Rawalpindi, despite heavy security deployments and restrictions imposed by local authorities.

Police moved swiftly to

India-Fiji expand sustainable development cooperation

Indian High Commissioner Mehta discussed housing, infra, waste management, governance, and India–Fiji cooperation in coconut and coir development.

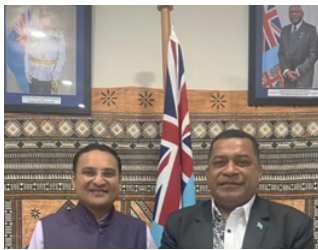
SUVA

India and Fiji on Thursday reaffirmed their commitment to expanding bilateral cooperation in affordable housing, sustainable urban development, waste management and local governance during high-level discussions in Suva.

India's High Commissioner to Fiji, Suneet Mehta, met Fiji's Minister for Housing and Local Government, Maciu Nalumisa, to explore new avenues for collaboration aimed at strengthening the long-standing development partnership between the two countries.

According to the Indian High Commission in Fiji, the discussions focused on promoting affordable social housing, improving urban infrastructure, advancing sustainable waste management practices and enhancing local governance through greater cooperation.

In a separate meeting, High



Commissioner Mehta also called on Fiji's Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs, Charan Jeath Singh, to discuss expanding cooperation with Fiji Coconut Millers in coconut and coir development. Both sides also reviewed opportunities to deepen the broader India–Fiji development partnership.

The meetings follow talks earlier this week between Mehta and Fiji's Agriculture Minister Tomasi Tunabuna, during which the two sides explored collaboration in agriculture and agricultural technology to boost productivity and innovation.

India also continued its cultural outreach in Fiji by dis-

India and Fiji deepen cultural ties

India and Fiji share enduring historical bonds dating back to 1879. Recently, India advanced its cultural outreach by distributing books to students in Suva, reinforcing bilateral friendships through continuous education, capacity-building programmes, and strong development cooperation.

tributing books to students at the Pacific Nations School in Suva through the High Commission and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre. The initiative aims to promote reading, education and cultural exchange while reinforcing the enduring friendship between the two nations.

- Meeting points**
- Mehta met housing minister Nalumisa.
 - Discussions covered affordable social housing.
 - Topics included sustainable waste management practices.
 - Mehta met multi-ethnic affairs minister Singh.

India and Fiji share close historical ties dating back to 1879, when Indian indentured labourers were brought to Fiji to work on sugar plantations. The relationship is anchored in strong people-to-people connections, shared democratic values and development cooperation. India has consistently supported Fiji's nation-building efforts through capacity-building programmes, technical assistance and cooperation across sectors including agriculture, education, infrastructure and sustainable development.

El-Sayed wins Michigan primary, Trump sees GOP advantage

WASHINGTON

Progressive Democrat Abdul El-Sayed has won Michigan's closely watched Democratic primary for the U.S. Senate, securing a major victory for the party's left wing and setting up a high-stakes general election against Republican Mike Rogers in one of the country's most competitive battleground states.

El-Sayed, a former public health official backed by prominent progressive leaders, defeated establishment-backed Congresswoman Haley Stevens in a closely contested race. His victory is widely viewed as a significant boost for progressive Democrats seeking greater influence within the party.

U.S. President Donald Trump described El-Sayed's nomination as "great news" for Republicans, arguing that the Democratic nominee's progressive positions would make it easier for the GOP to win the seat in November. Republicans believe El-Sayed's policy platform could prove difficult to sell to moderate voters in the politically divid-

El-Sayed win greatly empowers progressive Democrats fighting for more influence within the party

ed state.

The Michigan Senate race is expected to be one of the most closely watched contests of the 2026 midterm elections, with control of the U.S. Senate potentially at stake. Democrats are aiming to retain the seat being vacated by retiring Senator Gary Peters, while Republicans see a strong opportunity to flip it.

El-Sayed campaigned on expanding healthcare access, tackling economic inequality and reducing the influence of corporate money in politics. He also received strong support from grassroots activists and progressive organizations despite facing heavy spending from groups backing Stevens.

The November contest between El-Sayed and Rogers is expected to attract intense national attention and substantial campaign spending as both parties battle for a crucial Senate seat in a key swing state.

Iran warns Gulf states over strikes

DUBAI

Iran has warned Gulf Arab states that any renewed U.S. military strikes on its territory would trigger retaliatory attacks on critical energy infrastructure across the region, according to multiple sources familiar with high-level diplomatic exchanges.

The warning followed U.S. President Donald Trump's recent threat to target Iran's energy network and infrastructure if tensions escalate further. Tehran has since launched an intensive diplomatic effort, urging regional allies of Washington to prevent another round of military action.

According to sources, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi conveyed the message during discussions with his counterparts in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey, as well as Pakistan's army chief. He reportedly stressed that while

Iran was prepared to retaliate against any attack, diplomacy remained the preferred path to avoid a broader regional conflict.

Iran warned that any U.S. strike would not only invite attacks on American military assets in the Gulf but also on energy facilities, refineries, electricity grids, transport networks and oil fields across Gulf countries hosting U.S. forces.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is said to have urged President Trump to delay military action, pursue negotiations and work towards a ceasefire. Qatar, Oman and Saudi Arabia have also encouraged Washington to return to diplomatic talks with Tehran, warning that further escalation could destabilise the entire region.

Saudi Arabia, however, reportedly made it clear that it would respond militarily if its territory came under attack.



- SUMMARY**
- Iran warns Gulf states US strikes will trigger attacks on them
 - Tehran presses Gulf allies to steer Trump back to diplomacy
 - Riyadh urged Trump to delay military action, pursue negotiations

Iranian officials believe that threatening regional energy infrastructure increases pressure on both Washington and its Gulf allies by highlighting the potential consequences for global oil supplies and regional stability.

White House denies Trump-Hegseth munitions clash

WASHINGTON

The White House has strongly rejected media reports claiming that U.S. President Donald Trump clashed with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth over dwindling American munitions stockpiles, dismissing the allegations as "fake news."

