



ISWAP Militants Attack Nigerian Army Base in Borno



Large office deals dominate India's real estate market



TN, WB set for new governments as Vijay, Adhikari take oath today

TN and WB witness major political shifts as Vijay and Suvendu Adhikari prepare to take oath as CMs.

KOLKATA/CHENNAI

Major political developments unfolded on Friday as government formation talks intensified in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal ahead of the swearing-in ceremonies scheduled for Saturday morning.

In Tamil Nadu, Vijay met Governor R. N. Ravi and formally staked claim to form the government after his party, Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK), emerged as the single largest party in the Assembly elections. TVK secured support from the CPI, CPI(M) and Congress, taking its effective strength close to the majority mark in the 234-member House.

Meanwhile in West Bengal, senior BJP leader



Bhoi is out and, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji has said, bharosa is in. The atmosphere of fear in Bengal has ended and we are entering an era of trust.
—Suvendu Adhikari, WB CM-designate

Historic transitions in two states

Tamil Nadu is set to witness actor-turned-politician Vijay becoming Chief Minister after TVK's impressive electoral debut. In West Bengal, the BJP is poised to form its first government in the state after ending the Trinamool Congress' 15-year rule under Mamata Banerjee.

Chief Ministers at 11 am on May 9. The developments mark historic political transitions in both states, with TVK preparing to form its first government in Tamil Nadu and the BJP set to form its first government in West Bengal.

Total seats:	234
Majority mark:	118
TVK:	108
Congress:	5
CPM:	2
CPI:	2
IUML:	2
VCK:	2



Political activity remained intense throughout the day, with Left parties confirming outside support to TVK while clarifying they would not join the Cabinet. The VCK is also expected to extend support. In another development, TVK reportedly moved the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Governor regarding government formation.



Cooperation Dept must work for farmers' growth: CM

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said no sector can remain outside the cooperative system and stressed that the Cooperation Department must work towards the growth and welfare of farmers.

He was speaking after inaugurating the new administrative office building of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, named "Sahakara Samruddhi Soudha", in Bengaluru on Friday.

The Chief Minister said he himself had performed the foundation stone ceremony for the building in 2023 and expressed happiness that the construction had been completed within three years at a cost of Rs 19.43 crore.

Recalling the vision of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Siddaramaiah said Nehru had believed that every village should have a school, a panchayat and a co-operative society for holistic development. He added that the growth of milk cooperatives had now helped realise this vision in many villages.

He said the state was progressing under the cooperative principle of "I for everyone, everyone for me." Around 60 per cent of the population lives in rural areas, and cooperative societies are playing an important role in providing essential services to villagers, he noted.

The Chief Minister highlighted that milk cooperatives

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah stressed cooperatives remain vital for farmers' welfare and rural development

No sector can remain outside the cooperative system. The Cooperation Department must work for farmers' growth and welfare.
—Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

had significantly improved the lives of farmers and that Karnataka currently produces nearly one crore litres of milk every day. He stressed that milk production should increase further in North Karnataka and described the dairy sector as a highly profitable supplementary occupation made possible through cooperation.

Siddaramaiah also recalled that during his tenure as Cooperation Minister, milk unions were integrated with dairy networks, which helped boost milk production across the state.

He instructed officials to ensure better public service delivery at Sahakara Samruddhi Soudha.

Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, Minister H. K. Patil, MLA Rizwan Arshad, MLC Bilkis Banu and senior Cooperation Department officials were present.

GBA elections in B'luru likely between June 14 and 24: SEC

BENGALURU

Elections to the five corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) are likely to be conducted between June 14 and 24, State Election Commissioner G. S. Sangreshi said on Friday. He clarified that there would be no delay in holding the polls as the Supreme Court has directed submission of a compliance report by June 30.

Addressing reporters, Sangreshi said the process of finalising the election schedule had formally begun under provisions of the GBA Act. The State Election Commission (SEC) has already communicated with the government and sought the views of the GBA before preparing the poll calendar.

Inputs were also obtained from commissioners of the five corporations, who serve as ex-officio members of the authority. The SEC stated that all major preparations required for conducting the elections had been completed and the Commission was fully prepared for the exercise.

During consultations, GBA officials reportedly highlighted challenges such as the ongoing monsoon season, examinations, census-related work, Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of

- Proposed poll dates: June 14–24
- Five corporations under GBA to go to polls
 - Supreme Court deadline: June 30
- SEC says preparations completed
- Final schedule expected within one week

Challenges cited by GBA officials

During discussions with the State Election Commission, GBA officials pointed to several practical difficulties, including monsoon conditions, ongoing examinations, census activities, revision of electoral rolls and limited staff availability. Officials also expressed concerns about possible disruptions due to weather-related emergencies. Despite these challenges, the SEC reiterated that the election process would proceed within the timeline fixed by the Supreme Court.

electoral rolls and shortage of staff, while seeking additional time.

1 killed, 30 injured as KSRTC bus overturns in Davanagere

DAVANAGERE



A 21-year-old college student was killed and nearly 30 passengers were injured after a KSRTC bus overturned near Marabanahalli in Channagiri taluk on Friday.

The deceased has been identified as Darshan, a resident of Kundur village in Honnali taluk. Police said the accident occurred after the axle of the bus travelling from Davanagere to Basavapatna reportedly broke, causing the driver to lose control of the vehicle. The bus overturned and suffered severe damage in the accident.

Officials said seven injured passengers are in critical condition and are undergoing treatment at the Basavapatna Government Hospital. Most of the injured are believed to be students and women. Locals and police personnel rushed to the spot and carried out rescue operations before shifting the injured to nearby hospitals.

Infiltration, cattle smuggling impossible under BJP in WB: HM

KOLKATA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday asserted that infiltration and cattle smuggling would become "impossible" in West Bengal under the new BJP government led by Suvendu Adhikari.

Addressing the BJP legislature party meeting in Kolkata, Shah said the party's massive victory in the Assembly elections reflected the people's desire for stronger national security and democratic governance. He alleged that the previous regime under Mamata Banerjee had witnessed politicisation of administration and criminalisation of politics.

"This victory is not just about organisational expan-

sion or ideology. It is about fixing the biggest hole in the country's national security. Now infiltration and cattle smuggling will become impossible in West Bengal," Shah said.

He formally announced Adhikari as the BJP legislature party leader after newly elected MLAs unanimously backed his name. Shah said eight proposals were received, all supporting Adhikari, with no alternate candidate suggested.

The BJP's victory marks the first time the party will form a government in West Bengal, ending the Trinamool Congress' 15-year rule in the state. Shah thanked the people of Bengal for supporting the BJP despite what he described



as an atmosphere of fear and political violence.

He claimed that voters had shown faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP despite repeated incidents of violence during elections.

Shah also assured that under BJP rule, the administration would function impartially and politics would not be criminalised.

SC TO HEAR PLEA OF RAJE GOWDA IN SRINGERI MLA ROW

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine a petition filed by Karnataka Congress leader T D Raje Gowda challenging his unseating as the MLA of Sringeri constituency following a court-ordered vote recount in the 2023 Assembly elections.

Gowda has challenged the April 6 order of the Karnataka High Court that directed reverification and recounting of postal ballots, a move that ultimately led to BJP leader D N Jeevaraj being declared elected as the MLA.



Senior advocate Devadutt Kamat, appearing for Gowda, mentioned the matter before a bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and sought urgent listing of the case on May 11. The court said it would consider the request for an expedited hearing. In the 2023 Karnataka Assembly election, Raje Gowda had initially won the Sringeri seat by a narrow margin of 201 votes.

CM selection: Cong asks workers to end protests

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

As internal tensions rise within the Congress following the Kerala Assembly elections 2026, senior leader V D Satheesan and the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) have urged party workers to stop protests demanding his elevation as Chief Minister.

Supporters of Satheesan had staged demonstrations across several parts of the state, including the capital, since Thursday evening, pressing for him to be named the party's CM choice after

Such acts could affect the morale of the party amidst the proud moment of winning 102 seats.
—Satheesan, Congress leader

the UDF's electoral performance. However, the leadership has stepped in to de-escalate the situation.

Satheesan, in a social media post on Friday, appealed to workers to refrain from protests, slogans, and hoardings backing any individual leader,



stating that such actions could harm the party's morale at a crucial political moment. The KPCC has also issued a circular warning workers and leaders against public demonstrations or campaign-style activities favouring any chief ministerial candidate.

Tensions within the party deepened further after reports of differences emerging over support for AICC general secretary K C Venugopal, with some workers expressing dissatisfaction over perceived internal lobbying for leadership posts.

IRAN DEFENCE CLAIM

Iran warns US, says missile strength now at '120%'

TEHRAN

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Friday issued a fresh warning to the United States, accusing President Donald Trump of preferring military action over diplomacy amid growing tensions in the Gulf region.

Araghchi claimed Iran's military preparedness had increased despite recent US and Israeli strikes, rejecting American assessments that Tehran's capabilities had been weakened. He said reports suggesting Iran retained only part of its missile strength were inaccurate and insisted the country's military inventory now stood at "120 per cent."

The Iranian minister said Tehran would not surrender to external pressure and alleged that every attempt at diplomacy was being undermined by military escalation. His remarks came as Iran reviews a US-backed proposal involving a temporary halt to nuclear enrichment, sanctions relief and negotiations over the Strait of Hormuz.

Tensions remain high despite a fragile ceasefire, with both sides accusing each other of hostile actions in the Gulf



Iranians never bow to pressure and diplomacy is always the victim.
—Abbas Araghchi, Iranian Foreign Minister

region. The US military recently claimed it intercepted Iranian drones and fast boats near the Strait of Hormuz,

- Iran rejects US claims of weakened military
- Tehran says missile inventory stands at "120%"
- Tensions continue around Strait of Hormuz
- US and Iran accuse each other of aggression
- Ceasefire remains fragile amid regional conflict

while Iran accused American forces of targeting civilian-linked infrastructure and oil transport routes.

Meanwhile, reports also emerged of missile and drone launches towards US military bases in the Gulf, though several projectiles were intercepted. Authorities in the UAE

reportedly confirmed minor injuries in the incidents.

The latest exchange highlights the continuing strain between Washington and Tehran as diplomatic efforts struggle to gain momentum amid repeated military confrontations and rising regional instability.

QUICK READ

Newlywed dies by suicide, husband booked

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A 40-year-old newlywed homemaker allegedly died by suicide at her residence in Yeshwantpur, and police have booked her husband on charges of abetment to suicide following a complaint by her parents. The deceased has been identified as M Sharada. According to police, Sharada married Mahesh Kumar, a private company employee, around eight months ago. The couple reportedly had frequent quarrels over trivial issues. Police said Sharada was allegedly distressed due to the repeated fights. Late at night, she allegedly hanged herself inside the house. The incident came to light after Mahesh Kumar reportedly broke open the door and found her unresponsive. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway.

Ex-husband attacks woman with knife in broad daylight

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A woman narrowly escaped a knife attack after her ex-husband allegedly tried to assault her in the middle of a road under the Madanayakanahalli Police limits. CCTV footage of the incident has surfaced, showing bystanders rushing to rescue the victim. The accused has been identified as Sanjay. According to preliminary investigations, he allegedly confronted his former wife following a dispute and attempted to attack her with a knife. As the woman screamed for help, alert youngsters nearby intervened immediately, overpowered the accused and rescued her. The group allegedly thrashed Sanjay before restraining him and informing the police.

Closed Peenya Flyover opens, traffic resumes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Peenya Flyover, which had remained closed for the past four days, reopened for vehicular traffic, bringing relief to commuters. The flyover, a key route connecting Bengaluru to 22 districts, was shut on May 5 by the National Highways Authority of India for cable installation and load testing work. Restrictions had caused major traffic congestion and inconvenience to motorists over the last few days. Officials said the cable installation has been completed successfully and load testing was also cleared. Following this, all categories of vehicles were permitted to use the flyover from 11 am onwards. Traffic movement has now resumed normally in both directions.

MNREGA conflict: State government to move Supreme Court against Centre

State Cabinet decides to approach Supreme Court seeking continuation of rural employment guarantee scheme.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has decided to move the Supreme Court over the Centre's delay in issuing a notification regarding the implementation of the proposed VB-G RAM G Act and the uncertainty surrounding the continuation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA). The decision was taken during the State Cabinet meeting. Addressing reporters after the meeting, Law Minister H. K. Patil said the Cabinet felt it was necessary in the larger



public interest to continue the rural employment guarantee scheme until alternative arrangements are put in place by the Union Government. He said the state would seek permission from the Supreme Court to prepare an action plan for continuing the scheme.

Patil alleged that the Centre had neither issued a notification for the implementation of the new Act nor provided clarity on alternative arrangements. "The Centre's approach amounts to suppressing the constitutional rights of state governments. This is a crucial welfare programme for rural areas and lakhs of poor families depend on it," he said. He further stated that although the Centre had issued a circular permitting continuation of pending works under MGNREGA, no funds had been released for those projects. The minister also pointed

out that the Union Government had advised states to take precautionary measures in anticipation of poor rainfall but had failed to address the livelihood concerns of rural workers. "The Centre has not thought about the poor in this situation. Hence, the state government has decided to knock on the doors of the court," he added. Meanwhile, the Cabinet also discussed the final report submitted by the State Education Policy Commission chaired by Prof. Sukhdev Thorat. According to Patil, the recommendations were reviewed in detail during the

Cabinet meeting, where Prof. Thorat made a presentation on the proposed state education policy. The Cabinet decided to constitute a Cabinet Subcommittee to examine the commission's recommendations and suggest measures for implementation. The subcommittee will study the 97 recommendations submitted in the report and recommend which proposals should be accepted by the government. Officials said the Chief Minister would soon announce the composition of the Cabinet Subcommittee.

