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Wishes pour in as Modi becomes India's longest-serving elected PM

Leaders across parties hailed Modi's milestone and years of governance

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday became India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister, completing 4,399 consecutive days in office and surpassing the record held by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. The milestone triggered congratulatory messages from constitutional authorities, Union ministers, NDA allies and political leaders across the country.

Marking the occasion, Modi reiterated that public service remains the true benchmark of good governance. Sharing a Sanskrit verse on social media, he said only those who work with humility, dedication and a strong sense of duty earn the trust of the people.

President Droupadi Murmu described the achievement as a reflection of the confidence reposed in Modi's leadership and highlighted advances in governance, economic resilience and welfare delivery during his tenure. Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan termed it a historic milestone representing an era of trans-



Service to the people is the ultimate test of good governance. Only those who work tirelessly with humility and dedication earn the trust of the public.

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

formation. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said the achievement symbolised the strength of Indian democracy and public trust. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hailed Modi as a "Karmayogi", while Home Minister Amit Shah credited his leadership with restoring India's global standing and driving major reforms.

NDA leaders, including Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, RS MP Nitish Kumar and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, also extended their greetings. BJP workers across the country organised prayers and special events to mark the occasion.

World leaders hail Modi's record tenure

World leaders on Wednesday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he became India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister, completing 4,399 consecutive days in office. Leaders from several countries praised his leadership and India's rising global stature. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison called Modi "a true statesman," while Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim lauded his dedication to public service and national development. Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu said the achievement reflected the enduring trust of Indian citizens, and Kenyan President William Ruto hailed Modi's perseverance and commitment to public service. Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih termed the achievement a historic milestone and praised the strengthening of bilateral ties under Modi's leadership.

Modi's Record Tenure

Consecutive days in office:	4,399
First sworn in:	May 26, 2014
Current term:	Third consecutive term
Record surpassed:	Jawaharlal Nehru (4,398 elected days)



Jhalmuri moment marks NDA celebration of Modi's record tenure

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared jhalmuri with NDA leaders during a meeting at Bharat Mandapam on Wednesday, marking 12 years of the NDA government and his record as India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister. West Bengal Chief Minister Suvenhu Adhikari served the popular Bengali snack to Modi, who then asked the vendor to offer it to other alliance leaders as well. The Prime Minister later shared a video of the moment on social media. The meeting also featured a group photograph and discussions on governance, while NDA leaders congratulated Modi on completing 4,399 consecutive days in office.

Ashoka alleges ₹39,000 cr garbage tender scam, submits complaint to Governor

BENGALURU

Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka on Wednesday accused the Karnataka government of orchestrating a massive ₹39,000 crore scam through a long-term garbage processing tender awarded for Bengaluru's waste management system.

Addressing a press conference, Ashoka alleged that the 35-year contract awarded to MSWS Solutions Limited, reportedly linked to the Ramky Group, involved irregularities and inflated costs. He claimed that nearly ₹10,000 crore of the total project value amounted to kickbacks and described

the deal as the "largest garbage scam in the country."

According to Ashoka, Bengaluru currently spends about ₹1,344 crore annually on garbage collection, transportation, processing and civic worker salaries. He alleged that the new agreement would sharply increase waste-processing charges, placing a massive financial burden on the city's civic administration over the coming decades. The BJP leader questioned the decision to award both North and South Bengaluru packages to a single company despite objections reportedly raised by the Finance Department.



This is the biggest garbage scam in the country. The tender will impose an enormous burden on Bengaluru and must be cancelled immediately. —R Ashoka, Leader of Opposition

GARBAGE TENDER CONTROVERSY

- Project value: ₹39,000 crore disarmament
- Contract period: 30 years plus 5-year extension
- Company awarded: MSWS Solutions Limited
- Alleged kickbacks claimed by BJP: ₹10,000 crore
- Complaint submitted to Governor seeking probe

Former PM says he never sought renomination, values long-standing ties

My relationship with Modi won't end over Rajya Sabha seat: Deve Gowda

BENGALURU

Former Prime Minister and JD(S) patriarch H D Deve Gowda on Wednesday dismissed speculation surrounding his Rajya Sabha future, asserting that his relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not dependent on a parliamentary seat.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Gowda clarified that he had never sought renomination to the Rajya Sabha and had not approached the BJP leadership regarding another term. His current tenure in the Upper House is set to end on June 25, bringing to a close a long career in elected public office.

The veteran leader said his association with Modi has evolved over the years and would continue irrespective of political developments.

Responding to criticism from the Congress that the BJP had denied him an opportunity



I have developed a relationship with Modi since 2014. My relationship with the Prime Minister will not end because of one Rajya Sabha seat.

—HD Deve Gowda, JD(S) patriarch

to continue in the Rajya Sabha, Gowda maintained that he had not requested a fresh nomination. He added that had he been interested, he could have discussed the matter during his recent visit to New Delhi.

Reflecting on his political journey, Gowda noted that his public life began in 1960 with the Taluk Development Board and has spanned more than six decades.



CM meets Sonia, Rahul amid key political developments

NEW DELHI

Karnataka Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar on Wednesday met Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at 10 Janpath in New Delhi, amid a politically significant day marked by developments within opposition parties.

Earlier in the day, Shivakumar visited the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) office and the Youth Congress headquarters in the national capital. He later interacted with Mahila Congress leaders and workers at Indira Bhawan.

The meeting at Sonia Gandhi's residence comes at a time when opposition politics is witnessing heightened activity. Earlier on Wednesday, TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee also met Rahul Gandhi. The interaction followed recent discussions between Sonia Gandhi and Mamata Banerjee amid the ongoing political turmoil within the Trinamool Congress.

K'taka seeks Centre's nod for major transport projects

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday urged the Centre to expedite approvals for several key transport and urban infrastructure projects aimed at easing mobility in and around Bengaluru. In a memorandum submitted to Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, the state sought clearance for the 44.65-km double-decker Metro corridor under Phase III, the revised ₹40,425-crore cost estimate for Metro Phase II, and the ₹25,999-crore Metro Phase III-A project connecting Sarjapur and Hebbal.

KARNATAKA'S KEY DEMANDS TO CENTRE ON URBAN TRANSPORT

Double-Decker Metro (Phase III)	Metro Phase II Revised Cost
44.65 km elevated corridor	Length: 72.095 km
Project cost: ₹9,700 crore	Stations: 61
Fully funded by Karnataka	Cost revised from ₹26,405 crore to ₹40,425 crore
Centre asked for final implementation approval	State seeks early approval

Metro Phase III-A	Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)
Sarjapur-Hebbal corridor	Proposed links:
Length: 37.804 km	Bengaluru-Mysuru
Cost: ₹25,999 crore	Bengaluru-Kanakapura
Revised DPR submitted on April 29, 2026	Bengaluru-Tumakuru
Approval requested	Bengaluru-Chikkaballapur
	Bengaluru-Kolar

Objective: Faster regional connectivity and improved commuter mobility.

Dissident MPs deepen crisis for Mamata Banerjee

KOLKATA

The political turmoil within the Trinamool Congress (TMC) intensified on Wednesday as reports emerged that as many as 19 Members of Parliament have aligned with a growing dissident faction, raising fresh questions about the party's unity and future under the leadership of Mamata Banerjee.

The latest developments come amid a series of setbacks for the party. Earlier in the day, Rajya Sabha MP Sushmita Dev resigned from Parliament, becoming the second TMC MP this week to quit after Sukhendu Sekhar Ray stepped down from both the party and the Upper House.

According to reports, MPs linked to the dissident camp include Yusuf Pathan, Abu Taher Khan, Partha Bhownik, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Bapi Halder, Sayoni Ghosh,



Rachana Banerjee, Asit Mal, K Rahman, Sharmila Sarkar, Mitali Bag, Shatrughan Sinha, Kalipada Soren, June Malia, Mala Roy, Dev Adhikari, Satabdi Roy, Jagadish Chandra Barma Basunia and Arup Chakrabarty.

The rebellion gained momentum after MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar claimed that nearly 20 TMC MPs were seeking alignment with the NDA. She has emerged as a key face of the dissident group challenging the party leadership.

US-IRAN TENSIONS

Trump warns Iran of consequences as tensions escalate

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday warned that Iran would "pay the price" for delaying negotiations, as hostilities between the two countries intensified despite ongoing diplomatic efforts to secure a lasting settlement.

In a strongly worded post on his Truth Social platform, Trump claimed that Iran's military had been "completely defeated" and accused Tehran of missing an opportunity to reach a favourable agreement with Washington.

The remarks marked a sharp shift in tone from comments made a day earlier, when Trump had suggested



They've taken too long to negotiate a deal that would have been great for them, now they will have to pay the price.

—Donald Trump, US President

negotiations were in their final stages and could conclude within days.

The latest escalation follows military exchanges between the United States and Iran that have strained a ceasefire in effect since April. US forces reportedly carried out retaliatory strikes after an American helicopter was downed on Monday. Iranian media reported explosions along the country's southern coast following the strikes.

US Central Command later confirmed that American Air Force and Navy assets had targeted command-and-control, defence and surveillance facilities. In response, Iran said it launched attacks on American military bases in Jordan and Bahrain.

Why tensions flared again

The latest confrontation erupted after Iran was accused of downing a US military helicopter earlier this week. Washington responded with strikes targeting military infrastructure, while Tehran retaliated by claiming attacks on American bases in the region. The developments have raised concerns about the future of ongoing negotiations aimed at achieving a durable peace agreement between the two longtime adversaries.

US-IRAN CONFLICT: KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- April 2026: Ceasefire between the United States and Iran takes effect.
- June 9: US helicopter reportedly downed, triggering retaliation.
- June 10: US conducts strikes on Iranian military facilities
- June 10: Iran claims attacks on US bases in Jordan and Bahrain.
- Current status: Diplomatic talks continue amid renewed military tensions.

“PhD is measured by impact, not by the number of pages”

MYSURU

A PhD is not about how many pages they write in their thesis. What truly matters are the impact their research creates on society, opined Dr. H. Basavanagowdappa, Vice-Chancellor of JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research (JSS AHER).

Presiding over the PhD Research Scholars' Induction Programme held at the Dr. Rajendra Auditorium of JSS College of Pharmacy in Shivarathreshwara Nagar, Mysuru on Wednesday, he said that a PhD represents the highest level of academic achievement in any university or educational institution. It is not merely a process of earning a degree, but a commitment to discovering new knowledge and finding innovative solutions to the challenges faced by humanity. The research scholars must not remain merely researchers but to evolve into effective

communicators, leaders, problem-solvers, innovators, and responsible global citizens.

He emphasized that research lacking innovation and merely following the work of others has little value. So, they must uphold honesty in data collection and reporting. They should never adopt an attitude of completing research by any means necessary, nor should they manipulate data or engage in plagiarism under any circumstances. Transparency is essential for becoming a credible and successful researcher.

The VC noted that the reputation earned by researchers is often more valuable than the number of papers they publish. Hence, quality must always take precedence over quantity. Rather than chasing publications, scholars should focus on meaningful research that can create a positive impact on society and strive to publish in high-quality journals. The students to constant-



ly ask themselves, “Can my research truly make a difference?” as a way of becoming better researchers.

Highlighting the importance of collaboration, he said that most major discoveries today are the result of cooperation across multiple academic disciplines. The era of working in isolation is over. Researchers must build connections with talented individuals within their institutions, outside them, and even across national boundaries. There is no need to reinvent the wheel; instead, the goal

should be to take existing achievements and innovations further.

Earlier, scientist Dr. Nandini Shetty from the Central Food Technological Research Institute inaugurated the programme. JSS AHER Registrar Dr. B. Manjunath, Dean Dr. Vishal Kumar Gupta, and international academic expert A.M. Sagar were present on the dais. Dr. Priyanka Shenoy delivered the invocation, Dr. Prashanth Vishwanath welcomed the gathering, and Dr. Prasanna Deshpande proposed the vote of thanks.

MYSURU

Donating blood helps improve overall health and saves precious lives, said MLA Anil Chikkamadu.

The legislator visited the Jeevadhara Blood Bank Centre on New Sayyaji Rao Road in the city on Wednesday and created awareness about voluntary blood donation by personally donating blood.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that blood donation is one of the noblest forms of charity and that no monetary value can be attached to it. The blood donation offers several health benefits to donors and urged healthy individuals, especially youngsters, to donate blood regularly and help save the lives of others. “Blood is extremely precious. There are situations where, despite having crores of rupees, people are unable to obtain the blood they urgently need. That is why blood donation is invaluable,” he said.



The MLA also expressed concern over the increasing number of young people falling victim to unhealthy habits, including alcohol consumption and other harmful addictions, which adversely affect their health. The youngsters to stay away from such habits and lead healthy lives.

Sharing his own experience, Anil Chikkamadu said that he has donated blood 20 times so far and

continues to donate blood three times every year. Through his voluntary donation, he encouraged others to understand the importance of blood donation and actively participate in this life-saving cause.

Jeevadhara Blood Bank Centre Director Girish, Mutanna, Phanish Hospital Director Lokesh, Sudarshan, Chikkanna, Suresh, S.N. Rajesh and several others were present.

Crack down on drug use and peddling; S.R. Srinivas directs cops

MYSURU

Strict legal action must be taken against those involved in the use and sale of narcotics and drugs, with the objective of bringing both drug consumption and trafficking down to zero, said S.R. Srinivas, Chairman of the Karnataka Legislature Subordinate Legislation Committee and MLA.

Presiding over a meeting of the Karnataka Legislature Subordinate Legislation Committee held here on Wednesday, he instructed Food Safety officials to ensure that fast-food vendors do not use artificial colours in food items and asked them to conduct surprise inspections of street food stalls and canteens regularly, impose penalties on violators, and register cases wherever necessary. The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) must provide basic amenities to farmers who come from villages to sell fruits and vegetables in the city. Street-side vending should not inconvenience pedestrians, and cleanliness must be maintained in meat shops.

Committee member and MLC Saravan said that while



issuing licences to street-side fast-food vendors, the MCC must impose strict conditions regarding hygiene and food quality. The police department to ensure that cases registered against those involved in drug use and trafficking result in appropriate punishment.

Another committee member and MLC K. Shivakumar expressed concern that large mobile canteens operating along roadsides could potentially become centres for the sale of narcotic substances such as ganja. The police officials must monitor such activities closely and take action.

Committee member and MLA N.H. Konareddy said that Mysuru's recognition as one of the cleanest cities in the country is a matter of pride and such achievements are possible only when officials perform their duties efficiently. The public cooperation is essential in pre-

venting drug abuse and urged parents to create awareness among their children about the dangers of narcotics. He also stressed the need to verify standards and eligibility before issuing licences to street vendors.

MLA and committee member Darshan Dhruvanarayan said that roadside vending is contributing to traffic congestion in the city and suggested identifying suitable locations for vendors, providing necessary facilities, and developing dedicated food streets.

The meeting was attended by committee member and MLA Bhimagouda, Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshminanth Reddy, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer S. Yukesh Kumar, Mysuru City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar, Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif, and officials from various government departments.

World Environment Day: Trees planted at Jayadeva Institute in Mysuru

MYSURU

As part of the World Environment Day celebrations, a special awareness programme on environmental conservation was organized at the Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research in Mysuru.

Inaugurating the programme by planting a sapling, the institute's Medical Superintendent, Dr. K.S. Sadananda, stressed the importance of growing of environmental conservation in today's world and urged people not to limit World Environment Day to a single occasion but to celebrate it meaningfully throughout June by planting at least



one sapling every day.

He said that trees are the lifeline of humanity and that a healthy environment forms the foundation of good health.

A clean and green environment is essential for preventing heart-related ailments and promoting a healthy lifestyle. Therefore, every citizen

should actively participate in environmental protection by planting and nurturing trees.

To set an example for doctors, staff members, and the public, the institute distributed saplings and spread the message of environmental conservation. Priority was also given to creating awareness among the public about the importance of preserving the environment and expanding green cover.

Among those present on the occasion were Dr. Rajith, Dr. Veena Nanjappa, Dr. Pashupati, Yogananda, officials from the medical department, engineers from the engineering division, and members of the staff.