The controversy followed reports that Trump had confronted Hegseth during a recent meeting at Camp David over concerns that shortages of key missiles and air defence interceptors had constrained U.S. military options during the recent conflict involving Iran.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt categorically denied that any such confrontation took place, saying she was present at the meeting and describing the reports as "100% fake news." She added

that President Trump continued to have "the utmost confidence" in Hegseth.

President Trump also rejected claims of munitions shortages, insisting that the United States possesses "massive amounts" of military stockpiles and that defence production is increasing rapidly. He further warned that action would be taken against those responsible for leaking sensitive information related to U.S. weapons inventories.

The disputed reports had suggested that shortages of long-range guided missiles and THAAD air defence interceptors influenced U.S. military planning and contributed to Trump's decision to postpone additional strikes on Iran.

The White House has maintained that no disagreement occurred between Trump and Hegseth and has dismissed the reports as inaccurate.

Russian strikes intensify fear in Zaporizhzhia

ZAPORIZHZHIA

A surge in Russian aerial attacks has intensified fear among civilians in the southeastern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, where officials say Moscow is increasingly using first-person-view (FPV) drones and glide bombs to target populated areas and spread panic despite limited gains on the battlefield.

Residents describe the latest wave of attacks as a deadly "safari," a term Ukrainians use for drones that appear to hunt civilians and vehicles. The strikes have become a grim part of daily life in the industrial city of around 700,000 people, located close to the front line.

Kateryna Lahuta, a 41-year-old entrepreneur, said two Russian glide bombs destroyed her seafood processing business last month, leaving it in ruins and forcing customers away.

IRAN SAYS MILITARY FULLY EQUIPPED AMID TENSIONS

TEHRAN

Iran's Acting Defence Minister, Brigadier General Majid Ebn-e-Reza, on Thursday said the country's armed forces are fully prepared to respond to any threat, stressing that Iran's military capabilities are built on a strong and self-reliant domestic defence industry.

In a message posted on social media and carried by Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), the acting defence minister said the country's military remains fully equipped despite mounting regional tensions.

"Every day, the signs of the enemy's erosion of power become more evident. Our Armed Forces, relying on the country's defence industry, are fully

equipped to respond to any threat," he said.

Majid Ebn-e-Reza also asserted that countries seeking security and military superiority through foreign arms purchases would eventually realise that Iran's indigenous defence technology surpasses other systems in the region.

His remarks come amid renewed tensions between Tehran and Washington following recent warnings by U.S. President Donald Trump, who threatened further military action if the Strait of Hormuz is not reopened "very soon."

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most strategically important maritime routes, linking the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and carrying a significant share of global crude oil and liquefied natural gas exports.

Trump has said the United States is engaged in "very good discussions" with Iran regarding reopening the waterway. However, Tehran has firmly denied holding any negotiations with Washington.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Bagaei reiterated that no talks are currently taking place with the United States. Speaking in Tehran, he said that, apart from Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who is on a pilgrimage to Iraq, all members of Iran's negotiating team remain in the country.

The exchange of statements highlights the continuing diplomatic standoff between the two countries, even as concerns grow over regional security and the safety of global energy supplies.

Seoul seeks UK exemption from Russian LNG sanctions

SEOUL

South Korea has urged the United Kingdom to exempt its imports of Russian liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Britain's upcoming sanctions, warning that the proposed measures could threaten the country's energy security and disrupt long-term fuel supplies.

Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo made the request during a video conference with Britain's newly appointed Minister for Trade, Anas Sarwar, as the two sides discussed bilateral trade and economic issues. South Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy said on Thursday.

North Korea launches ballistic missile toward east sea

SEOUL

North Korea on Thursday launched at least one short-range ballistic missile toward the East Sea, prompting South Korea's military to strengthen surveillance and maintain a heightened state of readiness amid rising tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said the missile was fired from the eastern coastal city of Wonsan at around 5 p.m. local time. The military did not immediately confirm how many missiles were launched but said it was closely monitoring the situa-



tion for any additional launches.

The launch comes more than a month after North Korea tested a tactical ballistic missile, multiple rocket launchers and other weapons under the supervision of leader Kim Jong-un

on June 25. Those tests coincided with the 76th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and were seen as a demonstration of Pyongyang's military capabilities.

Thursday's missile launch also comes ahead of the annual

Our military is maintaining a full readiness posture while strengthening monitoring and surveillance and closely sharing relevant information with the United States and Japan.

- JCS

Ulchi Freedom Shield joint military exercise between South Korea and the United States, scheduled for later this month. North Korea has repeatedly condemned the drills, describing them as rehearsals for invasion.

Following the launch, South Korea's presidential National

Security Office convened an emergency meeting with officials from the Defence Ministry and the JCS to assess the security implications and coordinate the country's response.

The office condemned the missile launch as a violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions and called on North Korea to immediately halt such provocations.

The latest test underscores persistent security concerns on the Korean Peninsula, with Seoul, Washington and Tokyo continuing close coordination in response to North Korea's advancing missile programme and repeated weapons tests.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ASIYA BANO**, W/o Mamdu Muneer, resident of No. 7, B No 4 Street, Chandni Chowk Road Cross, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-560051, have changed my name to **ASIYA BANU**, vide affidavit dated: 06.08.2026, before Notary A. MANJULA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VEERESH S/o RAVINDRA**, R/o MIG 11, Opp Shah Dhaba, Adarsh Nagar, Gulbarga, Gb Ggh, Kalaburagi, Karnataka-585105, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **VEERESH MUDHOLE**.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Saanvi alias Saanvi Pal Chowdhury D/o Vandana Hatwal R/o Villa No 214 and 215, Atmos Silverwoods, Arakere, Yelahanka Taluk, Addeviswanathapura Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Marasandra, Doddaturmur, Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka-562163**, have changed my name to **Saanvi Hatwal**

PUBLIC NOTICE

By this notice the public are hereby informed that my client **Mr. SYED DADAPEER**, S/o, Syed Mustak, Aged about 37 years, Residing at kumsi Road, Haranahalli, Near Post Office, Shimogga-577416 AADHAAR No. 4831 0161 6330 has lost the original General Power of Attorney dated 04-03-1998 in respect of his Portion of property bearing House List No.156/6F6, E-PID No.2155958337, BBMP No.156/6F/6, Khattha No.156/6F/6, New PID No.193-W0 493/16-1 situated at Hulimavu Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore south Taluk, presently comes under BBMP Limits morefully described in the schedule given hereunder for which she has lodged a complaint with the jurisdictional police bearing Lost Report No. 23479171/ 2026 dated 04-08-2026.