Varthur resident wins ₹11,000 after broadband service failure

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A resident of Varthur has been awarded compensation of Rs 11,000 after a consumer forum held a wireless broadband service provider responsible for failing to provide reliable internet connectivity. The ruling is being seen as an important reminder of consumer rights in cases involving poor telecom and internet services. According to the complaint, the resident had subscribed to a wireless broadband connection but continued to face repeated issues related to internet quality, weak signals and service disruptions. Despite paying the required charges, the complainant alleged.

Cabinet approves state-of-the-art aquarium at Bannerghatta Biological Park

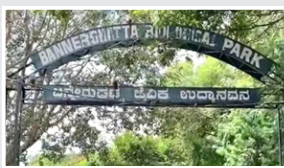
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Cabinet approved the development of a state-of-the-art public aquarium at the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) in Bengaluru under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. The project is expected to emerge as a major tourist attraction and enhance environmental awareness among visitors. According to officials, administrative approval has been granted for implementing the Public Aquarium Development Project on a Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis for a period of 30 years. The aquarium project will be developed at an estimated cost of Rs 144.40 crore. The proposed aquarium will come up adjacent to the existing zoo complex inside Bannerghatta Biological Park and will spread across nearly 7.5 acres. Au-

thorities said the facility will feature a wide range of aquatic ecosystems, including freshwater, marine and salt-water species. Live exhibits and interactive displays are also planned as part of the project to provide visitors with an immersive experience. Officials stated that the aquarium aims to promote awareness about marine biodiversity and conservation through educational and recreational exhibits. The project is expected to attract tourists, students and wildlife enthusiasts from across the country. In another major decision, the Cabinet also approved the implementation of the Immersive Room and Digital Zoo Guide projects at Sri Chamarajendra Zoo in Mysuru and Bannerghatta Biological Park in Bengaluru. The projects will also be developed under the PPP model at an estimated cost of Rs 44.62

crore for Mysuru Zoo and Rs 35.22 crore for Bannerghatta Park. Sri Chamarajendra Zoo, one of India's oldest zoological institutions, and Bannerghatta Biological Park house several endemic and exotic species and conduct conservation and educational programmes throughout the year. The new technology-driven initiatives are aimed at strengthening environmental education and improving visitor engagement. The immersive wildlife room will provide visitors with a 270° to 360° projection-based experience featuring India's biodiversity, wildlife habitats and conservation themes. The facility will include multilingual audio support and thematic visual content designed especially for students, families and tourists. Meanwhile, the Digital Zoo Guide will function as a QR code-based browser-accessible platform, eliminating the need

for a separate mobile application. The platform will provide live navigation assistance, educational information about animal enclosures, multilingual narration, conservation-related content and augmented reality experiences for visitors.



The projects will be implemented under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. Officials said the collaboration is intended to utilise private sector expertise in operations and management while ensuring long-term sustainability and efficient maintenance of the facilities.

KSDL seeks ideas on anti-theft technology to protect sandalwood trees

CH NEWS BENGALURU

In a bid to tackle rising sandalwood thefts across Karnataka, Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd (KSDL) has invited farmers, scientists, innovators and organisations to propose advanced technologies and equipment for safeguarding sandalwood trees. Announcing the initiative, Industries Minister M. B. Patil said innovators with effective anti-theft solutions would be given an opportunity to demonstrate their technologies before KSDL officials. If the systems are found feasible and efficient, the proposals will be placed before the government for consideration and possible implementation. Patil stated that KSDL is willing to bear the cost of deploying suitable technologies to ensure better protection for sandalwood growers. He noted that theft of sandalwood trees has become a major concern for

farmers cultivating the valuable species on their lands. The minister observed that despite stringent laws to curb sandalwood smuggling and theft, conviction rates in such cases continue to remain low. He stressed the need for modern technological interventions to support law enforcement agencies and provide security to cultivators. As part of efforts to encourage sandalwood cultivation, KSDL will honour four farmers who supply quality sandalwood produce to the organisation. The awards will be presented on June 4. Patil also announced that police personnel, forest officials and citizens who assist in solving sandalwood theft cases would be recognised and rewarded for their contribution. Officials believe the initiative will promote greater public participation in protecting sandalwood resources while encouraging farmers to take up cultivation with confidence.

Star giraffe Shivani dies at Bannerghatta Biological Park

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) has suffered a setback after Shivani, a young female giraffe and one of the park's popular attractions, died following a sudden intestinal complication despite intensive veterinary treatment. According to BBP officials, Shivani was aged three years and 10 months. The giraffe reportedly stopped consuming food on May 3, prompting veterinarians to closely monitor her condition and begin treatment immediately. However, despite several days of medical



care, she failed to recover and died, officials said. A post-mortem examination conducted by veterinary experts revealed that Shivani died due to caecal torsion, a serious medical condition caused by twisting of a part of the intestine, leading to severe abdominal distress. Of-

ficials stated that visceral samples have been collected and sent to the Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals laboratory in Hebbal for further analysis. Shivani had been brought to Bannerghatta from Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens in 2024 after months of negotiations to provide companionship to the park's lone giraffe, Gauri. Born in 2022 to giraffes Bharat and Babli at Mysuru zoo, Shivani was transported to Bengaluru in a specially designed multi-axle vehicle under special escort arrangements.

BMTC expands to Channapatna, boosting South Bengaluru connectivity

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has expanded its services to Channapatna, further strengthening connectivity between South Bengaluru and nearby towns. The new service, launched on Friday, is expected to benefit daily commuters, students and office-goers travelling between Bengaluru and Channapatna. As part of the expansion, BMTC has deployed 10 air-conditioned (AC) buses on the route. According to officials, the buses will operate at a frequency of one every 30 minutes from morning till evening, ensuring regular and reliable transport services throughout the day. The initiative comes after BMTC recently extended its operations to Ramanagara and Kanakapura over the past two months. Six buses were introduced for Ramanagara and eight for Kanakapura.

Loan dispute murder plot exposed after 'accident'; accused dies in custody

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

What was initially believed to be a road accident involving an elderly woman has now turned into a shocking murder investigation, with police uncovering a conspiracy allegedly linked to a loan dispute. Adding another twist to the case, one of the accused died due to illness while in police custody, just two days after the woman's death. The deceased woman has been identified as Vijayalakshmi, who had reportedly lent money to one of the accused. According to police investigations, the accused allegedly plotted to kill her and steal money and valuables believed to be kept at her residence. Police said accused Rakesh allegedly rammed his bike into Vijayalakshmi while she was walking on the road and fled the spot. Soon after, Pradeep, Yohan and Manjunath arrived in an autorickshaw and shifted the injured woman to a hospital. During the confusion, Manjunath allegedly took the

house keys from Vijayalakshmi's purse and went to her residence searching for cash and jewellery. When neighbours questioned him, he allegedly claimed Vijayalakshmi had met with an accident and that he needed her Aadhaar card. However, becoming suspicious over his behaviour, residents continued questioning him, forcing him to flee the spot. Meanwhile, Vijayalakshmi was shifted to Victoria Hospital. In a bid to mislead investigators, accused Rakesh himself approached the Vijayanagar Traffic Police and filed a complaint claiming that an unidentified vehicle had hit his acquaintance Vijayalakshmi and escaped. He also projected himself as the person who had rescued her. Two days later, the case took a dramatic turn after police grew suspicious about inconsistencies in the incident. Simultaneously, the owner of Vijayalakshmi's house lodged a complaint at the Mahalaxmi Layout Police Station regarding an attempted theft.

FINE FOR RULE DIVERSION

KKRTC's dual stance on accident case draws High Court ire, ₹25,000 fine imposed

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has strongly criticised the Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) for allegedly suppressing facts and presenting contradictory arguments in a road accident compensation case. The court imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on the corporation for what it termed an abuse of the judicial process. A division bench comprising Justice Suraj Govindaraj and Justice Dr Chillakuru



Sumalatha passed the order while hearing an appeal filed by KKRTC challenging the judgment of the Accident Compensation Tribunal.

The court observed that KKRTC had already admitted negligence on the part of its employees in internal disciplinary proceedings following

the accident. The corporation had dismissed the contract driver involved in the accident from service and reduced the annual increment of the concerned manager. However, while contesting the compensation claim before the High Court, the corporation argued that the deceased victim was responsible for the accident. Expressing strong displeasure, the bench stated that adopting one stand internally and another before the court amounted to duplicity and

misuse of judicial proceedings. "On one hand, the corporation dismisses its employees after admitting fault, and on the other hand, it argues that the deceased was responsible. Such a double standard is illegal and unacceptable," the bench observed. The judges further remarked that litigants approaching courts are expected to come with clean hands and disclose all relevant facts truthfully. Suppressing information about disciplinary ac-

tion already taken within the organisation and presenting misleading arguments before the court undermines the sanctity of the judiciary, the bench noted. The High Court directed KKRTC to deposit Rs 25,000 with the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority. It also ordered that the fine amount be recovered from the officials responsible for filing the appeal and withholding material facts from the court. In addition, the bench instructed the corporation to

mandatorily disclose details of internal disciplinary proceedings in future accident compensation cases. The court further directed KKRTC Managing Director to issue an appropriate circular and constitute a separate review committee to prevent such contradictory positions in future litigation. The court said the move was necessary to ensure transparency, accountability and fairness in legal proceedings involving public sector transport corporations.

QUICK READ

Bengal Gram purchase deadline extended in Gadag
CH NEWS,GADAG
The government has extended the deadline for purchasing FAQ quality Bengal gram from farmers under the Central Government's Price Support Scheme for the 2025–26 season. The procurement is being carried out at designated purchase centers across Gadag district along with farmer registration. Officials stated that the purchase period for the Kharif season has now been extended up to May 28. Only registered farmers will be eligible for selling their produce under the scheme. The decision was announced by the District Task Force Committee Chairman and Gadag Deputy Commissioner through an official press release, ensuring smooth procurement operations.

Karnataka legal services opens officer recruitment drive
CH NEWS,HAVERI
The Karnataka State Legal Services Authority has invited online applications for direct recruitment to 17 remaining Branch Officer posts in Bengaluru under the basic cadre until May 15. Eligible candidates with a law degree (LLB) from a recognized university can apply online. Details about pay scale, age limit, selection method and examination process are available on the official website. Senior Civil Judge and Member Secretary Srishailaja H V said candidates should check eligibility carefully and submit applications before deadline. For more information, candidates can visit the official portal or contact District Legal Services Authority for recruitment related clarifications and details.

Gadag seeks rented buildings for student hostels
CH NEWS,GADAG
For the year 2026-27, the Social Welfare Department in Gadag has invited owners of suitable buildings to offer two rented buildings for Post-Matric Boys Hostels accommodating 100 students. The hostel requires well-equipped buildings with separate rooms, toilets, bathrooms, a spacious kitchen, electricity, and borewell facilities. Interested owners should contact the Assistant Director, Social Welfare Department, opposite the SP Office in Gadag for details. Contact numbers are 08372-297258 and 9480843128 for further information and application process. Officials said that interested building owners should respond immediately to ensure timely accommodation arrangements for students and support smooth functioning of hostels during upcoming academic year.

LEARNING BEYOND MARKS

Lakshmi Priya stresses self confidence for success

CH NEWS,KARWAR
Deputy Commissioner Lakshmi Priya said that continuous effort and self confidence lead to success in life. She was speaking at a felicitation program held for SSLC students who scored top marks in Uttara Kannada district. She advised students to study not only for marks but also to achieve their life goals and dreams. According to her continuous practice discipline and support from parents and teachers help students perform better.



Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. Dileesh Shashi said students from government schools achieving state ranks is a proud moment. He encouraged students to use opportu-

nities focus on basic learning and practice model question papers for exams. Students also shared their experiences and views during the interaction program held at the col-

lector office hall. The district administration Zilla Panchayat and education department jointly organized the event to honour top performers. Officials said that marks are important but students should also build skills and take part in activities. The program ended with congratulations to students who secured top ten ranks in the state examination. Parents and teachers were also present and appreciated the efforts of the students. Officials including Deputy Director of School Education

Latha Nayak and other education officers attended the ceremony. Students were motivated to prepare for competitive exams by understanding concepts solving model papers and correcting mistakes through self evaluation. Speakers said that success comes through hard work consistency and a positive attitude towards learning and life challenges. The district administration promised continued support to students and encouraged them to aim high and contribute to society in future.

Salim Ahmed hints at possible cabinet changes

Ahmed said action taken against members over election issues, with internal reviews on voting patterns and bypoll performance

HUBBALLI

Congress leader and MLC Salim Ahmed has indicated that a possible cabinet reshuffle in Karnataka could take place by the end of May, after consultations in Delhi by the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister. He said the final decision will be taken by the party high command. Speaking at a press conference in Hubballi, Salim Ahmed said the cabinet should be restructured soon and the party has requested the leadership to include new members. He added that while discussions are underway, the final authority rests with the Congress high command, which will decide on



the expansion.

He expressed confidence that cabinet expansion will definitely happen and said it is expected to provide opportunities for new leaders within the party.

