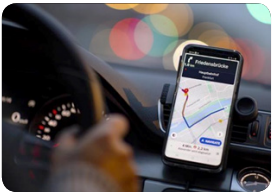


Quick Read



Bengaluru cabbies face late-night passenger woes

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru's app-based cab drivers are increasingly reporting difficulties during late-night trips involving intoxicated passengers, including vomiting, unpaid fares and passengers being unable to identify their homes. Drivers said cleaning vomit from vehicles can cost up to Rs 500, while recovering unpaid fares is difficult as ride-hailing apps mask customers' contact details after trips end. Long-distance and airport rides, involving fares of Rs 800-1,000 or more, pose greater risks, they said. Drivers also said intoxicated women passengers sometimes fall asleep or cannot locate their residences, forcing them to seek help from security guards or relatives. Drivers' associations have raised concerns over safety, financial losses and disputes arising from such incidents.

Bitumen price up, Bengaluru contractors halt work

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Contractors in Bengaluru have halted civic and infrastructure projects worth over Rs 1,000 crore, citing a steep rise in bitumen and other construction material prices. The Greater Bengaluru City Corporations Contractors' Association said bitumen prices have more than doubled from Rs 45,000 to Rs 92,000 per quintal amid the ongoing US-Iran conflict. Cement, gravel and steel prices have also increased, causing heavy losses on projects tendered at earlier rates. Works including asphaltting, pothole filling and white-topping have been stopped. Contractors have sought a 'star rate' mechanism for existing as well as new projects. A delegation recently met Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who assured them of examining their demands.

WASTE-FREE VACANT SITES

GBA warns vacant-site owners

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Owners of vacant sites within Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits have been directed to clean and maintain their properties by August 15, failing which civic authorities will undertake the work and recover the expenses from the owners.

GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao issued the warning as part of the "Freedom from Waste" campaign, being conducted throughout August to make Bengaluru cleaner, healthier and more liveable.

Under Rule 18(1)(b) of the Solid Waste Management By-laws, 2020, owners of vacant sites are responsible for keeping their properties clean and hygienic. They have been instructed to remove garbage, solid waste, soil, debris and other unwanted materials from their sites and dispose of them at five designated locations identified for the purpose.

Rao said civic authorities would initiate action against owners who fail to comply with the August 15 deadline. "If vacant sites are not cleaned after August 15, the municipal corporation will remove the waste and recover the cleaning and transportation costs from the owners," he said.

The expenses incurred by the civic authorities will be recovered along with property tax under the relevant provisions of the Solid Waste Man-

B'luru police seize drugs worth Rs 28 crore, arrest 39

Police also seized Rs 17 lakh in cash, 22 mobile phones and five two-wheelers allegedly used in the drug trade.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru Police have intensified their crackdown on drug peddling, recovering narcotics worth Rs 28.07 crore during sustained raids over the past two weeks.

The seized drugs had an estimated open-market value of Rs 55.80 crore, officials said on Monday.

As many as 39 suspects were arrested, including eight foreigners, 21 persons from other states and 10 locals.

The seizures included 21.641 kg of MDMA, 738 grams of cocaine, 4.493 kg of hydro ganja, 184.625 kg of ganja, 1.065 kg of opium and 25 grams of morphine.

Police also seized Rs 17 lakh in cash, 22 mobile phones and five two-wheelers allegedly used by the suspects.



Drug Crackdown Intensifies

Bengaluru Police's Anti-Narcotics Wing and personnel from 15 police stations conducted coordinated raids based on information from sources. The operation targeted suspected drug networks operating across the city. Police said the accused were allegedly procuring narcotics from foreign countries, other states and within Karnataka before selling them at higher prices. Investigations are continuing to identify the suppliers and establish the wider network behind the seized drugs and arrests.

"Efforts are continuing to trace and apprehend the unidentified persons who were supplying the prohibited narcotic substances."
-Bengaluru Police

The CCB's Anti-Narcotics Wing, led by ACP L Y Rajesh, coordinated raids with personnel from several police stations, including Amruthahalli, Girinagar, Airport, Yeshwanthpur, Yelahanka, Hebbal, Nandini Layout, Kadugodi, Malleswaram, Govindapura, Bagaluru, Mahadevapura, Mahalakshmi Layout, Begur and Kothanur.

According to police, the accused allegedly purchased prohibited narcotic substances at lower prices from unidentified suppliers in foreign countries, other states and within Karnataka, before selling them at higher prices to the

DRUG HAUL	
• Narcotics seized:	Rs 28.07 crore
• Open-market value:	Rs 55.80 crore
• Arrested:	39
• Foreigners:	8
• From other states:	21
• Locals:	10
• MDMA:	21.641 kg
• Ganja:	184.625 kg
• Hydro ganja:	4.493 kg
• Cocaine:	738 g
• Cash:	Rs 17 lakh

public and college students for quick profits.

All 39 accused were produced before a court and remanded in judicial custody. Police are continuing efforts to identify and arrest the alleged suppliers behind the drug network.

Tipper lorry crashes into house near Yelahanka, four injured

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A sand-laden tipper overturned after crashing into a house near Shivakote in Yelahanka early Monday, injuring three residents and trapping the driver underneath the vehicle.

The accident occurred around 4 am when the lorry, travelling from the Yelahanka side, reportedly went out of control and rammed into the house wall before overturning. The impact damaged the wall and several household items.

The driver, identified as Naveen, was trapped beneath the vehicle following the crash. Fire and Emergency Services personnel, along with Yelahanka traffic police, launched a rescue operation.

A crane was used to lift the lorry, while rescuers used a gas cutter to cut open its top portion and reach the trapped driver. Naveen was eventually rescued and shifted to hospital for medical attention.

WHY AAP WANTS RULE CHANGE

AAP State Organising Secretary Dr Satish Kumar said the existing 15-year domicile rule was outdated and disadvantaged generations of Kannadigas. He argued that locals whose land was acquired for Bengaluru's development should receive fair priority in site allotments. Kumar also sought affordable pricing and transparent procedures, saying BDA must function as a public housing agency rather than operate like a private real estate developer.



strict opportunities for local residents. The government, he said, should amend the rules immediately and introduce a 25-year domicile criterion.

Kumar also demanded preferential allotment for locals in land acquired from farmers, affordable site prices for ordinary Kannadigas and a completely transparent allotment process.

"This is not merely an AAP political issue. It concerns the lives, land and future of Kannadigas," he said, urging farmers, Kannada organisations, activists and pro-Kannada leaders to unite on the demand. He warned that failure to act could increase the risk of Kannadigas losing access to land and housing opportunities in Bengaluru.

B'luru court to consider Pradosh's approver plea in Renukaswamy case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The 59th City Civil and Sessions Court (CCH-59) in Bengaluru is set to consider an application filed by Pradosh, accused No. 14 in the Renukaswamy murder case, seeking pardon and approver status.

Through his counsel, Pradosh has expressed willingness to provide information and disclose facts concerning the alleged offence before the court. His plea seeks consideration under the legal provisions that allow an accused to seek pardon in return for providing information relevant to the prosecution of an offence.

The application is part of the proceedings in the case involving actor Darshan Thoogudeepa and several other accused. Pradosh has also sought directions for his separate production before the court.

His counsel has requested that he be produced independently from a separate prison cell rather than being brought under the same cell arrangement involving Darshan.

During the proceedings, the prosecution submitted that Pradosh had already filed a pardon application and sought that it be accepted so the legal process could continue.

However, Darshan's counsel, Hashmat Pasha, opposed Pradosh's application.

Another accused, A-10 Vinay, has also filed a separate petition seeking pardon. The prosecution's response to both applications will form part of the proceedings before the trial court.

The court will examine whether Pradosh's plea meets the legal requirements for granting pardon and approver status.

Vijayendra accuses Nagendra of blackmailing Cong



"Instead of waiting outside Rahul Gandhi's residence, the Chief Minister should allocate portfolios to ministers."
-BY Vijayendra, BJP State President

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

BJP State President B Y Vijayendra on Monday accused B Nagendra of allegedly blackmailing the Congress high command to secure his re-induction into the Karnataka Cabinet. Speaking after a Har Ghar Tiranga programme in Malleswaram, Vijayendra questioned how Nagendra could be made a minister while facing serious allegations related to the alleged misuse of hundreds of crores meant for Scheduled Tribe welfare.

"There was pressure on the Congress high command from Nagendra.

If he was not inducted, he had threatened to reveal several facts before the media," Vijayendra alleged.

He demanded that the Congress government explain what pressure was exerted on Chief Minister D K Shivakumar or the high command to bring Nagendra back into the Cabinet.

Vijayendra said reinstating a leader facing corruption allegations before completion of the investigation and while court proceedings are continuing was "highly alarming". He demanded Nagendra's removal and said the BJP would raise the issue inside the legislature and launch protests across Karnataka.

VIJAYENDRA'S CHARGES
• Nagendra allegedly pressured Congress high command
• BJP seeks Nagendra's removal from Cabinet
• ST funds misuse allegations cited
• BJP to raise issue in legislature
• Statewide protests planned

KEY POLITICAL DEMANDS

Vijayendra demanded immediate removal of B Nagendra from the Cabinet, citing allegations involving misuse of funds meant for Scheduled Tribe development. He also urged Chief Minister D K Shivakumar to return to Bengaluru, allocate portfolios and focus on governance. The BJP leader said the party would continue its campaign against the government inside and outside the legislature, while supporting farmers' protests and raising issues concerning their welfare.

side the legislature and launch protests across Karnataka.

Vijayendra also criticised Shivakumar for spending time in Delhi instead of addressing issues facing Karnataka.

He said farmers were suffering amid drought, while key departments, including Agriculture, Revenue and Horticulture, lacked clear ministerial responsibility.

No confusion over Bidadi protest

On the JD(S) padayatra, Vijayendra said the BJP had decided to extend symbolic support after discussions with senior leaders.

He clarified that his absence was not politically motivated, citing pre-scheduled programmes in Kolar and Chikkaballapur linked to Legislative Council elections.

New bus shelter inaugurated at Kengeri for commuters

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A new, well-equipped bus shelter was inaugurated on Sunnakalupalya-Uttarahalli Road in Kengeri Kote ward of the Yeshwanthpur Assembly constituency on Sunday. MLA S T Somashekar said the facility had been developed to improve convenience and safety for local commuters.

Speaking after inaugurating the shelter, Somashekar said school and college students, people from low- and middle-income groups and garment workers depend heavily on public transport to travel to different parts of Bengaluru for education and employment.

"Since commuters needed a proper facility to wait for buses, a quality and well-equipped bus shelter has been constructed. Local residents

should make full use of it," he said.

Kengeri Kote probable candidate Shivamadayya said residents earlier had to wait for buses by the roadside, causing inconvenience, particularly for women and students.

He said the new shelter had been constructed through the MLA's initiative and financial support and would provide a safer and more convenient waiting space for commuters.

"Earlier, people had no option but to stand by the roadside while waiting for buses. The new shelter will be a major relief for residents, women and school and college students," Shivamadayya said.

The inauguration was also marked by distribution of sweets to BMTC drivers and conductors.



UB City hotels face food safety action after night raid

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Food Safety Department officials conducted a night raid at five hotels in Bengaluru's UB City and seized rotten meat, used cooking oil and food items suspected to be expired or improperly stored.

Around 15 officials inspected Sky Hotel, Royal Chain, Madras Kitchen, Tescon Hotel and Sanchez Hotel, checking kitchen hygiene, food storage and compliance with safety norms.

At Sky Hotel, officials seized 45 kg of rotten chicken and beef, 15 litres of used cooking oil and 6 kg of vegetable cutlets. The kitchen was subsequently locked and sealed.

At Royal Chain Hotel, officials seized 55 kg of meat, including 50 kg of duck meat and 5 kg of fish. Madras Kitchen had 5 kg of green peas seized, while officials recovered 5 kg of mushrooms from Tescon Hotel.

At Sanchez Hotel, officials

seized 3 kg of fish, 7 kg of cake, potatoes and other food items.

Food Safety Department Commissioner Srinivas said some hotels were found storing chicken, mutton and fish without proper refrigeration.

The department said further legal action would be initiated against hotels where violations were established.

Officials have recorded the findings and seized food items as part of the inspection process.

FOOD SAFETY VIOLATIONS

The night inspection focused on food storage, kitchen hygiene and refrigeration practices at five UB City hotels. Officials found meat and other food items stored improperly at some premises. Rotten meat, used cooking oil and food products suspected to be past their expiry were seized. The Food Safety Department said legal proceedings would follow against establishments where violations are confirmed.

Quick Read

Gadag invites disabled students for fee support

CH NEWS, GADAG

Applications have been invited under the Fee Reimbursement Scheme for Disabled students for 2026-27. The scheme covers examination, tuition, laboratory, admission, and library fees for students pursuing higher, vocational, technical, and postgraduate education. The Niramaya Scheme supports persons with intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, autism, and multiple disabilities. Eligible applicants in Gadag district must submit prescribed forms with documents by September 10. Applications should be submitted to rehabilitation workers at Gram Panchayat, municipality, town panchayat, or taluk panchayat offices. Late applications will not be accepted. For details, contact the office at 08372-220419.

Power supply to remain off in Ballari areas

CH NEWS, BALLARI

Power supply will be disrupted in several Ballari areas as on August 11 due to maintenance work by GESCOM. The work will be carried out on power lines supplied by the 220/11kV Allipura Power Substation under Ballari City Subdivision-1. The outage will affect areas including First Gate, Koracha Street, Urdu Training School, Kadapagere, Tailor Street, Vadde Nagappa Colony, Tilak Nagar, Vinayak Nagar, Aishwarya Colony, ITI College, Radio Park, and Kaul Bazaar Main Road. Power will remain unavailable from 10 am to 5 pm.

Husband dies while preparing for Wife's funeral

CH NEWS, DAVANGERE

A tragic incident occurred in Hadadi village of Davangere taluk, where a 75-year-old husband died while family members prepared for his wife's funeral. Mallaja, his wife Siddhaji, 70, had been married for 55 years, family sources said. Siddhaji died around 11 pm Sunday after an age-related illness. Mallaja mourned beside her through the night, relatives said.

Students demand immediate bus services for Yadahalli

CH NEWS, BAGALKOT

Students and residents of Yadahalli village in Bagalkot district blocked the Hubballi-Vijayapura National Highway on Monday, demanding regular and timely bus services for the village. Hundreds of students travel daily to schools and colleges from Yadahalli, but many said they struggle to reach classes on time because buses are not available when needed. Residents said they had repeatedly approached transport department officials and public representatives, requesting additional buses and fixed tim-

Gadag officials told to deliver guarantee benefits promptly

Krishnagowda H. Patil said Gruha Lakshmi empowered women financially, while officials were urged to prevent misuse and payments to deceased beneficiaries

CH NEWS, GADAG

Benefits under the government's five guarantee schemes should reach all eligible people without delay, said Ashok Mandali, chairman of the Gadag Taluk Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority. Speaking at a review meeting at the Zilla Panchayat Hall, he directed officials to ensure complete and transparent implementation. He said the schemes were meant to strengthen poor families and provide timely support. Authority member Krishnagowda H. Patil said the Gruha Lakshmi scheme was helping women become financially independent. Officials were asked to prevent misuse, including payments reaching accounts of deceased beneficiaries. He also stressed that no eligible youth should miss Yuva Nidhi benefits and called for wider publicity of the Anna Bhagya scheme. Officials reported that 3,112 candidates had regis-



Scheme	Statistics
Yuva Nidhi	3,112 registered; 2,819 eligible
Grihalakshmi	84,037 applications; 75,133 DBT
Shakti – Gadag	₹10,625.33 lakh revenue
Shakti – Betageri	₹6,297.67 lakh revenue
Anna Bhagya – City	32,699 cardholders; 2,250.98 quintals
Anna Bhagya – Rural	48,483 cardholders; 3,578.82 quintals
Griha Jyoti – City	46,260 registered; 99.52%
Griha Jyoti – Rural	53,110 registered; 99.60%

tered under Yuva Nidhi in Gadag taluk until June 2026, with 2,819 eligible beneficiaries receiving payments through DBT. Under Gruha Lakshmi, 84,037 applications

were registered by April, while 75,133 beneficiaries had received money. Payments for May were still being credited. Under Shakti, women passengers generated revenue of Rs. 10,625.33 lakh in Gadag and Rs. 6,297.67 lakh in Betageri between June 2023 and August 2026. Anna Bhagya also recorded significant rice distribution in Gadag city and rural areas during July. Under Gruha Jyoti, registration reached 99.52 percent in Gadag city and 99.60 percent in the rural subdivision. Mandali said officials must work actively and honestly so that no deserving person is left out. The meeting reviewed progress across schemes and stressed the need for better implementation. District and taluk-level officials, committee members and other representatives attended the meeting. Authorities said continued monitoring would be necessary to ensure benefits reach families on time.