JK Tyre launches mega tree plantation and clean drive in Mysuru



MYSURU

Marking World Environment Day 2026, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd., through its Vikrant Tyre Plant in Mysuru, organized a large-scale “Mega Tree Plantation Program and Clean Drive” along a two-kilometre stretch of the city's Ring Road, reaffirming its commitment to environmental sustainability and community welfare.

More than 130 employee volunteers participated in the initiative and planted over 400 saplings, contributing significantly to the city's green cover. As part of its long-term environmental vision, the company also announced plans to develop a five-acre Miyawaki Forest, a dense afforestation model known for

rapidly enhancing biodiversity and improving the urban microclimate.

Alongside the plantation drive, employees undertook an extensive cleanliness campaign and interacted with local residents to spread awareness on the need to reduce plastic pollution. Citizens were encouraged to adopt eco-friendly alternatives and participate actively in environmental conservation efforts.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Eswara Rao, Vice President – Works, JK Tyre, Mysuru. Senior company officials who participated in the event included Arun Kumar Jaura, Chief Technology Officer; Jagadesh; Rajeev Kumar; Donald Vaz; and Nagaraja.

Mysuru boy wins 1st place in 600-metre race

MYSURU

A student from Mysuru has secured first place in a 600-metre running event by delivering an outstanding performance. Ajay Prithviraj M.L., a Class 10 student of Ideal Java Rotary School, Mysuru, emerged as the winner of the competition. The event was organized by the Karnataka Athletics Association at the Sree Kanterava Stadium in Bengaluru as part of World Kids Athletics Day celebrations. Ajay participated in the 600-metre race and clinched first place by completing the event in the shortest time among the competitors. Ajay Prithviraj has previously taken part in several athletic competitions and has won numerous prizes and accolades. He is the son of M. Lingaraju and Sangeetha, residents of Gayathripuram, Mysuru.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY SB Foundation presents saplings to KSRP Commandant

MYSURU

As part of World Environment Day celebrations, SB Foundation observed the occasion in the city with a programme promoting environmental awareness.

The event was inaugurated by Suresh Babu, Founder of SB Foundation, who presented a sapling to Mr. Mahadev Prasad, Commandant of the Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP). Mrs. Sumathi Suresh was also present on the occasion.

Speaking at the programme, Suresh Babu said, environmental conservation is the responsibility of all of us. Every individual should plant and nurture at least one tree.

According to a statement issued by the foundation, SB Foundation has been celebrating World Environment Day every year and has also been continuously organising several social service activities for the benefit of society.



MP promises overall development of Tippaiyana Kere in city

MYSURU

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar visited Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Nagar following complaints regarding the lack of basic civic amenities in the locality.

During his visit, the MP observed the absence of Cauvery drinking water supply, the poor condition of roads requiring asphaltting and repairs, and the inflow of polluted water into Tippaiyana Kere.

Addressing residents, he said that the tank Kere would soon be rejuvenated and developed under the Central Government's Nagar One Scheme.

He further assured residents that efforts would be made to bring Cauvery water supply to the eastern zone localities at the earliest. A memorandum would be submitted to the government seeking the necessary funds for road asphaltting and

would make sincere efforts to secure the required grants for the development of the area.

On the occasion, BJP Mysuru City President L. Nagen-dra, BJP City Yuva Morcha General Secretary Lohith Doreswamy, Chamundeshwari Constituency President Paiti Ravi, former Exhibition Authority Chairman Hemanth Kumar Gowda, Samana Mas-kara Vedike President Thomas, Mysuru District Kannada Rajyotsava Award recipient Kerehalli B. Doreswamy, and social workers Shivaswamy, Shivabasappa, Madappa, Devappaji, Srikantha Murthy, Swamy, Mahesh, Madappa, P.M. Mahadevaswamy, Gangadhara, Muddu Basavanna, Devarajappa and others were present.



STREET VENDORS' WELFARE UNDER REVIEW

STEPS ORDERED TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS: S.R. SRINIVAS

MYSURU

S.R. Srinivas, Chairman of the Karnataka Legislature Subordinate Legislation Committee and MLA, on Wednesday interacted directly with street vendors near Chikkagadiyara (Dufferin Clock Tower) and listened to their grievances and concerns.

Speaking to the media later, he said that an assessment of the condition and challenges faced by street vendors is currently underway, and the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has been directed to take necessary measures to safeguard their interests. The issue would be discussed once again with officials during a review meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

Referring to the process of issuing identity cards to street vendors, Srinivas said a fresh tender has been floated to conduct the survey. The process had been delayed earlier because the agency that had previously secured the tender failed to carry out the work satisfactorily. Therefore, strict instructions have now been



given to the MCC Commissioner to conduct the survey through the Corporation and ensure that every eligible vendor who may have been left out receives an identity card without fail.

“How street vendors utilise government financial assistance and welfare benefits to expand their businesses is a matter of personal choice. However, it is our responsibility to ensure that the basic facilities and benefits provided by the government reach every eligible beneficiary. If they have not reached the intended recipients, our government will establish a transparent and accountable mechanism to ensure that they do,” he as-

sured.

The chairman said that another important meeting with officials would be convened shortly to make the identification of street vendors and the distribution of government benefits more transparent and effective.

The inspection was attended by committee members and MLCs Saravan and K. Shivakumar; Hunsur MLA G.D. Harish Gowda; Nanjangud MLA Darshan Dhruvanarayan; Chamaraja MLA K. Harish Gowda; Mysuru City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar; Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif; and officials from various government departments.

MODI'S RECORD-BREAKING TENURE

BJP Mysuru celebrates with marathon, prayers and public outreach

MYSURU

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers across Mysuru on Wednesday celebrated Prime Minister Narendra Modi becoming India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister, surpassing the tenure record of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Marking the milestone and the completion of 12 years of the Modi government, party units organised marathons, walkathons, special prayers, public interactions and sweet distribution programmes in different parts of the city.

At a marathon organised by the BJP Chamundeshwari Nagar Mandal, State BJP spokesperson M.G. Mahesh flagged off the event and highlighted what he described as the transformative achievements of the Modi government. There was a time when India was mocked as a country dependent on others for food, medicines and defence equipment. Today, India has emerged as a nation that pro-



vides food and medicines to countries in need and is steadily advancing towards self-reliance through initiatives such as Make in India.

Mahesh noted that welfare schemes including free LPG connections, direct benefit transfers through Jan Dhan bank accounts, the Jal Jeevan Mission, and the Swachh Bharat campaign had significantly improved the quality of life of millions of Indians by addressing basic needs. He also pointed to the rapid expansion of expressways, airports and railway infrastructure, saying these developments had accelerated economic growth.

According to him, schemes

such as PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi have strengthened the agricultural sector, while Ayushman Bharat, Jeevan Bima and housing initiatives have provided vital support to economically weaker sections. He added that India's digital revolution, led by UPI-based transactions, has become a model for the world.

Mahesh also praised the development of major pilgrimage centres including Kashi, Ayodhya, Kedarnath, Ujjain, Somnath and Kartarpur, saying these projects had won the appreciation of devotees across the country.

Following the marathon, BJP workers offered special

prayers in the name of Prime Minister Modi at a local Ganapati temple and distributed prasadam. The marathon began near the banyan tree at K-Block, Ramakrishnanagar, passed through major roads and concluded at Paramahansa Circle.

Meanwhile, in the Narasimharaja Assembly constituency, BJP leaders organised a series of programmes including a walkathon, special pujas at the 1008 Ganapati Temple, public interactions, tea discussions and sweet distribution to commemorate the occasion. Former mayor Sandesh Swamy and former chairman of Karnataka Exhibition Authority

B.P.Manjunath and others led the procession.

In the Krishnaraja (KR) constituency, party workers undertook a felicitation procession from Agrahara Circle to the 101 Ganapati Temple. Special prayers were offered to Sri Vidya Ganapati seeking strength, good health and continued success for Prime Minister Modi in leading the nation. Sweets were later distributed among the public.

Several BJP leaders, former elected representatives, office-bearers and local workers participated in the celebrations held across the city. Krishnaraja MLA T.S.Srivatsa and others were present.



12 Years of Modi Govt transformed India's global standing: MP Yaduveer

MYSURU

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar on Wednesday said that the 12 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership have laid the foundation for a secure, self-reliant and developed India, transforming the country's image and strengthening its position on the global stage.

Addressing a press conference in Mysuru, he said that when Narendra Modi assumed office in 2014, India was facing economic uncertainty and several developmental challenges. Over the last 12 years, he said, the Union Government has implemented far-reaching reforms, strengthened infrastructure and enhanced national security, enabling India to emerge as one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

He noted that India is no longer viewed merely as a low-cost manufacturing destination but is increasingly recognised for its skilled workforce, innovation, product quality and problem-solving capabilities. This has attracted major global companies and Global Capability Centres (GCCs) to establish operations in the country.

Highlighting social development indicators, Yaduveer cited NITI Aayog data and said that nearly 25 crore people have been lifted out of multidimensional poverty, with poverty levels dropping significantly over the past decade. He also pointed to improvements in public health and sanitation, attributing them to initiatives such as the Swachh Bharat Mission.

The MP said that farmers have benefited through schemes such as PM-Kisan, crop insurance programmes and agricultural subsidies. The country's food grain pro-

duction has witnessed substantial growth, reflecting the government's commitment to strengthening the agricultural sector.

On women's empowerment, he said initiatives such as Jan Dhan accounts, self-help groups and the Lakhpati Didi programme have enhanced financial inclusion and economic independence among women. He also said that expanding employment opportunities and the arrival of multinational companies have created new prospects for India's youth.

Emphasising the government's focus on preserving India's cultural heritage, he said several historic and religious sites, including Ayodhya, Kashi Vishwanath, Mahakal Lok and Kedarnath, have received renewed attention and development. He added that efforts are also being made to protect monuments digitally and repatriate valuable antiquities.

Referring to India's digital transformation, Yaduveer highlighted the expansion of optical fibre networks, the success of UPI-based transactions, the growth of the start-up ecosystem and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing and data centres. He said Karnataka, particularly Mysuru, has significant potential to become a hub for AI-related investments and innovation.

Yaduveer also praised key decisions of the Modi government, including the abrogation of Article 370, and said the Centre is moving forward on long-pending issues such as the caste census while continuing its focus on development and good governance.

He called upon citizens to support initiatives aimed at building a stronger and more prosperous India.

WASTE PAPER TO WISDOM

Recycled notebooks distributed to school kids in Mysuru

MYSURU

Recycled notebooks prepared from unused pages left in old notebooks were distributed to students of various schools in the city at a programme jointly organized on Wednesday by the Department of Public Libraries, the City Central Library at People's Park, and Balya Foundation.

The initiative, launched a few days ago, aims to collect blank pages remaining in partially used notebooks and convert them into new notebooks for underprivileged children. The organizers believe that pages left unused in one student's notebook can become a valuable educational resource for another child. In line with this objective, the recycled notebooks were distributed on Wednesday to students of CSI Victoria School, Gadichowk Senior Primary School, and Mahajana High School.

As part of the campaign, schoolchildren also contributed unused pages from their



own notebooks to support the initiative and help expand the programme.

Under the project, members of the public can donate unused notebook pages to public libraries across the city. These pages are then collected by Balya Foundation and other participating organizations, which arrange for them to be systematically bound into notebooks. The completed notebooks are subsequently distributed to those in need. A

key objective of the initiative is to reduce the number of trees cut down for paper production by encouraging the reuse of existing paper resources.

Speaking after distributing the recycled notebooks to students, City Library Authority Chairman and Regional Commissioner Nitish Patil said that reusing blank notebook pages helps reduce the demand for paper and consequently lowers the rate of tree

falling. This campaign as an environmentally friendly initiative and children must contribute unused pages so that they can support the education of others.

Referring to the growing use of digital devices among children, he noted that increasing screen time is affecting their memory and concentration. The students must minimize mobile phone usage and use digital devices primarily for educational pur-

poses.

Ramesh Uttappa, Resident Editor of Vijaya Karnataka Mysuru, congratulated the staff members who actively participated in the notebook recycling campaign, and said the concept of reuse is a remarkable and inspiring idea that contributes to national progress. Students should not feel hesitant about using recycled notebooks, but instead take pride in the fact that such practices help conserve resources and support the nation's development. He expressed hope that the initiative would continue to grow and reach a larger number of beneficiaries.

Among those present were City Central Library Deputy Director B. Manjunath, Block Education Officers Krishna and Revanna, retired Commercial Taxes Department Deputy Commissioner Ramesh Narasayya, Maharak College Principal Dr. V. Shanmugam, Balya Foundation founder K.S. Anil, and others.

SACRED HILL, SINKING IN TRASH

Chamundi Hills deserve reverence, not neglect," says Mysuru resident

MYSURU

After visiting Chamundi Hills for the first time in many months, Mysuru resident C. Kanakaraju returned with a deep sense of disappointment rather than spiritual fulfilment.

"The moment I reached the hill, I was shocked by the amount of litter everywhere," he said. "Inside the temple premises, I saw plastic bottles, discarded mango peels and even stray dogs resting in places that should be kept clean and sacred."

According to Kanakaraju, the situation outside the temple is no better. The surroundings, he observed, are crowded with food stalls, shops selling plastic items and heaps of waste that diminish the sanctity of one of Karnataka's most revered pilgrimage centres. "Hardly anyone seems to be paying attention to the condition of Chamundi Hills," he lamented.

"The focus appears to be on generating revenue rather than preserving the spiritual and ecological significance of the place. There is even a ₹1,000 special darshan ticket, but where is the commitment to cleanliness and maintenance?"

What disturbed him most was the sight along the famous steps leading to the

hilltop temple. "While climbing the steps, I came across thousands of discarded plastic bottles. It was heartbreaking to see such a beautiful and sacred landscape treated with so little respect," he said.

Drawing a comparison with the renowned Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, Kanakaraju highlighted the stark contrast in management and discipline. "When I lived in Thiruvananthapuram, I frequently visited Padmanabhaswamy Temple. The cleanliness there is remarkable. Mobile phones and bags are not allowed inside, there is a strict dress code, and there are no food stalls cluttering the vicinity. Cleanliness and sanctity are given top priority," he recalled.

Kanakaraju believes that preserving Chamundi Hills requires collective responsibility.

"We are slowly destroying Chamundi Hills. The problem is not just with the authorities; the public must also change its attitude.

Without determination and civic sense from both the government and visitors, this priceless heritage and spiritual landmark will continue to suffer," he warned.

His observations have once again raised questions about cleanliness, waste management and the long-term preservation of Mysuru's iconic Chamundi Hills.



Maintenance works: No power supply in many areas tomorrow

MYSURU

Power supply will be interrupted from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on June 12 due to first-quarter maintenance works being undertaken at the 66/11 KV South Power Distribution Centre under the V.V. Mohalla Division.

Areas likely to be affected include Srirampura 2nd Stage, Ramabai Nagar, Mahadevapura, Jayanagar 1st to 20th Cross, Parasayyanahundi, Shivapura, Kuvempunagar K Block, areas surrounding Apollo Hospital, Chikkaharanahalli, Gorur village, Kalalavadi, Kotechundi, Yadahalli, Rayanakere, Saraswathipuram 1st Main Road to 6th Main Road, parts of K.G. Koppal, and surrounding localities, according to a press release issued by the Executive Engineer of CESC's V.V. Mohalla Division.

Another Maintenance
Power supply will be disrupted from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on June 12 due to first-quarter maintenance at KPTCL's 66/11 KV South Power Distribution Centre. Areas affected include parts of Vidyaranyapuram, Krishnamurthypuram, Industrial Suburb, Ashokapuram, J.P. Nagar, Alanahalli Ring Road and nearby localities. Residents should make necessary arrangements.