Responding to political developments, he also mentioned that action has been

taken against party members in connection with election-related issues. He said internal reviews are being conducted regarding voting patterns and performance in recent bypolls.

On allegations raised by opposition parties regarding vote counting and postal bal-

lots, he claimed there were irregularities and called it part of a larger political conspiracy. He also accused the BJP of unfair practices in elections.

Meanwhile, Congress leaders have defended the possibility of reshuffle, saying it is a normal administrative process to improve governance and give opportunities to more legislators. They stated that decisions will be taken based on the direction of the party leadership.

Officials and political observers say attention is now focused on the upcoming Delhi discussions, which are expected to play a key role in finalizing changes in the state cabinet structure.

Yatnal slams BJP leaders over blackmail row

KOPPAL

Speaking in Koppal, expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal strongly criticised his party leaders, saying BJP leaders are being blackmailed and the so-called fan festival is actually a blackmail festival. He questioned the purpose of celebrating former chief minister B. S. Yediyurappa, alleging corruption and political adjustment deals in past years. He claimed Yediyurappa and others had faced jail cases and later made compromises with political rivals. Yatnal also said that Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar could sell the state many times if he becomes chief minister, and accused senior leaders of corruption. He added that internal party celebrations were meant to pressure leaders and control dissent. The MLA said BJP does not allow new leadership to grow and accused senior leaders of blocking others. He also criticised party state president Vijayendra and said his leadership would end soon. Yatnal said leaders like Jagadish Shettar, Sadananda Gowda and Basavaraj Bommai had been cornered within the party. He further said he would travel across the state for six months to take public opinion



MLA accused BJP of blocking new leadership, criticised Vijayendra, claimed corruption, announced state tour for public opinion, and said future political decision will follow feedback

before deciding on a new political party. He claimed current politics is full of corruption and blamed both ruling and opposition leaders for misuse of power. He also said he has no direct adjustment with Siddaramaiah and will not meet him personally. He concluded that people will decide the future of his political journey based on his tour and feedback from the public. Political observers said his remarks have intensified internal debate within Karnataka BJP and increased speculation about possible formation of a new political outfit in coming months depending on public response.

Lokayukta raids Municipal offices over corruption allegations

HUBBALLI

Lokayukta officials conducted surprise raids on all 12 zonal offices of the Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation on Friday following complaints about delays in e-property transfers and land record processing. Officials said the raids were launched after several allegations that public services were being delayed unless money was paid. The operation was carried out under the leadership of Lokayukta Superintendent of Police Siddalingappa S T. Separate teams inspected records and documents related to e-assets and property transfer applications. According to complaints, citizens had alleged that approvals were delayed unnecessarily and files moved only after bribes were paid. Officials examined records, pending files, and transaction details during the inspections. The raids were aimed at identifying irregularities in processing public documents and ensuring transparency in municipal administration. In a related development, Lokayukta officials also raided Zone One

office of Davangere City Corporation at Rajiv Gandhi Badavane on Thursday. The inspection was led by DySP Kalavati and CPI Gurubasavaraj following allegations that officials were collecting excessive money from citizens for public services. During the raid, officers questioned staff members about property records, pending applications, salaries, and financial transactions. Bank account details of employees were also checked after officials reportedly found transactions higher than expected income levels. Sources said Lokayukta officers warned some staff members for failing to provide proper explanations regarding their financial records. Information was also collected from the zonal commissioner and other officials during the inspection. Authorities stated that the raids were conducted based on public complaints and intelligence inputs regarding possible corruption and misuse of authority in municipal offices. Further verification of documents and financial records is currently underway as part of the ongoing investigation by Lokayukta officials.

District Apprenticeship Fair announced

KOPPAL

A district-level National Apprenticeship Fair will be held on May 11 at 10 am at Government Industrial Training Institute, Gudneppana Math in Kuknoor, officials said. Several major companies from Bengaluru, including Toyota Industries Engine India Pvt Ltd, Shindengen India Pvt Ltd, Schneider Electric India Pvt Ltd, AT India Auto Parts Pvt Ltd, Toyoda Gosei South India Pvt Ltd, Autoliv India Pvt Ltd, Avirata Defence System Ltd and Samvardhan Motherson International Pvt Ltd will participate in recruitment drives.

Koppal protest enters 190th day against pellet plant

CH NEWS,KOPPAL

People's groups in Koppal marked what they called the 190th day of protest against the Baldota MSPL pellet plant. They say the unit running since 2011

is causing pollution and harming health in many city wards. They demand closure of the factory and protection of drinking water sources like Basapura lake and Tungabhadra reservoir. They also want sponge iron units near

Hirebaganal and Allahnagar shifted to safer locations as suggested by experts. Protesters include local activists, retired teachers, and residents from affected villages seeking urgent action from authorities.

Lok Adalat offers faster settlement for pending cases

CH NEWS,KOPPAL

The District Legal Services Authority has announced that the National Lok Adalat will be held on July 11, while a special "Conciliation Session" Lok Adalat for Supreme Court cases will take place on August 21, 22, and 23. Senior Civil Judge and District Legal Services Authority Member Secretary Mahantesh S Dargada said the programmes offer a valuable opportunity for people to settle disputes quickly through mutual agreement. Speaking at a press conference at the District Court

office, he said several types of pending cases can be resolved through the National Lok Adalat. These include civil disputes, land acquisition matters, bank recovery cases, cheque bounce complaints, motor accident compensation cases, matrimonial disputes, and compoundable criminal cases. He explained that cases settled through mutual conciliation would help parties avoid lengthy court proceedings and reduce legal expenses. He also said that the full court fee paid by parties would be refunded if disputes are resolved through Lok Adalat.

QUICK READ

BPL ration cards open for medical aid applications

CH NEWS, GADAG

Applications have been invited for new BPL ration cards under emergency medical treatment needs, said Ashok Mandali, Chairman of the Gadag Taluk Panch Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authority. He announced that the last date to submit applications is March 31, 2027. Eligible people can apply at nearby Karnataka One and Gram One centres between 10 am and 5 pm. Applicants must submit Aadhaar cards, caste and income certificates of all family members, birth certificates of children below six years, and TUMB details. Officials said the scheme aims to support families facing urgent medical expenses through proper documentation and verification process effectively.

Planned power cuts announced across Kodagu district

CH NEWS, MADIKERI

Kodagu district will face scheduled power outages on May 10 and May 11 due to maintenance works, officials said. On May 10, power will be cut from 10 am to 5 pm for feeder strengthening work on the Moornadu route, affecting Moornadu town, Muttarmudi, Kumbaladalu, Kiggalu and Kabadageri areas. On May 11, another shutdown from 10 am to 5 pm will be held for maintenance on the Bhagamandala feeder, impacting Talatmane, Appangala, Bettageri, Cherambane and nearby villages. Officials have requested residents to cooperate and manage water and electricity needs in advance during the outages period.

Chitradurga opens final chance for housing list update

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Chitradurga Taluk Panchayat has given a final opportunity to include eligible homeless people who were missed in the 2018 survey for housing benefits. The deadline for adding names to the list is May 15. Officials said the revision is being done under directions of the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural). Those without houses or plots can be re-verified through Gram Sabhas and added if eligible. Beneficiaries will be selected transparently through online lottery. Authorities warned that no changes will be allowed after the deadline, and the final list will be strictly closed.

Kumaraswamy denies centre role in Tamil politics

Kumaraswamy said Tamil Nadu Governor consults experts, acts on conditions for government formation, and Centre is not interfering

HASSAN

H. D. Kumaraswamy said there is no question of central government interference in Tamil Nadu politics. He said the political crisis in Tamil Nadu may be resolved within two or three days and added that DMK and AIADMK, long-time rivals, are unlikely to form an alliance govern-

ment, while TVK is seen as an emerging force. He further said that in Tamil Nadu, the Governor is taking decisions based on prevailing conditions and consulting legal experts, and steps are being taken for government formation, adding that the Centre is not interfering. He also said Tamil Nadu's budget is about 3.5 lakh crore rupees, while promises of freebies



would require nearly 6 lakh crore rupees, and questioned where such funds would come from.

He made the remarks while speaking to reporters at Mavinakere Ranganatha Swamy hill in Hassan district.

Earlier he said that the Governor has asked political leader Vijay to submit a signed list of supporting MLAs and that de-

cisions are being taken according to the political situation. He said that people should wait and see how the situation develops in the coming days. He reiterated that there is no role for the central government in influencing state political affairs and said Tamil Nadu politics will be decided by elected representatives within the state framework. Political observers

note that the statement comes amid ongoing discussions over leadership and coalition possibilities in Tamil Nadu, while Kumaraswamy maintained that clarity will emerge after discussions in the coming days and urged patience from all stakeholders until a formal decision is announced by party leadership in due course officially confirmed.

Murusaviramath seer said good society comes from strong values, donations, sacrifice, and unity, praising Nijasharan Ambigara Chowdaiah Peetha for community harmony and development

MLA Srinivas Mane speaks on land scarcity issue

HANGAL

MLA Srinivas Mane said that in India many hospitals, schools and community buildings have been constructed on land donated by generous people, but the mindset of society has changed to such an extent that even burial land is becoming scarce. He was speaking after inaugurating a restaurant during the opening ceremony of the Ganga Parameshwari Community Hall built by the Gangamat community. He appreciated the community members for completing the well-equipped hall after nearly 15 years of effort. He said people should understand the teachings of



Ambigara Chowdaiah and work towards building an equal society where everyone lives together with harmony and respect. Murusaviramath seer Dr. Gurusiddha Rajyogindra Swamiji said that a good society can be created only when people focus on building good values in their

minds. He added that donation and sacrifice by individuals help strengthen society and urged leaders to work for unity and development. He also said the establishment of Nijasharan Ambigara Chowdaiah Peetha has helped bring unity within the community. Former minister Pramod Madhvaraj and MLC

45-Day K-SET and UGC-NET coaching camp from May 12

MYSURU

The Competitive Examination Training Centre of Karnataka State Open University will inaugurate its 45-day coaching camp for K-SET and UGC-NET aspirants on Tuesday, May 12, at 11 am at the Kaveri Auditorium on the university campus. The training programme will be inaugurated by Prof. B. K. Ravi, Vice-Chancellor of Bengaluru North University.

Senior KAS officer and Joint Director of the Administrative Training Institute, Mysuru, Sathyashree R., will deliver the keynote address and

extend best wishes to the participants of the training camp. The programme will be presided over by Prof. Sharanappa V. Halase.

Among those attending the inaugural function are Registrar Prof. Naveenkumar S. K., Registrar (Evaluation) Dr. C. S. Anandkumar, Academic Dean Prof. M. Ramanatham Naidu, Dean of Study Centre Dr. N. R. Chandregowda and Finance Officer Dr. S. Niranjana Raj. Coordinator Jainahalli Satyanarayana Gowda said interested candidates can still enrol for the coaching programme.

For details, candidates may contact: 0821-2515944 / 9964760090.

Awareness drive urges shift from plastic carry bags

MYSURU

Stressing the urgent need to protect the environment from plastic pollution, H. V. L. N. Achar said both traders and consumers must seriously think of replacing plastic carry bags with reusable cloth bags. He was speaking after distributing cloth bags to vegetable vendors and customers at the Srirampura market on Thursday as part of an awareness initiative organised jointly by Kshema Dhama Trust and Arivu Institution here on Friday. Achar warned that non-recyclable plastic poses a grave threat to the environment, public health and animal life.

“Core engineering will come back like vengeance”

MYSURU

“Degrees may help students secure their first job, but long-term success depends on inner personality, values, attitude, and core competencies,” said A.N. Santhosh Kumar, Vice Chancellor, JSS Science and Technology University.

Speaking at the inauguration of the three-day annual cultural fest ‘VIDYUTH 2026’ at Vidyardhaka College of Engineering here on Friday, he said the real purpose of education is not merely to earn money or secure placements, but to refine human behavior, cultivate the right attitude, and build strong character. The society conditions children from a young age to believe that academic scores, placements, and high-paying jobs alone define success. While acknowledging the importance of wealth and economic growth, he questioned whether financial success should be the sole aim of education.

He stressed that education must help students understand society better, develop socially acceptable behavior, and make informed decisions with the right perspective.

Warning students against forming instant opinions based on appearances or social media narratives, he urged them to think critically and gather complete information before making judgments. Highlighting industry expectations, the Vice-Chancellor noted that



recruiters today are more concerned about attitude and behavior than technical knowledge. “Companies can train graduates technically within a few months, but changing attitude is much more difficult,” he remarked, quoting investor Warren Buffett to emphasize that attitude is more valuable than aptitude. Speaking on technological advancements, Kumar said emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors, quantum computing, electric vehicles, nanoscience, and genetic engineering would create enormous opportunities in the coming years.

He dismissed fears that AI would completely replace jobs and asserted that engineers would continue to play a vital role in nation-building. Predicting a strong revival of traditional engineering streams, he said civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering would “come back with a vengeance” due to rapid infrastructure growth and increasing industrial demands across the

country. He pointed out that excessive focus on IT-related branches over the past decade has now created a shortage of skilled engineers in core sectors. Earlier, Sadasive Gowda, Principal of VVCE said VIDYUTH 2026 celebrates culture as the soul of society and plays an important role in preserving traditions, values, art, and heritage.