MLC Ravikumar urges CM to visit distressed farmers



CH NEWS, BELAGAVI

Opposition Legislative Council Chief Whip N. Ravikumar urged Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to visit distressed farmers and their fields instead of meeting disgruntled legislators. Speaking to reporters in Belagavi, Ravikumar said farmers were facing serious difficulties because of poor crop conditions, water shortages and the government's failure to declare drought in affected areas. He said farmers were reportedly so distressed that some were speaking of consuming poison, and demanded immediate drought status and compensation of Rs. 50,000 per acre. Ravikumar also called for a special plan to protect farming families. He said four taluks in Belagavi district had been identified as drought-hit, while crop losses were becoming severe in several villages. In Yaragatti and Savadatti, farmers reportedly suffered major losses in maize, cotton

and groundnut crops. Ravikumar said some farmers who normally harvested eight to twelve quintals were now getting only a few kilograms. He also highlighted drinking water problems for livestock in Ramadurga, the stalled Chandragiri lake filling work and the delayed Salapur lift irrigation project, which has affected more than 60 villages. Questioning the government's claims about rainfall, Ravikumar asked where the water had gone if the district had received nearly 90 percent of expected rain. He warned that the opposition would raise the farmers' issues inside and outside the legislature and would not allow proceedings to continue if drought relief was denied. He also alleged corruption in ministerial appointments and accused the Congress government of treating Karnataka like an ATM, while defending BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra's absence from a JD(S) padyatra, amid growing concerns.

Drought anger fuels unusual blood signature campaign

MALINGARAYA PUJAR

CH NEWS

Anger over drought, drinking water shortages, unemployment and limited government support has pushed citizens in Gadag into an unusual campaign. Youth, farmers and women have been signing letters with their own blood, seeking urgent action from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The campaign, organized by the non-partisan GEN Z Voters and Citizens Forum, is being held across wards of Gadag-Betageri city and villages in Gadag taluk. Supporters say the protest is more than a public meeting. They describe it as a strong message about the difficulties facing families whose livelihoods depend on farming and local work.



DEMANDS PUT FORTH BY GADAG RESIDENTS				
■ Declare Gadag a severe drought-affected district soon	■ Release financial relief for distressed food-earners	■ Ensure continuous drinking water supply across Gadag	■ Establish industries creating local employment opportunities	■ Announce special package for farmers, women, youth

BJP youth leader Anil Menasinakai is leading the campaign, which has drawn participation from people without party affiliation. For many participants, the blood signatures represent desperation as well as hope. Organizers have set a target of 50,000 blood signatures. More than 15,000 citizens have reportedly joined the campaign so far. The organizers plan to take the movement to more villages and neighborhoods until the target is reached.

Byadgi MLA awaits Congress high command decision

CH NEWS, HAVERI

Byadgi MLA Basavaraj Shivannanavar has confirmed that former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recommended his name for a ministerial position in the Karnataka Cabinet. Speaking in Haveri, Shivannanavar said he had considered resigning as chairman of the Forest Development Corporation, but Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar asked him to wait, saying the party high command was considering his future. Shivannanavar said he had seen reports about meetings between Chief Minister Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah and the Congress high command. He maintained that he had not personally contacted anyone seeking the post.

Shivannanavar said he had not sought the post, while Siddaramaiah backed North Karnataka representation and conveyed his recommendation to the Congress high command

According to him, Siddaramaiah had strongly supported the demand for representation from North Karnataka and had informed the high command about his recommendation. The MLA said he was hopeful of becoming a minister but made it clear that he did not want another corporator position. He said he had already served on a corporation board and had no interest in another chairmanship.

If given a ministerial responsibility, he would accept it, but otherwise he would continue working as an MLA for the people of his constituency. Shivannanavar also announced that he would resign from the Forest Development Corporation Board if he was not chosen for the Cabinet. He said another person could then get an opportunity to serve. Referring to discussions about giving a ministerial post to a woman MLA, he said he did not know what response had come from Delhi. He said he would travel to Bengaluru and leave the final decision to the high command. Calling himself a disciplined Congress worker, Shivannanavar asked supporters not to pressure party leaders for his appointment. He said he would accept the party's decision.

Students demand immediate bus services for Yadahalli

CH NEWS, BAGALKOT

Students and residents of Yadahalli village in Bagalkot district blocked the Hubballi-Vijayapura National Highway on Monday, demanding regular and timely bus services for the village. Hundreds of students travel daily to schools and colleges from Yadahalli, but many said they struggle to reach classes on time because buses are not available when needed. Residents said they had repeatedly approached transport department officials and public representatives, requesting additional buses and fixed tim-

ings. Despite several appeals, they alleged that no effective action was taken. Frustrated by the delay, students and villagers gathered on the highway and began a road blockade. Their protest quickly stopped traffic in both directions, leaving long lines of vehicles on the busy route. The protesters said the shortage of buses was causing serious difficulties for students and families. Students, in particular, said missing or delayed buses were affecting their education and attendance. Motorists and passengers caught in the blockade were also forced to wait for

long periods under the hot sun as traffic remained disrupted for several kilometers. The situation changed after senior transport department officials and police reached the protest site and spoke with the students and villagers. The officials assured them that adequate bus arrangements would be made for Yadahalli immediately. Following the assurance, the protesters agreed to withdraw the blockade and traffic movement gradually returned to normal. Residents said they hoped the promised buses would begin operating soon and provide reliable transport for students.

Kunikeri gram sabha prepares Vikasita Bharat action plan

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Kunikeri Gram Panchayat held a special gram sabha on Monday to prepare the action plan for the Vikasita Bharat JeeRAMJI scheme for 2026-27. Panchayat Development Officer Andappa Angadi said the programme would support farmers and workers while helping villages achieve overall development. He urged eligible residents to use the opportunities available through the scheme. Angadi said works could be taken up through departments including agriculture, horticulture, forestry and sericulture.

Farmers can seek individual works and use facilities available under horticulture programmes. He also explained demands for different works already submitted by villagers during the meeting. Taluk IEC Coordinator Devraj Pattara said the scheme aims to reduce migration by providing 125 days of local wage employment to every eligible family. Men and women will receive equal wages. Priority works include water conservation, irrigation, groundwater recharge, watershed development and restoration of water bodies. The current wage rate is Rs. 382 per day.

‘Weavers deserve support, respect, and stronger encouragement’



CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Weavers who have spent their lives in handloom work need public support, encouragement and cooperation, Koppal Inner Wheel Club (316) President Meenakshi Santhabawi said. She was speaking at a simple ceremony held in Bhagyanagar town near Koppal to mark National Handloom Day and Friendship Day. The club felicitated senior weavers and honored their years of dedication by building a bond of friendship with them. Santhabawi said the ir skills and experience should be respected, while society should stand beside them as they continue their self-reliant lives. She urged people to support handloom workers by buying uniforms and other products made by them. She also presented a special gift to senior weavers who had devoted their entire lives to weaving, saying the gesture brought happiness and pride to the club. Secretary Sridevi, ISO Latha Pattanashetty, Editor Mala S, Treasurer Shilpa Raju, club members, women villagers, weavers and representatives of various organizations attended the event, along with activists and well-wishers from across Koppal.

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KARNATAKA SIR UPDATE

Voters urged to complete sir forms soon

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

The Election Commission of India has revised the Special Intensive Revision, or SIR, schedule in Karnataka, extending the deadline for filling and submitting census forms to August 17. Koppal District Election Officer Dr. Suresh B. Itnal announced the change at a press conference on Monday, urging eligible voters to complete the process within the extended period. Under the new schedule, BLOs will continue door-to-door visits and polling station



rationalization until August 17. The draft voter list will be published on August 24, followed by a claims and objections period until September 23. The disposal process will continue until October 22,

and the final voter list will be published on October 27. Officials urged citizens to use the extended period carefully and ensure their details are correct. Of 11,90,214 census forms distributed in Koppal district, 10,41,046 have been digitized so far. Officials said the SIR exercise has received cooperation from voters, political parties and the media. A total of 1,49,168 voters were listed as absent, shifted, dead, duplicate or other categories during house-to-house verification. The list covers all five assembly constituencies in the dis-

trict. The published details can be checked booth-wise by party representatives locally. Voters whose names appear on absent or shifted lists can approach their Tahsildar, Electoral Registration Officer or Deputy Commissioner's office to submit the form. Officials will also hold special registration camps for young people turning 18 by October and others missing from the electoral roll. Eligible applicants can submit Form 6 to add their names. Authorities urged citizens to act before the deadline and help keep the voter list accurate.

Major highlights of the meeting
■ SIR census form deadline extended to August 17
■ Draft electoral roll publication scheduled for Aug. 24
■ Final voter list publication set for October 27
■ 10,41,046 census forms successfully digitized so far
■ ASDDO list contains 1,49,168 voters across Koppal
■ Special camps planned for new eligible young voters

Ballari urges LPG e-KYC before ration distribution

CH NEWS, BALLARI

DC K. Nagendra Prasad has asked LPG consumers across Ballari district to visit their gas distributors and complete e-KYC by August 15. He warned that failure to complete the process on time could temporarily affect gas supply. Consumers are therefore

advised to finish the verification without delay. Under the National Food Security Act, ration grains for August and September 2026 will be distributed together during August. Antyodaya cardholders will receive 42 kg of jowar and 28 kg of rice for two months. BPL cardholders will get 6 kg of jowar and 4 kg of rice per member for the same period.

Quick Read

LPG consumers must complete e-KYC by August 15

Mysuru

The Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs has directed all LPG consumers in the district to complete their e-KYC (electronic Know Your Customer) process by August 15, 2026.

The measure has been undertaken to strengthen the verification of LPG consumers and ensure that benefits reach eligible beneficiaries accurately. Consumers can complete their e-KYC at their respective gas distributor's office or during gas-cylinder home delivery. Officials have warned that LPG connections of consumers who fail to complete e-KYC within the stipulated period may be temporarily suspended.

The Mysuru Deputy Commissioner has appealed to all LPG consumers to complete the e-KYC process at the earliest to avoid any disruption in LPG supply.

Disruption in water supply in the city today, tomorrow

Mysuru

Water supply will be completely disrupted in several parts of Mysuru on August 11 and 12, as urgent repair work is being undertaken on a major pipeline of the Melapura Water Supply Scheme that supplies drinking water to the city. The affected areas fall under Mysuru City Corporation Wards 9–16, 28–39, 52 and 53.

The areas likely to be affected include Rajendranagar, Subhash Nagar, N.R. Mohalla, Gandhinagar, Udayagiri, Rajiv Nagar 1st, 2nd and 3rd Stages, Shantinagar, Kalyanagiri, areas adjoining Dr. Rajkumar Road, Yaranahalli, Siddharthanagar, Alanahalli, Nandini Layout, Giridharshini Layout, Gousiyannagar and Kyathamaranahalli, besides surrounding rural and urban areas.

Residents in these areas have been advised to store sufficient drinking water in advance.

Tanveer supporters demand Cabinet berth in Mysuru

Over 2,000 Congress supporters, including former corporators and office-bearers, blocked the Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway at Manipal Hospital Junction, staging a dharna

MYSURU

Protesting against the denial of a ministerial berth to MLA Tanveer Sait during the Cabinet expansion, his supporters and followers staged a massive demonstration at the Manipal Hospital junction in Mysuru.

More than 2,000 supporters, including former corporators, presidents and office-bearers of various Congress frontal organisations, gathered at the Manipal Hospital Junction on the Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway and blocked the road, staging a dharna. They expressed their anger against the Congress high command and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.



COURTED ARREST

The massive protest brought traffic on the Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway to a complete standstill. As the blockade caused inconvenience to commuters, police reached the spot and took several protesting the supporters into custody. The police subsequently cleared the road and restored traffic movement.

Kabini reservoir stands just below maximum level

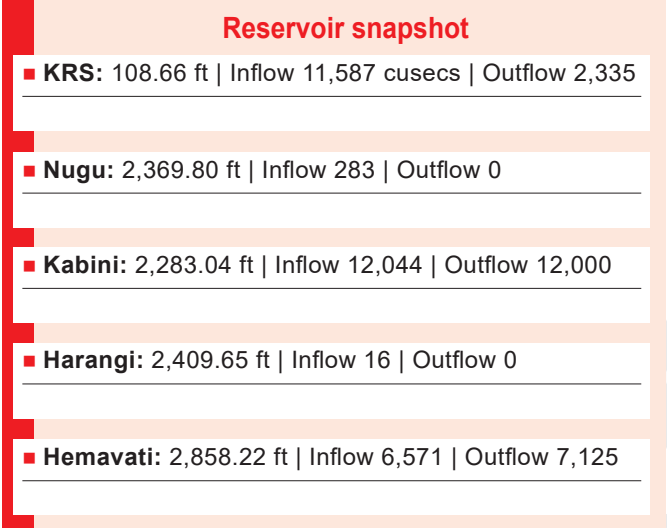
Mysuru

The reservoirs in the Mysuru region continue to receive substantial inflows following widespread monsoon rains, with Kabini and Hemavati remaining close to their maximum storage levels, according to the water-level bulletin dated August 10.

The Kabini reservoir is the most striking feature of the latest figures. Against its maximum level of 2,284 ft, the reservoir stood at 2,283.04 ft, just about a foot below the full-reservoir level. Kabini was receiving a strong inflow of 12,044 cusecs, while 12,000 cusecs was being released downstream, indicating active regulation of the reservoir.

The Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) reservoir also recorded a healthy inflow of 11,587 cusecs. Its water level stood at 108.66 ft, against a maximum of 124.80 ft. The outflow was comparatively lower at 2,335 cusecs, allowing the reservoir to retain a significant portion of the incoming water.

The Hemavati reservoir too remained almost full. Its level stood at 2,858.22 ft, against



the maximum of 2,859 ft. The reservoir was receiving 6,571 cusecs, while the outflow stood slightly higher at 7,125 cusecs.

Meanwhile, the Nugu reservoir recorded a level of 2,369.80 ft, against its maximum of 2,380 ft. It was receiving 283 cusecs, with no water being released.

The Harangi reservoir stood at 2,409.65 ft, compared with its maximum level of 2,425 ft. Its in-

flow was only 16 cusecs, with no outflow reported.

Kabini remains the key watchpoint

With Kabini standing only marginally below its maximum level and receiving more than 12,000 cusecs, authorities are closely monitoring inflows and releases.

The latest figures underline the continuing strength of the southwest monsoon and the improved water position across major reservoirs in the region.

Anganwadi workers protest for fair pay

SHIVAMOGGA

Tensions rose on the streets of Shivamogga as approximately 2,000 Anganwadi workers and helpers gathered for a massive and powerful protest. Leaving their daily duties behind, the demonstrators marched through major city intersections from the corporation premises all the way to the District Collector's office. They raised slogans demanding the immediate fulfillment of twenty-four core demands, highlighting years of alleged neglect and unfulfilled promises by the government regarding worker rights and financial security. The primary demand centers on ending the temporary honorarium system and officially recognizing Anganwadi workers and helpers as permanent government employees. Protesters demanded a monthly salary of Rs 26,000 for workers and Rs 20,000 for helpers to ensure a stable livelihood. Speakers at the rally reminded the public of their frontline service during the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that many workers lost their lives on duty without receiving adequate support or compensation for their grieving families. Protesters pointed out that they handle extensive government responsibilities far beyond basic child care.

