



Two Drones Spotted Over German Military Base



Amit Shah stresses cyber security for co-operative banks

'Hi' Release Postponed, Nayanthara-Kavin Film Gets New Date



'DARE TO SEEK SOLUTIONS' PM Modi-Gen Z insta connect at IIT Delhi convocation

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged graduating students of the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi to remain curious, keep learning and have the courage to find answers to difficult questions during the institute's 57th Convocation on Saturday. More than 3,000 students and 587 PhD scholars attended the convocation.

Addressing the graduating students, Modi said, "Keep curiosity alive in life. Keep your learning instinct awakened." He encouraged students to question things that are accepted without thinking and, beyond asking questions, develop the courage to seek solutions.

Modi said the world that graduates are entering will continue to change rapidly, with technology, industries, professions and global power equations evolving over time. While it may be difficult to predict what the next 20 or 30 years will look like, he said learning will remain an essential skill. "Those who keep learning will succeed," Modi told the students.

He also asked graduates to value their journey at IIT Delhi, from orientation to convocation, and cherish the memories they have created. He said that as responsibilities increase, these memories would serve as a reminder of their student years.

Highlighting India's startup ecosystem, he said young people from the current generation have played an important role in shaping the country's startup revolution.



PM Modi motivational speaker mode on!

- Keep curiosity alive and continue learning, solve 'out-of-syllabus' problems and contribute to India's journey towards Viksit Bharat.
- Those who have the courage to find new solutions to challenges, for them, the challenges will become opportunities.
- Question things that are accepted without a thought, but don't just stop at questioning; have the courage to also find their solutions.
- Look beyond rankings and think about the wider impact of their skills and scale of innovation in shaping the future.
- New sectors are emerging in the country for our youth.
- India is working towards becoming self-reliant in every sector; whether it is economic self-reliance, technological self-reliance, or industrial self-reliance; this forms the strong foundation of Viksit Bharat.

Referring to IIT Delhi's successful founders, he said, "If a single institute can achieve so much, just imagine the immense force that is being built across the entire country."

The Prime Minister also cited India's semiconductor manufacturing efforts as an example of turning challenging goals into reality. "I firmly believe that from chips to ships, everything will be made here by your hands," he said.

Modi advised students to break difficult problems into smaller parts instead of being intimidated by them. "When-

ever you find a challenge big, don't get scared. Divide it into small parts," he said.

He added that the graduates' decisions over the next 30 to 35 years would contribute to India's journey towards 'Viksit Bharat' and encouraged them to consider how their work could address the country's needs.

'Life is not a leaderboard' The Prime Minister also cautioned students against comparing their salaries, placements or startup achievements with those of their peers, particularly in an era dominated

Gen Z graduates hail PM's address 'inspirational'

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first public address after the Gen Z protest over NEET-UG question paper leak row at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, has clearly struck a chord with the graduating students. Several IIT Delhi graduates said the Prime Minister's message was not just inspirational, but also gave them a sense of purpose as they planned to embark on the next journey of their lives. The students acknowledged that they had worked extremely hard to reach this stage, adding PM Modi's emphasis on research, innovation, and nation-building has motivated them further. They said the PM's word gave them "hope, motivation, and a renewed sense of responsibility" as they begin the next journey of their life. Students thanked Modi for the announcement of Rs 1 lakh crore to support research at IIT Delhi, saying it was encouraging and that a greater government backing can help them take their research and innovations to the next level.

by social media. He encouraged them to focus on personal growth while prioritising their mental and physical well-being.

"Remember, life is absolutely not a leaderboard; your real race is not with anyone else, it is with yourself," Modi said.

Concluding his address, the PM congratulated the graduating students, their parents, teachers and the institute's support staff, and wished them success in their future endeavours. "May your future be incredibly bright, and may you continuously and boldly touch new heights," he added.

OPERATION MUKTA 1,909 held: B'luru steps up illegal immigration crackdown

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru City Police on Saturday launched a special verification drive, codenamed 'Operation Mukta', to identify suspected illegal immigrants residing across the city.

The police carried out a large-scale crackdown on suspected illegal immigrants in the Electronic City division, detaining 1,909 people for verification and identifying 15 as Bangladeshi nationals.

The operation, conducted across six police station limits, marked one of the biggest recent verification drives in the city amid heightened scrutiny of undocumented foreign nationals.

The special drive involved 23 police teams and 295 personnel and covered the jurisdictions of Electronic City, Begur, Parappana Agrahara, Bandeepalya, Hulimavu and Hebbagodi.

Police searched 29 locations that had been flagged for a concentration of suspected foreign nationals. Of the 1,909 people checked, authorities said 1,894 were not confirmed as Bangladeshi nationals, while 15 were identified as Bangladeshi nationals after verification.

Begur reported the highest number, with eight such cases, followed by Parappana Agrahara with seven. No Bangladeshi nationals were confirmed in Electronic City, Bandeepalya, Hulimavu or Hebbagodi during the drive.

Station-wise, Electronic City police detained 550 people, Parappana Agrahara 355, Begur 339, Bandeepalya 244, Hulimavu 219 and Hebbagodi 202. Officials said the identities and documents of all detainees were checked and that further legal action would be taken wherever required.



According to the Bangladeshi Deportation/FRC report for the period from August 8, 2025, to August 8, 2026, authorities handled 64 cases involving Bangladeshi nationals. Of these, 47 ended in deportation, while 17 were referred to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for further proceedings.

'No compromise with illegal immigration'

Home Minister Priyank Kharge said the government was holding a "strict and serious search and verification" and stressed that there would be "absolutely no compromise" in dealing with illegal immigration. He said nearly 1,000 people had been apprehended in the past three months and urged citizens to share information with the police instead of engaging in vigilantism or "social media activism". "Verification and deportation proceedings would continue in coordination with the FRRO and other agencies." The crackdown is expected to be followed by further probe into the networks that facilitate their entry.

'Op Mukta' overview

- LAUNCH DATE:** Saturday, August 8, 2026.
- Scale & deployment:** Over 500 police personnel deployed in the Whitefield division and nearly 300 personnel across the Electronic City division.
- Areas targeted:** Whitefield, Varthur, Kadugodi, Bellandur, Marathahalli, Mahadevapura, Electronic City, Begur, and Hebbagodi.
- Detentions & confirmations:** Roughly 1,909 individuals were initially detained for verification in Electronic City alone, with 15 confirmed as Bangladeshi nationals so far.

Official stance & probe focus

- Govt position:** Karnataka HM Priyank Kharge stated that approximately 1,000 suspected illegal immigrants had been identified over the prior three months, emphasizing that there would be "no compromise" on state security.
- Fake identity scrutiny:** Police are investigating local networks and intermediaries after recovering Aadhaar and voter identity cards with addresses from states like West Bengal and Assam.
- Deportation protocol:** Individuals found holding foreign documentation without valid legal clearance are being referred to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for legal deportation.

Controversies and public impact

- Civil liberties concerns:** Rights groups including the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUL) and the All India Lawyers Association for Justice (AILAJ) filed a formal complaint, alleging that pre-dawn raids arbitrarily targeted poor daily-wage migrant workers and that some detainees faced physical assault.
- Community panic:** The crackdown has caused widespread anxiety, with local reports indicating that some residential complexes in areas like Kadubeesanahalli and HSR Layout have considered informal curbs on hiring Bengali-speaking workers.

Degree means nothing in India: RaGa

New Delhi: Congress MP and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday addressed a large gathering of students and competitive exam aspirants at the 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' event in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, focusing on unemployment, recruitment delays, education and the use of young people's data.



Speaking at the Kayastha Pathshala Ground, he said his address would centre on "dard" (pain), "data" and "daulat" (wealth), while questioning the lack of employment opportunities for India's youth. He argued that obtaining a degree is no longer enough to secure a job. "All doors of employment are closed in India," he added.

Rijiju need not worry about Cong: DKS

Bengaluru: Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday hit back at Union Minister Kiren Rijiju over his remarks challenging the Congress on the Women's Reservation Bill, asserting that his party will give more strength to women and declaring that there is no need for Rijiju to worry about the state of the Congress party.



said, "We (Congress) are the ones who piloted the women's reservation bill... we will give more strength to women... Rijiju need not worry about the Congress party..." he said. His remarks came after Rijiju challenged the Congress to support the Women's Reservation Bill unconditionally after Rahul Gandhi's call for freedom of expression for women.

UPI will stay free for users: Govt

Some merchants may face small fees

NEW DELHI

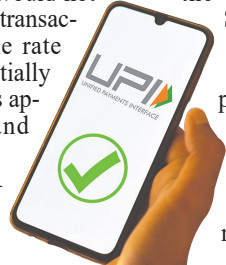
The Indian government on Saturday clarified that users will not have to pay transaction charges for making payments through the UPI. However, it opened the possibility of introducing a nominal Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on a limited set of UPI merchant transactions above a specified threshold.

The Finance Ministry said any future MDR on UPI would not apply to all merchant transactions. It also said the rate would remain substantially lower than the charges applicable to debit and credit card payments. "As and when MDR charges are introduced, they will apply

only to a limited set of merchant transactions, above a certain threshold, at a nominal rate, far lower than debit or credit card MDRs." It added that the "vast majority" of UPI transactions would continue to remain free for merchants. Any MDR, if introduced, would depend on a threshold and would not become a blanket charge.

The clarification came in connection with the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026. The Bill proposes changes to Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

If Parliament passes the Bill, the "UPI and Services Steering Committee", headed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), will decide whether to introduce MDR and determine its framework, the ministry said.



Govt and industry clarifications

No consumer fees: Regular users scan and pay via UPI with zero transaction fees.

P2P protection: Peer-to-peer money transfers stay free.

Small merchants secure: Small businesses accepting digital payments face no charges.

Future merchant rules

Nominal MDR: A threshold-based Merchant Discount Rate may apply later only to select high-value business transactions.

Low rates: Any future business fees will remain much lower than standard debit or credit card rates.

2 killed as KSRTC bus overturns on B'luru-Mysuru Expressway

Bengaluru: Two persons were killed and 25 others injured after a Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus lost control and crashed into a road signboard on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway near Avaregere Gate in Ramanagara early Saturday morning.

The deceased have been identified as Arun, the driver, and Akhilesh, the conductor of the bus. As per the police, the incident occurred around 6.30 am when the bus, bound for Kozhikode from Bengaluru, reportedly lost control near Avaregere Gate and rammed into a large directional signboard installed along the expressway.

The impact caused the bus to overturn on the highway.



Case backlog reduced from past decades: CJI hails tech

Indore: Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant said on Saturday that the backlog of court cases in the country is no longer what it was 10 or 20 years ago, and that various schemes designed through technology for speedy disposal of cases have yielded "very good results".

There are many reasons for the backlog of cases and these are being gradually resolved in a systematic manner, the CJI told reporters when asked about the long-pending cases in courts. When asked that many harassment cases filed by women are proving to be fake, he said no general statement can be made on this matter and each case depends on its specific facts.

'SO-CALLED CERTIFIERS OF PATRIOTISM'

KARNATAKA GOVT STUDYING RSS HISTORY!

...but, just to bring the unregistered organisation within the 'legal framework'.

BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Saturday said the government would act against the RSS within the legal framework and indicated that it was studying the organisation and its history before deciding its next course of action.

Speaking to reporters here, he asserted that he would bring the RSS within the "legal framework".

When reporters asked Priyank whether he had received a reply to his letter to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on several issues, including the reg-



istration of the organisation, he laughed it off and said he had not expected a response.

"I had told you that it would not come, hadn't I? I also told you that we would deal with it properly. Whatever we do has to be within the legal framework," he said.

DEMANDS AND LEGAL STANCE

Priyank Kharge wrote an open letter to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat demanding formal registration documents, structural details, and clarity on induction and training operations.

He questioned the tax exemptions and funding streams of the RSS, arguing that an entity operating on such a large scale cannot remain outside general legal and financial accountability.

He threatened potential state-level rules if compliance is ignored.

"They (RSS) are outside the legal framework. I will bring them within it."

Priyank said it had been around one-and-a-half months since he raised the issue and that the government needed time to study the RSS and its history before proceeding.

"We need to study and understand their 100-year history. They themselves are un-

aware of their own history," he said.

Taking a swipe at RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, Priyank said, "Now, apparently, he met some Gen-Z people recently. Is it about supporting them after beating them up?"

He also questioned the RSS's authority to issue certificates of patriotism or treat-

son. "They themselves are not registered. They certify others," he said.

"Can I decide whether someone is a patriot or a traitor? Who are they to decide that? Who are they to go around issuing such certificates?" he asked.

Asked what action the government would take if there was no response to his letter, he said it would proceed as planned but declined to disclose details. "Yes, we will. I will speak after giving them the letter. If I discuss everything here, what surprise or legal element will remain?" he said.

QUICK READ

Language dispute attack sparks outrage in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A local food delivery worker was brutally attacked in Yelahanka New Town for not speaking Hindi. CCTV footage captured a young woman and two men punching the victim in the middle of the road during the early morning hours. The injured man filed a formal complaint at the local police station, prompting officers to register a case and launch a manhunt for the absconding attackers. This disturbing language dispute incident has sparked widespread outrage, with authorities actively investigating the matter to ensure the culprits face swift legal action.

Karnataka invites applications for 233 posts

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka Examination Authority opened applications for 233 nursing and pharmacy officer positions, with salaries reaching up to ninety-nine thousand rupees. Eligible candidates holding relevant diplomas or degrees can submit online forms until August thirty-first. The recruitment drive covers vacancies across state cadres, offering maximum age limits up to forty years with category-based relaxations. Interested applicants should visit the official website to review detailed guidelines, check fee structures, and complete their registration before the final deadline to secure a stable government career opportunity.

Public must decide on star hotels: UT Khader

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Health authorities in the state capital have intensified their crackdown on luxury hospitality establishments following a series of surprise inspections across high-end commercial properties. Officials from the Food Safety and Drug Control Department launched targeted raids on multiple three-star and five-star hotels to evaluate kitchen hygiene standards, food storage practices, and overall dining quality.

During the rigorous inspections, enforcement teams uncovered widespread violations of mandatory food safety regulations. Investigators reported finding serious lapses in how kitchens maintained sanitary conditions and preserved perishable ingredients, raising major public health concerns. The ongoing special drive aims to hold upscale eateries accountable and ensure that all commercial food providers follow strict health guidelines.

State Health Minister U.T. Khader strongly responded to the findings and addressed pushback from elite hotel management groups regarding the public inspections. Expressing deep frustration over protests from luxury establishments, the minister emphasized that transparency is vital.

He stated that authorities have successfully brought the true condition of star-rated hotel kitchens to light so that citizens can see the reality behind closed doors.

Minister Khader further noted that the administration's responsibility is to expose health violations and inform the public transparently. With the findings now out in the open, he stated that the ultimate choice rests entirely with consumers.

Residents must now decide for themselves whether they wish to continue dining at these luxury venues after reviewing the inspection reports. Officials confirmed that health department sweeps will continue across the metropolis to ensure public safety remains the top priority.

PARK RIGHT OR LOSE

B'loru intensifies crackdown: Over 350 vehicles towed

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

City authorities are stepping up efforts to clear crowded streets and help pedestrians move freely. A joint operation by the Greater Bengaluru Traffic Authority and the local police department is cracking down hard on drivers who leave their cars and bikes wherever they want.

The strict campaign started on July 10. Since then, officials have spotted thousands of rule-breaking vehicles blocking public roads. Out of these, nearly two thousand cars and bikes have received warning stickers. Drivers get a short window of seven days to move their property after a sticker goes on. If they ignore the warning, authorities bring in tow trucks to haul the vehicle away to a secure yard.

So far, workers have towed away more than 350 vehicles to designated lots. Owners face heavy penalties for breaking the rules.

For a two-wheeler, the total fine and towing charge comes to 1,150 rupees. Four-wheeler owners must pay a thousand-rupee towing fee plus an extra fine for illegal parking.

Once towed, owners have a fifteen-day limit to pay up and claim their property.

If nobody shows up to collect the vehicle within that time frame, the city plans to sell it off through a legal auction. Already, hundreds of drivers have paid their dues and retrieved their cars. Officials want everyone to understand that the crackdown is here to stay.

They plan to keep monitoring roads closely to stop people from blocking traffic. Drivers are urged to use proper parking spots instead of leaving their vehicles on busy streets, or risk losing them for good.

Stop illegal NICE toll collection, warns H.D. Kumaraswamy

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy urged the Karnataka government to halt illegal NICE toll collection, demanding a CBI probe into land scams.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has strongly urged the Karnataka government to immediately halt toll collection by the Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise (NICE), citing a recent Karnataka High Court ruling that declared the practice illegal.

Speaking at a media conference in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy highlighted a July 28 High Court verdict from a two-member bench. The court ruled that the controversial Bangalore-Mysore highway project has involved severe irregularities, fake documents, and massive land scams. He noted that the judiciary questioned why the state administration remains silent while a private firm exploits farmers and everyday commuters.

Kumaraswamy criticized the ruling Congress party, demanding to know why they have failed to act on the court's findings. He pointed out that the project, originally conceived in 1997, has snowballed into one of the state's biggest corruption cases, encompassing thousands of acres of land banks and unauthorized toll hikes.

He specifically called out state leaders for allegedly ignoring the plight of landowners who have struggled for decades to receive proper compensation through the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB).

Directly addressing the public, youth, and farmers, the Union Minister urged citizens to refuse payment at NICE toll booths starting immediately. He announced that he plans to write a detailed letter to the state government and has given officials a strict deadline of one week to take corrective action.

If the administration fails to respond, Kumaraswamy warned that opposition parties will launch severe protests both on the streets and inside the legislative assembly.

Furthermore, he demanded a full Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the project, the cancellation of existing contracts, and the return of acquired lands to the original owners.



The court has questioned why the government remains silent while a private company loots the public. We will give a one-week deadline before launching a major fight.

-H.D. Kumaraswamy, Union Minister

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BJP And JDS Plan Joint Protests Against Bidadi Project

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Major opposition parties in the state have forged a united political front to challenge controversial government developments. Leaders from the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Janata Dal Secular announced a joint campaign against the proposed Bidadi Township project following a high-level coordination meeting held at a private hotel.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok addressed the media after the gathering, calling upon party workers from both sides to actively participate in the upcoming protests.

As part of their collaborative strategy, the two parties plan to organize joint public conferences across Bengaluru and coordinate resistance efforts at the district level.

Ashok noted that JDS has already extended strong support to BJP legislative initiatives. Moving forward, both groups intend to corner the government inside the assembly on key issues, including ongoing drought conditions, irregularities within the Karnataka Public Service Commission, the NICE corridor project, and the township development. A dedicated five-member coordination committee from each party will be established within the next few days to manage joint operations.