By this notice it is informed that if any body finds the aforesaid documents, the same may be handed over to the undersigned.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Portion of property bearing House List No.156/6F6, E-PID No.2155958337, BBMP No.156/6F/6, Khattha No.156/6F/6, New PID No.193-W0 493/16-1 situated at Hulimavu Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore south Taluk, presently comes under BBMP Limits Measuring **East to West 10 feet and North to South 25 feet totally measuring 250 sq.ft** along with construction consisting of Ground and First Floor totally having construction of 500 Sqft of super built up area bounded on the:-

East by: Site No. 156/6F7

West by: Remaining Portion of same Site No. 156/6F6

North by: Road

South by: Site No. 156/6F3

SYED JUNED AHMED, Advocate, No.20/1, Fifth Floor, 9th Main, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560 011

‘...Greed for runs worsened slump’

BRISBANE

Australian cricket star Marnus Labuschagne has opened up about his recent struggles with the bat. He admitted that his strong desire to score big runs actually made him too greedy while playing. This mindset led to a tough period where he struggled to find his best form on the pitch.

The experienced player has not scored a Test century in his last twenty-two matches. His last triple-digit score happened during the Ashes back in 2023. Even with this long dry spell, team leaders still trust him. He is expected to keep his important number three batting position for the upcoming Test series against Bangladesh, which starts in Darwin next Thursday.

Speaking to reporters at the team training camp on Thursday, the thirty-two-year-old batter shared how a long break helped him. He explained that playing continuous cricket for nearly eight years left him very little time to fix mistakes. Constantly moving from one tour to another made it almost impossible to work on his batting technique in a calm way.

However, a rare eight-week break changed everything for him. He used

this time to return to the basics of batting. Instead of worrying about match scores, he spent countless hours practicing simple shots and fixing small flaws in his stance. He noted that it is very difficult to find permanent solutions when players only get a short three-week window between major tours.

Labuschagne also talked about the mental pressure he faced during his slump. He confessed that anxiety over failing often forced him to chase balls he should have left alone. Instead of waiting for the right moment, he tried too hard to force runs. This bad habit trapped him in a difficult cycle of low scores. Now, after weeks of intense training and mental rest, the former world number one feels much more confident. He believes the hard work done during the recent training camp will finally pay off on the field.

Marnus Labuschagne opens up about his prolonged batting slump, mental pressure, and how an eight-week break helped him reset.



Eala makes history at Canadian Open

TORONTO

Tennis star Alexandra Eala continues her amazing run on the court. Fresh off her very first WTA title win in Washington, she moved into the third round of the Canadian Open. She defeated her opponent, Alycia Parks, in a tough three-set match with scores of six to one, four to six, and six to two.

Playing her very first match at this major tournament, Eala created history. She became the first player from the Philippines, male or female, to win a main-draw match at the Canadian Open. A large and loud crowd of fans filled the stadium to support her during this big moment.

The opening set was completely controlled by Eala. She won five games in a row to take the set easily at six to one. However, Parks fought back strongly in the second set.



The American player saved several break points and managed to win the tenth game, taking the second set six to four to tie the match.

In the final set, both players fought hard early on. Eala soon took control by winning the fifth game to go ahead. She did not look back from there, winning the next three games to seal her victory in one hour and fifty-one minutes.

With this win, Eala extends her great form on hard courts. She will now face American player Caty McNally in the next round. In other matches, local favorite Leylah Annie Fernandez also advanced to the third round after a straight-sets win over Renata Zarazua. Fernandez will next play against Mirra Andreeva.

Jadeja vital in Sri Lanka, says Dasgupta

NEW DELHI

Former Indian wicketkeeper Deep Dasgupta believes Ravindra Jadeja will play a major role in the upcoming Test series in Sri Lanka. Since many players in the squad are visiting the island nation for the first time, Jadeja brings much-needed knowledge of spin-heavy pitches. Only Jadeja and KL Rahul have prior red-ball experience playing in Sri Lanka among the current team members.

Dasgupta explained that bowling successfully on turning tracks requires great skill.

Bowlers must carefully adjust their speed, line, and length instead of just hoping the pitch will do all the work. Because Jadeja played during India's successful tour back in 2017, his past success will help guide the younger squad members.

The expert also discussed wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav. Kuldeep recently played county cricket in England and

bowled a lot of overs in a short time. To help him recover from that heavy workload, the team management gave him a brief rest from bowling during early practice sessions, letting him focus on batting instead.

In addition, Dasgupta praised head coach Gautam Gambhir for his active involvement in the training camp.

He noted that Gambhir was always a fantastic player against spin bowling during his career. Having extra time to prepare in Sri Lanka will greatly help the team improve their current ranking in the World Test Championship. The Indian squad is currently practicing at the NCC Ground in Colombo. They will play a three-day warm-up match before heading to Galle for the first Test, which begins on August 15. The final match will take place at the historic Sinhalese Sports Club starting August 23.

Former wicketkeeper Deep Dasgupta believes experienced all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja will be crucial for guiding India's young squad during their upcoming Test series in Sri Lanka.

Sonal Dinusha to lead Sri Lanka XI

COLOMBO

A new chapter begins as young talent Sonal Dinusha takes charge of a fifteen-player Sri Lanka Cricket XI. The team faces India in a crucial three-day practice match at the NCC Grounds, starting at ten in the morning. This game serves as the sole warm-up fixture for the visiting Indian squad, led by Shubman Gill, ahead of their Test series opener in Galle on August 15.