MLA Srivatsa demands SIT probe into SDJ/ DJF gold scam

MYSURU

Krishnaraja MLA T.S. Srivatsa has demanded a Special Investigation Team probe into the alleged SDJ/DJF Gold financial scam involving transactions of more than 600 kg of gold.

He said hundreds of investors had suffered serious financial losses and urged the government to take stronger steps to protect them and recover their money.

Addressing reporters on Monday, Srivatsa said the issue gained wider attention after DGP and IGP Dr. M.A. Saleem asked affected investors to file formal complaints. Police later arrested alleged prime accused Chinna Thambi and several associates. However, their release on bail after weeks in custody disappointed many victims. Recently, some investors allegedly damaged the accused's office in Mysuru.

Srivatsa condemned the vandalism and appealed to investors to remain peaceful. He warned that damaging property or using violence would not help recover lost money or gold and could instead result in criminal cases against the victims. He said legal efforts were already underway to safeguard investors' interests and recover their investments.

Srivatsa condemned vandalism, urged investors to remain peaceful, warned against violence and criminal cases, and said legal efforts were underway to recover investments

A legal team representing about 75 victims has initiated proceedings under the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2006. Following the proceedings, the Mysuru Assistant Commissioner has reportedly been appointed as the competent authority to identify and attach properties belonging to the accused for recovering investors' money.

Srivatsa questioned how an alleged operation involving more than 600 kg of gold could continue within Kuvempunagar police limits without timely detection.

He said the issue would be raised in the Assembly through an Attention-Calling Motion. He urged the government to form an independent SIT to investigate the alleged network across districts and states, identify those involved, examine official lapses and speed up recovery. He also sought court-monitored liquidation of attached properties and early distribution of recovered funds to victims.

Seven families struggle for basic life support

MADIKERI

While freedom day celebrations mark decades of progress, modern development remains an empty promise for seven isolated families living in Anekaltamale village within Madikeri taluk of Kodagu district. Nestled deep inside a lush green forest surrounded by cascading waterfalls, this picturesque hamlet hides a painful daily reality. When the monsoon clouds roll in and heavy rains lash the region, these families find themselves completely cut off from the outside world, facing a harsh battle just to survive.

Basic infrastructure such as paved roads, safe bridges, and proper medical access does not exist here. Whenever severe weather hits, daily commuting halts entirely, preventing adults from heading to work or

securing food supplies. During acute shortages caused by transport blockades, villagers are sometimes forced to forage and cook forest groundnuts simply to satisfy their hunger. Medical emergencies become terrifying life-and-death ordeals, leaving pregnant women, sick elders, and young children in extreme vulnerability without transport or doctor access. The hardest burden falls on local children who risk their lives daily for education. To reach school during rainy periods, students must cross dangerous, flooded paths over slippery terrain, facing the constant threat of injury or drowning. Parents live in continuous anxiety until their children return home safely from school. Decades of official neglect have left these residents feeling completely forgotten by local authorities.

AIISH launches Punarjeevan, advanced neurorehabilitation unit in Mysuru

MYSURU

The All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) has launched Punarjeevan, a technology-based neurorehabilitation unit designed to help people affected by stroke, brain injuries, neurological cancers, dementia and other conditions. The facility aims to improve communication, movement, thinking abilities, independence and quality of life.

Trishika, a member of the Mysuru royal family and wife of Kodagu-Mysuru MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, inaugurated the unit in the presence of AIISH Director Dr.

Pushpavathi, Dr. S.P. Goswami, faculty members and staff.

AIISH said the facility brings advanced rehabilitation technology and different medical services together while keeping specialised treatment accessible to the public.

Punarjeevan follows a multidisciplinary approach involving speech-language therapy, cognitive rehabilitation, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and technology-assisted treatment.

Its speech and language facility provides assessment and therapy for conditions such as aphasia, dysarthria, communica-

tion difficulties and swallowing problems.

Digital therapy, cognitive exercises and transcranial direct current stimulation are also available.

The unit includes robotic gait training, balance rehabilitation systems and equipment for task-based exercises. These technologies can provide repeated and focused practice for people facing walking, balance, coordination and daily activity difficulties.

The integrated approach is expected to benefit stroke and brain injury patients who may have several problems at the same time, including weakness, communication difficul-

National Deworming Programme Held in Mysuru District

MYSURU

The 2026 National Deworming Campaign was observed in Mysuru district by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat and the Department of Health and Family Welfare with the objective of ensuring better health for children and creating a worm-free society. National Deworming Day was observed today at the Krishnaraja Hall premises of the former Maharaja's College postgraduate school section. Under the campaign, Albendazole tablets will be administered

to children aged between 1 and 19 years at all Anganwadi centres and government and government-aided schools and colleges in the district. A total of 2,936 Anganwadi centres and 3,115 schools and colleges have been identified across the district's seven taluks, with a target of administering the tablets to 7,43,449 children. Worm infestation spreads mainly through poor sanitation, contaminated hands and contact with contaminated soil. Worms consume blood and essential nutrients in the body, which can lead to

anaemia and malnutrition. This can adversely affect children's intellectual development, cause vitamin-A deficiency and lead to physical weakness. Severe infestation may result in frequent illness, difficulty concentrating in school and reduced attendance at schools and Anganwadi centres. Children should keep their fingernails short and clean and maintain personal hygiene. Cleanliness should be maintained around homes, and safe drinking water and properly covered food should be used.

MYSURU GOES GREEN AND CLEAN

80 waste-free spots transformed under ID Day sanitation drive

MYSURU

As part of the "Independence Day Sanitation Campaign-2026: 80 Waste-Free Spots" launched by the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) to mark the 80th Independence Day, several garbage accumulation points and an open urination spot across the city were cleaned up and transformed into neat, attractive public spaces in Mysuru on Monday.

At Zone-2, Ward-60 in Krishnamurthypuram, near the Ananthaswamy



Park close to Nityotsava Kalyana Mantapa, around 60 people participated in the cleanliness drive and cleared nearly 6 tonnes of waste.

Meenakshi, MCC officials and staff, and local residents took part in the operation.

At the T. Narasipura Main Road in Zone-9, around 30 people joined the drive and removed approximately 2 tonnes of waste. Executive Engineer (East), Zone-9 officials and staff, and local residents participated.

At another location in the same zone, on the road behind Holy Saint School in Gayathripuram, Ward-39, around 35 people participated and cleared nearly 1 tonne of

Strict vigilance against repeated violations

The Mysuru City Corporation said continuous monitoring would be carried out at the transformed locations to ensure that garbage is not dumped again and that open urination does not recur. The MCC has also warned that heavy fines will be imposed as per rules against those found dumping waste in public places or engaging in open urination.

waste.

Environmental engineers, Zone-9 officials and staff, and local residents took part in the operation. Together, 125 people participated at the three locations and removed nearly 9 tonnes of accumulated waste, giving the neglected spots a cleaner and healthier look.

OPEN URINATION SPOT TRANSFORMED

As part of the same campaign, a spot on Sayyaji Rao Road, which had been used by the public for open urination, was completely cleaned and transformed. The walls were freshly painted and public-awareness messages and signboards were installed to discourage unhygienic practices. Flower pots were placed to beautify the area, while the operating hours of the nearby public toilet were extended for the convenience of citizens.

Quick Read

Mandya to host direct interview for job seekers

CH NEWS, MANDYA
The District Employment Exchange Office will conduct a direct interview on August 14 at 10 am in Mandya. The event is organized with M.P. Guarding Solution Pvt. Ltd. and HDFC Life Insurance. Vacancies are available for Electrician and Business Development Manager positions at Mandya and Bidadi locations. Candidates aged 18 to 40 years with SSLC, PUC, ITI, Diploma, or degree qualifications can attend. ITI candidates from Fitter, Welder, and Electrician trades are also eligible. Applicants should bring their resume or biodata. Interested job seekers can contact the employment office for further details before attending the interview on August 14.

Scientific sheep, goat training set for farmers

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
The Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department will conduct a two-day training programme on scientific sheep and goat farming on August 13 and 14 in Chitradurga city. The programme will be held at the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Training Center near the Head Post Office. Interested farmers can register through WhatsApp by sharing their name and mobile number. Participants must bring an Aadhaar card copy, two passport-size photographs, and a bank passbook copy. SC and ST farmers should also bring caste certificates. No incentive will be provided. For registration and details, contact 9886803637, 9972965479, or 9886002248.

Children's talents must be encouraged, says Officer

CH NEWS, DHARWAD
Recognizing and encouraging children's talents is highly commendable in today's competitive world, said Rural Area Education Officer Ramakrishna Sadalagi. He was speaking at a students' talent award ceremony and felicitation programme for teachers and retired teachers organized by the Dharwad Taluk Rural Primary School Teachers' Development Cooperative Association. Sadalagi said knowledge gives people great strength and educated students are among the country's most valuable human resources. He praised the association for identifying talented children, honoring their achievements and encouraging them to perform better. BRC Area Coordinator Kumar K.F. also appreciated the cooperative's disciplined work and its efforts to recognize teachers and their talented children.

BHIMA AMAVASYA FESTIVITIES

Gowdagere temple set for grand chariot festival

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA
Gowdagere Chamundeshwari Kshetra in Channapatna taluk is preparing for Bhima Amavasya celebrations on August 12, with special worship, milk abhishek and a grand chariot festival. Thousands of devotees are expected to gather for the annual event, creating a festive atmosphere at the temple and surrounding areas. From 2 am, devotees can personally offer milk abhishek to the original idol, which is brought out from the treasury only once a year for public darshan and worship.



Mandya MLA inspects women-centric development projects

The MLA reviewed a ₹50-crore infrastructure plan, including hostels, teaching rooms, educational facilities and essential amenities, amid rising medical student numbers

CH NEWS, MANDYA
Mandya is set to see new efforts in women's employment and public healthcare, as MLA P. Ravikumar Gowda Ganiga inspected several proposed projects on Monday. The plans include an Akka Cafe, a Stree Mart, expanded facilities at the Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences, and a modern trauma care centre. Officials discussed the locations, designs, facilities and steps needed to move the projects forward without unnecessary delay. The proposed Akka Cafe is intended to give women a steady source of income and greater financial independence. Women would take part in food preparation, management and customer service, using their skills to build self-reliance. The cafe will also offer clean, tasty and affordable meals, breakfast items and snacks for students, workers, employees and other members of the public. Gowda said such opportunities can strengthen families and communities. At the proposed Stree Mart in Gandhinagar, women's



self-help groups and small entrepreneurs are expected to get a common place to sell food products, handicrafts and household goods. The facility is planned to help women reach customers directly, improve sales and develop sustainable businesses. During the inspection, officials were asked to prepare a suitable plan for construction and operation. The aim is to make the mart a practical platform for local enterprise and employment. At MIMS, the MLA reviewed a proposed ₹50-crore infrastructure plan in view of the growing number of medical students. The proposal includes a student hostel, teaching rooms, educational

facilities and other basic amenities. He asked engineers and officials to prepare a detailed blueprint quickly, keeping future needs in mind. He stressed that construction quality must remain a priority because MIMS serves patients and students from Mandya and neighbouring districts. Plans also include a trauma care centre to improve emergency treatment, especially after accidents on roads. Gowda, officials called for identifying five acres for the facility. During the visit, he heard patients' complaints and directed hospital authorities to ensure punctuality, respectful treatment, basic facilities and equal care.

FREE HEALTH CAMP OFFERS TREATMENT TO PUBLIC
A free special health check-up camp will be held on August 17 at Santemala Government High School in Shankarpura, Mandya. The camp is jointly organized by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, health department and medical institutions. Specialist doctors will provide free examinations and treatment for several diseases, including heart problems and cancer. Mandya MLA P. Ravikumar urged people from rural and urban areas to attend in large numbers. Officials were asked to arrange drinking water, cleanliness, transport, separate facilities for women, and public guidance. Around 3,500 people are expected to attend. Scouts and Guides will assist visitors. He said negligence or misbehaviour would invite action under rules, while the projects would give Mandya services.

Varadenahalli dairy accused of financial mismanagement

CH NEWS, MAGADI
Sasikala, a woman director of the Varadenahalli Milk Producers' Association, has demanded a transparent inquiry into alleged irregularities, misuse of funds and improper functioning at the dairy. Speaking at a press conference, she alleged that decisions were being taken without properly informing directors and urged authorities to investigate the matter and take action if wrongdoing is established. Sasikala alleged that secretary Bhavya, who was temporarily appointed about 11 months ago, was made permanent during a meeting without informing her and another director, Ramesh. She claimed the meeting was held with only six direc-

tors instead of seven and alleged that some directors were not invited. She further accused the management of approving decisions without proper quorum and collecting signatures from directors outside official meetings. Director Ramesh alleged that the association receives around 600 to 700 litres of milk daily but does not maintain proper accounts of its income and expenditure. He claimed video clips from the dairy were edited and used to falsely show participation in meetings. The directors also alleged irregularities at the milk collection centre, including suspected dilution of milk, and claimed staff had threatened them when they raised questions. Ramesh further alleged that farmers supplying more than

Mandya protesters block highway, several detain

CH NEWS, MANDYA
A protest was held in Mandya city by CITU and farmers' organizations against policies of the central and state governments. Hundreds of activists gathered at Sanjay Circle and raised slogans demanding protection of workers' and farmers' rights. The activists demanded immediate withdrawal of labour laws they said were weakening workers' rights. They also opposed taking fertile agricultural land for the Bidadi Township project, saying farmers should not be forced to give up their land. They accused the central government of ignoring common people and farmers while favoring corporate companies. During the protest, demonstrators suddenly blocked the old Mysore-Bengaluru highway and sat in a dharna, bringing traffic to a standstill. The road blockade led to a heated exchange between police and protesters as officers tried to clear the route. Protesters refused to move, insisting that their demands be heard by the authorities. Police detained leaders and

Activists opposed labour laws, Bidadi Township land acquisition and corporate favoritism, blocking the Mysore-Bengaluru highway and clashing with police during their protest
activists. Women protesters who remained seated on the highway were removed by officers and taken into police vehicles. The action caused tension at the protest site, while traffic movement was restored. Organizers said the demonstration aimed at highlighting concerns over labour rights and farmers' land. They maintained that the government must listen to communities and reconsider policies they believe are harmful to workers and farmers. The detention of protesters brought the confrontation to a close, but the demands raised during the demonstration are likely to remain an issue. The protesters said they would continue the campaign through means and press for action on labour rights and farmers' concerns before withdrawing their highway blockade.

'Dewormed children are nation's healthy wealth'

CH NEWS, KOPPAL
District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Eshwar S. Savadi said dewormed children are valuable national wealth. He was speaking at the district-level National Deworming Day programme held at Tanakanakal Government Adarsh Vidyalaya on Monday. Officials inaugurated the programme by watering saplings and distributing deworming tablets to children. Children aged 1 to 19 are given free albendazole tablets. Savadi said the medicine helps control anemia, improves nutrient absorption, concentration and learning, and can support better attendance at schools and Anganwadi centres.