QUICK READ



4-day Krishi Mela in Bengaluru from Oct 15

CH NEWS, BENGALURU Marking its diamond jubilee year, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, will host Krishi Mela from October 15 to 18 on GKVK campus, focusing on attracting the next generation to agriculture. The four-day event, themed "Varied agriculture: for the next generation", will showcase emerging opportunities and agri-technologies aimed at modernising farming and encouraging youth participation. The mela will feature exhibitions, crop demonstrations and displays of new varieties, along with expert interactions where farmers can seek scientific guidance. Progressive farmers will be honoured for their achievements.

Motorists may avail 50% discount on pending fines

CH NEWS, BENGALURU After a successful discount scheme for pending traffic fines last year, from November 21 till December 12, the government announced a 20-day period for motorists to clear pending traffic e-challans, issued before May 2026, at half the penalty amount. The government has provided motorists multiple online and offline options to view and clear their pending fines. Each e-challan is accompanied with a photograph as proof of violation of traffic rules. Motorists can make payments through Karnataka State Police (KSP) app, BTP ASTraM app, Kar nataka One and Bangalore One portals, as well as at the nearest traffic police station or Traffic Management Centre. Vehicle owners can avail of this 50% discount from June 21 to July 10.

JP Nagar Road made one-way to clear flyover jam

CH NEWS, BENGALURU Traffic police have converted a crucial stretch of 11th A Main Road in JP Nagar into a one-way street to end gridlocks at the exit of the recently opened double-decker flyover. The move aims to streamline heavy influx of vehicles during peak hours. Prior to this modification, 11th A Main operated as a bi-directional road, leading to massive traffic snarls. Innumerable vehicles attempting to travel towards the flyover would clash with descending traffic, locking up the intersection. When motorists reach the end of JP Nagar double-decker flyover, the road splits into two primary arteries: 11th A Main and 11th B Main.

Bannerghatta dust storm to die down, but not for long

After a lapse considerable period, the filling of potholes and asphaltting work is take up but is progressing at a snail's pace

BENGALURU

For thousands of commuters braving potholes, craters, and bone-rattling rides on Bannerghatta Road, here is both good news.

After months of growing public frustration, civic authorities have started repair on one of south Bengaluru's busiest roads. It's only patchwork, complete resurfacing appears to be nowhere in sight. Over the past two days, Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) has been filling potholes with bitumen and tar between Vega City Mall Junction and Arekere Junction, bringing relief to motorists.

This stretch is notorious for damaged surfaces and slow-moving traffic. The repairs come just as Bengaluru welcomed the monsoon. If



the season starts in full force, poor road conditions are expected to worsen further.

Officials said the current exercise is a temporary measure aimed at making the road safer and more navigable during the rainy season. We will complete the pothole-filling process in 2-3 days. There is some work pending from BWSSB, which is preventing us from taking up complete relaying



We cannot begin road restoration until the pipeline work is completed. We are not satisfied with the patchwork carried out by BWSSB so far. Around 600-700 metres of work is still pending. Decisions on road restoration will be taken based on the progress made.

—KN Ramesh, Commissioner, BSCC.

of the road, a senior BSCC official said.

Officials admitted that fund crunch has deterred them from resurfacing the road.

Initially, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation (BMRL) was expected to complete the damaged portions of the road after Metro construction was over and Rs 12.5 crores is set aside for now. But the condition of the road has become

Man attacks brothers for not heeding to weed demand

BENGALURU

In a shocking case, a stranger approached a 31-year-old man for weed and later injured him and his elder brother with a trimmer.

According to the complaint filed by DN Anith, a resident of Metro Layout in Nayandahalli, who runs a dog-breeding business, was standing near the compound of his residence along with a friend when a stranger, identified by police as Lohith (30), approached them and asked for weed. When Anith said he had no weed, Lohith got into an argument with him. Lohith then went to a near

by shop, where his father works as a tailor, and got a trimmer from there.

He returned and asked Anith for drinking water. After drinking water, Lohith tried to attack Anith with the trimmer. Hearing the commotion, Anith's elder brother, Punith, rushed to intervene.

Lohith turned on him and struck him above the eye and on the chest with the trimmer. Lohith also inflicted injuries to Anith's head, arm, and skin above his eye before trying to flee.

However, he was caught with the help of residents. Punith called the 112 helpline,

police rushed to the spot and detained Lohith. The injured brothers were treated in a private hospital. A case was registered under BNS Sections 118 (voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means) and 351 (criminal conspiracy) at Chandra Layout police station.

Lohith was arrested and then released on station bail. Lohith had earlier attacked a woman in Padarayanapura in a similar manner, and a case was registered against him at Byatarayanapura police station.

Lohith's father claimed he is mentally disturbed, but he is not undergoing any treatment.

Good news for Peenya flyover passengers after 5 years

BENGALURU

The Peenya flyover on Tumakuru Road is strong and capable of handling all types of vehicles. This will be officially announced soon.

The Dr Sri Shivakumara Swamiji Flyover on National Highway-4 in Peenya, Asia's largest industrial area, which has been in the news for one reason or another since December 2021. After taking several steps, it is now certain that this flyover will be strong enough to handle all types of vehicles on all days of the week. The flyover has passed various tests, including load testing, and only an official announcement is awaited.

Default sentence in cheque bounce cases cannot exceed 6 months: HC

BENGALURU

In a significant ruling on cheque-bounce cases, the high court has held that in prosecutions under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, where the maximum substantive sentence is two years' imprisonment, the default sentence for non-payment of compensation cannot exceed six months.

Justice M Nagaprasanna made this observation while ordering release of Dinesh Kripalani, a resident of Bengaluru. In December 2017, Dinesh entered into a loan agreement with M/s Jupiter Capital Ltd, Bengaluru, for Rs 10 crore, and Rs 5.9 crore loan amount was disbursed.

In August 2020, for repayment of the remaining loan amount along with interest, Dinesh issued three cheques for amounts of Rs 50 lakh, Rs 3.5 crore and Rs 5 crore. All

three cheques were dishonoured on the same day and after issuance of statutory demand notices, Jupiter Capital Ltd registered a case under Section 138 of the NI Act against Dinesh in 2021. On December 14, 2023, Dinesh was convicted in all the three cases.

He was fined Rs 61.7 lakh, Rs 4.3 crore and Rs 6.2 crore for the three dishonoured cheques. If he defaulted in paying the fine, he was to undergo simple imprisonment for three months in each case, totalling nine months.

After perusing the provisions cited by Dinesh, and the judgment of the Delhi high court in a similar case, Justice Nagaprasanna noted that legislative intent underlying the provision is luminous and that the imprisonment in default is not to assume the character of a disproportionately oppressive penalty, but is intended merely

as a coercive mechanism to secure payment of fine.

Justice Nagaprasanna also referred to a Delhi High Court ruling that held the statutory ceiling under Section 65 is absolute, and that imprisonment in default cannot exceed one-fourth of the maximum sentence prescribed for the offence. Accordingly, in cheque-bounce cases under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, where the maximum substantive punishment is two years' imprisonment, the default sentence cannot exceed six months, he said.

The present adjudication concerns only the legality and proportionality of continued incarceration in default of payment of fine and shall not eclipse or dilute the statutory right of the complainant or the state to pursue recovery proceedings in accordance with law, Justice Nagaprasanna specified in his order.

K'taka to recruit 2.5k computer science teachers for primary schools

BENGALURU

With Computer Science being introduced from class 1 at Karnataka Public Schools, the department of school education and literacy has decided to recruit dedicated computer science teachers.

For the current academic year, the department will recruit 2500 teachers. These posts will be carved out of the 6117 primary school teacher posts available. A separate cadre for these teachers in the department are being created and an amendment to cadre and recruitment rules is under process for this purpose.

The eligibility criteria for the recruitment of IT teachers will be issued soon, said the department. We are discussing about it. It could be BSc computer science or any related subjects, said an official. It may be recalled that the department has already allowed

engineering graduates to teach as Graduate Primary Teachers (class 6 to 8). An amendment was made to recruitment rules in 2021 to allow engineering degree holders to teach subjects like Mathematics and Science in government schools and PU colleges. They could write the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) in the year 2021.

The IT teachers will be paid Rs 44425 - Rs 83700 as per the rules. Computer education is being introduced in 200 schools in Kalyan Karnataka region and 500 in other parts of the state this year as a part of upgrading the schools to KPS. Department officials said that the service of these teachers will be extended to non KPS schools too, depending upon the need.

Currently there are many schools with sufficient computers available thanks to various donors, but no eligible teachers to train teachers in it.

'Claim of man's death due to suffocation false'

BENGALURU

South Western Railway (SWR) has dismissed as false and factually incorrect, a social media claim that a passenger died of suffocation due to overcrowding in a train at Tumakuru railway station.

The clarification came after a video showing an unconscious man being carried on a stretcher at a station went viral on social media.

The post accompanying the video alleged that the passenger had died due to suffocation in an overcrowded general compartment. SWR stated that Mallesh (37), from Ranebenur, was travelling with his family on Train No. 11022 Chalukya Express when he suffered a sudden medical emergency caused by a pre-existing health condition. He lost consciousness during the journey. Upon the train's arrival at Tumakuru station, Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel attended to him, administered first aid and shifted him by ambulance to the Government Hospital in Tumakuru, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

SWR also rejected allegations that overcrowding contributed to the incident. Officials said unreserved ticket sales at the preceding boarding stations were relatively low, with 10 tickets issued at Dharmapuri, 40 at Hosur and 40 at SMVT Bengaluru.

RELIEF FOR FARMER

Harohalli land acquisition dropped after claim of homes, burial sites

BENGALURU

At a time when back-to-back land acquisition proposals across Bengaluru's fast-developing outskirts have left rural and agrarian communities on edge, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) offered an unexpected reprieve to residents of Kanchugaranahalli in Bidadi hobli.

It stepped back from acquiring select parcels of land earmarked for Harohalli 5th Phase Industrial Area. The decision, taken after the high court's in-



tervention, comes as a rare moment of relief for villagers who were locked in a prolonged legal battle to protect not just their homes and farmland, but something far more personal,

resting places of their ancestors. The denotified lands, officials confirmed, included residential structures and burial sites that villagers said were inseparable from their identity, memory and

history. Harohalli 5th Phase Industrial Area, proposed in Bidadi hobli of Ramanagara taluk in Bengaluru South district, forms part of the government's broader push to expand industrial infrastructure around the city.

The project was first set in motion through a preliminary notification issued in November 2019, covering over 1,118 acres spread across villages, including Kanchugaranahalli, Kanchugaranahalli Kaval, Mudena-halli, and Yarehalli in Harohalli region. A final notification followed in July 2020, notifying

more than 679 acres under the acquisition umbrella for industrial development. However, for several landowners, the lines drawn on govt maps cut through their lived realities, homes where families have lived for generations and sacred burial sites where their ancestors were laid to rest. What initially began as objections soon evolved into a legal battle.

Villagers approached high court, arguing that the acquisition overlooked the presence of houses, ancestral burial sites and culturally significant spaces that

couldn't be reduced to monetary compensation alone. In its order dated December 10, 2024, the Court quashed the final acquisition notification for specific survey numbers, acknowledging the concerns raised by petitioners. That intervention became the turning point. Acting on the Court's directions, KIADB officials revisited the disputed land parcels, measuring over 2.2 acres in survey numbers 29/3 and 29/6 of Kanchugaranahalli near Bidadi, exercised powers under KIADB Act to exclude them from the acquisition process.

QUICK READ



Woman missing since 2024 in Haveri district

Haveri
A complaint has been filed at Bankapur police station stating that a 35-year-old woman, Net-ra Basavaraja Chalavadi from Bisanahalli village in Shiggaon taluk, went out for work on April 14, 2024, and did not return. The missing woman is 4.2 feet tall, has a round face, pointed nose and dark complexion, and was last seen wearing a yellow short top chudi and blue pants with a white veil. Police Inspector of Bankapur police station requested the public to share any information with the nearest police station.



Mandya power cut announced for maintenance work

Mandya
Power supply will be disrupted at the 66/11 KV Kolkaranadoddy Power Distribution Center in Mandya district on June 12 from 9 am to 6 pm due to emergency maintenance work on the F-01 Kannali NJY feeder route. Power disruption will affect Kolkaranadoddy, Sonaganahalli, Hemmige, Bhutanahosuru, Kabbannahalli, Belur, B Yarahalli, Kagehallada Doddi, Javane-goudanadoddy, Huchalagere, Kannali and nearby villages under the feeder, said Assistant Executive Engineer R. T. Chandramouli in a statement. Officials requested residents to cooperate and plan water and power usage accordingly during the outage.

Plastic waste segregation units planned across four taluks

MANDYA
Plastic waste management units in Mandya district will become operational by the end of June under Swachh Bharat Mission Rural Phase 2 guidelines as directed by the Zilla Panchayat CEO during a review meeting with officials. Units are being set up in Chinakurli Gram Panchayat of Pandavapura taluk Hulikere Gram Panchayat of Nagamangala taluk Chaudenahalli Gram Panchayat of K R Pete taluk and Mahadevapura Gram Panchayat of Srirangapatna taluk at a cost of sixteen lakh rupees each and collected plastic waste from Swachh Sankirtan units will be transported to taluk level facilities for processing under Waste to Wealth concept women self help groups will be given machinery to sort and bale plastic waste into categories so it can be sold to cement factories. The CEO directed CHESCO engineers to ensure electricity supply to all units and instructed officials to start operations of all four plastic waste management units by the end of June.

Khet Bachao Abhiyan promotes balanced fertilizer use

GADAG
Under the Khet Bachao Abhiyan, a campaign on balanced fertilizer use and seed treatment was held in Budishwar Hosalli and Shayagoti villages of Gadag taluk, organized jointly by the Agriculture Department and Krishi Vigyan Kendra Hulakoti. The main objective of the programme was to promote sustainable agriculture, protect soil health, reduce excessive chemical fertilizer use and increase farmers income through better farming practices and awareness activities in rural areas. Joint Director of Agriculture Chetana Patil, Deputy Director Spurthi G S, scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra Hulakoti, and progressive farmers participated in the programme along with Agriculture Department staff and

Chitradurga extends dairy scheme deadline for applicants

Beneficiaries will receive one cross-bred cow or buffalo with a rubber mat at a subsidised cost of ₹63,000

CH NEWS, Chitradurga

The district administration has extended the application deadline till June 22 for the dairy farming scheme for women members of self-help groups under the CEPMIZ programme in mine-affected villages. Officials said the scheme covers 187 villages across Chitradurga, Holalkere and Hosadurga taluks and aims to support rural women through livestock-based income generation. A total of 3179 beneficiaries including Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and General Category women will be selected for the benefit. Each beneficiary will receive one cross-bred cow or buffalo along with a rubber mat at a subsidised total cost of ₹63,000. Women must pay the remaining amount through contribution or bank loan facilitated through self-help groups and Gram Panchayat-level systems. Applications can be collected from veterinary hospitals, Gram Panchayats and milk cooperative societies and



must be submitted in triplicate. Officials said the deadline was extended due to higher public demand and increased participation from eligible women in mining-affected areas. Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Panchayat and CEPMIZ District Committee President Dr. S. Akash said the scheme is aimed at improving livelihoods in affected villages. For more information contact Chief Veterinary Officer of Chitradurga Veterinary Hospital Dr. G. Indirabai-9482943111, Chief Veterinary Officer of Holalkere Veterinary Hospital Dr. Rangaswamy-9972965479, Chief Veterinary Officer of Hosadurga Veterinary Hospital Dr. C. Shivappa-9449783775.