The three-day fest features cultural competitions, gaming events, auto expo, treasure hunt, fashion events, celebrity performances, and a blood donation camp organized in association with NSS and Red Cross. Renowned singer Raghu Dixit will perform during the grand Sandalwood Night finale on May 10. Gundappa Gowda, president of Vidyardhaka Sangha, P. Vishwanath, Secretary of Vidyardhaka Sangha, Shrishaila Ramannavar, Treasurer, VVS, Shobha Shankar, Vice Principal, VVCE, Dean Naveen Prakash, Gowri Shankar, Cultural Secretary were also present.

YOGA POWERS THE FORCE

SP Baladandi applauds police personnel for discipline and dedication

MYSURU

Stressing that yoga is not merely an exercise but a way of life, Mysuru District Superintendent of Police Mallikarjuna Baladandi lauded police officers and staff for their overwhelming participation in the five-day yoga camp conducted by renowned yoga trainer Dr Bhagirathi exclusively for district police personnel. Speaking at the valedictory ceremony on Friday, the SP said the department had initially expected a modest response to the camp.

However, the enthusiasm shown by the force surpassed all expectations, with nearly 360 police personnel actively taking part throughout the programme. “Usually many attend yoga camps on the first day and gradually stop coming because of body pain and fatigue. But here, the attendance remained consistent for all five days, which reflects the discipline and commitment of our staff,” he said. Baladandi praised Dr Bhagirathi’s tireless dedication, noting that she conducts yoga sessions from early morning till late night in both

offline and online formats. He recalled her decade-long association with the police department, during which she has trained thousands of personnel and recently conducted online yoga sessions for prison department staff as well.

The SP also appreciated the release of a special wellness booklet focusing on stress management, meditation, weight control, concentration and mental wellbeing — issues commonly faced in today’s fast-paced life. Describing yoga as the best exercise for holistic fitness, he said every part of



the body becomes active through yoga. He particularly highlighted Dr Bhagirathi’s unique method of beginning sessions with power yoga to energise and warm up the body

before moving to asanas. He urged all participants to continue practising yoga daily, wake up early and adopt a healthier lifestyle to remain physically fit, mentally strong and du-

ty-ready round the clock. Fit Forces Build a Strong Nation. Renowned international yoga expert Dr Bhagirathi said her return to India from abroad was driven by a single mission — to spread the power of yoga among people and especially among the nation’s uniformed forces. She recalled that her journey with the police department began in 2016 when she came in contact with the KSRP 12th Battalion. “Around 180 police personnel underwent a rigorous 10-day yogasana training programme and each participant lost between five

and eight-and-a-half kilograms during the camp,” she said. Dr Bhagirathi described the initiative as a major challenge that required complete lifestyle changes, including modifications in the canteen diet and continuous motivation for personnel to practise yoga every day without fail. She fondly remembered the support extended by the KSRP commandant, who provided accommodation and even arranged a separate room for conducting online sessions because of network issues outside the campus.

QUICK READ

Major power cut alert across Mandya district

MANDYA

Due to link line work on F-12 Gopalapura IP route from Chikkamandya MUSS, a planned power outage will be observed on May 9 from 10 am to 6 pm in Mandya district. Electricity supply will be suspended for maintenance and safety work. Villages affected include Gopalapura, H Kodihalli, H Kodihalli Farm, H Malligere, H Malligere Farm, Jeegundipatna, and B Hosur Colony. Officials said the shutdown is necessary for line improvement work. Assistant Executive Engineer S Srikanth of Mandya Chavisani Keragodu Sub-Division issued the statement and requested public cooperation during the outage period. Residents are advised to plan accordingly now today.

Chitradurga recruitment process underway for vacant posts

CHITRADURGA

The Chitradurga Zilla Panchayat has published the list of eligible candidates who applied online for direct recruitment to vacant Tax Collector posts in Gram Panchayats across the district. Candidates can check the list on the official website chitradurga.nic.in. Officials stated that objections related to the published list can be submitted to the Zilla Panchayat office until 5 pm on May 22. The recruitment process is being carried out for several vacant posts in the district. Candidates have been advised to verify their details carefully and submit objections within the deadline if any corrections or clarifications are required officially.

Two youths die in car collision accident

Davanagere

Two youths died on the spot in a car collision on the national highway near Shamanur in Davanagere city late last night. The victims were Gautham aged 29 and Manoj aged 29, both residents of Davanagere. They were returning home after attending a wedding ceremony when the accident occurred. Police said the car was being driven at high speed, which likely caused the crash. Both cars were heavily damaged in the impact and traffic police reached the spot immediately. An investigation has been started by Davanagere traffic police to find the exact cause. Locals expressed shock over the accident and said speeding on highways has become a major concern in the region.

SCIENTIFIC FARMING DRIVE

Agricultural equipment distribution held in Magadi taluk

MAGADI

A comprehensive agricultural equipment distribution and training programme aimed at strengthening farmers through scientific farming methods was successfully held at Chandurayanahalli Agricultural Science Centre in Magadi taluk. The event was jointly organised under the All India Integrated Research Project on Seeds (Crops) of Bengaluru Agricultural University and the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan initiative for adopted villages.

Research Director of the Agri-

₹10 crore road push boosts rural Magadi growth

MLA Balakrishna focuses on welfare schemes and infrastructure, with ongoing rural development despite administrative pressure and local support

MAGADI

Rural development works worth more than ten crore rupees are underway in Magadi taluk under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan scheme aimed at improving village infrastructure and connectivity, said Block Congress President K Krishnamurthy on Friday. He was speaking after performing a traditional puja for a new concrete road project worth fifty lakh rupees in Karagadahalli village under Taggikuppe Gram Panchayat limits. Krishnamurthy said that due to efforts of local MLA H C Balakrishna, several development grants have been sanctioned for villages across the constituency. He said that funds have been allocated in phases including thirty lakh rupees for Taggikuppe, fifty lakh for Baichapur, eighty lakh for Bylakere and one crore sixty lakh rupees



for various road works earlier. In the current phase, fifty lakh rupees each has been released for Karagadahalli, Kempasagar, Managallu, Sonenahalli and Mattikere villages for road construction. He added that foundation work for these projects will begin within the next two days. According to him, MLA Balakrishna has been focusing on both government guarantee schemes and infrastructure development to improve living conditions in rural areas. He said development works are progressing even

with administrative pressure, as local leaders are actively supporting implementation on the ground. Krishnamurthy also stressed the importance of quality in construction work and said officials are closely monitoring road projects including white topping work from Gandhinagar Circle to the private bus stand and Baichapur road. He said that contractors have been instructed to maintain high standards without compromising quality during execution. On political matters, he said a new committee will soon be

formed to strengthen the Congress party at the local level. He added that a workshop will be conducted under the leadership of former MP D K Suresh and MLA H C Balakrishna to guide party organisation activities. He also said the recent by election result reflected public support for government welfare guarantee schemes. Several local leaders including gram panchayat members and contractors participated in the event, expressing support for ongoing development works in the region. Officials and residents said the road projects are expected to improve village connectivity, ease transportation, and support overall economic activity in rural Magadi in the coming months with better access and mobility for daily commuters and farmers across the taluk significantly and sustainably.



Mandya seed festival highlights indigenous seed conservation

MANDYA

The importance of seeds in agriculture and the need to conserve indigenous varieties was highlighted at the Seed Festival and Pre Monsoon Movement 2026 held at the University of Agricultural Sciences V C Farm in Mandya. Vice Chancellor Dr. K C Narayanaswamy inaugurated the programme and said that good quality seeds play a major role in crop growth, higher yield and financial stability for farmers. He said that in the present situation of climate change and water scarcity farmers should shift to crops that require less water and adopt better water management practices. He also stressed that crop diversity can help farmers reduce financial risk and improve long term sustainability in farming. Dr. Narayanaswamy gave special importance to the conservation of indigenous seeds and urged farmers to actively participate in preserving them. He appealed to farmers to inform the university if they possess unique or high quality traditional seeds so that they can be scientifically studied and improved. He said the university would take responsibility for developing such seeds through research and distributing them to other farmers for wider benefit. He added that the university had produced around five thousand tonnes of seeds last year and continues to work towards strengthening agricultural education research and extension activities. He also said that research based

Vice Chancellor said quality seeds, crop diversity, and water-efficient farming are vital for yield, stability, and sustainability

improved seed varieties are being successfully delivered to farmers through extension programmes. Retired Registrar Dr. Basava Gowda, who attended as chief guest, said that good seeds planted in fertile soil always result in better yield. He suggested that similar awareness programmes should be organised at district level and requested government support for free transport facilities for farmers attending such events. He also said agriculture today offers many opportunities and farmers should make use of modern agricultural knowledge to become self-reliant and economically strong. The programme was presided over by Dr. G. M. Devagiri, Director of Research, along with several senior officials and scientists from the university. Experts Dr. Thimmegowda and Dr. K. P. Krishnaprasad shared technical knowledge with farmers during the event. More than one thousand farmers from Mandya, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Hassan, and Kodagu participated along with students, scientists, and conservationists. Over thirty exhibition stalls showcased modern farming technologies, seeds, and innovative agricultural practices, providing useful information and guidance to visiting farmers throughout the day effectively and successfully.

Summer camps boost children creativity and confidence: Vaishali

CHITRADURGA

District Disabled Welfare Officer J. Vaishali said summer camps play an important role in developing children's creativity, confidence, and active personality. She spoke during the closing ceremony of a 15-day children's summer camp organized at the Bal Bhavan auditorium in Chitradurga city. The camp was jointly organized by the State Bal Bhavan Society, Zilla Panchayat, Women and Child Development Department, and District Bal Bhavan Committee. Addressing parents and children, Vaishali said such activities help identify hidden talents among children and encourage them to use their time productively during holidays.

She noted that excessive use of mobile phones and television during summer vacations is creating health problems among children according to recent studies. She said camps like these help reduce screen time and encourage learning through practical and cultural activities. Children at the camp received training in music, drama, painting, yoga, karate, and dance. Child Development Project Officer and District Child Protection Officer in-charge Veena said children should learn values, culture, and discipline from an early age. She added that special attractions this year included fire brigade demonstrations, reptile awareness sessions, and talking doll programmes. Assistant Child Develop-

ment Project Officer Manjula urged parents to support children in creative activities along with regular studies. District Bal Bhavan Manager P. Suresh said 95 children participated and successfully completed the camp. Certificates were distributed to all participants during the event. Children also performed cultural programmes and displayed handicrafts and paintings prepared during the training sessions, which attracted appreciation from parents and guests. Officials said such camps help children improve social skills, confidence, teamwork, and creativity while also giving them a healthy environment for learning and personal development during school vacations in the district.

Discipline key to career success says Expert

TUMAKURU

Naresh Kumar, Assistant Vice President and Product Manager at Infosys, advised students that discipline, patience, and punctuality are essential for building a successful career. He was speaking after inaugurating Technodia 2026, a technical event held at Sri Siddhartha Technical College in Tumakuru. He told students not to run behind money at the beginning of their careers. Instead, he said they should focus on doing good work and achieving success, and money will follow naturally. He also highlighted the importance of giving priority to customers in the industry, saying customer satisfaction is the foundation of any successful business.

Farmer dies by suicide over mounting debts

HUNSUR

A farmer named Siddaraju, son of Kaglinayak, from Hanagodu hobli Vaddambalu village in Hunsur taluk, has died by suicide due to debt. He lived with his wife and two children and had taken multiple loans for farming. Poor returns from tobacco and ginger crops made it difficult to repay debts, leading to severe financial stress. On the day of the incident he was found dead in his farmland. Police at the rural station have registered a case and started investigation. Former MLA H. P. Manjunath visited the village, consoled the grieving family, and spoke to reporters. He urged officials over phone to ensure compensation and support from the government for the bereaved family.

Mentally ill man rescued linked to murder case

MANGALURU

A shocking twist emerged for a Mangaluru-based social service organisation after a mentally unstable man rescued from the streets was later found to be an accused in a murder case in Tamil Nadu. The incident came to light after staff members of the rehabilitation organisation, which works for destitute people and mentally ill individuals, received information a few months ago about a man lying in a helpless condition on a roadside in Mangaluru. When the team reached the spot, they found the man in a severely disturbed mental and physical state. He was unable to walk properly and had multiple health issues, including injuries and fungal infections across his body. The organisation shifted him to its shelter home and arranged medical treatment and

counselling. After gradual recovery, the man identified himself as Aneesh Kumar and revealed his mother's name as Radha. Locals reportedly informed the staff that he had once been employed but later became mentally unstable and ended up on the streets. The organisation later attempted to trace his family using the information provided by him. However, when they contacted a woman working at a hospital in Tamil Nadu, she reportedly denied having a son. Despite this, Aneesh Kumar repeatedly expressed his desire to return home. While continuing their efforts, the organisation eventually contacted a police station in Pudukkottai district of Tamil Nadu. Police then informed the organisation that Aneesh Kumar was an accused in a murder case registered under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code on April 25, 2024.

Shivamogga and Vijayanagar to get new Kanteerava Studio units: Mehbub Pasha

SHIVAMOGGA

Kanteerava Studios is planning to set up new units in Shivamogga and Vijayanagar districts with the aim of decentralising film production activities and creating more opportunities for local artists, said Kanteerava Studios Chairman Mehbub Pasha. Speaking to reporters after holding discussions with Shivamogga Deputy Commissioner N. Hemant regarding land allocation for the project, he said that around 25 acres of land has been sought in Shivamogga for establishing the new studio unit. He added that a letter has already been issued by the Department of Information and Public Relations Secretary, and the process is currently underway.