In addition to street-level protests, leaders are considering organizing a joint legislative meeting to plan their parliamentary strategy. Meanwhile, discussions regarding potential protests over ministerial appointments remain ongoing, with a final decision expected soon. Opposition leaders emphasized that this alliance will coordinate tightly to hold the administration accountable on critical public welfare matters.

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JDS will provide full cooperation to all our legislative struggles and joint public campaigns moving forward.

-R. Ashok, Leader of the Opposition



Court clears retired village accountant of bribery

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that collecting official stamp duty for land record changes and depositing it into the government treasury is legal and cannot be treated as a bribe. A division bench comprising Justice S. Sunil Dutt Yadav and Justice K.G. Shanti issued the order, setting aside a previous Karnataka Administrative Tribunal ruling. The court directed the state administration to immediately release all withheld pension benefits to a 68-year-old retired village accountant.

The legal battle dates back to 1999 when V.S. Albal, then serving as a village accountant in Bagalkot district, collected seven hundred fifty rupees as mandatory stamp duty for dividing agricultural land.

Unhappy legislators voice cabinet berth frustration

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Political tensions are running high within ruling circles following recent cabinet developments in the state. Following the formation of the new ministry, several legislators who missed out on ministerial berths have openly voiced their disappointment, approaching senior leaders to air their grievances.

Amidst this growing internal friction, newly inducted cabinet member H.C. Balakrishna addressed the mounting discontent among party MLAs. In a candid response regarding the wave of protests, Balakrishna remarked that leaders should be willing to step down if required. He noted that thirty ministers ought to be ready to make sacrifices for the greater good of the party and government, admitting that predicting outcomes in current political scenarios remains difficult.

His bold remarks immediately triggered a massive political debate across political circles. The discussion comes at a sensitive time when party high-command members are actively trying to pacify upset

Minister H.C. Balakrishna suggested that thirty cabinet ministers should be ready to sacrifice their posts, sparking debate amid rising discontent among unassigned party MLAs.

aspirants who feel left out after missing ministerial posts. Several hopefuls who expected positions have expressed deep frustration, prompting frantic damage-control efforts from senior leaders to keep the government stable.

Balakrishna further downplayed personal desires for specific portfolios, emphasizing that serving the public and getting constituency work done through the leadership matters most to him. However, his comments about widespread ministerial sacrifices have added fuel to the fire, leaving party insiders anxious about potential reshuffles.

Observers are closely watching how the party leadership will handle the brewing discontent and whether these hinted sacrifices will actually take place to appease unhappy lawmakers.



Neighbors abuse app to report active vehicles

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A recent citywide crackdown on abandoned vehicles has exposed a petty neighborhood trend. As authorities intensified operations to clear abandoned cars and bikes blocking public footpaths, officers discovered that citizens were misusing the Public Eye app to settle personal grudges against people living next

door. Law enforcement officers grew suspicious during field checks triggered by on-line complaints.

When teams arrived at specific locations to inspect reported abandoned cars, they found that many of the vehicles were actually active daily drivers belonging to nearby residents. Investigators realized that local feuds were driving the false reports.

JNANABHARATI CAMPUS MOVES TO CURB ACCIDENTS

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

University authorities are taking urgent steps to control heavy traffic and improve safety following a rise in road mishaps on the sprawling Jnanabharati campus of Bangalore University.

The strict measures come in the wake of a tragic accident that recently claimed the life of a student, sparking widespread safety concerns among students and faculty.

A high-level meeting was convened under the leadership of Vice Chancellor C. Shivaraju to address the growing danger. Key officials, including University Registrar K.T. Shanthala and Deputy Commissioner of Police Anita Haddannavar, participated in the discussions.

Campus data shows that public vehicles frequently outnumber students and staff, creating a congested environment that disrupts academic activities.

To curb reckless driving, administration officials discussed strict speed restrictions. Vehicle speeds across campus are set to be capped at twenty kilometers per hour, alongside an increased presence of traffic police personnel to monitor violators.

Furthermore, the administration plans to shut down the busy Gandhi Bhavan road connecting directly to Nagarbhavi.

Vice Chancellor Shivaraju indicated that closing this

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Furthermore, the administration plans to shut down the busy Gandhi Bhavan road connecting directly to Nagarbhavi.

Vice Chancellor Shivaraju indicated that closing this

major thoroughfare is necessary to reduce outsider traffic, prevent further accidents, and restore a peaceful study environment for students.

While proposals such as building an internal flyover are also under consideration, immediate road restrictions are expected to take effect soon.

Students and staff have welcomed the safety push, hoping it will curb the rush of commuter traffic through educational grounds.

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Key safety measures:

Speed Cap: Vehicle movement across the campus is restricted to a strict limit of 20 kmph.

Police Presence: Enhanced deployment of traffic police personnel will be implemented immediately.

Road Closure: The busy Gandhi Bhavan road connecting to Nagarbhavi faces imminent closure.

Corporation issues warning to abandoned vehicle owners

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Local municipal authorities have stepped up efforts to keep streets clear and safe for pedestrians by targeting neglected property across the metropolis.

The Bengaluru East City Corporation has issued a strict final warning to citizens who leave cars and bikes unattended on public pathways for extended periods.

Commissioner D.S. Ramesh announced that enforcement teams have successfully identified and hauled away numerous abandoned automobiles from public streets and footpaths. Officials executed the removals under Section 324 of the Greater Bengaluru Authority Act of 2024 to curb traffic disruptions and improve neighborhood cleanliness.

The civic body released a specific list of impounded automobiles currently held in official custody. The targeted vehicles include a Maruti

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Swift Dzire bearing registration number KA-51-B-9713, a Mahindra Electric Car registered as KA-51-ME-6087, a Tata Indica marked as KA-03-AF-1617, and a vehicle with registration KA-11-N-4549. Additionally, authorities impounded an unnumbered Tata Indica car and a vehicle registered under DL-3C-BM-0321.

Legitimate owners or lawful claimants have a strict fifteen-day deadline from the date of publication to reclaim their property.

Stop social media vigilantism: Priyank Kharge's warning

True patriots who have the state's interest at heart should hand over information directly to the police, not to social media.

-Priyank Kharge, State Minister



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

State Minister Priyank Kharge has issued a strong warning against unauthorized online campaigns targeting foreign nationals residing in the capital.

Speaking on recent public videos, the minister made it clear that self-appointed investigations and posting viral clips to criticize government efforts will not be tolerated.

Kharge emphasized that individuals must stop engaging in online vigilantism and moral policing.

According to the minister, recording individuals and sharing footage across social media platforms alerts international networks, which directly disrupts ongoing confidential police operations.

Citizens who genuinely want to protect state security should submit any credible information directly to local police or law enforcement authorities instead of broadcasting it online.

Providing context on official actions, the minister re-

vealed that authorities have successfully identified and handed over approximately one thousand migrants from various foreign nations and regions, including parts of Africa and Bangladesh, to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office over the last three months alone.

Working closely alongside border security forces and regional registration officials, the state administration remains fully dedicated to taking lawful, strict action against illegal residency.

Kharge strongly cautioned that sensationalizing security matters online compromises public safety and hinders formal investigations.

The government urged the public to act responsibly and allow law enforcement agencies to handle immigration enforcement through proper legal channels without interference from online commentators.

QUICK READ



Govt announces relief for deceased student's family

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The government announced Rs. 10 lakh rupees as financial relief for the family of Manasa, a twenty-three-year-old master's student who tragically died after an auto accident. The victim was hit by a speeding vehicle while crossing the road on the Bangalore University campus last month and succumbed to her injuries during hospital treatment. The compensation package includes three lakh rupees from the Chief Minister Relief Fund and seven lakh rupees from the university. This timely assistance aims to support the grieving family through their profound loss and cover medical expenses.

Cabinet expansion: DKS promises women berths

Addressing recent criticisms over female representation, the state leadership pledged imminent cabinet berths for women while commemorating S. Nijalingappa

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has strongly promised that women will soon secure official positions within the state cabinet. Speaking to reporters in the capital, he emphasized that his administration remains fully committed to empowering women across all levels of governance.

The chief minister addressed questions after paying his respects at the statue of former Chief Minister S. Nijalingappa on his death anniversary at the Vidhana Soudha premises. Reporters had asked him about remarks made by central leader Kiren Rijiji, who pointed out a lack of women ministers in the current Karnataka cabinet following a discussion on the Women's Reservation Bill. Shivakumar strongly de-

Administration's dedication to empowering women:

Firm Commitment: The Chief Minister reaffirmed the administration's dedication to empowering women and ensuring cabinet slots.

Hitting Back at Critics: Addressing remarks by union figures regarding representation, he emphasized that the Congress party historically drafted and championed the Women's Reservation Bill.

Political Focus: Shivakumar advised rival leaders to focus on their own governance issues instead of questioning Congress strategies.



fended his party, reminding critics that the Congress organization originally drafted the reservation bill and pushed it through the Lok Sabha. He noted that the party also allocated a higher number of electoral tickets to women during the recent parliamentary elections. Dismissing the political

jabs, he advised central leaders to focus on managing their own government instead of worrying about Congress internal affairs. He also hinted that long-awaited discussions regarding a state cabinet expansion would reach a final conclusion very soon. Shifting focus, the chief

minister fondly remembered S. Nijalingappa as a visionary leader who fought hard for the unification of Karnataka and brought immense honor to the state. He recalled Nijalingappa's deep simplicity, his dedication to Gandhian principles, and his vital role in shaping major regional irrigation initiatives like the Bhadra and Krishna river projects. Shivakumar noted that the current government has successfully taken custody of Nijalingappa's personal properties to preserve his legacy,

ensuring that future generations can learn from his humble lifestyle and dedicated public service. He concluded by stating that the ideals left behind by historic leaders continue to guide modern state policies and administrative goals.

Records expose KAS interview bribery scandal

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Local police have officially filed a first information report following serious allegations of corruption in the recent Karnataka Administrative Service examinations. The legal action comes directly after reports revealed that massive bribes were being demanded to manipulate exam scores.

According to police sources, a formal complaint was submitted by an individual named Kantakumar.

The investigation was triggered after reports surfaced that a massive sum of one and a half crore rupees was demanded in exchange for awarding 25 crucial marks during the official interview stage of the competitive exams.

The complaint highlights specific connections involving a candidate selected for one of the available posts. Investigators discovered that this particular candidate was in direct contact with a member of the Karnataka Public Service Commission. Call detail records have already been recovered, providing physical proof of frequent phone conversations between the candidate and the commission official. This has raised deep questions regard-

Police filed an FIR over corruption allegations in KAS exams, revealing massive bribe demands linked to interview marks and a KPSC member.

ing how members are allowed to interact with candidates appearing for interviews.

The controversial interviews took place two months ago, featuring a four-person panel. Authorities note that one of the panel members allegedly demanded huge amounts of money from aspirants. Police have taken the matter very seriously and are currently digging deeper into phone records and communication histories to uncover the full extent of the scam.

Law enforcement officials are expanding their probe to determine if other candidates were also targeted or if additional officials were involved in the racket.

This latest development has shocked job seekers across the state, putting intense pressure on recruitment boards to ensure complete transparency and fair play in all future public service examinations. The investigation remains active as police gather more evidence.

MUST AVOID SPREADING MISINFORMATION, SAYS SIDDARAMAIAH

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The conference hall at Seshadripuram College witnessed a grand gathering as former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah honored veteran media professional Uday Kumar with the prestigious

Khadri Shamanna Award. The annual event, hosted by the Khadri Shamanna Trust, celebrated the retired Assistant Editor of Prajavani for his exceptional service and dedication to ethical media standards.

Addressing the audience, Sid-

daramaiah praised the recipient for consistently upholding core journalistic values throughout his career. He emphasized that reliable reporting remains the absolute lifeblood of any functional democracy. The former chief minister fondly recalled his

close association with Khadri Shamanna, describing him as a principled freedom fighter, a committed socialist, and a legendary editor of the Kannada Prabha newspaper. Shamanna was widely admired for using simple language to explain com-

plex public issues, ensuring his writings connected deeply with common citizens.

Reflecting on current media trends, Siddaramaiah expressed concern that modern journalistic institutions sometimes stray from foundational ethics.

Namma Metro Blue Line crosses 72% milestone

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The much-awaited Blue Line of Namma Metro, which will connect the Central Silk Board Junction directly to Kempegowda International Airport, has crossed a major milestone.

As per an official update shared in the Lok Sabha, this vital transit corridor has now achieved over seventy-two percent physical progress, bringing the city one step closer to seamless airport connectivity.

Responding to an inquiry by Bengaluru Central MP PC Mohan, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs revealed that the Centre released over Rs 26,000 crore. This funding supports various phases of the Bengaluru Metro project, including Phase 2, Phase 2A, Phase 2B, and Phase 3, ensuring steady financial backing for the ongoing citywide rail expansion. The specific Blue Line corridor spans nearly 58 km across Phase 2A and Phase 2B, forming a critical path from the Silk Board Junction through Hebbal Junction all the way to the airport.

GBA bans POP, chemical Ganesha idols

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority has officially banned the making, storing, selling, and getting rid of Ganesh idols made from Plaster of Paris and chemical materials. Officials want to stop local water bodies from getting heavily polluted during upcoming festive celebrations.

Sushma Godbole, a top special commissioner, released an official circular explaining the strict new rules. This decision follows a broader government order passed under the Environment Protection Act of 1986. Local leaders and environment lovers raised deep worries about how toxic paints and artificial decoration items poison lakes, wells, and marine life every single year.

Many colorful idols used during religious festivals contain heavy metals and harmful chemical paints. When people drop these non-biodegradable statues into water bodies without thinking about the consequences, it ruins the water quality and kills aquatic creatures. Lawmakers note that keeping local nature safe is a



Preventing water pollution and protecting aquatic life is everyone's primary duty.

-Sushma Godbole, Special Commissioner.

shared duty for every single citizen living in the region.

During the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi festival, any violation of these environmental protection rules will be treated as a serious, punishable offense. The municipal corporation has instructed local enforcement teams to monitor markets closely and take immediate legal action against anyone who breaks these rules. Authorities hope this step will encourage residents to choose safe, eco-friendly clay alternatives instead.

Factors and reasons for the action

■ Environmental Protection:

Aimed at safeguarding water bodies and local ecosystems from heavy metal pollution.

■ Strict Legal Action:

Violations of the Central Government's Environment Protection Act, 1986, will invite penal consequences.

■ Legislative Backing:

Action follows a formal request by the Rajajinagar MLA to curb environmental degradation.

₹400 Cr secured for water projects: Minister Basavanthappa

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

K.S. Basavanthappa, a newly appointed minister in the Karnataka state cabinet, has officially begun his term with a clear focus on community progress. Following his recent induction, Basavanthappa shared his deep gratitude, noting that reaching this high office was made possible only through the unwavering support and blessings of the people living in his home constituency of Mayakonda.

In his first public statement since taking the oath, the new minister emphasized that his primary goal is to address the urgent needs of the local farming community. He pledged to personally visit agricultural areas to inspect recent crop damage caused by unpredictable weather. By gathering first-hand data, he aims to ensure that affected farmers receive fair and quick financial compensation. Basavanthappa promised to present a detailed report directly to the Chief Minister to speed up the relief process for these hardworking families.

Job fairs in 5,927 GPs across state

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B. Khandre has ordered a statewide push to provide employment opportunities to rural families.

He has officially directed officials to organize job card fairs within the next seven days to help eligible citizens under the VB-G RAM G scheme, a modified version of the MGNREGA.

The minister issued formal written instructions to his department secretary, stressing that while inactive job cards have been cancelled, no poor family should be treated unfairly during this process. The government's main goal is to ensure that every single family in need gets proper access to work.

These special job fairs will be held across all 5,927 gram panchayats in the state. The drive is specifically designed to support vulnerable groups, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities, women-led households, landless laborers, and those with disabilities.

“I was forced to sign on a pre-typed letter brought to my chamber”

CH NEWS, Shyam Sundar Vattam

The manner in which the chairman of the State Legislative Council, Basavaraja Horatti was forced to resign to the post has created a political storm in the state political circles. This kind of unseating the chairman from the post without giving any reasons has set a new precedent in the history of the Karnataka Legislative Council.

Shyam Sundar Vattam, Mysuru Bureau Chief of City Highlights spoke to Horatti to know the reasons for him to quit the post. Excerpts of the interview

CITY HIGHLIGHTS:
You had apparently agreed to resign on August 14. What was the understanding with the Chief Minister and other leaders?
Basavaraja Horatti: There was a clear understanding with the Chief Minister and other party leaders regarding the timing of my resignation. The Legislative Council session was scheduled to begin



on August 13. On the first day, obituary references, including tributes to leaders such as late Sudhakar, were to be taken up. On August 14, the Deputy Chairman was to be elected. I was then supposed to address the House, express my gratitude and say farewell before submitting my resignation.

CH: But that plan changed suddenly. What happened?
Horatti: Yesterday, Congress leaders, including around 20 MLCs and Leader of the Op-

position in the Council B.K. Hariprasad, came to my chamber and insisted that I resign immediately instead of waiting until August 14. It was completely unexpected. They had already brought a resignation letter with them.

CH: Are you saying the resignation letter was prepared before they came to you?
Horatti: Yes. It was a pre-typed letter. They brought it into my chamber, asked me to sign it and entered the date themselves. The cir-

cumstances were such that I felt I had no practical choice. It was like being asked to sign with a stick held over one's head. There was enormous pressure.

CH: You have been Chairman for a considerable period. Has anything like this happened before?
Horatti: Since 1956, I do not think any Chairman of the Legislative Council in Karnataka has been removed or forced to leave office in the middle of his term through a majority move in this manner. There has always been respect for the office of the Chairman, irrespective of which party was in power.

CH: Can you cite examples of such political courtesy in the past?
Horatti: Earlier Chairmen such as Hanumanthappa served for around eight years and Manjunath for around seven years. Even when governments changed and political equations changed, they were allowed to complete their terms. That was the tradition. The dignity of the

constitutional office was respected.

CH: Was there any allegation against you that could have justified such a move?
Horatti: Absolutely not. There has never been any allegation of corruption, partiality or malpractice against me. My record is clean. In fact, during the recent session, as many as 23 Congress members themselves appreciated the manner in which I conducted the proceedings and maintained fairness in the House.

CH: Then why did you agree to resign?
Horatti: They threatened to move a No-Confidence Motion against me. Since the ruling party has the numbers, there was no doubt that such a motion would have succeeded. I did not want to face a situation where the debate could descend into personal or derogatory remarks against me. I have spent nearly five decades in public life and have maintained my dignity and self-respect. I felt

it was better to leave rather than allow the office and my personal dignity to be dragged into such a confrontation.

