



India, Indonesia deepen strategic ties with defence, minerals deals

Modi & Prabowo unveil broad roadmap spanning defence, trade, technology & maritime cooperation

Strategic ties evolve

Defence: BrahMos and Astra missile procurement agreed

Economy: Critical minerals and rare earth cooperation expanded

Connectivity: UPI to integrate with Indonesia's payment system

Maritime: Joint development of Sabang port and stronger coast guard cooperation

JAKARTA

India and Indonesia on Tuesday elevated their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with a series of landmark agreements covering defence, critical minerals, maritime security, digital connectivity and education following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto in Jakarta.

A major highlight was Indonesia's decision to procure India's BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and Astra beyond-visual-range air-to-air missiles, marking another milestone in New Delhi's efforts to expand exports of indigenous defence equipment. The two countries also agreed to strengthen defence ex-



"The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership we forged in 2018 is taking a new flight today. A golden chapter of India-Indonesia partnership begins today."
-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

changes, disaster management and industrial collaboration, while their coast guard agencies will enhance cooperation to improve maritime security in the Indian Ocean.

On the economic front, both nations signed an agreement to deepen collaboration in critical minerals, with India set to invest in Indonesia's steel, nickel and rare earth magnet manufacturing ecosystem to diversify strategic supply chains. They also agreed to jointly develop the strategically located Sabang port near the Strait of Malacca, boost cooperation in the blue economy and integrate India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with Indonesia's payment system to facilitate cross-border transactions.

The agreements form part of Prime Minister Modi's three-nation Indo-Pacific tour, which includes visits to Australia and New Zealand. The expanded partnership reflects growing strategic convergence between India and Indonesia in defence, resilient supply chains, maritime security, clean energy and regional stability, while reinforcing cooperation under the ASEAN-led Indo-Pacific framework.

The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific and emphasised ASEAN centrality. Nearly a dozen agreements were signed across agriculture, healthcare, telecommunications, space, research, innovation and election management, while the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore will establish a campus in Indonesia.

Indonesia's highest honour for PM Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the Bintang Adipurna of the Republic of Indonesia, the country's highest civilian honour, by President Prabowo Subianto during his visit to Jakarta. Instituted in 1959, the award is bestowed on individuals who have rendered exceptional service to Indonesia's unity, continuity and prosperity. The honour recognises Modi's role in strengthening the India-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and advancing cooperation in areas such as defence, trade, maritime security, connectivity and regional engagement. Dedicating the award to the people of India, Modi said it symbolised the enduring friendship between the two nations. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar described the recognition as a matter of pride for all Indians.

IIM Bangalore to open first overseas campus in Indonesia

The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore will establish its first international campus in Indonesia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto announced during Modi's visit to Jakarta on Tuesday. The campus will come up at Singhasari Special Economic Zone in East Java, Indonesia's first digital SEZ, following the footsteps of institutions such as King's College London, which opened a campus there in 2024. The IIMB campus will offer programmes in global supply chains, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, climate and sustainability, and healthcare, benefiting students from across the ASEAN region. The two leaders also discussed the possibility of establishing an Indian Institute of Technology campus in Indonesia.

Karnataka to assess drought before declaration, says CM

Chief Minister reviews rain-deficit situation, promises statewide assessment before taking a drought decision.



KALABURAGI

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday said the State government would take a decision on declaring drought-hit areas only after conducting a comprehensive assessment of the prevailing rain-deficit conditions across Karnataka in accordance with the prescribed legal framework.

Speaking to reporters during his visit to Kalaburagi to review the situation in Kalyana Karnataka, Shivakumar said the government was gathering first-hand information from officials, public representatives and farmers before making any announcement. He said similar inspections would be carried out in other affected regions, including Belagavi, over the coming days.

The Chief Minister interacted with local residents and received petitions from farmers, many of whom submitted dried sugarcane stalks to highlight the severity of the prolonged dry spell. Assuring them that their concerns would be addressed, he said

"There is a legal framework for declaring areas as drought-hit. We will examine the situation across the State before taking an appropriate decision."
-D.K. Shivakumar, CM

the government wanted to assess the ground realities before arriving at a final decision on drought declaration.

Responding to demands for a farm loan waiver, Shivakumar said the government would first study the nature and extent of agricultural loans before considering any relief measures. He also highlighted the creation of the new Praja Seva Department, which has been tasked with receiving and examining public grievances to ensure timely action.

The visit comes amid growing concerns over deficient rainfall in several districts, raising fears over crop losses, drinking water availability and the livelihoods of farmers across the State.

NDA delegation petitions CEC seeking intervention over SIR 'irregularities' in K'taka

NEW DELHI

A high-level National Democratic Alliance (NDA) delegation from Karnataka on Tuesday met Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in Delhi, alleging large-scale irregularities in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state and seeking immediate intervention by the Election Commission.

The delegation included Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi, H.D. Kumaraswamy, Shobha Karandlaje and V. Somanna, along with Karnataka Leader of Opposition R.



Ashoka, BJP leader Arvind Bellad and other NDA representatives.

Speaking after the meeting, Joshi and Kumaraswamy said the Chief Election Commissioner assured them that the revision exercise would be conducted strictly in accordance with Election Commission guidelines.

They added that observers had already been deputed to Karnataka and that action would be taken against officials found violating norms.

The NDA submitted videos and documents alleging that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were distributing voter enumeration forms from mosques and madrasas instead of conducting mandatory house-to-house verification.

The delegation also claimed some officials displayed partisan behaviour and cited political influence when questioned by the public.

US President Trump says Ukraine war settlement 'hopefully soon'

ANKARA

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said he held separate discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, expressing hope that the war in Ukraine could be resolved soon.

Speaking during a meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Turkey, Trump said his conversation with Putin was lengthy and productive. "I had a very good talk with President Putin. We had a long talk, it lasted a long time.



And I also spoke with President Zelenskyy right after that. I think they both want to make a deal," Trump said.

Trump added that he believed a settlement could be reached "hopefully soon", as diplomatic efforts continue amid the prolonged conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Zelenskyy and Trump are scheduled to meet at the NATO summit on Wednesday. The Ukrainian leader is expected to seek greater support for air defence systems to counter Russian missile attacks. The talks come amid heightened tensions, with Ukraine intensifying strikes on Russian energy infrastructure and Moscow continuing large-scale attacks on Ukrainian cities.

Wayanad landslide kills four; six feared trapped at tunnel project site

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A massive landslide at the Kalladi tunnel project site near Meppadi in Kerala's Wayanad district on Tuesday claimed four lives, while at least six workers remained missing as rescue operations continued. Most of the victims were associated with the under-construction Wayanad-Kozhikode twin tunnel project.

The landslide, triggered after intense rainfall, swept away vehicles, including a tanker lorry, damaged houses and forced authorities to evacuate nearby residents to relief camps. Seven people sustained injuries, two of them critically, while Meppadi Sub-Inspector Santosh Kumar was also injured during rescue efforts.

Construction activity at the site had already been suspended since Monday because of heavy rain, reducing the number of workers present when the hillside collapsed. National Disaster Response Force



"The contractors failed to comply with directions to remove the accumulated excavated soil. Preliminary findings indicate this contributed to the tragedy."
-V.D. Satheesan, Kerala CM

(NDRF), Fire and Rescue Services, police and local volunteers continued search operations through the day. Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan said preliminary findings suggested that contractors had ignored directions issued by the district administration and disaster management authorities on June 20 to remove large heaps of excavated soil from the construction site.

The 8.11-km twin tunnel connecting Meppadi in Wayanad with Anakampoyil in Kozhikode is an alternative to the congested Thamarassery Ghat Road on NH-766. Once completed, the project is expected to reduce travel distance by nearly 30 km and cut journey time by about 90 minutes. However, environmental experts had earlier cautioned about the ecological sensitivity of the region and recommended strict safeguards before construction began.

DAMASCUS TWIN BLASTS

DAMASCUS

At least 18 people, including four police officers, were injured on Tuesday after two improvised explosive devices detonated in the Syrian capital, Damascus, during French President Emmanuel Macron's official visit to the country.

According to Syria's Interior Ministry, the blasts occurred near the Ministry of Tourism and close to a hotel linked to Macron's visit. Authorities said one explosive device had been hidden inside a parked vehicle, while the other was concealed in a roadside trash container. Roads around the area were immediately sealed off as security agencies launched an investigation.

Macron's office said the French President was travelling to meet Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa when the explosions occurred but neither heard the blasts nor faced any direct threat. Officials



"Preliminary findings indicate that the two explosive devices were improvised. Investigations are underway to identify those responsible."
-Syria's Interior Ministry

confirmed that the visit continued as scheduled, adding that the explosions took place outside the designated security zone for the French delegation.

The attack came despite heightened security for Ma-

CM warns officials over drought response

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has warned of strict disciplinary action against officials found negligent in handling Karnataka's emerging drought situation, stressing that accountability and public service cannot be compromised. Addressing the Kalaburagi Divisional-level Progress Review Meeting, he said the government's priority is to ensure transparent, inclusive and people-centric governance, with every eligible citizen receiving constitutional and civic entitlements. He directed officials to work with commitment and deliver tangible results rather than excuses, asserting that efficient officers would earn public trust while negligent ones would face action. On the ongoing electoral roll revision, he instructed Booth Level Officers to visit every household at least three times to ensure no eligible voter is left out. The Chief Minister also said Karnataka is pursuing long-term solutions to water scarcity through discussions with neighbouring States and the Centre, including a proposed ₹1 lakh crore river-linking project connecting the Krishna, Cauvery and Godavari river systems.

- **Injured:** 18 people
- **Explosions:** Two improvised explosive devices (IEDs)
- **Macron's Visit:** Continued as scheduled

French President Emmanuel Macron's visit marks the first by a European leader to Syria since the collapse of Bashar al-Assad's government in late 2024. The trip is aimed at strengthening diplomatic engagement with Syria's transitional leadership under President Ahmed al-Sharaa and discussing regional stability, reconstruction and security cooperation. However, Tuesday's explosions highlight the continuing threat posed by militant attacks and the challenges facing Syria as it seeks to restore normalcy after years of conflict.

QUICK READ

Five Bengaluru students ace IB Diploma with perfect scores

CH NEWS, BENGALURU Five students from Bengaluru achieved a perfect 45 out of 45 in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) examinations, the results of which were announced recently. The high achievers are Amisha Sharma and Varun Vasudevan Iyer from Greenwood High, along with Aarushi Singh, Supriya Krishnamurthy and Rishika Aggarwal from The International School Bangalore. All five have secured admission to prestigious universities abroad. Amisha will pursue Public Policy and Data Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, while Varun will study Mathematics at the University of California, Berkeley. Aarushi has been admitted to Johns Hopkins University, Supriya to the University of Cambridge, and Rishika will join the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Woman killed, husband injured in water tanker collision

CH NEWS, BENGALURU A 61-year-old woman was killed and her husband sustained minor injuries after a speeding water tanker rammed their scooter on Doddakannahalli-Carmelaram Road in Bengaluru. The deceased, Sudha Devi, was riding pillion while her husband, Kapil Dev Prasad (65), was taking her to a hospital. According to police, the couple slowed down after noticing a school bus parked along the roadside when the tanker struck the scooter from behind, throwing them onto the road. Sudha died in the accident, while Kapil escaped with minor injuries. The tanker driver initially hid nearby fearing assault by bystanders but later surrendered before the Bellandur Traffic Police.

Helmetless rider dies after two-wheeler collision

CH NEWS, BENGALURU A 27-year-old man died after his motorcycle collided with a scooter near the BDA Apartments on Mysuru Road in Mylasandra on Tuesday. The deceased, Venkatesh, a resident of Chamarajpet, worked at a hardware shop. The scooter rider, Chandana, a college student from Mysuru Road and a native of Uttara Kannada district, sustained injuries. According to police, the accident occurred when Chandana, who was riding ahead of Venkatesh, allegedly took a sudden left turn. Unable to stop in time, Venkatesh crashed into her scooter. Police said he was not wearing a helmet and suffered fatal head injuries. Further investigation into the accident is underway.

Sadahalli underpass work to begin, Airport Rd to be signal-free

Decade-delayed Sadahalli underpass project will finally eliminate the last traffic signal before airport.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Motorists travelling to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) will soon enjoy an uninterrupted, signal-free drive from Hebbal, with the long-pending Sadahalli Junction Underpass project finally set to begin. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will commence preliminary work next week, marking the start of a project that has remained on the drawing board for nearly a decade.

The Bengaluru Traffic Police has granted permission for construction activities to be carried out at night between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. over the next 15 months to minimise disruption to traffic. The



approval, issued on July 1, clears the way for work on the 700-metre-long underpass at the busy Sadahalli Junction.

At present, Sadahalli Junction is the only traffic signal on the 22-km stretch between Hebbal and the airport. Once completed, the six-lane underpass, estimated to cost ₹35 crore, will remove this final bottleneck and ensure seamless travel to and from the airport.

NHAI Bengaluru Project Director K.B. Jayakumar said preliminary activities, includ-

ing barricading, traffic diversions and widening of service roads, would begin next week. To maintain traffic flow during construction, the existing two-lane service roads on either side of the highway will be expanded into four-lane roads.

Given the heavy monsoon during July and August, only preparatory work will be undertaken initially. Major excavation for the underpass will begin after the rains subside in September.

The project has been awarded to Vidya InfraBuilt Pvt. Ltd., with the design already finalised. The underpass will be built using the cut-and-cover method, a widely adopted construction technique for urban tunnels.

NHAI aims to complete the project before the Aero India exhibition scheduled for February 2027, ensuring smoother access to the airport for commuters, business travellers and visitors attending the international aerospace event.

The completion of the underpass is also expected to ease congestion around Sadahalli Junction, improve travel time reliability and enhance connectivity to north Bengaluru, one of the city's fastest-growing corridors. Officials believe the project will significantly improve the overall commuting experience for thousands of airport-bound passengers every day while strengthening the region's transport infrastructure.

High Court quashes criminal case against doctor, slams misuse of law

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has quashed criminal proceedings against a senior doctor accused of forging documents, observing that criminal law cannot be used as a tool to settle personal scores or professional rivalries.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Dr. S.P. Somashekar, director of a private hospital, who had sought the quashing of proceedings initiated on a complaint lodged by Dr. B.C. Shankar, head of another private hospital.

Dr. Shankar had accused Dr. Somashekar of forging his sig-

nature and creating a fake experience certificate after the latter left the hospital where he had worked for nearly two decades and joined another private institution in 2022.

