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Iran: Neighbours safe unless they attack first

Iran says it won't hit neighbouring states unless first attacked, even amid widening conflict triggered by expanded US Israeli military strikes

NEW DELHI

Iran has said it will not target neighbouring countries during the ongoing regional war unless attacks against it originate from their territories, as the conflict involving Israel and the United States entered its eighth day with escalating military action across West Asia.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said the country's interim leadership council had decided to avoid further attacks on neighbouring states unless they were directly involved in strikes against Iran.

"The leadership council agreed that no missiles will be fired at neighbouring countries unless attacks on Iran originate from them," Pezeshkian said in a speech broadcast on state television, while also apologising to regional states affected by earlier strikes.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump said Washington would only accept Tehran's "unconditional surrender" to end hostilities, even as the United States and Israel continued large-scale air strikes on Iranian targets.

According to Israeli military officials, more than 80 Israeli fighter jets carried out attacks on military infrastructure in cities including Tehran and Isfahan, while Iranian forces launched retaliatory missile



■ War duration: 9 days

■ Countries directly involved: Iran, Israel, United States

■ Major cities struck: Tehran, Isfahan, Beirut, Jerusalem

■ Major concern: Escalation into wider regional war

REPORTED DEATHS:

IRAN: 1,230+ LEBANON: 200+

ISRAEL: AROUND 12 US TROOPS: 6

and drone strikes across the region.

The war has already caused heavy casualties. Officials say at least 1,230 people have been killed in Iran, over 200 in Beirut and around a dozen in Israel. Six American soldiers have also died in the fighting.

Explosions and air raid sirens were reported in Jerusalem on Saturday as the conflict intensified, while tensions

GULF AIR TRAVEL DISRUPTED

The ongoing conflict has severely disrupted air travel in the Gulf region. Authorities temporarily halted operations at Dubai International Airport after aerial interceptions near the facility. Flights were diverted and aircraft circled in holding patterns before limited operations resumed later in the day. Airlines including Emirates suspended several services and advised passengers not to travel to the airport until further notice. Aviation authorities said the suspension was a precautionary step to ensure passenger safety amid missile and drone threats across the region.

spread across Gulf countries amid fears of a wider regional war.

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, condemned the attacks across the region as unlawful and warned the conflict could spiral out of control without urgent diplomatic intervention. The fighting has also disrupted civilian life and regional infrastructure.

Trump claims Iran 'surrendered' to Middle East neighbours after strikes

WASHINGTON

Donald Trump has claimed that Iran has "lost" and effectively surrendered to its Middle Eastern neighbours following a week of intense military pressure from the United States and Israel.

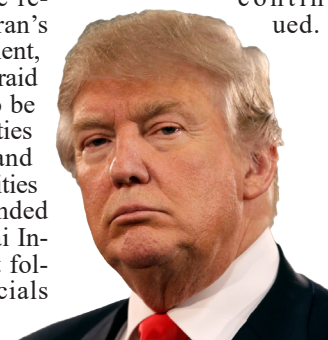
In a post on Truth Social on Saturday, Trump said Iran had apologised to neighbouring countries and promised it would not launch attacks against them unless provoked. According to Trump, the commitment came only after what he described as "relentless" American and Israeli strikes. Trump's remarks came shortly after Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signalled a willingness to de-escalate tensions, calling neighbouring countries Iran's "brothers" and stating that Tehran had no intention of attacking them. "Iran, which is being beat to hell, has apologised and surrendered to its Middle East neighbours," Trump wrote, adding that Iran was "no longer the bully of the Middle East."

The conflict escalated

after joint strikes by the United States and Israel on February 28 reportedly killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, triggering missile and drone exchanges across the region. Despite Tehran's conciliatory statement, explosions and air raid sirens continued to be reported in Gulf cities including Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Authorities also briefly suspended operations at Dubai International Airport following what officials described as a "mi-

nor incident".

Trump warned that further strikes against Iran were under consideration, saying the country would be "hit very hard" if tensions continued.



Key Developments in the Iran-US-Israel Crisis

FEB 28, 2026

US-Israel strikes target Iran

Death of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei reported

MAR 7, 2026

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian apologises to neighbours

Says Iran will not attack unless provoked

FOLLOWING DAYS

Missile and drone attacks across Gulf region

Air raid sirens in Dubai and Abu Dhabi

TRUMP'S RESPONSE

Claims Iran has "surrendered"

Warns of further military action if tensions persist.

LPG prices hiked: Domestic cylinder up Rs 60, commercial by Rs 115

NEW DELHI

Prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders were increased across India on Saturday, with oil marketing companies announcing a hike in both domestic and commercial cylinder rates amid supply concerns. The price of a 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinder has been raised by Rs 60, while commercial LPG cylinders have become costlier by Rs 115. The revised prices came into effect from March 7.

Following the increase, a domestic LPG cylinder in the national capital now costs Rs 913, compared to Rs 853 earlier. This marks the second LPG price hike in the past 11 months.

The government recently asked oil marketing companies such as Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum to ramp up LPG production after supply disruptions



tions linked to tensions in West Asia.

To maintain adequate domestic supply, authorities also invoked emergency provisions under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, directing refineries across the country to maximise LPG output.

India currently has around 33.08 crore active LPG consumers, making cooking gas one of the most widely used household fuels.

Prices have increased across major cities. In Mumbai, the cost of a domestic cylinder has risen to Rs 912.50 from Rs 852.50 earlier. In Kolkata, the price has

increased from Rs 879 to Rs 930, while in Chennai the rate has gone up from Rs 868.50 to Rs 928.50.

Despite the increase in LPG prices, petrol and diesel rates remain unchanged across the country. The last major nationwide reduction came in March 2024 when the government cut both fuels by Rs 2 per litre.

Beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana will continue receiving a subsidy of Rs 300 per cylinder for up to 12 refills annually. The scheme currently supports more than 10 crore low-income households.

NITISH KUMAR'S SON NISHANT SET TO BE BIHAR DEPUTY CM

PATNA

Nishant Kumar, son of veteran leader Nitish Kumar, is likely to become the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar after formally entering politics, a senior legislator of the Janata Dal (United) (JD(U)) claimed on Saturday.

JD(U) MLA Hari Narayan Singh said a "unanimous" decision was taken at a legislature party meeting held at the Chief Minister's residence in Patna to appoint Nishant as deputy CM in the new government expected to be formed following Nitish Kumar's resignation.

According to Singh, Nishant, who is in his late 40s, will formally join the JD(U) on Sunday. He is also expected to enter the state legislature through the Legislative Council, with plans for him to be elected as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) in April during the biennial elections to nine seats.

"Since he must be a member of the legislature to hold a constitutional post, Nishant will be elected to the Legislative Council next month," Singh said, adding that the timing of his appointment as deputy CM will be



Bihar Likely to Get New CM by Early April

PATNA: Nitish Kumar is unlikely to step down immediately as Chief Minister of Bihar even if he is elected to the Rajya Sabha on March 16. Sources in the ruling alliance said the state may get a new Chief Minister by April 5 or 6, when the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) legislature party is expected to meet and elect its leader.

decided by the party leadership.

Nitish Kumar, the longest-serving Chief Minister of Bihar, recently announced his decision to step down and move to the Rajya Sabha, surprising many within his

party. The development has triggered speculation that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the largest party in the ruling NDA, may take the chief minister's post in the new arrangement.

YOUTHQUAKE IN NEPAL

K'taka-Educated Nepali Politician Balendra Shah Defeats Ex-PM KP Sharma Oli in Historic Win

KATHMANDU

Balendra "Balen" Shah, the 35-year-old rapper-turned-politician and former mayor of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, has emphatically defeated four-time prime minister KP Sharma Oli in the Jhapa-5 constituency, marking a significant generational shift in Nepali politics. Representing the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), Balen secured victory by a margin of nearly 50,000 votes, underscoring his appeal among younger voters disillusioned with traditional party

politics.

Balen first rose to prominence as an independent candidate in the 2022 Kathmandu mayoral elections, winning on a platform of reform, transparency, and urban revitalisation. His tenure as mayor saw ambitious beautification projects and sweeping administrative changes that earned him widespread acclaim. Despite being considered for the interim prime ministership following the mass protests that toppled the previous coalition government,

Balen declined, opting instead to seek a full parliamentary mandate. He subsequently joined the newly formed RSP and was named its prime ministerial candidate.

Born in Kathmandu to a family with roots in Madhesh province, Balen holds a master's in structural engineering from Visvesvaraya Technological University in Karnataka. Alongside his political rise, he remains a cultural figure with a YouTube following approaching one million.



Trade deal gave Indian data to US: Rahul Gandhi

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday alleged that the Indo-US deal essentially handed over India's data to the United States of America, and nobody, except him, uttered a word about it. The claim by Rahul came while fielding queries on data protection during a dialogue with the Information Technology (IT) Fraternity at Technopark here.

He said that if India had said that its data was the most valuable in the world, there would have been no taxes on agriculture or on small and medium businesses.

Kumaraswamy Slams Karnataka Budget, Flags Rising State Debt

BENGALURU

Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy launched a sharp attack on the Budget presented by Siddaramaiah, alleging that the Indian National Congress government in Karnataka is borrowing heavily without increasing productive investment.

In a media statement, Kumaraswamy said the state budget has risen to ₹4.48 lakh crore while Karnataka's total outstanding debt has surged to ₹8.24 lakh crore, warning that it could cross ₹9 lakh crore next year if the

borrowing trend continues.

The Union Minister criticised the rise in borrowing from ₹1.16 lakh crore last year to ₹1.32 lakh crore this year, questioning the lack of proportional growth in capital expenditure. "You are borrowing money, but where is it being spent? Capital investment has remained stagnant for the past three years,"

he said.

Alleging misuse of public funds, Kumaraswamy claimed that borrowed money was being used to sustain Congress leaders and political appointees.



QUICK READ

Bengalureans can give feedback on revised voter list till March 16

CH NEWS BENGALURU Bengaluru Central City Corporation urged citizens to submit claims and objections on discrepancies in the revised draft voters' list for the upcoming civic elections.The revised list will be published on March 9 and citizens can submit claims/objections between March 10 and March 16 to electoral registration officers or assistant electoral registration officers concerned. Rajendra Cholan, Additional District Election Officer (Central) and Central City Corporation Commissioner, requested voters to verify their details once the revised draft list is published and report any errors. Cholan said voters should report issues such as family members being listed in different wards or polling stations, interchange of voter details, or voters being placed in polling stations outside their geographical wards.

Helmet awareness in Pulakeshinagar

CH NEWS BENGALURU The Pulakeshinagar Traffic Police conducted a special drive to create awareness among two-wheeler riders about helmet safety. He also spoke about the importance of proper use of helmets for those who were wearing helmets without off-helmets or ISI mark on the road. During the drive, the police stopped the riders wearing off-helmets and convinced them that they were incapable of providing full protection in case of an accident. Police appealed to riders to lock the neck belt properly while wearing helmets. It was also made mandatory for pillion riders of two-wheelers to wear full helmets. Police said the awareness campaign has been instrumental.

Robbery of Rs 15 lakh in gold, 5 arrested

BENGALURU A man was robbed of Rs 15 lakh in the name of cheap gold. The police have succeeded in arresting the accused. Police have detained 5 people. The arrested have been identified as Ganesh (25), Sagar (28), Manjappa (40), Shanmukha (24) and Shanmukha (31). The incident took place on Thursday near Venkatagirikote in Devanahalli. The police have seized Rs 15 lakh in cash, four gold coins, three mobile phones and a Creta car from accused who had committed a robbery of Rs 15 lakh in cinematic style. The police have launched a manhunt for the other two accused.

Dog Walk Row Sparks Clash at Bengaluru Apartment

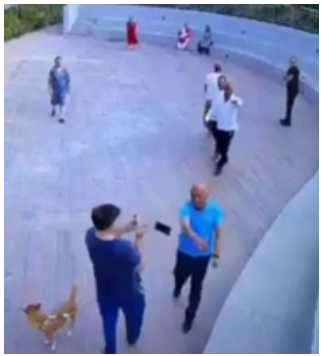
Argument over a pet dog near a designated senior citizens' walking area at Brigade Eutopia apartment in Varthur escalates into a physical clash

CH NEWS,BENGALURU

A disagreement over walking a pet dog inside an apartment complex in Bengaluru escalated into a physical altercation involving senior citizens and a resident. The incident occurred at Brigade Eutopia East Antopia Apartment in the Varthur area of the city and has now reached the police, with both sides filing complaints.

According to the complaint filed with the police, the issue began when a resident, Tarun Arora, stepped out with his dog for a walk inside the apartment premises. The complex reportedly has a designated space meant specifically for senior citizens to walk and exercise.

Police sources said Arora allegedly brought his dog close to the same walking zone. At that time, several se-



nior citizens were present in the area. They questioned him about bringing the dog near the space reserved for them and also objected to the dog allegedly urinating close to the walking area.

What initially began as a verbal exchange soon turned into a heated argument. As the confrontation intensified, the situation allegedly turned physical. According to Arora's complaint, seven to eight

senior citizens assaulted him during the altercation.

The complaint states that he was kicked and attacked with hands during the incident. The situation could have worsened further, but a woman who was present at the spot intervened and separated the people involved, preventing the confrontation from escalating.

Following the incident, Tarun Arora approached the Varthur Police Station and filed a complaint alleging assault.

However, the matter has taken another turn as a woman from the group of senior citizens has filed a counter-complaint against Arora. In her statement, she claimed that the residents only questioned him about the dog urinating in the designated area. According to her allegation, Arora reacted aggressively, attacked them and also threatened them during the argu-

ment.