For the hosts, this match offers a massive stage. With top stars busy in the Lanka Premier League, local selectors have turned to fresh faces and seven Test regulars. Experienced bowlers Lahiru Kumara and Vishwa Fernando join the lineup alongside spinners Ramesh Mendis and Dilum Sudeera.

India hopes to adapt to local spin-friendly pitches. All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja returns to action, though batter Sai Sudharsan may sit out with a foot injury. Both sides are ready for a thrilling three-day battle.

Kamboj reaches World U20 discus final

EUGENE

Indian athlete Amanat Kamboj has booked her spot in the women's discus throw final at the World U20 Athletics Championships. Competing at Hayward Field, she threw a season-best distance of 52.58 meters to secure sixth place in the qualification round.

Amanat previously claimed the Asian U20 gold medal in May with a throw of 52.24 meters. Her latest strong performance adds more excitement for the thirty-six-member Indian contingent currently competing in Oregon.

She is now the third Indian athlete to reach a final at the global event. Earlier, javelin throwers Ashish Yadav and T.



Dharanidharan successfully advanced to the men's final. Ashish topped his group with a throw of 69.87 meters, finishing second overall in the qualifying round. Dharanidharan secured his place by throwing 68.07 meters. South African champion Jan-Hendrik Heymans set the early standard in javelin with a massive throw of 76.02 meters. Meanwhile, American favorite Nolan Carey surprisingly

missed out on advancing. In other events, runner Mogali Venkatram moved into the men's 800-meter semifinals after clocking 1:52.81 in his heat. Teammate Uwin Anand ran a faster 1:52.37 but narrowly missed qualification in a tougher heat. The Indian mixed 4 by 400-meter relay team also put up a good fight. Piyush Raj, Tahura Khatun, Sayed Saber, and Thiya Arumugam recorded a season-best time of 3:22.85. However, it was not enough to secure a spot in the final round among the top nine teams. Amanat will now prepare for the women's discus final scheduled for Saturday. Fans back home are hoping for a strong medal finish from the young star.

“I will always play as a batsman”

PORT OF SPAIN

West Indies captain Roston Chase admitted his team made a major selection mistake after losing the second Test to Pakistan by eight wickets at the Queen's Park Oval. The heavy defeat allowed Pakistan to level the two-match series. Slow bowlers dominated the match, taking twenty

of the twenty-eight total wickets that fell during the game.

Despite the spin-friendly pitch, the home side chose to field only one specialist spinner in Jomel Warrican. Chase usually bowls off-spin, but an ongoing finger injury limited his bowling output. The squad did have another option on the bench in Joshua Bishop, but management left him out of the playing eleven.

Chase explained that the team did not expect the pitch to start turning so heavily right from the very beginning. He noted that his fitness issues created a real dilemma for the side. Although he was still in pain while bowling, he refused to drop himself as a batter.

He openly acknowledged that they should have made room for an extra spinner in the lineup. Reflecting on the gameplay, Chase felt the fast bowlers took too long to adapt to the slow surface.

Richardson also shared his thoughts on the pitch. He warned that the dry winter weather and drop-in surface will not behave like typical Australian pitches.

Instead of getting fast bounce and heavy seam movement like at Perth or the Gabba, the players should expect low bounce. These conditions will likely feel very similar to playing matches in the subcontinent.

Even with these tricky conditions, Hazlewood plans to stick to his basic strengths. With nearly 300 Test wickets to his name, he believes that simple discipline and long spells of accurate bowling are key.

Unlike fast-paced Twenty20 matches where a small mistake goes for a boundary, Test cricket gives bowlers plenty of time to adapt and change tactics during a spell.

Australian fast-bowling star Josh Hazlewood feels that the upcoming two-Test series against Bangladesh in Darwin is a very exciting and refreshing challenge. The opening match takes place at Marrara Stadium on August 13. This game marks the first time Australia is playing Test cricket at this specific venue in over twenty-two years.

During a podcast interview, Hazlewood talked about facing an opponent un-

der completely new circumstances. He noted that there are several unknowns heading into the series, including the stadium pitch and how the opposing batters will handle the venue. Because they rarely play Bangladesh, the team must figure out strategies on the fly instead of relying on old habits.

Former fast bowler Kane



North Delhi Strikers captain Sarthak Ranjan smashed an explosive 95 to secure a comfortable six-wicket victory in Delhi.

NEW DELHI

North Delhi Strikers captain Sarthak Ranjan played a brilliant innings to help his team secure a comfortable six-wicket victory against the East Delhi Riders. The thrilling Delhi Premier League match took place at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Chasing a target of 172 runs, the Strikers faced early trouble when they lost two quick wickets with only 39 runs on the board.

However, captain Ranjan and teammate Yash Bhatia completely turned the game around with a massive 113-run partnership for the third wicket. Ranjan led his side from the front with an explosive knock of 95 runs from just 50 balls. His incredible innings featured seven fours and eight massive sixes. He

even smashed 29 runs in a single over bowled by fast bowler Simarjeet Singh, though he unfortunately missed out on a well-deserved century.

Speaking after the match, Ranjan expressed his joy at securing his first win as captain. He explained that losing early wickets meant they needed a strong partnership to stay in the game.

Once Bhatia joined him at the crease, the pressure eased significantly. Bhatia played a wonderful supporting role, staying unbeaten with a quick 53 runs from 34 balls to finish the chase comfortably with four overs remaining.

When asked about his viral half-century celebration, Ranjan revealed that it was a special tribute to tennis legend Novak Djokovic. As a massive fan of the 24-time Grand Slam champion, he wanted to mimic the famous celebration on the cricket field.

Earlier in the match, the East Delhi Riders managed to post a total of 171 for 6 in their 20 overs. Left-handed batter Sujal Singh fought hard for his team, scoring an unbeaten 82 runs. On the bowling side, Vikas Dixit was the standout performer for the Strikers, giving away only 19 runs in his four tight overs.