Based on the complaint, police had registered a First Information Report (FIR) against Dr. Somashekar. However, after investigating the allegations, they filed a 'B' report, concluding that no evidence existed to substantiate the charges. The jurisdictional magistrate rejected the closure report, prompting Dr. Somashekar to approach the High Court. Allowing the petition, the High Court criticised the complaint and observed that

Whistleblower nanny arrested for allegedly abusing toddlers

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Police have arrested a second nanny in the alleged child abuse case at the Little Scholars daycare centre on the Capgemini campus in Brookefield, claiming that the woman who exposed the abuse had herself subjected children to ill-treatment.

Sujatha (45), who had recorded and shared videos purportedly showing toddlers being abused inside the daycare, has been remanded to 14-day judicial custody and is lodged at the Bengaluru Central Jail. She has been booked on charges of allegedly assaulting children, locking toddlers inside the daycare bathroom and recording videos of them in distress.

Her arrest follows that of 55-year-old nanny Vijayalakshmi, who was earlier accused of physically abusing children at the facility.

The move has triggered debate over the protection available to whistleblowers, with many questioning whether

action against the woman who exposed the alleged abuse could discourage others from reporting wrongdoing in the future. However, police maintain that Sujatha was not arrested for releasing the videos but for her alleged role in abusing children.

City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said the investigation revealed that Sujatha had frequent disputes with fellow nannies and her supervisor and allegedly recorded the videos to implicate her colleagues rather than to protect the children.

"While there is video evidence of Vijayalakshmi locking a two-and-a-half-year-old child inside the bathroom, Sujatha also committed a similar act," a police officer said.

The Commissioner questioned why Sujatha waited seven days after recording the videos on June 22 before handing them over to the Child Helpline on June 29 if the children's welfare had been her primary concern.

Father arrested for killing infant; mother absconding in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Avalahalli police have arrested a 30-year-old man on charges of murdering his 11-month-old daughter and allegedly attempting to pass off the death as an accidental fall from a bed. His wife, named as the second accused, remains absconding.

Police identified the arrested accused as Shekar, while his wife, Vijayalakshmi, is being searched for. The couple, originally from Yadgir district, married four years ago and have two children. According to investigators, the incident occurred on June 9 during a domestic dispute at their residence. The couple later took the injured child, Renuka, to a hospital, claiming she had fallen from a bed while sleeping. Based on their statement, police initially registered a case of unnatural death.

However, the investigation took a different turn after the post-mortem report, received on June 22, concluded that the infant had died due to severe bleeding and respiratory failure. Doctors also found injuries on the child's private parts and ruled out an accidental fall as the cause of death.

Police said a spot inspection conducted by PSI Sunil Kumar revealed that the injuries were inconsistent with a fall from a bed about two feet high. Statements from witnesses and neighbours allegedly pointed to frequent quarrels between the couple over suspicions of an extramarital relationship. Investigators alleged that during the altercation, Vijayalakshmi kicked the crying child, while Shekar later threw the infant out of the shed where the family lived.

High Court refuses to stay trial against teacher accused of beating LKG student

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has refused to stay criminal proceedings against a school teacher accused of physically assaulting a six-year-old LKG student, observing that corporal punishment in schools cannot be justified as a means

of discipline.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while hearing a petition filed by Asha Krasta, a teacher at Holy Family School in Surathkal, seeking to quash the proceedings pending before the II Additional JMFC Court in Mangaluru.

During the hearing, the judge expressed strong disapproval of the alleged assault. When the petitioner's counsel sought relief, the court remarked that teachers need not beat children to teach them lessons and made it clear that such conduct would not be tolerated.

Gunjur Club House Road crumbles into dust, craters

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

For residents of Bengaluru's eastern suburbs, the 400-metre Gunjur Club House Road has become a daily ordeal, with dust clouds, deep craters and unfinished civic works turning a crucial connector into a hazardous stretch.

The road, which links Gunjur with Varthur, Sarjapur Road and the Outer Ring Road, has remained in poor condition for nearly two years. What should be a key urban corridor now resembles an unpaved track littered with excavated soil, loose jelly stones and uneven surfaces, making travel difficult for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists alike.

The deteriorating road has also affected local businesses.

A woman entrepreneur said she was forced to shut her restaurant after customers stopped visiting because of the unbearable dust. Having taken a loan to establish the business, she now prepares food inside the closed restaurant and sells it from a roadside cart nearby to meet her monthly loan repayments.

"The dust is so severe that everything gets covered within seconds whenever a vehicle passes. People avoid even walking on this road," she said, adding that maintaining hygiene has become an uphill task despite her best efforts.

The stretch serves several apartment complexes, schools and commercial establishments, making it one of the busiest internal roads in the



A vital 400-metre stretch in east Bengaluru has become a symbol of civic apathy, disrupting commutes, businesses and daily life for thousands of residents.

locality. Residents describe every journey as a "roller-coaster ride", with vehicles constantly jolting over potholes and loose gravel.

Ongoing stormwater drain

Residents say Gunjur Club House Road has been in a deplorable condition for over two years, posing serious health and safety risks. Stormwater drain work that began in January has remained incomplete, leaving behind open pits, craters and thick dust. During rains, the water-filled potholes become nearly invisible, increasing the danger for motorists and pedestrians. "This has become a daily struggle for schoolchildren, senior citizens, pregnant women and commuters. Despite repeated protests and complaints, there has been little improvement," said local resident Navdeep Singh.

works have further narrowed the carriageway, aggravating congestion and leaving behind open excavations. During the monsoon, many of these pits fill with rainwater, making

EASE TRAFFIC ACCESS

5.5-crore subway to improve access to Sampige Road Metro

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Thousands of residents in north and central Bengaluru will soon benefit from safer and easier access to the Sampige Road Metro station, with the South Western Railway (SWR) announcing the construction of a fully underground pedestrian subway connecting Swatantra Palaya to the station.

The ₹5.5-crore project is aimed at eliminating the dangerous practice of pedestrians crossing active railway tracks

to reach the Metro station. The subway will be built with a ceiling height of 2.6 metres and a width of five metres, providing a safe, spacious and all-weather passage beneath the railway lines.

According to railway officials, the project was conceived after repeated instances of people crossing the busy railway mainline, posing serious risks to both commuters and train operations. At present, residents are forced to walk across railway tracks and use a narrow, sloping



pathway to access the station, creating safety concerns, particularly during peak hours and at night.

Officials said the subway

would significantly improve connectivity for residents of Srirampura, Seshadripuram, Okalipuram and Malleswaram, benefiting thousands

of daily commuters. Besides enhancing pedestrian safety, the project is also expected to improve operational safety for trains by reducing unauthorised crossings.

Gandhinagar MLA Dinesh Gundu Rao said the subway fulfils a long-pending demand of local residents. He noted that crossing railway tracks had resulted in frequent accidents, especially after dark, besides creating law-and-order challenges. He urged authorities to adopt modern construction tech-

niques to complete the work efficiently and minimise inconvenience.

A foundation stone for the project has already been laid, and construction is expected to commence shortly. The South Western Railway has fixed January 2027 as the completion deadline.

However, Union Minister of State for Railways V. Somantha expressed confidence that the subway would be completed ahead of schedule. He also said work on the Road Under Bridge (RUB) at

Ramohalli Gate near Kengeri is progressing and will be completed soon.

The Minister further stated that the Tumakuru-Davanagere and Rayadurga-Tumakuru railway line projects are being executed on priority.

He added that plans are also under way for a new direct railway line connecting Bengaluru and Kolar via Hosakote, Nara sapura and Vemagal, aimed at strengthening suburban and regional rail connectivity in and around the city.

QUICK READ

KSOU opens admissions for UG, PG programmes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Sunkadakatte Regional Centre of the Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) has invited applications for admission to various undergraduate and postgraduate programmes for the 2026-27 academic year. Admissions are open for B.A., B.Com., BSW, BBA, BCA, B.Sc. (General and IT), and postgraduate courses including M.A., M.Com., M.Sc., MCJ, MSW, MCA and MBA. Applications can be submitted through the university website. Regional Centre Director J. Shashikala said eligible students can also avail fee concessions and scholarships. Full fee waiver is available for children of COVID-19 victims and transgender students, while SC, ST and OBC students can apply for scholarships through the SSP portal.

BM Shree Trust to host devotional singing contest

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The BM Shree Educational Institutions Trust will organise a State-level devotional song singing competition on July 19 under the auspices of the Satyaputra Balchakra varti Foundation. The contest will feature Raga Malhar for participants aged 16-20 years and Raga Mal Kans (Hindola) for those aged 8-14 years. Interested candidates must register in person with their Aadhaar card at the BM Shree Foundation in Basavanagudi before 5 p.m. on July 15. Winners will receive cash prizes of 4,000, 3,000 and 2,000 for the first three places respectively. All participants will receive certificates. For details, contact 9972812127.

BDA reclaims encroached land worth 60 cr in Herohalli

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) has reclaimed encroached land worth approximately ₹60 crore at Herohalli village in Bengaluru North, paving the way for the completion of a long-pending road connectivity project.

The recovered land, spread across about 28 guntas in Survey Nos. 37/1P and 40/1 of Herohalli village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, had been acquired by the BDA for the construction of a 45-metre-wide road linking Magadi Road with Sir M. Visvesvaraya Layout.

According to the BDA, while most of the road construction



has already been completed, progress had remained stalled for nearly a decade due to unauthorized sheds and encroachments near the Magadi Road junction. Officials cleared the illegal structures and took possession of the land, enabling the authority to resume work on the crucial road link.

The eviction drive was carried out on the directions of the BDA Commissioner under the

supervision of the Engineering Division of the West Zone and the Special Vigilance Cell. The operation was led by Superintendent of Police K.N. Nagaraj and Deputy Superintendent of Police Hanumantharaya, with support from the local police.

BDA officials said the reclaimed land will help complete the remaining stretch of the road, improving connectivity between Magadi Road and Sir M. Visvesvaraya Layout. The authority added that it would continue to remove encroachments on public land to ensure timely execution of infrastructure projects and safeguard government property from illegal occupation.

Awareness drive on voter list revision organised

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

An awareness programme on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls was organised by the Kumbalagodu, K. Gollahalli, Chunchanakuppe, Ramohalli, H. Gollahalli, Sulikere and Agara gram panchayats in Bengaluru South taluk. As part of the campaign, students and gram panchayat staff held a candlelight awareness event at ACS Engineering College on Mysuru Road to encourage eligible citizens to participate in the voter list revision process. Bengaluru South



specations of junctions across Bengaluru. The findings were compiled into a report and submitted to the GBA, recommending priority action to improve road infrastructure at

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer R. Yathish, Deputy Secretary Dr. Nomesh Kumar, Executive Officer S. Narayan, TPO Suresh, PDOs Thimmaiah, Narendra Babu, Veerabhadrapa, Ravikumar, Kavita and other officials participated in the programme.

gation at major intersections and suggest practical measures to improve traffic flow.

Acting on the Minister's instructions, traffic personnel conducted extensive field in-

spectations of junctions across Bengaluru. The findings were compiled into a report and submitted to the GBA, recommending priority action to improve road infrastructure at

Lokayukta raids seven locations in govt land allotment case

Officials face probe over alleged illegal transfer of 16 acres of govt land to individuals.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Lokayukta on Tuesday carried out simultaneous raids at seven locations linked to three government officials accused of illegally transferring government land to private individuals in Bengaluru. The searches were conducted as part of an investigation into the alleged alienation of 16 acres of government land in Hunasamaranahalli near Yelahanka.

The officials under scrutiny include M.K. Jagadish, Managing Director of the Food and Civil Supplies Department and former Special Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru Urban district, former Yelahanka Tahsildar Manjunath, and Shirstaredar Rajinikanth Reddy.



Lokayukta teams searched Jagadish's office at Kaveri Bhavan, his residence, the residences of the other accused officials, and the Devanahalli Tahsildar's office. Officials said several documents relating to the land transactions were seized during the operation.

According to the Lokayukta, the case pertains to the alleged transfer of 16 acres of government land to nine private individuals in 2020 despite a government notification issued in 2011 declaring the property as government land.

Following a complaint, permission was granted in March last year to investigate the matter under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act. An FIR was subsequently registered, and the investigation has since gathered pace.

Preliminary findings reportedly indicate the involvement of the three officials in facilitating the transfer of the land. Investigators are now examining whether the nine beneficiaries who received the land are genuine individuals or benami holders acting on behalf of others.

Lokayukta Superintendent of Police Shivaprakash Devaraju said all nine beneficiaries had been identified and that notices would be issued to them after scrutiny of the

documents seized during the raids. The officials concerned will also be asked to explain their role in the alleged irregularities.

The seized records include files related to land grants, revenue documents and other official records that investigators believe could establish how the land was transferred despite its notified status as government property.

The Lokayukta said further action would depend on the findings of the ongoing investigation. If evidence of misconduct is established, additional charges and departmental proceedings could follow against the officials and other beneficiaries allegedly involved in the land allotment process.

HC petition challenges State poll panel's parallel voter roll revision

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A writ petition has been filed before the Karnataka High Court challenging the State Election Commission's decision to undertake a separate revision of electoral rolls in selected wards of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), even as the Election Commission of India is conducting a nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists.

The petition, filed by Vivek and other residents of the Mahadevapura Assembly constituency, seeks the quashing of the State Election Commission's June 19 order directing a parallel revision of electoral rolls in certain GBA wards. The matter is yet to come up for hearing.

According to the petitioners, the Election Commission of India had announced the nationwide SIR programme on October 27, 2025, and subsequently froze the electoral rolls for Assembly constituencies in Karnataka on June 16, 2026. Just three

days later, the State Election Commission issued its own order initiating a separate revision process for selected urban wards. The petition contends that the house-to-house SIR exercise directed by the Central Election Commission commences across Karnataka, including Bengaluru, on June 26. Conducting another voter list revision simultaneously, it argues, is likely to create confusion among officials and voters and could result in duplication of work.

The petitioners have also alleged that the State Election Commission's exercise is contrary to the directions issued by the Election Commission of India and therefore deserves to be set aside. They further claimed that appointing separate officials for the same exercise, conducting independent training programmes, printing additional voter lists and preparing separate Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) infrastructure would lead to unnecessary expenditure of public funds and duplication of administrative resources.

KSR station to get 1,370-crore world-class makeover

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) Bengaluru Railway Station is set to be transformed into a world-class transport hub with a proposed investment of ₹1,370 crore, Union Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna announced on Tuesday.

Speaking after laying the foundation stone for a ₹5.5-crore pedestrian subway near Sampige Road Metro station, Somanna said the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the KSR station redevelopment has been completed. He added that discussions are under way on whether the project will be executed entirely by the Central government or under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

The redevelopment of KSR station is part of a larger plan to modernise Bengaluru's railway infrastructure and improve passenger facilities in the rapidly growing metropolis. Somanna also said the redevelopment of



Bengaluru Cantonment Railway Station, being taken up at a cost of ₹485 crore, is expected to be completed within the next four to five months.