The initiative aims to reduce the concentration of film production activities in Bengaluru, where space constraints are increasingly being felt. By expanding facilities to other districts, the government hopes to boost local art, culture, and employment opportunities for artists. Shivamogga has been chosen due to its natural landscape, which is considered

highly suitable for outdoor shooting. Its proximity to coastal and Malnad regions such as Karwar, Udipi, Mangaluru, and Chikkamagaluru further strengthens its suitability for film production activities. The proposed facility will include not only shooting floors but also modern technical infrastructure such as recording and lab development units, enabling end-to-end film production in a single location. Pasha said the expansion is being planned as part of the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Kanteerava Studios in Bengaluru, which has completed 60 years. He also informed that he has met Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda regarding the proposal, and the minister has responded positively to the project.

GTTC training boosts rural youth future prospects

CHITRADURGA

Karnataka State Safai Karmacharis Commission Chairman P. Raghu said students from rural areas can secure bright future with 100 percent employment if they use GTTC diploma courses. He spoke after visiting Government Toolbox and Training Centre GTTC on Old Bangalore Road in Chitradurga. He inspected practical labs and workshops and interacted with students. He said long-term

and short-term diploma courses offered by the institute are important in the current technological era. He added that it is a matter of pride that such a training centre exists in Chitradurga district. He encouraged SSLC passed students to join technical courses and quickly enter the job market. He said skill-based education is essential for employment opportunities. He also appreciated hands-on training provided at the centre.

QUICK READ

Unidentified body found in Hunsagi forest area

HUNSAGI

Forest officials found the body of an unidentified 35-year-old man in Rayanagola Thangadabil forest area of Narayanpur. It was noticed during patrol on May 5 in survey area 38/2. Condition of the body was suspicious and badly damaged causing concern among locals. Police PSI Ayyappa, ASI Ningappa and forest officer Kashinath visited the spot and inspected it. A case has been registered at Narayanpur police station and investigation is underway to identify the deceased and cause of death. Officials said further forensic examination and inquiry will continue. Locals are urged to cooperate with police investigation process

Andhra Pradesh Governor visits Magistrate's Office

MANGALURU

Andhra Pradesh Governor Justice Abdul Nazeer visited the District Magistrate's Office in Mangaluru on Friday. Deputy Commissioner H V Darshan welcomed him. He visited various departments and appreciated the new building design. He also saw the list of past District Magistrates. The Governor was given a Yakshagana style memento by officials. Tight security was arranged during the visit. Additional District Magistrate Raju K was present. Officials said the Governor praised the office facilities and administrative work during his visit. Public officials and staff were present and the visit ended peacefully with full arrangements made by administration in the city

Missing toddler traced safely after 12-hour search

CHIKKAMAGALURU

A one-and-a-half-year-old boy who went missing from an estate in Mudigere taluk was safely traced by police after an extensive overnight search operation. The incident was reported from Kelaguru Estate coming under the limits of Balur Police Station. The missing child, identified as Shivam, is the son of Gonu and Sona, a couple originally from Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. According to police, the family had arrived at the estate three days ago for work. On May 6 at around 5 pm, Shivam was reportedly playing near the house when he suddenly went missing, triggering panic among family members and estate workers. The worried parents later lodged a complaint at Balur Police Station.

Minister Gundu Rao directs officials on proper fund utilisation

The Minister said MLA meeting will prioritise key areas and accelerate development works using available funds

MANGALURU

Health and Family Welfare and District In-charge Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has directed officials to hold a meeting soon with district MLAs to decide the proper use of the District Mineral Rehabilitation Fund for development of mining affected areas.

He was speaking while chairing a review meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Friday regarding the utilisation of the fund.

Officials said the fund is being used to improve basic facilities such as roads, schools, and anganwadi buildings in areas affected by mining activities like stone quarrying, sand extraction, and crusher operations.

Since 2015, about forty seven point six two crore rupees has been collected under the fund. A portion of mining royalty, around ten rupees per



unit, is also contributed to this rehabilitation account.

The Minister said the upcoming meeting with MLAs will focus on identifying priority areas and speeding up development works using the available funds.

Deputy Commissioner Darshan H V informed that development works are allowed within a five kilometre radius of mining zones and said fifty seven projects have already been completed at a cost of around three crore forty two lakh rupees.

He added that about one crore fifty nine lakh rupees was used for health related

facilities during the Covid period.

In a separate discussion on monsoon preparedness, Minister Gundu Rao instructed officials to identify flood prone and landslide sensitive areas and take preventive steps immediately.

He directed departments to revisit areas affected by flooding and landslides last year and strengthen safety measures before heavy rains begin.

Officials said cleaning of storm water drains and major canals is being carried out on priority to avoid water logging during the monsoon.

Eight coastal erosion prone locations have been identified and precautionary measures are being taken.

Control rooms have been set up at district and taluk levels for emergency response and will function round the clock.

Disaster response teams including SDRF are already active in the district while National Disaster Response Force deployment is expected by the end of May.

Authorities said identification of ninety two flood prone areas and eighty eight landslide sensitive zones is in progress and public alerts are being issued regularly.

Officials assured that coordinated efforts between departments are being strengthened to reduce monsoon related risks and protect lives and property across Mangaluru region this season effectively and in a timely manner for public safety.

Mehboob Pasha announces decentralised film production plan

SHIVAMOGGA

Kanteerava Studios President Mehboob Pasha said that new studio units are proposed to be set up in Shivamogga and Vijayanagar districts with the aim of decentralising film production and creating more opportunities for local artists. He spoke to reporters after meeting Deputy Commissioner N. Hemanth at the Shivamogga district commissioner's office regarding land allocation for the project. He said a request has been submitted for around 25 acres of land in Jajuhalli village of Haranahalli hobli in Shivamogga taluk.

According to him, a letter has already been issued by the Information and Public Relations Department Secretary, and the process is currently underway.

Girija said complaints remain uninvestigated, action targets complainants, citizens face repeated office visits, and corruption is ignored

Dalit Sangharsh Committee alleges misuse of recovery notices

YADGIR

The Dalit Sangharsh Committee has alleged that recovery notices issued to complainants are being used as a tool to suppress their struggle and silence protest voices. The allegation was made by state women coordinator Girija during a press conference held at the district press house in Yadgir.

She claimed that Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officers have issued recovery notices to people who had earlier filed complaints under the Right to Information Act and later withdrew them. According to her, this is being done deliberately to target leaders of pro-Dalit organisations and weaken their movement.

Girija said it is unfortunate that thousands of complaints remain pending without proper investigation, while action is being taken against complainants instead. She alleged that citizens are getting tired of visiting government offices repeatedly, while corruption issues are being ignored.

She warned that the organisation will initiate legal action after consulting state-level leaders if the situation continues.

Another member, Lakshmana R. Halisagara, also spoke at the press meet and said he has been working as a kitchen assistant in the Social Welfare Department for eight years

without receiving salary. He said repeated requests to authorities have not brought any response.

He further alleged that some complainants were forced to withdraw cases due to pressure, threats and influence from powerful individuals and officials. He said he later refiled his complaint seeking a proper investigation.

He also expressed anger that his name was mentioned in a press release without prior notice, calling it a violation of dignity and human rights.

Other committee members including Rayappa Salimani and Chandrasekhara Natekar were present at the press conference.

MANGALURU FACES PERSISTENT ILLEGAL WASTE DUMPING PROBLEM

Mangaluru

Even as Mangaluru City Corporation spends crores of rupees annually on waste management and door-to-door garbage collection, illegal dumping of waste along roadsides, empty plots, markets and drainage areas continues to remain a major civic concern.

Though sanitation workers regularly clear garbage heaps from black spot areas, waste reappears at the same locations within days, exposing gaps in public awareness and enforcement measures.

Officials said the corporation has implemented systematic waste collection, segregation of dry and wet waste, awareness drives and penalties for violations. However, garbage dumping by residents, roadside eateries and



some commercial establishments continues unabated.

Several roads across the city including Kadri-Nanthoor Road, Bhojaraj Lane, Mathadakani Road, Central Market Road, Bandar Road and areas near Kottara and the District Panchayat office have emerged as major dumping spots. Plastic bags filled with liquor bottles, food packets, footwear, clothes and other household waste are commonly seen dumped along roadsides.

Sanitation workers say another major challenge is that wet and dry waste are mixed together, making segregation difficult during collection and disposal. Residents have also alleged that some students, labourers and employees staying in rented houses and apartments from outside districts and states dump waste irresponsibly on roadsides. The growing garbage heaps are causing foul smell, mosquito breeding and stray dog menace in several areas. In some places, waste is being burnt openly, leading to air pollution concerns. Civic activists have demanded stricter monitoring, beautification of cleaned areas, heavy penalties against offenders and continuous awareness campaigns at the ward level to tackle the issue permanently.

RURAL GROWTH PROGRAM

Cleanliness campaign held around thirty three institutions

BENGALURU

As part of efforts to improve cleanliness standards and achieve a better ranking in Swachh Survekshan 2025-26, the Bengaluru Central City Corporation conducted a special cleanliness drive around 33 schools and colleges within its limits.

Additional Commissioner (Development) Daljit Kumar said the campaign was carried out under the corporation's action plan and was part of its 11th phase of cleanliness activities. He said the focus of



the drive was to maintain hygienic surroundings near educational institutions and create awareness among students and the public about avoiding littering.

Officials said maintaining clean surroundings around schools and colleges is essential for the health and well-being of students. Awareness programmes were also conducted to encourage people to keep public spaces clean and avoid waste dumping near campuses.

A total of 273 sanitation workers, including 198 pourakarmikas and 75 other staff members, participated in the drive. They worked together to clean the surroundings of the selected educational institutions and remove accumulated waste.

During the operation, around 34.7 quintals of waste were collected and disposed of safely by the sanitation teams. Officials said the drive

helped improve hygiene conditions in the selected areas and strengthened the ongoing cleanliness efforts in the city.

Corporation officials including DGM Bhimesh Nayak and other administrative staff were present and supervised the campaign activities.

The corporation said similar cleanliness drives will continue in other parts of the city in the coming days as part of its broader goal to achieve a cleaner and healthier urban environment under Swachh Survekshan guidelines.



Ajay Singh calls for long term regional development planning

KALABURAGI

Kalyan Karnataka Region Development Board Chairman and MLA Dr. Ajay Singh has called for long term visionary planning to ensure balanced and sustainable development in the region over the next five years.

He was speaking at a workshop on "Kalyan Karnataka Development Vision 2026 to 2031" held in Kalaburagi on Friday through video conference.

Dr. Singh said that development should not focus only on infrastructure and investment but must also prioritise building human capital in education, health, social welfare and economic sectors.

He noted that since the implementation of Article 371J, the region has received around twenty three thousand seven hundred four crore rupees in funds, with more than seventeen thousand crore already allocated for various development works.

He said major progress has been made in agriculture, irrigation, education, health, roads and infrastructure across the region through these investments.

However, he pointed out that despite spending large amounts of money, per capita income growth in the region remains low compared to other parts of Karnataka.

He said Bengaluru city district has a per capita income of over nine lakh rupees while Kalaburagi district stands at only around one lakh sixty nine thousand rupees, showing a wide development gap.

Dr. Singh said issues such as regional inequality, malnutrition, weak education and health systems and low human development index con-

Dr. Singh said development must prioritise human capital alongside infrastructure, noting ₹23,704 crore under Article 371J with ₹17,000 crore already allocated for projects

tinue to challenge the region.

He stressed the need for collecting accurate ground level data and preparing new action plans with innovative ideas to address these problems.

Economist Prof. Govinda Rao also spoke at the event and said that despite Karnataka being a fast growing state, North Karnataka and Kalyan Karnataka continue to lag behind in development.

He added that economic growth cannot be achieved through financial investment alone and effective use of human and natural resources is essential.

Officials said a committee report has suggested an allocation of around forty three thousand nine hundred fourteen crore rupees for development works in the next five years.

KKRDB officials also shared progress reports stating that out of over forty five thousand approved works, more than thirty six thousand have already been completed across different districts.

The workshop was attended by regional officials, district administrators and experts who discussed strategies to improve education, health, employment and infrastructure development in the region through coordinated long term planning and stronger implementation mechanisms for sustainable growth and equality across all districts in Kalyan Karnataka.

Housing project for poor families in Surathkal hits financial roadblock

SURATHKAL

The construction of a massive G+3 residential housing complex in Ward No. 6 of the Mangaluru North Assembly constituency has slowed down due to a severe financial crunch, raising concerns among hundreds of families awaiting homes under the project.

The project, which aims to provide nearly 600 houses for poor and homeless families, was launched as a major urban housing initiative. Though around 65 percent of the work has already been completed, lack of funds has stalled further progress.

Officials said the total estimated cost of the project is around Rs 40 crore, out of which nearly Rs 25 crore



worth of work has been completed so far. Authorities estimate that an additional Rs 10 to 15 crore is required to complete the remaining construction.

Since projects exceeding Rs 5 crore require government approval, the Mangaluru City Corporation is expected to place a proposal before its next general body meeting and seek additional funding from the government.

The housing complex is being developed with facilities similar to private apartment complexes, including electricity, drinking water supply, drainage systems, roads and streetlights.