The woman further alleged that Arora intimidated them by saying their children live abroad and that he would not spare them. She stated that the senior citizens are now afraid for their safety and have requested police protection.

Meanwhile, CCTV footage from inside the apartment complex has captured parts of the incident. The visuals reportedly show a group of senior citizens exercising in the walking area while Arora is seen walking his dog nearby. During the confrontation, one of the elderly men can be seen throwing Arora's mobile phone from his hand, after which the situation escalates into a physical clash.

Police officials said they are currently examining complaints from both sides and reviewing the CCTV footage as part of the investigation.



BMTC partners with Chalo to revamp digital ticketing

CH NEWS ,BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has awarded a significant contract to the Mumbai-based mobility startup Chalo to modernize its public transit fare collection system. Under a five-year agreement valued at approximately Rs 40 crore, Chalo will supply, maintain, and upgrade smart electronic ticketing machines (ETMs) alongside a comprehensive digital ecosystem for the city's extensive bus network.

To initiate the project, Chalo will deliver about 11,000 smart ETMs, fully equipped with backend software and centralized ticketing platforms. As operational demands grow, BMTC expects this requirement to expand to nearly 15,000 devices over the contract's lifespan.

The agreement mandates Chalo to handle all operational maintenance, including server upkeep and software updates, for four years from the system's launch, with BMTC holding an option for a one-year extension. This decision follows BMTC's fourth attempt to finalize a comprehensive tender, replacing previous service providers to create a much more unified tech solution.

A major highlight of this partnership is the planned development of a dedicated mobile ticketing application for both iOS and Android users. Bus conductors will utilize the new handheld devices to seamlessly accept multiple payment methods, including UPI, debit cards,

BMTC awarded a ₹40cr contract to startup Chalo for 11,000 smart ticketing machines supporting UPI, cards, and NCMC across Bengaluru's buses'

Operating one of India's largest urban bus fleets, BMTC manages over 6,800 buses and facilitates roughly 60,000 daily trips. With an average daily ridership of more than 45 lakh passengers, this technological leap is expected to significantly reduce fare leakage. It will also streamline the daily commute for millions of Bengalureans, cementing the city's shift towards a completely cashless public transport ecosystem.

credit cards, and dynamic QR codes, while seamlessly logging traditional cash transactions.

Crucially, the upgraded system will fully support the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC). This long-awaited integration promises interoperability with the Bangalore Metro, finally allowing commuters to use a single mobility smart card across both of the city's transit networks.

The smart machines will feature thermal printers and securely transmit real-time ticket data to a centralized cloud-based monitoring platform for better analytics.

Whitefield Car Break-In: CCTV, Ride-Hailing Trail Lead to Arrest

BENGALURU

A late-night burglary in Bengaluru's eastern tech corridor turned into a dramatic arrest early Saturday after police tracked the suspect using CCTV footage and a ride-hailing trail.

According to the Bengaluru City Police, the incident occurred around 1:40 a.m. in a gated apartment complex in Whitefield. Residents reported suspicious movement near the parking area after a luxury SUV's alarm went off. Security guards initially assumed it was a malfunction until a resident reviewing the building's CCTV feed noticed a masked man breaking into multiple cars.

Police said the suspect, identified as 28-year-old Pradeep Kumar from Kolar district, allegedly used a signal-jammer device to disable car alarms and steal valuables left inside vehicles. He reportedly escaped the apartment complex on a rented scooter booked through a ride-sharing app.

HC restores punishment against student in win for CBSE

CH NEWSBENGALURU

The High Court has restored punishment recommended by CBSE against a Class 12 student of a Bengaluru school who carried a mobile phone into exam hall, holding that even mere possession of a mobile phone attracts a stringent penalty under the revised CBSE guidelines. The student was found carrying a mobile phone 25 minutes after the physical education paper began during Class 12 board exam in February 2025. After the phone was detected, a fresh question paper was given to the student and he completed the exam. He was allowed to appear for the remaining papers.

Following an inquiry, CBSE, on May 28, 2025, directed the school to cancel the student's current as well as next year's examinations in all subjects for use of Unfair Means (UFM) in accordance with the amended guidelines.

The student claimed he had arrived late to the exam and entered the classroom in a hurry, unknowingly carrying a phone. The phone went unnoticed even during frisking.



He contended the device did not contain any material related to the examination, which was verified by the inquiry committee. The committee had recommended punishment under Category 3 of the earlier guidelines, which prescribed a comparatively lesser penalty. However, CBSE imposed punishment under the revised Category 3 guidelines with stricter action. High Court's single bench, on August 23, 2025, ruled in favour of the student, and CBSE filed an appeal. The bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha noted that during CBSE's 139th governing body meeting on June 24, 2024, the board had accepted the examination committee's recommendation to modify the

guidelines governing the use of mobile phones during board examinations. Earlier guidelines treated possession of copying material, including a mobile phone, under Category 1 with a relatively lenient view. Following the amendment, even mere possession of a mobile phone was placed under Category 3, which prescribes a stringent penalty. The bench noted that reading down a provision specifically moved from Category 1 to Category 3 by the governing body would not be appropriate in proceedings under Article 226 of the Constitution. Accordingly, the bench allowed the writ appeal filed by the CBSE and its Controller of Examinations and restored the punishment imposed on the student.

DCM DK Shivakumar Inaugurates Airbus Technology Centre

CH NEWS BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar inaugurated the Airbus Technology Centre at Whitefield. The inauguration of this centre marks the establishment of a hub promoting engineering, digital transformation, customer services, and procurement. With this, Airbus has further strengthened its foothold in India, particularly in Karnataka.

Speaking after the inauguration, the Deputy Chief Minister said, on February 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Airbus H125 helicopter manufacturing unit at Vemagal, and to-



day Karnataka has added yet another feather to its cap in the aerospace sector with this centre.

Today's event is not merely an inauguration, it is a celebration of the 17-year relationship between Bengaluru

and Airbus. Bengaluru is the hub of talent in the aerospace sector, and Airbus has made the right decision in choosing Bengaluru, he added.

Karnataka was the first state in the country to formulate a policy for the aerospace

sector, back in 2013. The Aerospace and Defence Policy for 2026-27 will take this to the next level, he noted.

An Aerospace Park has been developed over 2,000 acres in Devanahalli, making it one of the most significant aerospace industrial parks in the world. Aerospace Special Economic Zones are being established in Bengaluru, Belagavi, Mysuru, Tumakuru, and Chamaraanagar, he said.

Bengaluru is not just a city of talented human resources, but also one with a fine culture and climate. It has excelled in innovation, technology, research, and all other fields. ru. Our government

Bengaluru Sees High UV Even Without Heat wave

CH NEWS BENGALURU

Even before the peak summer months set in, parts of south India are witnessing an unusual rise in Ultraviolet (UV) radiation levels. In Bengaluru, a relatively moderate maximum temperature of 32°C recorded was accompanied by a sharp spike in UV radiation.

The city's afternoon UV Index climbed to 13, classified as "extreme" under World Health Organization (WHO) standards. Weather officials



said the sudden surge in UV levels, rather than the temperature itself, was the more worrying development. The rapid jump in UV levels from

10 to 13 in under two days, has raised concern among experts.UV intensity is influenced largely by the thickness of the ozone layer, which acts

as a protective shield by absorbing much of the Sun's harmful radiation.

Avoid direct sunlight between 11am and 3pm, when UV radiation is at its strongest. Wear sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher and reapply every 2-3 hours if outdoors. Use protective clothing such as full-sleeve shirts, caps or wide-brimmed hats. Wear UV-protection sunglasses to prevent eye damage. Stay well hydrated by drinking plenty of water and fluids. Seek shade whenever possi-

ble, especially during peak afternoon hours. Avoid prolonged outdoor work or exercise during extreme UV conditions. Watch for signs of sunburn, dizziness, dehydration or heat exhaustion and seek rest immediately are some of the precautions to be taken during high UV radiation Sunburn and skin irritation after even short periods in direct sunlight premature skin ageing, including wrinkles and pigmentation, eye damage, such as irritation and long-term vision problems.

QUICK READ

**DK Shivakumar to leave for Delhi soon after CM presents budget**

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Following Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's budget presentation, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar will undertake a visit to Delhi on Sunday. DK Shivakumar will inaugurate various development works in Chittapur, Kalaburagi, represented by Priyank Kharge. After the inauguration, he will travel from Kalaburagi to Delhi with AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge. It is said that he is going to Delhi for some work in the Irrigation Department. However, it is quite curious that DKSH is going to Delhi with the AICC president right after the budget presentation.

West Asia conflict, imports of dry fruits hit, prices of spices rise

BENGALURU
The conflict in West Asia has also affected the transportation of dry fruits, dates and spices. This has led to a fluctuation in the import of dry fruits from Iran to Bengaluru, leading to an increase in prices. The joint US-Israeli attack on Iran and Iran's counter-attack on US allies in the Gulf countries have led to tensions in the Gulf countries and West Asia. India's imports of dried fruits and dates from there have been disrupted. Dates and dry fruits, which are in high demand during Ramadan, are imported from Gulf countries including Iran. We now have enough stock for 15 to 20 days. Dates, dry fruits and spices are imported to India through Iran's Abbas port. There is no activity going on there now, said Mohammed Idaris Chaudhary, President of Cantonment Fruits and Dry Fruits Merchants' Association.

Accident near Anekal, two seriously injured

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Two persons were seriously injured in a road accident near Alliance College near Anekal on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Saturday. The car was taking a U-turn and was hit by another car coming from Chandapur. A car overturned on the road due to the collision. Another car hit a divider. The cars were crushed by the severity of the accident and the injured were admitted to the hospital. Anekal police visited the spot and conducted an inquiry into the incident.

Cybercrime is not limited to any geographical area: HM

Karnataka is not just a state. It is a global brand. When the world looks at Bengaluru, it will see the future of innovation. .

BENGALURU

Karnataka has the most secure digital system in the world, said Home Minister Dr G Parameshwar. He was speaking while inaugurating the 3rd annual Cyber Crime Investigation Summit 'CIDECODE' organized by the CID and Cyber Crime Investigation Training and Research Centre at a private hotel in the city.

The Karnataka government has taken stringent measures to curb cyber crimes by setting up specialized cyber crime units with the necessary skills, training and technology to investigate cyber attacks and collect digital evidence. A total of 43 CEN police stations have been set up in all districts and major cities of Karnataka. He said that our government is committed to providing cyber security to our citizens.

He said that our government has created a conducive environment for the ecosystem of cyber security startups,



with diverse companies specializing in various sectors such as artificial intelligence, cyber security, cloud computing, cyber security compliance and risk management.

It is a collaborative and good effort to continuously collaborate and undertake initiatives with the private sector and international organizations to provide greater digital security to citizens. Such interactions of experience and

expertise will be helpful in addressing the rapidly changing cyber threat landscape. He opined that darkweb activities, cryptocurrency tracking, financial fraud prevention, strengthening digital forensic laboratories are more relevant and timely.

The establishment of CCITR in the state has greatly contributed to strengthening cyber crime investigation, enhancing research capacity and

equipping our police officers with advanced technical skills. He said that the research publications and capacity building initiatives emerging from this center are making a meaningful contribution to the cyber policing system.

He said that the Cyber Crime Investigation Training and Research Centre has trained more than 62,000 people, including state police officers and personnel and members of various state and central agencies.

Cyber crime is not limited to any geographical area. It is a borderless, technology-based and constantly evolving crime. From financial frauds and crypto currency, to dark web-based drug networks and data breaches, the scale of threats is increasing rapidly. He said that these challenges need to be addressed not only with technical capabilities but also organizationally by strengthening laws.

Budget, Pressing AI accelerator to boost farming, education

**CH NEWS BENGALURU**

From AI-powered support systems for farmers and personalised digital tutors for students to new research centres and robotics hubs, the state government is expanding its AI ecosystem while aiming to make the technology accessible beyond Bengaluru. Planning to adopt AI to reach out to farmers at the grassroots level, the govt announced that the existing 'Raitha Kare Kendra' (farmer service centre) will be upgraded using AI tech.

The upgraded call centres will provide farmers with quick and reliable information on a range of agricultural inputs, including weather forecasts, market prices, farming technologies and govt schemes, all available through a single digital platform designed to improve accessibility and responsiveness. Further, in a bid to make learning a more engaging and enjoyable experience for school students, the CM announced the introduction of AI-driven learning tools across schools in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Dharwad.

According to officials from the IT and BT department, the collaboration will help develop a personalised

Seeking to strengthen Karnataka's position as the country's leading technological hub by leveraging the burgeoning wave of Artificial Intelligence (AI), chief Minister Siddaramaiah unveiled a series of new initiatives aimed at accelerating the adoption of AI across sectors.

self-learning digital tutor powered by AI, giving students the feeling of having a personal tutor by their side and helping improve learning outcomes. Costing about Rs 5 crore, the project is expected to benefit nearly 12.3 lakh students from classes 8 to 12, and is likely to help them solve tricky mathematics problems, simplify complex science concepts, and better understand difficult lessons through customised digital assistance. With the aim of strengthening the AI research and innovation ecosystem in the state, the government also proposed the setting up of the Bangalore Robotics and AI Innovation Zone (BRAINz) at the AI and Robotics Technology Park (ART-PARK) under the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), in collaboration with Isro and the state-owned Keonics.

CM criticizes Modi over LPG price hike, demands resignation

CH NEWS BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has lashed out at the central government, saying that Modi, who is tarnishing the country's reputation globally, should resign.

Sharing on his X account, he said that the increase in LPG prices will be costly for middle-class families. This increase is not an inevitable measure. India's poor and middle-class families are suffering from inflation and price hikes. At this time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has expressed anger that the increase in LPG cylinder prices is like a kick to the ground.