Work is also progressing on the redevelopment of Yeshwantpur Railway Station, which is being upgraded at an estimated cost of ₹1,400 crore. In addition, a ₹5,700-crore Mega Logistics Terminal is under construction at Yelahanka to strengthen freight movement and logistics infrastructure.

Highlighting broader railway investments in Karnataka, the minister said projects worth nearly ₹52,000 crore are currently under execution across the State. These include 146 railway underpasses and bridge-

es, suburban rail expansion and new railway lines aimed at improving regional connectivity.

Somanna said the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project remains a priority and efforts are under way to expand existing railway corridors connecting the city with Ramanagara, Tumakuru, Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) and other neighbouring regions.

Urban Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said Bengaluru's infrastructure growth requires close cooperation between the State and the Centre. He urged the Railways to continue working with the State government to address the city's growing transportation needs.

Major railway infrastructure projects, including station redevelopment and suburban rail expansion, are set to transform Bengaluru's transport network.

Gandhinagar MLA Dinesh Gundu Rao welcomed the long-awaited pedestrian subway project, saying it would greatly benefit residents of Srirampura, Swatantra Palaya and surrounding localities. He expressed hope that the project would be completed within the targeted six months.

MP P.C. Mohan and Rajya Sabha member Lehar Singh Siroya were also present. During the event, Somanna commended Krishna Byre Gowda and Dinesh Gundu Rao for their cooperation in land acquisition for railway projects and praised the State's implementation of the e-khata system for better property management.

Man stabbed to death with broken beer bottle after bar altercation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A minor argument inside a bar in south Bengaluru ended in a brutal murder after a 28-year-old man was allegedly stabbed in the chest with a broken beer bottle near Jaraganahalli on Kana kapura Road. The deceased has been identified as Uday Kumar. Police have identified the two accused as Cheluvu and Teja, who are currently absconding. According to the Puttenahalli police, the incident occurred around 8.30 p.m. outside a bar in Jaraganahalli. Preliminary investigations revealed that Uday Kumar and the accused were strangers and had no prior acquaintance. Police said an argument broke out inside the bar after Uday allegedly objected to or stared at the accused, leading to a heated exchange of words.

Cabinet panel to examine proposed NRI, global investment department: M.B. Patil

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Industries Minister M.B. Patil on Tuesday said the State government would discuss the proposal to create a separate department for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and global investment through a Cabinet sub-committee before taking a final decision.

Speaking to reporters, Patil said a committee headed by Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara had been constituted to examine the proposal and remove any ambiguity surrounding the new department.

The proposal to establish a Department of Global Investment and Foreign Affairs came up for discussion during the Cabinet meeting held on July 2.

Patil said attracting global investments currently falls under the Department of Large and Medium Industries and warned that creating another department with similar re-



sponsibilities could result in duplication of functions.

"We have no issues with matters relating to external affairs. However, when investment promotion is assigned to another department, there is likely to be an overlap in responsibilities," he said.

The Minister pointed out that the Industries Department already has dedicated mechanisms, including the Invest Karnataka Forum and a high-level committee that evaluates incentives and concessions for investors.

He clarified that the government had no objection to initiatives aimed at the wel-

fare of NRIs or identifying global talent. However, he said confusion arose because the original proposal referred to "global business", while the Cabinet discussion referred to "global investment".

"This issue will be examined by the Cabinet sub-committee and the confusion will be resolved before any final decision is taken," Patil said.

Responding to the BJP's criticism of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's recent remarks advising farmers not to depend solely on reservoir water for cultivation, Patil defended the government's stand.

He said drinking water for people and livestock must remain the top priority during periods of water scarcity.

"When reservoirs have limited water, supplying drinking water becomes the first responsibility. It is unfortunate that the Opposition is trying to politicise such an important issue," the Minister said.

JUNCTION REPAIRS NEEDED

Traffic Police seek urgent repairs at 750 Bengaluru signal junctions

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Traffic Police have urged the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to undertake immediate repairs at nearly 750 signal junctions across the city, stating that poor road conditions are a major contributor to traffic congestion and longer travel times.

The recommendation is part of a comprehensive report prepared following directions from Urban Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who last month asked the Traffic Police to identify key causes of con-



gestion at major intersections and suggest practical measures to improve traffic flow.

Acting on the Minister's instructions, traffic personnel conducted extensive field in-

spectations of junctions across Bengaluru. The findings were compiled into a report and submitted to the GBA, recommending priority action to improve road infrastructure at

signalised intersections.

According to the report, damaged road surfaces, potholes and uneven carriageways at around 750 junctions are slowing vehicle movement and causing traffic bottlenecks during peak hours. The Traffic Police have requested the civic authority to scientifically repair these roads to ensure smoother traffic movement and improve commuter safety.

Officials said the study relied on inputs collected by field staff who regularly monitor traffic conditions at busy junctions. The exercise involved analys-

ing road conditions, identifying engineering deficiencies and documenting issues that directly affect the movement of vehicles.

Apart from damaged roads, the report has identified speed breakers at nine traffic signal junctions as another factor contributing to congestion. The Traffic Police have recommended that these humps be removed immediately, as they unnecessarily slow vehicles and increase waiting time at intersections. The report also calls for a comprehensive review of the engineering aspects of Ben-

galuru's road network. It urges the GBA to examine the structural issues responsible for recurring congestion and implement corrective measures in coordination with other civic agencies.

Officials believe that addressing these deficiencies through timely maintenance and scientific road engineering can significantly reduce delays without requiring major infrastructure expansion. They have stressed that better-maintained junctions would not only improve traffic flow but also enhance road safety for motorists and pedestrians.

The Traffic Police have now requested the Greater Bengaluru Authority to prepare an action plan based on the recommendations and initiate repairs on priority. Civic officials are expected to study the report before taking up the proposed works.

With Bengaluru continuing to witness rapid growth in vehicle numbers, authorities hope coordinated action between the Traffic Police and the GBA will help ease congestion at some of the city's busiest intersections and provide commuters with safer and more efficient road travel.

QUICK READ

Koppal voter forms distribution reaches new milestone**Koppal**

The Special Comprehensive Revision of Electoral Rolls 2026, continues in Koppal district with 11,39,824 enumeration forms distributed to voters till 6:00 pm on July 7, officials said. A total of 11,90,214 voters are registered across five assembly constituencies and printed forms have reached booth level officers. So far, 2,12,614 forms have been digitized during the ongoing process. Officials said the door-to-door survey is progressing smoothly with cooperation from voters across the district. The revision aims to update electoral records accurately and ensure proper voter information before completion of the campaign.

Son arrested after mother found dead at home**Mysuru**

A 39-year-old man was arrested after allegedly killing his 74-year-old mother and hiding her body in the bathroom of their house at JSS Layout Phase I under Udayagiri Police Station limits. The deceased, Ratamma, was a retired government employee. Police said the incident happened four days earlier and came to light after neighbours noticed a bad smell. During questioning, the accused Arun Kumar reportedly confessed to the crime. Police registered a case and produced him before the court, which sent him to judicial custody.

Devotees urged to support success of religious celebrations**Gurugunta**

The devotees and residents of Gurugunta village were urged to actively participate and contribute towards the successful organisation of the upcoming religious programmes of Devarabhupura Brihanmath. Speaking at an invitation distribution programme held at Sri Vasavi Kalyana Mantapa on Sunday, Abhinava Gajadanda Shri of Devarabhupura Brihanmath said that Gurugunta village was like the right hand of the mutt and had always extended strong support to its activities. He appealed to devotees to work together for the success of the 21-day religious celebrations being organised at the mutt for the welfare of society and encouraged people to participate in large numbers.

Yathindra Siddaramaiah chairs voter revision meeting

Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah urged party workers to guide voters in adding names, correcting details, and updating electoral rolls

MYSURU

A meeting was held at the Mysuru District Congress Office under the chairmanship of Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah on the Special Voters List Revision process as per the directions of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee.

The meeting discussed effective implementation of the voter list revision work. Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah said party workers should stay connected with people and provide proper guidance to eligible voters for adding names, correcting details and making necessary changes in the electoral roll. He urged office bearers and workers to



coordinate efforts to protect voter rights and ensure that every eligible citizen gets an opportunity to exercise the voting right without losing it unknowingly.

Booth level meetings were also conducted in Biligere, Varuna and T. Narasipura areas under the Varuna assembly constituency. During these

meetings, workers received detailed information about the Special Voters List Revision process. Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah instructed them to create awareness among the public and help voters complete additions, corrections and other required updates according to rules. He said party workers are continuous-

ly engaging with citizens to make the revision process successful and encourage all eligible voters to verify their details. Later Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah inspected the ongoing flyover construction work in Mysuru city and reviewed progress with officials. He directed authorities to complete the project within the fixed period while maintaining quality and safety standards. He instructed officials to take precautions to avoid traffic problems and inconvenience to the public during construction activities. Smooth traffic management and public safety were highlighted as important priorities.

Deputy Commissioner Lakshmi Reddy and officials

from concerned departments attended the inspection. The meetings and inspection focused on strengthening voter awareness and improving public infrastructure. Officials said coordinated efforts between departments and citizens are essential for successful implementation of government programmes and civic development works. The revision campaign will continue with the aim of ensuring accurate voter lists and protecting democratic rights. Authorities appealed to people to cooperate with officials and complete the required procedures on time. The initiative is expected to improve transparency and strengthen participation in the process.

Discipline and mock tests hold the key to success in police recruitment

MYSURU

Mere hours of study at home are not enough to succeed in competitive examinations. Candidates must experience the real examination atmosphere, learn to handle pressure and master time management through mock tests, said Nitish Patil, Administrator of the Mysuru City Corporation, Regional Commissioner and Chairman of the City Library Authority.

Speaking after inaugurating the mock examination for the Karnataka State Police Civil Police Constables Recruitment conducted jointly by the City Central Library at People's Park here on Tuesday, he said even minor mistakes while filling out OMR sheets can cost candidates an entire examination. Such errors should be identified and corrected during mock tests. They must study for 12 to 16 hours a day, but without writing mock tests, it is difficult to succeed in the actual examination. The aspirants must devote at least 30 per cent of their total preparation time to taking mock tests.

The RC said there is no substitute for hard work in securing a government job, and shared his own experience that he had appeared not only for the UPSC Civil Services Examination but also for the KPSC, PDO, Bank and RBI recruitment examinations. Aspirants should never look down upon any competitive examination while pursuing their goals.

Saying that no post is small, Patil said one can begin as a Police Constable and later rise to become a PSI or even an IPS officer.

A nurse from his own batch who later became an IAS officer and many candidates who studied in open universities have also gone on to clear the Civil Services Examination.

Patil urged candidates not to develop an inferiority complex over their lack of English proficiency. Many students from Kannada-medium schools have successfully cleared the UPSC examination.

Khandre rejects HMT forest land realty allegations

BIDAR

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar Khandre has strongly responded to Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's allegations regarding the HMT forest land issue, stating that there is no possibility of real estate activity on land classified as forest.

Reacting to allegations that the state government was attempting to clear HMT land for real estate purposes, Khandre said the forest land that was not converted legally has to remain forest land as per law. He alleged that it was HMT, and not the Forest Department, that had encroached upon forest land by using it for commercial purposes.

Khandre questioned how real estate development could take place on forest land after action under Section 64A of the Karnataka Forest Act, 1963. He said that following the implementation of the

Forest Conservation Act, 1980, the Supreme Court had made it clear that forest land without valid conversion would continue to remain forest.

He also said some officials had approached the Supreme Court seeking de-notification of HMT-controlled forest land without approval from the high-level committee headed by the Chief Secretary, the Forest Minister or the state Cabinet. Those officials were suspended and notices were issued, he added.

Responding to Kumaraswamy's statement that the HMT land had only buildings and no forest area, Khandre said he had personally visited the location along with officials and claimed that the area included a 280-acre plantation with forest characteristics.

Khandre alleged that HMT had commercially used forest land and sold 165 acres for around ₹300 crore. He challenged Kumaraswamy to vis-

Khandre questioned real estate activity on forest land, citing Forest Conservation Act and Supreme Court directions that unconverted forest land remains protected

it the site and verify the facts.

Calling the forest land under HMT as the property of seven crore Kannadigas, Khandre said the government's objective was to develop a large biodiversity park across 444 acres, larger than Lalbagh and Cubbon Park.

He also advised Kumaraswamy to focus on reviving industries such as NMDC's steel plant in Ballari and the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant in Bhadravati instead of making allegations against the government. Khandre reiterated that the government was committed to protecting forest land and preventing its misuse for commercial interests.

MANGALURU

The crop survey for the 2026-27 Kharif season has already begun across the district. Farmers have been asked to carry out the survey themselves through a specially developed mobile application.

Those who possess an FID number in the department's FRUITS software must download the app named "Kharif Farmers Crop Survey-2026-27" from the Google Play Store.

After downloading the app, farmers need to complete Aadhaar authentication through e-KYC. They must select the option, enter their Aadhaar number, generate an OTP, and enter the OTP received on their registered mobile number. Once verified, all land details linked to their FID number will appear in the app.

In the next step, farmers should select the Survey Number and Hissa Number, enter the owner's name, and mark the field. They must then stand

within the boundary lines of the Survey Number, record the crop details, take a photograph, and upload the information through the app. Farmers who do not yet have an FID number should visit the nearest Agriculture or Horticulture department office to obtain one.

The collected crop survey data will be used for distributing relief during natural calamities, implementing crop insurance schemes, preparing season-wise area reports of various crops, executing beneficiary-oriented schemes of the Agriculture, Horticulture and Sericulture departments, and maintaining accurate crop records in farmers' passbooks.

The Joint Director of Agriculture has appealed to all farmers in the district to personally record the crop details of their lands survey number-wise in the mobile app without any errors and within the stipulated time so that the 2026-27 Kharif crop survey can be completed successfully.

ART REACHES PEOPLE THROUGH SPECIAL CULTURAL EVENT

CHITRADURGA

The special program 'Kala Nadige Nimmata Kemmana' was organized at Onake Obavva Stadium to bring art and artists closer to the public. Sub-Divisional Officer Dr. K.J. Kantharaj said the initiative, which showcases different forms of Indian art, plays an important role in connecting people with culture and traditions.

Speaking after inaugurating the event, Dr. Kantharaj appreciated the efforts of the Kannada and Culture Department and Youth Services and Sports Department for organizing the program. He expressed concern that modern lifestyles are causing people to forget



their traditional arts, culture and heritage. He urged citizens to work together to protect and promote cultural values.