Cooperative Society promises better services for farmers

CH NEWS, MAGADI
The welfare of farmers and development of rural areas remain the main goals of the Gudemaranahalli Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society, said its president K. Gangadharaiah. He was speaking after inaugurating the society's annual general meeting for 2025-26 at the Milk Producers Cooperative Society hall in Gudemaranahalli village. Gangadharaiah said the society had made good progress during the last financial year because of effective management and cooperation from farmers. He said the cooperative was providing fertilizers, seeds and agricultural loans to farmers on time. He urged members to repay their loans

regularly, saying timely repayment would help the society extend greater financial support to new members and farmers facing greater needs. He assured farmers that the society would be strengthened further in the coming years and that new initiatives would be introduced to provide modern agricultural services. He said the cooperative would continue working to meet the changing needs of farmers and support their livelihoods. Secretary S.H. Ravishankar said the society currently has 616 members and has distributed crop loans worth Rs. 2.26 crore. He credited the board of directors and members for the cooperative's progress. During the meeting, members approved



the society's accounts for 2025-26, including the profit and loss statement and the proposed budget for the coming year. Vice-president Padmamma, directors Anasuya, G.C. Gangamaraiah, M. Revathi, Venkatesh, Anjinappa, Hemanth Kumar, G.C. Gangaiah, P. Chandregowda, Gopalakrishna,

Chowdary and Jagadish attended the meeting. Clerk Girish and local leaders Lakshmi Manarasimhamurthy and Shiva Shankar were also present. The meeting concluded with a renewed focus on strengthening cooperative services and improving support for farmers.

CHILDREN URGED TO MAKE CLEANLINESS A DAILY HABIT

CH NEWS, MANDYA
Children should give top priority to cleanliness, personal hygiene and good health, District Magistrate Dr. Kumar said on Monday. He was speaking after inaugurating the Albendazole tablet distribution programme under National Deworming Day at Police Colony Government Model High School in Mandya city. Dr. Kumar said the government conducts the programme every year to protect children from worm infections and related health problems. About 3.52 lakh children aged one to

19 years in Mandya district are being provided Albendazole tablets free of cost. He urged parents, teachers and students to pay close attention to children's health and ensure the tablets are taken properly. He advised children to develop healthy habits, including washing their hands thoroughly before and after meals. He said healthy children can concentrate better on education and contribute positively to society. Schools were instructed to ensure that students take the tablets in the presence of teachers or health workers.



Quick Read

Crop insurance registration deadline extended to Aug17

CH NEWS, CHIKKA-BALLAPURA
The deadline for farmers in Chikkaballapura district to register under the 2026 monsoon season weather-based crop insurance scheme has been extended to August 17. Under the scheme, paddy farmers will receive insured coverage of Rs. 2.80 lakh per hectare, with a premium of Rs. 14,000. Mango growers will get Rs. 80,000 coverage by paying Rs. 4,000, while pomegranate growers will receive Rs. 1.27 lakh coverage for a premium of Rs. 6,350. Farmers can register through relevant banks, Seva Sindhu Kendras, and Gram One Kendras. TATA AIG is handling registrations. Officials urged eligible farmers to complete registration before the deadline.

Youth Congress marks mane birthday with service

CH NEWS, HANAGAL
Youth Congress workers marked MLA Srinivas Mane's 52nd birthday by organizing a service programme at Navodaya Mentally Disabled Children's School in Hanagal. They distributed learning materials, T-shirts, and groceries to support the children's educational and daily needs. Office bearers and workers spent time with the children, interacting with them and sharing a meaningful moment. Speaking at the event, leaders said caring for children with special needs is everyone's social responsibility. They expressed happiness that Mane's birthday was celebrated through service. Teachers, staff, and Youth Congress members attended the programme together.

MANGALURU AIRPORT HANDLES MASSIVE CARGO TRAFFIC

MANGALURU
Official government data reveals impressive growth at the Mangaluru International Airport, which successfully managed a remarkable 5,851.74 tonnes of cargo during the 2025-26 financial period. In addition to strong freight movement, the vital aviation hub recorded a heavy volume of passenger traffic and flight operations. According to details shared in the Lok Sabha by the Union Government, the facility welcomed 2.56 million passengers and handled 18,917 Air Traffic Movements over the course of the year. Responding to an official query raised by parliament member Captain Brijesh Chowta, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol highlighted the airport's exceptional ser-

vice standards. The facility currently possesses a designed passenger handling capacity of 3.2 million passengers per annum. Furthermore, international recognition has come its way, earning the prestigious ACI Level 5 Customer Experience Accreditation alongside being named the world's best airport for arrivals based on global survey ratings. Discussing infrastructure upgrades, the Minister emphasized that ongoing modernization remains a top priority. Expansion decisions depend on multiple factors, including land availability, commercial viability, traffic demand, and airline interest. Meanwhile, broader national aviation policies are also shifting to boost the domestic aero sector, particularly through tax reforms aimed at strengthening local manufac-

turing and maintenance capabilities. To support the growing aviation workforce and maintenance ecosystem, the Union Budget 2026-27 introduced zero Basic Customs Duty on critical aircraft manufacturing components and engine parts. Additionally, similar duty exemptions for aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul tools have been extended through March 2028. These progressive measures have helped drive an impressive increase in domestic maintenance facilities nationwide. Authorities also noted that training programs for aviation professionals continue to evolve under strict regulatory frameworks to match modern safety standards, ensuring that India's growing aviation sector maintains a highly skilled and capable workforce.

HEALTHY CHILDREN INITIATIVE

Chikkaballapura launches deworming drive for children

CH NEWS, CHIKKAALLAPURA
District Health Officer Dr. Chetan said deworming tablets are being distributed to children aged one to 19, as part of National Deworming Day. He said intestinal worms can reduce nutrient absorption and lead to anemia, malnutrition and poor physical and mental growth in children. The programme was held at St. Joseph's Convent School and College in the city, where school children received the tablets. Dr. Chetan said the central and state governments are giving priority to children's health



because they are the future citizens. He said health services, vaccines, nutrition, education and treatment support children from early life. National Deworming Day is observed every year to reduce the health problems caused by worms.

Free Albendazole tablets are supplied through Anganwadi centres, schools and colleges across the district. Health and ASHA workers will visit places where children study or gather, explain the importance of deworming



DCM Parameshwara assures farmers of government drought relief

'The state has requested central assistance, but no response has come so far'

CH NEWS, TUMAKURU
Deputy Chief Minister and Revenue Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara said Karnataka is facing severe drought because of inadequate rainfall in several regions. He assured farmers and the public that the government would stand with them and provide necessary relief during the difficult period. Speaking to reporters during his visit to drought-hit areas in Sira taluk, he said crops had suffered heavy damage. Ten taluks of Tumakuru district are facing drought, while drinking water shortages have also emerged in some places. He said Rs. 5 crore had been allocated to each district for drinking water arrangements and Rs. 1 crore to each Assembly constituency. The Chief Minister has assigned ministers to review drought conditions across districts. Parameshwara said he would inspect several taluks and prepare a detailed report with officials. The state has requested central assistance, but no response has come so far. Drought conditions are reported in 240 taluks, he said.



Major highlights of Madhugiri Review Meeting	
■ Jal Jeevan Mission:	442 works have not yet started.
■ Contractors:	Delaying contractors will be blacklisted.
■ Drinking Water:	285 of 1,468 units are contaminated.
■ Employment:	Strict action will follow job-delivery lapses.
■ Drought Relief:	51,000 works have been approved.
■ Water Funds:	₹78 lakh allocated across four taluks.
■ Crop Situation:	Low rainfall has severely damaged crops.
■ Monitoring:	DC and CEO must review progress weekly.

He said formal drought declaration must follow Union government guidelines and a detailed assessment. Once reports are completed, compensation for crop losses will be considered. He will visit Sira, Pavagada, Madhugiri and Koratagere on Monday, followed by Gubbi, Tiptur, Chikkanayakanahalli and Turuvekere on Tuesday. Officials will review crop conditions, water needs and other urgent problems. Parameshwara also said insurance companies must release pending crop compensation without delay. He said many farmers had paid premiums but were still waiting for payments. He questioned how

farmers could trust the insurance system if claims were not settled on time. He said claims about Bangladeshi nationals should be judged only using verified data.

TUMAKURU TO DISTRIBUTE FODDER SEEDS AMID DROUGHT CRISIS
Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara said one lakh quintals of fodder seeds will be distributed across Tumakuru district to support farmers during the drought. Ten thousand quintals will reach each taluk, encouraging farmers with water facilities to grow fodder. Pavagada currently has fodder stock for 12 weeks, while more fodder will be purchased from farmers. Parameshwara said poor rainfall has severely damaged groundnut crops, with sowing falling sharply. The government has allocated funds for drinking water and urged people to use water carefully. He said ministers will assess drought conditions and submit a report to the Centre by month-end.

farmers could trust the insurance system if claims were not settled on time. He said claims about Bangladeshi nationals should be judged only using verified data.

Breastfeeding helps children grow strong and healthy

CH NEWS, MAGADI
Child Development Project Officer B.L. Sudhindra said mother's milk is the best medicine for a child's overall development. He was speaking at an awareness programme marking World Breastfeeding Week at Solor Gram Panchayat hall. He said milk given immediately after birth provides immunity and protects babies from infections. Sudhindra urged every mother to give only breast milk during the first six months of a baby's life. He

expressed concern that modern lifestyles and misconceptions are discouraging some mothers from breastfeeding. He said breastfeeding supports physical and mental growth and can also lower the mother's risk of breast and uterine cancer. Health Officer Dr. Asha said breast milk is a natural gift and should be the baby's only food for six months. She advised families not to give water, honey or powdered milk during this period. Breast milk contains sufficient water and nutrients for babies. Timely breastfeeding

BJP delegation demands equipped Esi hospital in Bidar

CH NEWS, BIDAR
A Bidar BJP delegation has urged Union Labour and Employment Minister Shobha Karandlaje to establish a well-equipped ESI hospital in Bidar district. The delegation met the minister in New Delhi and highlighted the healthcare difficulties faced by thousands of workers and their families covered under the ESI scheme. The delegation said many workers employed in industrial, commercial and other sectors depend on hospitals outside the district for advanced treatment, emergency care and specialist services. Patients often have to travel to Kalaburagi, Hyderabad and other distant cities. This increases treatment expenses and travel time, creating additional difficulties for families during medical emergencies. The leaders said an independent ESI hospital in Bidar would provide workers and their families with quality healthcare closer to home. The facility could offer specialist doctors, modern med-

Leaders sought an independent ESI hospital in Bidar, offering specialist care, modern equipment, emergency services, cashless treatment and accessible benefits for workers' families

ical equipment, emergency treatment and other services under the ESI system. They also requested that cashless treatment and other benefits available under the scheme should be easily accessible locally. The delegation stressed that workers play an important role in the country's economic development and that their health and social security should receive priority. They requested the minister to take necessary steps to approve the hospital at the earliest. The minister heard their concerns and discussed healthcare and labour welfare issues affecting workers in Bidar district. BJP district president Somnath Patil, Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale, Aurad MLA Prabhu B.

Biofuels can help reduce air pollution

CH NEWS, KARWAR
Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Dileesh Shashi said wider use of biofuels could protect nature and help control air pollution. He was speaking at a World Biology Day programme held at the Government First Grade Women's College in Karwar on Monday. He inaugurated the event by planting a honge tree. Dr. Shashi said biofuels should be promoted as alternatives to conventional fuels such as petrol and diesel.

Driver Saves Passengers As Wheel Detaches

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA
Quick thinking and sharp focus by a bus driver averted a major tragedy in the hilly terrains of Agumbe. Passengers on board a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation bus experienced moments of sheer terror when one of the vehicle's rear wheels suddenly came loose and detached while the bus was actively moving. Thanks to the driver's timely action, everyone onboard escaped safely without a single scratch, turning a potential disaster into a close call. The incident unfolded as the public transport vehicle was traveling from Udupi toward Shivamogga. After successfully navigating and climbing the steep, winding curves of the Agumbe ghat section, the mechanical failure occurred on level ground.

Shivsimpi community celebrates Shivadasimayya birth anniversary

CH NEWS, KOPPAL
The Shivsimpi community celebrated the birth anniversary of its spiritual leader Shri Shivadasimayya with a grand programme at Sahitya Bhavan. JDS State Core Committee member C.V. Chandrashekhara inaugurated the event and praised the community for contributing to society while working to strengthen unity among its members. Chandrashekhara said the Shivsimpi community may be smaller than some other communities, but it has a strong and positive identity. He said members earn respect through their work and contribute to society rather than seeking benefits. He appreciated the

community's efforts to bring people together while continuing its traditional tailoring profession. Community elder Basavarajappa urged members to understand the teachings of Vachana literature and apply them in daily life. Gururaja Halageri and Basavaraj Bolkolli said social development was possible only when people worked together. They called upon members to cooperate and make collective efforts for the progress of the community. District Shivsimpi Samaj president Vireshkumar Betageri said unity was essential for building a strong society. He compared the community's progress with tailoring, saying a needle and thread work to-

gether to give shape to cloth. He urged members to avoid unnecessary divisions and concentrate on development and constructive activities. A Kumbh procession carrying the portrait of Shri Shivadasimayya began at Sri-gavi Math and passed through the Clock Tower before reaching Sahitya Bhavan. Society honorary president Shivaputrappa Simpi flagged off the procession, while community elders offered floral tributes. The programme also honoured students who scored 90 percent or above in SSLC and PUC during 2025-26, along with talented children. Society office-bearers, cooperative members, elders and dignitaries attended the event.

Heavy rains trigger landslides in Malnadu

CHIKKAMAGALURU
Nature has shown its fierce side once again in the beautiful coffee land of Chikkamagaluru district. After a short break, heavy downpours have returned to the Malnadu region, lashing areas like Koppa, Sringeri, Kalasa, and Mudigere. The continuous wind and rain have soaked the soil deeply, leading to dangerous landslides, uprooted trees, and blocked roads that have caused massive panic among local residents. Danger has knocked directly on doors in Ambalike village located within Koppa taluk. Heavy rain caused a massive section of land near a resident named Pawan's house to collapse. Muddy water rushed inside, forcing the family to safely evacuate their home immediately. Locals fear that if the heavy downpours continue, more earth from the towering height could slide down and completely destroy the property. Meanwhile, traffic came to a grinding halt on National Highway 169 near Kademane village in Sringeri taluk. A massive hill slope gave way under continuous rain, crashing heavy rocks, dirt, and giant trees right onto the busy Sringeri-Mangalore highway. Authorities immediately rushed heavy machinery to clear the debris, but ongoing wet weather and continuous rolling soil made the cleanup mission extremely difficult. Officials from the National Highways Authority have issued urgent warnings, urging drivers and travelers to exercise extreme caution on this route.

Wild Elephant Attack Kills Laborer

MADIKERI
Tragedy struck Yadoor village in Virajpet as a routine errand turned into a fatal disaster. A local laborer named Annappa lost his life in a sudden wild elephant attack while searching for a missing cow inside a coffee plantation. The aggressive animal caught him off guard, inflicting severe and critical injuries to his waist and back. Quick action by forest department staff ensured he was rushed to the hospital immediately, but sadly, he succumbed to his injuries during treatment. Local authorities registered a formal case at the Siddapur police station following the incident.



Quick Read



Sanjay Seth hits out at Soren govt

New Delhi
Union Minister of State (MoS) for Defence, Sanjay Seth, launched a scathing attack on the Hemant Soren-led Jharkhand government over police action against the JPSC aspirants during the peaceful protest march against examination irregularities. This came as the police lobbed tear gas shells on students as they breached barricades and closed in on the Assembly premises as the examination protests intensified in Jharkhand. The students marched towards the Assembly premises despite heightened security arrangements in the area as their protest over alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations continued.

Trinamool MLAs protest in bengal assembly

Kolkata
Trinamool Congress MLAs staged a protest in West Bengal Legislative Assembly premises over the attack on former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at Halisahar in North 24 Parganas district. The MLAs raised slogans against the BJP government led by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari and the police administration, demanding justice for Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee and vowed to take out protest rallies across Bengal today. They also slammed the police over the custodial death of a Trinamool Congress worker in Halisahar. The protest march was led by senior leader Sovande Chatopadhyay, Kunal Ghosh, Biman Banerjee, Nayna Bandyopadhyay and others.

70 Lakh people to benefit as assam resumes subsidised pulses and sugar scheme

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday announced the resumption of the state government's subsidised food scheme under which pulses and sugar will be made available to beneficiaries at Rs 100, benefiting around 70 lakh people across the state.