Quick Read



India's DPI boosts global digital diplomacy

CH NEWS, New Delhi India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) model is emerging as a key pillar of digital diplomacy, with 23 countries signing cooperation agreements ahead of the AI Impact Summit. Built around platforms such as Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker and India Stack, the framework is gaining global recognition for enabling secure digital identity, payments and public services. Experts say India's G20 Presidency accelerated international interest in DPI as a scalable governance model. With AI integration through initiatives like Bhashini, India aims to enhance multilingual public services. Analysts, however, stress the need for strong data privacy, transparency and regulatory safeguards as AI-driven digital systems expand.

Mumbai, Hyderabad drive data centre growth

CH NEWS, New Delhi India is strengthening its global position in digital infrastructure, with Mumbai ranking among the world's top 15 data centre markets and Hyderabad emerging as one of the fastest-growing hubs, according to a Knight Frank report. Mumbai has 774 MW of operational IT capacity and nearly 5 GW under development, while Hyderabad boasts a 2.2 GW pipeline. Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune and NCR are also expanding rapidly, supported by cloud adoption, artificial intelligence, enterprise digitalisation and government policies. Experts say continued investments in power, connectivity, renewable energy and regulatory efficiency will further establish India as a leading global data centre destination.

Ford launches affordable Fathom electric pickup

DETROIT

Ford Motor Co. on Thursday unveiled its new midsize electric pickup truck, Fathom, which will carry a starting price of about \$28,000, as the automaker seeks to make electric vehicles more affordable and compete with rivals such as Tesla and China's BYD.

The Fathom is the first model built on Ford's new-generation electric vehicle platform and is aimed at expanding the company's presence in the mass-market EV segment, where affordability remains a key challenge.

Ford said the vehicle has been developed from the ground up by a specialised engineering team based in California, focusing on reducing production costs while improving manufacturing efficiency.

To support the new model, the company has introduced an innovative assembly process at its Louisville Assembly Plant. Instead of relying on a traditional single conveyor line, the factory will use three parallel production lines for the front section, rear section, structural battery pack and seating components before combining them during final assembly. The approach is expected to streamline production and lower manufacturing costs.

The launch marks a significant step in Ford's revised EV strategy after the company recorded a \$19.5 billion writedown last year and cancelled several planned electric models, including its larger and more expensive Lightning electric pickup.

With a starting price below \$30,000, the Fathom will be-



come one of Ford's most affordable vehicles, alongside the popular Maverick pickup. Industry data shows only a limited number of new vehicles, including petrol, hybrid and electric models, are currently available in the United States at prices below the \$30,000 mark.

Ford plans to open pre-orders in early 2027, with customer deliveries expected to begin in autumn 2027. The company said the Fathom will be the first in a new family of electric vehicles built on its next-generation EV platform as it aims to strengthen its position in the increasingly competitive global electric vehicle market.

Samsung, SK Hynix face shareholder payout pressure amid AI

SEOUL

Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix are facing mounting pressure from investors to increase shareholder returns after reporting record profits driven by booming demand for artificial intelligence (AI) chips while accumulating unprecedented cash reserves.

According to market estimates, the world's two largest memory chipmakers are expected to hold a combined \$263 billion in net cash by the end of 2026, more than double the estimated cash reserves of AI leader Nvidia and exceeding the combined cash hold-



Key highlights

- Samsung and SK Hynix disappoint investors.
- Companies lack future shareholder payout details.
- Both target fifty percent cash returns.
- Micron commits to full cash returns.

ings of the other six "Magnificent Seven" U.S. technology companies.

Despite their strong financial performance, both companies have provided few details on future dividend increases or share buyback plans, disappointing investors who argue that stronger cash generation

Parliament passes Appropriation Bill for excesses

Passed by the Lok Sabha, the Money Bill completed its legislative journey through the Rajya Sabha.

NEW DELHI

Parliament on Thursday passed the Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2026, authorising the withdrawal of funds from the Consolidated Fund of India to regularise excess expenditure incurred by the Central Government during the 2022-23 financial year.

The Bill provides parliamentary approval for government spending that exceeded the amounts originally sanctioned



Bill provides parliamentary

- Sitharaman sought excess grants approval.
- Amount totals about fifty four thousand crores.
- Expenditure covers FY twenty three obligations.
- Payments involve railways and debt servicing.

for various services during the financial year ending March 31, 2023. As a Money Bill, its

passage in the Rajya Sabha completed the required legislative process after it had earlier

RBI classifies Tata Sons as Upper-Layer NBFC

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has designated Tata Sons as an Upper-Layer Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC-UL) under its revised principle-based regulatory framework, subjecting the Tata Group holding company to enhanced regulatory oversight.

The classification comes as the RBI finalised its updated framework for identifying systemically important NBFCs based on factors such as size, interconnectedness, complexity and potential impact on the financial system. The central bank said Tata Sons continues to qualify under the revised norms.

The move assumes significance because Tata Sons has already applied to the RBI for deregistration as a Core Investment Company (CIC)-NBFC.

The central bank clarified that the company's request remains under examination and that the latest classification does not affect the pending application. Under RBI regulations, upper-layer NBFCs are generally subject to stricter governance, disclosure and capital requirements. Such entities may also face listing requirements unless exempted under the applicable regulatory provisions.

Tata Sons, the principal holding company of the Tata Group, oversees stakes in several major companies, includ-

The revised framework follows a principle-based approach, under which entities meeting the prescribed criteria are automatically classified in the appropriate regulatory layer.

- Sanjay Malhotra, RBI Governor

ing Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Tata Steel, Tata Motors and Tata Power. The RBI's decision has renewed attention on whether the company may eventually be required to pursue a public listing if its deregistration request is not approved.

The central bank is expected to take a final decision on Tata Sons' deregistration application in due course, while the company continues to remain under the enhanced supervisory framework applicable to upper-layer NBFCs.

Indian rupee falls 9 paise against US dollar

MUMBAI

The Indian rupee depreciated by 9 paise to 95.17 against the US dollar in early trade on Thursday, weighed down by a stronger American currency in overseas markets and sustained demand for dollars from importers.