Assistant Director of the Kannada and Culture Department Dr. B.M. Gurunath said earlier people had to visit specific places to watch artists perform. How-

ever, through this project, artists are now reaching public spaces and presenting their talents directly to people. He explained that the main aim of the program is to entertain citizens while creating awareness about the country's rich cultural heritage.

Officials said similar

events are being held at crowded public locations to attract more people. They added that future programs will be organized at the historic Chitradurga Fort, malls and major parks to provide wider opportunities for cultural performances.

Dr. Prasanna Kumar from the Karnataka State Audit and Accounts Department attended the event. Artists Gangadhar and his team, along with Jagadish and his group, presented impressive cultural performances that entertained the audience. The program received a positive response from the public and highlighted the importance of preserving traditional arts for future generations.

Voters urged to support SIR electoral roll revision drive

HUVINAHIPPARGI

Tahsildar Yamanappa Somanakatti has appealed to citizens and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to cooperate in making the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls a successful exercise.

Speaking during his visit to various wards of Huvinahippargi village on Monday, the Tahsildar reviewed the ongoing process of distributing enumeration forms by BLOs as part of the voter list revision campaign.

He said the Special Intensive Revision process initiated by the Election Commission is an important exercise and stressed that BLOs must visit every household and provide enumeration forms in duplicate to each voter.

The Tahsildar instructed

BLOs to ensure that all eligible voters receive the forms, fill in the required details correctly and participate actively in the revision process.

He said BLOs have been appointed for every polling booth in the taluk and are responsible for visiting homes, distributing forms and guiding voters regarding the procedure.

Somanakatti urged voters not to have any confusion about the revision process and requested them to complete and submit the forms properly to help prepare an accurate electoral roll.

During the inspection, he observed the work being carried out by BLOs in different wards and interacted with officials regarding the progress of the campaign.

VILLAGE RELIEF REQUEST

Kandakur demands immediate drought relief for Kalyana Karnataka

GURUMITKAL

People of the Kalyana Karnataka region do not need sympathy but immediate relief measures, said Gurumitkal MLA Sharanagouda Kandakur, urging the state government to address the problems faced by drought-affected communities.

Speaking after laying the foundation stone for various development works in Yampad, Shivapur and Elheri villages of the constituency,



the MLA said people were suffering due to the lack of rainfall and severe water shortages.

He said that several

ministers, elected representatives and officials had been visiting the affected areas, holding meetings and offering

consolation, but concrete relief measures had not reached the people.

"People do not need consolation; they need relief," Kandakur said, stressing that immediate steps should be taken to address drinking water shortages and agricultural distress.

He appealed to the Chief Minister to ensure that visits to the region do not become mere formalities and urged the government to take long-term measures for the development

of Kalyana Karnataka.

Highlighting the water crisis, he said that rivers such as the Bhima and Krishna were facing reduced water availability, causing difficulties for both people and livestock. He also demanded the appointment of adequate teachers and doctors in schools and hospitals that have already been constructed in the region.

The MLA pointed out that dryland farmers were facing severe hardship and requested the government

to provide development opportunities on par with other regions of the state.

He recalled that a separate ministry for the Kalyana Karnataka region was announced during the previous Siddaramaiah government but alleged that sufficient progress had not been made even after two and a half years.

Kandakur also urged Gram Panchayat officials to address local issues effectively and said that funds from the Kalyana Karnataka Region Devel-

opment Board would be utilised for essential works after consulting villagers.

He criticised officials for delays in implementing development schemes and appealed to the Chief Minister to take action against officers who fail to utilise government grants properly.

Officials and local leaders, including representatives from various departments and village organisations, were present during the programme.

QUICK READ

Pre Matric Scholarship Applications Open for Minority Students

Madikeri
Online applications have been invited under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for the 2026-27 academic year through the SSP portal. Eligible students from Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh and Parsi minority communities studying in Classes One to Eight across Karnataka can apply. The scholarship aims to support students in continuing their education. Applicants can complete the process online and seek guidance from the District Minority Information Centre, Madikeri, or the Taluk Information Centre, Virajpet.

Minority grievance meeting scheduled in Chitradurga city

Chitradurga
A public grievance meeting for the minority community will be held at Chitradurga City Hall on July 9 at noon under the chairmanship of Karnataka State Minorities Commission Chairman U. Nisar Ahmed. District Minority Welfare Department officials said the meeting aims to hear public concerns and provide solutions to issues faced by minority citizens. People from minority communities are invited to attend the program in large numbers and share their problems directly with officials. The event will help understand community needs and improve support services through proper discussion and action.



GTTC opens admissions for technical training courses

Haveri
Admissions have begun at the Government Tool and Die Training Centre, Hangal, for one-year Tool Room Machinist and two-year Tool and Die Technician courses. Students who passed or failed Class 10 are eligible to apply. The training includes Turner, Miller, Grinder, Fitter, CNC, CAD, CAM and Tool and Die Making skills. Experienced faculty and modern facilities will provide practical learning. Officials said successful candidates will receive placement support through campus interviews with leading industries. Applications will be accepted until July 18, and classes begin on July 20.

CHITRADURGA

The Agriculture Department has advised farmers in Chitradurga district to select suitable crops and adopt drought management practices following forecasts of below normal rainfall during the current monsoon season. Joint Agriculture Director B. Manjunath said the expected low rainfall is linked to the El Niño effect caused by rising surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean. He urged farmers to plan cultivation carefully to



Bridge Man Girish Bharadwaj passes away At 76

Mechanical engineer Bharadwaj built low-cost suspension bridges through Ayashilpa Engineering Works, improving rural connectivity across multiple states

MANGALURU

Padma Shri award-winning engineer Dr. Girish Bharadwaj, popularly known as the “Bridge Man of India” and “Sullia’s Visvesvaraya,” passed away on Tuesday at a hospital in Sullia. He was 76 and had been undergoing treatment for heart-related illness before his condition became serious. Dr. Girish Bharadwaj dedicated his life to improving rural connectivity by building



more than 140 suspension bridges across India. His low-cost and innovative bridge technology helped connect

remote villages with roads and made daily travel easier for thousands of families. His work earned appreciation across the country for providing safe bridges in less time and with fewer resources. A mechanical engineering graduate, Bharadwaj initially planned a career in the industrial sector but later chose bridge construction to serve rural communities. Through his organisation, Ayashilpa Engineering Works, he built suspension bridges in Karna-

taka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and other states. His bridges were completed much faster and at a much lower cost compared to traditional structures. His 100th suspension bridge built at Mandekoli in Sullia received special recognition, and villagers honoured him with the titles “Sullia’s Visvesvaraya” and “Sardar of Suspension Bridges.” The Government of India awarded him the Padma Shri in 2017 for his exceptional contribu-

tion to technology and social service. Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar expressed grief over his death and remembered his remarkable contribution to rural development. Leaders and citizens mourned the loss of a rare technical expert whose work transformed the lives of many people. Dr. Bharadwaj’s bridges will continue to stand as a symbol of innovation, service and dedication to society for generations.

DHO says public hospitals control remains intact

MANGALURU

The District Health Officer has clarified that agreements with private organizations for Belthangady, Bantwal, Moodbidri and Vittal hospitals are aimed at improving health-care services and not reducing government control over public hospitals. The department said the move will bring specialist doctors, medical staff and advanced equipment closer to rural patients free of cost. The Health and Family Welfare Department explained that memorandums with reputed medical colleges will strengthen the public health system at the local level. Under these agreements, private institutions will only provide medical support, while management of government hospitals will remain with the department. Officials said people can receive specialist treatment and diagnostic facilities without travelling far or paying high private hospital fees. The officer noted that similar partnerships at District Wenlock Hospital and Government Ladygoshan Hospital have improved services through specialist care. The cath lab started recently at Wenlock Hospital has helped more than 1000 BPL patients receive free heart treatment. The model has also increased patient visits at Ulal Health Center from 46 to around 400 or 500 daily after more facilities became available. Officials said the latest agreements for Bantwal, Moodbidri and Vittal Community Hospitals follow the success of existing collaborations and are focused on delivering better healthcare to citizens. They added that these arrangements will help rural communities access quality services without extra expenses.

Lokayukta traps Panchayat officials in bribery case

SRINIVASPUR

Two officials of Yeldur Gram Panchayat in Kolar district were allegedly caught by the Karnataka Lokayukta Police while accepting a bribe of ₹5 lakh to clear pending bills under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Four officials have been booked in connection with the case, which has drawn widespread attention in the district. The case has been registered at the Karnataka Lokayukta Police Station, Kolar, under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended in 2018. Officials said the investigation is continuing and further legal action will be taken based on the evidence collected during the operation. According to the complaint, contractor Shivakumar had supplied materials for 32 MGNREGA works carried out in Yeldur Gram Panchayat between 2024 and 2026 after

receiving official work orders. Bills worth nearly ₹40 lakh were pending for payment. He alleged that panchayat officials demanded a commission of ₹9.15 lakh to release the bills. After receiving the complaint, the Lokayukta Police conducted a preliminary verification and planned a trap operation to verify the allegations before taking further action. The accused have been identified as Grade II Secretary N. Shivashankar, Panchayat Development Officer K.V. Narendra Babu, Junior Engineer Gowthami and Data Entry Operator Vasanth M. The trap operation was conducted under the supervision of Lokayukta Superintendent of Police Anthony John J.K. and led by Deputy Superintendent of Police Sunil Kumar B., Police Inspector Renuka A.V. and other officers. During the operation at the complainant’s residence in Yeldur village, officials allegedly caught N.

Lokayukta officials trapped two Panchayat officers accepting ₹5 lakh bribe in Yeldur, while two others were named and questioned in the case

Shivashankar and K.V. Narendra Babu while accepting ₹5 lakh as part of the alleged bribe. The remaining two officials have also been named in the case and are being questioned. Lokayukta officers seized the ₹5 lakh allegedly accepted during the operation along with documents and other material evidence connected to the investigation. The accused were produced before the competent court, while the investigation continues to determine the full extent of the alleged corruption. Officials said strict action will be taken based on the findings, reinforcing the government’s commitment to transparency and accountability in public administration.

Chitradurga students honoured for Olympiad achievements

CHITRADURGA

Certificates were distributed to government school students who performed well in the online Olympiad examination at the Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project BC Trust office in Chitradurga. CSC Project Officer Vignesh D. Kamath said the Olympiad exam provides a strong foundation for students to face future competitive examinations with confidence and develop better learning skills. Speaking at the program, Kamath said the Olympiad examination is a national level competition conducted for students from Classes 3 to 12. He explained that the exam goes beyond regular school lessons and helps identify hidden talents among students. It also improves knowledge, logical thinking and problem-solving abilities, preparing students for higher level

competitions in the future. Chandrahas B., Field Planning Officer of Chitradurga Planning Office, said 1,550 students from government and private schools across the taluk participated enthusiastically in the Olympiad examination organized by the Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project BC Trust Chitradurga Planning Office CSC Seva Kendra. He said many students achieved good results by securing more than 80 percent marks. Certificates were handed over to successful students during the event. Chitradurga Taluk Nodal Officer Shivaraj Naik, CSC Sevadars, students who appeared for the exam and their parents attended the program. The event encouraged students to continue improving their academic skills and prepare for future challenges with confidence and determination.

Chikkaballapura NH44 crash leaves two dead

CHIKKABALLAPURA

An APSRTC bus accident on National Highway 44 in Pailagurki area of Chikkaballapura taluk claimed the lives of the bus driver and one passenger on Monday midnight. The bus reportedly hit the rear side of a truck moving ahead, causing severe damage to the front portion of the vehicle. Police have registered a case and started an investigation. The deceased were identified as Lakshan, a driver from the Kumool APSRTC depot,



and Umakant Rao, a resident of Kalyan Nagar in Bengaluru. The bus was carrying 26 passengers, and several travellers suffered injuries in the accident. The injured passengers were shifted to Chikka-

ballapura District Hospital for treatment. The impact trapped the driver inside the cabin, and rescue teams used a crane to remove the body. Peresandra police visited the accident spot and conduct-

ed preliminary investigations. The collision caused heavy traffic congestion on the Hyderabad-Bengaluru highway for some time. Officials said the exact reason behind the accident is not clear yet and will be confirmed after a detailed investigation. Police have assured that necessary action will be taken based on the findings. The incident has created concern among passengers and road users, highlighting the need for careful driving and improved safety measures on busy highways.

FAMILY ATTACKED AFTER OVERTAKING DISPUTE ON EXPRESSWAY



MANDYA

A family travelling on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway was allegedly attacked by a group of men following an argument over overtaking near the Maddur flyover. The incident has raised concerns among motorists about public safety on the busy highway. The entire incident was captured on the dash camera of a vehicle travelling behind the family car. According to reports, Sagar from Bengaluru was travelling from Mysuru to Bengaluru with his wife, children and mother. The trouble reportedly started when some men objected to his overtaking while he was driving on the service road near Srirangapatna. Although Sagar moved ahead, the group allegedly followed

him in two vehicles. Near the Maddur flyover, they stopped his car and attacked him. The attackers allegedly assaulted Sagar with a jack rod, causing injuries, while his wife and mother tried to protect him. During the incident, an eight year old child who requested the attackers to stop was also allegedly harmed. Maddur police reached the spot after receiving information and rescued the family. Police have registered a serious case against the accused, and the injured are undergoing treatment. The incident has caused concern among citizens, who have urged authorities to take strict action against road violence and ensure safer travel conditions on the expressway for all commuters.

Kodagu monsoon improves despite lower seasonal rainfall

MADIKERI

Kodagu district recorded an average rainfall of 57.20 mm during the 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on Tuesday, compared with 27.18 mm on the same day last year. Rainfall from January to date stands at 571.09 mm, lower than 1,598.66 mm recorded during the corresponding period last year. Madikeri taluk received 76.63 mm, Virajpet recorded 51.50 mm, Ponnampet registered the highest taluk average of 83.02 mm, Somwarpet received 55.25 mm, while Kushalnagar recorded 19.60 mm.

Among major rainfall stations, Bhagamandala recorded the highest rainfall at 165 mm, followed by Ponnampet with 125 mm, Hudikeri with 89 mm, Shantalli with 83 mm, Srimangala with 82 mm and Virajpet with 64 mm. Other stations also received steady rainfall, including Madikeri, Napoklu, Sampaje, Balele, Somwarpet, Shanivarasante, Kodlipete, Kushalnagar and Sunkikoppa. Officials said rainfall across the district has improved daily conditions, although cumulative rainfall since January remains lower than the figures recorded during the same pe-

riod last year. The Harangi Reservoir water level stood at 2,837.12 feet against its maximum capacity of 2,859 feet, while the level on the corresponding day last year was 2,853.25 feet. The reservoir received 11.60 mm rainfall, with an inflow of 1,657 cusecs and an outflow of 180 cusecs.