The scheme was relaunched from Raha in Nagaon district after remaining suspended for nearly three months due to delays associated with the state Budget process. Sarma said the government had now restored the supply of pulses and sugar at affordable rates as part of its commitment to provide essential commodities to eligible beneficiaries.

The scheme, introduced ahead of the Assembly elections, had aimed to provide sugar, pulses and salt to people at subsidised prices.

The Chief Minister said the distribution of salt could not be restarted immediately because of certain technical issues. However, he assured beneficiaries that the supply would resume shortly. We will start providing it in a few days, Sarma said.

The initiative is expected to provide relief to a large section of households at a time when prices of essential food items remain a major concern for consumers.

Meanwhile, Sarma also spoke about the continuing

Supreme Court seeks time-bound NDPS trials

SC sought responses on a PIL demanding uniform NDPS procedures, faster forensic reports, Special Courts, digital recording, rehabilitation measures and time-bound trials

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court issued notice to the Centre and state governments on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking time-bound investigation and speedy trial of cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joy-malya Bagchi and V. Mohana issued the notice on a plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay. The matter has been listed for further hearing on September 28.

The petition seeks mandatory timelines for submission of Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) reports in NDPS cases and a uniform Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) governing search, seizure and sampling in cases involving small and intermediate quantities of narcotic substances.

It also seeks the constitution of an expert committee to identify and schedule New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), along with the establishment of Special Courts under Sections 36 and 36A of the NDPS Act. The PIL

contends that the absence of uniform investigation standards, timely forensic examination and effective monitoring has contributed to delays, procedural lapses and inconsistent enforcement across states.

The petitioner has further sought mandatory digital recording and videography of search, seizure, sampling and inventory proceedings to enhance transparency and reduce acquittals arising from procedural deficiencies.

The plea also calls for operational rehabilitation and wellness centres, effective implementation of Sections 39 and 64A, and a graded sentencing policy distinguishing traffickers and financiers from addicts and personal-use offenders.

SC seeks stronger NDPS rule

SC notice to Centre and states on NDPS PIL

Plea seeks mandatory timelines for FSL reports

Uniform SOP proposed for search, seizure and sampling

Special Courts sought for faster narcotics trials

Digital videography proposed to prevent procedural lapses

Rehabilitation measures sought for addicts

Graded sentencing proposed for traffickers and users

BRICS tourism meeting in Jaipur from Aug-19

JAIPUR

Jaipur is gearing up to host the international BRICS Tourism Meetings from August 19 to 22 under India's BRICS presidency, with the Rajasthan government reviewing preparations to ensure smooth and coordinated conduct of the four-day event.

A review meeting was held at the Government Secretariat on Monday under the chairmanship of Naveen Jain, Principal Secretary of the General Administration Department. He directed all concerned departments to coordinate closely and complete preparations within the stipulated time-frame.

Jain stressed that there should be no lapses in security, hospitality and other arrangements during the event. The meetings are expected to bring together tourism ministers, policymakers and senior diplomats from BRICS member countries, alongside India.

Delegates from Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates are



scheduled to participate in the conference.

The Rajasthan Tourism Department has been designated as the nodal agency for the event. It is coordinating with the Union Ministry of Tourism as well as various state administrative, police and civic agencies.

According to the schedule reviewed during the meeting, the inaugural session of the second BRICS Tourism Working Group meeting will be held on August 19. Discussions will focus on the 'Zero Draft', which will subsequently be finalised, besides bilateral meetings.

The first BRICS Tourism Ministers' Meeting is scheduled for August 21, when the 'Zero Draft' will be adopted.

BRICS Tourism Meet

- Event being held under India's BRICS presidency
- Tourism ministers and senior diplomats expected
- Security and hospitality arrangements reviewed
- 'Zero Draft' to be discussed and adopted
- Departments directed to ensure close coordination

A special programme for participating delegations has been planned for August 22.

Senior officials from the General Administration Department and other departments attended the review meeting.

Govt has adopted multi-pronged policy to safeguard economy

NEW DELHI

The government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to safeguard fiscal stability, exports, and investment flows against external geopolitical uncertainties, with fiscal buffers, including the newly constituted Economic Stabilisation Fund, providing the financial space to effectively respond to global headwinds and unforeseen events, the Parliament was informed on Monday.

To support industry and exports, measures such as the RELIEF (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) Scheme, the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool, restoration of RoDTEP benefits, targeted customs duty relief and the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0 have been introduced, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

The government is also strengthening trade resilience through Free Trade Agreements and Comprehensive Economic Partnership/Cooperation Agreements, while an investor-friendly FDI policy continues to attract long-term investment.

Jiyo Parsi scheme records 534 births

NEW DELHI

As many as 534 births have been reported in the Parsi community since 2014-15 under the government's efforts to address the declining population of the community, Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju informed the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

In a written reply to a question, Rijiju said the births had brought a ray of hope for stabilising the Parsi population. He added that independent third-party evaluation studies had also found the Jiyo Parsi scheme successful in achieving its intended objectives.

The government has spent Rs 37.43 crore on the scheme so far. In 2025-26, Rs 2.93 crore was spent under the Health of Community component, while Rs 24 lakh was allocated for medical assistance and Rs 29 lakh for advocacy activities.

Expenditure under the Health of Community component has increased steadily, from Rs 2.53 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 2.66 crore in 2024-25.

Rijiju said 582 Parsi beneficiaries have received financial assistance since 2013 for infertility treatment, child-bearing, childbirth and post-natal care under the medical component.



Government efforts to reverse the Parsi community's population decline have recorded 534 births under the Jiyo Parsi scheme since 2014-15

Additionally, 1,055 beneficiaries have received assistance under the Health of Community component since 2018-19.

The government has also undertaken publicity campaigns, workshops, interaction sessions, registration drives and bio-authentication drives to improve awareness and participation. Information on implementation is regularly published through major Parsi newspapers.

The Minister clarified that the advocacy component does not provide direct financial assistance to beneficiaries, but focuses on awareness and outreach to encourage eligible members to access the scheme.

A woman's clothing is her choice, not a licence for harassment: Delhi HC

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court observed that what a girl or woman chooses to wear is a matter of her personal choice and neither society, neighbours, nor any other person has the right to dictate her attire.

A single-judge Bench of Justice Chandrasekharan Sudha made the observations while allowing an appeal against the acquittal of an accused in a sexual harassment case involving a young woman and convicting him under Section 354A(1)(i) of the IPC.

The Delhi High Court took particular exception to the defence seeking to link the woman's clothes, including her wearing jeans, with the alleged offence. What a girl or woman chooses to wear is a matter of her personal choice. Neither her neighbours, nor society, nor the accused, nor counsel appear-

ing in a court of law has any right to dictate her clothing. It is simply none of their concern, Justice Sudha said.

The Delhi High Court was hearing an appeal against the trial court's acquittal of Sajid Ali, who was accused of repeatedly stalking the woman, making sexually coloured remarks, and touching her cheeks and hip.

During the trial, the defence had questioned the woman about her clothes and the objections purportedly raised by residents of the locality over her wearing western clothes.

The woman had stated that she generally wore normal jeans and top, while also acknowledging that local residents had objected to her attire. Justice Sudha said the line of cross-examination concerning the woman's clothes was wholly irrelevant, improper and appeared to be a technique to embarrass, humiliate and morally judge the prosecutrix.



SEVENTH PAY COMMISSION HOLDS FIRST MEETING

KOLKATA

The recently constituted 7th Pay Commission for West Bengal state employees held its inaugural meeting at the Nabanna state secretariat. Led by the administration under Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, the panel reviewed the operational and financial status of various departments and laid out a clear roadmap for future recommendations.

To combat widespread misinformation circulating on social media, officials announced that a dedicated official website will soon be launched. This portal will serve as the sole authentic source for official updates, guidelines, and final notifications regarding the revised salary structures. The commission strongly cautioned employees and the public against believing unverified rumors about prospective payouts

DELHI BJP CHIEF LEADS 'TIRANGA YATRA' NEAR RED FORT

NEW DELHI

As part of the week-long celebrations leading up to India's 80th Independence Day, the Delhi BJP on Monday organised a Tiranga Yatra through the streets of Old Delhi near the historic Red Fort under the leadership of State President Harsh Malhotra, a party leader said. Malhotra said, from this sacred land of Chandni Chowk, close to the Red Fort, I extend my greetings to all of you, patriotic citizens.

Today, we are taking out a 'Tiranga Yatra', and what could be a greater matter of pride than the fact that this Yatra is beginning from Old

Delhi? The Red Fort in Old Delhi is not merely made of bricks and stones; it is from here that the Prime Minister addresses the nation every August 15. The call for independence was announced from here, and every inch of Old Delhi is steeped in sacrifice and self-respect, he said.

The march began from Chandni Chowk's Town Hall and concluded at Hauz Qazi, passing through a route decorated with tricolour flags and ceremonial arches, reflecting the spirit of communal harmony. Many school students also participated in the Tiranga Yatra, said a party statement

Thousands of workers joined the Tiranga Yatra along

with Chandni Chowk MP Praveen Khandelwal. Several local business and civic organisations set up platforms at various points along the route to welcome and felicitate Malhotra, Khandelwal and all the participants of the march.

The Tiranga Yatra, organised under the coordination of Chandni Chowk District President Arvind Garg, was attended by State Vice President Rajesh Bhatia, Media Head Praveen Shankar Kapoor, Yuva Morcha President Rajat Chaudhary, former Mayor Jai Prakash, Municipal Councillors Suman Kumar Gupta, Usha Sharma, Vikas Tank, Vikesh Sethi and Sushil Jonty, Co-Office Secretary.

SEARCH FOR MISSING FISHERMEN

Families Still Await Missing Fishermen

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Eleven days after three fishermen went missing in separate incidents off Kerala's coast, their families continued to wait for answers as political leaders visited them on Monday amid growing anger over the search operations.

Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan visited the family of Gautham Krishnan at Neendakara, while Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala and Fisheries Minister Abdul Gafoor met the families of John Mathias and Shijin.

The three fishermen disappeared separately off Neenda-



kara, Muthalapozhi and Vizhinjam. Their families have demanded that the search operations be intensified and that every available agency and modern technology be deployed to locate them.

Gautham's mother, Reshma, has begun a hunger strike seeking a more intensive search. The family's demand has also triggered protests along the Kerala coast over what residents described as delays and inadequate rescue

efforts.

The search operation has now been expanded, with the Navy's INS Kalpeni deployed in the Vizhinjam and Muthalapozhi areas. The Coast Guard continues operations off Neendakara, while screening and scuba teams are also participating.

Satheesan denied that there had been any delay in rescue

Quick Read

IIM Ahmedabad's leadership focus a natural fit: Adani

Ahmedabad
IIM Ahmedabad's track record of institution-building and developing leaders across the country made it a natural partner for Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas in setting up the Cyril Shroff-IIMA GC Leadership Academy, Paridhi Adani, Partner and Head-Gujarat at the prestigious law firm. Paridhi Adani said the collaboration was particularly valuable because IIM Ahmedabad had explored the broader role of law and lawyers in the economy and enterprise, going beyond conventional legal education.

Meghalaya Congress opposes FCRA changes

Shillong
The Meghalaya Pradesh Congress Committee staged a peaceful protest march in Shillong against the proposed amendments to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), alleging that the changes could have serious implications for churches, educational institutions, hospitals, NGOs and other organisations receiving foreign contributions for social work. A large number of Congress workers participated in the demonstration, carrying party flags and placards and raising slogans against the proposed FCRA Amendment Bill.

Centre moves mines and minerals bill in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI
The Centre introduced Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha on Monday, seeking to restrict state governments from imposing taxes, cess or other levies on mineral rights, while bringing the regulation of certain mineral-bearing lands under its control. The Bill, introduced by Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy, seeks to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act to provide certainty, stability and predictability to the sector with greater uniformity in the fiscal treatment of minerals across states. The absence of reasonable limits on taxes imposed by states on mineral rights and mineral-bearing lands has created uncertainty in the mining sector, the minister stated. According to the new Bill, no tax, cess or such other levy (by whatever name called) shall be imposed by the state government on mineral rights. The Bill also proposes to enable the Centre to take under its control the regulation of mineral-bearing lands having mineral contents in accordance with the parameters prescribed under the MMDRAC.

NCP (SP) MPs meet PM Modi amid NDA alliance rumours

NEW DELHI
Amid swirling rumours about the NCP (Sharad Pawar) potentially joining the NDA, a delegation of party MPs led by Baramati MP Supriya Sule met Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Following the 20-minute meeting, Shirur MP Dr Amol Kolhe clarified the details of the interaction, explicitly refuting claims regarding political realignments or upcoming legislation. During the meeting, the delegation submitted several requests related to Maharashtra's policy issues, infrastruc-



Gujarat expands lion conservation beyond numbers

Gujarat's lion conservation model is expanding beyond population growth, with the state focusing on ecosystems, biodiversity, community participation

PORBANDAR

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said the state's Asiatic lion conservation efforts must go beyond increasing the animal's population and focus on protecting the wider ecosystem, as Gujarat marked World Lion Day in Porbandar.

Addressing the conservation programme virtually from Gandhinagar, Patel said forests, water sources, agriculture and human life were closely interconnected, making ecosystem protection central to wildlife conservation. He urged greater public participation in safeguarding nature and the environment.

Gujarat, the only home of free-ranging Asiatic lions, has recorded a population of 891,

Kanwar Yatra draws devotees in Jabalpur as CM joins procession

JABALPUR

A massive Kanwar Yatra turned Jabalpur's Ranjhi area into a sea of devotees, with Chief Minister Mohan Yadav joining the procession, showing flowers on Kanwariyas and walking alongside sadhus and pilgrims carrying Narmada water for offering to Lord Shiva. The 'Sanskar Kanwar Yatra', held on the auspicious Monday of the holy month of Shravan, witnessed large-scale participation of devotees. The procession reverberated with chants of Bol Kanwariya, Bol Bam as devotees danced to the beats of drums and other traditional instruments. Yadav participated in the procession along with spiritual leader Dada Guru and several public representatives. He lifted a Kanwar, played the damru and walked with the devotees during the religious procession.

Rahul Gandhi condemns Jharkhand police action on students

NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, said that the police action against students protesting in Jharkhand over the examination irregularities is wrong, adding that the government should work to resolve the issue immediately. The Lok Sabha LOP's remarks came as the police lobbed tear gas shells at students as they breached barricades and closed in on the Assembly premises as the examination protests intensified in Jharkhand. Taking to X, Gandhi said: The use of force against students protesting in Jharkhand is wrong. Students have a right to peaceful protest, and only dialogue can yield solutions. The Jharkhand government must continue to hear these students out and resolve their issues immediately.



according to the state government. Patel described the status as a matter of pride and responsibility, crediting sustained conservation efforts for the increase. He said Gujarat had developed a distinctive conserva-

India diversifies energy imports to safeguard supplies

NEW DELHI

India has significantly diversified its energy import sources to protect supplies from disruptions caused by geopolitical tensions, particularly the ongoing crisis in West Asia, the Parliament was informed on Monday. Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha that India had expanded the number of countries supplying liquefied natural gas (LNG) from six to 15. The country has also widened its crude oil sourcing network, with imports now coming from 41 countries compared with 27 earlier. The diversification is aimed at reducing dependence on any single country, region or transit route and strengthening India's ability to manage supply disruptions and volatility

ly. This came as the BJP has repeatedly criticised Gandhi over his silence on the students' protest in Jharkhand, which is ruled by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), an ally of Congress in the INDIA bloc. The protest has been led by aspirants seeking greater transparency, accountability and fairness in the recruitment process. The students marched towards the Assembly premises despite heightened security arrangements in the area as their protest over alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations continued. Police carried out a lathi charge, fired tear gas and deployed water cannons after

HEADLINE TEXT
Asiatic lion population reaches 891 in Gujarat.
Lion range expands from three to 11 districts.
Lions return to Barda Hills after 143 years.
26 lions currently reside in the Barda region.

tion model based on four pillars modern technology, scientific research, public participation and effective administration. The approach prioritised biodiversity, water resources, wildlife protection and local community involvement.