List of Mine-Affected Villages Covered		
Chitradurga Taluk : D. Madakaripura, Bedara Bommenahalli, Bomnavanagathihalli, Dindadahalli, Kadleguddu, Mahadevanakatte, Marijogihalli, Megalahalli, Horekenahalli, Jampannahalli, Jampannahatti, Vaddarahatti, Bheemasamudra, Annehal, Bommenahalli, Palya, Hulageri, Chikkenahalli, N. Ballekatte, Ramapur, Kakkeharavu, Doddiganalu, Doddiganalu Hoshatti, Nellikatte, Thurebailu, Veeravva Nagathihalli, Vyasamalapura, Hireguntanur, Hireguntanur Gollarhatti, Sidhapur, Hunasekatte Gollarhatti, Hunasekatte, Konanur, Malali, Sodekola, Musandihall, Godabanalu, Doddapur, Siddavvanahalli, Vadda Alagaghatta, Sirigere, Dyamavvanahalli, Bettada Nagenahalli, Jammenahalli, Kodegehalli, Devapuradahatti, Pandarahalli, Rottihalli, Palakihalli, Chikkaguntanur, Chikkalagatta.	Holalkere Taluk : Chaudenahalli Aranya, Hirekandavadi, Keshavapura, Lingadevarahalli, Sadarahalli, Tanigenahalli, Boranahalli, Kasavanahalli, Mattighatta, Shankaranahalli, Arasinaghatta, Gulihosahalli, Hanumanakatte, Kummanaghatta, Ramenahalli, Shyanubhoganahalli, Chikkandavadi, Brahmapur, Pampapur, Davanahalli, Basavapura, Budipura, Kannenahalli, Banjagondanahalli, Makunte, Tyagadahalli Forest, Gundikere, Gondihalli, Garaga, Harakedevarapura, Maligeranahalli, Kagalagere, Chikkajajur Kavalu, Kashipur, Kanivejogihalli, Kallavva Nagathihalli, Nandihalli, Kondapur, Halenahalli, Kereagalahalli, Gouripur, Apparasanahalli, Kanivehalli, Amritapura, Gunjiganur, Haralikere, Kumaranahalli, Goppenahalli, Ichchaghatta, Nandana Hosur, Nagaraghatta, Woodagere, Arenahalli, Nellikatte, Upparigenahalli.	Hosadurga Taluk: Kenchihalli, Sannakittahalli, Lakkihalli, Kenkere, Ramajjanahalli Kavalu, M. Mallapur, Kudre Kanye Forest, Kanchipura, Mugilodu, Doddabyaladakere, Nakkikere, Chikkabyaladakere, Langragondanahalli, Jayasuvaranpura, Doddakittadahalli, Siddagondanahalli, Badarahalli, Madadakere, Bevinahalli, Sevanagar, Hanumanahalli, Chikkathekalavatti, Atimogge, Bukkasagar, Janakal, Seeranakatte, Naganayakanakatte, Granthapur, Mattodu, Kappanayakanahalli, Balenahalli, Gollarahalli, Ayyanahalli, Jogihalli (Bogihalli), Bandihalli, Kaggalakatte, Kittadalu, Mangasandra, Kadavigere, Rangavavanahalli, Doddathekalavatti, Arehalli, Chikkahullenahalli, Heggere, Harenahalli, Vengalapura, Doddakarpuradakatte, Sulukatte, Bachavara, J.I. Tarikere, Chikkatekalavatti Todukkavalu, Sadarahalli, Kanubenahalli, Kachapura.

Officials asked to strengthen maternal child healthcare system

MANDYA

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer K. R. Nandini has instructed health officials to implement strict precautionary and preventive measures to reduce infant mortality in the district and strengthen maternal and child healthcare services. Speaking at the District Health Association and Infant Death Review Committee meeting held at the Zilla Panchayat mini hall she said that causes of infant deaths must be scientifically studied and a detailed action plan should be prepared to prevent such deaths effectively. She warned that thiamine vitamin B1 deficiency can seriously affect heart nervous system and physical growth of children so early detection is important and ASHA workers must immediately inform parents if symptoms like vomiting poor feeding hoarseness or cough are seen and ensure



hospital admission. Officials said ASHA workers skills must be regularly updated and pregnant women and lactating mothers should be educated on nutritious food during home visits especially avoiding excessive polished rice which increases risk of thiamine deficiency and district officials have been directed to submit a comprehensive action plan by June 18 and conduct awareness IEC activities and special training at taluk level within fifteen days with support of child health experts while District Health Officer Dr. Mohan

Officials directed ASHA training, maternal nutrition awareness, and reduced polished rice use, with action plan by June 18 to improve maternal and child health services

Kumar and MIMS Superintendent Dr. Shivakumar along with other officers attended the meeting and stressed coordinated efforts for reducing infant mortality and improving maternal care services across the district. Authorities emphasized that community participation nutrition awareness timely treatment and strong monitoring systems will help reduce infant deaths and improve overall maternal health outcomes in the district through continuous coordination between health workers and local institutions effectively and consistently.

₹6 crore sanctioned for Kodlipete-Hebbale SH-244 road development in Somwarpet taluk to improve rural connectivity and safety

CENTRE SANCTIONS ₹22 CRORE FOR KODAGU ROADS

MADIKERI

The Central Government has sanctioned ₹22 crore under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund for major road development works in Kodagu district to strengthen connectivity and improve transport facilities in the region. Lok Sabha member Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wodeyar announced the approval and thanked Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and the Government of India for addressing long pending demands for road improvement in Kodagu district. The sanctioned projects include development of Kodlipete Hebbale Road SH 244 in Somwarpet taluk with ₹6 crore allocation covering selected stretches including Gopalpura Banavar Hebbale route and nearby connecting sections to improve rural connectivity and travel safety for residents and farmers.

Another major project is the Madikeri Kutta Road SH 89 which connects Kushalnagar and Madikeri taluks with ₹10 crore sanctioned for improvement of key chainage sections aimed at easing traffic movement and boosting tourism and local business activities in the district. The Talakaveri Road SH 90 in Virajpet taluk has also been approved with ₹6 crore for upgrading selected stretches that serve as an important route for pilgrims tourists and local commuters visiting the sacred Talakaveri region. MP Yaduveer Wodeyar said these



roads are vital for farmers students tourists and traders and their development will improve road safety transport efficiency and economic growth while supporting Kodagu's tourism potential as a major destination in Karnataka and strengthening overall regional development through better infrastructure access and connectivity across all taluks in the district and ensuring smoother travel experience for public and visitors.

Yoga promotes healthy aging and mental well-being: Dr Chandrakant

CHITRADURGA

Yoga is more relevant than ever today for maintaining physical and mental health in a fast changing lifestyle said District AYUSH Officer Dr Chandrakant Nagasamudra highlighting the importance of yoga for stress free living and healthy aging. India proposed International Yoga Day at the United Nations in 2014 and since 2015 it has been observed worldwide on June 21 which is chosen for its long daylight and

scientific importance and this year the theme is Yoga for Healthy Aging. A 45 minute Common Yoga Protocol session will be held in Chitradurga on June 21 from 7 am to 7 45 am at the old secondary school premises with preparations including coordination meetings with government and non government groups and awareness programmes. The AYUSH department is also running free Nitya Yoga online sessions every day from 5 30 am to 6 30 am

combining 45 minutes of yoga practice and 15 minutes of medical advice from doctors. Ten AYUSH clinics in the district have been upgraded to Ayushman Arogya Mandir with trained yoga instructors providing free guidance. Yoga helps reduce stress improves lifestyle diseases and supports healthy aging by improving physical and mental balance in daily life. For a healthy and happy life everyone should include yoga meditation and pranayama in their daily routine.

Bidar South celebrates twelve years of Modi leadership

BIDAR

Bidar South leaders celebrated twelve years of successful leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling it a proud moment in India's political history. Dr. Shaileendra Beldale said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's twelve years in office show strong vision and development focus for the country. He said major changes happened in infrastructure, economy, digital services, national security, women empowerment and farmer welfare during this period. Party workers and public members gathered at Shri Shiva temple in Manna Ekhelli village to offer special prayers, perform rituals and seek blessings for peace and progress of the nation. A cleanliness drive was also conducted in the temple area to promote hygiene and environmental awareness among the people. Special prayers were offered for unity, prosperity and welfare of India, wishing good health and long life for Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Leaders expressed hope that India will continue to grow under Modi's leadership and reach greater global recognition. Participants highlighted the slogan Service is determination Nation first and said it guides development work across the country. The event saw participation from BJP leaders, workers, office bearers and supporters who joined the temple activities and community service efforts. The gathering reflected unity and commitment towards national development and dedication to public service in line with government goals. Prayers were also made seeking strength, good health and long service for the Prime Minister to continue leading India forward. According to MLA Dr. Shaileendra Beldale, such events strengthen public spirit and highlight the achievements of the central leadership in nation building efforts. The special puja at Shri Shiva temple included chanting, floral offerings and traditional rituals carried out peacefully by devotees. Overall the programme in Bidar South constituency was marked by devotion unity and celebration of twelve years of leadership under Prime Minister Narendra Modi with participants expressing confidence in continued progress of the nation under his guidance. The gathering also emphasized service oriented governance and future development goals for a stronger India.

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QUICK READ

Bike rider dies in Napoklu car collision

Napoklu

A 75-year-old bike rider died on the spot after a car hit his motorcycle from behind near Chonakere Emballi in Napoklu, Kodagu district. The victim, identified as Cheeka Poovanda E. Bopanna, was travelling from Nellyaji towards Napoklu when the accident occurred on Tuesday afternoon. The car, which was also heading towards Napoklu from Emmemadu, reportedly struck the bike from behind, causing the rider to fall and suffer fatal injuries. Napoklu police visited the spot, registered a case and shifted the body to Madikeri for post-mortem examination. Further investigation into the accident is underway.

Disabled persons National Award applications invited

Mangaluru

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, has invited applications for the 2026–27 National Awards for Persons with Disabilities. The awards will be presented on December 3 during World Disability Day celebrations. Individuals and organisations working in empowerment, rehabilitation, education, skill development, employment generation, accessibility, research, innovation, sports, arts and literature are eligible to apply. Applicants can collect forms from the District Panchayat office in Mangaluru and submit them after filling in English. The last date for submission is July 25, according to the District Disability Welfare Officer's office.

C.N. Road widening begins demolition of buildings along stretch

BHADRAVATI

Road widening works on the C.N. Road in Bhadravati have officially gained momentum with the commencement of building demolition along the identified stretch. The project is being executed jointly by the Public Works Department and the City Municipal Council as part of a broader urban infrastructure upgrade aimed at easing traffic congestion and improving connectivity within the town.

The 1.30-kilometre stretch from Madhavachar Circle to Rangappa Circle up to the front of the APMC yard has been taken up for expansion. The state government has sanctioned ₹9.50 crore for the project, which involves widening the road to 80 feet in total width, with 40 feet on either side from the central alignment. As part of the plan, around 165 structures—both partially and fully—are being marked for removal. Authorities had set a deadline

DOG CATCHING OPERATION SPARKS PUBLIC CONTROVERSY

TIRTHAHALLI

A stray dog capture drive undertaken by the Tirthahalli Town Panchayat has triggered strong public debate and controversy in the town over the past few days. The operation, aimed at controlling the increasing stray dog population, has drawn criticism from animal welfare groups and local residents over alleged violations in handling and treatment of the animals.

According to officials, the captured dogs are being taken to a designated waste management facility where they

Congress protests fuel price hike in Kolar

MLC Anil Kumar criticised PM Modi over fuel price hikes and LPG subsidy cuts, saying Congress will intensify protests

KOLAR

The District Congress Committee staged a large protest against rising LPG petrol and diesel prices by the Central Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kolar.

Congress leaders and workers assembled in front of the district office carrying LPG cylinders and placards criticising government policies and marched through city streets on a bullock cart raising slogans against fuel price hike before reaching Mekke Circle and forming a human chain to express protest against inflation pressures.

Addressing the gathering MLC M L Anil Kumar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had failed to fulfil promises and fuel price hikes were increasing burden on common people across the country. He said subsidies on



LPG were reduced and household expenses had gone up significantly affecting families and poor sections of society. He warned that Congress would intensify agitation if prices were not reduced further. He compared earlier UPA era fuel prices with current rates saying LPG cylinders had risen to nearly one thousand rupees while petrol and diesel had also become costly for citizens. He also criticised demonetisation changes in employment schemes and delays in women reservation implementation and accused

government of failing to control inflation. Party leaders and workers from different parts of Kolar district participated in the demonstration showing strong opposition to fuel price hike and rising cost of living issues affecting households across region.

The protest highlighted growing public anger over inflation and fuel prices with Congress leaders reiterating their demand for immediate price reduction and warning of continued agitation in future if government fails to act promptly.

Rains encourage onion sowing among farmers

CHIKKAMAGALURU

A spell of timely rainfall across Biraar hobli has brought relief and renewed enthusiasm among farmers, prompting many to begin onion sowing operations in prepared fields while others continue land preparation work.

Farmers in the region said the recent “hadda male” (gentle, steady rain) has created ideal soil conditions for cultivation. As a result, those who had already completed pre-sowing preparations have started onion seed sowing, while others are busy ploughing and cleaning their fields.

Agriculture remains a key livelihood in Biraar, where crops such as ragi, sunflower, maize, groundnut, potato and onion are grown alongside the dominant commercial crop, arecanut.

With favourable moisture levels in the soil, farmers have returned to their fields in large numbers.

Traditionally, farmers here would complete deep ploughing before waiting for monsoon showers to begin sowing.

This year, timely rainfall has ensured that the soil has reached the required “hadda” stage, creating optimism among onion growers.

537 students will take exams in Karwar district, with officials ensuring seating, water, and sanitation facilities in advance

Strict guidelines issued for NEET re-exam conduct

KARWAR

The NEET re-examination scheduled for June 21 at Government Arts and Science Degree College in Karwar must be conducted in a transparent and orderly manner as per official guidelines, said Deputy Commissioner K Lakshmi Priya while reviewing preparations with examination officials.

She chaired a meeting at the District Collector's office and instructed all officers assigned for exam duty to strictly follow rules and ensure smooth conduct of the national level medical entrance test across the centre in the district.

A total of 537 students will appear for the examination in Karwar district and officials have been directed to verify infrastructure facilities in advance including proper seating arrangements drinking water and sanitation facilities to avoid inconvenience to candidates on exam day.

The Deputy Commissioner asked HESCOM officials to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the examination while transport department authorities were instructed to arrange adequate buses so that students can reach centres on time without difficulty or delay.

She also directed departments to take precautions

considering possible rainfall and ensure safety arrangements are in place while police have been asked to provide security for movement of question papers answer sheets and examination centres to prevent any irregularities or security risks during the process.

Health department staff will also be deployed at examination centres as a precautionary measure and all departments have been instructed to coordinate

closely to ensure smooth and fair conduct of the exam without any lapses in duty or administrative failure during the examination period in the district.

One-day organic farming training at Rangapur

Chitradurga

A one-day special training workshop on organic farming will be held on June 14 at 9.30 am at Rishi Sanskoti Vidya Kendra in Rangapur, Ramgiri Hobli of Holalkere taluk. The programme is organised under the National Agricultural Development Scheme by the Agriculture Department in collaboration with the District Agricultural Training Centre, Babbur Farm, Aikantika Community Davangere and Rishi Gurukul institutions. Experts and progressive farmers will guide participants on topics such as the history of agriculture, introduction to organic farming, soil health, water management and methods to increase groundwater through natural farming practices.

Due to the scale of the project, several traders have temporarily shifted their shops to nearby localities including B.H. Road, Hosamane Road, Puneeth Rajkumar Road, and Akkasaligara Beedi.

Officials stated that timely completion of demolition work is crucial to ensure smooth progress of the widening project, especially before heavy monsoon rains begin, which could otherwise delay construction activities and increase overall expenditure.

Jaya Karnataka leader donates gate to school garden

KODAGU

Jay Karnataka Sanghatane Taluk Unit President C.B. Suresh Shetty handed over a newly constructed gate for a school kitchen garden at Aigoor High School, highlighting the importance of organic cultivation and student well-being.

The event was held under the joint initiative of the school's Bhavanakkondur Sadan Eco Club, which has been promoting awareness on sustainable agriculture and healthy food habits among students. The newly developed kitchen garden within the school campus was also showcased during the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Suresh Shetty said that consuming home-grown vegeta-

bles helps improve health and reduces dependency on chemically treated and pesticide-laden produce available in the market. He encouraged students to take up gardening activities and understand the value of natural food sources.

He further stated that students should not discontinue their education due to financial difficulties and assured that support would be extended to those facing challenges in paying fees or purchasing learning materials. His remarks were well received by teachers and students present at the event.