Welfare loan applications reopen for eligible families

MADIKERI

The Karnataka State Safai Karmachari Development Corporation has reopened applications for welfare loan schemes after receiving very few requests during the 2025-26 financial year. Eligible safai workers, manual scavengers, and their dependents can apply until July 30. Officials said the initiative aims to improve livelihoods through financial assistance and self-employment opportunities.

Farmers urged to choose drought resistant crops



reduce crop losses and protect their income during the season.

Manjunath said timely sowing, conserving soil moisture and adopting

drought management practices can help farmers achieve better yields even under difficult weather conditions. He advised farmers to sow crops only after receiving continuous rainfall of 10 to 20 millimetres for two or three days. Instead of growing crops that require more water, farmers were encouraged to cultivate drought resistant crops such as ragi, pigeon pea, foxtail millet, little millet and pearl millet. He also recommended wider spacing between rows and

plants, intercropping methods and ridge cultivation to improve moisture conservation and reduce financial risks. The department suggested soaking seeds in a calcium chloride solution before sowing to improve seed strength and drought tolerance. Farmers were also advised to use agricultural waste as mulch, apply more organic manure and carry out regular weed control to retain soil moisture. During dry spells, spraying urea, zinc sulphate or potassium

nitrate solutions can help crops recover. The use of hydrogel was also recommended to improve moisture retention in the soil. Officials advised farmers to choose suitable crop varieties such as GPU-28, GPU-66 and KMR-316 for ragi, K-6 for groundnut and GRG-152 or TS-3-R for pigeon pea cultivation. The Agriculture Department further advised farmers to shift to short duration crop varieties if the monsoon is delayed and consider alternative crops if rain-

fall remains poor for a longer period. Where water is available, drip and sprinkler irrigation should be used to save water and improve productivity. Farmers were also encouraged to adopt integrated farming systems, obtain crop insurance and regularly follow advisories issued by the Agriculture Department, Krishi Vigyan Kendra and agricultural universities through newspapers, television, radio and social media for timely guidance throughout the season.





QUICK READ

Soil health cards guide farmers towards farming

Gadag

Soil testing helps farmers use fertilizers properly and protect soil health. The Agriculture Department is distributing Soil Health Cards to guide farmers about nutrient levels and fertilizer needs. Experts said farmers should follow card recommendations to improve crop production and maintain fertility. The cards explain organic carbon, major nutrients, micronutrients and soil conditions. Farmers are encouraged to adopt crop rotation, intercropping, organic farming and natural farming methods for better results. Balanced nutrient use can reduce costs and support quality harvests.

Salary issue hits government schools in taluks

Dharwad

salaries of government high schools in Anni-geri and Alnavar taluks of Dharwad district have been delayed for three to four months due to pending annual link amendment for 2026-27. The proposal with required documents was submitted to authorities for approval and immediate action. Staff requested quick resolution to clear salary payments under the School Education Department. The matter was brought forward by Basavaraja S. Horatti seeking necessary steps from officials. Authorities were urged to approve the amendment soon and ensure regular salary payment for employees working in newly started taluks.

MESCOM faces massive losses due to storms

Mangaluru

Heavy monsoon rains and strong winds have caused extensive damage to the electricity infrastructure under the Mangalore Electricity Supply Company (MESCOM) limits, resulting in losses estimated at 1738 crore between April 1 and July 5. The damage was reported across Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Shivamogga, and Chikkamagaluru districts due to relentless rainfall, falling trees, landslides, and gusty winds. According to official data, 11,867 electricity poles, 43 transformers, and nearly 330 kilometres of power lines have been damaged during the period. The majority of the damage occurred when trees fell on electric poles and transmission lines, while landslides and storms further affected power infrastructure in several areas.

Patil urges self reflection among Lingayat community

Patil said Sharan literature upholds strong traditions, recalling Basavanna's centuries-old message of dignity of labour and respect for all professions

BENGALURU

Two-day 14th Sharan Sahitya Sammelana began in Bengaluru with a call for unity and self-reflection among Lingayat community members. Senior leader and Minister M. B. Patil said the Veerashaiva Lingayat faith was originally based on equality and casteless values but has now faced divisions due to sub-caste identities. He made the remarks while inaugurating the two-day conference organised by All India Sharan Sahitya Parishad at Basaveshwara Sugnan Mantapa in Vijayanagara.

Patil said Sharan literature and traditions have a strong foundation and recalled that Basavanna promoted dignity of labour and respect for every profession centuries ago. He said the teachings of the Sharanas gave society a mes-



sage of equality and social responsibility. He added that internal divisions weakened the community and urged members to think about unity and preserve their cultural identity. The minister said some Lingayat groups identify themselves through sub-castes during census processes due to reservation concerns which affects population figures. He stated that giving separate religion recognition would not

threaten other faiths and expressed disappointment over opposition to the demand. He appealed for awareness and said the community should remember the values of Basavanna and Sharanas.

Conference president Go.R. Channabasappa demanded legal recognition for Lingayat religion and requested inclusion of Vachana literature in education curriculum. He also urged the government to es-

tablish Vachana University and honour Sharan leaders by naming public places after them. Spiritual leaders including Shivaratri Deshikendra Swamiji and Siddalinga Swamiji attended the event along with other dignitaries.

The two-day conference concluded with discussions on social reform, literature and the importance of following Basavanna's principles in modern times. Speakers said equality and compassion remain essential for building a stronger society. They appealed to people to avoid divisions and work together for collective progress. Organisers said Sharan teachings continue to inspire generations through their message of justice and harmony. The gathering highlighted the need to preserve heritage while promoting unity among communities across Karnataka.



Puttur MLA reviews unresolved revenue department cases

PUTTUR

MLA Ashok Rai organized a meeting of revenue department officials at his office on Monday to address the backlog created by the four-month strike of surveyors in the Puttur assembly constituency. Many files had remained unresolved during that period, and the legislator used the gathering to review the situation and issue clear instructions for faster processing.

Approximately one thousand Bagar Hukum rights title files continue to await disposal. Officials at the meeting agreed to complete all conversion cases and 11E accounts within forty-five days. They also committed to finishing the entire set of Bagar Hukum rights documents inside the next three months.

Except for three hundred and twelve files, every other floating file has already been transferred from the Tahsildar office to the Survey department. The MLA directed that these files be handled in successive stages. Floating applications will transfer automatically to the Survey department, after which each one will be taken up individually for disposal.

Residents had faced considerable difficulty because of the strike. The legislator noted this hardship and pointed out that an order from the Revenue Minister to the Survey department now allows file processing to proceed in a systematic and prompt manner.

Fifteen government surveyors work in Puttur, while the

: The MLA convened revenue officials after surveyors ended their four-month strike, setting firm deadlines for Bagar Hukum files and other pending cases.

rest are licensed surveyors. The licensed surveyors had placed a demand for higher pay before the MLA. He stated that this demand will be brought to the attention of the Revenue Minister so that appropriate steps can be taken.

Additional licensed surveyors will be recruited to help clear the revenue department files throughout the constituency. The MLA further indicated that pressure will be applied on the government to approve these extra appointments.

The public was urged to cooperate fully when surveyors arrive to measure land during file processing. Residents should avoid sending surveyors back on minor pretexts, because joint effort from everyone will help speed up the overall disposal of files.

Applicants who have submitted floating applications were assured there is no reason for concern. Their files will move automatically for disposal. Already eighty percent of the files have shifted from the Tahsildar login to the Survey department. Cases that have remained pending for several years will also be resolved smoothly, the MLA confirmed.

DDL R. Pushparaj, the ADLR, surveyors, and licensed surveyors took part in the meeting.

MLA launches drainage and road development works in Central Ward

MANGALURU

MLA Vedavyasa Kamath led the ground-breaking ceremony for the remaining drainage work and the comprehensive development of Gaurimath Road.

The works are located behind Mahamaya Temple in the 41st Central Ward within the limits of Mangaluru City Corporation. The project was taken up with a special grant of ₹60 lakh in response to the long-standing demand from local residents.

During the event the MLA stated that the work had been initiated to fulfil the persistent requests of the people in the area.

Delay in Anjanadri hundi announcement sparks doubts

KOPPAL

A press release issued four days after the hundi counting at the famous Anjanadri temple in Koppal district has raised questions among devotees and local residents.

Anjanadri hill, located in Gangavathi taluk of Koppal district, is popularly believed to be the birthplace of Lord Hanuman and attracts thousands of devotees from across the country. The hundi counting of the Anjaneya temple was conducted on July 3, but the official details were released only four days later.

The delay in issuing the press statement by the taluk administration has created doubts among some sections of the public. Devotees have questioned why the details of the collection were not announced immediately after the counting process.



According to the information released by the administration, the previous hundi counting was held on March 23. During the latest counting, donations collected over a period of 94 days amounted to ₹71,77,460.

Officials also stated that foreign currencies from Nepal, the United States, Thailand, and Hong Kong were found among the offerings. The presence of foreign currency reflects the increasing number of devotees visiting the temple from different parts of the world.

The Anjanadri temple is one of the prominent religious destinations in the region and witnesses a continuous flow of pilgrims throughout the year. The hundi collections are counted under official supervision to ensure transparency in temple administration.

However, the late release of the press note has led to demands from devotees for timely disclosure of hundi counting details. They said that information related to temple collections should be made public without unnecessary delay to maintain trust and transparency. Authorities are expected to clarify the reason behind the delay in releasing the announcement. Meanwhile, the issue has drawn attention among devotees and local communities regarding the need for greater openness in temple-related financial matters.

BJP protest highlights teacher shortage in Pavagad

PAVAGAD

The Taluk BJP organized a protest march and sit-in against the shortage of teachers in government schools and alleged corruption in various departments. Party president Ashok D.R. led hundreds of workers, leaders and citizens from the town's observation post to the Tahsildar's office demanding immediate action from the government.

During the protest, Ashok said many government schools in the taluk are fac-

ing teacher shortages, which are badly affecting students from rural and poor backgrounds. He urged authorities to fill vacant posts quickly and appoint teachers to schools where classes are suffering due to lack of staff. He added that students should not lose educational opportunities because of administrative delays.

The BJP leader also demanded a detailed inquiry into alleged corruption in the Fisheries Department and some gram panchayats of the taluk.

MALNAD RAINFALL MAGIC

Monsoon rains revive majestic beauty of Jog Falls

SHIVAMOGGA

Continuous rainfall in the Malnad region has brought renewed life to the world-famous Jog Falls in Shivamogga district, transforming the iconic waterfall into a spectacular sight for visitors.

Shivamogga has been receiving widespread rainfall for the past four days, along with good showers in the Sharavathi valley region. The increased water flow has revived Jog Falls, located in Sagar taluk, with water cascading down in a magnificent



white stream.

The waterfall is now flowing strongly through all four major segments — Raja, Rani, Roarer, and Rocket — creating a breathtaking view.

The increased flow has attracted a large number of tourists who are arriving to witness the beauty of the falls during the monsoon season.

Visitors have been captivat-

ed by the scenic charm of Jog Falls as the heavy rains have enhanced its natural splendour. The surrounding greenery of the Malnad region, combined with the roaring sound of the waterfall, has created an attractive environment for tourists.

Local tourism stakeholders have welcomed the revival of the falls, as the monsoon season brings increased visitor activity and provides a boost to the region's tourism sector. Authorities have advised tourists to remain cautious while visiting waterfalls and

river areas due to slippery surfaces and unpredictable water flow during heavy rains.

Jog Falls, one of India's highest waterfalls, is a major tourist attraction in Karnataka and draws visitors from across the country, especially during the monsoon when the Sharavathi River flows with greater intensity. The rejuvenation of the waterfall has brought excitement among nature lovers and photographers, who are flocking to the location to capture the stunning monsoon landscape.



QUICK READ

Hidden marriage exposed in Lohagad murder case

PUNE

A shocking development has emerged in the Lohagad Fort murder investigation.

Sources reveal that Siya Goyal, accused of killing her fiancé Ketan Agarwal, had secretly married her boyfriend, Chetan Chaudhary, months before her planned wedding. Authorities believe this hidden marriage was the motive behind the tragic crime. Investigators suspect Goyal conspired to kill Agarwal to avoid calling off their arranged wedding, which she feared would shame her family. Police are now verifying legal documents and digital evidence. Both suspects remain in custody as officers work to piece together this heartbreaking story of deceit and violence.

Police seek remand for Ram temple thieves

AYODHYA

Ayodhya police have asked the local court for custody of three suspects tied to the massive Ram Temple donation theft. Investigators aim to uncover how stolen funds were laundered. Earlier, authorities seized over 49 lakh rupees from the accused. This follows a disturbing report showing staff hiding cash in their clothing, captured on CCTV. The scandal caused major security failures, leading top officials to resign. Police now hope that questioning the suspects will reveal where the remaining money is hidden. The temple trust is working to fix these security gaps and regain public trust completely.

Court rejects bail in 2020 riots case

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has officially rejected the bail plea of Athar Khan, an accused in the 2020 Delhi riots conspiracy case. The court ruled that there is strong evidence against him and expressed concerns that he might flee or influence key witnesses if released. Judges noted that WhatsApp chats suggest he was an active participant in the dangerous plot. While his lawyers argued he only planned peaceful protests, the court found his involvement significant. Khan will remain in custody as the legal proceedings continue regarding his alleged role in the violence.

Legal scrutiny intensifies over Banerjee's voice samples

The Calcutta High Court has urged Abhishek Banerjee to provide voice samples amid an ongoing investigation into allegations

KOLKATA

Legal trouble is growing for Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee. The Calcutta High Court asked why the Diamond Harbour MP is refusing to give voice samples for an ongoing investigation.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) wants these samples to check a video from the recent West Bengal assembly elections. In that video, the leader allegedly made violent threats



against a top Union minister during a rally. The CID needs to confirm if the voice in the recording belongs to him to move forward with the case.

Banerjee was ordered by a local court to provide his voice samples in front of a judge and experts. To avoid this, his lawyers asked the High Court for an urgent hearing to stop the process. However, Justice Sougata Bhattacharya refused to hold an emergency session.

The judge pointed out that the leader already has protection from arrest until July 31. Because of this safety, the court wondered why he will not simply help the investi-

gators. Even though Banerjee's team argued that he already admitted the voice was his, the court did not find this reason enough to stop the testing. Government lawyers argued that the testing is a must to complete the legal process. They reminded everyone that his protection depends on him fully helping the police.

The court agreed, telling the leader to cooperate. The next hearing for his request is now set for July 10.