Energy security measures
■ LNG sources: Expanded from 6 to 15 countries
■ Crude oil sources: Increased from 27 to 41 countries
■ Existing strategic reserves: 5.33 MMT
■ New approved capacity: 6.5 MMT
■ Strategic sites: Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Odisha

in global energy markets. Gopi said the government regularly monitors risks to energy supplies and assesses global market conditions in coordination with public-sector oil and gas companies and other stakeholders. Measures are taken as required to ensure uninterrupted availability of crude oil, LNG and petro-

"Students have a right to peaceful protest, and only dialogue can yield solutions." - Rahul Gandhi, LOP the protesters moved closer to the Assembly. The march escalated after protesters managed to break through several barricades put up by security personnel and continued towards the Vidhan Sabha. Water cannons were used after the protesting students breached multiple barricades. The students have maintained that their agitation will continue until their demands regarding the recruitment examinations are addressed and concrete action is taken against those responsible for irregularities.

confer India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna, on prominent social reformers and cultural figures from Maharashtra: Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule, Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe, and Rashtasant Tukadoji Maharaj. Highlighting drought conditions in Beed district, MP Bajrang Sonawane urged the government to release water from the Ujani Dam to the Manjara Dam. Additionally, the MPs requested an increased constituency quota under the PM CARES fund to support financial aid for critical medi-

leum products. The need for supply resilience is particularly important because India imports more than 85 per cent of its crude oil requirements. Multiple sourcing options therefore provide a buffer against geopolitical disruptions and sudden changes in global energy markets. Alongside diversifying imports, the government is strengthening strategic petroleum reserves. Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Ltd has established three facilities with a combined capacity of 5.33 million metric tonnes at coastal locations in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Two additional commercial-cum-strategic facilities with a combined capacity of 6.5 million metric tonnes have also been approved in Odisha and Karnataka. The projects at Chandikhol and Padur were approved in July 2021.

BUDGET 2026-27 ENABLES ONLINE LOWER OR NIL TDS CERTIFICATES

NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department is framing rules to implement a Budget 2026-27 provision that will allow taxpayers to electronically apply for certificates for deduction of tax at source (TDS) at lower or nil rates, the government informed Parliament. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Union MoS for Finance Pankaj Choudhary said Section 395(1) of the Income-tax Act, 2025 provides for issuance of certificates for deduction of tax at source at nil or lower rates. The minister said the Finance Act, 2026 has enabled taxpayers to electronically file applications for issuance of such certificates, with the certificates to be issued or applications rejected subject to conditions that will be prescribed. ...the enabling rule is currently under preparation and

Opposition seeks debate on NEET, temple donation row

NEW DELHI

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said the Opposition wants Parliament to discuss both the police action against NEET protesters and the controversy surrounding alleged theft of donations made for the Ram Temple. Speaking to reporters, Yadav said the government still had enough time to take up both matters despite only two days remaining in the Monsoon Session. He said the Opposition had been demanding since the beginning of the session that Union Home Minister Amit Shah make a statement on the police action during the July 20 protest by NEET aspirants.

His remarks came after Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju indicated the government's willingness to address the issue in the Lok Sabha, saying Shah would make a statement on the matter. Yadav said the government should respond to concerns raised over the treatment of young people and students during the protest, stressing that the issue was not restricted only to NEET aspirants. The SP chief also raised the alleged theft of donations associated with the Ram Temple, questioning whether gov-

Kerala revokes MVD officials' suspension after employees' protest

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Faced with an unusually swift and effective protest by its own Motor Vehicles Department employees, the Kerala government has revoked the suspension of the two department officials who faced action for imposing a Rs 5,000 fine on a vehicle involved in flood-relief operations in Adoor. The government, however, has stopped short of a complete climb-down. The two officials have

Issues Raised
■ Police action against NEET protesters
■ Alleged theft of Ram Temple donations
■ Opposition seeks parliamentary discussion
■ Amit Shah expected to address the NEET protest issue
■ Yadav questions government's reluctance to debate the donation controversy

ernment or BJP leaders had any involvement in the matter. He said the controversy had hurt the religious sentiments of devotees who had contributed donations and offerings to the temple with faith and sincerity. Yadav questioned why the government was unwilling to permit a parliamentary discussion on the issue, accusing political leaders of repeatedly using people's faith and devotion for political purposes. He urged the government to allow discussions on both matters before the session concludes, arguing that the remaining two days were sufficient to address issues that, he said, had significant public concern.

been reinstated but transferred out of Adoor and posted to different locations, the government said, noting that the departmental probe into the incident would continue. The reversal came within hours of MVD employees launching an indefinite non-cooperation protest, under which officials continued roadside inspections but stopped imposing fines on traffic violators. Instead, motorists were counselled and allowed to proceed.

shall be notified in due course, he said. A taxpayer generally seeks a lower or nil TDS certificate when the expected tax liability is lower than the amount that would otherwise be deducted at source. The facility is aimed at preventing excess tax deductions and reducing the need for taxpayers to claim refunds later. Under the proposed system, taxpayers will be able to apply electronically to the tax authority for a lower or nil TDS certificate. The application is expected to be processed using information already available with the Income Tax Department, including previously filed tax

returns, Annual Information Statement (AIS), Taxpayer Information Summary (TIS) and Form 26AS. The move is aimed at easing compliance for small taxpayers by reducing paperwork and eliminating the need for physical submission of documents and repeated visits to tax offices. It is also expected to make the process faster, paperless and more transparent. The minister also provided details on faceless assessments and appeals disposed of by the Income Tax Department. The IT department disposed of 2.24 lakh appeals during 2025-26, compared with 1.11 lakh in 2023-24, he said.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No:BDA/EE/HPD-1/TEN/T-186/2026-27

Date:10.08.2026

SHORT-TERM INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/>)

Short-Term Tender is invited by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT266)

Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **10.08.2026** (2) Last date and time for submission of Tender Pre-Bid Enquiries: **12.08.2026, 11.00 A.M.** (3) Date and time of Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **13.08.2026, 3.00 P.M.** (4) Last date and time for submission of Tender: **24.08.2026, 4.00 P.M.** (5) Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **25.08.2026 after 4.30 P.M.**

Interested contractors can view further details on <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> and for more details it is requested to contact the Housing Project Division-1 of BDA during office hours.

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) ✉ @BDAofficialGoK

Sd/- Executive Engineer, HPD-1 Division, BDA, Bengaluru



Quick Read

Myanmar pushes back on ASEAN envoy and call to free Suu Kyi

Naypyidaw
Myanmar's military-backed government has pushed back against the regional ASEAN bloc's special envoy for the war-torn country, days after its leader made a landmark visit to Thailand, which is pushing for its neighbour's full re-engagement with the grouping.
The relationship between Myanmar and the 11-member Association for Southeast Asian Nations has been strained since early 2021 when the military leader ousted an elected civilian government led by Aung San Suu Kyi, sparking a nationwide civil war that has killed an estimated 100,000 people and displaced millions.

Trial opens for ex-gang leader charged with Tupac Shakur's 1996 murder

LAS VEGAS
Jury selection is due to begin on Monday in the murder trial of an ex-street gang leader accused of masterminding the drive-by shooting death of hip-hop star Tupac Shakur three decades ago in Las Vegas, a long-unsolved crime that became a seminal moment in rap music history.
Duane Keffe D Davis, 63, is charged in Clark County, Nevada, with a single count of murder by use of a deadly weapon. He has pleaded not guilty. Davis is accused of leading a group of men to kill Shakur, 25, one of rap's most commercially successful and influential artists, in a 1996 drive-by shooting near the Las Vegas Strip.
The killing heightened the image of violence permeating hip-hop culture and its lyrics during gangsta rap's golden age, stoking the infamous East Coast-West Coast rap feud of that era.
Police said after Davis' 2023 arrest that he was a longtime suspect in the killing but that investigators lacked

Storms from Dolphin soak China's east, ground nearly 950 Shanghai flights

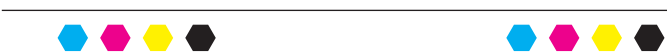
SHANGHAI
Torrential rain and storms in Typhoon Dolphin's wake inundated several provinces in China's east, drenching the coastal region and flooding streets in Shanghai, where around 40% of flights were grounded on Monday due to the weather. Dolphin packed maximum sustained winds of 151 kph near its centre when it made landfall in Zhejiang, the province to the south and west of Shanghai, evening before weakening to a tropical storm.
Its remaining rain clouds continued to soak the eastern provinces including Anhui, Jiangsu and Shandong on Monday.
Many streets in Shanghai, the country's second most

DEADLY REFINERY DRONE STRIKE

Ukraine Drone Strike Kills 13 In Russia

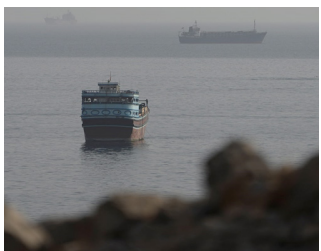
MOSCOW
At least 13 people, including a child, were killed and 39 others injured in a Ukrainian drone attack on industrial and civilian targets in Nizhnekamsk, Russian authorities said Monday, making it one of the heaviest civilian death tolls in Russia in recent months.
Ukraine's military said its forces targeted Tatneft's TAN-ECO oil refinery in Tatarstan, around 800 km east of Moscow. The military said a fire was reported at the facility following the strike. Verified smoke rising over the refinery.

Russian investigators opened a criminal case, describing the incident as a terrorist attack and accusing Ukraine of striking residential areas. They said a child was among those killed.
Tatarstan's regional head



Iran Sets Conditions For Hormuz Reopening

Iran and Oman are finalising shipping arrangements for the Strait of Hormuz, but Tehran says reopening depends on Washington meeting demands



DUBAI
Iran said Monday that negotiations with Oman on establishing new shipping lanes through the Strait of Hormuz were nearing completion, but stressed that reopening the strategically vital waterway would depend on the United States meeting several demands.
Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said discussions with Oman were progressing smoothly and constructively, with both sides having agreed on a map for the proposed shipping route. However, some technical issues concerning a joint statement remained unresolved.
The talks have also ad-

Baltic States Tighten Critical Infrastructure Security

WARSAW
Russia's northern NATO neighbours are stepping up security around critical infrastructure amid growing fears that Moscow could stage a false flag attack using Ukrainian drones to justify further confrontation with the alliance.
Lithuania, Poland, Latvia and Estonia have warned of potential Russian sabotage operations aimed at testing NATO's response at a time when questions remain over the strength of US commitment to the military alliance.
Lithuanian Defence Minister Robertas Kaunas said authorities were increasing protection of critical infrastructure and closely coordinating with intelligence agencies. Lithuania last month deployed military personnel alongside riot police to secure its liquefied natural gas import terminal, an oil products terminal, a major power connected with Poland and the Kruonis Pumped Storage hy-

dro plant.
Latvia has also strengthened security around critical facilities, including a major dam on the Daugava River near Riga and the Incukalns underground gas storage facility.
Latvian Prime Minister An-dris Kulbergs said the possibility of a hybrid threat was greater than before, reflecting heightened concern over potential Russian activity.
The Baltic states and Poland have already discovered Ukrainian drones on their territory, adding to fears that such incidents could be exploited to trigger a broader confrontation.
Russia has rejected the warnings, with Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov de-

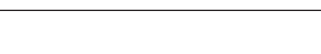
scribing claims of planned clandestine attacks as scare stories intended to justify militarisation against Moscow.
A Baltic intelligence official, however, said assessments indicated that Russian military and domestic intelligence agencies could be preparing a false-flag operation against infrastructure in Russia, the Baltic states or Poland using Ukrainian-made drones.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VANITHA D/o RAMACHANDRA REDDY YELLAPPA REDDY, W/o HEMANTH KUMAR, R/o 31, Opp. Hanuman Temple, Haraluru, HSR Layout, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560102, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VANITHA R.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAMMED AZHAR (old name), a resident of NO 14/247, MASJEED ATEEQ, DAYANANDA SLUM, BANGALORE SOUTH, BANGALOREU= 560011, KARNATAKA INDIA, have changed my name to MOHAMMAD AZHAR (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 10-08-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Oman talks: Shipping route map agreed; technical issues remain.
- Iran's conditions: Compensation, sanctions relief and release of frozen assets.
- US stance: President Donald Trump said Washington was semi-negotiating with Tehran.
- Hormuz impact: The waterway previously carried about one-fifth of global oil and LNG flows.
- Indirect contacts: Iran and the US continue exchanging messages through intermediaries.

We are not naive, we see the information, we read between the lines and we are doing our homework.
— Lithuanian Defence Minister Robertas Kaunas.

Security Measures

- Lithuania: Military deployed to protect LNG, oil, power and hydro facilities.
- Latvia: Security increased around dams and underground gas storage.
- Regional concern: Poland, Estonia and Latvia warn of possible sabotage.
- Intelligence assessment: A Baltic official says Russian agencies may plan a false-flag attack using Ukrainian-made drones.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIVEK BASAPPA HITTINAHALLI, resident of NO 502, 29TH MAIN, 10TH A CROSS, SECTOR-1, HSR LAYOUT, BANGALURU - 560102, KARNATAKA, INDIA, have changed my minor Sons name from OMKAR to OMKAR VIVEK HITTINAHALLI vide affidavit dated: 10.08.2026 before Advocate and notary, Mohammed Hussain K, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, PRIYANKA SOMANI, resident of No: L-1008, 11TH Floor, SNN Raj Lakeview, 29TH Main, BTM 2ND Stage, N S Palya, Bangalore - 560076. Have changed my name to PRIYA MANKOTIA, vide affidavit dated: 10.08.2026, before Notary R BASAWARAJA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, Y. FARHANA, W/o. Imtiyaz Ahmed, Resident of Flat No. 409, 4th Floor, SLV Grand Apartment, 11th Cross, 3rd Block Zudio, Vishwapiya Layout, Begur, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru -560068, Karnataka, have changed my name to FARHANA KAUSER, vide affidavit dated: 10.08.2026 before notary V. RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru.



Trump's Gaza Roadmap Faces Israeli Rejection

JERUSALEM

US President Donald Trump's latest roadmap to end the Gaza war has run into a major obstacle after Israel rejected a key provision requiring its forces to withdraw as Hamas lays down its weapons.
The 15-point roadmap, endorsed by Hamas and other Palestinian militants, seeks to build on a 2025 ceasefire arrangement that reduced violence but failed to secure a lasting end to Israeli attacks or achieve the disarmament of armed groups.
Trump had described the negotiations as a breakthrough on July 30, saying Hamas and other Gaza militants had accepted the roadmap proposed by his so-called Board of Peace. However, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected the proposal's sequencing, insisting that Israel will not withdraw from Gaza until Hamas has been fully dismantled.
The roadmap calls for an immediate halt to all military operations in Gaza and links Israel's withdrawal to the disarming of Hamas and other militias.
Under the plan, a new US-backed Palestinian technocratic administration, the National Committee for the Ad-

ministration of Gaza, would take responsibility for civil governance and oversee the dismantling and secure storage of heavy weapons, weapons depots, military production facilities and tunnels.
A temporary International Stabilization Force would also deploy to areas vacated by Israeli troops. The force would be responsible for security, training new Palestinian police units and supporting humanitarian aid deliveries.
The proposal envisions rebuilding Gaza after two years of devastating Israeli military operations.
But Israel's insistence on complete disarmament before withdrawal has created a fundamental disagreement over how the roadmap should be implemented.

TAICHUNG

Taiwan slowed the mobile internet in a large swathe of the central part of the island on Monday for the first time during annual war games, simulating communication disruption in the event of a Chinese attack or natural disaster.
Democratically governed Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, has long lived with the threat of a Chinese invasion and holds air raid drills along with its war games every year, clearing people from the streets for 30 minutes.