Forex traders said the domestic currency came under pressure as the US dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of six major global currencies, rose 0.05 per cent to 99.72 during early trading. Apart from the firm dollar, persistent foreign fund outflows and demand for the US currency from oil marketing companies also weighed on the rupee. However, positive sentiment in domestic equity markets and

relatively stable crude oil prices helped limit the losses.

Market participants remained cautious ahead of key US economic data and further signals from the US Federal Reserve on the interest rate outlook. Expectations of higher US interest rates for a longer period have continued to support the dollar, putting pressure on emerging market currencies, including the rupee.

Domestic benchmark equity indices opened in positive territory, reflecting investor optimism despite weakness in the currency market. Analysts said movements in global crude oil prices, foreign institutional investor (FII) flows and the strength of the dollar would remain key drivers for the rupee in the coming sessions.

The rupee has witnessed increased volatility in recent weeks amid global economic uncertainties, changing monetary policy expectations and fluctuating capital flows. Dealers expect the currency to remain range-bound, with the Reserve Bank of India likely to intervene if volatility becomes excessive. Economists believe India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals and steady growth outlook could provide medium-term support to the rupee, even as short-term movements remain largely influenced by global factors.

Investors will continue to monitor international market developments, especially US economic indicators and central bank commentary, for cues on the rupee's near-term direction.

been approved by the Lok Sabha.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while replying to the debate, said the legislation seeks approval for excess grants amounting to about ₹54,067 crore. The expenditure relates to amounts spent beyond the original budgetary allocations and requires parliamentary authorisation under constitutional provisions governing public finances.

The government stated that

the excess expenditure primarily covers obligations including payments related to the Railway Ministry and debt servicing, which had exceeded the approved allocations during FY23. The Bill enables these expenditures to be formally charged to the Consolidated Fund of India after scrutiny by Parliament.

Appropriation Bills are a constitutional requirement that authorise the government to withdraw money from the

Consolidated Fund of India for specified purposes. In cases where actual expenditure exceeds the amount originally approved by Parliament, the government must obtain approval through an excess grant and a corresponding appropriation bill.

With Parliament's approval, the excess expenditure for the 2022-23 fiscal year now stands regularised in accordance with constitutional and financial procedures.

Microsoft launches Hyderabad cloud region to boost India's AI

HYDERABAD

Microsoft on Thursday inaugurated its new India South Central cloud region in Hyderabad, marking the launch of its largest cloud infrastructure hub in the country as it seeks to accelerate artificial intelligence (AI) adoption and digital transformation across Indian enterprises.

The Hyderabad facility becomes Microsoft's fourth cloud region in India, joining existing regions in Mumbai, Pune and Chennai. The company said the new region is designed to provide faster, more secure and low-latency cloud and AI services to businesses, government agencies and developers.

Microsoft said the cloud region will help meet rapidly growing demand for AI computing, data storage and advanced cloud services as organisations increasingly adopt generative AI technologies. Major Indian companies, including Adani Group and HDFC Bank, have already signed up to use the new infrastructure.

The launch is part of Microsoft's broader commitment to invest about \$20.5 billion in India to expand cloud infrastructure, AI capabilities and



Microsoft expands Indian cloud infrastructure

Microsoft's strategic \$20.5 billion investment in India accelerates generative AI adoption and meets rapidly growing demand for advanced cloud services. Major organizations like HDFC Bank and Adani Group have already signed up, driving multi-sector innovation and cementing India's position as a premier global cloud computing hub.

digital skilling initiatives. The company views India as a key global growth market due to its large digital user base, expand-

ing technology ecosystem and skilled workforce.

The new cloud region is expected to support AI-driven innovation across sectors such as banking, healthcare, manufacturing, retail and public services while enabling organisations to meet data residency, security and regulatory requirements.

Industry experts believe the expansion will strengthen India's position as a global AI and cloud computing hub amid intensifying competition among leading technology companies investing in advanced digital infrastructure.

Microsoft said the Hyderabad cloud region will play a central role in supporting enterprise AI adoption, improving operational efficiency and helping organisations deploy next-generation AI applications at scale, reinforcing India's ambitions to become a leading digital economy.

China offshore trust tax triggers wealth asset selloff

NEW DELHI

China's decision to impose a 20 per cent tax on offshore trusts has triggered a rush among the country's ultra-wealthy families to assess liabilities and sell assets to meet new tax obligations, according to a media report.

Under new guidelines issued by China's Ministry of Finance on July 24, offshore trusts linked to Chinese residents will be subject to a 20 per cent levy at multiple stages of a trust's lifecycle, including its establishment, profit distribution and termination. The report said affected families must declare and pay outstanding taxes on assets transferred into offshore trusts from the beginning of 2023, with a compliance deadline of Oct. 22. Delayed filings or failure to pay will attract financial penalties, surcharges. The move has prompted a surge in enquiries from wealthy families, private banks, trust companies and insurers seeking legal advice on the scope of the new regulations, their potential tax liabilities.

Sensex climbs, Nifty crosses 24,600 level

MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices advanced in early trade on Thursday, with the BSE Sensex rising over 200 points and the NSE Nifty trading above the 24,600 mark, buoyed by easing crude oil prices and a positive macroeconomic outlook.

Investor sentiment improved after international crude oil prices softened, raising hopes of lower import costs and easing inflationary pressures for India, one of the world's largest crude oil importers. Lower oil prices are generally viewed as positive for the domestic economy, corporate profitability and equity markets.

Markets also drew support from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which marginally increased its GDP growth forecast for the current financial year to 6.7 per cent. The central bank cited resilient domestic demand and stable economic activity as reasons for its improved outlook.

At the same time, the RBI slightly lowered its inflation projection to 5 per cent, indicating expectations of moderating price pressures. The revised estimates strengthened

hopes that interest rates would remain stable, encouraging buying in banking, financial and auto stocks.

Analysts said gains were broad-based, with banking, IT and capital goods shares leading the rally. Positive global market cues and optimism over India's economic prospects further supported investor confidence.

However, traders remained cautious ahead of key global economic data releases and developments related to US monetary policy. Foreign institutional investor (FII) activity, movements in the rupee and crude oil prices are expected to remain key factors influencing market direction.