Refreshing rainfall brings relief to scorching Delhi

NEW DELHI

Residents across Delhi and the National Capital Region finally breathed a sigh of relief as a refreshing spell of rain and thunderstorms swept through the city. After enduring days of stifling heat and uncomfortable humidity, the sudden change in weather felt like a true blessing for those braving the summer sun.

The city recorded a minimum temperature of 30 degrees Celsius, which was slightly higher than usual for this time of year. With humidity levels hitting 79 percent, the heat felt much more intense than the thermometer suggested. By 8:30 a.m., it felt like a scorching 44.7 degrees Celsius, making the morning commute quite a challenge for many.

However, the mood shifted by the afternoon as dark clouds gathered, bringing the cool showers everyone had been waiting for. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a "Yellow Alert," predicting more light to moderate rainfall over the coming days. It is not just Delhi, neighbouring areas in Haryana such as Rohtak and Sonipat, and parts of western Uttar Pradesh are also expect-

Delhi-NCR residents find relief from scorching heat as monsoon showers arrive, with the IMD issuing a yellow alert for continued rain through early July

ed to see similar weather.

Meteorologists explain that favourable monsoon conditions are currently influencing North India. Moisture-filled winds blowing in from the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal are helping to form clouds, which should keep temperatures more manageable through July 9. Along with the cooling effect, the city's air quality remained in the "moderate" category, with an Air Quality Index of 110, which is good news for those concerned about breathing easier.

While the heat has been relentless lately, these intermittent monsoon showers are providing the comfort residents desperately needed. For now, it seems the people of Delhi-NCR can tuck away their umbrellas only briefly, as the weather department expects this pleasant, rainy pattern to continue, helping everyone beat the summer blues for a little while longer.

Biswas examined over Messi event management charges

KOLKATA

Former West Bengal minister Aroop Biswas appeared before the police recently for questioning. This follows an ongoing investigation into allegations of mismanagement during Lionel Messi's high-profile "GOAT India Tour" event held in Kolkata last year.

Accompanied by his lawyer, the Trinamool Congress leader arrived at the Bidhannagar

South Police Station in the morning. This marks his second visit to investigators, following an earlier appearance on June 18. Previously, Biswas had missed several police summons before finally agreeing to cooperate after receiving interim legal protection from the Calcutta High Court.

The case began after an FIR was filed by the event's lead organizer, Satadru Dutta. Dutta has accused the former minister

of being a primary figure behind the security failures and organizational chaos that erupted at the Salt Lake stadium on December 13.

According to the complaint, roughly 70,000 tickets were printed for the football star's visit. Dutta claims that Biswas used his political influence to secure about 22,000 of those tickets, which were allegedly sold or distributed to his associates.

A massive security manhunt is underway in Manipur after a deadly militant ambush claimed two Assam Rifles soldiers

MILITARY LAUNCHES MANHUNT FOR MANIPUR'S MILITANT ATTACKERS

IMPHAL

A massive manhunt is underway across Manipur's Ukhrul district following a deadly ambush that claimed the lives of two Assam Rifles soldiers. Warrant Officer Balwant Singh and Havildar Chandra Mohan Singh were killed when suspected militants attacked their vehicle near the Nungshang Kong area.

Security forces have launched intense, coordinated operations to track

down the perpetrators. This violence follows recent successes by the military, which dismantled two major militant bunkers in the region just days ago.

While tensions remain high, security forces are working aggressively to restore order. Recent patrols in Kangpokpi and Churachandpur led to the recovery of an IED, several mortar shells, and significant ammunition. Furthermore, authorities have successfully apprehended multiple militant cadres.

Key Updates on the Ongoing Security Operation

- The Ambush: Targeted strike on an Assam Rifles vehicle along the busy Imphal-Dimapur highway
- The Response: Joint state and central teams are conducting high-stakes area domination exercises.
- NSCN-IM Stance: The group has officially denied any involvement, citing their ongoing commitment to the central government's ceasefire agreement.

Safety Measures

- Checkpoints: Over 113 nakas now monitor movement across hill and valley districts.
- Logistics: Armed escorts are protecting essential supply trucks along the critical NH-37 lifeline.

Authorities continue to urge calm, emphasizing that these operations are vital to preventing further violence and securing long-term peace in the troubled state.

Assam launches new foreign language training initiative

GUWAHATI

Assam is taking a bold leap toward the global job market. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has officially launched the state's flagship "CM-FLIGHT" programme, a visionary initiative designed to equip local youth with the essential skills needed to secure high-quality employment in foreign countries.

During an interaction with the inaugural batch of participants, the Chief Minister highlighted that the state's demographic strength, combined with the rising international demand for skilled labour, of-

fers a unique opportunity for Assam's younger generation.

"It was truly satisfying for me to see how this programme is helping their aspirations find a place on the global arena," the Chief Minister shared, expressing pride in the first group of over 50 students.

The initiative serves as a core part of the state's strategy to create a pool of globally competitive professionals. By focusing on both technical skills and linguistic abilities, the government aims to ensure that Assam's youth are not just job seekers but are highly sought-after candidates in the international arena.

CM Adhikari announces relief for warehouse victims

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari has announced a robust support package for the families impacted by the tragic Taratala warehouse collapse. The June 24 disaster, which saw a roof cave in on under-construction premises, claimed 16 lives and injured over 15 workers.

During a ceremony at the state secretariat, Nabanna, the Chief Minister provided essential financial aid, handing over cheques of ₹10 lakh to each bereaved family and ₹1 lakh to every injured survivor. Adhikari has tasked senior officials, including KMC administrator Smita Pandey,

Government Support Package Overview

- Financial Aid: ₹10 lakh for next of kin; ₹1 lakh for the injured.
- Medical Care: Fully funded, free treatment and medicines until complete recovery.
- Employment: Government efforts to hire one family member per household based on qualifications.
- Education: The state will fully cover the schooling expenses for the victims' children.

Mayawati demands proof over temple donation scandal

LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati has broken her silence on the growing controversy surrounding alleged donation embezzlement at the Ayodhya Ram Temple and Uttarakhand's Badrinath Dham. She urged state governments to prioritize these investigations, warning that such massive irregularities could only happen if temple managers were either negligent or complicit in the wrongdoing.

In a direct message posted on social media, Mayawati called for a thorough probe into the top management of these prestigious religious sites. She cautioned that without accountability at the highest levels, any future officials might simply use the current situation as a cover for their own misconduct. According to the BSP leader, the government and the Special Investigation Team (SIT) must remain vigilant to ensure no one involved in the theft escapes justice.

However, Mayawati also leveled sharp criticism at Opposition parties, including the Samajwadi Party, Congress, and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

She challenged these groups to provide "solid evidence" for their claims of large-scale corruption. She argued that if these parties fail to present proof, their aggressive stance should be viewed merely as "political posturing" rather than genuine concern for the sanctity of the temples.

BJP'S JAMMU BLUEPRINT

Nitin Nabin outlines BJP roadmap for Jammu

JAMMU

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President Nitin Nabin concluded his two-day maiden visit to Jammu, leaving behind a clear roadmap for his party's future in the Union Territory. During his stay, Nabin held intensive discussions with top party leaders, including MPs, MLAs, and former legislators, focusing on strengthening the party's grip at the grassroots level.

The visit was marked by a se-



ries of high-stakes meetings, beginning with consultations with RSS functionaries at Keshav Bhavan. The momentum continued at the Trikuta Nagar headquarters, where Nabin chaired a State Core Group meeting and a large-scale conference to refine the party's political strategy.

"Our workers are directed to reach every citizen to highlight the progress brought by the central government," noted BJP leader R.S. Pathania following the two-hour strategy session.

Addressing local political tensions, Pathania dismissed rumors of toppling the current administration. He emphasized that the BJP is prepared to act as

a strong opposition, claiming the present government is struggling to deliver on promises like employment. "The current government is failing.

Core Directives for Party Workers

- Door-to-Door Connectivity: Workers are tasked with meeting every beneficiary of national flagship schemes.
- Awareness Drives: Clearly communicating how central government initiatives, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are fueling local growth.
- Youth Engagement: Through the "Yuva Samwad" session, Nabin urged young cadres to spearhead outreach efforts, ensuring the party remains relevant to the next generation.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No. DGM-3/BSWML/Tend/05/2026-27Date: 07.07.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Deputy General Manager-3, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the services mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>).

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Estimate Amount of services (Rs. In Lakhs)	Duration	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Providing exposure visit service for Pourakarmikas to Mysuru, Hosapete, Davanagere as part of the capacity-building programme – Call-2	196.20	06 Months	2,94,300.00

Calendar of Events : (1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries: 13.07.2026 before 15.00 Hrs. in KPP Portal (2) Pre bid meeting : 13.07.2026 at 15.00 Hrs at the office of CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore (3) Last date for submission of the bids : 16.07.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs (4) Date of opening of Technical bid on : 17.07.2026 at 16.30 Hrs (5) Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.

Sd/- Deputy General Manager-3
BSWML, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/SHIRDI SAI/1534/2026-27

QUICK READ

Sara Duterte defiant during Impeachment Trial

MANILA

Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte remained defiant as her impeachment trial entered its second day. Prosecutors presented alarming video evidence where Duterte allegedly threatened the lives of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the First Lady, and a former Speaker. Despite these serious accusations, including claims of corruption and misuse of public funds, Duterte maintains her innocence, labeling the proceedings as politically motivated. While she skipped the hearing, her legal team continues to fight the case. A conviction would require 16 senate votes, a result that would significantly reshape the political landscape before the 2028 presidential race.

Meloni ignores Trump's latest public attack

ROME

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is choosing to avoid a political fight after U.S. President Donald Trump renewed their personal feud. Trump recently mocked Meloni, straining their previously close relationship. Despite these public provocations, Italian ministers confirmed they will not respond.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as **MUSKAN D OSWAL** D/o DINESH OSWAL P. R/o No 9 3RD, FLOOR, SOWRASHTRA PET, CHICKPET, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA - 560053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **REETI JAIN**.

NAME CHANGE

I, **AMMANULLA KHAN**, Resident of No.452, Peer Boundary, Cotton Pet Main Road, Bengaluru-560053, have changed my mother name from **BIBIJAN BI to KHATUN BE**, vide affidavit dated: 07.07.2026 before notary G. DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SAYYED RAMIZA FATAMA ABDUL REHMAN** , W/o, Athaulla Shariff Khawaja Samiulla, Resident of No 55,8th Cross Ramdas Layout K P Agrahara Bengaluru Dist 560023, have changed my name to **RAMIZA** , vide affidavit dated: 07.07.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

IN THE COURT OF THE HONORABLE SUBORDINATE JUDGE, PALACODE Q.S.NO: 58/2024

Plaintiff: Mathiyalagan S/o. Velayutha Mudaliyar, Mallupatti Village and Post, Palacode Taluk, Dharmapuri District.

// Versus //

D2) Kala, W/o. Palanivel, D.No.20, 3rd Cross Street, Vidyananyapuram Main Road, Dattabommasandra, Bangalore District, Karnataka State. D3) Vimala, W/o. Jayaraman, D.No.7, 12th Main Road, Pathappa Garden, Bangalore District, Karnataka State. D6) Amutha, W/o. Soundaraj, D.No.38, 8th Main Road, Gokul Muthaah Nagar, Pathappa Garden, Bangalore District, Karnataka State. ... Defendants 2, 3 & 6

NOTICE

The Plaintiff has filed the above suit for Partition and to declare the fraudulent documents of Defendants as null and void. The above case is posted on 31.07.2026 for your appearance. On that day, Defendants 2, 3 & 6 are directed to appear either personally or through your counsel, filing objection if any. Failing which, the above case will be decided on merits in your absence.

N. MUTHAMIL, B.A., B.L., P. ARASU, B.A., LL.B., Advocates, HIG 28, TNHB, Erranahalli Post, Palacode Taluk, Dharmapuri Dt. 636 808 Cell No: 9751816245 7708282120

Political siege grips Hungary over presidency

Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Magyar’s controversial bid to remove President Tamas Sulyok has ignited a major political crisis

BUDAPEST

Political tensions have reached a boiling point in Hungary after Prime Minister Peter Magyar submitted a controversial constitutional amendment aimed at removing President Tamas Sulyok. In response, the opposition Fidesz party has called for a nationwide protest to defend the presidency.

The proposed amendment seeks to terminate Sulyok’s mandate immediately upon the law’s enactment. Magyar,

whose Tisza Party holds a parliamentary supermajority, has long labeled Sulyok as a "puppet" of his predecessor, Viktor Orban, accusing the President of failing to fulfill constitutional duties.

President Sulyok has firmly refused to resign, warning that the move threatens the rule of law and democratic principles. Fidesz leaders echoed these concerns, arguing that the amendment is a form of "personalized legislation" that ignores constitutional legitimacy. Viktor Or-

ban condemned the move, stating the Tisza Party is crossing "human, moral, and legal" boundaries.

Magyar maintains that the presidency must regain its lost authority, claiming the office was weakened by years of silence under previous administrations. With the Tisza Party’s legislative dominance, a vote could occur as early as next week. As Budapest prepares for the protests, the nation remains deeply divided over the future of its constitutional framework.

Key Changes in the Proposed Amendment

■ Presidential Ouster: Immediate termination of President Sulyok's mandate.

■ Judicial Shifts: Mandatory retirement age set at 70 for four constitutional judges.

■ Term Limits: Parliamentary deputies to be capped at a 12-year service mandate.

Saab GlobalEye secures \$4.5 billion surveillance deal

ANKARA

In a major shift for European defense, NATO has officially chosen the Swedish-made Saab GlobalEye surveillance aircraft to replace its aging fleet of AWACS early-warning planes. The deal, valued at approximately \$4.5 billion, marks a significant departure from the alliance's traditional reliance on American-made alternatives like the Boeing E-7 Wedgetail.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte confirmed the decision, highlighting that the move is essential for maintaining the alliance’s surveillance capabilities against modern threats, such as drone swarms.

The current AWACS fleet, iconic for its rotating radomes, dates back to the Cold War and requires a modern successor to remain effective in today’s fast-paced security environment.

To ease potential tensions regarding "Buy American" policies, Rutte emphasized that the GlobalEye is a "transatlantic programme.

Three tankers hit in fresh Strait of Hormuz attacks

DUBAI

Three commercial tankers were struck in separate attacks in the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday, raising fresh concerns over maritime security in one of the world's busiest energy corridors and threatening efforts to restore normal shipping following the recent conflict between the United States and Iran.

According to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO), one tanker caught fire after being hit off the coast of Oman while sailing south towards the Gulf of Oman. Two other vessels were also damaged, including one reportedly struck by a drone. No casualties were reported, and at least one vessel continued its voyage.