The gate donation was made as part of efforts to improve infrastructure for the school's kitchen garden, which is intended to serve both educational and practical purposes.

Partnerships with organizations like VANA Charitable Trust will provide ongoing technical support and additional resources.

The gathering showcased strong public-private collaboration, with many participants pledging continued involvement in environmental conservation.

Such hands-on actions demonstrate how collective small steps contribute to larger ecological benefits, fostering a greener and healthier Mangaluru for years ahead.

MANGALURU

Srinivas University has achieved a significant international milestone by winning three prestigious awards at the Global Education Summit held in Bangkok, Thailand.

Chancellor Dr. Srinivas Rao made the announcement during a press conference in Mangaluru on Wednesday. The university was conferred the Global Excellence Award in Higher Education and Research, while its Srinivas Institute of Technology (SIT) received the Excellence in Industry Integrated Technical Education Award. Additionally, Dr. Shrinivasa Mayya D., Principal of SIT, was honoured with the Visionary Education Leader Award.

Dr. Srinivas Rao credited the late educationist Dr. C.A. Raghavendra Rao's vision for the growth of Srinivas institutions, which have emerged as a leading group in quality education, re-



Mangaluru-based institution receives top honours for excellence in higher education, industry-integrated learning, and visionary leadership on the international stage

search, skill development, and industry-oriented learning.

The university maintains strong academic partnerships with global giants such as TCS, Microsoft, IBM, Google, Intel, and UiPath.

It has also pioneered a four-year B.Tech programme in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering. The university has

to its credit 593 copyrights, 28 patents, over 157 patent publications, more than 2,000 international research papers, and research grants exceeding ₹115 crore.

Representatives including Dr. Shrinivasa Mayya D. and Dr. Dheeraj Hebri attended the summit and held discussions with leading Thai universities on student-faculty exchange programmes, joint research, global internships, and employment opportunities.

The chancellor emphasised that these awards strengthen the institution's commitment to providing global education, exposure, and career prospects to local students.

Groww grants scholarships to 200 NITK students

MANGALURU

Financial services platform Groww has awarded scholarships to 200 undergraduate engineering students of National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal for the financial year 2025–26, according to the institute.

The scholarship programme aims to support students from economically weaker backgrounds pursuing B.Tech courses across various disciplines, helping them meet educational and living expenses during their academic journey.

As part of the initiative, 190 students have been selected under the WellBeing Scholarship category, which provides ₹70,000 annually to each beneficiary.

The support is intended to assist with living expenses. The recipients include 158 male and 32 female students.

In addition, 10 female students have been awarded the FullRide Scholarship, which offers ₹2.5 lakh per annum, covering both tuition fees and living costs.

The institute noted that this category is specifically designed to encourage greater participation of women in engineering and technical education.

Selection for the scholarships was based on academic merit and family income criteria. For the Well-Being Scholarship, students were required to maintain a minimum CGPA of 6.0 and have an annual family income below ₹1 lakh.

For the FullRide category, the eligibility included a minimum CGPA of 6.5 and a family income between ₹1 lakh and ₹8 lakh.

Candidates were also required to maintain at least 75 per cent attendance, along with verification of academic records, income certificates and other supporting documents before final approval. NITK Surathkal said the initiative is part of its broader industry engagement programme, under which corporate organisations collaborate with the institute to support student welfare alongside academic and research development. Officials said such partnerships help reduce financial burden on students while promoting inclusive access to higher technical education.

QUICK READ

Udhampur forest fire spread amid heatwave

UDHAMPUR

A severe heatwave in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district has triggered multiple forest fires, with fresh flames reported in the Rang forest area of Ramnagar. Officials said the region has recorded 21 fire incidents since May 22, ranging from small to major outbreaks. Forest teams are working round the clock, with 11 control rooms set up across different locations. Authorities said strong winds and dry conditions are making it difficult to control the fires, and sparks can easily reignite burnt areas. Officials have urged people to avoid lighting fires near forests as efforts continue to protect wildlife and forest cover.

Nagpur bomb threat sparks security sweep

NAGPUR

Police in Nagpur carried out a detailed search after a bomb threat email warned of possible blasts at key locations, including the RSS headquarters. Officials said security teams checked the RSS headquarters, Hedgewar Bhawan, and Harihar areas as a precaution. Deputy Commissioner of Police Rahul Madne said the email triggered immediate action and thorough inspections. No suspicious objects were found, and the sites were later declared safe. Authorities confirmed the operation was completed after full checks. Police said the threat was taken seriously due to recent incidents in Maharashtra, and security has been tightened while investigations into the email continue.

Bihar CM releases Rs 1,100 cr pension aid

The amount was released via DBT system to 94 lakh beneficiaries, ensuring timely social security support.

PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary transferred Rs 1,100 crore directly into the bank accounts of more than 94 lakh beneficiaries under various social security pension schemes through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system.

The transfer was carried out from Bihar Bhawan in New Delhi and is part of the state government's effort to ensure timely financial support to vulnerable sections of society.

Officials said beneficiaries under multiple pension schemes received Rs 1,100 per month directly in their accounts. The government has announced that pension payments will now be credited regularly on the 10th of every month. The Chief Minister



urged eligible senior citizens who have not yet enrolled in the scheme to apply so they can receive benefits. He said the government remains committed to supporting the elderly, widows, and persons with disabilities. Bihar currently operates six major social security pension schemes, including old age pensions, widow pensions, disability pensions, and other welfare programmes aimed at supporting economically weaker groups.

The state government had earlier increased the pension amount from Rs 400 to Rs 1,100 per month, a move announced ahead of the 2025 Assembly elections.

Officials said recent delays in payments had caused concern among beneficiaries, but steps have now been taken to ensure regular and timely transfers.

Earlier this week, the government approved an advance allocation of Rs 3,662 crore for pension payments covering several months. The latest transfer specifically covers payments for the month of May. According to official data, Bihar has around 1.19 crore pension beneficiaries, with more than 94 lakh receiving payments in the latest disbursement through the DBT system.

The case relates to claims that Rahul referred to Lord Ram as a "fictional" or "mythological" figure during an event at Brown University

Remarks on Lord Ram: Varanasi court revives plea against RaGa

NEW DELHI

A special MP/MLA court in Varanasi has allowed a fresh complaint seeking criminal action against Congress leader and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi over alleged remarks made about Lord Ram during an event in the United States.

The case relates to claims that Rahul Gandhi referred to Lord Ram as a "fictional" or "mythological" figure during an interaction at Brown University in Boston in April 2025.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Yajuvendra Vikram

Singh overturned an earlier order of a lower court that had rejected the complaint at the initial stage. The court said the Magistrate had dismissed the matter without giving the complainant a proper hearing.

The revisional court has now sent the case back for fresh consideration, instructing that it be examined again according to legal procedure under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. The earlier order by the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate had stated that the complaint could not proceed without prior approval from the Lok Sabha Speaker, as Rahul

Gandhi is a sitting Member of Parliament.

However, the HC observed that the plaint required proper judicial review and should not have been rejected without full examination. The complainant, advocate Harishankar Pandey, alleged that the remarks hurt religious sentiments and could fall under provisions of the BNS related to promoting disharmony and offending beliefs. He has also argued that the Congress should be included in the case. The Magistrate court will now re-examine the complaint and decide the next course of action as per law.

Centre to push coal gasification in Hyderabad

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Coal will hold a roadshow in Hyderabad to promote coal and lignite gasification projects, as part of its efforts to boost investment and expand cleaner utilisation of domestic coal resources.

Officials said the event follows a successful earlier roadshow in Delhi that saw strong participation from industry stakeholders, reflecting growing interest in India's coal gasification sector.

Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy will attend the event as chief guest, while Minister of State Satish Chandra Dubey will participate as guest of honour. Senior officials from the Coal Ministry, state governments, public sector companies, investors and industry representatives are also expected to attend.

The event will focus on investment, policy frameworks, new technologies and project execution strategies in the sector. It will also provide a platform for dialogue between policymakers, industry leaders and technology providers.

The ministry said coal gasification is a key technology that converts coal into synthesis gas, which can be used to produce chemicals, synthetic



Coal Ministry roadshow in Hyderabad promotes coal gasification projects, aiming to attract investment and boost cleaner, efficient use of domestic coal resources.

fuels, methanol, ammonia-based products and other industrial materials. Officials added that the government is promoting coal gasification through policy support and incentives, aiming to strengthen energy security, reduce import dependence and improve value addition from domestic coal reserves.

Authorities believe the initiative will help speed up development of coal gasification projects across the country and encourage greater private sector participation. The government said the event is part of a broader strategy to modernise India's coal sector while ensuring more efficient and diversified use of energy resources.

Dhami clears Rs 89 cr projects in Uttarakhand

DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has approved development and infrastructure projects worth around Rs 89 crore across the state, covering police housing, disaster relief support and public facilities.

The approved funds include Rs 42.47 crore for constructing 120 Type-II residential quarters at the Police Line in Roshanabad, Haridwar. Another Rs 17.44 crore has been sanctioned for demolishing unsafe buildings at the Rishikesh police station and building new residential quarters for police personnel.

Officials said Rs 59.78 lakh has also been approved for constructing new barracks at the district jail in Dehradun. In addition, Rs 27.60 crore has been cleared for various police infrastructure works during the current financial year. The Chief Minister has also approved financial assistance for families affected by natural disasters in Uttarakashi district.

These families will receive monthly rental support of Rs 4,000 for six months under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. In another decision, Rs 29.32 lakh has been sanctioned for installing 10 high-mast lights in market areas under the Salt Assembly constituency in Almora district to improve public lighting and safety.

Indian Navy gets ₹449 cr GNSS jammer deal

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Defence has signed a Rs 449 crore contract for the procurement of 20 Enhanced Capability Global Navigation Satellite System (ECGNSS) jammers for the Indian Navy, marking a fresh push towards strengthening indigenous defence technology.

The agreement was signed with Bengaluru-based Accord Software and Systems Private Limited under the Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured) category.

The deal was finalised in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.

Officials said the systems

will help the Navy disrupt and mislead enemy satellite navigation signals by degrading signal tracking and enabling spoofing or deceptive jamming techniques.

This capability is expected to improve operational safety for Indian naval ships operating in complex and high-risk environments.

The project requires at least 75 per cent indigenous content, reflecting the government's continued focus on Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India in the defence sector.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the induction of these systems will strengthen India's maritime security framework and enhance the Navy's ability to operate ef-

fectively in multi-threat scenarios.

Officials added that the contract is part of a broader effort to modernise defence infrastructure and reduce dependence on imported military systems by promoting domestic innovation and production.

The move is seen as a significant step in boosting India's electronic warfare capabilities at sea while also supporting local defence manufacturing companies.

The Ministry said the initiative will contribute to long-term self-reliance in advanced military technologies and improve preparedness against evolving security challenges in the maritime domain.

JK forms panel to probe Gondola glitch

SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir government has set up a five-member committee to investigate the technical failure of the Gulmarg Gondola that left more than 300 tourists stranded mid-air for several hours on May 25, as per official statement. The committee will be headed by Mahmood Ahmad Shah of the

Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service, who is also Managing Director of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited.

Other members include senior officials from the tourism and engineering departments, including the Director of Tourism Jammu, the Chief Executive Officer of Gulmarg Development Authority, and mechanical engineering ex-

perts from the Kashmir region.

According to the government order, the panel has been tasked with conducting a detailed inquiry into the sequence of events that led to the malfunction. It will also examine all mechanical, electrical, electronic, braking and safety systems of the ropeway.

Officials said the committee

will review existing standard operating procedures and maintenance practices to determine whether any negligence, operational lapse or administrative failure contributed to the incident.

SUNDARBANS GREEN REVIVAL

20,000 mangroves thrive in Sundarbans project

SUNDARBANS: A large-scale mangrove plantation effort under the Green India Challenge has shown strong results in the Sundarbans, where 20,000 geo-tagged saplings planted earlier this year have now grown into healthy young mangroves.

The saplings were planted on February 17, 2026, as a tribute to Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. A recent site visit by the organisers confirmed that many of the mangroves have grown up to three feet tall, showing strong survival and growth rates. Officials said the comparison between initial plantation photographs and current field conditions highlights the success of scientific planting methods, regular monitoring, and active community participation in maintaining the saplings.

Each tree was geo-tagged to allow tracking of its survival and growth, ensuring transparency and accountability in the plantation drive.

The Sundarbans, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is the world's largest mangrove ecosystem and plays a crucial role in protecting coastal areas from cyclones, floods, sea-level rise and erosion.

Organisers said the initiative demonstrates how community-led environmental action can contribute to climate resilience while also supporting biodiversity and local livelihoods.

The Green India Challenge team said the plantation drive is part of a larger environmental movement that encourages citizens, students and organisations to take part in large-scale tree plantation efforts across the country. Since its launch in 2018, the initiative has reportedly led to the planting of millions of trees across India, promoting awareness about environmental protection and climate action.



VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590 018, Karnataka State.

No.: V.T.U./BGM/S.A.P./CW1/T-750/2026-27/1096 Date: 10-06-2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Registrar, V.T.U., Belagavi, invites E-tenders (Two Cover Systems) for the following works through E-procurement tendering mode. **Name of the Tender : Tender for Printing and Supply of Grade Cards to VTU Examination Section, Belagavi.** Estimated Amount : Rs. 54,00,000/-, EMD Amount : Rs. 1,08,000/-, Last Date for Receipt of Tender : 24-06-2026 upto 2.30 p.m. Date of Opening of Tender : 25-06-2026 at 4.00 p.m. The details regarding participation in the e-Tendering can be accessed by logging to our VTU Website : www.vtu.ac.in and E-procurement Portal Website : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Registrar,
V.T.U., Belagavi,



Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Ramanagara Special Division
Ramanagara, Bengaluru South Dist.

No. EE/PWD/RMN Spl.Div./TND-03/2026-27 Date : 08.06.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited in two cover system from the eligible contractors for **08 works from Rs. 100.00 Lakhs to Rs.800.00 Lakhs** through e-procurement portal as per the Standard bid documents. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through e-procurement portal <http://Kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Documents may be downloaded from **11.06.2026 to 29.06.2026**. Last date for submission of tender **29.06.2026 upto 16:00 hours**. Date of Pre-bid meeting: **22.06.2026 at 11:30 Hours**. Date of opening of Technical bid **30.06.2026 (If possible) at 16:30 hours**. Tender Processing Fees, EMD as per E-Procurement. For more information contact the undersigned during Office Hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Special Division, Ramanagara
Bengaluru South Dist.

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.

No. EE/PWD/HSN/JE-2/2026-27/ DATED: 08.06.2026.

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 13/2026-27, Dated:08.06.2026

Tender is invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KW-4 from the eligible registered Contractors of Karnataka PWD. Tenders invited through E-Procurement for 01 Work in Hassan division. The amount put to tender is Rs.201.65 lakhs. Last date of Receipt of tender is 23.06.2026 till 4.00 P.M. For more details visit <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD,
Hassan Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಘ/ಬಿಎಸ್ಸಿಎಸ್ಸಿ/ಹಾಸನ/210/ಕೆಎಸ್ಸಿಎಂಎಸ್ಸಿ/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Public Works, Department. SIRASI Division(U.K), Karnataka Telephone: 08384- 223164 Fax: 08384- 224100.