The increase in the price of domestic cylinders by about Rs 60 will make the cost of living of poor and middle class families more expensive. This increase is not an inevitable step, it is the result of a foreign policy that mistakenly considered surrender as the country's strategy.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that by nodding his head in silence to America, India's strategic independence has been placed at the feet of another country.

He has ruined India's long-standing energy partnerships with countries like Russia and Iran. The Prime Minister seems to have forgotten that these are countries that have ensured energy security for Indians for decades. According to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Foreign policy is a consequence of economic policy. Nehru's warning, given seven or eight decades ago, has come true literally today.

When diplomacy be-

comes a spectacle rather than a strategy, the poor and the middle class inevitably suffer. In his recent book, former Army Chief General MM Naravane raised serious concerns about the lack of institutional consultation and strategic understanding in India's foreign policy decisions. He said this confirms the suspicion that the Prime Minister lacks a fundamental understanding of diplomatic posture and its economic implications.

India's current foreign policy failure shows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's fear of the Epstein files and his ignorance in diplomatic decisions. Let the Prime Minister explain why crores of Indians should pay the price for his diplomatic failure. Modi, who is tarnishing the country's reputation globally, should publicly apologize to the people of the country and resign, he has been asked.

HC orders notification to increase Kappathagudda Wildlife Sanctuary

CH NEWS BENGALURU

The High Court has directed the state government to issue a fresh notification increasing the area of the Kappathagudda Wildlife Sanctuary to 300 square kilometers, as per the resolution passed in the 11th meeting of the Karnataka State Wildlife Board (KSWB) in January 2019. A bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha dismissed the petition and passed this order while hearing petitions filed by

Sivaganga Stone Crushing Industries and others, which were carrying out crushing on patta land in the ecologically sensitive zone of the forest, challenging the declaration of 244.15 square kilometers of the Kappathagudda forest as a sensitive area. Also, the KSWB has unanimously decided to declare the entire 300 sq km of Kappathagudda as a wildlife sanctuary. However, in the notification issued on May 16, 2019, only 244.15 sq km of the area has been declared as a wildlife sanctuary.

HONOUR FOR ACHIEVEMENT

Graduation parade of technical officers held in city

CH NEWS BENGALURU

The spectacular ceremonial Passing-Out-Parade (POP) of 106 Aeronautical Engineering Course (AEC) was held at Air Force Technical College (AFTC) on Saturday, in the august presence of dignitaries, officials, air warriors, parents and air veterans. The parade embodied the successful culmination of 62 weeks of rigorous training of 106 AEC. A total of 108 Engineering Officers including 9 officers from Friendly Foreign Countries passed out from the College with flying colours.

Air Marshal Sanjiv Ghuratia, Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance, Air Headquarters and Commodore Commandant AFTC graced the occasion



as the Chief Guest and Reviewing Officer (RO) of the graduation parade. On arrival, the Reviewing Officer was received by Air Commodore K Giri, Commandant of the College. The parade was marked by a spectacular flypast and mesmerizing sky diving demonstration by 'Air Devils' team of Indian Air Force. The 'Air Warrior Drill Team (AWDT)' presented an entrancing performance for the

audience. The RO awarded trophies and medallions to the officers who excelled in the course. The prestigious 'Sword of Honour' for first in order of merit was awarded to Flying Officer Chandra Chud Rai and the 'President's Plaque' for the best officer in professional subjects and General Service Training was awarded to Flying Officer Amartya Singh. The 'Chief of Air Staff Medals' for being first in the order of merit in Electronics and Mechanical Streams were awarded to Flying Officer Prashant Pandey and Flying Officer Ingavale Rushikesh Jagannath respectively. The Air Marshal addressed the gathering and congratulated the graduating officers. He emphasized that Engineering

56-Year-Old Woman Rescued After Falling Into 25-Foot Pit During Morning Walk

CH NEWS BENGALURU

A shocking incident was reported in Bengaluru where a 56-year-old woman accidentally fell into a deep pit while she had gone out for a walk. The incident took place yesterday in the Chandralayout area of the city, close to Nagarbhavi Park.

The woman, identified as Sudha Parimala, had stepped out of her house in the morning for her usual walk. However, when she did not return home even by night, her family members began to worry.



Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka



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

Geo-Fencing Based mVahan Fitness Mobile Application Implemented in 66 RTO Offices in Karnataka

- 1 To avoid discrepancies in issuing Fitness Certificates for Commercial (Transport) Vehicles, registered in the State of Karnataka the Transport Department has implemented a Geo-Fencing based mVahan Fitness Mobile Application in all 66 RTO offices across Karnataka
- 2 The objective of the mVahan Fitness Mobile Application is to bring greater transparency and accountability in the vehicle fitness certification process across all RTO offices in the State and this initiative will increase the confidence of vehicle owners and the general public
- 3 The new system is introduced in order to eliminate all probable loopholes and to ensure Fitness Certificates issued only after proper inspection of vehicles
- 4 In Karnataka, there are more than 30 lakh registered commercial (transport) vehicles and frequent complaints were received regarding lack of unified & transparency system in issue of Fitness Certificates.
- 5 In this regard, new mVahan Fitness Mobile Application developed by NIC has been implemented



Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Muzrai Department
Shri Ramalinga Reddy
Participating in the Department's Event

- 6 With the aid of this application, Geo-Fencing technology ensures that vehicles are inspected only at designated inspection locations of the respective RTO offices
- 7 Vehicle inspection will take place as per the provisions of Motor Vehicle Act and Rules framed there under, only after the vehicle physically enters the designated inspection location.
- 8 During the inspection process, six photographs of the vehicle will be mandatorily captured and only after verification in the application, Vehicle Fitness Certificate will be issued
- 9 Apart from the designated inspection locations, there will be no provision to issue Fitness Certificates elsewhere
- 10 Registering Authorities have been instructed to conduct re-inspection of at least 20% of the vehicles that apply for fitness certificates.
- 11 The mVahan Fitness Mobile Application has been implemented in some states in the country and is currently being implemented in the State of Karnataka.
- 12 This system will help in reducing road accidents and enhance overall road safety.
- 13 The long-standing concerns and complaints regarding the vehicle fitness certification system will be effectively addressed through this initiative



Sd/-
Commissioner
Transport & Road Safety



QUICK READ



Public help sought to trace missing senior citizen

Chitradurga
Holalkere Police have registered a case after 80-year-old Gowdappa, from Kamasamudra village, went missing. He is about 5 feet tall, with a round face, medium build, reddish complexion, and a white bushy beard. At the time, he wore a white full-sleeved shirt, white panche, and blue towel, and speaks Kannada. The police and local authorities are urging anyone with information to come forward immediately. People can contact Holalkere Police (08191-275233), Circle Inspector (08191-275376), DSP Office (08194-222430), or District Control Room (08194-222782) to report sightings.

Chikkaballapur launches program to promote Khadi

Chikkaballapur
To raise awareness about Khadi products, Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu inaugurated a temporary Khadi store at Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday. The initiative encourages government employees to wear Khadi clothes on the first Saturday of every month and during national festivals. The program aims to respect indigenous products, strengthen national sentiment, support rural economy, and provide livelihood to Khadi weavers. The Khadi festival was celebrated with displays of Khadi products and participation from officials, including Municipal Commissioner Mansoor Ali Khan, District Khadi and Village Employment Officer K. Naresh, District Information Officer M. Junjanna, and staff from various departments.

Chitradurga marks World Social Justice Day

CHITRADURGA

Chitradurga city recently hosted a special program to celebrate World Social Justice Day, focusing on spreading awareness about the aspirations of the Indian Constitution. The event was held at Aadhar Bhavan under the joint organization of the District Legal Services Authority, District Administration, Bar Association, Zilla Panchayat, Social Welfare Department, and District Scheduled Castes Welfare Department. Honorable Principal District and Sessions Judge and Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority, Rona Vasudev, inaugurated the program and explained to students the wide scope of social justice and its importance in society. Additional District Collector B.T. Kumaraswamy presided over the program, highlighting

Applications open for one-month SC/ST training

CHIKKABALLAPUR

The Tourism Department has invited applications for a one-month skill development training to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the SCSP/TSP scheme for 2025-26. The program aims to help small entrepreneurs start mobile canteens with government-provided subsidies after training. A total of 13 candidates will be selected: 8 from Scheduled Castes and 5 from Scheduled Tribes. Training will be conducted through state and central hospitality institutions, with accommodation provided. Candidates must have passed 10th class, be between 20 and 45 years of age, and submit applications by March 13, 2026. Interested individuals can contact the Assistant Director, Tourism Department, Chikkaballapur, at 08156-277041 for details on eligibility, required documents, and queries. The program is expected to empower participants with practical entrepreneurial skills and support for self-employment.

Leaders stress harmony at historic Madahalli math event

Devotees and leaders attended Madahalli's Kanthe Math event, celebrating Sri Gurubudiswami's 397th worship and inaugurating renovated math facilities

HUNSUR

A large gathering of devotees and leaders attended a religious programme at the historic Madahalli where the Kanthe Math organised a special event to mark the 397th worship ceremony of Sri Gurubudiswami.

The programme was held in the presence of several spiritual leaders and public representatives. The event also included the inauguration of a new building of the math, the renovated hall of Sri Siddalinga Swami and the Basavawara entrance.

Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy said that religious institutions have played a major role in shaping society.



He said maths have helped educate people, support the poor and guide communities with values of love, faith and unity.

He noted that many maths across the state run educational institutions and social programmes. At the Madahalli

math, around 200 children are receiving education and guidance, he said. Kumaraswamy also spoke about social values, urging people to respect parents and elders and follow the principles of harmony taught in Indian culture. He said society must move forward while

preserving moral values.

Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar said the country has a long tradition of guru and math heritage. She added that such institutions have been serving society for centuries by supporting education, culture and social welfare.

MLA G. T. Harish Gowda said the Kanthe Math of Madahalli has a long and respected history in the region and continues to guide people through spiritual teachings and community service.

Several swamijis, elected representatives and community leaders also attended the programme and called for building a society based on equality, unity and human values.

Power outage scheduled across Chitradurga today

Chitradurga

The BESCOM authorities have announced a power disruption on March 8 due to emergency maintenance at the 220/66/11 KV Chitradurga Receiving Centre and aqueduct construction for the Bhadra Upper River Project by VJNL. Residents in Madanayakanahalli, C.B. Halli, Yelavarthi, Muddapura, Hosagollarahatti, Bangarakkanahalli, Rayanahalli, Surenahalli, Ainahalli, Thuruvanoor, Bormakanahalli, Koonabevu, Tavaenahalli, Doddaghatta, Kariyammanahatti, Kotehatti, Hunasekatte, Yelagode, Isamudra, Nellikatte, Kalagere, and nearby villages will experience outages from 10 am to 5 pm. Authorities urged the public to cooperate and plan accordingly during the maintenance.

Chitradurga Industries Officer Anand given warm farewell

CHITRADURGA

The Industries Department in Chitradurga on Saturday organized a warm farewell for B. Anand, Joint Director of the District Industrial Centre, following his transfer and new appointment in Bengaluru. He has been appointed as the Managing Director of Karnataka State Marketing Communication and Advertising Limited.

Anand served in Chitradurga district for the past four years and played a key role in promoting industrial development. During his tenure, he actively supported the establishment of small, medium, and large industries in the district. His efforts helped attract investments worth crores of rupees and created several employment opportunities for local people.

In recognition of his dedicated service, the government appointed him to the new post, which he has already taken charge of in Bengaluru.

Bheemgayana program spreads Ambedkar ideals among youth

CHITRADURGA

The "Bheemgayana" programme highlighting the life and ideals of B. R. Ambedkar was organised in the city to inspire the younger generation and spread awareness about constitutional values.

District Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authority President R. Shivanna Ganjigatte said that the struggles and sacrifices of Ambedkar have helped people in the country secure constitutional rights and live with dignity today. He said the younger generation must understand and adopt Ambedkar's principles in their lives. He was speaking after inaugurating the programme organised by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Information and Public Relations Department, Social Welfare Department and Scheduled Castes Welfare Department at Shivsharan Madara Channaiah Sabha Bhavan in Chitradurga.

Shivanna said the government has introduced several programmes under the slogan "Jai Babu, Jai

Bheem, Jai Samvidhan" to strengthen constitutional values. The Bheemgayana programme presents the life struggles and achievements of Ambedkar through songs and cultural performances, helping people understand his message.

He noted that untouchability once existed as a painful social practice, but Ambedkar's efforts and the Constitution helped remove such discrimination. The Constitution guarantees social security, economic equality and political rights to all citizens, along with freedom of religion and belief. Urban Development Authority Chairman Tajpir praised the government for selecting Chitradurga district for the programme. He suggested involving the Education Department and encouraging students from schools to participate so that Ambedkar's ideals reach more children.

During the event, singers presented songs on Ambedkar and Gautama Buddha. Officials and guests also paid floral tributes to portraits of Buddha, Basavanna and Ambedkar.

Karwar Lokayukta schedules open junk auction

KARWAR

The Karnataka Lokayukta office in Karwar has announced open auctions for old newspapers and unused office items. The auction for old newspapers will be held on March 24 at 12 noon. Useless furniture, spare parts of departmental vehicles, and tires and tubes will be auctioned on April 8 at 12 noon on the Lokayukta office premises. Interested buyers can participate in both auctions. The Superintendent of Police, Karnataka Lokayukta, has the authority to accept or reject bids. For more details, parties can contact 08382-295293, 222250, 222022, or 220198 during office hours.



Farmers demand Bhadra Project funds after protest

CHITRADURGA

Leaders of various organisations demanded immediate funds for the Bhadra Upper River Project and support for an ailing farmer leader during a meeting held at the Tourist Mandir in Chitradurga.