Iranian state television said the liquefied natural gas tanker had ignored warnings before being attacked, though Tehran stopped short of officially claiming responsibility. Qatar condemned the attack on its LNG tanker Al Rekayyat, calling it a serious violation of international law and holding Iran legally responsible.

The latest attacks come despite ongoing diplomatic efforts to restore safe navigation through the strategic water-

way, which normally handles around one-fifth of the world's traded oil and natural gas. The United States is seeking a broader agreement with Iran covering shipping access, its nuclear programme and a lasting end to hostilities.

The Joint Maritime Information Center, overseen by the US Navy, recently advised that an expanded shipping route near Oman's coast remains open for commercial traffic.

Osmochescu replaces Munteanu as Acting PM

CHISINAU

Moldovan President Maia Sandu has appointed Deputy Prime Minister Eugeniu Osmochescu as acting prime minister, following the surprise resignation of Alexandru Munteanu. Munteanu stepped down unexpectedly, citing an inability to perform his duties in accordance with his personal convictions.

Osmochescu, who currently serves as the Minister of Economic Development and Digitalization, brings a wealth of international financial experience to the interim role. Before joining the government, he was a key figure at the International Finance Corpora-

tion, the private sector investment arm of the World Bank.

The current government will continue to function in an interim capacity until the parliament officially appoints a new administration. President Sandu’s pro-European Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS) maintains a strong majority in the 101-seat parliament, ensuring stability during this transitional period.

Osmochescu is expected to chair his first cabinet meeting soon. As Moldova continues to navigate its pro-European trajectory following PAS’s decisive election victory, the focus remains on maintaining economic momentum and addressing the policy challenges

Details of the Government Transition

■ The New Appointee: Eugeniu Osmochescu, a seasoned financial expert, assumes office this Wednesday.

■ The Predecessor: Alexandru Munteanu resigned abruptly after serving since the post-election period last September.

■ Next Steps: President Sandu is currently consulting with parliamentary factions to determine a permanent successor.

Political purge claims threaten Bangladesh’s judicial integrity

PARIS

Sixteen international human rights organizations and law societies have issued a strong warning regarding the state of legal independence in Bangladesh. Recently, these global bodies condemned the widespread intimidation and exclusion of lawyers from bar association elections across the country.

The controversy centers on the recent formation of a 15-member ad hoc committee to lead the Bangladesh Bar Council for the 2026-2027 term. This committee consists entirely of lawyers backed by the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami. Critics argue this decision ignores democratic standards and replaces fair elections with political appointments.

According to reports, the impact is severe. Reports indicate that over 300 lawyers, primarily those seen as independent or supportive of the Awami League, have been blocked from running in elections at 23 different bar asso-

Sixteen global organizations warn that Bangladesh’s legal independence is under threat following the political exclusion of hundreds of lawyers from recent bar association elections.

ciations. This list includes major hubs like the Supreme Court Bar Association and groups in Dhaka, Chattogram, and Khulna.

The joint statement describes these actions as a systematic attack on the rule of law.

The organizations warn that silencing lawyers based on political identity threatens the integrity of the entire justice system.

They are now calling on the Bangladeshi government to cancel the biased ad hoc committee, void the results of flawed elections, and ensure that every lawyer has an equal right to participate in future polls. They emphasize that a free legal profession is essential for a healthy democracy.

UK exposes Russian labs linked to poisonings

LONDON

The British government has taken a firm stand against Moscow, imposing fresh sanctions on two key Russian research institutes and several high-ranking officials. The move comes as part of a strategic effort to expose and stop Russia’s ongoing development of lethal chemical weapons, which the UK claims were used in several high-profile poisoning cases.

These sanctions specifically target individuals and facilities believed to be responsible for creating the dangerous toxins linked to the death of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny. Navalny, who survived a poisoning attempt in 2020 using a military-grade Novichok nerve agent, tragically died in 2024 after being exposed to Epibatidine, a potent toxin originally derived from poison dart frogs.

British Foreign Minister Yvette Cooper addressed the situation with strong language, describing the repeated use of such weapons as a barbaric violation of international law. She emphasized that these tools are being used to

inflict suffering not only on political dissidents but also on innocent civilians, citing the 2018 poisoning case in Salisbury. That incident, involving former double agent Sergei Skripal, led to the death of an innocent woman named Dawn Sturgess after she came into contact with the discarded toxin.

The timing of these sanctions is deliberate, arriving just ahead of a critical NATO summit scheduled in Ankara. By aligning with similar measures recently taken by the European Union, Britain aims to present a united front against what it calls a direct threat to global security.

Predictably, the Russian embassy in London has rejected the allegations entirely. In a statement released, officials dismissed the claims as "slander" and "anti-Russian propaganda." They argued that the West is simply manufacturing an imaginary threat to justify ongoing geopolitical confrontation. Despite these denials, the UK government remains steadfast, citing years of investigative findings that point to state-sponsored involvement in these deadly attacks.

Kazakh Court backs Tokayev’s potential new term

ALMATY

In a major political development, Kazakhstan’s constitutional court has ruled that President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev is eligible to seek another term. The decision follows the adoption of a new constitution that took effect last week, effectively "resetting the clock" on presidential term limits.

President Tokayev, who originally assumed office in 2019, had previously been restricted to a single seven-year term starting from his 2022



mandate. By seeking the court’s opinion, he has secured legal standing to bypass previous limitations.

Tokayev rose to power as the successor to Nursultan Nazarbayev but solidified his own authority following the 2022 unrest, which he characterized as an attempted coup. Since then, he has aggressively pursued constitutional reforms to consolidate his leadership.

While the ruling provides a clear path for Tokayev to extend his tenure, it has sparked significant discussion regarding the future of governance in the mineral-rich nation.

As Kazakhstan prepares for August elections, the focus remains on whether these systemic changes will stabilize the political landscape or prompt further shifts in the Central Asian state’s power structure.

NATO’S MULTI-BILLION BET

NATO announces massive arms deals

ANKARA

Ahead of a pivotal summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, NATO leaders have unveiled a series of defence deals worth tens of billions of dollars. The move is a strategic signal to Washington that European allies are finally accelerating their defence spending and military production to meet long-standing demands for greater autonomy.

At a defence forum in Ankara, Secretary General Mark Rutte called for an industrial “revolution,” urging European

nations to move beyond fragmented production and bureaucratic hurdles.

The summit also marks a potential thaw in U.S.-Turkey relations, with sources suggesting President Trump may allow Turkey to rejoin the F-35 stealth fighter program. This comes as Trump arrives to meet Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, following intense friction regarding NATO’s support in the U.S.-Iran conflict.

Amid fears that the U.S. might reduce its European footprint, NATO allies increased their 2025 defense



spending by \$90 billion, reaching a total of \$570 billion. With Russia’s ongoing aggression in Ukraine and threats from other global powers, NATO is under pressure to prove that its collective defense is more than just a reliance on American military might.



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Balogun Struggles as Belgium Ends U.S WC Campaign

Folarin Balogun endured a difficult outing as Belgium defeated the United States to reach the FIFA World Cup quarterfinals.



SEATTLE

United States striker Folarin Balogun, who had dominated global football headlines in the lead-up to the match, endured a frustrating evening as Belgium defeated the tournament co-hosts 4-1 in the FIFA World Cup Round of 16, ending the Americans' impressive campaign.

Balogun entered the knockout clash in Seattle after emerging as one of the stand-out performers for the United States during the group stage and the Round of 32. The 25-year-old forward had scored three goals and played a key creative role in helping the United States top their group before contributing to the victory over Bosnia and Herzegovina in the previous knockout round.

However, his participation against Belgium had remained uncertain after he received a red card in the win over Bosnia and Herzegovina, an offence that normally carries an automatic one-match suspension. FIFA later overturned the suspension, allowing Balogun to feature in the Round of 16, a decision that generated widespread debate across the football community.

The reversal attracted criticism from several quarters, with allegations that football's world governing body had bowed to political pressure. FIFA President Gianni Infantino maintained that the organisation's judicial bodies had acted independently and autonomously while reaching the decision. Belgium head coach Rudi Garcia also questioned the development, de-

scribing it as difficult to believe.

Balogun's personal background also became a topic of international discussion. Born in New York to a Nigerian mother who was unable to return to London before his birth due to pregnancy-related travel restrictions, Balogun spent most of his childhood in England after returning there with his family at the age of one month. Despite growing up in Britain, he later chose to represent the United States at the international level.

Political attention surrounding his case also intensified after United States President Donald Trump publicly claimed credit for the suspension being lifted. The controversy coincided with ongoing national de-

bates over birthright citizenship, adding another dimension to the discussion surrounding the striker.

Despite the attention surrounding the decision, United States midfielder Tyler Adams said the squad remained largely unaware of the controversy while preparing for the match. He said the team's focus remained firmly on the football rather than the events unfolding away from the pitch.

Although Balogun received a warm reception from the home crowd when he entered the field, Belgium's disciplined defence successfully restricted his influence throughout the contest. The striker managed only three attempts on goal, with just one effort testing the goalkeeper.

'We are proud of our campaign,' says USA manager after round of 16 exit

SEATTLE

United States manager Mauricio Pochettino said he was proud of his team's World Cup campaign despite Tuesday's 4-1 defeat to Belgium, insisting the tournament had laid the foundations for future success.

The Argentine said his side had failed to reproduce the form it showed earlier in the tournament, but insisted its overall campaign remained a source of pride.

It hurts to be eliminated. We didn't perform well today, and that's the reality. Sometimes, during a tournament, you have one day when things don't go your way. Unfortunately, that day was today. It's not the right moment for it to happen, but we didn't reach the level we had shown before, Pochettino said in a post-match news conference after the round of 16 match, as quoted by Xinhua.

At the same time, we should recognise what this team has achieved. We are very proud of our campaign together. We enjoyed the journey, and today's result hurts because we believed we could go further, he added.

Pochettino, who took charge of the United States in September 2024, said the World Cup had been a learning experience for his team.

Improvement is never like a rocket going straight up, he said. A year ago, if somebody had told us we would be playing Belgium in the World Cup



round of 16, everyone would have said we still had a lot of work to do.

Progress is not linear, and it's not realistic to expect everything to happen quickly. We have shown that we can improve and compete. We have a generation of young players coming through, and they just need to stay on this path and keep improving.

He praised his squad for maintaining a professional mindset throughout the com-

petition and refused to appraise the performances of individual players.

I'm happy with every player who was involved because of the way they behaved, their attitude, and their commitment, he said. We didn't have a single issue over 40 or 50 days because everybody understood the ideas and showed respect. This is not the moment to judge individuals. We are happy with the whole group, he concluded.

Cabo Verde game was just a small bump in the road for Argentina': Sandesh Jhingan

NEW DELHI

Team India defender Sandesh Jhingan believes Argentina's defensive foundations remain intact despite conceding twice in their Round of 32 clash against Cabo Verde, backing the reigning world champions to produce a much-improved display against Egypt in the FIFA World Cup Round of 16.

Argentina survived a scare to progress after a hard-fought win over Cabo Verde, prompting questions over their defence. However, Jhingan, who is part of Zee5 FIFA World Cup 2026 expert panel, insisted one below-par outing should not overshadow the consistency Lionel Scaloni's side has shown over the last few years.

Of course, when you concede two goals, people immediately question the defence. But one average performance shouldn't make you feel you're suddenly not



good enough, just like one great performance shouldn't make you think you're invincible. If you look at Argentina's record over the last 10-15 games, they have hardly conceded. For me, one of their biggest strengths is their defensive solidity, and they'll look at the Cabo Verde game as just a small bump in the road. The im-

portant thing was getting the win, and I expect them to be much sharper against Egypt, Jhingan told.

The India international expects Egypt to adopt a counter-attacking approach centred around Mohamed Salah and Omar Marmoush but feels Argentina's renowned counter-pressing will be key to nullifying that threat.

FIFA Referee Support

FIFA Backs Referee Raphael Claus Amid Trump Criticism Controversy

MIAMI

FIFA has firmly defended Brazilian referee Raphael Claus after United States President Donald Trump questioned the official's integrity following the controversial red card shown to United States striker Folarin Balogun during the FIFA World Cup.

The controversy began after Balogun was sent off in the United States' Round of 32 victory over Bosnia and Herzegovina. Following a Video Assistant Referee (VAR) review, Claus issued a red card after determining that Balogun had stamped on the ankle of Bosnia and Herzegovina defender Tarik Muharemovic during the match.

The dismissal carried an automatic one-match suspension, which would have ruled Balogun out of the Round of 16. However, FIFA later suspended the ban, allowing the striker to feature in the knockout clash against Belgium. The decision generated widespread debate within the football community and prompted questions over the governing

body's disciplinary process.

Speaking after the decision, President Donald Trump claimed he had requested a review of Balogun's suspension. Trump also questioned the referee's credibility, describing Claus as a little bit suspect if you check his past, although he did not provide any evidence or further explanation to support the allegation.

In response, FIFA issued a strong statement expressing complete confidence in Claus and rejecting any suggestion that his professionalism or integrity should be questioned. The governing body described him as one of the world's leading football referees and a respected member of Team One, FIFA's elite group of match officials selected for the World Cup.

FIFA stated that throughout his officiating career, Claus has consistently demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism, fairness and in-

tegrity. The organisation also noted that the referee would not comment publicly on the matter, in accordance with FIFA's longstanding policy.



ing policy preventing match officials from speaking to the media during major tournaments.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino also defended the role of referees, stressing that respect for match officials is essential to preserving the integrity of the sport. He said football cannot exist without referees and emphasised that players, coaches, supporters and public figures must respect both the officials and the rules governing the game.

Pierluigi Collina, FIFA's Chief Refereeing Officer and Chairman of the Referees Committee, also expressed the organisation's confidence in the Brazilian official. Collina highlighted Claus' extensive experience, noting that the 46-year-old has officiated more than 600 professional matches during his career and is currently working at his second FIFA World Cup after previously serving as an official at the 2022 tournament in Qatar.

Mbappe Condemns Racist Remarks After France Defeats Paraguay

MIAMI



France captain Kylian Mbappe has strongly condemned racist comments made by a Paraguayan senator following France's 1-0 victory over Paraguay in the FIFA World Cup Round of 16, describing the remarks as hateful and unacceptable. The controversy has prompted widespread criticism, with the French Football Federation announcing plans to pursue legal action and the Paraguayan government distancing itself from the statements.

France secured a hard-fought victory over Paraguay in Philadelphia on Saturday, with Mbappe scoring the only goal of the match from the penalty spot. The closely contested encounter was physical and intense, but the result ensured France's place in the quarter-finals of the tournament.