Market experts believe India's robust economic fundamentals, healthy corporate earnings and easing inflationary concerns could continue to support equities in the near term, although global uncertainties may keep volatility elevated.

The domestic stock market is expected to take further cues from international markets, commodity prices and upcoming economic indicators in the days ahead.

India Inc Q1 earnings surpass estimates across key sectors

NEW DELHI

India Inc.'s earnings for the first quarter of FY2026-27 have exceeded market expectations, with banking and financial services (BFSI), metals, information technology and automobiles emerging as the key drivers of corporate profitability despite losses in oil marketing companies (OMCs), according to a report released on Thursday.

A report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd

(MOFSL) said corporate earnings, excluding OMCs, rose 17 per cent year-on-year, underscoring the resilience of Indian companies despite pressure from elevated crude oil prices.

Based on the financial results of companies accounting for nearly 70 per cent of estimated profits across major sectors, the brokerage found that overall earnings increased 2 per cent year-on-year, significantly outperforming expectations of a 10 per cent decline.

Sharvari talks Main Vaapas Aaunga journey

Rising Bollywood star Sharvari is currently riding high on the success of her latest theatrical hit, Main Vaapas Aaunga. Even as she dives straight into shooting her next big project with filmmaker Ali Abbas Zafar opposite Ahaan Panday, the actor is still taking a moment to appreciate the incredible, organic journey of her recent film.

Speaking during an exclusive chat with HT City Showstoppers, Sharvari expressed her joy over the movie completing a strong five-week run in cinemas. Rather than depending on pre-release hype, the film found its strength through genuine word of mouth and organic audience love. Admitting that the opening days were filled with nervous anticipation, the actor noted that she always maintained a positive gut feeling that the project would eventually connect with viewers. That faith has truly paid off. Today, fans no longer just call her Sharvari on the streets; instead, they

refer to her by her on-screen character's name, Jia. For the young performer, having audiences remember her role more than box office numbers is the greatest reward possible.

Looking back at her evolving style journey from her early days to becoming a fashion icon, Sharvari credited her older sister Kasturi for introducing her to dressing up, admitting she used to steal her earrings and dresses growing up. Inspired by classic cinematic fashion icons like Rani Mukerji, her personal style has grown into a bold reflection of her personality.

Never one to play it safe, Sharvari is constantly searching for fresh challenges and versatile roles to prove her acting range. Looking ahead, she aims to remain completely unpredictable as an artist, hoping history will remember her not for box office collections, but for the unforgettable characters she brings to life on screen.



Tej's Korean Kanakaraju sees massive advance bookings

Excitement is reaching a fever pitch as Varun Tej's upcoming horror-comedy film, Korean Kanakaraju, gets ready to hit cinema halls. Directed by Merlapaka Gandhi, the movie is close from its official theatrical release, and the public response has completely blown past expectations.

Advance bookings for paid premiere shows are currently seeing massive demand. Because so many fans are rushing to secure their seats, the studio has decided to add extra premiere screenings across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Ticket tracking platforms report that over eleven thousand tickets were snapped up in just the last twenty-four hours alone. Movie experts believe that if early viewers enjoy the film, positive word of mouth will push ticket sales even higher over the week-end. The craze is not restricted to local audiences alone. Overseas fans are also showing great interest, helping the project cross the one hundred thou-



sand dollar milestone in pre-sales across the United States. Trade analysts expect these international numbers to climb much higher once the first official reviews come in from the premiere screenings.

Backed by major production houses UV Creations and First Frame Entertainments, the project features a talented main cast. Alongside lead star Varun Tej, the movie stars Ritika Nayak, Satya, and Daksha Nagarkar in important roles.

Nani fans get special surprise

The long wait is finally over for fans of actor Nani, as the official teaser for his upcoming movie, The Paradise, is scheduled to drop soon. Directed by Srikanth Odele, this ambitious period action drama has already built massive excitement through its striking promotional campaign and recent poster releases.

To make the big day even more memorable, the makers have launched a unique initiative to involve the fanbase directly in the celebrations. Understanding the incredible amount of custom posters, digital edits, and fan art created by dedicated followers, the production team announced that selected fan creations will be featured directly on the film's official social media pages during the hourly teaser countdown, complete with proper credit given to the original artists.



This clever campaign turns the final hours before the teaser launch into a collective celebration, highlighting the unmatched passion of Nani's supporters. By putting fan artwork on center stage across official channels until the big reveal, the studio has added extra momentum to an already electric promotional run.

Bankrolled by producer Sudhakar Cherukuri under the well-known SLV Cinemas banner, the high-profile project features a star-studded cast. Alongside lead actor Nani, the movie stars Kayadu Lohar, Mohan Babu, Raghav Juyal, Sonali Kulkarni, Sampooranesh Babu, and several other notable actors in crucial roles. Furthermore, hit composer Anirudh Ravichander is handling the musical score, promising an immersive auditory experience on screen.

With expectations sitting at an all-time high, supporters are counting down the final minutes until the teaser hits the internet. The film is officially scheduled for a grand theatrical release across multiple Indian languages later this year on September 24, 2026.

Mohan's Bro Code, changed to Bro Club

Popular actor Ravi Mohan has given his fans plenty to celebrate by sharing major updates regarding his upcoming slate of films. During a recent media interaction, the star confirmed exciting news about several projects, including a title change for one of his highly anticipated movies and fresh details about his directorial debut.

Speaking in an interview with Cinema Vikatan, Ravi Mohan revealed that his movie previously known as Bro Code has now been officially renamed Bro Club. Production on this project is moving forward steadily, with two shooting schedules already wrapped up and two more remaining. The actor also provided updates on his other ventures. The fantasy entertainer Genie is currently moving through its post-production phase, while Karatheey Babu is very close to completion, with just one final song left to film. Makers are aiming for a theatrical release for Karatheey Babu in about two months. Additionally, he mentioned an upcoming collaboration with comedian Yogi Babu for a movie directed by Shyam Kumar. Aside from acting, Ravi Mohan is stepping behind the camera to direct his very first film, titled An Ordinary Man, which stars Yogi Babu in the lead.