Speaking at the gathering, Basavanagideva Swamiji criticised the authorities for ignoring the hunger strike led by farmers' leader K. T. Thippeswamy. Thippeswamy had been on an indefinite fast since March 2 at Onake Obavva Circle demanding funds for the Bhadra Upper River Project. After fasting for five days, he reportedly fell ill and was admitted to a hospital.

Swamiji said the district administration should have convinced the protestors in the early stages. He added that it was unfortunate that a farmer leader fighting for water for the district had to fall sick before authorities responded.

He also said that providing water to farmers and residents of the district is an urgent need. Several organisations must now unite to demand both proper treatment for the ailing leader and funds to complete the project at the earliest.

Thinker J. Yadava Reddy said the district had been neglected by successive governments. He added that political leaders should have shown more commitment to the irrigation project.

Farmers' Association state working president Basava Reddy accused the district administration of treating the protest in an insensitive manner. He warned that state-level farmer leaders would soon visit the district and launch a larger struggle.

Several leaders, including Qasim Ali and Anil Kumar, said the authorities must bear the medical expenses and respond quickly to farmers' demands for water.

SURYODAY SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED		
Regd. & Corp. office : 1101, Sharda Terraces, Plot 65, Sector - 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400614. CIN: L65923MH2008PLC261472.		
APPENDIX -IV [Rule 8(1)] Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Under Section 13 (2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002		
Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the M/s. Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (ACT NO.54 OF 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to below mentioned Borrower/s / Guarantor/s. After completion of 60 days from date of receipt of the said notice, The Borrower/s / Guarantor/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s / Guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 6 & 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned herewith.		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	28-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 227000002840	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
1) MR. PARASHIVAMURTHY S S/O SHIVAMURTHY 2) MR. SHIVAMURTHY S/O PUTTAYIAH 3) MRS. PUTTATHAYAMMA W/O SHIVAMURTHY	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 5,06,803/- as on 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY BEARING T. DODDAPURA VILLAGE JANJAR NO. 129, PROPERTY NO. 129, PANCHAYATH UNIQUE NO. 15220070231/0000250, SITUATED AT T.DODDAPURA VILLAGE, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF T. DODDAPURA GRAMA PANCHAYATH, TALAKADA HOBLI, T. NARASIPURA TALUK, MYSORE DISTRICT, KARNATAKA 571124 MEASURING: E-W: 6.4008 METERS & N-S: 13.1064 METERS AND BOUNDED AS UNDER: EAST : HOUSE BELONGS TO BASAVARAJU & NANJUNDAIAH,NORTH : SITE BELONGS TO BASAVARAJU, WEST : HOUSE BELONGS TO DAASIRANGAIAH, SOUTH : ROAD		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000017658	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
1) MRS. NETHRAVATHI W/O MANJUNATHA 2) MR.MANJUNATH S/O MRANKASHETTI	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 5,40,875.69/- AS ON 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THE PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY BEARING OLD PROPERTY NO-17 NEW PROPERTY NO-152200102502000071 MEASURING EAST TO WEST-6.4008 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH-15.24 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT-97.548192 SQ. MTR. SITUATED AT NEEMNAHALI VILLAGE SARAGURU TALUK MYSORE DISTRICT-571121, BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: EAST: ROAD, WEST: HOUSE OF SOMASHETTY,NORTH: ROAD,SOUTH: HOUSE OF VENKATESHA		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 239000001830	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
1) MR. RAJESH C S/O S C BEEDI CHANA BASAVIAH 2) MRS. MAHADEVAMMA W/O RAJESH	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 6,37,423.00/- AS ON 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE RCC & MANGALORE TILED HOUSE PROPERTY NO: 508/217, E-KATHA NO-150800300100600516 SITUATED AT TERAMBELLI VILLAGE, KOLLEGALA TO & CHAMARAJANAGAR DISTRICT. WITHIN THE LIMITS OF KUNTHURU GRAM PANCHAYATHI DURATION. WHICH IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:- EAST : THE GOVT ROAD, WEST : THE HOUSE OF BHATTAMMA W/O PUTTAMDAIAH,SOUTH : THE PATHWAY, NORTH : THE SITE OF APPLICANT		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 227000002657	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
1) MRS. NANJAPPA B S/O SHIVAPPA 2) MRS. GOWRAMMA W/O SHIVAPPA 3) MR. MANJUNATHA B S S/O SHIVAPPA	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 4,65,891.00/- AS ON 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY E SWOTHU KATHA 11B, PROPERTY BEARING NO.28A, PID NO.151600701000300389, MEASURING EAST TO WEST 7.01040000 METERS AND NORTH TO SOUTH 9.144 METERS THE SAID PROPERTY SITUATED AT BETTADASATHENAHALLI VILLAGE, HOLENARSIPURA TALUK, HASSAN DISTRICT AND BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: EAST: HOUSE OF RUDRAPPA,WEST: HOUSE OF IRAPPA AND HEMALATHA,SOUTH: HOUSE OF SHILPA,NORTH: ROAD.		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 2590000058203	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
1) MRS. NAGENDRA P S/O PUTTASUBBASSETTY 2) MR. PUTTASUBBASSETTY S/O PUTTAMADASHETTY 3) MRS. BANGARAMMA W/O PUTTASIDDASSETTY	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 4,76,018.40/- AS ON 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE MANGALORE TILED HOUSE PROPERTY NO.-76 E-KATH: NO-150800103700100074 SITUATE VEERANAPURA VILLAGE, CHAMARAJANAGARA TO & DISTRICT. WITHIN THE LIMITS OF NANJEDDEVANAPURA GRAMA PANCHAYATHI DURATION, WHICH IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:- EAST: THE HOUSE OF BHAGYAMMA, WEST : THE ROAD,SOUTH : THE HOUSE OF SHAMBHULINGAPPA,NORTH : ROAD.		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 227000005202	Date of NPA	06-03-2025
1) MRS. MANJULA W/O LAKSHMAN NAYAKA 2) . LAKSHMAN NAYAKA S/O BORANAYKA	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 2,71,392.00/- AS ON 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF RESIDENTIAL HOUSE BEARING OLD NO-87/1 NEW PROPERTY NO-152200201510602003 MEASURING EAST TO WEST-4.60 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH-12.20 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT-56.12 SQ. MTR SITUATED AT M.R.HOOSHALI VILLAGE HANAGODU HOBLI HUNSUR TALUK MYSORE DISTRICT-571105 BOUNDARIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:EAST: PROPERTY OF CHANDRANAYAKA, WEST : GALLI & PROPERTY OF VASANTHEGWODA SOUTH : GALLI AND PROPERTY OF THAMMANAYAKA,NORTH : ROAD.		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 227000004849	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
1) MRS. KEMPAMMA D/O MOORI CHIKKANDALA 2) MRS. GIRISH S/O SHIVAIHA	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 4,52,541/- AS ON 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THE PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY BEARING KATHA 9 AND 11A, PROPERTY BEARING NO. 152200541052020323, SITUATED AT HALLERE VILLAGE, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF HALLERE GRAMA PANCHAYATH, HULLAHALLI HOBLI, NANJANGUD TALUK, MYSURU DISTRICT, MEASURING: EAST- WEST: 9.448A METERS, & NORTH-SOUTH: 6.4008 METERS, TOTAL MEASUREMENT 60.48 SQ. METER, AND BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:EAST BY: HOUSE OF MAHADEVAIAH, WEST BY : HOUSE OF CHENNAIAH,NORTH BY : HOUSE OF MARIPILLAIH,SOUTH BY : ROAD		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 2390000055420	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
1) MRS. GOWRAMMA W/O MADESHU 2) MR.MADESHUS/O MAHADEVAIAH	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 3,02,749.61/- AS ON 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE MANGLORE TILED HOUSE BEARING PROPERTY NO:- 730, E-KATHA NO: 150800400800100996 SITUATED AT MADDURU VILLAGE, YALANDURU TALUK, CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT KARNATAKA 571441, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF MADDURU GRAM PANCHAYATHI DURATION AND BOUNDED AS UNDER:EAST: THE HOUSE OF SANNAADAIAH ,NORTH: THE ROAD ,WEST: THE ROAD,SOUTH: THE OWN SITE		
Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	25-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 239000002322	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
1) MRS. HOMBAKKA W/O JAYANNA 2) MR. UMESHA S/O JAYANNA	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 2,94,794/- AS ON 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY E-SWOTHU KATHA 9 AND 11A, PROPERTY BEARING NO. 273/262 PID NO. 152100204100100665 MEASURING EAST TO WEST 9.44 METERS AND NORTH TO SOUTH 13.716000000000001 METERS THE SAID PROPERTY SITUATED AT BORAPURA VILLAGE, MADDUR TALUK, MANDYA DISTRICT, KARNATAKA 571428, AND BOUNDED AS UNDER: EAST: ROAD,NORTH: ROAD,WEST: PROPERTY OF VENKATASWAMY,SOUTH: PROPERTY OF DODDAGANGAIAH		
If the said Borrower, Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) fails to make payment to SSFBL as aforesaid, SSFBL shall be entitled to take possession of the secured asset mentioned above and shall take such other actions as is available to the Company in law, entirely at the risks, cost and consequences of the borrowers. The said Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) are prohibited under the provision of sub section (13) of section 13 of SARFAESI Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise referred to in the notice without prior consent of SSFBL. Place: Karnataka Date: 25-02-2026 Sd/- Authorized Officer, For Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited		

QUICK READ



Punjab Cabinet Approves Guru Teg Bahadur University

CHANDIGARH
The Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday approved setting up a world-class university named after Guru Teg Bahadur at Anandpur Sahib. The Cabinet cleared the draft bill for the Sri Guru Teg Bahadur World Class University, which will be placed in the Assembly. It also approved the Industrial and Business Development Policy 2026 and recruitment of 1,158 Assistant Professors and Librarians in government colleges. The new policy aims to boost industries, create jobs, improve infrastructure and strengthen Punjab's economic growth.

Gujarat ATS Busts Illegal Drug Export Racket

AHMEDABAD
The Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad has uncovered an illegal network exporting the anaesthetic drug Etomidate to Southeast Asian countries. One person has been detained, while two others are still being searched. Officials said the drug was falsely labelled and sent through courier services to buyers in Malaysia and Thailand using air cargo from Mumbai Airport. The investigation began after ATS officer Harsh Upadhyay received secret information. Customs officials and courier company FedEx were alerted, and suspicious parcels were stopped.

PM Modi Defends Speaker Om Birla Amid Removal Row

Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly defended Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla amid Opposition demand for his removal

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday strongly defended Om Birla, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, praising his dedication to the Constitution and parliamentary system. His remarks came two days before the House is expected to discuss an Opposition resolution seeking Birla's removal over allegations that he acted in a partisan manner during debates.

Speaking through a video message during the foundation stone ceremony of Kota Airport and the launch of several drinking water projects in Kota, Modi said that once a member becomes Speaker, he stands above party politics. He added that Birla leads the



House by carrying everyone together and maintaining respect for all members.

The Prime Minister compared the Speaker's role to that of a patient teacher who calmly handles difficult situations. He said Birla manages members with patience even when they behave rudely or

make harsh remarks. Modi added that the Speaker continues to smile and maintain dignity in the House despite facing criticism.

Meanwhile, the political tension has increased ahead of the debate. The Bharatiya Janata Party issued a three-line whip directing all its MPs to

remain present in the Lok Sabha on March 9 and 10. The instruction was signed by party Chief Whip Sanjay Jaiswal, asking members to support the government during important legislative business.

The Opposition's demand to remove Birla gained strength after heated arguments in Parliament related to the unpublished memoirs of former Army Chief General M. M. Naravane. Opposition leaders claim the Speaker showed bias during discussions, an allegation strongly rejected by the ruling side.

With the second phase of the Budget Session beginning Monday, Parliament is preparing for a tense and closely watched debate.



Iran Defends Independence After US, Israel Attacks

NEW DELHI

Abdul Majid Hakim Elahi, the representative in India of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Hosseini Khamenei, said Iran will firmly defend its independence and dignity after what he described as attacks by the United States and the "Zionist regime," referring to Israel.

Elahi said the country has been forced into a defensive position due to what he called unjust aggression. He said Iran did not want the present situation but had no choice except to protect its land, morality and national independence.

Elahi said the current tensions have made neighbouring countries realise that foreign powers cannot guarantee long-term security in the region. According to him, many countries now believe they must solve their own problems without depending on

outside military forces. He also said the presence of American military bases in several regional countries has not provided the stability those nations expected. Elahi claimed that despite spending billions of dollars and hosting foreign troops, regional states are beginning to understand that real security must come from within their own cooperation. Speaking about ties between India and Iran, Elahi said the two countries share strong historical and cultural bonds that date back nearly 3,000 years, including links in tradition, philosophy and civilisation. He admitted that the current conflict has disturbed trade, energy routes and oil exchanges between the nations. However, he expressed confidence that these disruptions are temporary and said regional cooperation and strong diplomatic and economic relations will continue once tensions ease.

Kota Airport Project Launched, PM Modi Hails Progress

JAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday addressed the foundation stone ceremony of the Kota-Bundi Greenfield Airport through a video message, calling the occasion a day of new hope and achievement for the Hadoti region. The event also marked the launch of major drinking water projects in Rajasthan.

The Prime Minister said the development initiatives would accelerate growth and create new opportunities for people in the region.

Modi recalled his recent visit to Ajmer where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for projects worth thousands of crores aimed at boosting the state's progress. On that occasion, appointment letters were also distributed to

more than 21,000 youths of Rajasthan. He said the launch of two major development programmes within a week shows the rapid pace of development in the state. Modi also highlighted the importance of Kota, describing it as a major centre of education and energy. The Prime Minister mentioned the region's famous products and heritage such as Kota Kachori, Kota Doria,

Kota Stone and several religious sites around the city.

Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, said residents of the region had demanded an airport for many years and that the Prime Minister's promise to build it has now been fulfilled. He noted that the area already has strong road and rail links, and air connectivity will further speed up development.

Army Hosts Drone Innovation Meet With Academia Industry

JAIPUR : The Indian Army organised an academia-industry interaction on drone innovation in Jaipur as part of the Military-Civil Fusion Abhiyan. The programme was conducted by the Battle Axe Division of the Southern Command to promote cooperation between the armed forces, academic institutions and industry in defence technology development. More than 50 representatives from Dronum Aviation Ltd, academic institutions and the Army took part in the event. The meeting created a platform to discuss advancements in drone technology, skill development and modern defence systems required for future operations. Participants discussed ways to connect research, innovation and industry expertise with the technological needs of the armed forces. Special focus was given to unmanned aerial systems, counter-drone technologies and multi-domain operational capabilities that are becoming important in modern warfare.

TVK Chief Vijay Announces Welfare Promises For Women In Tamil Nadu

MAMALLAPURAM

Actor-turned-politician Vijay, president of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, announced a series of welfare promises focused on women, children and senior citizens while addressing a large gathering during a International Women's Day celebration in Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu.

Speaking at the event organised by the party, Vijay said that women's empowerment, safety and economic security would be among the top priorities if his party comes to power

in the State. He unveiled several initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for women and strengthening family welfare.

Among the key announcements was the creation of a separate government department dedicated to women, children and senior citizens. Vijay said the department would function under his direct supervision to ensure the effective implementation of welfare schemes. In a major financial support proposal, he promised



a monthly assistance of Rs 2,500 for women aged 60 and above, excluding those employed in government service.

Vijay also introduced the "Annapoorna Super Six" scheme, under which every family would receive six free LPG cylinders annually to reduce household expenses and support women managing family kitchens.

To encourage education, he announced an annual scholarship of Rs 15,000 for mothers

or guardians of students studying from Class 1 to Class 12, aimed at preventing school dropouts.

Vijay announced that under the "Vetri Yatra" initiative, women would travel free in government buses across Tamil Nadu. He also proposed the "Rani Velu Nachiyar Sena," with 500 teams for women's safety, subsidy loans up to Rs 5 lakh for women entrepreneurs, and the "Thai Maman Gold Ring Scheme" for newborns, stressing commitment to women's empowerment and security.

India's Rise Will Be Driven By Its Own Strength



NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday said India's global rise will be decided by its own strength and capabilities. Speaking at the Raisina Dialogue, he said the country's growth depends on domestic resilience, resources and consistent efforts, not on the mistakes of other nations.

Jaishankar said India's position in the Indian Ocean gives it a unique responsibility to support the development of the region. He said building a strong regional identity requires practical projects, cooperation and long-term commitments. According to him, India's growth will benefit many countries around the Indian Ocean.

He added that the region is gradually recovering and rebuilding trade links, connectivity and cooperation after years of challenges. Indian diplomacy, he said, has actively worked over the last decade to strengthen ties and encourage development

across the region. Jaisankar also spoke about recent tensions in the Indian Ocean involving Iranian naval vessels. He called the sinking of the Iranian ship IRIS Dena by the United States unfortunate.

The vessel was returning after participating in a fleet review in India.

In contrast, India allowed another Iranian ship, IRIS Lavan, to dock in Kochi after it reported technical problems. The ship had taken part in the International Fleet Review and MILAN 2026 naval exercise. India approved its docking on humanitarian grounds after receiving a request from Iran. Jaishankar also highlighted concerns about the safety of merchant ships in conflict zones. He noted that many Indians work on global cargo vessels and their safety must remain a priority. He added that India also considers the welfare of nearly ten million Indians living in Gulf countries while shaping its foreign policy.

MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI
Ph.08472-278675, Flax No.08472-260776, E-mail: itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com
No: KMP/EE/TS-02/15th FC/2025-26 Date : 07.03.2026

Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Tender Notification No: /2025-26
1) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike Kalaburagi invites 24 tenders as per KTPP Act. 1999 and Rules, 2000 through KPPP Portal 2.0 for works in KW-1,2,3,4 Tender bid documents under 15th FC 2024-25 Savings and 15th FC 2024-25 & 2025-26 Change of Work & 15th FC 2025-26 Grant for 15 Days Tender. The bid documents can download from KPPP Portal website and any information related to these tenders will be updated on www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
2) Estimate Sanction cost : lowest amount Rs. 4.00 lakhs & highest amount Rs. 121.00 lakhs
3) EMD Value : Lowest Rs. 5,200.00 & Highest Rs.1,87,700.00, 4) Pre bid Meeting date: 25.03.2026 upto 11.00 am, 5) Last date of bid submission 25.03.2026 upto 4.30 pm, 6) Technical Bid Opening date : 26.03.2026 upto 4.35 pm, 7) Financial Bid opening date: 27.03.2026 after 11.30 am, 7) Office address: Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagar Palike, Kalaburagi, 8) For more details visit office website <http://www.kalaburagicity.mrc.gov.in/> Note: All subsequent corrigendum/amendment shall be published only on website and not in press. Hence, tenderers are advoised to always be in touch with our said website until the tender is finally opened.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike,
Kalaburagi.
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1146/Deshpande Publicity/2025-26

SURYODAY
A BANK OF SPILS

SURYODAY SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
Regd. & Corp. office : 1101, Sharda Terraces, Plot 65, Sector - 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400614. CIN: L65923MH2008PLC261472.

APPENDIX -IV [Rule 8(1)] Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Under Section 13 (2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002
Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the M/s. Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (ACT NO.54 OF 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to below mentioned Borrower/s / Guarantor/s. After completion of 60 days from date of receipt of the said notice, The Borrower/s / Guarantor/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s / Guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 6 & 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned herewith.

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	26-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 2259000084943	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
1) MR. GOPALASHETTY S/O SIDDASHETTY 2) MRS. MANGALAMMA S/O GOPALASHETTY	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 4,22,803.51/- as on 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE RCC HOUSE PROPERTY BEARING: KHATHA ASSESSMENT NO.-120A, PID NO-150800201500220182, SITUATED AT ANNURKERI VILLAGE, GUNDLUPETE TALUK, CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT. WITHIN THE LIMITS OF ANNUR GRAM PANCHAYATHI DURATION. EAST- WEST 8.68 MTRS AND NORTH-SOUTH 9.14 MTRS. TOTAL BUILDING 190.52 SQ METERS, TOTAL BUILDING MEASUREMENT 79.33 SQ METERS.BOUNDED AS UNDER: EAST: THE HOUSE OF SHIVAMMA NORTH : THE GOVT WATER DIG (HALL), WEST : THE HOUSE OF MANJULA.SOUTH : THE CONSERVANCY		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Symbolic Position Date	26-02-2026
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 249000164279	Date of NPA	08-11-2025
1) MR. A SRIKANTANAYKA S/O ANKANAYAKA 2) MR. ANKANAYAKA S/O BELLANAYAKA 3) MR. MANGALAMMA S/O KULLANAYAKA	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 7,24,450.58/- as on 13.11.2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THE PIECE AND PARCEL OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY MANGALORE TILED HOUSE PROPERTY NO:- 526 E-KATHA NO- 150800104100100822 SITUATED AT THAMMADAHALLI VILLAGE CHAMARAJANAGARA TO & DISTRICT. WITHIN THE LIMITS OF NANUDEVANAPURA GRAMA PANCHAYATHI DURATION MEASUREMENT EIW- 9.144 METERS AND NS- 12.192 METERS AND TOTAL PLOT AREA MEASUREMENT 111.48 SQ. METERS AND TOTAL BUILDING AREA MEASUREMENT 111.48 SQ. METERS.BOUNDED AS UNDER:EAST: THE BASEMENT OF RAMACHANDRANAIIKA,NORTH: THE PROPERTY OF MADASHETTY,WEST: THE PROPERTY OF KALANAIIKA,SOUTH : THE ROAD.		

If the said Borrower, Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) fails to make payment to SSFBL as aforesaid, SSFBL shall be entitled to take possession of the secured asset mentioned above and shall take such other actions as is available to the Company in law, entirely at the risks, cost and consequences of the borrowers.
The said Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) are prohibited under the provision of sub section (13) of section 13 of SARFAESI Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise referred to in the notice without prior consent of SSFBL.
Place: Karnataka Date: 25-02-2026 Sd/- Authorized Officer, For Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Tree Officer and Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Forest Wing, Annex 03 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru

No.: DCF/PR-753/2025-26 **Date: 07.03.2026**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the Citizens of Bengaluru that the Executive Engineer (Ele), Project Division, South, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru has submitted an application to the undersigned for removal of trees standing inside the premises of existing 400/220 kV Hoody Sub-Station, Bengaluru for "Strengthening of inner ring of 220kV transmission network in Bengaluru City". The details are given below:

Name of the Project	Strengthening of inner ring of 220kV transmission network in Bengaluru City which includes running 220 kV 1200 sqmm UG Cable from 400/220 kV Hoody to 220/66 kV EDC Substation for a route length of 13.93 kms and running 220kV 1200 sqmm UG cable from 220/66kV Koramangala to 220/66kV EDC substation for route length of 4.683 kms on total turnkey basis including supply of all materials/equipment, mandatory spares, erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipment, testing and commissioning.			
Name of the Agency	The Executive Engineer (Ele), Project Division, South, KPTCL, Bengaluru.			
Purpose for removal of trees	The trees are standing inside the premises of existing 400/220 kV Hoody Sub-Station, Bengaluru for "Strengthening of inner ring of 220kV transmission network in Bengaluru City which includes running 220 kV 1200 sqmm UG Cable from 400/220 kV Hoody to 220/66 kV EDC Substation for a route length of 13.93 kms and running 220kV 1200 sqmm UG cable from 220/66kV Koramangala to 220/66kV EDC substation for route length of 4.683 kms on total turnkey basis including supply of all materials/equipment, mandatory spares, erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipment, testing and commissioning, Bengaluru.			
Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS coordinates	Boundary	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Location
	1	12° 59' 38"	77° 42' 48"	Premises of existing 400/220 kV Hoody Sub-Station, Hoody, Bengaluru
	2	12° 59' 38"	77° 42' 50"	
	3	12° 59' 40"	77° 42' 50"	
	4	12° 59' 41"	77° 42' 49"	
Enumeration of Trees Total No. of trees standing in the project area	340 Nos (Annexure-1)	Description of Trees, Species, Location, Area, etc., are uploaded in the website of GBA for information of all. (www.bbmp.gov.in)		
Mode of communication of comments * (Public can send their comments either by E-mail / Post / Hand)	Address: a. The Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer, GBA, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002. E-mail Id: dcfbbmp12@gmail.com b. The Executive Engineer (Ele), Project Division, South, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru. E-mail id: eebbmwsd@gmail.com * * A Copy of the comments communicated directly to the EE (Ele), Project Division, should also be marked to the Tree-Officer / DCF, GBA			
Deadline for filing objections	Ten (10) days from the date of Publication of this notification in Newspaper. * Objections/Comments/Suggestions should be relevant and specific to the project.			

In view of the above, the suggestions / objections / comments are invited from citizens under Section 8 (3) (vii) of the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act, 1976.
Sd/- Tree Officer & Deputy Conservator of Forests, GBA, Bengaluru

QUICK READ

Peace Hopes Dim in Pakistan-Afghanistan Conflict

Canberra

A new report says chances of a lasting solution to the conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan remain very low. Tensions have increased since the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in August 2021. The report states that Afghan troops attacked several Pakistani border posts on February 26 after Pakistan carried out airstrikes on Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) hideouts in Afghanistan earlier in February. Pakistan later bombed several locations in Kabul, Kandahar and other provinces. Pakistan's military said 274 Taliban fighters were killed and many injured. A previous ceasefire in October 2025 failed to bring lasting peace.

Frequent Fires Threaten Rohingya Refugee Camps Safety

Dhaka

Fire safety has become a serious problem in Rohingya refugee camps in southeast Bangladesh, according to a report. Aid groups often focus on emergency response, but the main causes of fires remain unresolved. Plans to build 50,000 semi-permanent, fire-resistant shelters were announced, but funding stopped after international aid cuts in early 2025. A report by Global Voices said that between May 2018 and December 2025, about 2,425 fires were recorded in the camps. These incidents affected more than 100,000 refugees and destroyed over 20,000 shelters. The report warns the crisis continues to worsen.

Balen's Party Gains Strong Lead In Nepal Vote

Kathmandu

The Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) is leading strongly in Nepal's elections under both the First-Past-the-Post and proportional representation systems. Early vote counting shows the party gaining more than 56 per cent of votes in the proportional system. By Saturday afternoon, the RSP secured 79,261 votes out of 141,079 counted. If the trend continues, the party could win close to a two-thirds majority in the 275-member House of Representatives. This is the strongest lead any party has recorded since the proportional system was introduced in Nepal in 2007.

Chinese Military Purges Raise Concerns Over Leadership Stability

A new report warns that ongoing purges inside China's military are creating uncertainty and raising concerns about leadership stability

BEIJING

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) is facing increasing instability in 2026 as investigations and purges continue across several military units and services. A report published by the international magazine The Diplomat states that probes connected to the February 26 cases may disrupt leadership readiness and affect China's military planning.

The February 26 purge led to the removal of five former senior officers who once headed key branches of the PLA, including the Army, Navy, Air Force and Information Support Force. In addition, two commanders linked to the 73rd Group Army, stationed in Fujian Province op-



posite Taiwan, were also dismissed. Three other generals working in organisations under the Central Military Commission were removed from their positions.