Following the match, Paraguayan senator Celeste Amarilla posted a series of comments on social media containing racist remarks directed at Mbappe. In the post, she questioned the striker's identity, made

Kylian Mbappe strongly condemned racist remarks following France's World Cup victory as authorities pledged legal action against them

offensive personal attacks and suggested that Paraguay's players should have confronted him after the game. The comments quickly drew widespread condemnation from football fans, public figures and officials.

Mbappe responded on Monday with a strongly worded statement, criticising the senator and defending not only himself but also the Paraguayan players, who had competed with determination throughout the tournament. He said Amarilla's remarks did not represent Paraguay or its people and accused her of spreading hatred and racism that overshadowed the achievements of the national team.

The France captain stated that Paraguay's players had earned global respect for their performances during the World Cup and said it was unfortunate that their accomplishments were being eclipsed by inflammatory comments from a public official. Mbappe also declared that he would continue speaking out against racism and discrimination wherever they occur.

MERINO'S LATE WINNER HELPS SPAIN KNOCK OUT PORTUGAL IN THE LAST 16

ARLINGTON

Mikel Merino's stoppage-time strike earned Spain a 1-0 victory over Portugal at Dallas Stadium and a FIFA World Cup 2026 quarter-final place. Luis De La Fuente's team will now head to Los Angeles Stadium to play the winners of USA-Belgium.

The final whistle of the match marked the end of Cristiano Ronaldo's time on football's biggest stage. This

will be my last World Cup, he reiterated pre-match. The 41-year-old hit 11 goals in 27 games and set multiple milestones, including becoming the first man to score in six editions.

A balanced start, with Spain showing more attacking intent and Oyarzabal shooting forcing a tight save from Diogo Costa after just three minutes. Portugal responded promptly, with Cancelo's run down the right culminating in a powerful shot that went over the bar.



A few minutes later, Olmo set up Oyarzabal, who, as Diogo Costa came out, shot wide. In a back-and-forth game, Cristiano Ronaldo unleashed a powerful shot that Unai Simón saved incompletely.

Fifteen frantic minutes, with Spain taking advantage of a quick attack, with two great saves from Diogo Costa, from shots by Lamal and Baena. Portugal managed to balance the game, hold off Spain, with the best opportunity arising from an assist by Joao Felix for an acrobatic shot by Ronaldo. Unai Simón saved it. This was Portugal's best moment in the match, culminating in a shot from Nuno Mendes that hit the crossbar, after a deflection by Pedro Porro.

The game remained balanced in the second half, but Portugal looked more dangerous, especially with Pedro Neto's incursions down the right flank. Even without Nuno Mendes, who was replaced by Nelson Semedo due to injury, the national team managed, with varying degrees of difficulty, to thwart Spanish attacks.

In a very tight game, tactical schemes took on greater importance, with Lamine Yamal forcing Diogo Costa to make a save for a corner from a free kick.

President Murmu Flags Off Durand Cup 2026 Tournament Trophies

President Droupadi Murmu launched the Durand Cup 2026 trophies, encouraging football development and greater international participation nationwide

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday unveiled and flagged off the trophies for the Durand Cup Tournament 2026 at a ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, highlighting the historic football competition's contribution to nurturing young talent and promoting the sport across the country.

Addressing the gathering, the President congratulated all past and present officials, organisers, coaches and players associated with the Durand Cup, describing the tournament as an important platform that has helped countless footballers showcase their talent over the decades. She said the



championship continues to play a vital role in strengthening India's football ecosystem by providing opportunities to emerging players.

President Murmu noted that this year's edition would feature several new teams competing for the prestigious Durand Cup, the President's Cup

and the Shimla Trophy. Among the new participants is a team from Sri Lanka, reflecting the tournament's growing international appeal. She expressed confidence that the inclusion of fresh teams would make the competition even more exciting and further enhance its popularity

among football fans.

Extending her best wishes to all participating teams and players, the President hoped they would deliver outstanding performances and uphold the values of fair play, discipline and sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

Speaking about the significance of football, Murmu described it as one of the world's most popular sports and a powerful symbol of excellence, unity and teamwork. She said the game has the unique ability to bring people together across borders and cultures, while inspiring millions through the skill and dedication of its players.

Referring to the ongoing FIFA World Cup, the Presi-

dent observed that the world's finest football teams and players are currently competing to bring honour to their respective nations. She said their performances attract admiration from fans around the world and demonstrate the unifying power of sport.

While acknowledging football's growing popularity in India, Murmu remarked that the country still has a considerable journey ahead before establishing a strong presence on the global football stage. She expressed hope that tournaments such as the Durand Cup would continue to identify, encourage and develop talented players capable of representing India at the highest international level.

Defending Champions Make Dominant Start in Oriental Cup 2026

NEW DELHI

Defending champions Delhi Public School (DPS), RK Puram, and Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Faridabad, opened their title defence in impressive fashion as the fourth edition of the Oriental Cup commenced at Dr. Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi on Tuesday. Both teams registered convincing 5-0 victories in their respective categories, setting the tone for another competitive edition of the prestigious inter-school football tournament.

The opening ceremony was attended by Indian footballer Rohit Kumar, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and interacted with the young players participating in the tournament. Also present were Fareed Bakshi, Founder of the Oriental Cup 2026, and Arvinder Singh, Chief Operating Officer of the tournament.

The first day of competition featured seven matches across the Boys' and Girls' categories, along with a special exhibition match between non-governmental organisations STRIVE and Mera India Mera Adhikaar (MIMA), highlighting the tournament's commitment to promoting football at the grassroots level.

Addressing the participants, Rohit Kumar praised the initiative for providing aspiring footballers with an opportunity to showcase their abilities. He said tournaments like the Oriental Cup inspire young players to dream big and work hard towards achieving their goals. Reflecting on his own school days, Kumar emphasised that talent alone is not enough and that dedication, passion for the game and access to competitive platforms are equally important in shaping future football stars. He congratulated the organisers for successfully conducting the tournament and wished it continued success.

In the opening Boys' fixture, defending champions DPS RK Puram overcame a resilient Vasant Valley School side with a commanding 5-0 victory. The



Defending champions delivered emphatic victories as the fourth Oriental Cup football tournament began with exciting matches in New Delhi.

first half ended without a goal, but DPS transformed the contest after the break. Abhav Bhardwaj opened the scoring in the 18th minute before completing a brilliant hat-trick within the next eight minutes. Aditya Lal and Ridit Dang added one goal each to complete the comprehensive win.

Vasant Valley School bounced back strongly in the Girls' competition by defeating DPS RK Puram 3-0. Naavya Gogoi opened the scoring in the sixth minute before Unjila Khan doubled the advantage in the 13th minute. Tanvie Gogoi sealed the victory by scoring in the final minute of the match.

Defending Girls' champions Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Faridabad, also made a powerful start to their campaign with a dominant 5-0 win over Navy Children School. Somya delivered a standout performance by scoring four goals after opening the scoring in the eighth minute, while Ishu added the fifth goal in the 24th minute to complete an emphatic victory.

In another Boys' match, Navy Children School defeated Venkateshwar International School 3-1 in an entertaining contest. Vansh Raj Rana gave Navy Children School an early lead before Dhruv Kumar Jha extended the advantage in the second half. Daiwik Rana reduced the deficit for Venkateshwar International School, but Vansh Raj Rana scored his second goal of the match to secure all three points.

Would love to play some cricket with Virat, planning India visit in near future: Djokovic

NEW DELHI

Serbian tennis great Novak Djokovic shared his admiration for Indian cricket stalwart Virat Kohli, saying he would love to play some cricket with the batting great, adding that he is planning to visit in the near future.

Last year at Wimbledon on July 7, alongside his wife, Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma, Kohli witnessed Djokovic's thrilling round of 16 win against Australia's Alex de Minaur and later took to Instagram to share his excitement, posting a heartfelt story for the Serb. What a match. It was business as usual for the gladiator, @djokernole, Kohli had shared on X.

I would love to play some cricket and tennis with Virat Kohli. I am planning to visit India in the near future, and we have been communicating about it. I know Virat is a global star, but especially in India, he is incredible. I would love for him to be my host and show me around. I have a lot of respect for him and for Indian cricket.

Cricket is not big in Serbia,

where I come from. But some of the people in my team are British, and they love cricket. So I have been learning about the game over the last 10 to 15 years. I still need to work on my cricketing skills. Maybe Virat can help me with my technique and bat swing. But seriously, I have great respect and admiration for him. I would love to get the chance to meet him in his home country India, said Djokovic on JioStar.

Djokovic, who added another remarkable chapter to his glittering career on Sunday, becoming the most successful men's singles player in the tournament's history, opened up about what Wimbledon means to him and said this was the tournament he dreamt of winning as a child.

When the seven-time champion defeated Roman Safiullin 7-6(6), 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in a thrilling fourth-round match, he surpassed Roger Federer's record of 105 Wimbledon men's singles victories. This win sent Djokovic to his ninth consecutive Wimbledon quarter-final and the 17th of his impressive career.

Former Afghanistan Fast Bowler Shapoor Zadran Dies After Illness

NEW DELHI

Former Afghanistan fast bowler Shapoor Zadran, one of the pioneers of Afghan cricket, passed away in New Delhi on Tuesday after a prolonged battle with a rare and life-threatening illness. He was 38 years old and would have celebrated his 39th birthday on Wednesday.

The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) confirmed his death, paying tribute to the left-arm pacer for his immense contribution to the rise of Afghanistan cricket on the international stage. Zadran represented Afghanistan in 44 One-Day Internationals and 36 Twenty20 Internationals between 2009 and 2020 and played a significant role during the country's emergence as a competitive cricketing nation.

According to reports, Zadran had been undergoing treatment in New Delhi after being diagnosed with stage four haemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), a rare disorder in which the body's immune system becomes overactive, causing severe inflammation and



damage to vital organs, including the bone marrow, liver, spleen and lymph nodes. He had been admitted to the intensive care unit since May as his condition continued to worsen.

His health problems first surfaced in October last year, prompting doctors to recommend specialised treatment in India. With the assistance of Afghanistan cricket star Rashid Khan and Afghanistan

Irfan Pathan Urges Vaibhav Sooryavanshi to Stay Adaptable and Fearless

NEW DELHI

Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan has backed teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi to continue playing his natural attacking game but believes the young cricketer must now prepare for the tactical challenges that international bowlers will increasingly



pose. Ahead of the third T20 International against England, Pathan said the 15-year-old's remarkable talent is beyond doubt, but long-term success will depend on his ability to adapt as opponents begin analysing his strengths and weaknesses.

Speaking before the crucial series encounter, Pathan said Sooryavanshi's fearless intent should remain unchanged despite his dismissal for 14 runs off 10 deliveries in the second T20I. The former Indian all-rounder pointed out that bowlers across the world would now start developing specific plans to restrict the youngster, making adaptability a key factor in his development.

Pathan explained that Sooryavanshi's aggressive approach against spin remains a positive aspect of his batting, particularly in English conditions where pitches generally offer limited turn. However, he advised the youngster to maintain proper balance while advancing down the pitch and avoid moving too far away from the line of the ball, ensuring greater control over his stroke play.

Although Sooryavanshi's innings in the second match ended early, Pathan appreciated the teenager's willingness to continue playing positively rather than becoming defen-

sive after entering international cricket. He said the young batter would naturally be disappointed with his score and strike rate, especially considering the high standards he has already set for himself. Pathan described Sooryavanshi's emergence as one of the biggest positives not only for Indian cricket but also for the global game. He said the teenager's presence at the highest level serves as an inspiration for countless young boys and girls who dream of representing their countries, proving that age is no barrier when combined with exceptional talent and dedication.

The former cricketer also reflected on India's defeat in the second T20I, suggesting that the visitors fell around 20 runs short despite being in a strong batting position. According to Pathan, India had the opportunity to post a total in the range of 210 to 220 runs but failed to capitalise during the closing stages of the innings.

He credited fast bowler Arshdeep Singh for bringing India back into the contest with two early wickets but felt the bowling unit lacked discipline during the latter stages of England's chase. Pathan noted that India failed to apply sustained pressure, particularly in the death overs, allowing England to regain control of the match.

FIFA backs referee after Trump questions WC red card

MIAMI GARDENS

FIFA has publicly defended Brazilian referee Raphael Claus after US President Donald Trump questioned the official's integrity following the red card shown to United States forward Folarin Balogun during the FIFA World Cup.

Trump, speaking at the White House, described Claus as "a little bit suspect" and suggested that his past should be examined, without providing any evidence.

The remarks came after Balogun was sent off during the United States' Round of 32 match against Bosnia-Herzegovina, a decision that sparked widespread debate.

Ahead of the United States' 4-1 defeat to Belgium, which ended the team's World Cup campaign, FIFA issued a rare statement expressing full confidence in the 46-year-old Brazilian referee.

"Throughout his career, he has consistently demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism and integrity," FIFA said, describing Claus as one of the world's leading referees and a valued member of its World Cup officiating team.

Suryakumar dismisses fake social media statement

NEW DELHI

Former India T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav on Tuesday cleared the air regarding a fake statement attributed to him circulating on social media and urged fans and netizens to not believe or share unverified information.

After leading India in the T20 World Cup triumph, Suryakumar was replaced by Shreyas Iyer as the T20I captain and was also left out of the squads for UK tour and the Asian Games.

However, in a false statement that went viral on social media, the batter was quoted as saying that he wasn't given any clarity about his future and did not receive the respect he deserved after everything he had done. Reacting to the matter, the former T20I skipper stated that he has not made such statements.

I've also noticed a statement being circulated online that has been falsely attributed to me. I want to make it clear that I have not made or authorised any such statement. Please don't believe or share unverified information, Suryakumar posted on X.

I'm very happy for the team and wish them nothing but the very best, always. I know the boys are giving it their all, and they will always have my full support. My support for

Indian cricket, my teammates, and the game will always speak louder than words falsely attributed to me, he added, aiming to put an end to the unnecessary digital speculation.

He also reserved special praise for 15-year-old batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who marked his historic debut during the second T20I against England at 15 years and 99 days, thus becoming the youngest-ever Indian cricketer to debut in international cricket.

A special word for Vaibhav - you're at the start of what promises to be a very exciting journey. Enjoy every moment and keep making the country proud, Suryakumar said.



Indian athletes to wear jute apparel at CWG 2026

NEW DELHI

The National Jute Board (NJB), under the Ministry of Textiles, has developed jute-viscose blended apparel that will be worn by the Indian athletes and team members participating in the Commonwealth Games 2026, to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, from July 23-August 2, it was announced on Tuesday.

The official kit unveiling and send-off ceremony for the Commonwealth Games 2026 was held here, attended by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya; Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh; Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Khadse; President of the Indian Olympic Association, PT Usha, and others.

This marks the first occasion on which jute-based apparel will be showcased at an international multi-sport event.