CH: Was anyone specifically behind the move to force your immediate resignation?
Horatti: MLC A.M. Nagaraj played a major role in organising and bringing the members together to press for my immediate resignation. He was one of the main persons behind the move.

CH: How do you personally feel about the manner in which this episode unfolded?
Horatti: I am deeply hurt. I have been in politics and public life for nearly 50 years, since the 1970s. I have served as a member of the Legislative Council for a long period and have always tried to uphold the dignity of the institution. I expected at least basic political courtesy and respect for the office. I did not expect to be treated in this manner.

CH: Did you speak to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar about the matter?

Horatti: I contacted the Chief Minister twice. I explained the situation and referred to the understanding that I would resign on August 14 after completing the formalities in the House.

But I was simply told to resign to avoid the No-Confidence Motion. There was no effort to honour the earlier understanding about the date.

CH: Looking back, what hurts you the most?
Horatti: It is not the resignation itself that hurts me. I had already agreed to resign. What hurts is the manner in which it was done. I was prepared to address the House, thank everyone and leave with dignity. Instead, I was confronted with a situation where I was pressured to sign a resignation letter that had already been prepared. After nearly five decades in public life, I believe I deserved at least that much courtesy and respect.

QUICK READ

Yathindra Siddaramaiah to review Vijayapura urban projects

VIJAYAPURA
Urban Development Minister Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah will visit Vijayapura on August 9 (today) and attend several programs. He will arrive from Hubballi and participate in a progress review meeting of the Municipal Corporation and Urban Development Authority at 10:30 am. The minister will attend a local program at noon before leaving Vijayapura at 12:30 pm. At 1 pm, he will participate in idol installation, Kalasharohana, the inauguration of Kanakadasa Circle and Jatra Mahotsava at Sri Veeramutteshwara Temple in Bijjaragi village. He will leave Bijjaragi for Hubballi at 3 pm after completing the scheduled programs.

Villagers warn protest over delayed road repairs

YADRAMI
The six-kilometre Kummanasirasagi-Mandewala road has deteriorated badly, causing daily problems for motorists and residents. The road connects Mandewala with the Jewargi-Sindagi highway and is used by farmers, students and people from nearby villages. Large potholes have made travel difficult, while rainwater collects in them, increasing accident risks for two-wheeler riders. Farmers are also struggling to transport their produce to markets, and ambulance movement is affected during emergencies. Residents said they had repeatedly informed officials and public representatives, but no action was taken. Villagers have demanded immediate repairs and warned of protests if authorities delay further action.

Aland BJP plans protest over crop insurance issues

ALAND
The BJP Aland Mandal will hold a protest on August 10 at 11 am near the bus stand in Aland, demanding crop insurance benefits for eligible farmers. Mandal President Mallikarjuna Kandagule said thousands of farmers are facing difficulties because adequate crop insurance has not reached many areas. He alleged that several eligible farmers were denied insurance benefits despite suffering crop losses and drought conditions. The party said the government and concerned officials had not responded adequately to their complaints. The protest aims to highlight farmers' problems and seek immediate relief for those who have been left out of the insurance scheme.

TEACHERS-AS-ROLEMODELS

Teachers should constantly update their teaching skills

JEWARGI
Teachers should serve as role models and continuously improve their knowledge and teaching skills according to changes in the education sector, Tahsildar Anjum Tabassum said. She was speaking as the chief guest at the concluding ceremony of a week-long teacher development programme organized by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell at Government First Grade College in Jewargi. Tabassum said professional development pro-

MLC seeks expanded genealogical study of fishing communities

Kamakanur sought caste certificates for eligible Talavara members, urged district action, and proposed consultations across 31 districts for a comprehensive proposal

KALABURAGI

Legislative Council member Tippanappa Kamakanur has urged the Karnataka government to include the terms Mogaveera and Barikera in the proposed genealogical study of the Koli, Kabbaliga, Ambiga and Besta communities. Speaking at a press conference in Kalaburagi, he said a broader study was necessary to establish links with communities listed as Tokarekoli, Koya, Kolidora and Kolcha under the Scheduled Tribes category. The government has approved the study at an estimated cost of Rs. 17.45 lakh, with funds proposed under the Scheduled Tribes Development Scheme for 2026-27. Kamakanur said an additional proposal should be sent to the State Tribal Research Institute in Mysuru to expand the study. He added that the state was preparing a revised pro-



posal for the Centre after an earlier submission was returned for reconsideration. Kamakanur also raised concerns about caste certificates for members of the Talavara community in Kalaburagi and Afzalpur. He said eligible people whose parents had been recorded as Talavara should receive certificates according to the applicable rules. He said the district administration had assured action. He also proposed a meeting with community representatives from all 31 districts to gather views and pre-

pare a comprehensive proposal for the Chief Minister. The MLC said steps should also be taken to install a statue of Ambigara Chowdarya in Bengaluru and build a Koli-Ambiga community hall. He said such efforts could strengthen unity among community members. Kamakanur also complained that several officials in Kalaburagi were not responding properly to calls from residents and elected representatives. He said he had written to the district in-charge minister seeking transfers of officials who repeated-

Key Highlights of the Press Meet

- Include Mogaveera, Barikera in genealogical study
- Expand study to cover related communities
- ₹17.45 lakh approved for proposed study
- Seek revised proposal from State Tribal Institute
- Ensure Talavara community receives eligible caste certificates
- Install Ambigara Chowdarya statue in Bengaluru
- Build Koli-Ambiga community hall for unity
- Seek transfers of unresponsive public officials

ly caused difficulties to the public. Several community leaders attended the press conference.

Farmers Clean Clogged Canals Amid Severe Drought

CH NEWS, MALINGARAYA PUJAR

A severe drought caused by deficient rainfall has left farming communities across the district in deep distress as crops dry up. Although major initiatives like the Singaturl Lift Irrigation Project pipe water into local reservoirs from the Tungabhadra River, farmers remain unable to irrigate their parched fields due to official neglect. In Mundargi taluk, the Basapura Lake—managed by the Minor Irrigation Department—serves over 600 acres of farmland across Shirol, Byalahunasi, Mukampur, and neighboring villages. Although the reservoir is currently full, surrounding feeder canals remain heavily choked with thick thorns, garbage, and accumulated silt. Consequently, crucial water supplies fail to reach agricultural lands. Frustrated by government inaction, local farmers refused to wait for official department grants. Instead, community members pooled together ap-

proximately 50,000 rupees of their own money. Using heavy machinery and manual labor, they began clearing dense thickets, removing heavy silt, repairing the lake's damaged sluice gates, and restoring access roads at their own expense. Local farmer Kariyallana Gowda Gowda stated that despite repeated appeals to relevant authorities, no action was taken to restore the distribution network. He highlighted that while the overflowing Tungabhadra and Malaprabha rivers bound the district, poor maintenance deprives agriculturalists of basic irrigation benefits. Key contributors including Siddalingappa Rajura, Al-lasabha Kokkaragundi, Kanakappa Kuri, and Manjunatha Jolada continue to lead the self-funded restoration work. However, with vast stretches of the reservoir still covered in debris, the farming community strictly demands that the Minor Irrigation Department step in immediately to complete the remaining cleanup.

Dalit outfit protests alleged Lokayukta inaction in Vijayapura

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Karnataka Dalit Sangharsh Samiti (R.) Bhimavad staged a protest in Vijayapura on Saturday, alleging that no action had been taken against Lokayukta officials despite complaints being submitted to senior authorities. State convener Parashurama Lakshman Neelanayak led the demonstration against Lokayukta SP T. Mallesh and Police Inspector Anand Takkanavar. Protesters displayed flower flags and demanded a proper investigation into the allegations. Speaking during the protest, Neelanayak said the organisation had raised 10 allegations against the officials but was unhappy with the lack of action so far. He demanded that the complaints be thoroughly investigated and that authorities examine relevant records and communications as part of the inquiry.

Demands of protest

- Thorough investigation into all ten allegations
- Examine relevant records and official communications
- Take legal action if allegations are proven
- Remove officials if wrongdoing gets established
- Ensure impartial inquiry into complaints submitted
- Address complaints within the specified period

He also sought appropriate legal action if the allegations were found to be true. The organisation demanded that the two officials be removed from the Lokayukta unit if wrongdoing was established. Neelanayak warned that the group would continue its agitation in stages until action was taken against officials accused of corruption.

Bengaluru East plans single citizen service center

BENGALURU

Bengaluru East Municipal Corporation Commissioner D.S. Ramesh has proposed a Citizen Help Center to give residents a single place to submit applications and complaints. The plan aims to reduce repeated office visits and make public services simpler, faster, transparent and more accountable. At a meeting chaired by Ramesh, officials were asked to create a technology-based system covering property tax, town planning, roads, infrastructure, waste management, health, horticulture, electricity, TDR and rainwater drainage. Complaints received in person or through post, email, telephone, WhatsApp and social media will be recorded and sent to the concerned departments. Each complaint would receive a unique acknowledgment number, while submitted documents would be scanned and stored digitally. Residents would be able to check the sta-

Complaints will receive unique numbers, documents will be digitized, status tracked, and a 24-hour control room will monitor delays, feedback, and escalations

tus of their applications, the department handling them and the officer responsible. A proposed 24-hour control room would monitor pending cases and alert senior officers when deadlines are missed. The system would also collect citizen feedback after resolution and send unresolved matters for higher-level review. Zone-wise public grievance meetings would address unresolved cases requiring coordination, technical review or senior decisions. The commissioner said every application should have a responsible officer and a clear deadline, and progress should be tracked until the issue is settled.

Ambedkar statue work begins in Chitapur

CHITAPUR

Municipal Chief Officer Bharathi Dandoti has directed officials and contractors to complete the compound and other development works around the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar statue with good quality and within the scheduled deadline. The works have been taken up at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh under the Urban Upliftment Phase-4 Special Grant Scheme at Ambedkar Circle. Speaking after inaugurating the works, Dandoti said the compound should be attractive, strong and properly developed. She warned officials and contractors to ensure that there were no compromises in the quality of construction. She said timely completion would help maintain the premises properly and provide a better environment for visitors. Former Municipal President Mallikarjuna Kalagi said a request had been submitted to MLA, Home Minister and District In-charge Minister Priyank Kharge seeking funds for a new compound around the Ambedkar statue.

TOWN ROAD EXPANSION ENTERS FINAL CLEARANCE PHASE

ALAND

Road widening work on the main stretch from the old tehsil office to Dargah Chowk has entered its final stage, with officials speeding up the removal of buildings and other structures blocking the project. Administrative sources said most pending clearances are expected to be completed within the next two days. The work covers more than one kilometre and is aimed at improving traffic movement through the busy town. The clearance process had slowed earlier because officials needed to verify property documents, while some property owners approached courts. More than 500 property numbers along the road were identified, and structures have been removed in stages. Of 35 buildings that remained pending, 20 were cleared recently. Officials said

around 10 more could be removed by Sunday or Monday. On Saturday, some residents opposed the operation near the Mahadev Temple, but the administration continued the work with police protection. The ongoing clearance has caused traffic problems on the main road, forcing motorists to use alternative routes. Officials said the municipal administration will accelerate the remaining road development after the clearance work is completed. Heavy machinery, including eight JCBs and six Hitachis, was used to remove buildings, walls, doors and other obstructions. Authorities had earlier asked occupants to vacate voluntarily by August 3. As the deadline passed without full compliance, machinery was deployed. Officials said the project will improve road connectivity and traffic flow once completed.

Deworming campaign targets children across Kudligi taluk

KUDLIGI

The Kudligi taluk administration has prepared to observe National Deworming Day on August 10 and Mop-up Day on August 17 to protect children from intestinal worm infections. The programme aims to improve children's health by providing free Albendazole tablets to eligible children across the taluk. At a preliminary meeting chaired by Tahsildar Netravati at the Tahsildar office, officials finalized arrangements for the programme. Taluk Health Officer Dr. Pradeep said tablets will be provided to 19,111 children aged one to five years, 49,468 children aged six to nineteen years and 798 children who are out of school.



grammes help teachers become more effective in their profession. She appreciated the organizers for selecting useful subjects, including

Karnataka Civil Services Rules and stress management. She urged teachers to use such training opportunities to strengthen their pro-

fessional abilities. Recalling her teaching days, she highlighted the importance of the teaching profession and the responsibility of teachers in shaping students' futures. College Principal Dr. Shanta Ashtagi, who presided over the programme, urged teachers to make full use of the training and adopt new methods to improve classroom learning. Certificates were distributed to participating teachers at the conclusion. IQAC Coordinator Dr. Sandeep Tiwari welcomed the gathering, while Hindi

teacher Kupendra Rathod compered the programme. Staff Secretary Dr. Khajavali Echanala proposed the vote of thanks. IQAC Co-Coordinator Ravindra and teaching and non-teaching staff were present. The organizers said regular training would help teachers respond effectively to changing educational needs and provide students with better learning opportunities. The programme concluded with a call for teachers to continue learning and adapting to new educational methods.

QUICK READ

MLA directs officials to strengthen drought management

PAVAGADA
MLA H.V. Venkatesh directed officials to take effective measures to manage the drought situation in Pavagada taluk and prevent shortages of essential services. Speaking at a taluk-level task force meeting, he reviewed drinking water availability, fodder supply and agricultural activities with officials. The MLA instructed authorities to continuously monitor drinking water supplies and ensure uninterrupted access to essential services for residents. He stressed the need for timely action and careful monitoring during the drought. Tahsildar Y. Ravi, Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Madhusudan, Circle Inspector Suresh and other departmental officials attended the meeting and discussed preparedness measures.

MLA pledges solutions for school development issues

MANDYA
A progress review meeting of government and aided primary schools in the southern zone was held at S.B. Community Hall. MLA Ganiga Ravikumar presided and assured teachers that their concerns would be heard and resolved. Teachers raised issues including the need for toilets, school compounds and drinking water facilities. Head teachers were honored during the program. DDP Yogesh, BEO Mahadeva, Employees' Association President Nagesh, General Secretary Chikkegowda, Primary School Association President Nandish, Secretary K.B. Nagaraj, District President K.Y. Manjunath, office bearers and teachers attended the meeting and discussed school development and educational needs.

Kalaburagi Congress president selection enters final phase

CHITAPUR
AICC observer Vishwajit Kadam said the Congress is collecting opinions from party leaders and workers across Kalaburagi district before choosing the next District Congress Committee president. Speaking at the Congress office in Chitapur, he said the party has a large organisation at national, state and district levels, leading to several aspirants seeking the district post. The selection process will consider views from workers. Kadam said Chitapur is the home constituency of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Home Minister Priyank Kharge, making the district politically important for the party.

U.T. Khader urges officials to work with compassion

Khader said officials must promptly support citizens, especially during disasters, by visiting affected areas and remaining available around the clock

KARKALA

Officials should work not only with intelligence but also with compassion, Health and Family Welfare Minister U.T. Khader said at a rain damage review meeting in Karkala on Saturday. He said officials are the link between the government and people and must respond honestly and quickly. Since families suffer during disasters, officials should visit places, offer support and remain available to citizens around the clock.

Agriculture officials reported that 4,002 hectares were planted with paddy and said there was no major rain-related problem, although late rains affected field work. Horticulture officials reported 18,000 hectares under cultivation and damage to 6.2 hectares. Khader asked officials to explain crop insurance clearly and encourage farmers to register. He also directed them to provide compensation for damaged houses, especially those belonging to poor families. Khader ordered action against the 700 stray dogs re-



ported in Karkala municipality. He suggested sterilisation through an NGO or trained civic staff and said workers should receive payment. He directed officials to address 342 unsafe classrooms and 50 dangerous compound walls so children remain safe. He questioned the quality of 955 damaged electricity poles and sought details on repairs. Officials were told to remove dangerous trees. Khader said the best officer is one who prevents this year's problem from returning next year. MLA V. Sunil Kumar warned forest officials that negligence over dangerous trees could lead to police cases after a fatal accident. The minister sought action on bridge repairs and fire station plans. He said funds should be used carefully, while services must continue.

Key highlights of the meeting
■ Quick response: Officials were told to respond compassionately during disasters.
■ Crop damage: Horticulture crops suffered damage across 6.2 hectares.
■ Farmer support: Officials were asked to promote crop insurance registration.
■ Safety concerns: Action ordered on 342 unsafe classrooms and 50 walls.
■ Stray dogs: Measures directed to control 700 stray dogs.
■ Power infrastructure: Repairs sought for 955 damaged electricity poles.

SUNIL KUMAR SEEKS FUNDS FOR KARKALA DEVELOPMENT

Karkala MLA V. Sunil Kumar urged district in-charge minister U.T. Khader to release funds for urgent development works in the constituency. He sought improvements at Karkala Taluk Hospital, including specialist doctors, medical equipment, scanning facilities and better services for mothers and children. Kumar also requested upgrading Hebri Community Health Centre into a 100-bed taluk hospital with adequate staff. He highlighted damage to roads, bridges, schools and college buildings caused by heavy rains and natural disasters. The MLA sought special funds for repairs, reconstruction and emergency relief in affected areas to support residents.

Balakrishna calls JDS protest a political penance

RAMANAGARA

Minister and MLA H.C. Balakrishna strongly criticised the JDS march against the proposed Bidadi Township project, calling it a political exercise rather than a genuine public movement.

Speaking to reporters in Magadi, he sarcastically described the protest as a "penance march" for the alleged mistakes of former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy. Balakrishna said Kumaraswamy himself had initiated the township project during his tenure.

Balakrishna said he would not object if farmers organised a protest over the project. However, he accused JDS and BJP leaders of using the issue for political purposes. He joked that the leaders were marching simply to get exercise and said they were free to continue walking. He added that the government and Congress would soon publish an advertisement explaining the decisions taken on the project under different administrations.

The minister also rejected Kumaraswamy's comparison

Balakrishna said farmers could protest, but accused JDS and BJP leaders of politicising the issue, joking about their marches and promising clarification

between the JDS march and the Congress-led Mekedatu padayatra. Balakrishna said the Mekedatu campaign was conducted to demand better water resources for Karnataka and questioned how that public cause could be compared with a political protest against the township project. He said the two movements had different objectives and should not be treated as similar.

Balakrishna further referred to the NICE Road project, saying it was started during H.D. Deve Gowda's tenure and that its earlier decisions had contributed to the current debate. He criticised calls against toll payments and urged JDS leaders to use legal methods instead of provoking people. He warned that any untoward incident during the protest could create responsibility for those encouraging the agitation.