Each house will have an area of 300 square feet and is estimated to cost nearly Rs 5 lakh. Every block will contain 16 houses.

The project is being implemented jointly by the Centre, the Karnataka government and the Mangaluru City Corporation. Beneficiaries are being selected through a lottery system from nearly 6,000 applicants.

However, delays in funding have cast uncertainty over completion of the project, which was originally expected to be finished by 2023.

Bank employees stage silent protest

KALABURAGI

Bank employees in Kalaburagi held a silent protest at Jagat Circle on Friday to raise their demands ahead of a nationwide strike scheduled for May 25 and 26 called by their federation.

Employees said they are facing long pending issues including recruitment shortages delay in promotions and workload pressure. They demanded immediate recruitment of messengers and armed guards along with filling vacant posts in banks.

They also urged implementation of ICT transfer benefits for employees recruited since

2019. Another key demand was to stop outsourcing of permanent posts and ensure job security for staff. Workers also sought resolution of pay equity issues and improvements in salary structure. They requested an option for National Pension System employees to shift to pension fund management.

Better staffing levels and improved medical reimbursement facilities were also demanded by the union. Union leaders said repeated appeals to management have not received proper response so far. Due to this they said the nationwide strike has become unavoidable.

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QUICK READ

Meloni meets Rubio as Iran war strains Italy-US ties

ROME
Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni met U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday at a moment of unusual strain between her government and President Donald Trump's administration, driven largely by the war with Iran. Rubio is in Italy for a two-day trip aimed at easing ties with Pope Leo after unprecedented attacks on the pontiff by Trump, while also addressing Washington's frustration over Italy's refusal to support the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran. Meloni had been one of Trump's firmest supporters in Europe, cultivating close ties with him and presenting herself as a natural bridge between Washington and other EU states that had no natural political affinity with the Republican U.S. leader.

Botswana's former president Festus Mogae dies at 86

GABORONE
Botswana's former president Festus Mogae, who led the diamond-rich nation for a decade and won praise for good governance and the fight against HIV/AIDS, has died at the age of 86, the government said, declaring three days of national mourning. Mogae served as Botswana's third president from 1998 to 2008, handing power to his vice president, Ian Khama in a smooth transition that highlighted the southern African nation's reputation for political stability. An economist by training, Mogae was credited with successful management of Botswana's economy. He tackled HIV/AIDS openly at a time when Botswana faced one of the world's highest infection rates, and adopted one of the African continent's most comprehensive programmes against it. Born in Serowe on August 21, 1939, Mogae studied in Britain before joining Botswana's civil

UK's Princess Kate to visit pioneering Italian schools funded by WW2 scrap metal

ROME
On her trip to northern Italy next week, Britain's Princess of Wales will see how in the years after World War Two communities transformed abandoned military equipment, including a tank, into a globally influential model of early years education. The visit will take Kate to Reggio Emilia, where local residents many of them women helped finance some of Italy's first nursery schools after the war by selling the scrap metal from equipment left behind by retreating German forces. Those early efforts laid the foundations of the educational Reggio Emilia approach, now influential

MOSCOW
Russia and Ukraine accused each other on Friday of violating a temporary ceasefire announced by Russian President Vladimir Putin for Victory Day celebrations marking the Soviet Union's defeat of Nazi Germany in World War Two. The latest exchange of accusations came amid heightened tensions surrounding Russia's annual Victory Day celebrations on May 8 and 9, one of the country's most significant national events. Pres-

ISWAP Militants Attack Nigerian Army Base in Borno

Suspected fighters of the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) launched a deadly assault on a Nigerian military base in Borno state, leaving at least two soldiers dead and several others injured, including the commanding officer.

MAIDUGURI
According to security sources and military officials, the attackers stormed the army base under the cover of poor visibility during the early morning hours. The incident marks another major escalation in the long-running conflict between Nigerian security forces and armed extremist groups operating in the north-east region of the country. A military source stated that the militants heavily attacked the Forward Operating Base in Magumeri, resulting in intense gunfire and destruction within the camp. Initially, re-

ports from local security personnel indicated that three soldiers were killed during the confrontation, while the commanding officer suffered severe injuries. Around 14 additional soldiers were also wounded in the attack. The source further explained that Nigerian troops managed to repel the assault after fierce fighting. During the counter-offensive, soldiers reportedly killed about eight militants and recovered a significant cache of weapons and equipment. The recovered items included approximately 20 motorcycles, several machine guns, and rocket-propelled



grenades believed to have been used by the attackers. A member of the civilian joint task force, a local vigilante group that assists the military in anti-insurgency operations, confirmed seeing the aftermath of the attack. He said parts of the military base were damaged by fire and several soldiers had sustained gunshot wounds. The vigilante member also claimed that around 10 Boko Haram or ISWAP fighters were killed during the exchange of fire. In an official statement, the Nigerian military said troops from Operation Hadin Kai, the country's counterinsur-

gency operation in the north-east, successfully contained the attack and prevented the militants from fully infiltrating the base. Military spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Sani Uba confirmed that two soldiers lost their lives during the battle, while injured personnel, including an officer, were receiving medical treatment and were reported to be in stable condition. The military added that although temporary structures and some equipment were destroyed by fire, troops recovered anti-aircraft guns, AK-47 rifles, and ammunition abandoned by the fleeing militants.

Putin is ready to talk with EU but won't make the first move, Kremlin says

MOSCOW
Russian President Vladimir Putin is ready to negotiate with everyone, including the Europeans, the Kremlin said on Friday after the media reported that European Union leaders were preparing for potential talks. The FT reported that the shift by the EU was prompted by European frustration with negotiations to end the Ukraine war that have been led by U.S. President Donald Trump. European Council President Antonio Costa said he believed there was potential for the EU to negotiate with Putin and that the bloc had the backing of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to do so, the FT said.

Starmer Vows to Continue After Labour Suffers Major Local Election Setback

LONDON
British Prime Minister Keir Starmer pledged to remain in office and continue pursuing political reform after his Labour Party suffered significant losses in local elections across England. The results have intensified concerns over his leadership less than two years after Labour's sweeping national election victory in 2024. The local election results dealt a serious blow to Labour, particularly in traditional strongholds across central and northern England. Voters appeared to punish the government amid growing frustration over economic pressures and the pace of promised reforms. The outcome has also highlighted a broader shift in British politics, with support increasingly moving away from the country's long-dominant Labour and Conservative parties. The biggest gains came for Nigel Farage and his populist party, Reform UK. The party secured more than 400 council seats across England, marking one of its strongest performances to date. Reform UK's rise has strengthened its position as a growing po-



litical force and could make it the main opposition party in Scotland and Wales against nationalist parties such as the Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru. The election also reflected the continued fragmentation of Britain's political landscape. In addition to Reform UK's gains, the left-wing Green Party also attracted support from dissatisfied voters, while nationalist parties gained momentum in devolved regions. Both Labour and the Conservative Party lost significant voter share, underlining growing dissatisfaction with the traditional two-party system. Despite the disappointing outcome, senior Labour figures publicly backed Starmer's leadership. The prime minister addressed reporters in west London,

where Labour managed to retain control of the Ealing council, one of the few bright spots for the party during the elections. Starmer acknowledged the scale of the setback and accepted responsibility for the losses. He admitted that his government had made what he described as unnecessary mistakes since taking office, particularly by focusing heavily on the country's challenges without offering enough optimism to voters. However, the prime minister argued that the election results reflected public impatience over the speed of progress rather than outright rejection of his government. He promised to intensify efforts to deliver reforms and improve living standards for British citizens. Starmer also signaled a renewed focus on addressing the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, which has been worsened by international conflicts, including wars involving Ukraine and Iran. He indicated that his government would prioritize economic stability and household relief measures in the coming months. Financial markets reacted positively to Starmer's commitment to economic reforms.

US-Iran Naval Clash Raises Fears Despite Ongoing Ceasefire

WASHINGTON
The latest escalation unfolded as Washington awaited Tehran's response to a proposed framework aimed at ending the war that began on February 28. The conflict erupted after the United States and Israel launched coordinated airstrikes on Iran, triggering weeks of military exchanges across the Gulf region. President Donald Trump stated that three U.S. Navy destroyers came under attack while passing through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most strategically important waterways. The narrow passage handles nearly one-fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments, making any instability in the area a major concern for international markets and energy security. In a post on Truth Social, Trump claimed the American warships completed their transit successfully despite the attack. He said no damage was sustained by the destroyers, while Iranian forces allegedly suffered heavy losses during the encounter. Later, speaking to reporters in Washington, Trump sought to minimize the severity of the clash and maintained that



the ceasefire agreement remained in place. He described the incident as a failed provocation by Iran and insisted that U.S. forces responded decisively. Iran, however, accused the United States of violating the ceasefire first. Iran's top joint military command alleged that American forces targeted an Iranian oil tanker and another vessel while also carrying out airstrikes on civilian areas near Qeshm Island and coastal regions close to the Strait of Hormuz. According to Iranian military officials, Iranian naval units retaliated by launching attacks on U.S. military vessels east of the strait and near the port city of Chabahar. A spokesperson for Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters claimed the strikes caused significant damage to American forces, though U.S. Central

Tensions between the United States and Iran escalated again after naval forces exchanged fire near the Strait of Hormuz and the United Arab Emirates reported renewed missile and drone threats.

Command denied that any ships or military assets were hit. Iranian state media later suggested the situation had calmed. Press TV reported that after several hours of military exchanges, normal conditions had returned to Iranian islands and coastal cities around the Strait of Hormuz. The conflict also spread beyond the waterway. The United Arab Emirates confirmed that its air defense systems intercepted missile and drone threats believed to have originated from Iran early Friday morning. Authorities did not release detailed information regarding the scale or damage of the attacks. Since the outbreak of war, Iran has repeatedly targeted Gulf nations hosting American military bases, raising fears that the broader Middle East could face a prolonged period of instability and conflict.

Health authorities have identified a new suspected case of hantavirus on the remote South Atlantic island of Tristan da Cunha, raising further concerns over an outbreak linked to a luxury cruise ship.

New Suspected Hantavirus Case Reported on Remote South Atlantic Island

AMSTERDAM
The suspected new infection was reported on Friday in a British national living on Tristan da Cunha, widely regarded as the world's most remote inhabited island. The isolated British overseas territory, located in the South Atlantic Ocean, has a population of only around 200 residents and became a focus of global health concern after the luxury cruise ship MV Hondius stopped there on April 15. The outbreak aboard the vessel has already claimed three

lives. A Dutch couple and a German national died after being infected with the virus. Health authorities across several countries are now monitoring passengers, crew members, and individuals who may have had contact with those infected. According to officials, four other confirmed patients are currently receiving treatment in hospitals located in the Netherlands, South Africa, and Switzerland. The infected individuals include two British nationals, one Dutch national, and one Swiss citizen. One of the victims, a Dutch woman, died

shortly after leaving the ship on April 24. She was identified as the wife of the outbreak's so-called patient zero, a Dutch man who died aboard the cruise ship on April 11. The couple's deaths have intensified concerns about how widely the virus may have spread during the voyage. The World Health Organization said it planned to release updated figures regarding both suspected and confirmed infections later on Friday. International health agencies are continuing efforts to track passengers who disembarked from the ship and to

identify anyone who may have been exposed during travel or medical transfers. Dutch health authorities reported that two individuals who had close contact with the Dutch woman before she was removed from a flight in Johannesburg on April 25 tested negative for the virus. The woman had reportedly become critically ill during the flight, forcing authorities to take emergency action. One of the people tested was a flight attendant who later developed symptoms and was admitted to a hospital in Amsterdam as a precautionary measure.

RUSSIA UKRAINE CEASEFIRE

Russia and Ukraine Trade Accusations over Ceasefire Violations



ident Vladimir Putin had declared a unilateral two-day ceasefire intended to coincide with commemorations of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in 1945.

However, Ukraine rejected the limited ceasefire proposal, arguing that a temporary halt only for the holiday was insufficient. Kyiv instead called for a broader and indefinite

truce beginning two days earlier, a proposal that Moscow did not accept. Russia's Defence Ministry claimed Ukrainian forces violated the ceasefire repeatedly during the night and early Friday morning. According to the ministry, Russian air defenses intercepted and destroyed 264 Ukrainian drones across several regions. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said the Russian capital was among the areas targeted, while officials also reported drone attacks in the Perm region near the Ural Mountains. Russian authorities

further accused Ukraine of launching artillery and drone attacks against Russian military positions and civilian infrastructure in the border regions of Belgorod and Kursk. The ministry stated that Ukrainian forces continued military operations despite the announced pause in fighting. Moscow has also issued strong warnings ahead of Saturday's Victory Day military parade in Red Square. Russian officials said any Ukrainian attempt to disrupt the event would trigger a major missile strike on Kyiv.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANJUNATHA REDDY. S., father of minor girl, residing at D. No. 139, Thally Road, Andhivadi Village, Mathigiri Post, Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri District, 635110, Tamil Nadu, hereby declare that my daughter, whose name was previously known as Jahnavi. C. M., born on 15th July 2011 at Bengaluru, shall henceforth be known as RISHIKA VISMAYA, for all purposes, Date : 06.05.2026 Signature of Father Place : Bengaluru (Manjunatha Reddy. S.)