No. PWD/SR/DN/AE/IFT/ 5054KRDCL/2026-27/781 Date: 05.06.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) KW-4 e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

1. The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. **The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (26.03.2021)** 2. Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam> under login for Contractors: (3) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4) Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the eprocurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division. (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents. (Total: 1 Work)

(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications : **22-06-2026 up to 16.00.00** (2) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders : **23-06-2026 up to 16.00.00** (3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid : **24-06-2026 @ 16.30.00** (4) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid : **25-06-2026 @ 16.00.00**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Public Work Department Division
Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/200/26-27 dt. 09.06.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕೆಎನಿಎ, ವಾರಾಣಸಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಸದ್ಯಾಪುರ-576229. ಉದಾಹರಣೆ: e mail: eevpzone@gmail.com

ದರಪಟ್ಟಿ ಅಭಿಮಾನಿ

ಉತ್ತರಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಭಟ್ಕಳ-ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಮುಳ್ಯಾಡ್ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಪತ್ತಿರ ತರಾವಣಿ ನದಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದ "ಪ್ರಜ್ಞಾ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್"(ಉಪ್ಪು ನೀರು ತಡೆಗೋಡೆ) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಅಂದಾಜು ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲಿಟ್ ಪೈಲ್ಡ್ ಕಡೆ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ದರಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಅಭಿಮಾನಿನಿಯ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 7 ದಿನಗಳೊಳಗೆ ಮುಚ್ಚಿದ ಲಕೋಟೆಯ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಅಭಿಮಾನಿನಿಯನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪಟ್ಟಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08259-284240ಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹ/ - ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕೆಎನಿಎ, ವಾರಾಣಸಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಸದ್ಯಾಪುರ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಘ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಸಿಎಂಎಸ್ಸಿ/159/ 26-27 ದಿ: 10-06-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಹಾವೇರಿ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಹಾವೇರಿ.
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Email : huda.haveri@gmail.com ದೂ.ಸಂ: 08375-297388
ನಂ:ಹಾನಿಪ್ರಾ/ಕೆರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ/2026-27/136 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 10/06/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Haveri Urban Development Authority has invited for the following indented numbered work for the development of Akkamahadevi Lake in Haveri Tahar under Lake Development Charge under the provisions of Two Covers System KW-4 through KPPP. Indent Number : HAVUDA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 5/Call-3, Package Amount Rs. **150.00 Lakhs**, EMD amount Rs. **2.00 Lakhs**
(1) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders : **16/06/2026**, Time 4-00 PM (2) Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid : **18/06/2026**, Time 10-30 AM (3) Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid : **19/06/2026**, Time 11.00 AM
Note : (1) The undersigned reserves the right to postpone the tender process/cancel the tender completely/reject the tender without assigning any reason. (2) Any changes in the said tenders will not be published in the newspapers, instead the changes will be published only on the KPPP portal.

Interested tenderers can download the tender documents and further information from the Karnataka Government e-Procurement Portal website <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/-
(Sannafakiragowda N. Gajigowdar) (Pujara VeeraMallappa)
Chairman, Urban Development Authority, Haveri Commissioner, Urban Development Authority, Haveri

DIPR/Haveri/147/KSMCA/2026-27

QUICK READ

Military chopper crash kills all onboard in Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD

All personnel aboard a Pakistan Army Mi-17 helicopter were killed when it crashed near Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-administered Kashmir during takeoff, the military said. Officials reported a technical fault caused the aircraft to go down and catch fire. No survivors were found. Rescue teams reached the crash site quickly, while authorities launched a board of inquiry to determine the exact cause of the accident. The helicopter belonged to the army aviation unit. The crash has raised concerns as investigations continue. Eyewitnesses reported seeing flames after impact.

2 crew missing after tanker strike near Oman

LONDON

Two crew members are missing and one was injured after a suspected missile strike on a tanker off the coast of Oman, maritime officials said. The ship reported an engine room fire about 20 nautical miles from Sohar. Security group Ambrey said the incident may be linked to US operations targeting vessels suspected of violating a blockade on Iran. The tanker, identified as Settebello, sent a distress call and was later assisted by Omani authorities. The U.S. Central Command has not commented yet. Investigations are ongoing while search efforts continue for the missing crew members at sea.

Iran war makes nuclear disarmament harder: Lee

South Korea's President Lee warns US-Iran tensions strengthen North Korea's nuclear stance while stressing diplomacy and security balance

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung has said that the ongoing US-Iran conflict has made it even less likely for North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons programme, highlighting rising global security concerns.

In an interview, Lee said the war has strengthened Pyongyang's belief that nuclear weapons are necessary for its survival. He made the remarks during a conversation with The Economist on the first anniversary of his inauguration. At the same time,



Lee noted that US President Donald Trump's "unique personality" could still help bring North Korea back to dialogue. He said diplomacy remains possible, even in a tense international environment. The South Korean President also reiterated his country's commitment to nuclear non-proliferation. He said it is neither "desirable nor realistic" for South Korea to develop its own nuclear weapons.

On national security, Lee stressed that South Korea must take greater responsibility for its own defence while continuing to work closely with allies. He also reflected on the country's recent political turmoil following former President Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law declaration in 2024, saying South Korea now has an opportunity to move beyond instability and

build a stronger future.

Lee suggested introducing a basic income system funded by excess corporate profits, especially from major semiconductor companies benefiting from the global AI boom. He also acknowledged legal uncertainties he may face after leaving office, saying there is a "high possibility" of impeachment or legal action depending on ongoing trials related to his earlier political roles. Meanwhile, reports said US military strikes in the region have further increased tensions with Iran, raising fears of broader escalation.

India emphasizes diplomacy and dialogue at ASEAN Regional Forum meeting, urging stronger cooperation for regional peace and stability

India backs dialogue at ASEAN Security Forum meet in Manila

MANILA

India has underlined the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in dealing with global security challenges during the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Senior Officials' Meeting held in Manila, Philippines, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

India's delegation was led by Secretary (East) Rudrendra Tandon, who stressed the need for strengthening the ARF mechanism as a key platform for peaceful resolution of disputes.

Officials said discussions at the meeting focused on the current regional and international security situation, with participating countries calling for collective efforts to maintain a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region. India reiterated that dialogue and confidence-building measures remain essential tools for addressing complex geopolitical issues and avoiding conflict.

The ARF, established in 1993, is a major regional security forum that brings together ASEAN countries and their dialogue partners to promote peace, stability, and cooperation. It works through a structured process that includes confidence-building measures, preventive diplomacy, and conflict management approaches.

The forum currently includes 27 members, among them all 11 ASEAN nations along with key global partners such as India, China, the United States, Japan, Russia, and the European Union, as well as several other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. India's participation reflects its continued commitment to regional stability and multilateral engagement in the Indo-Pacific.

They said the meeting also reaffirmed the importance of maintaining open communication channels among countries to reduce tensions and build trust in an increasingly complex global environment.

US pushes domestic rare earth production

WASHINGTON

US lawmakers have introduced a new bipartisan bill aimed at reducing America's dependence on China for permanent magnets, a key material used in electric vehicles, defence systems, and advanced technology.

The proposed legislation, called the Magnets Value Chain Support Act of 2026, was presented by Representative John Moolenaar and Representative Ro Khanna. Both lawmakers said the United States must rebuild its domestic supply chain to strengthen economic security and national defence.

Supporters of the bill said China currently controls more than 90% of the global supply chain for rare earth magnets, giving it significant influence over critical industries worldwide.

They warned that past export restrictions by China on key rare earth materials have already disrupted global supply chains and exposed vulnerabilities in US manufacturing. The bill aims to encourage domestic production by offering tax credits at different stages of magnet manufacturing, from raw material processing to advanced production. It also includes incentives for US companies that use locally produced magnets in their products.

They said the plan is designed to strengthen supply chain security and reduce reliance on foreign suppliers for materials used in electric vehicles, wind turbines, robotics, drones, and military equipment.

Over 1,200 animals culled in Mongolia

ULAN BATOR



Mongolia has culled more than 1,200 livestock animals after outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) were confirmed in the country's western provinces of Bayan-Ulgii and Khovd, as per reports.

According to the General Authority for Veterinary Services, a total of 1,230 animals were destroyed after being found infected with the SAT-1 strain of the virus. Officials said this marks the first time this particular and highly dangerous strain has been detected in Mongolia.

Foot-and-mouth disease is a highly contagious viral infection that affects animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs. It spreads quickly through direct contact, contaminated equipment, vehicles, people, and even wildlife. The outbreaks were first confirmed in late May, prompting immediate containment measures.

Authorities in the affected provinces have declared a heightened state of preparedness, which will remain in place indefinitely to prevent further spread. Officials also reported that another strain of the virus, known as the O serotype, has been detected in six other provinces across the country.

This strain is responsible for most global outbreaks of the disease.

Livestock farming plays a major role in Mongolia's economy, with millions of animals forming the backbone of rural livelihoods and traditional nomadic culture.

The country had more than 58 million head of livestock at the end of 2025, highlighting the scale of the sector and the potential economic impact of the outbreak. Authorities continue to monitor the situation closely, as foot-and-mouth disease poses a serious threat to animal health, food production, and international trade in livestock products worldwide.

US Court rejects \$100,000 H-1B Visa fee

WASHINGTON

A federal court in the United States has struck down a controversial \$100,000 fee imposed on new H-1B visa petitions, marking a major legal win for state governments, employers and institutions that rely on skilled foreign workers.

The ruling, issued by a US District Court in Massachusetts, cancelled the fee introduced by the Trump administration for new H-1B applications filed after September 2025. It said the policy lacked proper legal backing, following a challenge from a coalition of US states.

State attorneys general welcomed the decision, saying the fee would have severely increased costs for universities, hospitals, research centres and government agencies that depend on specialised global talent.

Officials from Washington State said the ruling would help protect access

to skilled professionals in fields such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and healthcare. They warned that the fee would have made it harder for public institutions to fill critical jobs.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who led the legal challenge, said the court had clearly rejected what he called an unlawful and excessive charge. He said the decision ensures the US remains open to global talent and supports essential services across sectors. Connecticut officials also criticised the fee, saying it placed an unfair burden on employers and risked worsening labour shortages in key professions such as teaching, medicine and research.

The states argued that employers had previously paid lower visa-related charges, and that the proposed fee would have created a major barrier to hiring skilled foreign workers.

US Democrats warn of Ebola preparedness gaps

WASHINGTON

A group of Democratic senators has raised concerns over the United States' ability to handle major infectious disease outbreaks, warning that the country may be unprepared to respond effectively to threats such as Ebola amid staffing cuts and leadership gaps in public health agencies.

In a letter addressed to Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the lawmakers said recent administrative decisions have weakened the nation's public

health system. The letter was led by Senators Patty Murray and Tim Kaine and signed by several other Democratic senators.

The group claimed that large-scale job cuts and vacancies across key agencies have reduced the government's ability to detect and respond to disease outbreaks.

They said thousands of positions have been eliminated across institutions such as the CDC, FDA and National Institutes of Health. According to the senators, only a

small number of senior leadership posts at the Department of Health and Human Services are currently filled, leaving major agencies without permanent heads during a period of global health concern.

The lawmakers said the situation is especially worrying as the United States prepares to host international visitors for major global events, including the FIFA World Cup, which could increase public health risks. They also warned that ongoing Ebola and hantavirus

outbreaks require strong coordination, clear communication, and fully staffed health institutions to ensure an effective response.

The letter criticised funding cuts to vaccine development programmes and raised concerns that reduced investment in medical research could weaken future pandemic preparedness. The senators have asked the health department to provide detailed responses by June 23, including steps to restore staffing, improve outbreak response, and strengthen disease surveillance systems across the country.

KARZAI CONDEMNS PAK OVER AFGHAN AIRSTRIKES

KABUL

Former Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai strongly criticised Pakistan over reported airstrikes in eastern Afghanistan that allegedly killed civilians, including women and children, in Kunar, Khost and Paktika provinces.

Karzai said Pakistan must accept responsibility for its actions and end what he described as a policy of "war and destruction" in the region. He urged Islamabad to choose

peaceful and neighbourly relations instead of continued conflict.

His remarks came after Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said that Pakistani airstrikes had killed at least 13 civilians, most of them children, in recent attacks. He said the strikes targeted civilian homes and caused significant loss of life and injuries. Karzai expressed condolences to the affected families and said Pakistan's policies were harming regional stability and



its own long-term interests. According to reports, he said continued aggression would

not help achieve any political or security goals and called for a shift towards peaceful diplomacy.

The Taliban administration also condemned the strikes, claiming that 11 children, one woman, and one elderly man were killed, while several others were injured. They said the attacks took place overnight and targeted residential areas.

Tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan have increased in recent months,

with both sides accusing each other of cross-border attacks and actions that threaten regional peace.

Officials in Afghanistan said earlier incidents have also caused damage to schools, clinics, and religious sites, further worsening humanitarian concerns in border regions. Diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions have so far made little progress as violence and accusations continue between the two neighbours.

BORDER FUNDING PUSH

US House approves \$70 billion border bill

WASHINGTON

The US House of Representatives has narrowly passed a nearly \$70 billion immigration enforcement package aimed at strengthening border security and expanding the operations of key federal agencies, marking a major win for President Donald Trump's administration.

The bill, called the Secure America Act, was approved by a 214-212 vote, largely along party lines, and now moves to the President for final approval. The funding is



set to support US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) over the next three years.

Officials said the legislation comes after months of political deadlock, with Republicans and Democrats disagreeing over how immigration enforcement should be funded and regulated. Republicans pushed the bill through using a budget process that allowed them to avoid extended opposition.

Supporters of the bill said the funding will help strengthen border operations, fight drug trafficking, and tackle human smuggling networks. They argued that increased resources are needed to im-

prove national security and protect citizens.

Republican leaders described the measure as essential for supporting law enforcement agencies working at the border, saying it will improve their ability to handle illegal immigration and criminal networks.

The White House and Trump allies welcomed the decision, calling it a key step in advancing the administration's immigration agenda. Officials said the funding will allow enforcement agencies to expand their operations sig-

nificantly. However, Democrats and immigrant rights groups strongly opposed the bill, saying it increases enforcement power without adequate oversight or reforms. They warned that it could lead to stricter deportation actions and reduced protections for migrants.

The vote highlights deep political divisions in the United States over immigration policy, with Republicans prioritising enforcement and Democrats calling for balanced reforms and accountability measures.

Raul Jimenez secures Wolves return ahead of WC campaign

Mexico striker commits to club future just before opening World Cup match

WOLVERHAMPTON

Mexico striker Raul Jimenez has resolved his club future ahead of the FIFA World Cup by signing for a second spell with English side Wolverhampton Wanderers, just days before his national team begins its campaign against South Africa.

Jimenez has joined Wolves on an initial two-year deal after leaving Fulham, where his contract was set to expire at the end of June. The move comes as the club prepares for life in the EFL Championship following relegation from the Premier League last season.

The 34-year-old forward previously enjoyed a successful stint at Wolves between 2018 and 2023, after arriving from Benfica. During his first spell at the club, Jimenez scored 57 goals in 166 appearances

and established himself as a key figure in the team's attacking setup.

Wolves executive chairman Nathan Shi welcomed the striker's return,

describing it as a significant moment for the club and its supporters. "Being able to bring Raul back to Wolves is a truly special moment for everyone connected with this football club," he said.

Jimenez's return provides Wolves with an experienced attacking option as they aim to rebuild and push for promotion back to the Premier League.

His familiarity with the club and its system is expected to be an advantage as he joins a squad

undergoing transition.

For Mexico, Jimenez's club clarity comes at a crucial time, with the national team set to open their World Cup campaign against South Africa on Thursday. The striker remains one of Mexico's most important attacking players and will be expected to play a central role in their tournament ambitions.

Jimenez has been in encouraging form in recent international appearances, contributing goals and leadership in the final build-up to the global event. His experience at major tournaments is seen as vital for Mexico as they look to progress deep into the competition.

With his club future settled and international focus ahead, Jimenez enters the World Cup with stability and confidence, aiming to make an impact on both fronts in the months ahead.



Residents of Marktweg transform neighbourhood into vibrant celebration of national pride

Street in The Hague turns orange as Dutch fans embrace World Cup fever

THE HAGUE

As the Netherlands prepares for its opening match at the FIFA World Cup, football fever has taken over parts of the country, with one street in The Hague standing out as a dazzling display of national pride drenched entirely in orange.

On Marktweg Street, residents have transformed their neighbourhood into a sea of colour, covering homes, trees, lamp posts and fences with orange decorations in support of the Dutch national team. From fluttering flags to painted façades, the street has become a symbol of collective enthusiasm ahead of the global tournament.