Haveri Panchayats urged to provide local employment

HAVERI

Gram Panchayats should provide wage employment within their limits to prevent rural workers from migrating elsewhere, Haveri Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Dr. Paramesh N. Hubballi said.

He was speaking while inspecting water canal construction work at Hombari village under Hombari Gram Panchayat.

Dr. Hubballi said the Central Government launched the Developed India Guarantee for Employment and Livelihood Campaign on July 1. Awareness programmes on the VB-G Ramji scheme are being conducted in villages, along with awareness rallies, to inform rural families about employment opportunities.

He said the scheme aims to increase guaranteed employment from 100 days to 125 days for every rural family and strengthen their economic security. With a drought forecast in the state, villagers

should make full use of local employment opportunities instead of leaving their homes.

He said the scheme provides wage employment while also supporting rural infrastructure and permanent assets. It aims to create facilities such as water security structures, rural roads and warehouses that can strengthen livelihoods. The scheme is being implemented under a Centrally Sponsored Model with a 60:40 cost-sharing arrangement.

Dr. Hubballi urged people to understand the benefits and use the programme properly. TAPAM IEC Coordinator Girish Bennur, Technical Coordinator Mahagundeshwar Muguli, PDO Shabana Nadaf, Kayakamitra, Kulikara, Metigal and other Panchayat staff were present during the inspection.

Officials said effective implementation could provide timely employment and strengthen villages against economic difficulties.

Kittavar residents fear elephant attacks after dark

HASSAN

A lone wild elephant has created fear among residents and motorists in the Kittavar village area of Belur taluk.

The elephant spends the daytime resting in nearby forests and coffee estates but enters villages and roads after dark. Residents said it suddenly approaches people and vehicles, creating panic and disrupting movement in the area.

The elephant has been moving alone without joining a herd and has reportedly settled near Kittavar village. Forest officials had captured and radio-collared the animal a few months ago, but staff are now facing difficulties in tracking it. A few days ago, the elephant reportedly attacked a car carrying people and lifted the vehicle, injuring those inside. The incident has increased concern among villagers, who fear further attacks during the night.

Forest department officials

WILD ELEPHANT ATTACK LEAVES WOMAN SERIOUSLY INJURED

KODAGU: A 51-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED AFTER A WILD ELEPHANT ATTACKED HER IN KUTTA VILLAGE OF SOUTH KODAGU ON SATURDAY. THE INJURED WOMAN WAS IDENTIFIED AS NANACHI HADIYA MARAKKA. THE INCIDENT OCCURRED IN THE AYYAPPA DEVARAKADU AREA DURING THE MORNING HOURS. MARAKKA RECEIVED FIRST AID AT KUTTA HOSPITAL BEFORE BEING SHIFTED TO A HOSPITAL IN NEIGHBOURING KERALA FOR FURTHER TREATMENT. FOREST OFFICIALS VISITED THE SPOT AFTER RECEIVING INFORMATION AND BEGAN NECESSARY ACTION. THE INCIDENT HAS RAISED CONCERNS AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS ABOUT THE GROWING RISK OF WILD ELEPHANT ENCOUNTERS IN VILLAGES NEAR FOREST AREAS.

are also examining whether the same elephant was responsible for the death of Dharmaraju on July 29. Residents said the animal's repeated movement near homes and roads has made them afraid to travel after dark.

They have urged the forest department to capture the elephant and relocate it to a safer forest area immediately. Offi-

cials are continuing efforts to track its movements and prevent further incidents.

Villagers have also appealed for increased night patrols around the affected areas until the animal is safely captured.

The situation has caused concern among coffee growers and residents living near the forest boundary.

Dharwad farmers struggle as chilli prices plunge

DHARWAD

Chilli growers in Dharwad district are facing a fresh crisis after market prices fell sharply despite their efforts to protect crops during drought.

Farmers in Navalgund and Annigeri taluks used borewell and farm-pit water when rains stopped, spending heavily to keep their plants alive. Now, with harvesting underway, many are leaving mature chillies on the plants because selling them offers little return.

Farmers said chilli cultivation requires significant spending on seedlings, irrigation and labour. They purchased quality seedlings at higher prices and used drip irrigation to save the crop during the dry spell. Their efforts produced a good harvest, but the sudden price fall has turned their success into another financial burden. Farmers must now pay workers to pick the chillies and arrange transport to markets.

MIA protest suspended after officials promise solutions

MANGALURU

A protest against alleged mismanagement, negligence and delays in addressing public complaints at Mangaluru International Airport was temporarily withdrawn on Saturday after airport officials assured local representatives that their concerns would be resolved by the end of August.

The agitation was organised by representatives of Bajpe Town Panchayat, who said several issues raised by residents and elected mem-

bers had not received proper attention from airport authorities.

During the protest, airport officials arrived at the site and accepted a memorandum containing the protesters' demands.

The memorandum was submitted in the presence of local MLA Umanath Kotian.

Following discussions, officials assured the protesters that action would be taken on the concerns before the month ends.

Based on this assurance, the protesters decided to sus-

pend their agitation for the time being.

The protesters, however, warned that the decision was only temporary. They said a stronger protest would be organised if the airport authorities failed to keep their promise within the given deadline. They demanded concrete action on the issues raised by the local community and said they would closely monitor the steps taken by officials during the remaining days of August. The protest was attended by several elected representatives of the

Bajpe Town Panchayat. Panchayat president Lokesh Poojary, vice-president Mallika Chandrashekar and Standing Committee chairman Ritesh Shetty were present. Councilors Siraj Bajpe, Rajesh Amin, Padmanabha, Jayanth, Jacob Pereira, Kiran, Gulshan Banu, Farzana, Dinesh and Supritha Shetty also participated. The assurance has eased tensions for now, but local representatives said renewed demonstrations remain possible if the promised action is not completed by month-end.

Chetan announces new party launch in January

MANGALURU

Actor and social activist Chethan Ahimsa on Saturday announced that a new regional political party will be officially launched in January. Speaking to reporters in Mangaluru, he said the party registration process was nearing completion.

He said Karnataka needs a fresh political alternative because existing parties have failed to solve several basic problems faced by people across the state.

Ahimsa said the party would be based on equality, social justice, secularism and a scientific outlook.

A convention is planned for January, where the party will be formally introduced with a name containing constitutional values.

He said the organisation would not depend on his popularity as an actor.

Instead, farmers, activists, young people and intellectuals would be brought together to build a regional movement focused.

He also opposed NEET, saying the examination system hurts poor, rural and government-school students who cannot afford expensive coaching.

He argued that medical



admissions should instead use state-level CET examinations.

On the Bidadi Township issue, he accused the government of planning to acquire about 9,600 acres of fertile farmland.

He claimed such development would mainly benefit real-estate interests, contractors and land groups rather than farmers.

He also alleged that the government had failed to address unemployment and protect funds meant for Dalit development.

He said Bengaluru was receiving greater attention while coastal, Malnad, Kalyana Karnataka, Kittur Karnataka and Old Mysuru regions needed stronger focus.

Responding to actor Upendra's Prajakiya Party, he said forming a political party was a democratic right.

However, he stressed that leaders must meet people directly and understand struggles.

CULTURE-COMES-HOME

Dubai-born children bring Yakshagana home to Mangaluru

MANGALURU

More than 20 children of coastal origin, born and raised in Dubai, brought Yakshagana to their homeland with a lively performance in Mangaluru on Saturday.

The children, who study in English-medium schools, have been learning the traditional Kannada theatre form during special classes in Dubai.

Their performance of Sudarshanopakhyaana at the Mahatobhara Sri Mangaladevi Temple won appreciation from audiences and



highlighted their strong connection with coastal culture.

Under the UAE Yakshagana Abhyas Kendra, 38 artists, including more than 20 children, took part in the programme.

Yakshaguru Shekhar D. Shetty Kinnigoli said classes began in Dubai in 2011 and now more than 100 children are learning the art there.

He said the centre aims to teach children the complete

tradition, rather than preparing them only for stage performances.

Many students have learned Kannada through Yakshagana despite studying in English-medium schools.

Some first wrote dialogues in English script before gradually becoming comfortable speaking Kannada on stage.

Student Naomi performed Balagopala and Devendra Bala, while Sharanya played Renuka.

Vivaan Shetty performed Raksha Bal and Vanapalaka, and nine-year-old Ayan

Shetty appeared as Kodangi and Vatsa.

The children said performing before relatives and local audiences made the experience special and memorable.

Saurabh, another student, said learning Yakshagana abroad gave children pride in their roots.

The programme showed how cultural training can preserve language and tradition across borders.

For the young performers, returning to Karnataka and presenting their art before an audience was more than a stage event.

QUICK READ



Bay depression to bring heavy south rains

Kolkata
South Bengal is bracing for heavy downpours as a fresh weather system builds up over the region. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a developing depression over the Bay of Bengal, combined with a strong cyclonic circulation, will trigger continuous rainfall across several southern districts starting Tuesday. Meteorologists note that while weather conditions may temporarily ease on Sunday, heavy showers will make a strong comeback next week. Coastal regions are expected to bear the initial brunt, urging local authorities to issue safety advisories for residents and workers near open waters.

Security agencies flag fake charity groups

New Delhi
Indian security agencies uncovered fake charity, education, and healthcare groups acting as fronts to channel illegal terror funds. Officials report a rise in these entities hiding behind social service, coordinated by hostile foreign actors. Tracing the money trail remains tough, as cash sneaks in through hawala channels or small, hidden bank transactions. Investigators note these groups mimic older extremist models, sometimes popping up briefly during disasters to collect donations. Despite past crackdowns, new front outfits continue emerging. Authorities stay on high alert to track these hidden financial networks and protect national safety.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister welcomes cricketer Pant

New Delhi
Uttarakhand's leader warmly responded to star cricketer Rishabh Pant, promising full help to buy land and move home. After three years of trying to leave Delhi, the famous wicketkeeper posted online about his struggle with complex property rules. He wants to return to his beloved hills to develop the local area and live near his roots. The state leader stated that anyone wishing to come back is welcome and directed officials to assist him. This kind gesture aims to inspire young fans and encourage notable locals to invest in their home region.

Piyush Goyal praises global reach of Bihar

UNION MINISTER PIYUSH GOYAL NOTED THAT BIHAR'S TALENT AND PRODUCTS ARE ESTABLISHING A STRONG GLOBAL FOOTPRINT THROUGH NEW TRADE AGREEMENTS

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Piyush Goyal stated that the talent and products coming from Bihar are building a strong new reputation in worldwide markets. He shared this positive message on the social media platform. He highlighted how recent trade deals made by the central government are helping local makers grow.

The minister explained that new free trade agreements are opening major doors for local businesses. Farmers and makers of agro-processed items can now reach buyers far beyond national borders. Similar global growth is happening for industries handling textiles, leather, footwear, engineering items, chemicals, and medical drugs.

This global push comes as the nation recently reached its highest export numbers ever, hitting a massive record of over eight hundred billion dollars. Government leaders are actively working to spread



trade across many new regions. They use special trade agreements and talks with big global economies to build stronger pathways for local companies and hard-working entrepreneurs.

Over the past five years, officials have successfully signed nine major trade pacts with different international partners. These important deals include partnerships with the United Arab Emirates, Australia, Mauritius, Oman, The United Kingdom, New Zealand, and European

“Doors to international markets are opening for Bihar's agriculture and agro-processing, textiles, leather, footwear, engineering, chemicals, and pharmaceutical products.”

- Piyush Goyal, Union Minister

nations. Such agreements aim to boost two-way trade by lowering barriers and creating mutually helpful business relations.

These friendly trade pacts bring wonderful benefits to ordinary farmers and factory workers. They give special support to job-heavy sectors like clothing, fabric production, and leather goods, which creates plenty of fresh employment.

Furthermore, the government works closely with global partners to solve technical rules smoothly, making it much easier for domestic goods to enter foreign shops safely and quickly.

Constitution places justice at its core: Meghwal

INDORE

Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal stated that justice must go beyond court buildings and reach every single citizen. He spoke at a major legal conference in Indore. He stressed that making justice accessible is a vital promise of our nation's constitution. The important two-day event takes place at the Brilliant Convention Centre. It brings together top judges, leaders, and legal experts from across the western region of the country.

During his speech, Meghwal highlighted India's deep historical roots. He noted that the country is known globally as the mother of democracy. However, he reminded the audience that our cultural identity goes even deeper. For many centuries, local traditions have focused heavily on fairness, rule of law, open dialogue, and community welfare. The minister pointed out that these ancient values inspired the writers of our con-

stitution. Because of this background, they placed the word justice right at the very top of the preamble. Social, economic, and political fairness form the true foundation of our legal system.

The special conference runs through August 9. It is jointly organized by the National Legal Services Authority, the state legal services authority, and the high court. Chief Justice of India Surya Kant officially opened the gathering alongside other esteemed judges by lighting a lamp. Several prominent figures attended the opening ceremony. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav joined the event, along with various Supreme Court justices and high court judges. Many local legal officers and community workers are also taking part to share new ideas.

The main goal of this meeting is to find better ways to make the legal process open to everyone. Experts want to build a system that focuses on the daily needs of ordinary people.

Authorities temporarily suspend annual Amarnath pilgrimage

JAMMU

Authorities have temporarily suspended the annual Amarnath pilgrimage following severe weather warnings issued by the local meteorological department for the region. Officials confirmed that no fresh batch of pilgrims was permitted to leave the main base camp in Jammu toward the Kashmir valley. The decision aims to ensure the safety of devotees as heavy downpours threaten travel routes.

Administrators are keeping a close watch on the condition of the main highway connecting Jammu to Srinagar, as continuous rain frequently triggers landslides and blockades along the mountainous path. Officials will review weather improvements before allowing travel to resume. Meanwhile, routes from the southern base camp remain closed for track maintenance work, meaning current pilgrims are traveling exclusively through the northern base camp.

BJP praises Tharoor after ‘public connection’ remarks

NEW DELHI

A fresh political debate has started in the country after senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor talked about student protests and public connection. His words brought quick support from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, while his own party leaders jumped in to defend Rahul Gandhi. During an event in Mumbai, Mr. Tharoor pointed out that his party and Rahul Gandhi had already raised many student issues through a special campaign months ago. However, he honestly admitted that their message failed to strike the right chord with the public at that time. He stressed that leaders must always understand what people truly feel.

Soon after these honest remarks, BJP leaders praised him openly. A senior minister stated that Mr. Tharoor is an intellectual who always speaks the truth. The BJP leader added that the main op-



position party has lost touch with common citizens and is slowly losing public trust. On the other hand, other political voices had mixed reactions. A left party leader brushed aside the statement, saying the student protests are already over and questioning the timing of these remarks makes little sense now.

To clear the air, other Congress members rushed to de-

fend Mr. Gandhi. They explained that Mr. Gandhi is working extremely hard for the youth and does not care about petty political benefits. They noted that his main goal is to fix deep problems in the education system, such as exam paper leaks, to secure a better future for millions of students. This discussion

highlights a big question inside political circles about how leaders connect with citizens. While outsiders view the situation as a sign of internal trouble, party loyalists insist their top leadership remains fully

dedicated to bringing real and lasting changes for the younger generation. As this debate continues to grow, political watchers are closely watching how different parties plan to handle youth issues in the coming days.

Shashi Tharoor speaks the truth. He is a good and intellectual person. He is more of an intellectual than a politician, so he speaks the truth.

- Ram Kripal Yadav, Bihar Minister

AMC targets illegal structures, road encroachments

The municipal corporation completed a fifteen-day cleanup campaign, removing hundreds of handcarts and illegal structures to ease traffic movement

AHMEDABAD

The local municipal corporation successfully removed hundreds of handcarts and thousands of illegal structures from public streets and footpaths during a strict fifteen-day cleanup campaign across the city. Officials stated that the massive crackdown took place across all city zones to stop vendors and shops from blocking busy roads. The special operation aimed to ease traffic movement and ensure smooth travel for pedestrians and motorists.

During the drive, civic teams cleared numerous unauthorized stalls, makeshift sheds, and protective tarpaulins. Authorities also seized thousands of advertisement boards and other items left illegally on public pathways. Furthermore, enforcement teams targeted poorly parked



vehicles that caused traffic jams. Officers locked more than one thousand vehicles and towed away several others blocking major roads. A number of permanent illegal constructions built on public land were also demolished.

The widespread operation covered multiple busy areas, commercial hubs, and major highway stretches across all zones to maximize impact. Following the successful operation, civic authorities strongly urged local shopkeepers, business owners, and residents to keep public roads and footpaths entirely free from obstructions. The municipal body warned that similar strict inspection drives will continue in the coming days to maintain proper traffic flow and order.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AMC DRIVE

• **Clearing Carts and Stalls:** A total of 708 handcarts and roadside stalls obstructing daily movement were seized by enforcement teams.

• **Sheds and Tarpaulins:** The civic body dismantled 313 illegal sheds, removed 1,066 tarpaulins, and cleared 35 permanent illegal structures built on public roads.

• **Advertisement Seizures:** Around 1,987 illegal ad boards and 5,196 miscellaneous items placed on public pathways were confiscated.

• **Traffic and Parking Crackdown:** To tackle poor parking habits, officials locked 1,159 vehicles and towed away 10 improperly parked vehicles.

Government urges citizens to trust E20 fuel

NEW DELHI

The central petroleum ministry has assured all vehicle owners that they can safely use E20 petrol without any worry, stating that the fuel meets strict quality standards and undergoes thorough safety checks. This official message came in response to recent media discussions regarding moisture and chloride concerns in blended fuel supplies. To address these public

doubts, oil companies conducted a massive nationwide testing campaign covering the entire supply chain.

According to the official statement, extensive scientific tests proved that fuel quality stays well within safe limits. Officials emphasized that there is zero reason for panic, as random sampling shows no harmful contamination in the fuel supply network. To maintain high confidence, fuel retailers have increased daily

surveillance. Staff now perform water-ingress and density tests multiple times every

single day at all local fuel stations. Furthermore, mobile testing vans and independent laboratories are actively monitoring quality standards across different regions.

Recent laboratory tests on samples taken directly from various refineries also con-

firmed that chloride levels remain extremely low, meeting safety benchmarks. Au-

thorities reiterated that customer satisfaction and vehicle performance are top priorities, promising swift action to fix any future issues. Citizens are encour-

aged to rely on official updates rather than unverified rumors regarding fuel safety.



HEALING KASARAGOD'S WOUNDS

Kerala grants Rs 14 crore for Endosulfan victims

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government has approved a financial package of fourteen crore forty lakh rupees to help families suffering from the harmful effects of a dangerous pesticide in Kasaragod. This money will fund a special welfare program for the current year. Officials stated that the new funds will provide steady financial support to people who have struggled with severe health issues for a long time. The local administration aims to ensure that no affected person is left behind without proper care.