On February 26, just before China's annual "Two Sessions" political meetings, the

National People's Congress removed ten PLA officers from their posts as deputies. Although no official explanation was provided, analysts believe the action signals serious problems involving those officers.

According to the report,

many of the removed officers had professional links to senior military leaders who were purged earlier. This suggests that previous investigations have triggered a chain reaction within the PLA, leading to the removal of both active and retired officers.

Among those affected were retired Admiral Shen Jinlong, former commander of the PLA Navy, and Admiral Qin Shengxiang, a former political commissar. Both lost their NPC positions despite having played major roles in expanding China's naval strength.

The report says the widening investigations are likely to increase fear within the officer corps and could weaken morale in frontline units, including the 73rd Group Army facing Taiwan.

Economic Instability Deepens Poverty Across Pakistan, Experts Warn

LONDON

Pakistan is facing worsening poverty driven by economic instability, weak policies and widening inequality, according to a recent report. The crisis has disrupted socio-economic stability, increased child labour and reduced access to education, particularly for women. Analysis by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) highlights that rising inflation and slow economic growth have created new vulnerabilities, forcing many families to rely on debt to meet basic needs. Former finance minister Miftah Ismail said declining real incomes since 2021 have left about one-quarter of the population uncertain about food security. Author Mansoor Ahmad noted that financial pressure often pushes children into work, trapping families in intergenerational poverty. Educationist Saira Samo said nearly 45 percent of Pakistan's population lives below the poverty line while elite groups retain privileges. Economist Rashid Amjad stressed that sustained economic growth and job creation are essential to reduce poverty in the country.

Volunteer at UNHRC says religious discrimination is forcing many families to flee Pakistan in search of safety

India Highlights Disability-Inclusive Electoral Reforms at UNHRC

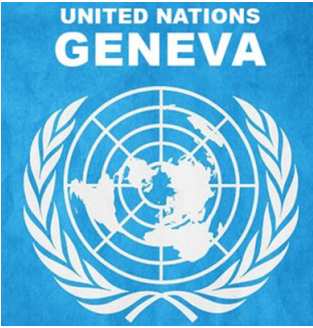
GENEVA

India presented its efforts to ensure equal political participation for persons with disabilities during the UNHRC session.

At the 61st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Shweta Tyagi, Chief Functionary of the India Water Foundation, spoke about India's steps to strengthen inclusive democracy. During an interactive dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on disabilities, she highlighted the country's commitment to equal participation in political and public life.

Tyagi said India follows a rights-based approach under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The law ensures equality, non-discrimination and equal opportunities, including participation in governance and political processes.

She noted that the Election Commission of India has introduced several measures to make voting easier for persons with disabilities. These include accessible voter registration



systems and electronic voting machines equipped with braille features to assist visually impaired voters.

Polling stations across the country also provide priority assistance to voters with disabilities to help them vote comfortably. Tyagi further said that special provisions such as home voting options have been introduced for persons with benchmark disabilities, allowing them to cast votes without travelling to polling booths.

She also highlighted awareness campaigns encouraging voter registration among persons with disabilities.

Tyagi stressed the need to sensitise election officials and

Lara Delutis, a volunteer with the Rajasthani-based Sambhali Trust, spoke at the 61st UNHRC session about challenges faced by minority migrants from Pakistan living in India. She said many families migrated due to religious discrimination. During her visit to Rajasthan, she met several migrant families and women whose stories deeply affected her. Delutis praised the Sambhali Trust for providing livelihood support, education, and emergency help, and urged people worldwide to promote compassion, openness, and understanding.

political leaders about accessibility and dignity. She added that including persons with disabilities in advisory bodies and policy discussions helps ensure their views are reflected in governance.

Taiwan Detects Chinese Aircraft And Naval Vessels Near Territory

TAIPEI

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense reported Chinese military activity near the island early Saturday. By 6 a.m. local time, two Chinese aircraft sorties, six naval vessels and one official ship were detected operating

around Taiwan. Both aircraft entered Taiwan's southwestern Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ), prompting Taiwan's armed forces to monitor the movements and respond accordingly. In a statement on X, the ministry said the military was closely observing the situation to en-

sure regional security.

Earlier, on March 6, Taiwan reported seven Chinese naval vessels and two official ships near the island, though no aircraft were detected then. China claims Taiwan as part of its territory, while Taiwan operates with its own government, military and

economy. The dispute has historical roots dating back to Qing Dynasty rule in 1683, followed by Japanese control after 1895. After World War II, Taiwan returned to Chinese control, but separate administrations emerged in 1949 after the Chinese Civil War.

Iran Rejects US Demand For Surrender

TEHRAN

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has strongly rejected the United States' demand for unconditional surrender, calling on citizens to unite and defend the country during a tense regional crisis.

In a televised address, Pezeshkian said Iran would never surrender and urged the people to stand together to protect the nation. He criticised the United States for ignoring international law and accused it of supporting attacks that target civilian places such as schools and hospitals.

His remarks came after US President Donald Trump said there would be "no deal with Iran except unconditional surrender," insisting that Tehran must give in before any diplomatic talks could begin.

Pezeshkian said the Iranian people were ready to sacrifice their lives to protect their country. He declared that any idea of Iran surrendering should be forgotten forever.

At the same time, the Iranian leader tried to calm tensions with neighbouring countries in the Gulf region. He apologised for attacks that had affected their territories and promised that Iran would not strike neighbouring states unless they attacked first.



Iran's president rejects US demand for surrender, calls for national unity, diplomacy with neighbours, and warns against foreign interference as regional tensions rise amid continued military strikes

He called on Muslim nations in the region to cooperate for peace and stability instead of joining conflicts influenced by outside powers. Pezeshkian said disputes between neighbouring countries should be settled through dialogue and diplomacy. He also warned regional groups not to exploit the situation to attack Iran, saying reliance on foreign powers would damage regional independence. Meanwhile, tensions increased as Israel launched heavy airstrikes in Tehran and central Iran, while Iran's Revolutionary Guards responded with another wave of missile attacks on Israeli targets and US bases.

Balochistan Faces Severe Fuel And Food Shortages Crisis

BALOCHISTAN

Balochistan's border districts are facing severe shortages of essential commodities as tensions involving Iran, Israel, and the United States disrupt supply lines, exposing weaknesses in Pakistan's trade and logistics systems.

Districts along the Iran border, including Gwadar, Kech, Panjgur, Chagai, and Washuk, depend heavily on Iranian imports for food, fuel, and other goods. Traders say nearly 80 per cent of supplies in these areas come from Iran, which is now restricting exports due to domestic protests and taxes, and has recently imposed a total ban on food exports.

The disruption has already caused sharp price increases. In coastal districts such as Gwadar, Jiwani, Pasni, and Ormara, prices of Iranian food products have risen 30 to

40 per cent. In remote towns like Maskhel, LPG prices have doubled to 600 rupees per kilogram, while petrol, diesel, and cooking oil have increased by 60 to 70 per cent.

The crisis is also affecting local industries. Gwadar's fishing sector faces higher operational costs due to soaring fuel prices, making fishing more difficult. Traders warn that if border closures continue, shortages of essential goods could escalate, impacting multiple districts across Balochistan.

Officials and residents have called attention to the urgent need for better management of cross-border trade and alternative supply channels to ensure food and fuel security in these vulnerable regions.

Experts say the crisis highlights Pakistan's reliance on Iranian imports and the vulnerability of border communities to geopolitical tensions and trade restrictions.

PAK-AFGHAN TENSIONS

US Praise Linked To Pakistan Strikes In Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's military leadership is accused of increasing pressure on Afghanistan whenever it receives international support, according to a recent report. The report claims the country's military establishment operates with strong control over national security policy, while civilian governments mainly handle diplomatic communication with the outside world.

According to the report, Pakistan's military strategy toward Afghanistan has remained largely unchanged for decades. It describes Afghanistan as a battlefield where instability can be used to influence political developments. The strategy is often explained using terms such as "strategic depth," counterterrorism operations, or security along the Durand Line border.



However, the report argues that the reality often follows a repeating cycle. It says Pakistan supports armed groups, fuels instability, and later offers solutions to international partners while maintaining influence in Afghanistan.

Recent tensions between the two countries have again raised these concerns. The report highlights that airstrikes, drone attacks and cross-border clashes have increased in recent months, leading to civilian casualties reported by international media and organisations including the United Nations.

What makes the current situation different, the report says, is a pattern linked to international political support. It points out that moments when Pakistan's leadership receives praise in Washington are sometimes followed by military actions inside Afghanistan.

The report refers to recent praise by US President Donald Trump for Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and military chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. According to the analysis, such recognition may be interpreted by Pakistan's military leadership as diplomatic backing.

Although the report admits that timing alone does not prove a direct connection, it states that the repeated sequence of international praise followed by military activity raises serious questions.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	9		5		2		1
5		1		3	8		2
	2		4			5	
	7	5		2	3		9
1			7			6	
2		6		9	1		5
	5		3			1	
9		3		8	7		6
	1		2			9	

9	7	8	5	2	1	6	3	4
4	5	1	6	9	3	8	2	7
2	3	6	4	8	7	5	9	1
7	2	4	8	3	6	9	1	5
3	8	9	1	5	4	7	6	2
6	1	5	9	7	2	3	4	8
5	6	3	2	4	8	1	7	9
1	9	2	7	6	5	4	8	3
8	4	7	3	1	9	2	5	6

Fill a 9x9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3x3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

India eye historic T20 title defence as New Zealand stand in way

India chase historic T20 title defence as gritty New Zealand challenge awaits

AHMEDABAD

History beckons for India as they face a determined New Zealand in the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the iconic Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday, with captain Suryakumar Yadav leading a formidable side eager to carve its place in cricket folklore.

An immensely talented and consistent Indian team will carry the hopes of millions as it attempts to become the first side to successfully defend the T20 World Cup crown and the first to win the title three times. Standing in their way, however, is a resilient New Zealand outfit led by Mitchell Santner, known for punching above its weight on the biggest stage. The venue evokes memories of heart-

break for Indian fans. On November 19, 2023, the same stadium witnessed Rohit Sharma and his teammates walk off shattered after losing the ODI World Cup final to Australia. Though India redeemed themselves by winning the 2024 T20 crown, the scars of that defeat still linger among supporters.

For Suryakumar, Sunday offers a chance to create his own legacy. The inventive Mumbai batter has led India impressively over the past two years,

but his personal performances in big matches have often been scrutinised. A defining innings in the final could silence critics and cement his leadership credentials.

India's path to the final

has been aided by moments of fortune, including a dropped catch by England's Harry Brook that reprieved Sanju Samson in the semifinal. Yet the team's consistency and depth have made them the tournament favourites.

New Zealand, though, are unlikely to be overawed. Explosive opener Finn Allen, who blasted a 33-ball century in the semifinal, along with experienced performers like Glenn Phillips and Matt Henry, provide the Black Caps with match-winning potential.

Much could hinge on



Security fears force England women to move T20 WC camp to SA

LONDON

The England women's national cricket team has shifted its preparatory camp for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup to South Africa after cancelling plans to train in Abu Dhabi due to escalating security concerns in the Middle East.

The camp was originally scheduled to be held in Abu Dhabi, but the England and Wales Cricket Board opted to relocate it following tensions linked to the ongoing conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran.

Instead, around 30 players will assemble in Pretoria for a training camp that will run from March 10 to 27. The players will be split into two squads of 15 each to compete in a five-match intra-squad series designed to simulate competitive match conditions ahead of the tournament.

The two sides have been named in honour of England legends Jan Brittin and Rachael Heyhoe-Flint, both members of England teams that won the Women's World Cup on home soil.

England captain Nat Sciver-Burnt will lead Team Brittin, coached by former Durham County Cricket Club batter and England assistant coach Jon Lewis. Vice-captain Charlie Dean will captain Team Heyhoe-Flint, with assistant coach Luke Williams guiding the side.

England women relocate preparatory camp after security concerns cancel planned Abu Dhabi training.

Head coach Charlotte Edwards will oversee both squads during the camp and said the intra-squad series will be crucial for players hoping to secure places in England's World Cup squad.

"This is a big opportunity for every player involved to put their hand up and demonstrate that they're an invaluable part of our World Cup plans," Edwards said. "It's the same chance for every player, whether they're new to the team or have played over 100 games."

She added that the camp will provide players with valuable match practice after earlier training sessions this year focused mainly on skill development.

The Pretoria camp will mark England's second training stint in South Africa in 2026, following a skill-based camp in Stellenbosch last month and an earlier preparation trip to Oman in January.

England are scheduled to host New Zealand women's national cricket team and India women's national cricket team in white-ball series before the World Cup begins on June 12, followed by a historic women's Test against India at Lord's Cricket Ground.



Lakshya Sen stuns Li Shifeng to reach All England semifinals

BIRMINGHAM

Lakshya Sen produced a superb all-round performance to defeat China's Li Shifeng in straight games and book a place in the semifinals of the prestigious All England Open Badminton Championships.

The world No. 12 Indian registered a commanding 21-13, 21-16 victory over the sixth-ranked Chinese shuttler in exactly one hour, avenging his quarterfinal defeat to the same opponent in the 2025 edition of the tournament.

The victory also marked Lakshya's third semifinal appearance at the historic championship and kept alive India's hopes of a title in one of badminton's most celebrated events. Lakshya, who finished runner-up in the 2022 edition, will next face Canada's Victor

Lai, who defeated Japan's Koki Watanabe 18-21, 21-17, 21-15 in another quarterfinal clash. "I'm happy with the way I played both sets," Lakshya said after the match. "Credit to him as well, he played a really solid game. There were some long rallies and both of us were getting tired, but I'm glad I could stay patient and keep the pressure."