The vibrant transformation is not limited to decorations alone. Lions, a national symbol of the Netherlands, feature prominently throughout the street, often depicted wearing the iconic orange jersey of the national team, affectionately known as "Oranje".



The result is a striking visual tribute that reflects the deep connection between football and Dutch identity.

At one intersection, a small caravan painted in red, white and blue stands out amid the overwhelming orange theme. Marked as the "Hague Orange Campsite", it has become a meeting point for fans and residents who have contributed to the weeks-long effort of decorating the area.

Local organiser Danny van Dijk said the initiative has been met with widespread ap-

preciation from the community. "So far, we haven't encountered anyone who said they don't like it or complain about it. Up to now, we've only heard positive things," he said, highlighting the spirit of unity driving the project.

The Netherlands will begin its World Cup campaign against Japan in Dallas before facing Sweden in Houston and Tunisia in Kansas City during the group stage. The tournament has sparked excitement across the country, with fans preparing to follow

their team's journey across the United States.

Members of the Dutch royal family, including the king, queen and crown princess, are expected to attend the match against Sweden, further underlining the national significance of the event.

Despite never having won the World Cup, the Netherlands has reached the final three times, in 1974, 1978 and 2010, cementing its reputation as one of football's most consistent contenders.

For visitors like amateur photographer Rob van Rosmalen, the transformation of Marktweg is a testament to community spirit. "The street is beautifully decorated. All that orange. That must have been a huge task," he said, praising the co-operation among neighbours that has turned the area into a festive landmark.



White House WC chief defends visa ban for Somali referee, Iranian staff

WASHINGTON

The head of the White House Task Force for the FIFA World Cup has defended the United States' decision to deny visas to a Somali referee and several members of Iran's support staff, stating that security concerns were the primary reason for the move.

Andrew Giuliani, executive director of the task force, said during an event in Washington that while all participating teams had been able to enter the United States, certain officials were barred from entry after security vetting.

"To this point we've had 35 teams that have come into the United States," Giuliani said. "No players, no coaches have been denied. There have been some officials that have been denied, and for good reason."

A US State Department official later told AFP that the Somali referee was deemed ineligible for admission due to alleged associations with individuals linked to suspected terrorist organisations. The

official added that such determinations were part of standard security screening procedures.

The referee in question, Omar Artan, who was named men's referee of the year by the Confederation of African Football in 2025, was expected to become the first Somali official to oversee matches at a FIFA World Cup. Reports indicate he was turned away upon arrival at Miami airport.

Somalia is among several countries affected by travel restrictions introduced under the current US administration's broader immigration and security policies.

The Iranian football federation also confirmed that its supporter ticket allocations had been revoked and that certain members of its team staff were denied visas. Iran are scheduled to play their group-stage matches in the United States but have already shifted training arrangements to Mexico amid broader geopolitical tensions.

FIFA WC 2026 set to unfold under shadow of global tensions

NEW DELHI

As North America prepares to host the expanded FIFA World Cup 2026, the "beautiful game" is set to unfold against a backdrop of geopolitical tensions, security concerns and rising debate over the future direction of football's biggest spectacle.

The tournament, co-hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada, will feature 48 teams for the first time in history, marking a significant expansion from previous editions. It begins on June 11, with Mexico facing South Africa in the opening match, launching a month-long festival of football comprising 104 games across multiple cities.

Nearly four years after Argentina lifted the trophy in Qatar, defending champions and global superstars will once again take centre stage. Lionel Messi's Argentina will aim to defend their crown, while traditional heavyweights such as France, Brazil, England, Belgium, Portugal and the Netherlands enter the tournament among the favourites.

However, this edition is also expected to be a farewell stage for several iconic figures, with speculation that Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Manuel Neuer could be making their final World Cup appearances.

The expanded format, introduced under FIFA president Gianni Infantino's long-term vision, has significantly increased the number of matches and participating nations. The group stage alone now features 72 matches, raising questions about player fatigue and the quality of contests as the competition progresses.

New entrants such as Curaçao and Cape Verde add fresh narratives, while Asia and the Arab world have achieved record representation. Iraq's return to the tournament after decades adds emotional weight, while Italy's continued absence remains one of the competition's most notable disappointments.

The build-up to the tournament has not been without controversy. Political tensions in West Asia, concerns over violence in parts of Mexico, and disputes surrounding ticket pricing and broadcasting rights have all contributed to a complicated prelude.



Celebrations clash with social tensions in Mexico ahead of WC



MEXICO CITY

As Mexico prepares to host the opening ceremonies of the FIFA World Cup, celebrations in the capital have been increasingly overshadowed by rising social tensions, protests and concerns over security across several host cities.

The tournament, jointly hosted by Mexico, the United States and Canada, is set to begin with an inauguration ceremony and opening match on Thursday, marking the start of a month-long global sporting spectacle. However, beneath the festive atmosphere in Mexico City, authorities are grappling with criticism over governance, public spending and safety.

President Claudia Sheinbaum faces mounting political pressure as the country navigates diplomatic strains with the United States ahead of key trade talks in July, along with domestic criticism over alleged neglect of pressing social issues. Analysts say the World Cup has placed her administration under intense scrutiny at a sensitive time.

Authorities have ramped up

Mexico City mixes festive World Cup build-up with rising protests and security concerns

security across the three host cities — Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey — following violent incidents earlier this year in Guadalajara that temporarily disrupted preparations. More than 100,000 personnel, including soldiers, National Guard members and police officers, have been deployed to maintain order during the tournament.

Despite these measures, protests have continued in Mexico City, where teacher unions and civil groups have staged demonstrations over labour conditions and public spending priorities. Protesters have also highlighted Mexico's ongoing humanitarian crisis, including the more than 130,000 missing persons reported nationwide.

Critics argue that resources being allocated for World Cup preparations could have been directed toward education, infrastructure and social welfare programmes. Some public spaces have seen the removal

of banners and installations linked to the tournament amid tensions between authorities and demonstrators.

However, government officials maintain that the event will provide a major economic boost, with estimates suggesting the tournament could generate around \$3 billion for the hospitality and tourism sectors.

Amid the tension, excitement remains visible across the country. Streets in Mexico City are decorated with FIFA branding, national colours and football-themed installations, while fans from across the world have begun arriving in large numbers.

The opening match between Mexico and South Africa is expected to draw global attention, alongside a star-studded inauguration ceremony featuring international performers.

While officials hope the tournament will showcase Mexico's organisational strength on the world stage, observers note that balancing celebration with social realities remains the biggest challenge in the days ahead.

Benfica says Mourinho agrees Real Madrid return after Arbeloa exit

MADRID



Benfica have announced that manager José Mourinho has agreed to return to Real Madrid, following the Spanish club's decision to part ways with head coach Alvaro Arbeloa after a turbulent season without major silverware.

In a statement to shareholders, Benfica confirmed that Real Madrid have agreed to pay €15 million (\$17.3 million) as compensation for Mourinho, with the Portuguese coach also giving his consent to the move. The club thanked their outgoing manager, stating simply: "Thank you, José Mourinho."

Real Madrid, however, have not yet made an official announcement regarding Mourinho's appointment, despite widespread expectation that the deal has been finalised. The move comes shortly after Florentino Pérez secured re-election as club presi-

dent, with reports suggesting Mourinho's return was part of his campaign promises. Arbeloa's departure had been anticipated after a difficult spell in charge. He took over in January following the exit of Xabi Alonso but was unable to reverse Madrid's fortunes as the team endured a second consecutive season without a major trophy. In its statement, the club expressed gratitude for Arbeloa's contribution, praising his "loyalty, commitment, and professionalism."

Mourinho is set for a second stint at the Santiago Bernabéu, having previously managed Real Madrid between 2010 and 2013. During that period, he guided the club to a La Liga title and a Copa del Rey triumph, although his tenure was marked by intense rivalry with Pep Guardiola's Barcelona and frequent controversies both on and off the pitch.

His return is expected to divide opinion, as his previous spell was defined by both success and tension within the dressing room. Nevertheless, he retains strong backing among sections of the fanbase and former players, including Arbeloa, who had publicly supported his comeback.

Following Arbeloa's exit, Madrid are reported to have already lined up Marco Silva, formerly of Fulham, as Benfica's replacement for Mourinho on a two-year deal with an option for an extension.

Bengaluru's Srishti Kiran becomes world No. 1 in Under-13 tennis rankings

BENGALURU

Thirteen-year-old Srishti Kiran from Bengaluru has emerged as the world No. 1 in the Under-13 tennis rankings, marking a remarkable milestone in her early sporting journey and placing her among India's most exciting junior prospects.

At an age when most children are focused on school routines and extracurricular activities, Srishti has been making waves on the international junior circuit with a string of consistent performances. Her rise to the top of the global rankings comes after an impressive run on the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors, where she recently secured five consecutive titles before finishing runner-up at the ITF J100 tournament in Guatemala.

Her strong form has also



helped her climb to a career-best ITF junior ranking of No. 357, underlining her steady progress against higher-ranked and more experienced opponents. Despite competing in only eight ranking tournaments, Srishti managed to accumulate enough points to top the Under-13 global standings.

According to her support team, she missed two additional ranking events due to

financial and logistical constraints, which makes her achievement even more notable, as the rankings consider a maximum of ten tournaments.

Speaking after reaching the milestone, Srishti expressed happiness while maintaining a grounded outlook on her development. "I'm really happy to become World No. 1 in my age group. It's something I wasn't thinking about at the start of the year, but all the hard work with my coaches, family and support team is paying off," she said.

Reflecting on her recent performances, she added that her winning streak had boosted her confidence significantly. "Winning five titles in a row and then reaching another final has given me a lot of confidence. At the same time, I know there is still a long way to go," she said.

QUICK READ

Strong May inflows boost equity mutual funds

MUMBAI
Equity mutual funds attracted net inflows of Rs 22,907.77 crore in May, according to AMFI, highlighting sustained investor confidence. The mutual fund industry's assets under management reached Rs 81.58 lakh crore, while folios increased to 27.65 crore. Flexi-cap funds led equity inflows with Rs 5,175.54 crore, followed by small-cap and mid-cap funds, which together with flexi-cap schemes accounted for over 63 percent of total equity investments. Large and mid-cap funds and multi-cap funds also received healthy inflows. Hybrid schemes garnered Rs 10,560.24 crore, driven by arbitrage and multi-asset allocation funds. Index funds and overseas fund of funds gained inflows, while Gold ETFs recorded outflows.

Flexi staffing sector records strong employment growth

NEW DELHI
India's general flexi staffing industry recorded 7.9 per cent net headcount growth in FY26, adding 1.18 lakh formal temporary and flexible workers according to the Indian Staffing Federation. The total formal flexi workforce reached 1.91 million, while IT staffing rebounded with 10.1 per cent year on year employment growth. Industry leaders said demand from global capability centres, retail, logistics and manufacturing supported hiring. Quarterly data showed cautious stabilisation in the final quarter, with flexi employment rising 0.9 per cent and IT staffing up 0.2 per cent. The report also highlighted youth led workforce formalisation, with many new employees joining organised payrolls.

DGTR protects industry under WTO trade rules

NEW DELHI
The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) plays a key role in protecting Indian industry from unfair trade practices while ensuring compliance with World Trade Organization rules, said top official Amitabh Kumar in New Delhi. He explained that DGTR conducts anti-dumping, anti-subsidy and safeguard investigations and recommends appropriate measures to the government. These actions aim to address dumped, subsidised or sudden import surges that harm domestic producers. Kumar stressed that trade remedies ensure fair competition rather than restricting imports.

MSMEs, startups trained on defence procurement ecosystem

NEW DELHI
A two-day workshop aimed at training micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and startups on defence procurement procedures, innovation frameworks and testing protocols will be held in the capital on June 11 and 12, according to an official statement from the Ministry of Defence. The workshop will focus on key initiatives such as Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), the Technology Perspective Capability Roadmap (TPCR), procurement processes and certification systems, with the objective of

India witnessed remarkable progress under PM Modi

CII praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12-year tenure, citing economic growth, reforms, infrastructure expansion and global influence gains

NEW DELHI

India has achieved significant progress across economic, social and infrastructure sectors during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12 years in office, according to the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The industry body said reforms, efficient governance and a focus on inclusive development have strengthened the country's resilience, competitiveness and global standing. Congratulating Prime Minister Modi on completing 12 years of leadership, CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee said India has emerged as one of the world's leading economies and a confident voice on the global stage during this period.

"I convey my heartfelt congratulations to PM Modi on the completion of 12 years of transformative leadership," Banerjee said, highlighting the government's efforts in driving economic growth and national development. He noted that over the past decade, India has made substantial progress in areas such as inclusive economic development, infrastructure creation, innovation, entrepreneurship and social welfare. According to him, these initiatives have helped improve the quality of life for millions of citizens while creating a stronger foundation for long-term growth. Banerjee said the government's emphasis on reforms, efficient administra-

tion and inclusive growth has enhanced India's economic resilience and competitiveness. These measures have also generated new opportunities for businesses, investors and entrepreneurs, contributing to higher confidence in the country's growth prospects. The CII Director General further stated that Indian industry has benefited from an enabling business environment supported by sustained economic expansion, policy reforms and a strong push towards innovation and self-reliance. He added that the benefits of development have reached wider sections of society, promot-

ing more balanced and inclusive growth. Looking ahead, Banerjee reaffirmed industry's commitment to partnering with the government in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. He said businesses would continue to support efforts aimed at sustainable development, innovation, job creation and economic resilience. On Wednesday, Prime Minister Modi became India's longest-serving Prime Minister, completing 4,399 days in office and surpassing the record previously held by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Several Union ministers also hailed the milestone, describing it as a reflection of public trust in his leadership.



India and the United States are poised to strengthen hydrocarbon cooperation, supporting energy security and ambitious bilateral trade growth

Hydrocarbon partnership may propel India-US trade expansion

NEW DELHI

Strengthening hydrocarbon cooperation between India and the United States could become a major driver in achieving the two countries' shared objective of expanding bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030, according to a report released on Wednesday. The report, prepared by the US-India Business Council (USIBC) and Grant Thornton Bharat, highlighted the growing importance of hydrocarbons, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), crude oil, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), ethane and propane, in enhancing trade, investment opportunities, energy security and supply chain resilience between the two nations. According to the report, the India-US energy relationship is steadily evolving beyond a conventional buyer-seller framework into a broader strategic partnership encompassing trade, technology, infrastructure, investment and



long-term energy cooperation. Rahul Sharma, Managing Director of USIBC India, said the transformation of energy ties reflects the wider progress of bilateral relations. He noted that both countries are increasingly moving from transactional engagement toward deeper strategic integration across key sectors. Sharma added that collaboration in energy, technology and investment can strengthen energy security, support economic growth and create new opportunities to boost bilateral trade. The report recommended three priority actions to unlock the full potential of the partnership: increasing the scale and value of hydrocarbon trade, creating a more predictable and attractive in-

vestment environment, and diversifying supply chains to reinforce long-term energy security. It also identified significant opportunities for American investments in India's upstream exploration and production sector, LNG infrastructure, city gas distribution networks, gas-based power generation and downstream petrochemical projects. At the same time, Indian companies could expand their presence in the US energy sector through investments in LNG export facilities, shale resources, upstream oil and gas assets and petrochemical feedstock value chains. The report further proposed establishing an India-US AI-Powered Energy Task Force to accelerate the adoption of advanced technologies, including AI-driven forecasting, predictive maintenance, exploration optimisation and digital twin solutions across the hydrocarbon industry.

Starlink says India approval talks remain actively ongoing

NEW DELHI

Starlink has rejected reports suggesting that the Indian government has frozen approvals for its satellite internet services, asserting that discussions with authorities remain active and constructive. The clarification comes after a media report claimed that regulatory approvals for the Elon Musk-led company had been put on hold due to concerns related to the use of Starlink terminals during the Iran conflict. Lauren Dreyer, Vice President of Starlink Business Operations, said the company continues to engage positively with the Government of India and has received encouraging responses regarding its plans for the country. In a statement posted on social media platform X, Dreyer described reports of an approval freeze as misleading and based on unverified claims from anonymous sources. According to Dreyer, Starlink has worked closely with Indian authorities throughout the regulatory process and has complied with all applicable security.