A large share of this money will go directly to thousands of people who already receive monthly help. Furthermore, the state has set aside additional funds to include new



victims who need financial relief. Authorities also remembered the family members who spend all their time looking after sick relatives. A dedicated portion of the financial package will give monthly assistance to these caring individuals.

Apart from basic cash re-

lief, the government has planned special help for young students. Money has been allocated to pay for the education of hundreds of children from affected families. Moreover, a significant amount will be used to improve facilities at local rehabilitation centers. These up-

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RELIEF PACKAGE

■ **Monthly Relief for Families:** A major chunk of Rs 9.84 crore goes directly toward monthly financial aid for 5,208 registered beneficiaries through March 2027.

■ **Welcoming New Survivors:** Recognizing those left out previously, Rs 2.64 crore is reserved to onboard roughly 1,000 newly identified victims into the welfare system.

■ **Caring for the Caregivers:** Under the Ashwasakirana scheme, Rs 64.76 lakh will support 771 dedicated family members who look after bedridden or severely disabled relatives day in and day out.

graded centers will offer better therapy and daily support to improve the living standards of local residents.

For decades, the heavy use of this specific chemical spray caused terrible health problems and birth defects in the region. Long struggles by local families forced authorities

to create welfare programs. This fresh announcement brings new hope to people fighting for basic rights and proper medical care. Officials believe this steady support will give much-needed relief to vulnerable households and show a strong promise to heal the affected community.

Highlights of the crisis

• **Submerged Roads & Traffic Snarls:** Severe waterlogging crippled movement at Vasant Kunj, Okhla Mod, Kalindi Kunj, and the Delhi-Karnal Road, where a burst pipeline worsened flooding near the Red Fort.

• **Commuter Nightmares:** Stranded drivers and broken-down bikes were common sights. In Noida, commuters reported spending nearly two hours navigating flooded sectors like Sector 16, 18, and Mahamaya Flyover.

• **Neighboring Impact:** Haryana districts like Bhiwani and Charkhi Dadri faced heavy water accumulation, exposing critical gaps in local drainage infrastructure.

• **Work From Home:** To cope with the transit chaos, several institutions and offices allowed employees to shift to remote work setups.

QUICK READ



Heavy security deployed for Amit Shah's TN visit

Tiruvannamalai
Tamil Nadu police deployed fifteen hundred personnel and established a strict three-tier security system ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit. Security forces secured key areas, including the helipad, Ramana Maharshi Ashram, and the historic Arunachaleswarar Temple. During his two-day trip to the region, Shah will offer prayers at these prominent local sites. Authorities coordinated extensively across the pilgrimage town to regulate traffic, ensure smooth movement, and maintain safety throughout the high-profile political visit.



Pinarayi Vijayan blames state for rain crisis

Kannur
Keralam Opposition Leader Pinarayi Vijayan accused the state government of failing to take safety precautions during heavy rains that caused twenty-six deaths. Speaking in Kannur, Vijayan stated that authorities ignored weather warnings, delayed red alerts, and failed to clear landslide roadblocks for a week. While promising total opposition support for relief work, he criticized the administration's slow response and poor disaster management compared to past years. The senior leader urged authorities to improve vigilance immediately to protect citizens and rescue missing people safely across the affected districts.

Telangana workers postpone strike for ten days

Hyderabad
Gig and platform workers in Telangana have postponed their planned indefinite strike for ten days following positive talks with the state government. Labour Minister Gaddam Vivek Venkataswamy assured union leaders that officials will address long-pending demands, including fair minimum fares and the creation of a welfare board. Representatives made it clear this is a temporary pause to give authorities time to act. If the government fails to deliver concrete policy changes within this period, union members warned they will resume their protests and announce further action to protect driver rights.

Gujarat police arrests fake doctor in Valsad

Valsad
Gujarat police arrested a man for practicing medicine without a valid degree at a rented house in Valsad district. Acting on a tip-off, officers raided the property alongside health officials and caught the accused treating patients with allopathic drugs. Authorities seized thirty-one medicine brands worth over fifty-three thousand rupees. Officials noted this marks another case in a state-wide crackdown on unqualified practitioners operating illegal clinics, which puts innocent public health and safety at serious risk.

Thackeray slams Centre, evokes Jallianwala Bagh atrocity

Uddhav Thackeray slammed the Central government over police crackdowns on student protesters, comparing the heavy-handed force to Jallianwala Bagh

MUMBAI

Uddhav Thackeray, leader of the Shiv Sena (UBT), has strongly criticized the Central government for its recent actions against student protesters. During a press conference, the former Chief Minister drew a shocking parallel between the police treatment of young demonstrators and the tragic Jallianwala Bagh massacre. He argued that the authorities used excessive force, including lathi charges and pellet guns, against the younger generation.

Thackeray praised "Gen Z" for their resilience, claiming they have successfully brought the central government to its knees through their persistence. He expressed deep frustration over how the current administration



tion has responded to the legitimate aspirations of the youth. Instead of offering support or dialogue, he alleged, the government chose to meet their requests for justice with ruthless oppression.

The UBT chief did not hold back his criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

Arising tensions

With the opposition scaling up its offensive over police crackdowns, the political friction surrounding youth welfare continues to intensify nationwide.

Home Minister Amit Shah. He pointed out that while the Prime Minister finds time to meet with political defectors, he remains completely unavailable to the protesting students. Thackeray questioned the leadership's priorities, noting that the Prime Minister recently reassured political allies by saying, "I am with you." He argued that this is exactly the kind of comfort and support the government should have offered to the na-

tion's youth instead of ignoring them.

Furthermore, Thackeray described the current administration as an "Instagram government," suggesting that they lack any genuine connection with real-world issues. He remarked that the younger generation is no longer interested in the rhetoric or dialogues pushed by the RSS leadership, including Mohan Bhagwat. According to Thackeray, the youth of India are rightfully furious, and they are no longer willing to listen to the empty promises or efforts of the ruling party. He concluded by calling for a complete overhaul of the current system, insisting that the country deserves a government that listens to its people rather than silencing them with violence.

Thakur warns of protest over Zila polls

SHIMLA

Senior BJP leader Jai Ram Thakur has accused the Himachal Pradesh government of intentionally delaying the election of the Shimla Zila Parishad's top leaders. Speaking at a press conference, the former Chief Minister claimed that the state administration is trying to suppress the clear democratic mandate won by his party in recent local elections.

Thakur stated that out of twenty-five elected members in the Shimla Zila Parishad, thirteen are proudly associated with the BJP, with two more offering their support. Despite results being declared two and a half months ago, local authorities have failed to schedule the chairperson and vice-chairperson elections. Expressing frustration, Thakur noted that he has tried unsuccessfully to reach the Shimla Deputy Commissioner



for the past three days to address the delay.

The opposition leader issued a stern warning that if election dates are not announced within two days, all elected BJP members will approach the High Court. Furthermore, he threatened that the party will stage aggressive protests outside the Deputy Commissioner's office if the deadlock persists, holding the Chief Minister responsible for any resulting law and order situations.

Thakur highlighted that the BJP secured strong victories

SPARK LEADING TO THE PROTEST

■ **Democratic Delay:** Despite results being declared two-and-a-half months ago, the top Zila Parishad posts in Shimla remain vacant, sparking widespread opposition ire

■ **Legal Action Route:** Thakur announced that BJP members will move the Himachal Pradesh High Court on Monday if the Deputy Commissioner fails to notify a poll date within two days.

■ **Electoral Dominance:** Highlighting recent local body successes, Thakur noted that BJP candidates won uncontested across several districts where Congress failed to field nominees.

■ **Alleged Vendetta:** The former Chief Minister further accused the state leadership of running a politics of vendetta, registering false criminal cases against opposition workers and elected leaders.

across ten of the state's twelve districts in recent local polls, winning numerous panchayat and municipal seats. He also criticized the ruling administration for alleged political vendettas, claiming that false cases are being filed against

party workers and leaders. Concluding his address, Thakur urged the government to prioritize public welfare, respect democratic timelines, and immediately stop stalling local electoral processes across the region.

Rijiju links Delimitation to 2029 Women's reservation

NEW DELHI

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has responded sharply to Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi. Rijiju defended the Central government's decision to connect the Women's Reservation Bill with the upcoming delimitation process. This political sparring follows Gandhi's demand for the immediate, unconditional rollout of the 2023 legislation. Rijiju took to social media to outline why both processes must go hand in hand. He noted that while the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam was enacted in 2023, its execution was legally tied to fresh census data published after 2026. Because finalizing the census numbers will take considerable time due to caste-based counting, actual implementation

would otherwise face delays past the 2034 general elections.

To fast-track women's representation by the 2029 elections, Rijiju stressed that the delimitation exercise must happen promptly using newly published census figures. He added that the implementation roadmap was laid out in the Delimitation Bill, alongside the Constitution Amendment Bill. However, that required amendment failed to clear the Lok Sabha after falling short of the necessary two-thirds majority.

Earlier, Rahul Gandhi criticized the ruling administration, questioning why a law passed three years ago remains stalled. Gandhi accused the center of unnecessarily coupling the gender quota with constituency redrawing for political leverage, demanding that the law be enacted without extra conditions.

Outsourcing is the root cause: Kumar

RANCHI

Kumar Raja, President of the Ranchi District Congress Committee and an NSUI representative, has called for the immediate cancellation of the 14th JPSC examination. Speaking to reporters during ongoing protests by job aspirants in Ranchi, Raja criticized the current system and demanded a thorough investigation into examinations plagued by allegations of corruption and unfair practices.

Raja explained that the party submitted a formal memorandum after carefully consulting students and understanding their core grievances. He insisted that any competitive tests suspected of irregularities must be thoroughly probed by the CID or Special Investigation Team within a strict 90-day window. Furthermore, he emphasized that all findings, including details of arrests and

specific violations, should be made completely public to rebuild trust in the state's recruitment framework.

To prevent future crises, the Congress leader recommended establishing a fixed annual calendar for recruitment exams, similar to standard academic schedules. He pointed out that reliance on external outsourcing remains a primary root cause of these systemic failures, arguing that if the state government managed hiring directly, Jharkhand could set a national benchmark for fair and transparent public sector testing. These developments unfold amid intense agitation by JPSC and JSSC candidates demanding systemic reforms. Meanwhile, opposition figures like Babul Marandi criticized the ruling JMM-led administration, accusing it of trying to distract the public rather than genuinely resolving corruption concerns.

Over 4000 seafarers rescued, says Sonowal

MUMBAI

Union Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced that over 4,048 Indian seafarers have been safely brought home following the escalating conflict in West Asia. This massive evacuation effort highlights the government's commitment to protecting its citizens working in volatile maritime regions.

Addressing the media in Mumbai, Sonowal stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has placed the highest priority on the safety, security, and overall welfare of all Indian sailors. To ensure no one is left behind, the government has mandated that the Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA) maintain updated records on the precise location and health status of every Indian seafarer currently at sea.

He noted that the success of this mission is the result of close coordination between the Indian Navy, the Coast Guard, and various shipping management agencies. Furthermore, the minister emphasized that the government considers it a duty to support the families of these workers, providing them with necessary assistance during these challenging times.

This announcement follows

Prime Minister Modi has given us clear instructions to make the safety of our seafarers our top priority.



- Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Shipping Minister

a recent, high-stakes incident in the Red Sea where an Indian-flagged vessel, MSV Faize Noore Oliya, was targeted off the coast of Yemen. The Ministry of External Affairs confirmed that the attack was a matter of extreme concern. Thankfully, all 13 Indian crew members, along with one other sailor, were rescued by the Yemeni Coast Guard and transported safely to the Port of Mokha.

The Ministry of External Affairs continues to operate 24/7 helplines through its regional missions to provide immediate support. Officials have strongly condemned the unprovoked attack on the defenseless vessel, reaffirming that the government will continue to work tirelessly to ensure the security of Indian vessels navigating international waters. As regional tensions persist, the Indian government remains fully committed to its mission of protecting its workforce abroad and bringing them safely home to their families.

'Education is not limited to the classroom': RN Ravi

WEST BENGAL

West Bengal Governor RN Ravi stated that genuine education goes far beyond the walls of a traditional classroom. Speaking to a large gathering of young tribal students, educators, and parents, the Governor emphasized that holistic personal development is a round-the-clock journey that shapes character and builds essential life skills.

Addressing the audience, Governor Ravi expressed immense joy in seeing thousands of young tribal women pursuing their studies while living in supportive residential facilities. He noted that true learning is a continuous effort that happens 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. According to the Governor, character building and value education are just as important as academic textbooks.

The Governor specifically praised the deep meaning behind the word 'Adhigam', which translates to learning. He explained that experiential knowledge grows naturally through hands-on practice and real-world experience, perfectly aligning with traditional Indian philosophy and civilizational values. He shared his excitement after observing students successfully applying modern science and technology to everyday challenges in critical sectors like agriculture, housing, and healthcare.



Education is not limited to the classroom, education is a continuous effort that goes on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.

- RN Ravi, West Bengal Governor

These students are not only solving daily problems but also actively learning hands-on manufacturing techniques.

Furthermore, Governor Ravi credited the visionary policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for driving national progress. He pointed out that a decade ago, India was ranked among the lower tier of global economies. However, thanks to bold economic reforms and innovative policies, India has now risen to become the fourth largest economy in the world.

The Governor concluded by encouraging the youth to embrace experiential learning and use their skills to contribute to nation-building, ensuring a brighter and more self-reliant future for the country.

NUMBERS VS. PUBLIC TRUST

'Claims of growth is bluff', YSRCP slams CM Naidu

HYDERABAD

The YSRCP has strongly condemned the white paper on state finances released by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, dismissing it as a misleading document completely lacking in substance. Party leaders claim the report is designed entirely for self-promotion while unfairly attacking the notable achievements and welfare milestones of the previous administration.

Addressing a press conference, former Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath pointed out that the lengthy document conveniently avoids mentioning actual state revenues. He argued that claiming a high growth rate is completely false since it does not match the reality of falling

state revenues. According to the YSRCP, Naidu's assertion that budget deficits are a myth is both ridiculous and irresponsible.

The party criticized the white paper for portraying finances as rosy between 2014 and 2019 while wrongly blaming the 2019-24 term for economic struggles. The YSRCP emphasized that true governance is judged by the public, questioning whether citizens are currently receiving key welfare benefits like proper minimum support prices for farmers, timely student fee reimbursements, and promised unemployment stipends. They stated that huge crowds gathering for YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's meetings prove the public was far better off under the former government.

Furthermore, Rajendranath challenged the coalition government's reported 11 per cent GSDP growth claim, noting that investments and job creation promises have largely stalled. In contrast, the YSRCP highlighted its own track record of creating thousands of secure government jobs, building critical rural infrastructure, and reforming public education and healthcare sectors.

The party accused the current administration of favoring wealthy contractors and neglecting public welfare. Ultimately, the YSRCP stated that the ruling alliance has failed to fulfill its core poll promises, relying instead on fabricated numbers and friendly media hype to hide its governance failures.

YSRCP's Counter-Attack

- **Where's the money?** The opposition claims the government's report avoids talking about actual revenue numbers, calling high growth claims fake while state income drops.

- **Deficits are real:** They slammed the Chief Minister for calling state budget deficits a "myth," labeling that excuse irresponsible.

- **Biased comparisons:** The party argues the white paper unfairly blames only the 2019-2024 period for financial struggles while looking past other years.

- **Broken promises:** The ruling coalition hasn't delivered on major campaign pledges like the "Super Six," offering weak copies instead.

- **The public decides:** Farmers waiting for minimum support prices, youth looking for job stipends, and students tracking fee refunds are the real judges of governance not official reports.

ಮೈಸೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಜಿ.ಎಲ್.ಬಿ.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು - 570005,
ದೂರವಾಣಿ/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 0821-2420624
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈಆಸಹ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ/ಬಿಡಿ/ಟಿಎನ್/6/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.08.2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಸಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅದ್ವಾದೇಶ 1999-2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕೆಪಿಸಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ರೂ. 4.90 ಲಕ್ಷದಿಂದ 220.00 ಲಕ್ಷದ ಒಟ್ಟು 23 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಸಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 01 ರಿಂದ 23 ರವರೆಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ದಿ: 12.08.2026 ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ದಿ: 31.08.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದು, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿ: 01.09.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ರ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಿವಿಲ್, ಮಿಡ್ಲ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. ಸೇವೆ ಒದಗಿಸುವುದು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ <http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in> ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಯಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 0821-2420624 (9740029156) ರಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಮೈಸೂರು www.mudamysore.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟವಿರುವ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳ ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಇರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸುವುದು. ಮತ್ತು ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸ್ಥಳ:- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಉ & ದ)
DIPR/DDMYS/561/KSMCA/359/2026-27

QUICK READ

Five dead bodies found in Nepal who went missing Last year

KATHMANDU
Nepali rescue workers have spotted five bodies at a site where the same number of climbers went missing last year, officials said. Three foreign climbers an Italian Canadian, an Italian and a German and two Nepali nationals have been missing since November last year after being struck by an avalanche on Yalung Ri mountain. Two others, an Italian and a French climber, had died at the base camp of the mountain, which rises to 5,630 metres (18,470 feet) in Dolakha district, bordering the Tibet region of China.

Ukrainian attacks on Wildberries strike at heart of Russia Inc

MOSCOW
In the space of three weeks, Vasily Klimov's online shopping pick-up point in Moscow has gone from a healthy small business to a loss-making operation he is now desperately trying to sell. Klimov runs one of 98,000 pick-up points in Russia and neighbouring countries where customers collect goods ordered through Wildberries, the country's leading e-commerce retailer. But since July 18, when Ukraine began targeting Wildberries warehouses across Russia in a wave of near-nightly drone attacks, his business has taken a massive dive.

Spain's Blood-Red River May Hold Mars Clues

Spain's
Río Tinto river looks like something from another planet, with its red and orange waters flowing across southwestern Spain. The river's unusual colour is caused by its geology, mineral-rich waters and microscopic organisms, rather than artificial dyes or recent pollution. Río Tinto is highly acidic, with conditions that are harsh for most forms of life. Yet specialised microbes have adapted to survive in the extreme environment.