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NAME CHANGE

I, KAIYNATH ABDUL KAREEM, W/o Mohammed Aafaq Mushtaq, Resident of No 32/3, Cockburn Road Cross, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru 560051, have changed my name to KAIYNATH KAREEM Vide Affidavit Dated 05.05.2026 before notary V. RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SATISH V S/o VIJAYAKUMAR JAGADEESAN, R/o K 314, Confident Atik, Sarjapur Road, Near Sompura Gate, Sompura, Sarjapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka-562125, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SATISH VIJAYAKUMAR.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANJESH KUMAR V S/o VENKATAKRISHNA, R/o 18, 3rd C Cross, Kathriguppe Main Road, Vivekanandanagar, Banashankari III Stage, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANJESH VENKATAKRISHNA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, N RAJ GOPAL S/o T S HULAGASETTY, R/o No 1516/B (46/3) Rajavasantho 2nd Floor, 8th Main A Block, Behind Vishal Bhavan Kalyan Mantapa, 2nd Stage Rajajinagar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560010, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as H RAJ GOPAL.

RONALDO and Felix lead Al-Nassr to vital win

Cristiano Ronaldo and Joao Felix powered Al-Nassr toward the title with a 4-2 victory, moving five points clear.

TAIF

Cristiano Ronaldo and Joao Felix put on a masterclass as Al-Nassr defeated Al-Shabab 4-2, moving within touching distance of the Saudi Pro League title. Joao Felix was the standout performer, netting a brilliant hat-trick, while Ronaldo also scored to reach a historic milestone of 100 goals in Saudi league football. The match began with a blitz from Al-Nassr, as Felix scored twice in the first ten minutes. Al-Shabab fought back with a goal from Yan-

nick Carrasco, but Ronaldo restored the two-goal cushion in the 75th minute with a clinical finish. Although Al-Shabab scored again late through Ali Albulayhi, Felix sealed the win with a 90th-minute penalty to complete his treble.

With this victory, Al-Nassr sits

comfortably at the top of the standings with 82 points, five ahead of rivals Al-Hilal.

They are now just one win away from clinching the championship. The decisive moment could come on May 12, when they face Al-Hilal in a high-stakes Ri-

yadh derby at Al-Awwal Park. "This was a huge step, but the job isn't finished," said Al-Nassr coach Jorge Jesus.

He emphasized that the team must remain focused for the upcoming derby, where "small details" will decide the title. Beyond the league, Al-Nassr is also eyeing international glory, as they prepare to face Gamba Osaka in the Asian Champions League Two final on May 16. For Ronaldo and his teammates, a historic double is now firmly within their grasp.

Valverde to miss El Clasico following training bust-up

MADRID

Real Madrid midfielder Federico Valverde has been ruled out of the highly anticipated El Clasico against Barcelona after a shocking training ground altercation with teammate Aurelien Tchouameni.

The club confirmed that the Uruguayan star suffered a "cranioencephalic trauma" during the incident, which occurred just days before their crucial league clash.

The tension reportedly boiled over during the practice session, marking the second time the two players clashed in as many days. Valverde was rushed to the hospital to treat a cut on his forehead and undergo neurological scans.

While he has since been released and is recovering at home, medical protocols require him to rest for 10 to 14

days, officially sidelining him for the May 11 showdown at the Bernabéu.

Real Madrid has taken a firm stance on the infighting, launching formal disciplinary proceedings against both Valverde and Tchouameni. "The club will announce the resolutions of both cases in due course," a spokesperson stated, emphasizing that internal conduct standards were breached. Fortunately, Tchouameni escaped the scuffle without any reported injuries.

This loss is a massive blow to manager Carlo Ancelotti's plans. Real Madrid currently sits in second place with 77 points, trailing a dominant Barcelona side by 11 points.

Without Valverde's energy and defensive work rate in the middle of the pitch, the task of closing that gap has become significantly harder.

NHL player salaries reach record new highs

NEW YORK

Professional hockey is seeing a massive financial boom as the NHL and its Players Association announced the salary cap will jump to a record \$104 million for the 2026-27 season. This significant increase of \$8.5 million from last year reflects the league's rapid growth and surging popularity among fans worldwide.

The new financial rules mean teams have more money than ever to spend on top-tier talent. To show how far the league has come, the minimum a team must spend is actually higher than the maximum limit was just eight years ago. This wealth is driven by record-breaking viewership during the Stanley Cup playoffs and lucrative television deals with major networks. League revenue is expected to top \$7 billion this season. Commissioner Gary Bettman credited the success to the sheer quality of the game, noting that fans are tuning in even when teams from the biggest cities aren't playing. While some teams, like the Vegas Golden Knights, have used special injury rules to navigate budget limits, others like the Chicago Blackhawks are comfortably meeting the new requirements while building younger rosters. Individual players are also set to win big, with the maximum possible salary rising to \$20.8 million. Experts predict this trend won't stop anytime soon, early estimates suggest the cap could leap even higher to \$113.5 million the following year. For players and fans alike, the future of the NHL looks brighter, and much wealthier, than ever before.

Cousins sees bright future for Indian basketball

NEW DELHI

Four-time NBA All-Star DeMarcus Cousins is in the national capital to celebrate the global growth of basketball, calling the expansion of the sport a "beautiful thing." Speaking ahead of the BUDX NBA House 2026 event, the American star shared his excitement about merging different cultures through the game and praised the untapped potential he has witnessed in India.

After attending a local practice session, Cousins admitted he was immediately struck by the physical attributes of the

young athletes. "The first thing that stood out to me was the size and the height," he remarked, noting that such natural advantages are a massive head start in the sport.

He was also impressed by the players' skill sets, suggesting that while the sport is still developing in the region, the foundation is incredibly strong.

Cousins believes that India's massive population makes it a goldmine for future talent. He predicted that with continued work and the

right initiatives, the country could become a "very special" force in the basketball world. His visit is part of a larger effort to engage fans through music, streetwear, and on-court activities during the ongoing NBA Playoffs. As the Sacramento Kings continue to build their connection with India, Cousins' endorsement serves as a powerful reminder that the next big basketball star might just be discovered in New Delhi.



3 stars nominated for ICC April award

DUBAI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced an exciting shortlist for the Men's Player of the Month award for April, featuring standout performers from Bangladesh, Oman, and the UAE. Fast-bowling sensation Nahid Rana, Oman's veteran leader Jatinder Singh, and newcomer Ajay Kumar are all in the running following a month of record-breaking displays.

Bangladesh's 23-year-old speedster, Nahid Rana, earned his spot after a dominant "Player of the Series" performance against New

Zealand. Rana spearheaded his team's 2-1 series victory, claiming eight wickets with an impressive economy rate. His career-best haul of 5/32 in Mirpur was the deciding factor in securing a crucial win for the hosts.

Oman captain Jatinder Singh made history in April during the Cricket World Cup League 2. Singh amassed 266 runs at a blistering strike rate, highlighted by a massive 139 runs against Nepal. This knock officially stands as the highest individual ODI score ever recorded by an Oman batter. His leadership and consistent

run-scoring have kept Oman as a serious contender on the global stage.

Joining them is UAE's left-arm seamer Ajay Kumar, who enjoyed a fairytale start to his international career.

In his first two ODIs, Kumar took nine wickets, including a remarkable 6/35 against Oman. His ability to swing the ball and maintain a tight economy has quickly made him one of the most talked-about emerging talents in Associate cricket.

The winner will be decided by a global vote involving fans and a panel of experts.

Indian Archer Simranjeet Kaur reaches World Cup semifinals



SHANGHAI

Indian archer Simranjeet Kaur touched hearts after securing a spot in the women's recurve semifinals at the Archery World Cup Stage 2. The 27-year-old athlete delivered a flawless performance at the Yuanshen Sports Centre, proving that persistence eventually pays off on the global stage.

In a dominant quarter-final display, Simranjeet

swept aside her opponent, Fong You Jhu from Chinese Taipei, with a perfect 6-0 score. Her shooting was remarkably consistent, hitting high marks that left her rival with no room to recover. This victory marks a major breakthrough for the archer, who is competing in her first-ever World Cup final stage.

The moment of victory was deeply personal. Overcome with joy, Simranjeet

was seen wiping away tears before immediately calling her father to share the news. "I cried because this is a big deal for me and it was long-awaited," she said. She explained that her strategy was simply to "detach" from the pressure and focus only on the arrow.

It was an unexpected turn of events, as Simranjeet had initially ranked lowest among the four Indian women during the qualify-

ing rounds. While teammates like Deepika Kumari and Ankita Bhakat were eliminated in earlier stages, Simranjeet remained steady. Although she won't participate in the team gold medal match due to her seeding, she now has a chance at individual glory. Meanwhile, India's men's campaign ended after Dhiraaj Bommadevara lost his fourth-round match to France.

Satwik clarifies comments on quiet Thomas Cup return

NEW DELHI

Indian badminton star and Khel Ratna winner Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy has addressed the controversy surrounding his recent social media posts, explaining that his frustration stems from a lack of sports culture rather than a desire for money. After the Indian team secured a bronze medal at the 2026 Thomas Cup in Denmark, Satwik noted the "disheartening silence" that met the team upon their arrival home.

The star shuttler had sparked a debate by posting "before and after" photos showing the team's quiet departure and equally quiet return. Clarifying his stance, Satwik insisted his message was misinterpreted by those who thought he was seeking personal fame or financial rewards.

He emphasized that the issue is about making sure athletes feel their hard work for the country is recognized by the general public.

"It is not about wanting grand parades," Satwik stated in a heartfelt post. "We just want to know that our country is watching and that our efforts are seen." He argued that



when major milestones are ignored, it sends a negative signal to future generations of Indian athletes who are working hard to bring glory to the nation.

His partner, Chirag Shetty, shared similar feelings, noting that while true badminton fans understood the magnitude of a Thomas Cup podium finish, the general public remained unaware.

The duo, currently ranked third in the world, called for a culture that celebrates every athlete who wears the Indian jersey, regardless of the sport, to ensure that no victory goes unnoticed.

Laura Wolvaardt tops shortlist for Women's Award

DUBAI

South African captain Laura Wolvaardt leads an exciting race for the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for April. Joining her on the shortlist are Sri Lankan opener Imesha Dulani and Brazilian sensation Laura Cardosa, following a month of record-shattering performances across the globe.

Wolvaardt has been in the form of her life, dominating both New Zealand and India.

She averaged 69 in ODIs before moving to the T20I series against India, where she amassed 330 runs at a staggering strike rate of 168. Her highlight was a breathtaking 115 off just 53 balls, helping South Africa chase down a massive target of 192 with ease.

Sri Lanka's Imesha Du-

lani also earned her spot after a stellar tour of Bangladesh. Named Player of the Series in the ODIs, she provided consistent starts and followed up with a sharp 55 in the T20I leg. Her contributions were vital in securing series victories for the visitors, proving her status as a rising star in Asian cricket.

The most historic entry comes from Brazil's Laura Cardosa. During a phenomenal run in April, Cardosa became the first player in T20I history to take nine wickets in a single match, finishing with unbelievable figures of 9 for 4 against Lesotho.

In addition to her 17 wickets during the month, she also scored over 200 runs. This nomination highlights the growing talent in emerging cricket nations as fans prepare to vote for their winner.

South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt leads ICC award nominees after sensational April performances alongside global emerging stars.



Indian Shooter Shapath Bharadwaj shines in Kazakhstan

ALMATY

Indian marksman Shapath Bharadwaj delivered a stunning performance at the ISSF World Cup Shotgun in Kazakhstan. Competing at the Asanov Shooting Club, Bharadwaj finished the first day of the men's trap event as the top-performing Indian athlete after a display of remarkable skill and focus.

Bharadwaj began his campaign with two perfect series, hitting every single target. Although he faced a slight challenge in his third round with 21 hits, he ended with an impressive total of 71 out of 75. His strong start has placed him in a competitive position



heading into the next stage of the prestigious tournament. Other Indian men also showed flashes of brilliance. Vivaan Kapoor recorded a perfect 25 in his second round, finishing with a score of 70. Meanwhile, Ahvar Rizvi remained steady, ending with 68 hits. In the ranking points category, Udaivir Singh Jaijee matched Bharad-

waj's score of 71, showing the depth of India's shooting talent.

On the women's side, Manisha Keer led the way for India. She started strong with two rounds of 24, eventually finishing with a total of 69 hits to claim the 17th spot. National Champion Neeru Dhanda followed closely behind with a score of 68, placing 21st, while Pragati Dubey ended with 65.

This opening day in Almaty highlights the rising standards of Indian shooting. As the competition continues, all eyes will be on Bharadwaj and Keer to see if they can maintain their momentum toward the podium.

Cricket hero Rohit Sharma set for TV

MUMBAI

India's beloved cricket captain, Rohit Sharma, is trading his bat for the spotlight. The T20 World Cup hero has officially teased his debut in the world of television entertainment.

The "Hitman" is famous for his incredible sixes and calm leadership on the field. However, this new project promises to show fans a different side of his personality.

The teaser playfully uses his famous viral catchphrase about "roaming in the garden," suggesting the show will be full of humor and fun.

While the exact title and format remain a secret, the buzz suggests it will be one of the biggest entertainment launches of the year. Cur-

rently, Rohit is showcasing his talent in the IPL for the Mumbai Indians. Despite a recent minor injury, he has been in fantastic form, proving he is still at the top of his game. Even with his busy cricket schedule, he is making time to connect with fans through the small screen.