The Indian began confidently, racing to a 4-1 lead and quickly extending it to 10-4 with aggressive attacking play as Li appeared slightly tentative. Lakshya maintained control at the mid-game interval with an 11-6 advantage.

Although Li briefly reduced the gap with powerful overhead smashes, Lakshya held his composure and stretched the lead to 18-13 before sealing the opening game in 24 minutes.

Samson admits overtrying earlier but now thriving under pressure in T20 WC

SAMSON admits overtrying earlier but now thriving under pressure in T20 WC

MUMBAI

Sanju Samson admitted he was trying too hard during India's series against New Zealand national cricket team earlier this year but said returning to his basics helped him rediscover form during the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

The 31-year-old wicket-keeper-batter has emerged as one of India's standout performers in the tournament, smashing a brilliant 97 not out against the West Indies national cricket team in a crucial group-stage clash before following it up with an attacking 89 against the England national cricket team in the semifinal.

However, Samson's path to redemption has not been easy. During the five-match T20 series against New Zealand in January, he struggled badly while opening the innings, scoring just 46 runs across the series.

The lean run came at a time when competition for a place in the Indian XI was intense, with players like Ishan Kishan and Abhishek Sharma also vying for the opening slot. "That was very challenging

for me," Samson said after the semifinal at Wankhede Stadium. "I wanted to make an impact and get into the playing XI of the World Cup, but I think I was trying a bit too much during the New Zealand series."

The Kerala batter admitted that the setbacks forced him to step back, reset mentally and focus on his fundamentals.

"I had to respect the game and go back to my basics. I shut down my phone and stayed away from social media to cut out the noise," he said. "That really helped me focus in the right direction."

Samson added that his extensive experience in T20 cricket has also helped him understand his role better within the team setup.

"I've played around 300-400 T20 matches and batted at different positions. That experience gives you clarity about what the team expects from you and how you should approach your role."

Now in top form, Samson will be hoping to continue his rich run when India face New Zealand in the World Cup final at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

A strong performance there would cap a remarkable turnaround for the talented batter after a turbulent start to the year.



Sinner, Sabalenka storm into Indian Wells with commanding opening victories

INDIAN WELLS

Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka made emphatic starts to their campaigns at the BNP Paribas Open, powering into the next round as top seeds began their quest for a first title at the prestigious tournament in California.

Men's world number two Sinner delivered a commanding performance,

crushing Czech qualifier Dalibor Srvcina 6-1, 6-1 in just 64 minutes to launch his title bid in dominant fashion.

The Italian star, who returned to the desert tournament after missing last year's edition while serving a suspension, controlled the match from start to finish. After Srvcina briefly levelled the

first set at 1-1, Sinner seized complete control, winning nine consecutive games to effectively end the contest.

Srvcina managed to hold serve once more late in the match and fought hard in the final game, saving three match points before

Sinner sealed victory with another break of serve.

The four-time Grand Slam champion said he was pleased with both his preparation and mindset heading into the tournament.

"I feel mentally I'm in a good place," Sinner said. "I'm calm, I'm relaxed, but I'm also very happy to compete. We put in many hours on court and in the gym, and I'm trying to get stronger."

Sinner has previously reached the semi-finals at Indian Wells, losing on both occasions to Carlos Alcaraz. This year, however, he cannot meet top seed Alcaraz or five-time champion Novak Djokovic until the final.

On the women's side, world number one Sabalenka also enjoyed a convincing start, defeating Japanese qualifier Himeno Sakatsume 6-4, 6-2.

Russell tops final practice in Melbourne as Antonelli crash halts session

MELBOURNE

George Russell topped the timesheets in the final practice session ahead of the Australian Grand Prix on Saturday, while his Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team teammate Kimi Antonelli crashed heavily late in the session at Albert Park Circuit.

The 19-year-old Italian rookie lost control of his car after locking up at Turn Two and slammed into the barrier, sending debris across the

track and leaving a front wheel bouncing away from the wreckage. The incident immediately triggered a red flag, briefly halting the session.

Antonelli quickly reassured his team over the radio, saying "I'm OK," while Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff watched anxiously from the garage as marshals cleared the damaged car.

Once the session resumed for

the final few minutes, Russell delivered a blistering lap of 1 minute 19.053 seconds to secure the fastest time of the practice session.

Russell finished 0.616 seconds ahead of Lewis Hamilton, now driving for Scuderia Ferrari, with teammate Charles Leclerc completing the top three.

The British driver's time improved upon the benchmark set in Friday's second practice by Oscar Piastri

of McLaren F1 Team, who had clocked 1:19.729 earlier in the weekend. Piastri finished fourth in the final session, roughly a second behind Russell.

Practice at Albert Park proved eventful even before Antonelli's crash. The session began 20 minutes late after an accident in a Formula 3 sprint race earlier in the day. It was also interrupted midway when Carlos Sainz Jr.'s Williams

Racing car stopped at the entrance to the pit

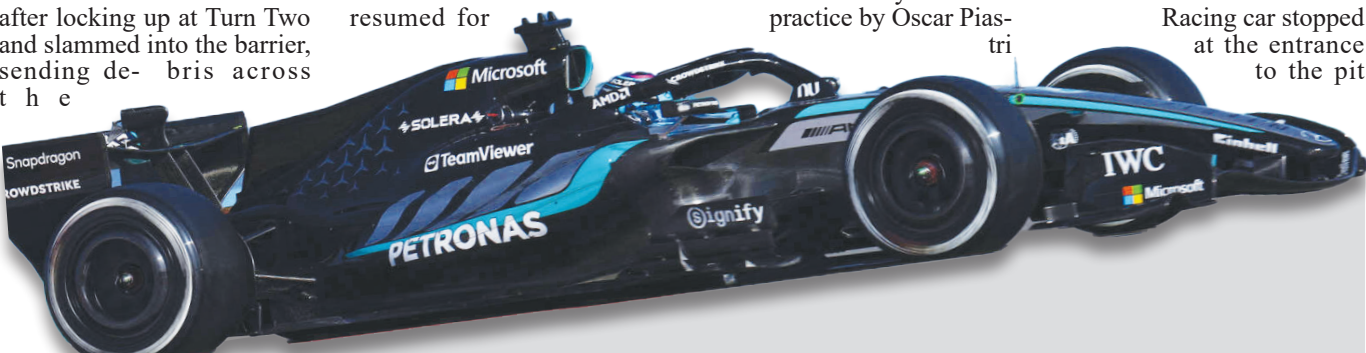
lane, causing another red flag.

Teams used the final practice hour to fine-tune setups and collect crucial data ahead of qualifying, particularly as drivers adapt to Formula One's sweeping new hybrid power unit regulations that place greater emphasis on electrical energy deployment.

Four-time world champion Max Verstappen finished sixth, just behind his Red Bull Racing teammate Isack Hadjar.

Elsewhere, Fernando Alonso managed 20 laps for Aston Martin F1 Team but ended the session down in 18th, while teammate Lance Stroll failed to leave the garage.

With unpredictable conditions and new regulations shaping the grid, qualifying later on Saturday promises an intriguing start to the Formula One season.



Ronaldo injury blow worries Al-Nassr, Portugal ahead of crucial international fixtures

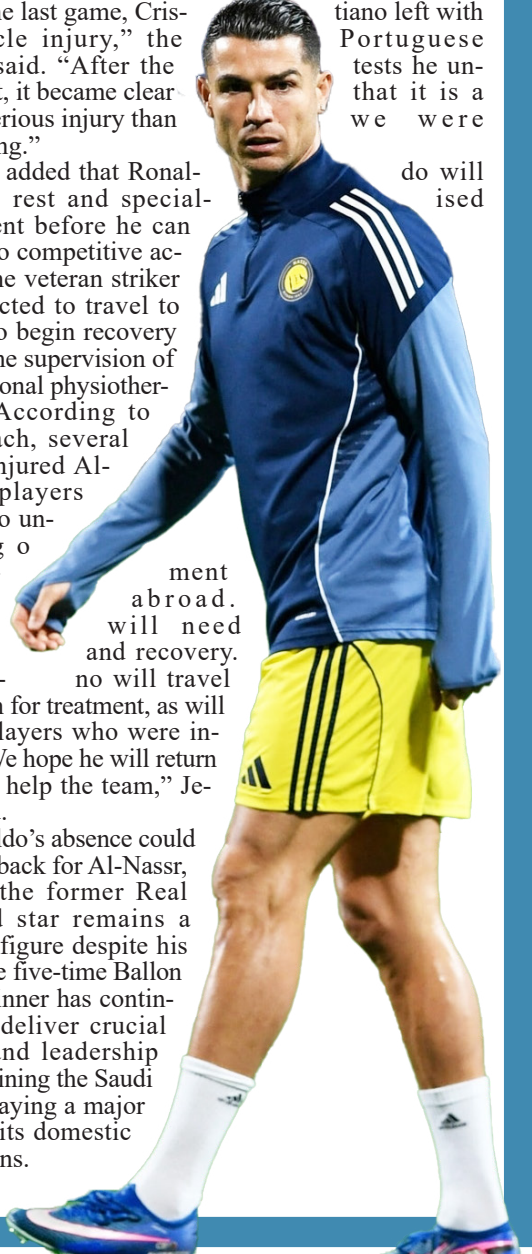
RIYADH

Cristiano Ronaldo could face a longer spell on the sidelines after Al Nassr coach Jorge Jesus confirmed that the Portuguese superstar's injury is more serious than initially believed. The 41-year-old forward limped off during Al-Nassr's 3-1 victory over Al Fayha in the Saudi Pro League last weekend, sparking concerns among fans and team officials about the severity of the issue. Speaking to reporters, Jorge Jesus said medical examinations revealed a more complicated hamstring injury than

first expected. "In the last game, Cristiano left with a muscle injury," the coach said. "After the derwent, it became clear more serious injury than expecting."

Jesus added that Ronaldo require rest and special treatment before he can return to competitive action. The veteran striker is expected to travel to Spain to begin recovery under the supervision of his personal physiotherapist. According to the coach, several other injured Al-Nassr players will also undergo treatment abroad. "He will need rest and recovery. Cristiano will travel to Spain for treatment, as will other players who were injured. We hope he will return soon to help the team," Jesus said.

Ronaldo's absence could be a setback for Al-Nassr, where the former Real Madrid star remains a central figure despite his age. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner has continued to deliver crucial goals and leadership since joining the Saudi club, playing a major role in its domestic ambitions.





QUICK READ

India Now Third Globally In Billionaire Count

New Delhi

India's number of billionaires has risen to 308, up by 24 from last year, according to the Hurun Global Rich List 2026 released on Saturday. With this growth, India now ranks third in the world after the United States and China. The total wealth of Indian billionaires increased by 10 per cent to ₹112.6 trillion. Mumbai remains India's top billionaire hub with 95 billionaires. The healthcare sector produced the highest number of new billionaires, while the energy sector held the largest share of wealth. Women make up about seven per cent of India's billionaire population.

SBI Launches \$500 Million Loan For Women

New Delhi

The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a \$500 million social term loan aimed at supporting women's empowerment and promoting gender equality. The loan also includes a greenshoe option and is considered one of the largest gender-focused loans globally. SBI Chairman CS Setty said the initiative reflects the bank's commitment to reducing the gender gap and supporting the United Nations' goal of achieving gender equality. The loan will help expand economic opportunities for women and promote inclusive growth. MUFG is the lead arranger for the transaction.

Govt To Restore Full RoDTEP Benefits

New Delhi

The government will restore full benefits under the RoDTEP export support scheme from April 1, according to the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). The assurance was given by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade during a meeting with exporters. FIEO President SC Ralhan said the reduced rates will remain only until March 31. The scheme refunds certain taxes and duties paid by exporters during production and distribution. Exporters had earlier raised concerns after the government cut the benefits for most products in February.

Government Maintains Fiscal Discipline While Increasing Infrastructure Capital Spending

NEW DELHI

The government is continuing fiscal consolidation while increasing capital expenditure to support infrastructure-led economic growth. According to the Finance Ministry's Monthly Economic Review for February 2026, fiscal policy is being carefully managed to maintain macro-economic stability while ensuring steady investment in infrastructure and productive sectors. The report said the government is focusing on improving the quality of expenditure while gradually reducing fiscal pressure. The review highlighted that capital expenditure grew by 11.2 per cent during April to January of the current financial year, showing the government's continued focus on building infrastructure and long-term assets. In comparison, revenue expenditure increased by only 1.2 per cent during the same period, indicating controlled routine spending.

Officials said the shift towards higher capital spending is aimed at strengthening economic growth and creating productive capacity. Infrastructure investments are expected to support industries, improve logistics, and attract private sector investment. The Finance Ministry also noted that fiscal indicators have improved this year due to stronger revenue collections and better spending management. The fiscal deficit up to January was lower than in the same period last year, reflecting improved financial discipline. Looking ahead, the Union Budget for 2026-27 continues the strategy of reducing the fiscal deficit while maintaining strong capital investment. The government has set a fiscal deficit target of 4.3 per cent of Gross Domestic Product for the next financial year.