Iran Leader Critical as Death Rumours Spread

TEHRAN
Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei is reportedly in critical condition and has been hospitalised, according to reports citing sources linked to the country's leadership. Claims about his health have sparked fresh rumours in Iran, including speculation that an announcement about his death could come soon.IranWire, citing sources said to be connected to President Masoud

HORMUZ OIL ROUTE

Hormuz Deal Could Restore Oil Traffic

RIYAD
Progress between Iran and Oman could soon lead to an agreement allowing commercial shipping to resume through the Strait of Hormuz, potentially restoring a crucial global oil route disrupted during the five-month-old US war with Iran.

A US official, speaking anonymously, said Washington expected Iran and Oman to reach a deal soon over the strategic waterway, which separates the two countries. The official said restoring unrestricted commercial shipping would be an important

Two Drones Spotted Over German Military Base

Two drones were spotted over a German military base days after an explosive-laden drone was found near Leipzig/Halle Airport, renewing concerns over NATO's vulnerability to drone threats.

BERLIN

Two drones were spotted over a military base in western Germany, raising fresh security concerns just days after an explosive-laden drone was discovered near a runway at Leipzig/Halle Airport in the eastern part of the country.

The drones were sighted at around 10 p.m. local time on Thursday at the Bundeswehr base in Mechernich, North Rhine-Westphalia, about 35 kilometres from the Belgian border, according to a spokesperson for Germany's armed forces.

Military police were deployed after the sighting was confirmed, before the matter



was handed over to police in the nearby town of Euskirchen. Authorities said an investigation was underway, but provided no further details about the drones or their operators.

German media reports said the Mechernich military site houses a high-security underground storage facility for equipment and spare parts used for military hardware.

Key highlights

- Drones spotted around 10 p.m. Thursday over Mechernich military base.
- Military police responded before investigation was handed to local police.
- Base reportedly stores military equipment and supports Patriot air defence maintenance.
- Incident follows discovery of an explosive-laden drone at Leipzig/Halle Airport.

The base also reportedly has personnel responsible for maintaining US Patriot air de-

fence systems. The latest incident came two days after an explosive-laden drone was found near a runway at Leipzig/Halle Airport, a civilian freight facility that also serves as a NATO logistics hub. German media reported that the drone was discovered close to several Ukrainian Antonov An-124 cargo aircraft.

The incidents have intensified concerns over the ability of Germany and other NATO members to counter emerging drone threats.

While German officials have not publicly blamed any foreign government, some lawmakers have pointed towards Russia.

Indian-origin PhD student found dead after solo hike in California

CALIFORNIA

An Indian-origin doctoral student at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), was found dead in California's Inyo National Forest after going missing during a solo hiking trip, according to reports. Vikram Mubayi, a PhD student in UCSB's Department of Chemical Engineering, had travelled to the Big Pine Lakes area over the weekend.

Mubayi was reported missing after his family lost contact with him. He last spoke to his family at around 8:30 pm on August 1 and shared his GPS location with them during the conversation. When he did not return as ex-

pected and stopped responding to calls and messages, his family contacted authorities and raised an alarm.

Search efforts followed, and Mubayi's body was later recovered from the Inyo National Forest on the evening of August 3. The circumstances surrounding his death remain unclear. Investigators are yet to determine the exact cause, and a full investigation is underway.

Officials have not reported any evidence of foul play so

Iraqi PM, Saudi Discuss Regional Security

BAGHDAD

Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi met Saudi general intelligence chief Khalid al-Humaidan to discuss coordination over regional security developments.

Zaidi said Iraq would not allow its territory to be used to launch attacks or activities targeting any other country. He reiterated Baghdad's commitment to protecting its sovereignty and preventing regional escalation.

The meeting came amid heightened tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran-aligned Iraqi armed groups after Riyadh last month carried out strikes in Iraq with U.S. Central Command that it said targeted groups responsible for attacks on Saudi oil facilities, and warned this week of imminent attacks by Iraqi militias and Yemen's Houthis.

Iran-aligned Iraqi armed groups had vowed to respond to the Saudi strikes, but the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella term for those factions, said on Friday it had postponed a response planned for the day following an appeal by Hadi al-Amiri, one of Iraq's most powerful pro-Iranian figures, and positions taken by unnamed political leaders.

Spain to establish border controls on travellers

MADRID

Spain's government said it would establish border controls for flights and ships from Italy from midnight on Saturday until September 7 in a dispute with the neighbouring country over irregular migration.Passport, nationality and visa checks would be conducted for Italian passengers and visitors from other countries arriving from Italy amid the persistent irregular migratory pressure from the country.Spain said the measures would apply while Italy applied its own measures which it said were motivated by the mass migration rush by 72,000 people on Spain's African enclave of Ceuta on July 30.

Earlier, Italy said it would not bow to ultimatums or impositions from Spain and would maintain border controls on arrivals from the country until at least August 15.

Spain threatened earlier to impose reciprocal measures on travelers from It-

Typhoon Dolphin hits Japan's Okinawa With 216 Kph Winds

TOKYO

Typhoon Dolphin lashed Japan's southern Okinawa prefecture, injuring six people, disrupting flights and cutting power to more than 50,000 buildings as authorities in China prepared for the storm's expected landfall along the eastern coast.

Five elderly people in Okinawa suffered non-life-threatening injuries, with three of them falling because of strong winds. Another person was injured in Kagoshima prefecture, authorities said.The typhoon brought maximum sustained winds of 162 kph, with gusts reaching 216 kph, prompting authorities to warn residents about dangerous conditions. Nearly 39,000 buildings were without power in Kagoshima, while more than 12,000 were affected in Okina-

Five elderly people in Okinawa suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

wa.Domestic airlines ANA and Japan Airlines cancelled flights to and from Okinawa as the storm disrupted transport across the region. Okinawa and Amami Island in Kagoshima were identified as the main areas expected to be affected in Japan.

China was preparing for a potentially stronger impact, with Dolphin expected to make landfall between late Sunday and early Monday. Authorities classified it as an orange-category typhoon, the country's second-highest warning level, and raised the emergency response level to III over concerns about flooding and landslides.

Lebanon, Israel agree shortlist of countries that could send troops

BEIRUT

Lebanon and Israel have agreed a shortlist of countries that could send troops to verify the disarmament of Hezbollah under a U.S.-brokered agreement, a Lebanese official said, with the United States due to pick countries from the list.

The official declined to identify any of the countries on the shortlist or say how many there were. Another Lebanese official and two foreign diplomats have previously told that Israel and the United States had vetoed France.

The list was produced during meetings between Lebanon and Israel at the U.S. embassy in Rome this week.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANJULA BAI MUNIKRISHNA RAO, W/O Mr. Munikrishna Rao, aged about 43 years, residing at Door No 73/1, 10th Cross, Mandur Village and Post, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluq, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560049, India, changed my name to MANJULA BAI, vide affidavit dated 01-07-2026 sworn before Notary R. Jyshree, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PASKU PEREIRA (old name), a resident of NO 14, GROUND FLOOR, 7TH MAIN, 20TH CROSS., NS PALYA, BTM 2ND STAGE, Bengaluru, 560076, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to PASKU FRANCIS PEREIRA (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 10-08-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gulnaaz Banu, R/o. Ward No.6, Edga Mohalla, Malavalli Town, my original gift deed dated 03-04-2024 in respect of the property assessment No.4968/4104/A, PID No.20-503-44A measuring 5.48 X 9.14 meters, the said property situated at Ward No.7, Edga Mohalla, Malavalli Town, as document No.MLV-1-00095-2024-25, the said gift deed last 4th page was lost and registered sale deed dated 12-02-2018, in respect of the said same property as document No.MLV-1-08503-2017-18, CD No.MLVD191, when I lost those documents while traveling on 03-06-2026. In this connection I filed the complaint before the Consent Police Station. In this connection endorsement issued on 08-08-2026. If anyone trace, please intimates me or said Police within 7 days.
By M. Guruprasad, Advocate No.2, M. Lingalaih Building, V.V. Road, Mandya-571401. Mob: 9242221603.

QUICK READ

Global tech sector sees 1.63 lakh layoffs

CH NEWS, New Delhi
Global technology companies have announced 1,63,427 layoffs since January 2026, with artificial intelligence cited as a factor in 91,215 job cuts. Enterprise software accounted for 13,308 layoffs, making it the fifth most affected technology segment. Nearly 88.6 per cent of these cuts occurred at US-based companies, with Cisco, Amdocs and Autodesk reporting major reductions. Oracle recorded the largest overall workforce reduction, cutting 25,254 jobs this year. In Asia and the Middle East, Israel reported the highest enterprise software layoffs, followed by India and Singapore. The report said companies are increasingly linking workforce restructuring to AI strategies, as businesses seek greater efficiency and invest heavily in artificial intelligence.

Amit Shah stresses cyber security for co-operative banks

The government is modernizing urban cooperative banks with nationwide core banking services to enhance security, technology, and competitiveness.

MUMBAI

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah stressed the need for stronger cybersecurity and modern technology in urban cooperative banks (UCBs), announcing the launch of a 24/7 Security Operations Centre (SOC) to help the sector respond to growing cyber threats.

Shah made the announcement while inaugurating the new office of the National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC) in Mumbai. The initiative is aimed at making urban cooperative banks more secure, technologically advanced and competitive. The government has also planned a

Key Highlights

- 24/7 SOC boosts cybersecurity.
- Smaller banks adopt digital banking.
- Shah urges UCBs to use NUCFDC.
- NUCFDC provides technical and compliance support.
- Goal: All banks join within year.

nationwide core banking service to support modernization across the sector.

The 24/7 Security Operations Centre will provide shared cybersecurity capabilities to participating cooperative banks, helping them monitor threats, identify suspicious

activities and respond more quickly to cyberattacks. The move comes as smaller banks increasingly adopt digital banking services and face the need for stronger protection of customer and financial data.

Shah has also encouraged urban cooperative banks to make greater use of the support and technology being developed through NUCFDC. The corporation is expected to play a wider role in providing technical expertise, compliance assistance and common digital infrastructure to banks.

The government has highlighted the need for greater participation of UCBs in shared platforms. Reports indicate that only around half of the nearly 1,400 urban cooperative banks have joined NUCFDC so far, with an objective of bringing the entire sector onto the common platform within the next year.

The minister's focus on cybersecurity comes alongside efforts to strengthen governance, technology adoption and operational risk management in cooperative banking. The government also released a practical guide on operational risk management for UCBs at the event.

The measures are expected to help smaller cooperative banks improve their digital capabilities while strengthening protection against cyber fraud and other emerging risks. The broader objective is to build a more secure, resilient and modern urban cooperative banking sector.

US tariff bill raises concerns over Indian's engineering exports

NEW DELHI

The US Senate's approval of a bill allowing President Donald Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on major importers of Russian energy has raised concerns among India's engineering exporters. Industry body EEPIC India said the proposed legislation could affect the competitiveness of Indian engineering goods if it becomes law.

The bill, known as the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, has not yet completed the US legislative process. It was passed by the Senate with an 86-11 vote and will now move to the House of Representatives. Senior Democrats in the House have raised objections to provisions that could impose tariffs on countries buying Russian energy.

Pankaj Chadha, Chairman of EEPIC India, said the development was concerning because the United States remains the largest market for Indian engineering products. He, however, cautioned that it would be premature to assess the legislation's exact impact before the bill completes the legislative process. Under the proposed legislation, the US administration would identify countries using trade data instead of specifically naming them in the law. The countries identified under the provisions would be reviewed every 180 days based on trade data from the preceding 12-month period.

Indian engineering exports to the US remained resilient during financial year 2025-26 despite tariffs introduced by the Trump administration. Engineering goods exports to the US reached \$19.60 billion during the year, registering 2.3 per cent growth compared with the previous year. EEPIC India said any additional levy could weaken the price competitiveness of Indian shipments in the US market. However, the industry body stressed that the final impact would become clearer only after the bill completes the US legislative process and the administration determines which countries could come under its provisions.

DPIIT signs five MoUs to strengthen startup support

NEW DELHI

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has signed five strategic Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with industry and ecosystem partners to strengthen support for startups through digital payments, cloud infrastructure, entrepreneurship, investment and global market access.

DPIIT signed an MoU with Cash free Payments India to help recognized startups access digital payment infrastructure, fintech solutions and capacity-building initiatives. Eligible startups will receive access to payment and payout services, identity verification and risk management solutions, along with onboarding support and other commercial benefits.

Another agreement with Darwin Dynamics aims to expand entrepreneurship opportunities in tier-2, tier-3 and rural areas. The partnership will promote mentorship, market


DPIIT expands startup partnerships

DPIIT signs five key agreements to strengthen India's startup ecosystem, offering mentorship, cloud support, AI solutions and global market access to emerging entrepreneurs.

access and capacity building, with a focus on areas including clean energy, green hydrogen, artificial intelligence, climate technology and advanced manufacturing.

DPIIT's partnership with Vultir India will focus on strengthening technology infrastructure available to startups. It will provide greater access to cloud computing resources, technical support and digital infrastructure, helping startups develop, scale and innovate more efficiently.

The department has also partnered with Cars24 to support innovation in the mobility and automotive technology ecosystem. The collaboration will focus on AI-driven innovation, founder development, skilling, investment opportunities and road safety initiatives.

The fifth MoU, with the Council for Startup India, will help DPIIT-recognised startups gain access to investment, strategic partnerships, mentorship, leadership development and international markets. The council will support investment readiness, corporate engagement, CFO matchmaking and global expansion.

The five partnerships are aimed at strengthening India's startup ecosystem by connecting entrepreneurs with technology, financial resources, industry networks and international opportunities.

Govt urges Meta to control harmful AI content

NEW DELHI

The government has asked Meta to take corrective measures against deepfakes and other harmful artificial intelligence-generated content on its platforms, according to sources. The Centre is also examining the role of Meta's recommendation algorithms and whether their functioning affects the company's status as an intermediary under Indian law.

The issue has gained importance as Meta's recommendation systems determine what content is shown to individual users and can promote certain content through paid mechanisms. Government officials are examining whether such active selection and promotion

Blurb: Officials are reviewing if actively selecting and promoting content aligns with the legal definition of an IT Act intermediary.



tent hosted, published, shared or transmitted through their platforms, provided they comply with prescribed due-diligence requirements. Section 79 of the IT Act, along with the Information Technology Rules, 2021, lays down these obligations.

Sources said that if a platform actively determines what users see, questions could arise over whether such functions amount to publishing content. In such a situation, the platform could potentially face greater accountability for material distributed through its systems.

The government's discussions with Meta over the past few days have also focused on deepfakes and other AI-generated material that could cause harm or mislead users. The Centre has sought corrective action from the company to address such content and strengthen safeguards.

Failure to comply with the required due-diligence obligations could result in the loss of intermediary protection under Section 79. In such circumstances, platforms may face action under applicable laws, including provisions of the IT Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The government is also expected to engage with other major digital platforms to examine whether their operations and recommendation systems comply with the legal definition of an intermediary in India.

Gold gains 4.73% weekly as fed bets weaken

MUMBAI

Gold prices surged 4.73 per cent during the week as a weaker US dollar and softer-than-expected US employment data reduced expectations of further interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve.

October gold futures on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) gained 0.11 per cent, while September silver futures rose 0.15 per cent. Gold stood at Rs 1,51,985 per 10 grams, while silver was priced at Rs 2,31,804 per kg.

According to data from the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), 24-carat gold was priced at Rs 1,49,621 per 10 grams on Friday, compared with Rs 1,42,863 at Monday's market opening. Precious metals were supported by declining US Treasury yields and a weaker dollar.

The US employment report showed that the economy unexpectedly lost 23,000 jobs in July, against expectations of an increase of around 80,000. Earlier payroll figures were also revised sharply lower, with revisions for the previous two months wiping out nearly 1,03,000 jobs.

The weaker labor market reduced expectations of a September Federal Reserve rate hike to around 44 per cent from nearly 58 per cent. The benchmark 10-year US Treasury yield declined to about 4.60 per cent after touching an intraday high of 4.68 per cent, supporting demand for precious metals.

Gold, which had faced pressure earlier in the week as geopolitical risk premiums eased following the postponement of a planned US strike on Iran, reversed sharply after



the employment data and climbed to a seven-week high.

Analysts said inflation remains an important risk, meaning the Federal Reserve's future policy decisions will depend heavily on upcoming inflation and labour-market data.

For COMEX gold, immediate resistance is seen at \$4,470-\$4,500, while support is placed at \$4,330-\$4,300. For MCX gold, resistance is expected at Rs 1,52,200-Rs 1,52,800, with support at Rs 1,50,000-Rs 1,50,700.

Investors will closely track the Federal Reserve's guidance, Treasury yields, the US dollar and developments around the Strait of Hormuz. The July US inflation report due next week will also be watched for clues on the central bank's policy direction.

NEW DELHI

Artificial intelligence is currently creating more jobs than it is displacing in India, with AI-linked hiring outpacing job losses by more than 51,000, according to a report by Nomura Holdings. The findings suggest that India's labor market is showing a relatively positive employment impact from the rapid adoption of AI.

India, which has long served as a major global hub for business-process outsourcing and technology services, is emerging as an important market for assessing AI's impact on employment. While automation has raised concerns over job displacement, the latest data indicates that demand for AI-related roles is growing faster than employment losses linked to the technology.

The Nomura report highlights a changing employment landscape in which companies are increasingly seeking workers with skills suited to AI-driven operations. New roles are emerging around artificial intelligence, data, technology and related services, even as some routine and repetitive positions face automation. The findings indicate that AI's impact on employment is not uniform across sectors or skill levels. India could see stronger demand for workers who can use AI tools and combine technical capabilities with industry knowledge. At the same time, workers in roles vulnerable to automation may need to upgrade their skills to remain competitive.

The report comes amid growing debate over whether AI will ultimately become a net creator or destroyer of jobs. India's large technology and services workforce makes the country an important test case as businesses integrate AI into everyday operations.

The latest assessment suggests that, so far, job creation linked to AI is exceeding displacement in India. However, the longer-term impact will depend on the pace of automation, business investment, worker reskilling and the creation of new AI-enabled industries and occupations.

ments in US Treasury yields. Higher global yields can make developed-market assets more attractive compared with emerging-market debt, potentially limiting foreign flows into Indian bonds.

The rupee's outlook is another important factor for overseas investors. Currency movements can influence returns from Indian government securities, making expectations for the domestic currency an important consideration alongside bond yields and interest rates. India has been seeking to deepen foreign participation in its govt bond market through measures aimed at improving access and reducing

India's resilient economy to support markets

MUMBAI

India's resilient economic fundamentals are expected to provide support to domestic financial markets, although global risks remain elevated amid geopolitical tensions, shifting trade policies and uncertainty in international financial conditions, according to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

The regulator said India's economic resilience, supported by domestic demand and relatively stable macroeconomic conditions, should help markets withstand external pressures. However, investors may continue to face volatility as developments in global markets influence capital flows, currencies and asset prices.