During the internet throttling drill, centred on Monday on the major central metropolis of Taichung, only basic mobile phone services worked, though other functions including ATMs, traffic signals, landlines and fixed internet services were not affected.
Air raid sirens rang out in Taichung and people cleared the streets from 2:30 p.m. (0630 GMT) as the government sent simultaneous text messages in Chinese and English telling mobile phone users of simulated air attacks on communication infrastructure.

CHANGE OF NAME

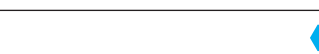
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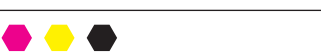
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Key provisions

Immediate ceasefire; Israeli withdrawal tied to militia disarmament; new Palestinian technocratic administration; international peacekeeping force; weapons and tunnel decommissioning; Palestinian police training and expanded humanitarian aid.

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Taiwan 'throttles' mobile internet for first time

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Vidarsa's aim: From borrowed gun to glory

Shooter Vidarsa K Vinod overcame severe financial hurdles and borrowed gear to secure her place in the Asian Games squad

NEW DELHI

Life as an elite athlete is rarely a smooth path, and shooter Vidarsa K Vinod knows this better than most. The 27-year-old athlete from Kozhikode, Kerala, has officially secured her place in India's squad for the upcoming Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games. She will compete in both the 10-meter air rifle and 50-meter rifle three positions events, capping off a remarkable journey filled with heavy financial hurdles and moments when she almost walked away from the sport.

Vidarsa's journey began in 2018 through the National Cadet Corps. Initially, she joined just to try something new, practicing with borrowed gear. Her natural talent quickly showed when she became the aggregate champion at the Kerala State Championship using that same borrowed equipment. That early success convinced her to pursue shooting seriously, but reality soon set in. Shooting is an expensive discipline, and her middle-class family struggled to cover the costs of weapons, ammunition, and frequent travel. To save money, Vidarsa often traveled alone to tournaments. By 2021, her family even took out a bank loan so she could finally buy her very first professional rifle.

Just as she was building momentum, the COVID-19 pandemic brought a sudden halt to her training because the club weapon she previously relied on was unavailable. Refusing to give up, she focused entirely on home fitness, yoga, and meditation. Later, she married fellow shooter Manu S Ravi, who encouraged her to fully own her athletic dreams. Vidarsa

eventually shifted her base to New Delhi to train at the Dr. Karni Singh range under coach Manoj Kumar. Living alone in a new city without knowing the local language proved exhausting, and by early 2024, financial stress pushed her to the brink of quitting.

Her fortunes changed when she secured a spot at the Sports Authority of India's National Centre of Excellence. Having her housing, food, and training covered lifted a massive weight off her shoulders. Strong results followed, including an international medal at the 2025 Asian Shooting Championship and her ultimate selection for the Asian Games. Now, she hopes to inspire others including her younger brother, who has also taken up pistol shooting as she aims to become the world number one.

UEFA, AFC, and CONCACAF slam FIFA Chief

NEW DELHI

Global soccer politics faced a major tremor as UEFA, the Asian Football Confederation, and CONCACAF launched a sharp joint attack on FIFA President Gianni Infantino. The three powerful bodies accused him of breaking trust through deception and prioritizing his own personal authority over the collective good of the sport.

This heavy criticism follows a deeply controversial and now-abandoned plan by Infantino to sell a 20 percent stake in the World Cup's commercial rights to private investors for roughly \$4.2 billion. Though the open letter stopped short of explicitly demanding his immediate resignation, the confederations demanded a fully independent investigation into the decisions that led to what they termed a profound failure of judgment.

The friction centers heavily on an emergency FIFA meeting held in Morocco, which

UEFA, AFC, and CONCACAF attacked FIFA President Gianni Infantino over a controversial World Cup rights sale, triggering a severe leadership crisis before the election



critics noted lacked proper elected representation. Tensions have grown rapidly ahead of the upcoming presidential election, with figures like Norway's Lise Klaveness openly calling for his departure. Meanwhile, other federations across Africa and parts

of South America continue to maintain their backing for the Swiss administrator.

FIFA has strongly defended its leader, labeling the mounting pressure as a coordinated campaign to undermine the organization. Nevertheless, with major regional bodies threatening potential tournament boycotts unless strict governance guarantees are met, Infantino faces the most severe leadership challenge of his tenure. The internal division highlights deep disagreements over how commercial assets and tournament rights should be managed moving forward, threatening further instability within world football's governing hierarchy before the vote.



Shelton defeats Fonseca to claim 30th win

MONTREAL

Defending champion Ben Shelton fought hard against talented teenager Joao Fonseca to book his spot in the quarter-finals of the National Bank Open. The American star won the tough fourth-round match in straight sets with a score of 6-3, 7-6.

Playing in tricky, windy conditions, the fifth-seeded player struggled early in both sets. However, he showed great mental toughness to keep his winning streak alive in Canada. After the match, Shelton admitted that the weather made it very hard to find good footing. He praised his young opponent, calling him a high-quality player who pushed him to his absolute limit.

In the first set, both athletes traded early breaks before Shelton took control at 4-3 with a sharp forehand winner. Fonseca, who had already knocked out big names earlier in the week, fired back at the start of the second set to lead 3-0. His momentum slowed down slightly after he twisted his right ankle during a tough rally. Shelton quickly caught up, leveling the score at 3-3.

The set went into a tie-break where the American played his best tennis. He dominated the crucial points to seal the victory in one hour and forty-eight minutes. His aggressive style, including strong net play and winning most of his first-serve points, made the big difference in the end.

With this hard-earned win, Shelton leads their head-to-head record two to zero. As the only top-ten player left in the tournament, he will next face Czech player Jakub Mensik for a place in the semi-finals. Fans are now looking forward to seeing if the defending champion can go all the way and lift the trophy once again.

Indian star Jemimah Rodrigues aims for team success ahead of the Champions Trophy while recovering from a hamstring injury

NEW DELHI

Indian cricket star Jemimah Rodrigues is thrilled about the upcoming and first-ever ICC Women's Champions Trophy. The big tournament is set to happen in Sri Lanka early next year, running from February 14 to 28. For Jemimah, the main goal is simple and clear: she only wants to help her team win every single match they play.

Speaking about her mindset, Jemimah shared that her focus never shifts. She believes that personal goals do not matter as much as the team's success. Whether she plays in a big international tournament or a local league, her heart beats for the team. She stated that winning feels amazing once you experience it, and that hunger drives the squad forward.

Before the big tournament in Sri Lanka, the Indian women's cricket team has a busy

schedule. They will travel to South Africa in December for a tough multi-format series. Both teams have a great rivalry and play very good cricket. Jemimah expects a fierce fight between the two sides because they rank among the best in the world. She feels excited about this challenge and believes it will prepare them well for the future. Recently, Jemimah faced a tough hurdle during her time at The Hundred. A hamstring injury ended her run early, though she still helped the Southern Brave reach the playoffs with two brilliant player-of-the-match awards. Now, she is working hard to recover and gain full fitness in time for the upcoming Women's Asia Cup.

Looking back at her time in the English tournament, she admitted that the pitches were tricky and slower than usual. Teams struggled to score massive totals, with most matches seeing scores hover around 120 to 130 runs.



Team first, Jemimah's mindset for Champions trophy

Narender vs. Narendra: The boxer's hilarious tale

NEW DELHI

Indian sports stars recently had a wonderful chance to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his home. They gathered to celebrate their brilliant wins and hard work at the recent multi-sport games. During this happy meeting, silver medal-winning heavyweight boxer Narender Berwal shared a very funny story from his past that left everyone smiling.

Berwal took everyone back to the year 2015 during the World Military Games. He talked about a tough match he had against a boxer from Pakistan. Before the fight even began, army officials gave him clear instructions that he simply could not lose to a Pakistani opponent. Berwal fought hard and won the bout, but the clash was so fierce that both athletes ended up getting cuts and needed stitches at a local hospital.

While they were getting medical treatment together, the Pakistani opponent began



to notice a strange coincidence. The rival realized that the name Narendra seemed to be following him everywhere. Sharing the exact words with the Prime Minister, Berwal laughed and said, "The Pakistani boxer looked at me and said, 'Your name is Narender, your coach's name is Narender, and your Prime Minister's name is Narendra. I have started to hate the name Narendra.'"

Hearing this cute and unex-

pected tale, Prime Minister Modi burst into hearty laughter along with all the other athletes in the room. This light moment came after a historic sporting campaign where Indian boxers showed amazing skill. The boxing team brought home a grand total of ten medals, which included seven gold and three silver. This incredible performance set a brand new national record for the country at the international games.

half-century, the hard-hitting Australian crossed the landmark of 7,000 runs in his T20 career. Both players have been in great form throughout the tournament, consistently dominating bowling attacks.

Following their strong start, other batters kept the momentum going. Harry Brook added a quick 23, captain Zak Crawley chipped in with a rapid 34 featuring four huge sixes, and Dan Lawrence finished strong with an unbeaten 29. Together, they posted a massive total of 201 runs for the loss of four wickets in their 100 balls.

Defending such a big target requires discipline, and the Sunrisers bowlers delivered. Welsh Fire struggled during their chase and managed only 130 runs for six wickets. Matthew Short tried his best with 43 runs, and Joe Root added 31, but tight bowling kept them far behind. Brydon Carse led the bowling attack for Leeds with three quick wickets, sealing a comfortable win.



LEEDS

Cricket fans witnessed history on the field as two star players achieved massive personal milestones during an exciting match. Playing for Sunrisers Leeds in The Hundred tournament at Leeds, Australian power hitter Mitchell Marsh and South African wicket-keeper Ryan Rickelton both

Marsh hits 7,000 T20 runs in Leeds victory

reached major scoring landmarks in their T20 careers. Their incredible batting displays helped their team secure a brilliant victory against Welsh Fire, giving the local fans plenty of reasons to celebrate.

The action started after Welsh Fire chose to field first, a decision that quickly backfired. Marsh and Rickelton walked out to open the innings and went all guns blazing from the very first ball. They put together an explosive 89-run partnership that completely stunned the opposition bowlers. Rickelton played a fearless knock of 40 runs from just 22 balls, hitting three boundaries and three huge sixes. This fiery innings pushed his total career T20 runs past the impressive milestone of 5,000.

At the other end, Mitchell Marsh played like a true champion. He smashed 50 runs from 34 deliveries, featuring five fours and three maximums. With this brilliant

KARAN AND MARTIN TRIUMPH IN ASTANA ITF FINALS

ASTANA

Hard work pays off for young sports stars who never give up. Karan Singh, a talented player from the Roundglass Tennis Academy, made his country proud by winning the doubles championship at the ITF Men's World Tennis Tour M15. The exciting matches took place at the busy National Tennis Centre in Astana, Kazakhstan. This big victory marks Karan's sixth career title overall and his third doubles trophy, adding another bright chapter to his growing sports journey.

Teamwork played a huge role in this success. Karan teamed up with Martin Borisouk from Russia. Together, the unseeded pair showed incredible skill and mental strength from the very first day. In the final match, they faced local favorites Danial Rakhmatullayev and Damir Zhalgasbay. Playing against the home crowd is never easy, but Karan and Martin stayed calm and focused. They played brilliant shots and won in straight sets with a clear score of 6-3, 6-2 to lift the gleaming trophy.

Their path to the final was

full of tough challenges. Right at the start, they faced the fourth-seeded Russian team of Nikita Ianin and Andrei Kunitsyn. After losing the second set, Karan and Martin fought back bravely to win the tense tie-break. They showed the exact same fighting spirit in the quarter-finals against Sviatoslav Lutkovskii and Evgeny Philippov, pushing through another close tie-break to secure victory.

The semifinal match brought an even bigger test against top seeds Chirag Dhan from India and Muzamil Murtaza from Pakistan. In a thrilling battle that kept fans on the edge of their seats, the Indo-Russian duo held their nerve in yet another nail-biting tie-break to win 6-3, 3-6, 10-7.

This victory is extra special for Karan. It is his very first doubles title on a hard court. His two previous doubles trophies, won in Tehran in 2025 and Brazzaville in 2024, were played on clay surfaces. Currently ranked seventh in India for men's singles, Karan has been in amazing form this year. Earlier, he won the ITF M15

title in Hyderabad and even proudly represented India in the Davis Cup Qualifiers held in Bengaluru against the Netherlands.

Mentors and coaches at the Roundglass Tennis Academy are thrilled with his progress. The academy focuses on complete athlete growth, shaping future champions for big events like Grand Slams and the Olympics while building strong character. Karan's success proves that dedication and good training can take a young athlete to the top of the world.



Quick Read

Fresher hiring intent rises to 75 percent

CH NEWS, NEW DELHI India's job market is looking brighter for fresh graduates. A new report shows that 75% of employers plan to hire entry-level talent between July and December. Retail, e-commerce, manufacturing are leading this positive growth. However, hiring in the IT sector dropped slightly. Experts say companies are now looking for specific talents like artificial intelligence skills, cloud security, hands-on project experience. City-wise, B'lu took the top spot with 90% hiring intent, follo wed closely by Mumbai, Chennai, as job seekers focus he avily on valuable certifications.

Gold and silver prices surge over one percent

CH NEWS, MUMBAI Precious metals shine bright as gold and silver prices surged by over one percent. Strong global cues and rising demand ahead of the festive season pushed MCX gold and silver futures higher. Silver outperformed gold, touching an intraday high of over 2 lakh 35 thousand rupees. Experts note that fresh buying positions and strong international trends are supporting these high prices. Investors are now keeping a close eye on upcoming US economic data to see where the market heads next amid short-term price swings.

India's tech surge eyes \$229 billion milestone

NEW DELHI India is moving quickly toward a massive digital future. A new report shows that the country's digital transformation market could touch \$229.59 billion by the year 2029. Experts point to the rapid growth of artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and strong public digital systems as the main reasons behind this major shift. According to the study, the nation is turning into a global hotspot for AI-ready data centers. The market is expected to grow at a very fast yearly rate ranging between 20.63 and 32.1 percent over the next few

AI, cybersecurity lead global tech hiring platform

NEW DELHI Artificial intelligence, big data, and cybersecurity remain the top tech hiring themes globally. A new report shows high demand for generative AI, especially in the US and India, during the second quarter of 2026. Despite a slight global drop in overall job postings due to economic caution, the US, UK, and Netherlands saw growth. Companies are now focusing on careful, selective recruitment, automation. Meanwhile, sectors like automotive and retail continued to create many new jobs, showing strong resilience in a changing job market.

INDIA'S CONNECTED FUTURE

Smart mobility roadmap unveiled by Hyundai

NEW DELHI Hyundai Motor India has announced an ambitious roadmap to expand its footprint in smart mobility. The automaker revealed that it is aiming for 2 million cumulative sales of connected cars by the year 2030. Currently, the company already has over 0.8 million smart vehicles running smoothly on roads across the country. As part of this growth strategy, Hyundai has set an earlier milestone to cross 1 million connected vehicle sales by 2027. Company executives attribute this rapid expansion



to strong consumer acceptance of Hyundai Bluelink, which is an advanced artificial intelligence car-driven technology platform. The Bluelink system currently provides more than 70 distinct safety, security, and convenience features. These include remote engine monitoring, vehicle diagnostics, live tracking, digital keys, and secure in-car payments. Additionally, the platform supports over 450 voice commands powered by artificial

₹ 22 lakh crore powers India's buildout

India's infrastructure spending on major projects has crossed Rs 21 lakh crore, driven by strong transport and logistics development.



Did You Know?

- 709 Projects have already crossed 80 percent physical completion.
- 337 Projects have successfully cleared 80 percent financial completion.