South Korea Ministers Visit US Over Tariff Trade Issues

South Korean ministers visited the United States to discuss tariffs, trade cooperation, and rising uncertainty this week

SEOUL

South Korea's Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan and Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo travelled to Washington this week to discuss tariff issues and other pending trade matters between the two allies. According to the industry ministry, both officials held separate meetings with US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer on Friday, US time. The discussions focused on recent developments in tariff policy and the need to maintain stability in trade relations. The visit came after a recent US Supreme Court ruling that cancelled reciprocal tariffs introduced earlier by President Donald Trump's administration. Seoul hopes clearer rules will reduce uncertainty for exporters and investors. During his meeting with Lutnick, Kim explained



the steps South Korea is taking to carry out the bilateral trade agreement. He mentioned plans for special legislation aimed at supporting Korean investment projects in the United States. Kim also stressed that existing tariff arrangements between the two countries should be protected. He said Washington's use of laws such as Section 122 of the Trade Act and Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act must not weaken earlier agreements. In a separate meeting, Yeo and Greer discussed non tariff measures mentioned in a joint fact sheet released by the two leaders. Yeo also said a petition by US investors in e-commerce company Coupang seeking a Section 301 investigation should not harm broader trade ties. The two sides agreed to hold a joint committee meeting on the Korea US free trade agreement later. Meanwhile fuel prices in Seoul have risen above 1900 won per litre as tensions in the Middle East grow. President Lee Jae Myung warned oil refiners against price collusion and asked officials to study a price cap.

MRPL Rejects Shutdown Rumours, Says Refinery Operations Continue Normally

MANGALURU

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) has denied rumours circulating on social media about a partial shutdown of its refinery, stating that operations are continuing normally despite speculation linked to the West Asia conflict. The clarification came after a post on social media platform X by OilPrice.com claimed that the 300,000 barrel-per-day refinery in Mangaluru had shut some units because crude oil shipments from the Middle East were reportedly delayed due to regional tensions. Responding to the claim, MRPL issued an official statement on Saturday calling the reports incorrect. The company said the refinery is operating as scheduled and there has been no disruption to its production activities. MRPL stated that it has already arranged sufficient crude oil supplies to maintain operations in the coming period. The company also confirmed that all units at the refinery are functioning at normal capacity and there has been no shutdown of any processing units. Officials urged the public and market participants not to rely on unverified social media posts. The company requested that its clarification be noted to prevent the spread of misinformation that could create confusion in the energy market. Similar rumours were also reported about fuel shortages in India. Indian Oil Corporation dismissed such claims and said the country has enough petrol and diesel stocks. The company added that fuel supply and distribution networks are working normally across the country. Petroleum Minister Hardip Singh Puri also reassured citizens that India has adequate energy supplies. He said the government is ensuring uninterrupted imports of fuel despite global geopolitical tensions and there is no need for concern among consumers.

India Advances Toward Training 85,000 Semiconductor Engineers Goal

NEW DELHI

India has made strong progress toward its goal of training 85,000 semiconductor engineers under a national skill development programme, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said. The training effort is being carried out under the Chips to Startups (C2S) initiative of the India Semiconductor Mission. According to the government, the programme focuses on training, up-skilling and workforce development to prepare a skilled talent pool for the semiconductor sector. Vaishnaw said that in the last four years, India has made major progress toward its ten-year target. World-class Electronic Design Automation tools supported by companies such as Synopsys, Cadence, Siemens, Renesas, Ansys and AMD have been made available to 315 academic institutions across the country. These advanced tools allow students to learn semiconductor chip design with practical experience. The designed chips are later fabricated and tested at the Semiconductor Laboratory in Mohali, giving students hands-on exposure to the entire process from design to fabrication, packaging and testing.

The government said the initiative has now become the world's largest open-access Electronic Design Automation training programme. So far, more than 1.85 crore hours of tool usage have been recorded for chip design training, and the number continues to grow. Students from institutions across India, from Assam to Gujarat and from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, are now actively involved in semiconductor design activities. Vaishnaw also noted that the global semiconductor industry is expected to expand from about 800-900 billion dollars today to nearly 2 trillion dollars in the coming years. This growth could create demand for nearly two million skilled professionals.

India Revises GDP Series With New Base Year

NEW DELHI

India has introduced a revised Gross Domestic Product (GDP) series that changes the way the country's economy is measured and understood. According to the Finance Ministry's February 2026 Monthly Economic Review, the update revises estimates of the economy's size, sector composition, and spending patterns while improving the overall statistical system. The new GDP series uses 2022-23 as the base year, replacing the earlier 2011-12 base. Officials said the updated base year reflects a more stable economic period after the pandemic and provides better data coverage. The review states that the revised framework resets key macro-economic measurements including growth rates, sector shares, and expenditure patterns used to guide fiscal and monetary policies. The revision slightly changes the estimated size of the Indian economy. The report noted that the nominal GDP level is about three per cent lower than earlier estimates as of March 2026. However, it emphasised that India's economic growth remains strong. The revised data still show three consecutive years of growth above seven per cent following the pandemic. The updated series also includes several improvements in data collection and estimation. It introduces new calculation methods for sectors such as manufacturing and agriculture and uses administrative data sources like the Goods and Services Tax system and the Public Financial Management System. Surveys have also been used to better estimate activity in the unorganised sector. As a result, the structure of the economy appears slightly different. Agriculture's share rises to 17.4 per cent while industry increases to 25.4 per cent. The services sector share falls slightly to 48 per cent. Private consumption declines to 56.7 per cent,



The Finance Ministry's latest review says the revised GDP series reshapes India's economic measurement, adjusting sector shares and spending patterns while improving data methods while investment rises to 31.9 per cent. Officials said these adjustments mainly reflect improved measurement rather than sudden changes in economic activity. A historical back series under the new system will be released by December 2026 for comparison.

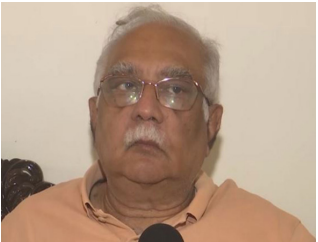
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An economist warns that prolonged West Asia tensions could sharply raise oil prices and disturb global economic stability

Oil Prices May Reach \$120 If West Asia Conflict Continues

NEW DELHI

Global crude oil prices could rise to about 120 US dollars per barrel if the ongoing conflict in West Asia continues for a long time, according to Manoranjan Sharma, Chief Economist at Infomeries Ratings. He said a prolonged geopolitical crisis could seriously affect global economic planning and financial stability. Speaking on the issue, Sharma said oil prices have already increased sharply in a short period. Before the conflict began, crude oil was priced below 70 dollars per barrel. However, prices have now climbed to nearly 90 dollars as tensions in the region continue to grow. He explained that if the situation involving the United States, Israel and Iran worsens and the conflict lasts longer than expected, oil prices could climb even higher. Earlier, many experts believed the crisis might settle within a few weeks, but the situation now appears uncertain. Sharma said that if oil prices cross 100 dollars or reach around 120 dollars per barrel, several economic estimates will have to be revised. India's budget calculations and the Reserve Bank of India's projections were largely based on crude prices remaining near 70 dollars per barrel. He noted that India's economy depends largely on domestic demand, which may reduce the impact on overall economic growth. However, higher oil prices could widen the country's trade deficit, current account deficit and fiscal deficit. The economist also warned that rising crude prices could push inflation higher. According to him, every 10 dollar increase in oil prices can add about 0.2 to 0.4 percentage points to consumer inflation. He further said prolonged tensions could trigger capital outflows from emerging markets and create volatility in financial markets. Sharma recalled that crude oil prices once touched about 145 to 147 dollars per barrel during earlier global tensions.



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GREEN FUEL NORMS

India Sets Green Ammonia Methanol Production Standards

NEW DELHI

The central government has announced new standards for green ammonia and green methanol to support the National Green Hydrogen Mission and encourage trade in clean fuel products. The notification was issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on February 27, 2026. The new rules define the emission limits and conditions required for ammonia and methanol to be officially labelled as "green". These fuels must be produced using green hydrogen that comes from renewable energy sources. The government believes the move will bring clarity for industries and investors working in the green hydrogen sector. Under the new guidelines, green ammonia must have



hydrogen sector. Under the new guidelines, green ammonia must have

greenhouse gas emissions of no more than 0.38 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilogram of ammonia. These emissions include those generated during hydrogen production, ammonia synthesis, purification, compression, and on site storage. The average emission level will be calculated over a 12 month period. Similarly, green methanol must meet an emission limit of 0.44 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilogram of methanol. The emissions include processes such as hydrogen production, methanol synthesis, purification, and storage. The government also stated

that carbon dioxide used for green methanol production can come from biogenic sources, direct air capture, or certain industrial sources. The ministry may revise the list of eligible sources in the future. Renewable electricity used in the production process can also include power stored in energy storage systems or banked with the electricity grid. Officials said detailed rules for measurement, monitoring, reporting, verification, and certification will be released later. The standards are expected to support cleaner industries and help India become a major exporter of green fuels to global markets.



International Women's Day

Safety for Women: India's Unfinished Battle



Education is key to long-term transformation. Schools and universities must promote gender sensitivity and respect from an early age, teaching equality as a lived value, not a slogan. Families play a vital role as well; societal norms often grant freedom to boys while imposing restrictions on girls, perpetuating inequality. Change requires teaching sons responsibility and respect, rather than instructing daughters only in caution and self-defense. Safety should depend on societal responsibility, not women's behavior.

Workplaces must reinforce safety through strict enforcement of harassment laws, transparent complaint mechanisms, and supportive leadership. Women confident in their professional safety can fully participate in economic and social life.

Indian women have made remarkable strides in politics, science, sports, education, and entrepreneurship, demonstrating extraordinary strength and capability. Yet empowerment is hollow without safety. A nation's development is measured not just by growth or technology, but by the dignity, freedom, and security of its citizens. If women cannot move freely without fear, development remains incomplete.

As India observes International Women's Day, it must go beyond symbolic celebrations. Strong laws, effective policing, responsible governance, and a shift in social attitudes are all essential. Protecting women is not charity—it is a moral and national imperative. Ensuring their safety is foundational to justice, equality, and true progress. Until every woman in India can walk, travel, and live without fear, the struggle for safety remains unfinished.

Empowerment Means Safety, Equality, and Respect for Women



India Faces Ongoing Women's Safety Challenges on International Women's Day

As India marks International Women's Day, celebrations of women's achievements coexist with a stark reality: millions of women still face daily insecurity. Despite economic growth, educational opportunities, and rising female participation in public life, harassment, violence, and discrimination continue to shadow women's lives across streets, workplaces, and public transport.

The 2012 Delhi gang rape case remains a turning point in public consciousness, prompting legal reforms, stricter punishments, and emergency services. Yet, crimes against women persist, and justice often moves slowly, leaving victims to face prolonged legal battles and social stigma. Experts say legal reforms alone cannot address the problem; societal attitudes that tolerate gender inequality and blame victims remain major obstacles.

Public infrastructure also reflects these gaps. Poorly lit streets, deserted bus stops, and inadequate surveillance create conditions where harassment can occur. Advocates call for gender-sensitive urban planning, effective policing, and technology-assisted safety measures to ensure women can move freely. Education plays a crucial role, emphasizing respect and equality from an early age, while families must balance teaching sons responsibility with daughters' safety.

Workplaces and institutions must strengthen harassment prevention systems to create secure professional environments. While Indian women continue to achieve remarkable success in politics, science, sports, and entrepreneurship, true empowerment is incomplete without safety.



Kareena, Ananya support Deepika's demand for eight-hour film work shifts



Actors Kareena Kapoor Khan and Ananya Panday have supported Deepika Padukone after she called for an eight-hour work shift in the film industry, saying the request is reasonable, especially for actors who are also parents.

In an interview with The Hollywood Reporter India, Kareena spoke about balancing work with parenting. She shared that while shooting for The Buckingham Murders, she had clearly informed the team that she needed to return to her children after filming each day. During that schedule in London, her husband Saif Ali Khan stayed with the children and helped manage things at home. Kareena said women who are married and have children should feel comfortable discussing their working hours with producers. While schedules may sometimes change during film production, she noted that flexibility is important to manage both family and professional responsibilities.

Actor Kalyani Priyadarshan also commented on the issue, explaining that working hours in the Malayalam film industry have already been reduced. Shifts that earlier lasted around 16 hours are now generally limited to about 12 hours, though long days are still common.

Ananya added that Deepika had always been hardworking and deserves time with her child.



Shanaya Kapoor Shares Childhood Throwback Video With Cousin Janhvi Kapoor



Actress Shanaya Kapoor shared a heartwarming childhood video featuring her cousin Janhvi Kapoor while wishing her on her birthday, delighting fans with a nostalgic glimpse from their early years.

Posting the video on her social media account on Friday, Shanaya shared an adorable clip showing the two cousins enjoying playful moments as toddlers. In the video, the sisters can be seen laughing, giggling and running around inside their home, clearly enjoying a carefree childhood day together.

The clip appears to have been casually recorded by a family member, capturing the natural and joyful bond between the cousins. Little Janhvi is seen wearing a bright blue outfit, while a much younger Shanaya appears in a cute white frock.

From their appearance in the video, Janhvi seems to be around five or six years old, while Shanaya looks barely two or three years old. The sweet moment quickly drew attention from fans, who enjoyed seeing the childhood bond between the two actresses.

Janhvi Kapoor is the daughter of film producer Boney Kapoor and legendary actress Sridevi. Shanaya Kapoor, meanwhile, is the daughter of actor Sanjay Kapoor and Maheep Kapoor. Boney Kapoor and Sanjay Kapoor are brothers, and actor Anil Kapoor is also part of the well-known Kapoor film family.

Other members of the extended family include actors Arjun Kapoor, Sonam Kapoor, Khushi Kapoor and Anshula Kapoor. On the career front, Janhvi made her Bollywood debut with Dhak

Shashank Khaitan and co-starring Ishaan Khatter. Shanaya debuted in 2025 with Aankhon Ki Gustakhiyan opposite Vikrant Massey and was last seen in Tu Ya Mein directed by Bejoy Nambiar, alongside Adarsh Gourav.