Global geopolitical tensions remain a key source of uncertainty. Changes in trade policies and tariff measures by major economies could affect international trade and investment flows, while disruptions in commodity markets may create additional inflationary pressures. SEBI also highlighted the importance of monitoring developments in global financial markets. Movements in major central bank policies, interest rates, bond yields and exchange rates can have a significant impact on emerging markets, including India.

Despite these risks, India's domestic economic strength provides an important cushion. Continued activity in key sectors, improving investment conditions and robust domestic consumption could support corporate earnings and market sentiment. The regulator has also stressed the need for investors and market participants to remain alert to emerging risks. Global shocks can quickly transmit to domestic markets through foreign portfolio flows, currency movements and changes in investor risk appetite.

India's financial system has strengthened its ability to absorb external shocks in recent years, supported by regulatory measures and improved market infrastructure.

However, heightened global uncertainty requires continued vigilance from regulators, financial institutions and investors.

SEBI's assessment indicates that while India remains relatively well positioned to navigate international headwinds, global risks cannot be ignored.

Foreign flows into Indian bonds may remain muted despite tax relief: SBI Funds

NEW DELHI

Foreign investment flows into Indian government bonds are likely to remain subdued in the near term despite tax relief on overseas purchases of sovereign debt, as global yields, domestic interest-rate conditions and expectations for the rupee continue to influence investor decisions, according to SBI Funds Management.

In its August 2026 Market Outlook, SBI Funds said the removal of taxes on foreign investments could support demand for Indian bonds, but the measure alone may not be enough to generate a significant



increase in foreign portfolio investment. The deferment of India's inclusion in a global bond index could further restrict incremental inflows.

SBI Funds expects the Reserve Bank of India to remain on an extended pause on interest rates, with the normalization of monetary policy likely to be pushed further out. This could also affect the attractiveness of Indian government securities for overseas investors, particularly when global bond yields remain elevated.

SBI Funds outlook

- Tax removal aids bond demand.
- Index inclusion delay limits inflows.
- RBI expected to pause rates.
- Global yields reduce market attractiveness.
- Currency outlook dictates investor caution.

The outlook comes amid changing global financial conditions, with investors closely tracking the interest-rate direction of major central banks and movements in US Treasury yields.

tax-related barriers. However, SBI Funds said foreign investors are likely to remain cautious until global and domestic conditions become more favourable.

The deferment of India's inclusion in a major global bond index has also affected expectations of a sharp rise in foreign portfolio investment. The report said investors may the refore adopt a wait-and-watch approach in the near term. SBI Funds' assessment highlights that tax relief is a positive step, but sustained foreign demand will depend on global yields, the rupee, India's interest-rate cycle and future developments concerning index inclusion.

Crude, rupee trends to drive commodity markets

NEW DELHI

Crude oil volatility and movements in the Indian rupee are expected to influence commodity markets next week, with analysts closely watching developments around the Strait of Hormuz.

Brent crude rose 1.29 per cent to \$83.55 a barrel, while WTI settled at \$78.18. Experts said a deal to reopen shipping through the Hormuz Strait could push prices lower, while renewed tensions may raise oil prices.

On the domestic market, MCX crude settled near Rs 7,400 after falling to around Rs 7,100. Resistance is seen at Rs 7,500-7,550, while Rs 7,380-7,300 may offer support.

Ariha makes history with Asian gold

Ariha Pangambam turned previous disappointment into historic success, becoming India's first Senior Women's Individual Asian Aerobic Gymnastics champion after months of intense training and determination

MANILA

Indian aerobic gymnast Ariha Pangambam created history by becoming the first Indian to win a gold medal in the Senior Women's Individual category at the Asian Aerobic Gymnastics Championships in the Philippines.

The 19-year-old secured the top position with a score of 19.100 points in the final, registering 8.650 in artistry, 7.600 in execution and 2.850 in difficulty.

For Ariha, the historic triumph was also a response to the disappointment she experienced at the previous edition of the Asian Championships, where she narrowly missed a podium finish after ending the competition in fourth place.

At that moment I was totally overwhelmed. This medal means a lot to me because I really wanted to have a medal not just for myself but for our whole country, Ariha told.

The previous fourth-place finish remained a strong source of motivation throughout her preparation. Ariha said she constantly reminded herself that she needed to return to the competition and secure a medal.

However, her focus extended beyond simply winning. She wanted her performance



DETAILS HIGHLIGHTING THE GOLD MEDAL	
Historic first	First Indian to win Senior Women's Individual gold at the Asian Aerobic Gymnastics Championships
Winning score	19.100 points in the final
Previous setback	Finished fourth at the previous Asian Championships
Training	Around six hours daily across morning and evening sessions
Key support	Shubham Jaglan (14-under)

to communicate her emotions and intentions to the judges and spectators.

I always wanted the people, whether the judges or the audience, to understand what I am trying to tell with my performance, she said.

Ariha revealed that she trained for around six hours every day, dividing her sessions between mornings and evenings. She credited her coach and parents for supporting her journey and helping her reach the historic milestone.

Neeraj Chopra congratulates Ashish Yadav on winning U20 Worlds silver

NEW DELHI

Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra has congratulated fellow Indian javelin thrower Ashish Yadav after his silver-medal finish at the World U20 Athletics Championships, calling the achievement particularly special from the perspective of a javelin thrower.

Ashish secured the second spot in the men's javelin final with a best effort of 74.09 metres, which came in his third attempt. His performance earned India a podium finish at the global junior event. Chopra, who recently won a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games, took to X to applaud the teenager and backed him to achieve greater success in the future.

Always a great feeling to see Indian athletes competing and winning at the International level; this one is a little more special for me as a javelin thrower. Super proud of you, Ashish, on your Silver at



the U-20 Worlds; this is just the start! Chopra wrote on X. South Africa's Heymans claimed the gold medal after producing a winning throw of 80.50 metres, while Dominica's James finished third with 73.89 metres.

India had another representative in the javelin competition, with T. Dharanidharan ending the event in sixth position. His best effort measured 72.35 metres. Ashish's silver adds to India's growing presence in javelin at the junior level, a discipline that has been transformed by Chopra's achievements over the past decade.

Chopra himself created history at the 2016 World U20 Championships by winning the javelin gold with a then-world junior record of 86.48 metres. He has since gone on to become India's most decorated track and field athlete, winning Olympic gold at Tokyo 2020 and silver at Paris 2024. He will now compete at the Lausanne Diamond League later this year.

'We let ourselves down with the bat': Simmons

DARWIN

Bangladesh head coach Phil Simmons admitted his side's batting performance was a major disappointment after they suffered an innings and 38-run defeat against a Cricket Australia XI in their final practice match ahead of the Test series.

Bangladesh were bowled out for just 54 in their second innings on Saturday after being forced to follow on, with left-arm pacer Campbell Thompson claiming 8-25 to complete a dominant victory for the CA XI. The visitors had made 263 in their first innings, with Mehidy Hasan Miraz scoring an unbeaten 109, but the CA XI responded with 355, led by Sam Wyllie's 130 and useful contributions from Doran and Kurtis Patterson.

Bangladesh began their second innings with two wickets already down and failed to put up a fight, with Tanzid Hasan's 22 the highest score. Their collapse came in only 17 overs and before lunch on the third day.



Jemimah's injury puts Asia cup at risk

Jemimah Rodrigues' hamstring injury has ended her Hundred campaign and left her Asia Cup participation uncertain ahead of India's continental challenge

LONDON

India batter Jemimah Rodrigues has been ruled out of the remainder of The Hundred after suffering a hamstring injury, raising serious doubts over her participation in the upcoming Women's T20 Asia Cup.

Representing Southern Brave in the 100-ball competition, Jemimah featured in six innings and scored 143 runs at an average of 35.75 and a strike rate of 131.19. Her campaign was cut short by the injury, forcing the fran-

chise to bring in Australian all-rounder Charli Knott as her replacement for the remainder of the tournament.

We can confirm that due to an injury suffered by Jemimah Rodrigues, we've signed Charli Knott as our injury replacement for the remainder of The Hundred. Wishing you a speedy recovery, Jemi, Southern Brave said in an official statement.

The injury comes at a crucial stage for India, with the Women's T20 Asia Cup scheduled to take place in Dubai from August 28 to September 13. Jemimah's availability for the continental tournament will depend on her recovery and response to treatment.

Jemimah has established herself as an important member of India's batting unit, particularly for her ability to handle both pace and spin and



accelerate during the middle overs. She also played a key role in India's 2025 ICC Women's ODI World Cup triumph.

India will begin its Group A campaign against Thailand on August 30, followed by matches against Hong Kong and Pakistan on September 3 and 5.

If Jemimah fails to recover in time, wicket-keeper-batter Yastika Bhatia could be considered as her replacement.

INDIA'S ASIA CUP CAMPAIGN

- **Tournament:** Women's T20 Asia Cup
- **Dates:** August 28 to September 13
- **India's opener:** Thailand, August 30
- **Other Group A opponents:** Hong Kong and Pakistan
- **Venue:** Dubai International Stadium

Sudharsan ruled out of Sri Lanka test

COLOMBO

India have suffered a major setback ahead of their two-Test series against Sri Lanka, with left-handed batter B. Sai Sudharsan ruled out of the opening Test due to a right big toe injury. The first Test begins on August 15 in Galle, while the second and final match is scheduled in Colombo from August 23 to 27. Sudharsan's participation in the second Test also remains doubtful as he continues his rehabilitation at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

Sai has been definitely ruled out of the first Test as he needs more time to fully recover from the pain in his right big toe, a source familiar with the matter told.

Sudharsan had been recovering from a stress reaction in his right foot and had resumed batting, fielding and conditioning exercises. However,

pain around the metatarsal of his big toe after skill work has raised concerns within the medical team.

In seven Tests, Sudharsan has scored 383 runs at an average of 31.91. His absence could open the door for Devdutt Padikkal, who has emerged as a possible like-for-like replacement after scoring a century in the ongoing warm-up match against Sri Lanka Cricket XI at the NCC Ground in Colombo.

Padikkal reached his hundred from 121 balls, hitting 14 fours before retiring out.

The Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel could also consider Ruturaj Gaikwad, who recently played in Sri Lanka with the India A team.

India are already without pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who was ruled out with a left knee injury. Auqib Nabi has been named as his replacement.

INDIA'S TEST SQUAD CONCERNS

- **Sudharsan:** Ruled out of first Test
- **Second Test:** His availability remains doubtful
- **Potential replacement:** Devdutt Padikkal or Ruturaj Gaikwad
- **Sudharsan's Test record:** 383 runs in seven Tests
- **Bumrah:** Already ruled out with a left knee injury
- **Bumrah's replacement:** Auqib Nabi



Liverpool set to sign Barcelona defender Ronald Araujo on loan

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool have reached an agreement to sign Barcelona defender Ronald Araujo on a season-long loan, according to reports, as the Premier League club look to strengthen their options at centre-back ahead of the new season.

The 27-year-old Uruguay international is set to join Liverpool on a straight loan deal, with no permanent transfer option understood to be included in the agreement, according to Sky Sports.

Araujo, who joined Barcelona from Uruguay in 2018, progressed through the club's reserve side before making his senior debut in 2019. He has since made more than 200 appearances for the Catalan club and was also named among Barcelona's captains following the departure of Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

The move comes at a time when Liverpool are facing a shortage of experienced options in central defence. Ibrahi-

ma Konate has left the club to join Real Madrid, while new signing Jeremy Jacquet is yet to feature in pre-season after recovering from shoulder surgery.

Jacquet, who arrived from Rennes this summer, is only 21 and has fewer than 100 senior appearances to his name. His lack of match fitness has added to Liverpool's concerns at the back.

Liverpool endured a challenging 2025-26 campaign, finishing 5th in the Premier League with 60 points from 38 matches (17 wins, 9 draws, 12 losses) to narrowly clinch Champions League qualification. They will also be without their talisman Mohammad Salah, who has left the club after nine successful years. Salah has joined Turkish club Trabzonspor. Liverpool have also suffered an injury setback involving Joe Gomez, who picked up a muscle problem in the club's opening pre-season fixture. Teenage centre-back Giovanni Leoni remains sidelined while recovering from an ACL injury.



Everything clicked at right time, says Denish Das

GUWAHATI

Captain Denish Das has expressed his happiness over how things have clicked for Barpeta Braves after his unbeaten 72 off just 45 balls set the tone for their 70-run win over Nagaon Rangers in the Assam Premier League (APL) 2026.

The result continued the side's turnaround after a slow start to the campaign, and Das is satisfied with playing a role in the change in their fortunes. Having lost their opening two fixtures, Barpeta Braves have now strung together back-to-back victories, with the bowlers making light work of the chase on the day - Bikiran Das (4/13) and Shubham Kumar Gupta (3/8) sharing seven wickets to bowl Nagaon Rangers out for 100.



For Das, the result was as much about the collective effort as his own innings. The Barpeta Braves captain was quick to credit his side's temperament through what had been a difficult opening phase of the tournament.

The team is feeling very relaxed after getting the first win of the tournament. Hats off to the boys because they remained really positive throughout these days and I'm very happy for them, he said after

Friday's match.

Reflecting on his own innings, which included four boundaries and sixes, he said it was built on a method he leans on match after match. Rather than overthinking the situation, Das trusted his natural game. Normally, I believe in myself and back my instinct. That's what I tell myself every day, and today everything clicked at the right time, he mentioned.

Beyond the result, Das was equally reflective on what the tournament represents for players across Assam. Das reckoned, Obviously, it is a huge platform, and we want to thank the ACA for giving us such a huge opportunity. Scouts are coming to these matches, and people are also watching us on television, so it provides us with a great chance to progress in our career.

KFA FACES FRESH SCRUTINY

KFA apologises over referee allegations

SEOUL

The Korea Football Association (KFA) apologised on Saturday over allegations that it provided sexual entertainment to foreign referees and match officials before and after international matches held in South Korea in 2011 and 2012.

The apology comes as the football governing body faces mounting scrutiny following South Korea's disappointing campaign at the 2026 FIFA World Cup and a series of controversies surrounding its operations.

Local media recently reported that the KFA had allegedly arranged such entertainment for foreign referees and match officials during



Deeply sorry for the disappointment and concern caused by the allegations and scrutiny.

- KFA



In announcing his resignation, the former KFA president acknowledged the successes and failures of his tenure.

- Chung Mong-gyu

several World Cup and Olympic qualifiers and friendly matches played in 2011 and 2012, reports Xinhua.

The association said it was deeply sorry for the disappointment and concern caused by a parliamentary hearing, a police raid on its headquarters and media reports concerning alleged irregularities dating

back more than a decade.

The KFA maintained that there are currently no such improper practices or use of corporate cards, while promising sweeping reforms aimed at strengthening transparency, ethical standards and public trust.

The association has also come under scrutiny over the

appointment of former national team head coach Hong Myung-bo. Police raided its headquarters earlier this week as part of an investigation into alleged irregularities surrounding the 2024 appointment process.

A parliamentary hearing was held last month, with former KFA president Chung Mong-gyu and Hong questioned over the national team's management and the association's operations.

Chung resigned as KFA president as criticism intensified following South Korea's World Cup campaign. The team finished third in Group A with three points after defeating the Czech Republic but losing to Mexico and South Africa.

Birla felicitates CWG Gold Medalist

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla felicitated boxer Arundhati Chaudhary for her Commonwealth Games gold, praising her determination and urging greater support for young athletes, especially daughters

JAIPUR

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday visited his Kota-Bundi constituency and felicitated star boxer Arundhati Chaudhary and her family at their residence following her gold-medal-winning performance at the recently concluded Commonwealth Games.

Birla congratulated Arundhati for her outstanding achievement and praised her dedication, hard work and determination, saying her success had brought pride not only to her family but also to the entire Kota-Bundi region.

The Lok Sabha Speaker said Arundhati's achievement was a source of inspiration



for young people, particularly daughters aspiring to establish themselves in sports and other fields. He stressed the importance of identifying and nurturing young talent and ensuring athletes receive the necessary support and oppor-

tunities to compete at the highest level.

Birla said accomplishments such as Arundhati's demonstrate the immense potential of India's youth and expressed confidence that the boxer would achieve

Highlights of the event
Om Birla felicitates Arundhati Chaudhary
Boxer wins Commonwealth Games gold
Birla praises her dedication and determination
Calls success an inspiration for daughters
Stresses equal opportunities in sports
Energy Minister Hiralal Nagar present

greater milestones in her sporting career.

He encouraged Arundhati to continue representing the country with dedication and bring further glory to India and the Kota-Bundi region. He also conveyed his best

wishes to her family for her future endeavours.

Birla emphasised that stories of determination and achievement can motivate the younger generation to overcome challenges and pursue their ambitions with confidence.

He further underlined the need to encourage daughters to participate in sports and provide them equal opportunities to develop their abilities. The visit highlighted the growing recognition of sporting talent from Rajasthan and the importance of supporting athletes representing the state and country on international platforms. Energy Minister Hiralal Nagar was also present on the occasion.

FIFA faces growing leadership crisis

BRUSSELS

Football faced the prospect of a governance standoff as FIFA President Gianni Infantino came under pressure from European bodies, while allies rallied behind his leadership.

Norwegian Football Federation President Lise Klaveness called for Infantino's resignation, arguing that he no longer enjoyed the institutional confidence needed to govern world football. Her demand came after several European associations withdrew support for the FIFA chief.

Klaveness said football needed to move beyond power struggles and focus on governance reform. She warned that international football co-operation was in serious trouble and called for a direction under new leadership.

The dispute follows Infantino's decision last week to abandon a proposal to raise around \$4.2 billion through the sale of a stake in commercial rights linked to the World Cup and other tournaments. The move triggered concerns among football bodies over transparency and governance.

UEFA, European football's governing body, maintained its threat to boycott FIFA-organised events, saying conditions for restoring cooperation had not been met. It has demanded assurances that similar attempts to reshape football's commercial structure will not be repeated.

At the same time, Infantino



FIFA STANDOFF
• UEFA maintains boycott threat
• Norway demands Infantino's resignation
• CAF backs Infantino unanimously
• Mexico and Argentina support FIFA chief
• CONMEBOL raises concerns over unilateral actions

received backing from Mexico and Argentina, after the Confederation of African Football unanimously supported his leadership. Mexico's federation broke ranks with CONCACAF, which has joined UEFA in calling for greater accountability.

South American confederation CONMEBOL voiced concern over repeated unilateral actions without adequate dialogue, highlighting divisions within global football.

The dispute now leaves FIFA facing competing demands for reform, transparency and stronger consultation with national and regional associations.