With 15% female pilots, India leads global aviation

NEW DELHI India is taking major steps to empower women in the skies and across the aviation industry. Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu shared that the government plans to increase women's total participation in the country's aviation workforce to 25 percent. Speaking at a special event, Naidu highlighted that India is already far ahead of the rest of the world when it comes to female aviators. Women currently make up about 15 percent of all pilots in India, which is three times higher than the global average of just 5 percent. The minister praised the power of women, stating that



female leadership is driving current aviation growth in the nation. He emphasized that the goal of reaching 25 percent involvement will go far beyond just the cockpit. It will include a wide variety of roles across the entire aviation sector, ranging from airport ground jobs to new technologies like electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft. India has consistently

opened doors for women to take on important leadership positions and contribute meaningfully to the economy. Naidu explained that the government wants to build on this strong foundation by creating a comfortable and welcoming environment where women can thrive, grow their careers, and step into top leadership roles. By pushing for higher numbers in all emerging tech and airport ecosystems, the nation hopes to inspire even more young women to look at aviation as an exciting and rewarding career path. Officials believe that welcoming more female talent will strengthen the industry and support long-term economic growth for the country.

Restructuring provision costs Bharat Forge millions

MUMBAI Leading engineering firm Bharat Forge Limited has reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 90 crore for the first quarter of financial year 2027. This marks a massive drop compared to a net profit of Rs 284 crore recorded during the same quarter in the previous year. The primary reason behind this financial slump was a heavy one-time exceptional loss linked to structural changes at the company's German subsidiary, Bharat Forge CDP GmbH. The German unit has been struggling with tough market conditions and high operational costs. To fix these issues, management worked out a social plan with the Works Council, recording a restructuring provision of Rs 330.4 crore, extra expenses of Rs 26.7 crore, and an additional Rs 8.9 crore for a voluntary



Bharat Forge reported a net loss of Rs 90 crore due to German subsidiary restructuring costs, despite an 18.7 percent rise in consolidated revenue.

retirement scheme. Despite the bottom-line loss, the company's revenue from operations showed positive growth. Consolidated revenue grew by 18.7 percent to reach Rs 4,640 crore, rising from Rs 3,909 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation also saw an increase of 5.5 percent, moving up to Rs 710 crore compared to Rs 673 crore previously. However, operating margins experienced a

Hazardous foreign goods fuel South Korea recalls



SEOUL Product recalls in South Korea saw an upward tick last year. Official data shows that total product recalls linked to safety concerns grew by roughly 5 percent in 2025 compared to the previous year. The Fair Trade Commission reported 2,656 total recall cases last year, up from 2,537 cases in 2024. Regulators noted that the main driver behind this jump was a rise in violations of the Framework Act on Consumers. Cases involving breaches of this consumer act surged by about 42 percent to reach 851. Authorities pointed out that the increase stems heavily from hazardous foreign items being sold through domestic online marketplaces. Many of these goods had already faced safety recalls in other countries before making their way onto local e-commerce sites. To protect shoppers, the consumer watch-

dog is stepping up surveillance alongside partner agencies. The government is moving quickly to halt sales by asking online platforms to block items that carry overseas recall notices or fail safety tests. Looking at specific categories, industrial consumer goods saw 1,282 recall cases, marking an 8.6 percent increase. Meanwhile, medical device recalls climbed 8.5 percent to 308 cases, while pharmaceutical recalls dropped 13.5 percent to 295 cases. In related news, the fair trade agency announced plans to crack down on large business conglomerates. Under new policy initiatives submitted to the president, heads of major corporate groups could face heavy fines if they intentionally leave affiliates out of official regulatory filings to dodge antitrust rules. Penalties could reach up to 10 percent of the combined assets or average sales of those hidden business units.

Leasing jumps 69% as logistics hub expands

NEW DELHI Kolkata continues to hold its position as the biggest industrial and logistics market in Eastern India. A new report shows that total warehousing stock in the city crossed 24 million square feet during the first half of January to June 2026. The report highlights the city's growing importance as a major manufacturing and storage center. This success is heavily backed by better infrastructure, strong transport links, and rising demand from companies looking for space. During the first six months of 2026, leasing activity hit about 1.8 million square feet. This shows a massive 69 percent increase compared to the previous half-year period. Real estate leaders point out that Eastern India is turning into a vital growth engine for the nation's supply chain network. Companies are focusing more on building strong supply chains, making Kolkata an attractive option because of its location and improving transport web. Looking at long-term growth, Kolkata's space absorption grew at a yearly rate of 25 percent between 2020 and 2025.

DGFT removes physical challans for exporters

NEW DELHI India is making trade much easier for local businesses. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has officially removed the rule requiring physical duty payment challans for exporters. This change applies to those applying for closure certificates under the Advance Authorisation and Export Promotion Capital Goods schemes. Under this updated system, duty payment data from customs has been directly linked with digital platforms. Exporters making voluntary payments will no longer need to attach paper challans to their closure applications. Instead, verified payment records will show up



automatically on the official customer portal, letting business owners check that their details match before filing paperwork. Regional authorities will also see these verified digital records on their back office systems. This upgrade removes the old need for manual checking, which speeds up approvals and keeps decisions consistent across different offices. The digital setup works through a direct data exchange

between customs and trade portals, ensuring that payment details flow smoothly without human errors. By cutting out paper documents and face-to-face office visits, this new rule lowers daily costs and compliance stress. Small and medium business owners handling their own paperwork will benefit the most from this streamlined approach. This step supports the government's broader vision of digital governance, allowing business owners to spend less time on red tape and more time growing their global trade footprint. The Advance Authorisation scheme lets companies bring in raw materials without paying duty if used for export goods.

From fringe to firm: Padikkal claims no. 3 spot

Team India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak praised Devdutt Padikkal after his brilliant unbeaten century in the warm-up match

COLOMBO

Team India's batting coach, Sitanshu Kotak, has showered praise on young left-handed batter Devdutt Padikkal. The coach called Padikkal's recent performance "really good" after the player scored a brilliant, unbeaten century during a warmup match. Padikkal played a masterclass knock, scoring 142 runs without getting out. He hit 18 wonderful boundaries against the Sri Lanka Cricket XI. This amazing innings helped India secure a comfortable 6 wicket victory on the 3rd and final day of the match. This great news comes at a very crucial time for the Indian team. They were worried about filling the important number three batting position. Their usual choice, B Sai Sudharsan, is currently recovering from a right toe injury and cannot play right now. Padikkal's superb form provides a huge relief for the team management ahead of the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka, which begins on August 15 in Galle. Kotak shared his thoughts in an

interview, explaining that actual match practice is much better than simple net sessions. He noted that playing a real game helps the players prepare much faster. During this warm-up fixture, India successfully chased down a target of 207 runs in the final session. The coach also pointed out other positive takeaways from the game. The bowlers put in a lot of hard work on a flat pitch that did not offer much help to the fast bowlers. Almost every specialist bowler managed to bowl around 18 to 20 overs, gaining valuable match fitness. Even the lower-order batters, like Mohammed Siraj and Gurnoor Brar, surprised everyone by hitting some big sixes. Meanwhile, team changes are already underway. Right-handed batter Sarfaraz Khan has officially joined the Indian squad as a replacement for Sudharsan. He reported for practice alongside his teammates at the NCC Ground on Monday to get ready for the upcoming challenges. Overall, the team looks confident and well-prepared for the upcoming Test series.



All in all, it was a very good practice match, but for me Devdutt's innings also was really good.

- Sitanshu Kotak, Team India's batting coach

'...WOULD LIKE TO SET MY OWN BENCHMARK'

NEW DELHI

Young Indian badminton star Ayush Shetty is ready to make his mark on his own terms. Instead of chasing the incredible records set by past Indian legends, the 21-year-old wants to build his own unique journey in the sport. Shetty is currently gearing up for a massive challenge at the upcoming World Championships. He will face the current world number one, Shi Yu Qi of China, in a tough opening-round match. This exciting contest is a rematch of

their recent clash at the Badminton Asia Championships final in Ningbo, where the Chinese star won in straight games. Even though he faces a giant task right at the start, Shetty remains calm and focused. When asked if the past success of great Indian players creates extra pressure, he made it clear that he prefers to focus on his own growth rather than comparing himself to others. He wants to enjoy playing the sport, win matches, and set personal goals instead of worrying about matching historical achievements. Playing his very first World Championships on home soil makes this event extra special. India is hosting this prestigious tournament for the first time in 17 years. While home crowds bring high expectations and some pressure, Shetty is thrilled to embrace the moment. He believes the massive home support will give him an extra boost against the defending champion. Although Shi Yu Qi holds the top ranking, recent weeks have shown minor cracks in the champion's armor. This gives the young Indian player



Young Indian badminton star Ayush Shetty faces world number one Shi Yu Qi in his home World Championships debut, aiming to forge his own path

a golden opportunity to put up a much tougher fight this time around. Shetty has spent significant time improving his physical fitness and defensive skills, which will be vital against an elite opponent. As the tournament approaches, all eyes will be on the young talent. He is fully prepared to turn this difficult opening match into a defining moment of his career.

Pooja secures 7th, clears 1.84m at U20s



EUGENE

National senior record holder Pooja Singh finished in a disappointing 7th place during the women's high jump final. This event officially brought an end to India's campaign at the World Athletics U20 Championships, where the team secured a total of 3 medals. The 19-year-old athlete arrived at the competition as one of the top favorites to win. Earlier this season, she set a stunning national senior record by clearing 1.93 meters. She also earned a gold medal at the Asian U20 Championships in May and currently holds the title at the Senior Asian Championships. However, she struggled to find her rhythm in the final. She

managed to clear only 1.84 meters before failing all three of her attempts at 1.87 meters, which forced her exit from the tournament. Meanwhile, Australia's Izobelle Louison-Roe claimed the gold medal with a brilliant clearance of 1.92 meters. Lilianna Batori from Hungary and Spain's Aitana Alonso earned the silver and bronze medals respectively after both successfully cleared 1.90 meters. In other events, India's women's 4x400m relay team faced tough competition. The squad, featuring Bhoomika Nehate, Tahura Khatun, Tanu Chaudhary, and Thiya Arumugam, finished in ninth and last place with a time of 3:45.28. The United States claimed gold

with 3:29.15, followed by Australia with silver and Great Britain with bronze. Overall, India concluded the championships with two silver medals and one bronze. Ashish Yadav won silver in the men's javelin throw, Basant Kumar Meghwal secured silver in the men's high jump, and Shahnavaz Khan picked up bronze in the men's long jump. India's overall performance shows massive growth compared to past decades. Between 2002 and 2018, the country earned only four medals, featuring legendary gold wins by Neeraj Chopra and Hima Das. The nation continues to build a strong presence on the global athletics stage.

NEW DELHI

Xabi Alonso has officially taken charge as the new manager of Chelsea football club. Stepping into this massive role, the Spanish coach stated that the timing is perfect for him to lead the team and build a winning future together. Alonso revealed that Chelsea's proud history, global stature, and strong winning culture heavily attracted him to the job. Speaking in an exclusive, he noted that he fully understands the heavy expectations and massive pressure that always come with managing a top Premier League club. However, he feels completely prepared to dive in and give his absolute best to bring sustained success back to the Stamford

Bridge faithful. The new manager inherits a talented squad that he firmly believes has great potential and a solid foundational base. Even though some squad changes and tactical improvements are clearly necessary for this brand-new project, Alonso remains deeply confident in the players' overall abilities. His primary goal is to shape a disciplined, dynamic team known for high energy, brilliant game control, and exciting attacking football, whether they are playing at home or away from supporters. Before signing his contract, Alonso thoroughly studied the squad to understand its core strengths and weaknesses. He plans to utilize the pre-season window wisely to implement his unique philosophy. This



I am fully aware of the expectations and the challenge ahead, but I am ready for it. I am looking forward to getting started and giving my best for this club.

- Xabi Alonso, Chelsea football club manager

upcoming period will help him build strong personal relationships with the players, establish clear tactical standards, and set a powerful team identity long before the official matches begin. With enough time to prepare properly, Alonso wants everyone to share the same vision and compete at the highest level right from the start. Fans can truly expect a fresh, energetic style of play as the club enters this exciting new chapter.

Vinicius Jr. Stays, Arsenal turn to transfer market

LONDON

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta has confirmed that the club remains fully focused on securing new players to strengthen the squad. This comes after Brazilian star Vinicius Junior officially decided to continue his career with Real Madrid by signing a brand-new contract. Arsenal had reportedly prepared a major move for the forward if he chose to leave Spain. However, with those transfer hopes now over, Arteta and the club management are actively turning their attention toward other suitable targets in the market. Speaking to the media after Arsenal's 3-2 pre-season defeat against Borussia Dortmund, Arteta stressed that any new addition must be the right fit. He noted that the primary goal is finding players who can genuinely elevate the team's overall quality and performance levels. During the event, new signing Bruno Guimarães was



formally introduced to the home crowd at the Emirates Stadium. Despite his arrival, the squad still appears to lack depth and attacking quality on the left flank, an area where a player like Vinicius would have made a massive impact. Furthermore, defensive concerns are mounting for the Gunners. Star defender William Saliba is currently sidelined and expected to miss a significant period of action due to an aggravated back injury that requires strict rest. Arteta acknowledged these defensive worries, especially after conceding three goals in each of their last two friendly matches. He emphasized that defensive stability requires a collective team effort and improvement from the current players. As the new campaign approaches, Arteta and his coaching staff are working hard behind the scenes to address these squad issues, fix defensive errors, and ensure the team is fully prepared for the upcoming competitive fixtures.

'Not ready to compete': Sinner out of Cincinnati Open

CINCINNATI

World number one tennis star Jannik Sinner has officially pulled out of the upcoming Cincinnati Open. The Italian player is dealing with a right knee injury, which delivers a major blow to his preparation for the upcoming U.S. Open tournament. The 24-year-old athlete recently claimed his fifth career Grand Slam title at Wimbledon last month. However, his physical fitness has taken a hit, as he also had to withdraw from the Canadian Open, another vital warm-up event ahead of the final Grand Slam of the year. Sinner has fond memories of the Cincinnati tournament, having won the championship title in 2024 before finishing as the runner-up to Carlos Alcaraz last year. In an official statement, Sinner explained that he made the tough choice after speaking extensively with his doctors and medical team. He noted that his right knee has been causing discomfort. Even though they worked very hard

to fix the problem, he had to accept that his body is simply not ready to compete at the highest level right now. He expressed deep disappointment about missing the event but confirmed that his entire focus is now on recovering in time for the U.S. Open. This unexpected withdrawal further weakens the player field in Cincinnati. Notably, U.S. Open champion Carlos Alcaraz is also currently sidelined due to a wrist injury, leaving the tournament without some of its biggest names. The main draw for the Cincinnati Open is scheduled to begin on August 13. Meanwhile, fans and players alike are looking ahead to the main draw of the U.S. Open, which is set to get underway on August 30, hoping the top stars will be fit and ready to return to action by then.



Would have "left the pitch in a coffin" for Mourinho

LONDON

Chelsea football club legends Frank Lampard and John Terry have opened up about the emotional impact of Jose Mourinho's departure in 2007. The iconic manager's sudden exit left the dressing room in tears. During a recent three-part docu-series titled 'Mourinho', the former teammates reflected on the special bond they shared with their former boss. Mourinho famously ended Chelsea's 50 year wait for a top-flight league title during his legendary first spell at Stamford Bridge between 2004 and 2007, winning back-to-back Premier League trophies. However, rising tensions behind the scenes with owner Roman Abramovich eventually led to his abrupt exit in September 2007. Frank Lampard re-



called the heartbreaking moment the manager walked into the changing room to announce he was leaving. Lampard admitted that grown men shed tears, which is completely unusual when a coach departs. He noted how much Mourinho had helped shape his career and how deeply the squad loved working under his intense leadership style. John Terry also expressed fierce loyalty to his former mentor, revealing that he would have gladly left the pitch in a coffin for him. Terry even blamed himself for a Champions League draw against Rosenborg that triggered the sacking, noting that he still feels responsible for how things ended. Mourinho eventually explained that his relationship with Abramovich broke down because outside figures and strangers began interfering with the club's inner structure.