Prabhas to dedicate sixty days for Fauzi

Pan-India superstar Prabhas is ready to dive back into a hectic work schedule. Following a brief vacation in Italy, the actor is expected to land back in Hyderabad before the end of next week to complete his high-profile cinematic commitments.

According to recent reports, Prabhas recently finished a short shooting schedule for Sandeep Reddy Vanga's upcoming cop action drama, Spirit. With that portion wrapped up, the actor has shifted his complete focus to director Hanu Raghavapudi's historical war action film, temporarily titled Fauzi. The movie has officially entered its crucial final phase of production, and the makers are working tirelessly to finish the remaining sequences. Out of the roughly ninety days of total shooting left for the project, Prabhas has reportedly set aside more than sixty days solely to wrap up his portions.



The film's promotional materials have already created massive curiosity among fans. An earlier poster featured Prabhas in a fierce, blood-soaked avatar holding a weapon, hinting at a rugged soldier persona. Insiders reveal he plays a British Indian Army soldier who eventually joins Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army. The period drama features debutant Imanvi Esmail as the female lead, alongside veteran actors like Mithun Chakraborty, Anupam Kher, and Jaya Prada in pivotal roles.

Makers have locked a worldwide theatrical release date of December 3, 2026, for the grand multi-lingual epic. Once he finishes his commitments for this ambitious project, Prabhas will head straight back to the sets of Spirit, alongside other massive sequels lined up in his kitty, including Kalki 2898 AD: Part 2 and Salaar: Part 2.

Action packed movie experience promised from Lokesh

Famous filmmaker Lokesh Kanagaraj is stepping in front of the camera for his very first time as a lead actor. His upcoming action entertainer, titled DC, is directed by the talented Arun Matheswaran and has already built massive excitement among movie fans.

The film features Wamiqa Gabbi as the female lead, bringing a fresh pair to the big screen.

Meanwhile, hit music composer Anirudh Ravichander has created an energetic background score and soundtrack that has heavily boosted pre-release hype.

In the Telugu states, the big project is being brought to theatres by Asian Suresh Entertainment, ensuring a wide and grand release for local fans.

One of the biggest talking points about the project is the

creative union of Lokesh Kanagaraj, Arun Matheswaran, and Anirudh Ravichander. Fans have eagerly waited to see how this powerhouse trio blends their unique styles together.

Promotional clips, trailers, and posters have already caught everyone's attention by showcasing raw, gritty visuals, high-octane stunts, and a dark underworld setting.

Anushka Shetty was original choice for KJQ



The upcoming Telugu period crime drama KJQ, also known as King Jackie Queen, is currently grabbing headlines ahead of its theatrical release this Friday. Directed by the late filmmaker Kiran Kumar, the movie holds deep emotional value for film buffs because it stands as his final directorial venture before his passing.

During a recent promotional chat hosted by popular director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, a fascinating secret about the project's long journey came to light. Vanga shared that Kiran Kumar originally wrote the script nearly twelve years ago. At that time, the filmmaker envisioned the movie as a massive star-led project with top actress Anushka

Shetty playing the primary lead role.

Back then, the project faced several hurdles and failed to take off as planned. Despite that major setback, the director never gave up on his dream script. He held onto the story and continued refining it over the years, adapting it to fit a new vision. The powerful role initially meant for Anushka eventually transformed into the character now played by Yuktika Thareja, shaping the film into the version hitting theatres this week.

Starring Dheekshith Shetty and Shashi Odele alongside Yuktika Thareja, the movie also marks the acting debut of Shashi, who is the brother of filmmaker Srikanth Odele.

Bankrolled by producer Sudhakar Cherukuri under the SLV Cinemas banner, the film features music composed by Poornachandra Tejaswi.

With its unique period backdrop and a heartfelt journey behind its making, fans are eagerly waiting to see how the final product performs on the big screen when it arrives in cinemas in just a couple of days.

Writer Sanjay recalls Notebook opening day



KOCHI

Even though the Malayalam campus drama Notebook is now celebrated as a classic, its initial theatrical run began with a heartbreaking setback. Screenwriter Sanjay recently shared memories of the film's premiere on a podcast, revealing that the opening day audience reaction was so harsh that he was fully convinced the project would turn into a massive failure.

Released back in 2006 and directed by Rosshan Andrews, the movie was written by the famous sibling duo Bobby-Sanjay. Set inside a strict boarding school, the story courageously explored sensitive topics like teenage pregnancy, friendship, and adolescence through the lives of young students played by Maria Roy, Roma Asrani, and Parvathy Thiruvothu, alongside other notable actors.

However, when the film first hit the big screen, viewers inside the hall reacted with intense anger. Sanjay recalled that the opening day booing was so loud that actors' dialogues were completely drowned out.

During a particular scene involving a mango, the negative reaction peaked, leaving the creators utterly bewildered. At that time, movie reviews primarily appeared in printed newspapers, and while a few were kind, many dismissed the project outright, making the young filmmakers fear their cinema journey was ending before it truly began.

Everything shifted within seventy-two hours. The writer and director were staying near a local theatre in Ernakulam, closely tracking audience exit reactions. On the third day following the premiere, a group of youngsters walked out of a late-night screening and spotted the creators. Instead of complaining, they offered an encouraging thumbs-up gesture. That small sign of approval from their target demographic proved the movie had found its true audience, eventually helping it grow into a timeless piece of Malayalam cinema.

Varun Tej and Naga Babu to share screen

Tollywood star Varun Tej has shared major news about his upcoming sports drama, Bhari. During a recent chat with overseas fans, the actor confirmed that he will share screen space with his father, veteran actor Naga Babu Konidela, for the very first time. Despite working in the film industry for over a decade, the real-life father-son duo has never acted together.

Directed by Yadhu Vamsee, Bhari centers around a rural volleyball theme with Varun playing a lead player. The project is backed by Niharika Konidela under Pink Elephant Pictures, featuring music by Anudeep Dev. Fans are thrilled to witness this unique casting coup on the big screen.

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