Bennacer leaves AC Milan after seven years

TURIN

AC Milan have parted ways with midfielder Ismael Bennacer, bringing an end to the Algeria international's seven-year spell with the Italian club.

Milan announced that Bennacer's contract had been terminated by mutual consent, concluding a relationship that began when the midfielder joined the Serie A side from Empoli in 2019.

The 28-year-old made 137 Serie A appearances for Milan and played an important role in the club's successful 2021-22 campaign, when they won the Scudetto.

However, persistent knee injuries and fitness problems disrupted his career at San Siro in recent seasons. Bennacer spent periods away from Milan on loan, including spells with Olympique de Marseille and Dinamo Zagreb.

His injury struggles limited his availability and prevented him from maintaining the consistency he had shown during his earlier years with the Rossoneri. He last played a competitive match for Milan in 2024. Milan confirmed the termination in a brief statement and wished the midfielder well for the future.

Bennacer's departure marks the conclusion of a seven-year association that included both major success and difficult



BENNACER AT MILAN
• Joined Milan from Empoli in 2019.
• Made 137 Serie A appearances.
• Part of 2021-22 Scudetto-winning team.
• Spent loan spells at Marseille and Dinamo Zagreb.
• Last played competitively for Milan in 2024.

periods. He was a key figure in Milan's midfield during their title-winning season and became an important part of the team under successive managers.

The mutual termination now gives the Algerian midfielder an opportunity to seek a fresh start and revive his career after several seasons affected by injuries.

For Milan, his exit brings an end to a long-term relationship with a player who contributed significantly during one of the club's most important recent campaigns.

Ryan Waldschmidt's walk-off HR lifts D-backs over Dodgers

ARIZONA

Ryan Waldschmidt hit a walk-off two-run homer with one out in the ninth inning and the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the Dodgers 4-3 in Phoenix, sending Los Angeles to its seventh consecutive loss.

Max Kepler walked to open the ninth off Edwin Diaz (1-1). Pinch runner Jorge Barrosa stole second with one out before Waldschmidt lined a 411-foot homer to left center. It was the rookie's second homer, his first to end a game. Nolan Arenado homered and Geraldo Perdomo had a dou-



ble, a triple and an RBI for the D-backs. Tommy Edman had two hits and an RBI for the Dodgers.

Arizona starter Merrill Kelly no-hit the Dodgers for five innings before removing himself with a right leg cramp after giving up two hits, two walks and a run in the sixth. Dodgers starter Roki Sasaki gave up two runs and four hits in six innings.

Payton Tolle recorded a career-high 14 strikeouts and Jarren Duran homered to help Boston extend its winning streak to nine games by beating the visiting Athletics.

Duran's third home run in the past five games came against Jack Perkins (2-8) and ignited a five-run second inning. Tolle (7-6) didn't allow a baserunner until Tyler Soderstrom led off the fifth with a homer. He was pulled after six innings, having yielded one run on two hits and no walks.

The Athletics were limited to two hits in their ninth consecutive loss. Perkins gave up five runs on five hits in three innings. Ryan McMahon notched a walk-off sacrifice fly in the 10th inning and host New York rallied for a victory over Atlanta after a lengthy rain delay before the first pitch.

McIlroy set for FedExCup playoff return

SOUTHPORT

Rory McIlroy will return to the FedExCup Playoffs next week, committing to compete in the FedEx St. Jude Championship in Memphis, the PGA Tour announced.

The Northern Ireland star had skipped the playoff opener at TPC Southwind last year but will now join a 70-player field at the Memphis tournament.

McIlroy's participation adds considerable star power to the opening event of the postseason. World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler, defending FedExCup champion Tommy Fleetwood and defending FedEx St. Jude Championship winner Justin Rose are also expected to compete.

The 37-year-old McIlroy will make only his 12th start of the season. He has not played competitively since The Open Championship last month and will now return to action with his focus firmly on the FedExCup title.

McIlroy currently sits 12th in the FedExCup standings. His only victory of the season came at The Masters in April, where he completed the career Grand Slam.

The upcoming tournament presents McIlroy with another opportunity to build momentum during the crucial closing stretch of the PGA Tour season. He will be seeking his fourth FedExCup title, having previously won the season-long competition three times.

His decision to compete in Memphis marks a change from last year, when he opted to miss the playoff opener.



Arsenal secure Newcastle Captain Bruno Guimaraes

LONDON

Arsenal have signed Newcastle United captain Bruno Guimaraes on a four-year contract with a further one-year option, the Premier League champions announced on Saturday.

The North London club have agreed a deal reported by British media to be worth around 75 million pounds (\$101.16 million) for the Brazil international, adding one of the Premier League's most influential midfielders to

Mikel Arteta's squad.

Since the first time I spoke to (Arsenal Sporting Director Andrea) Berta and Mikel, I was excited. I just felt inside of me that I need a new challenge in my life and I think to be an Arsenal player is going to be an exciting challenge in my life, Guimaraes said in a statement on the club's website.

I am so excited to start. We have tough games to play this season, so the squad is going to be very, very important and I'm hopeful we can achieve



our dreams.

The midfielder joined Newcastle from Olympique Lyonnais in January 2022 and quickly established himself as one of the league's standout performers, playing a central role in the north-east club's rise over the past three seasons.

He played for Brazil at this year's World Cup and has been a regular presence in the national team in recent years. The move comes as another blow for Newcastle following the departures of key players Anthony Gordon and Sandro Tonali, as well as manager Eddie Howe, who stepped down from the role and was replaced by German coach Matthias Jaissle. Guimaraes' arrival at The Emirates marks another significant statement of intent from Arsenal as they seek to retain their Premier League title and strengthen their challenge in Europe. The 28-year-old has built a reputation as one of the league's most complete midfielders, combining defensive solidity with creativity and attacking output.

Newcastle did not want to sell Guimaraes, says director Wilson

GLASGOW

Newcastle United did not want to sell captain Bruno Guimaraes, sporting director Ross Wilson said after reports linked the Brazil midfielder with a move to Arsenal.

British media reported on Wednesday that Arsenal had agreed a deal worth £75 million (\$100 million) for the 28-year-old. Neither club has confirmed the reported transfer or responded to requests

for comment.

We didn't want to sell Bruno. It wasn't in the plan to sell Bruno. None of us — or ownership — wanted to sell Bruno, Wilson told reporters at Newcastle's pre-season training camp in Spain.

He's our captain, he was very important to us, and the debate over his price — it's a world-record fee for a player of his age.

What we had to weigh up was, very respectfully from Bruno with his behaviour to-

OSAKA

Australia began new coach Les Kiss' tenure with a hard-fought 35-32 victory over Japan on Saturday, surviving a thrilling nine-try contest played in muggy conditions.

The Wallabies were forced to withstand sustained pressure from an ambitious Japan side, which refused to surrender despite Australia establishing control during key stages of the match.

Experienced outside backs Harry Potter and Tom Wright scored tries for Australia during a tightly contested first half. Japan responded through flyhalf prospect Ryunosuke Ito and powerful number eight Faulau Makisi, leaving the teams level at the break.

Ito, promoted from university rugby into the national side by Japan coach Eddie Jones, opened the scoring with an impressive individual effort. The young playmaker weaved past three Australian defenders before touching down beneath the posts.

Australia responded through Potter, who capitalised on a Japanese handling error before cutting inside to score. After an early water break, the Wallabies began using their physical advantage through the forwards and created opportunities out wide, allowing Wright to add another try.

Australia extended its advantage after halftime through winger Max Jorgensen, flanker Fraser McReight and replacement Taniela Tupou.

Japan continued to fight, with winger Kazuma Ueda and captain Warner Dearn crossing the line. Fullback Takuro Matsunaga also added two penalties to keep the hosts within reach until the final whistle.

Australia faced an additional challenge when lock Miles Amatosero received a 20-minute red card for a high tackle on Dearn.

Kiss admitted Australia had given Japan too many opportunities but praised his team for securing the test victory.



Australia edge Japan in nine-try thriller



TOXIC Trailer Time Revealed Ahead of Release



The makers of Yash's film Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups have released an action poster, creating excitement among fans ahead of the trailer launch.

The poster shows Yash walking confidently as a fire explosion appears behind him. Dressed in a black jacket and trousers, Yash sports a heavy beard and stylish look. The image captures an action moment, with Yash seemingly setting off an explosion before walking away.

The team announced that the trailer will be unveiled today at 7:01 pm. Fans reacted to the poster on social media, sharing their excitement.

Several fans pointed to the number eight, which has a connection with Yash, who was born on January 8. A fan

Toxic marks Yash's much-awaited return to theatres after his previous blockbuster KGF: Chapter 2. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, the film is set in 1990s Goa and follows a gangster action story. Yash appears in dual roles as father and son, while the multilingual release will reach audiences in Kannada, English, Malayalam, Telugu, Hindi and Tamil.

highlighted dates August 8, 2024, August 8, 2026, and August 26, 2026, linked to shooting, trailer and film release.

Toxic is directed by Geetu Mohandas and co-written by Mohandas and Yash. The gangster action thriller is set in Goa during the late 1990s. Yash plays dual roles as a father and son.

The film stars Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Rukmini Vasanth, Tara Sutaria, Huma Qureshi, Akshay Oberoi, Sudev Nair and Amit Tiwari.

Toxic has been shot in Kannada and English and will be released in Malayalam, Telugu, Hindi and Tamil. The film is scheduled to reach theatres on August 26. Reports suggest the trailer may be launched at Bengaluru event, though the makers have not confirmed the venue.

MAGUDAM Trailer Showcases Vishal's Triple Action Avatars

Actor-director Vishal has unveiled Magudam trailer, promising fans a powerful action thriller filled with revenge, betrayal and multiple avatars



Actor Vishal has unveiled the trailer of Magudam, also titled Makutam in Telugu, ahead of its theatrical release on August 14, 2026. The film marks Vishal's directorial debut and adds interest to the project.

The trailer presents Vishal in three avatars, showing various stages of his character's life. He appears first as a corporate employee, later as a dangerous gangster, and finally as an older, battle-hardened assassin. The looks create mystery and suggest a story filled with action, revenge and connections.

Vamsi Krishna, Abu Salim, Arjai, VJ Jhansi, Padam Kumar and Sabumon.

Vishal has also handled the screenplay and direction, making the film a step in his career. G.V. Prakash Kumar has composed the music, while Dhillip Subbarayan has choreographed the action sequences. Super Good Films is producing the project as its 99th production.

The trailer promises guns, intense fights, emotional conflict and revenge. With Tamil and Telugu versions, Magudam is expected to attract audiences in both markets. The film will reach theatres on August 14 soon.

Suriya, Mamitha Baiju Promise Unusual Romance In Vishwanath

The trailer of Suriya and Mamitha Baiju's upcoming family entertainer Vishwanath and Sons has been released, offering a glimpse of its unusual love story.

Directed by Venky Atluri, Vishwanath and Sons follows Sanjay Vishwanath, played by Suriya, a shooting champion whose family faces a difficult situation.

The trailer introduces Sanjay's young son Abhay, who suffers from a medical condition and needs a bone marrow transplant. Mamitha Baiju enters the story as Maddy, the donor who helps the family during the crisis.

Maddy is shown as a lively woman who gradually develops feelings for Sanjay. Their relationship forms the main part of the story, with the film exploring an unusual age-gap romance. The trailer suggests that the movie will focus on love, parenthood and second chances.

Radhika Sarathkumar and Raveena Tandon are part of the cast and play important roles. The film is produced by Naga Vamsi under the Sithara Entertainment banner. Vishwanath and Sons is scheduled to arrive in theatres on August 14, 2026. G V Prakash Kumar has composed the music, while Nimish Ravi is the cinematographer. Navin Nooli has handled editing and Banglan is responsible for production design.

Suriya was last seen in RJ Balaji's Karuppu, a devotional action drama that also featured Trisha.

Hi Release Postponed, Nayanthara-Kavin Film Gets New Date



Nayanthara and Kavin's upcoming romantic-comedy Hi has been postponed, with the makers announcing a new theatrical release date of August 28.

The film was earlier scheduled to release on August 14. The announcement follows days of online speculation about the delay. The makers described Hi as the most heartwarming entertainer of the season and a fulfilled romantic-comedy.

Hi is written and directed by Vishnu Edavan, with additional screenplay and dia-

logues by CU Muthuselvan. The film marks the first collaboration between Nayanthara and Kavin. Nayanthara plays a character named after herself, while Kavin portrays her romantic interest.

The lead actors appeared together in a video announcing the postponement. Their playful conversation offered a glimpse of the chemistry and light-hearted mood expected from the film.

The cast also includes Radikaa Sarathkumar, the late Bhagyaraj, Prabhu, VTV Ganesh, Sathyan, Amrutha Srinivasan, Aadithya Kadhir, Kureshi, FEFSI Vijayan, Kaviya Arivumani and Mirchy Kemy.

The film is produced by Vignesh Shivan and Nayanthara under Rowdy Pictures, along with SS Lalit Kumar of Seven Screen Studio. Zee Studios is associated with the project, which is expected to have its digital premiere on ZEE5.



Game of Thrones Movie Aegon's Conquest Confirmed For Theatres

Warner Bros. Discovery has confirmed Aegon's Conquest as the first theatrical movie set in the Game of Thrones universe.

The film was announced during Warner Bros. Discovery's 2027 slate presentation, where the studio revealed plans for major releases beyond 2027. Aegon's Conquest will explore the Targaryen invasion and unification of Westeros, around 300 years before the events of Game of Thrones.

The story will follow Aegon I Targaryen and his sisters, Visenya and Rhaenys, as they begin their campaign to conquer the Seven Kingdoms.

Riding the powerful dragons Balerion the Black Dread, Vhagar and Meraxes, the Targaryens eventually bring six kingdoms under their control and establish the Iron Throne.

The conquest has been mentioned in Game of Thrones, House of the Dragon and The Knight of the Seven Kingdoms, but it has never been shown in a live-action production.

The project is still in its early stages, and no actors have been officially announced for the leading roles.

Fans have already suggested names including Henry Cavill and Harry Goodwins for Aegon, while Anya Taylor-Joy, Daisy Edgar-Jones, Vanessa Kirby and Rebecca Fergus-

son have been suggested for Visenya and Rhaenys. Details about production and the theatrical release date remain unknown. Reports suggest the movie could arrive in cinemas in 2028 at the earliest.

If completed, Aegon's Conquest could bring the franchise's biggest dragon spectacle to the big screen and show the beginning of the Targaryen dynasty in Westeros.



'The Traitors' Season Two Trailer Promises Bigger Twists

The Traitors Season Two trailer has been released, promising bigger twists, stronger strategies and intense drama ahead of its August 13 premiere.

Prime Video India has unveiled the trailer for the second season of celebrity reality show The Traitors, hosted by Karan Johar. The new season will premiere exclusively on August 13, with new episodes arriving every Thursday.

Shot at Suryagarh Palace in Jaisalmer, the season features 21 celebrity contestants from entertainment, music and digital media. The lineup includes Munawar Faruqui, Rhea Chakraborty, Shweta Tiwari, Mallika Sherawat, Krystle D'souza, Abhishek Malhan, Ranveer Brar, Shalini Passi, Soundous Moufakir and others.

Johar returns as host and will be joined by a new character called Boo, described as the harbinger of Buri Khabar, or bad news.

The show follows Innocents as they try to identify hidden Traitors before being eliminated. Meanwhile, the Traitors must stay secret while removing their opponents from the competition.

Johar said the first season offered viewers a different style of reality television. He added that Season Two is bigger, sharper and more unpredictable. The host also revealed that friendships will face challenges, trust will turn into suspicion and alliances will break during the competition.



Sanjeeda Shaikh Says Fooled Into Action In Dhamaal

Sanjeeda Shaikh revealed she expected comedy in Dhamaal 4, but ended up performing several action sequences alongside Ajay Devgn. Sanjeeda Shaikh has opened up about her experience of working on Dhamaal 4, saying she was surprised by the amount of action her role required. The actor joined the popular comedy franchise alongside Ajay Devgn, Riteish Deshmukh, Arshad Warsi and Jaaved Jaferi.

Sanjeeda recalled how director Indra Kumar offered her the role after watching her performance in Heeramandi. The filmmaker initially felt she was a serious actor. Sanjeeda said she asked him for an opportunity to show her comic side.

Working with experienced comedy actors pushed Sanjeeda to improve her performance. She said Ajay, Arshad and Riteish have strong comic timing and can make a scene entertaining even without saying much. Her main aim was to ensure that her character remained noticeable and did not look out of place in the established franchise.

However, Sanjeeda said the film brought an unexpected challenge. She was told that her role would mainly involve comedy, but many of her scenes included action.

She jokingly said she was fooled into doing action.

According to the actor, the situation became a regular joke on the sets. She pointed out that while Ajay Devgn was present, she was asked to perform several action sequences.

The contrast between Ajay handling comedy and Sanjeeda doing action made the experience even more amusing for the team.

Dhamaal 4 continues the franchise's mix of comedy, chaos and action, with Sanjeeda adding a new dimension to the established series.

Ottam Thullal Postponed Again Due To Kerala Floods

Vishnu Unnikrishnan's upcoming Malayalam family entertainer Ottam Thullal has been postponed again due to heavy rain and flooding across Kerala.

Director G Marthandan announced the latest change on social media. The film was scheduled to release on August 7, but the difficult weather conditions have forced the makers to delay it.

A new release date has not been announced yet.

Ottam Thullal was earlier planned for July 24. The makers later moved it to August 7 to avoid a clash with Tamil

Nadu Chief Minister Vijay's much-awaited film Jana Nayagan.

The film is described as a family entertainer set in a rural backdrop. Vishnu Unnikrishnan plays the lead role and is supported by Vijayarghavan, Harisree Ashokan, Kalabhavan Shajohn, Pauly Valasan, Tini Tom, Manoj KU, Sreepath and Binu Sasiram.

Binu Sasiram has written the screenplay. Pradeep Nair is the cinematographer, Johnkutty is the editor and Rahul Raj has composed the music.

The latest postponement

comes as Kerala continues to face heavy rainfall and flooding in several areas. The makers are expected to announce a fresh release date after the weather situation improves.

Director G Marthandan made his directorial debut with Mammooty's Dai-vathinte Swantham Cleetus. He later directed Acha Dhin, Paavada, Johnny Johnny Yes Appa and Maharani.

Vishnu Unnikrishnan was last seen in Kiran Narayanan's Revolver Rinko. Fans will now have to wait for further updates on Ottam Thullal and its new theatrical release date. The team hopes audiences will receive the film once conditions become safer across the state again.