E85 fuel introduced, expansion plans under discussion: Min Hardeep

NEW DELHI

The government has introduced E85 fuel for compatible flex-fuel vehicles and is actively consulting the automobile industry on expanding the use of higher ethanol blends in the country, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Wednesday. The minister highlighted India's rapid progress in ethanol blending and said the country has exceeded key targets ahead of schedule. He noted that ethanol blending in petrol has risen significantly from just 1.5 percent in 2014 to 10 percent by November 2022. According to Puri, the government had originally targeted achieving 20 per cent ethanol blending by 2030. However, the milestone was reached much earlier, in 2024, reflecting the success of policies aimed at promoting cleaner and more sustainable fuel alternatives. The minister said discussions are underway with stakeholders across the automobile sector, including the automobile industry body SIAM and other organisations, to explore future expansion of ethanol-based fuel usage. He clarified that E85 fuel has currently been introduced only for vehicles specifically designed and certified to operate on E85 fuel blends. Highlighting the government's broader energy strate-

India has introduced E85 fuel for compatible flex-fuel vehicles and is consulting industry stakeholders on expanding ethanol-based fuels nationwide.



gy, Puri said India is steadily moving toward greater energy self-reliance through increased domestic exploration and production, expanded biofuel adoption and growing renewable energy capacity. He pointed to the Samudra Manthan initiative announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under which Rs 90,000 crore has been allocated for drilling new wells and boosting domestic energy output. Addressing concerns over fuel prices, the minister said petrol prices in Delhi remain lower than levels recorded four years ago due to multiple excise duty reductions by the Central government. He added that excise duties on petrol and diesel were reduced in November 2021, May 2022 and again recently, while several BJP-ruled states also lowered VAT on fuels. On the reduction in subsidised LPG cylinder allocations under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Puri said the decision was taken after reports of misuse, including diversion of subsidised cylinders for commercial purposes and resale by some beneficiaries.

Reliance teams with Meta for Gujarat AI data centre

NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries has partnered with Meta to develop a large-scale 168 MW AI-enabled data centre in Gujarat, marking a significant step in India's expanding artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure ecosystem. The project is expected to support advanced computing workloads, including AI model training, cloud services and large-scale data processing requirements. According to industry sources, the facility will be designed to handle high-density computing operations, enabling faster and more efficient processing of complex AI applications. The collaboration brings together Reliance's infrastructure capabilities and Meta's expertise in artificial intelligence and digital platforms. The data centre is expected to strengthen India's position as a growing hub for AI infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region, while also supporting domestic demand for cloud computing and digital services. Officials familiar with the development said Gujarat was selected due to

its strong power infrastructure, renewable energy potential and established industrial ecosystem. The 168 MW capacity places the facility among the larger AI-focused data centre projects currently under development in the country. The project aligns with the broader trend of global technology companies and Indian conglomerates investing heavily in AI infrastructure. Rising demand for generative AI, machine learning and data-driven applications has significantly increased the need for high-performance data centres capable of handling large-scale computation. Industry analysts note that such investments are expected to accelerate India's digital economy growth, improve data sovereignty capabilities and attract further foreign and domestic investment in cloud and AI ecosystems. The collaboration is also seen as a signal of increasing convergence between telecommunications, cloud computing and artificial intelligence sectors. While financial details of the partnership have not been fully disclosed.

DATA CENTER CHIP BOOM

TSMC posts strong may revenue driven by AI demand

TAIPEI

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) reported robust financial performance for May 2026, reflecting continued global demand for advanced semiconductor chips, particularly those used in artificial intelligence and high-performance computing applications. The company said net revenue for May stood at approximately \$13.25 billion, marking a 30.1 per cent increase compared to the same period last year. The figure also showed steady month-on-month growth, indicating sus-



tained momentum in orders from major global technology customers. TSMC's strong performance is largely attributed to rising demand for cutting-edge semiconductor

nodes used in AI accelerators, data centers, cloud computing infrastructure and next-generation consumer electronics. Industry analysts say the ongoing global AI expansion has significantly boosted chip demand, benefiting leading foundries such as TSMC, which manufactures chips for companies including Nvidia, Apple, AMD and Broadcom. For the first five months of 2026, the company's cumulative revenue has also risen by around 30 per cent year-on-year, suggesting that growth is not limited to short-term fluctuations but is part of a broader upward trend in semi-

conductor demand. The company continues to operate near high utilization levels at its advanced fabrication facilities. TSMC has previously indicated that it expects strong revenue growth for the full year, supported by what it describes as a "multi-year AI demand cycle." The firm is also investing heavily in expanding production capacity, including advanced manufacturing technologies and packaging solutions, to address supply constraints in the global chip market. Despite global economic

uncertainties and geopolitical tensions affecting the semiconductor industry, TSMC's latest results underline its continued leadership in the global foundry sector. Analysts note that the company's performance is widely viewed as a key indicator of the health of the global technology and AI hardware ecosystem. With artificial intelligence adoption accelerating across industries, demand for high-end chips is expected to remain strong, positioning TSMC at the center of one of the most important technology cycles of the decade.



HARDIK PANDYA ruled out of Afghanistan ODIs

India all-rounder suffers fresh injury setback after recovering from back spasm

BENGALURU

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya has been ruled out of the upcoming three-match ODI series against Afghanistan after sustaining a quadriceps strain during a fitness assessment at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

Pandya had recently been undergoing rehabilitation for a back spasm injury that he suffered while representing the Mumbai Indians in the IPL 2026 season. He was at the Centre of Excellence to obtain fitness clearance for a return to international cricket and had reportedly been declared fit to play just hours before the fresh injury setback emerged.

According to sources, the

quadriceps strain may have occurred while Pandya was bowling his full quota of 10 overs during the assessment process. The injury has now forced the star all-rounder out of contention for the ODI series against Afghanistan, which begins on June 13 in Dharamsala.

A BCCI source indicated that Pandya's recovery is expected to take around three weeks, effectively ruling him out of the entire series. "With three weeks for recovery, there is absolutely no chance of him playing the ODI series as his rehabilitation will not be complete," the source said.

The setback comes at a time when Pandya was preparing to make his comeback after missing several matches

during the IPL season. Although he returned to action for Mumbai Indians' final league-stage match against Rajasthan Royals on May 24, concerns over his fitness have continued to persist.

Pandya's absence is a significant blow for India, given his role as a key all-rounder who contributes with both bat and ball. The team management will now have to look at alternative options to fill the void ahead of the ODI series.

The three-match ODI series against Afghanistan will be played in Dharamsala, Lucknow and Chennai on June 13, 17 and 20 respectively. India will be hoping that Pandya recovers fully in time for future international assignments later this year.

England football captain rekindles cricket passion with humorous social media post

Harry Kane jokes about joining ECB and RCB ahead of World Cup

LONDON

England football captain Harry Kane has once again displayed his love for cricket, jokingly offering his services to both the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and IPL champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) ahead of the FIFA World Cup.

The Bayern Munich striker, who has often spoken about his admiration for cricket and Indian batting great Virat Kohli, shared a light-hearted post on social media after participating in a cricket session during England's World Cup preparations.

As part of team-building activities ahead of the tournament, England's football squad spent time playing cricket on Tuesday. Kane, among the most enthusiastic participants, was seen batting and enjoying the session with teammates. Later, he posted pictures from the activity on X, accompanied by a caption



that quickly caught the attention of fans.

"Always ready if needed, @englandcricket & @RCBTweets!," Kane wrote, playfully suggesting that he could step in for England's cricket team or the reigning IPL champions if required.

The humorous remark sparked widespread reactions from supporters of both football and cricket. Many fans praised Kane's sporting spirit,

while others joked about how the prolific striker might perform if he switched sports.

Kane's latest cricket-related post comes shortly after he congratulated RCB on their successful IPL 2026 campaign. The Bengaluru-based franchise retained its title by defeating Gujarat Titans by five wickets in the final, with Virat Kohli playing a key role in the triumph.

The England captain had

earlier taken to social media to praise Kohli and RCB, writing, "What a player and what a knock @virat.kohli! Congrats @royalchallengers.bengaluru on making it back-to-back IPL titles."

Kane's admiration for Kohli has been evident over the years, with the football star frequently expressing respect for the Indian cricket icon's achievements and consistency.

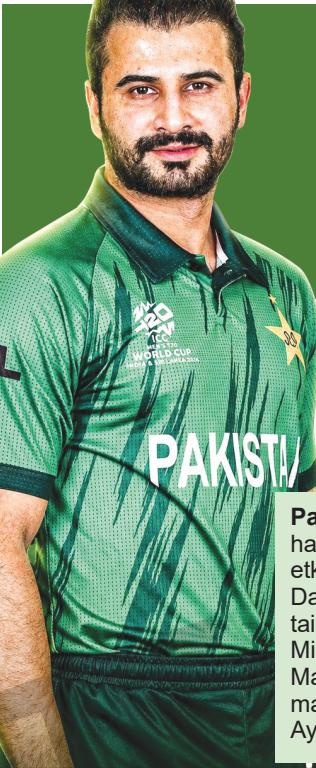
Despite the playful cricket banter, Kane remains focused on leading England at the FIFA World Cup, which begins on June 11. The 32-year-old enters the tournament in outstanding form after a remarkable season with Bayern Munich, scoring 61 goals in 51 appearances across all competitions. Having also netted five goals in his last five matches for England, Kane will be expected to spearhead his nation's quest for World Cup glory while continuing to entertain fans with his passion for cricket.

Pakistan unveil Asian Games 2026 squad; Sahibzada Farhan to lead side

LAHORE

Pakistan have announced a youthful 15-member squad for the Asian Games 2026 in Japan, with experienced batter Sahibzada Farhan appointed captain for the multi-sport event scheduled later this year.

The men's cricket competition at the Asian Games will begin on September 24 in Aichi-Nagoya, with the medal matches set to be played on October 3. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has



Pakistan squad: Sahibzada Farhan (captain), Usman Khan (wicketkeeper), Abrar Ahmed, Ahmed Daniyal, Abdul Samad (vice-captain), Akif Javed, Ali Raza, Arafat Minhas, Haider Ali, Hasan Nawaz, Maaz Sadaqat, Mohammad Salman Mirza, Saad Masood, Saim Ayub and Sufyan Moqim.

opted for a fresh-look squad, resting several senior international players while providing opportunities to promising youngsters.

Farhan, who has represented Pakistan in 46 T20 Internationals, will lead the national side for the first time in a major tournament. Abdul Samad has been named vice-captain and is expected to provide stability and experience in the middle order.

The squad selection underlines Pakistan's focus on strengthening its white-ball bench strength and preparing a pool of players for future international assignments. Four uncapped cricketers — Akif Javed, Ali Raza, Maaz Sadaqat and Saad Masood — have earned places in the squad and could make their international debuts during the tournament.

Young talents such as Saim Ayub and Arafat Minhas have also been included after impressive performances in do-

mestic and franchise cricket. Their selection reflects the PCB's intention to reward consistent performers and expose them to high-level competition.

Pakistan name youthful squad with several emerging talents for Japan tournament

Notably absent from the squad are several of Pakistan's established stars, including white-ball captain Salman Ali Agha, former skipper Babar Azam, pace spearhead Shaheen Afridi and all-rounder Shadab Khan.

The decision indicates a strategic move to test emerging players while managing the workload of senior cricketers.

Usman Khan has been named the squad's primary wicketkeeper, while spinner Abrar Ahmed is expected to lead the spin department. The pace attack will feature promising bowlers Ahmed Daniyal and Mohammad Salman Mirza alongside other young fast-bowling options.

Pakistan finished fourth in the previous edition of the Asian Games after winning one match and losing two. With a balanced mix of youth and experience, the team will be aiming for a stronger showing in Japan and will look to challenge for a medal while giving its next generation of cricketers valuable international exposure.

Women's T20 World Cup countdown: Australia emerges strongest in Group A

MELBOURNE

As the Women's T20 World Cup approaches, Group A has already taken shape as one of the most competitive pools in the tournament, featuring powerhouses Australia, India and South Africa alongside Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Netherlands.

Cricket's inherent unpredictability ensures no outcome is guaranteed, yet Group A presents a harsh certainty — one of the three elite teams will fail to reach the semifinals. Australia, six-time champions, India, the reigning ODI world champions, and South Africa, runners-up in the last three global finals across formats, form a trio of heavyweights that could dominate any tournament individually but must now compete for survival against each other.

Despite undergoing a transitional phase following the retirements of Meg Lanning and Alyssa Healy, Australia continues to look the most balanced and formidable side. Healy's departure, after years of leadership and consistency both as captain and wicketkeeper, has left a gap in experience, but the team's depth has ensured stability at the top.

Georgia Voll, who has stepped into the opening role, has already justified her selection by rising to the top of the



ICC T20I batting rankings. Around her, Australia boasts a formidable batting lineup featuring Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Phoebe Litchfield, Annabel Sutherland, Ashleigh Gardner and Grace Harris, many of whom also contribute as all-rounders.

The Australian bowling attack remains equally versatile, with pacers Megan Schutt, Nicola Carey and Lucy Hamilton providing control and variation, while spinners Alana King, Georgia Wareham and skipper Sophie Molineux add further balance.

South Africa, meanwhile, will look to counter Australia's depth with individual brilliance, particularly through captain Laura Wolvaardt, who has been in sensational form. In a recent five-match series against India, she registered

scores of 51, 54, 115, 18 and an unbeaten 92, leading her side to a 4-1 series win.

Her supporting cast includes Marizanne Kapp, Shabnim Ismail, Sune Luus, Tazmin Brits, Chloe Tryon and Ayabonga Khaka, giving South Africa a blend of experience, pace and all-round ability capable of challenging the best.

India, Pakistan and Bangladesh complete the group, with India expected to lead the Asian challenge. Pakistan's Fatima Sana and Bangladesh's Marufa Akter will be key figures for their sides, though both teams face an uphill task against the top contenders. The Netherlands round off the group, hoping to recreate their spirited performances from past ICC tournaments and deliver another memorable campaign on the global stage.

Australia, India and South Africa headline a fierce Group A battle for semifinal spots

Jemimah Rodrigues recalls Tendulkar's advice to reset after ODI WC semifinal heroics

MUMBAI

India batter Jemimah Rodrigues has revealed that a timely call from cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar helped her reset mentally after her career-defining knock against Australia in the semifinal of the Women's ODI World Cup last year.

Rodrigues had played a sensational unbeaten innings of 127 in Navi Mumbai, guiding India to a famous victory over the tournament favourites and setting up their eventual maiden World Cup triumph. However, she admitted that the emotional high of the performance left her mentally overwhelmed ahead of the final.

Rodrigues said Tendulkar reached out indirectly through her coach Prashant Shetty to deliver a calming message. "Sachin sir called my coach Prashant Shetty. He asked him to tell me that he understood the past couple of days had been a lot for me, the big knock against Australia in the semifinal, the joy of beating them," she said.

"But he reminded me that the job was not over yet. We still had a final to win. He

said, 'try to put that aside and start from zero.' That message really helped me reset my mind," Rodrigues added.

The 25-year-old said the advice helped her realise the importance of treating every match as a fresh start, regardless of past achievements. "I understood that what you did before does not win you the next game. You must treat every match as a new start. That advice from a legend gave me so much clarity before the final," she said.

India went on to defeat South Africa in the summit clash, with Shafali Verma delivering a match-winning all-round performance, scoring 87 runs and taking two wickets for 36 runs. Her efforts proved decisive as India lifted their maiden Women's ODI World Cup title.

Shafali also revealed a personal source of motivation before the final, saying a voice note from her father inspired her to give her best. "He said, 'Just work hard. Give your best on the

field and it has to be in writing that Shafali Verma helped India win the World Cup," she said.

India, now reigning ODI world champions, are preparing for their upcoming T20 World Cup opener against arch-rivals Pakistan in Birmingham on Sunday, aiming to carry forward their winning momentum on the global stage.