Supporters are already sharing their excitement online, eager to see their favorite athlete take on a new challenge.

Whether he is hosting a show or appearing in a special series, one thing is certain, when Rohit Sharma is on screen, the audience is sure to watch.

This move marks an exciting new chapter for the legendary opener as he expands his massive legacy beyond the boundary ropes.

Global Chess League season 4 heads back to India

NEW DELHI

FIDE and the Global Chess League (GCL) have officially announced that India will host the fourth season of the premier franchise-based chess tournament. While the specific host city remains under wraps for now, the league confirmed that an announcement is expected in the coming days.

The decision to return to India follows the massive success of Season 3, which concluded in Mumbai in December 2025, where the Alpine SG Pipers emerged as champions. India's deep-rooted passion for the game and its booming chess ecosystem

were cited as the primary reasons for bringing the world's elite players back to the country. Arkady Dvorkovich, President of FIDE, emphasized India's "defining role" in the global growth of the sport. Meanwhile, Gourav Rakshit, Commissioner of the Global Chess League, noted that the country's electric fan zones and digital en-

gagement have reshaped how the game connects with global audiences. With several Indian youngsters currently dominating the world rankings, Season 4 is expected to draw record-breaking attendance and further solidify India's status as the global epicenter of modern chess.



Key Highlights of Season 4

- **Format:** The league will continue its signature high-intensity, fast-paced rapid format.
- **Team Composition:** Matches will feature mixed-gender franchise teams, blending top-tier grandmasters with rising stars.
- **Vision:** A joint venture between Tech Mahindra and FIDE, the GCL aims to revolutionize chess as a mainstream spectator sport through "high-intensity storytelling."

Iyer tipped to take reins from Suryakumar

The BCCI reportedly plans to replace Suryakumar Yadav with Shreyas Iyer as India's T20I captain for the 2028 cycle.

NEW DELHI

In a move that has sent shockwaves through the cricketing world, the BCCI is reportedly set to replace Suryakumar Yadav with Shreyas Iyer as India's T20I captain. Despite leading India to a historic T20 World Cup title just last month, "SKY" is expected to be relieved of his duties following a prolonged slump with the bat and persistent fitness concerns. Reports suggest that the selection committee has "run out of patience" with Suryakumar's individual returns. Since taking over the leadership in July 2024, the 35-year-old has managed only 932 runs in 45

matches, a sharp decline from the world-class standards he previously set. Compounding the issue is a lingering wrist injury that has required heavy taping for nearly 18 months, leading to rumors that he may even miss Mumbai Indians' upcoming clash against Bengaluru. In contrast, Shreyas Iyer has emerged as the frontrunner for the role after a stellar IPL 2026 campaign. Leading the Punjab Kings to six wins in their first seven games while amassing over 300 runs, Iyer is seen as a younger, more stable option for the future. The BCCI is reportedly aiming for a single white-ball captain for both ODIs and T20Is

to create continuity ahead of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. An official announcement is expected within a fortnight of the IPL final, as selectors finalize squads for the upcoming tours of Ireland and England. While Suryakumar's tactical success is undeniable, the board's eye on the 2028 cycle looks set to usher in a new era of leadership.



Charlie Dean ready to lead England women

LONDON

England spinner Charlie Dean has called it a "massive honour" to lead her country as the team prepares for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup. Dean has been handed the captaincy for the ODI series against New Zealand, stepping in while regular skipper Nat Sciver-Brunt rests as a precaution.

With England hosting the T20 World Cup at home for the first time since 2009, Dean feels she is hitting her peak at exactly the right moment. She expressed high levels of confidence, stating that she is in the best mental and physical space of her career to guide the squad. While she admitted that missing a player of Sciver-Brunt's caliber is a challenge, she emphasized that player health is the top priority.

"It would seem silly to push it too early," Dean remarked, supporting the decision to keep the regular captain fresh for the global tournament. She believes this temporary leadership role will help her bring more "assuredness" to her own performance on the big stage.

England faces a tough road ahead, placed in Group 2 alongside heavyweights like the West Indies and defending champions New Zealand. The home favorites will kick off their World Cup campaign against Sri Lanka at Edgbaston on June 12.

Pujara backs young star for WC glory

LUCKNOW

Indian cricket legend Cheteshwar Pujara believes a new star is rising on the horizon. Following a brilliant performance in the IPL, Pujara claimed that young fast bowler Prince Yadav is fast-tracking his way toward a spot in the Indian World Cup squad.

The praise comes after Prince led the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) to a thrilling nine-run victory against Bengaluru.

In a high-pressure, rain-shortened match, Prince showed nerves of steel.

He finished with impressive figures of 3-33, taking the massive wicket of Virat Kohli with what experts called a "divine delivery."

This ball hit the seam perfectly, leaving one of the



world's best batters stunned. Prince also dismissed dangerous hitters Devdutt Padikkal and Jitesh Sharma, effectively breaking the back of the run chase while defending a target of 213.

Pujara noted that Prince has shown incredible growth over the last two seasons, proving he can handle the heat of the "death overs."

He emphasized that Prince possesses the rare combination of raw talent and a calm temperament.

"That World Cup dream he talks about will not be far from reality," Pujara remarked, urging the youngster to keep following his process.

Former New Zealand bowler Mitchell McClenaghan also joined the chorus of fans, praising the pacer's extra speed and tactical execution.

With the backing of cricket greats and a knack for taking big wickets, Prince Yadav is quickly becoming the name on every selector's lips as the national team looks toward its future.

BCCI sets strict rules to protect players

MUMBAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has launched a major crackdown to protect IPL players from "honey traps" and security threats. A new seven-page rulebook sent to all ten franchises warns that high-profile athletes are frequent targets for people looking to compromise their integrity or involve them in legal trouble.

To ensure safety, the BCCI has banned all unauthorized visitors from entering players' hotel rooms. No guest, regardless of their relationship with the player, can enter a private room without written permission from the Team Manager. Instead, all meetings must happen in public areas like hotel lobbies. To enforce this, officials will conduct "surprise checks" throughout the tournament to catch any rule-breakers.

The board also addressed recent behavioral issues. Following reports of vaping in dressing rooms, the BCCI warned that using electronic



The BCCI has issued strict new safety protocols for the IPL, banning unauthorized room guests and vaping while restricting franchise owners' dugout access to ensure professionalism.

cigarettes is not just against league rules but is a legal offense in India.

Violators could face serious police action. Furthermore, franchise owners have been told to stay away from the dugout during live matches. The BCCI noticed owners hugging or talking to players during games, which they claim disrupts team focus and breaks official protocols.

By tightening these boundaries, the BCCI aims to keep the league professional and safe. Team Managers are now required to keep detailed logs of every visitor to ensure total transparency. These strict measures are designed to uphold the reputation of the IPL and shield young stars from potential scandals or outside interference.

Hardik Pandya returns to lead MI

RAIPUR

In a major boost for the Mumbai Indians, captain Hardik Pandya has rejoined the squad in Raipur ahead of their must-win match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. The star all-rounder missed the previous game due to painful back spasms, leaving fans worried about his fitness for the remainder of the season. The franchise confirmed his

return through a social media post, showing the skipper arriving to join his teammates. During his absence, Suryakumar Yadav took the reins, leading the team to a dominant victory over Lucknow. While coach Ryan Rickelton had previously been uncertain about the recovery timeline, Pandya is now expected to participate in a full training session at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium.

Marsh smashes fastest century to sink Bengaluru

NEW DELHI

Cricket expert Aakash Chopra has hailed Mitchell Marsh's explosive batting after the opener smashed a record-breaking century to lead Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) to a tense nine-run victory. In a rain-hit match reduced to 19 overs, Marsh turned the game into a personal highlight reel, scoring 111 runs off just 56 deliveries.

His incredible innings included nine fours and nine towering sixes, reaching his hundred in only 49 balls. This feat officially stands as the fastest century ever recorded by an LSG player in IPL history. Chopra was particularly impressed

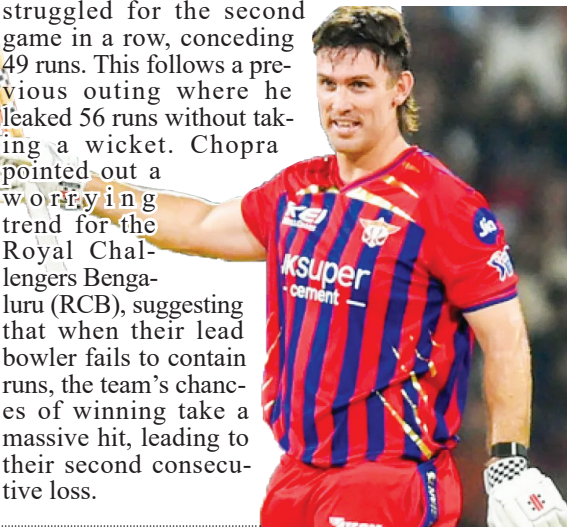
by how Marsh handled fellow Australian star Josh Hazlewood, using his height and strength to dominate the world-class fast bowler.

"The way he took down Hazlewood was brilliant," Chopra noted, explaining that Marsh's ability to hit straight over the bowler's head makes him nearly impossible to bowl to.

He added that if bowlers try to shorten their length, Marsh is equally dangerous with his square cuts and pulls.

While Marsh celebrated his success, the match raised serious questions about Hazlewood's current form. The pace spearhead

struggled for the second game in a row, conceding 49 runs. This follows a previous outing where he leaked 56 runs without taking a wicket. Chopra pointed out a worrying trend for the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), suggesting that when their lead bowler fails to contain runs, the team's chances of winning take a massive hit, leading to their second consecutive loss.



Pandya embraces pressure as champions defend title

NEW DELHI

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) all-rounder Krunal Pandya has opened up about the intense weight of being defending champions, stating that pressure is a privilege that brings out his best. Speaking after a tough loss to Lucknow, Pandya emphasized that while expectations are high, success comes from staying calm and focusing on the basics of the game.

With a decade of experience, Pandya believes senior players must guide younger teammates through the mental challenges of the IPL. "Pressure is always there at the highest level," he noted, adding that he prepares himself specifically for these "tough situations" to ensure he can deliver when the team needs him most.

Pandya also discussed the evolving battle between bat and ball. He explained that as power-hitting reaches new heights, bowlers must innovate to survive. Surprisingly for a spinner, Pandya has integrated bouncers into his strategy. He revealed this



wasn't an accidental change but a psychological tactic designed to keep batters off-balance. By thinking like a batter himself, he tries to stay one step ahead of his opponents.

The interview followed a nail-biting match where RCB fell just nine runs short against the Lucknow Super Giants. Despite the defeat and a rare duck for star teammate Virat Kohli, Pandya remains optimistic. For him, the path back to the top involves ignoring the noise and treating every high-stakes moment as just another game of cricket.

Pant's tactical genius sparks thrilling LSG victory

LUCKNOW

Former India wicketkeeper Aditya Tare has lauded Rishabh Pant's "masterful" leadership following Lucknow Super Giants' (LSG) narrow nine-run victory against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Despite facing immense pressure this season, Pant's tactical gambles and clever bowling rotations proved to be the difference-maker at the Ekana Stadium.

Defending a massive 213 in a rain-shortened match, Pant faced a major test when he reached the 12th over without

Rishabh Pant's bold captaincy decisions powered Lucknow Super Giants to a thrilling nine-run win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

having used a fifth bowler. Tare pointed out that Pant's decision to introduce Shahbaz Ahmed at that late stage was a stroke of genius, as the spinner rewarded his captain's faith by claiming two vital wickets.

The biggest talking point,



however, was the final over. Pant handed the ball to Digvesh Singh Rath, a move many considered suicidal given that Rath had already leaked 41 runs in his previous overs.

Tare noted that Pant's ability to back a struggling player in a high-stakes moment showed true captaincy. Rath repaid the trust, using his googly to stifle the chase and secure the win.

The match also featured a standout performance from young pacer Prince Yadav, who dismissed Virat Kohli with a spectacular delivery. It was a historic moment, marking Kohli's first dismissal in a 200-plus chase in nearly ten years. While the win was a major morale booster, LSG remains at the bottom of the points table. However, Tare believes that if Pant continues this proactive approach, the team's luck could soon change.

Patidar and Padikkal fight hard despite narrow loss

LUCKNOW

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) director of cricket, Mo Bobat, has praised his team's fighting spirit following a heartbreaking nine-run defeat to the Lucknow Super Giants. Despite the loss, Bobat highlighted the "great character" shown by captain Rajat Patidar and batter Devdutt Padikkal during a high-stakes run chase



at the Ekana Stadium.

Chasing a massive target of 213 in a rain-shortened 19-over match, RCB faced an early disaster. Both openers fell quickly, including star batter Virat Kohli, who was dismissed for a duck. However, Patidar and Padikkal stabilized the innings with a brave 95-run partnership. Patidar led from the front, smashing a brilliant 61 off just 31 balls, while Padikkal added a steady 34 to keep the dream alive.

"It is rare for our openers to fall so early," Bobat said, noting that the duo did an excellent job of absorbing pressure before attacking the bowlers. He credited them for shifting the momentum back in RCB's favor, which allowed power-hitter Tim David to nearly pull off a miracle with a late 40-run cameo.

Bobat also gave credit to Lucknow's bowlers, specifically Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Krunal Pandya, for their disciplined spells. While disappointed to miss out on the win, the RCB camp is already looking forward.

