

No cabinet shake-up for now! 'Water security is 7th guarantee'

CM, who is back in B'loru after a Delhi trip, rules out meeting demands for Cabinet positions now, says he will only allocate portfolios to 19 ministers for now.

BENGALURU

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has put off its plans for a minor Cabinet reshuffle until after the monsoon session of the legislature ends. The legislature will meet on August 13, leaving barely any time for the party to undertake a Cabinet revamp.

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar who returned to Bengaluru after meeting AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge in Delhi on Sunday night told the media on Monday that he would only allocate portfolios to the 19 ministers for now.

He ruled out considering demands for Cabinet positions now, saying they would follow once the legislature session is over. His comments suggested inducting a woman member or making a minor Cabinet reshuffle would happen only after the monsoon session concludes. "No discussions on that now," Shivakumar said regarding a Cabinet revamp.

The CM has been trying to address discontent among sections of his senior MLA colleagues after the August 3 Cabinet expansion left them angry. Some of them, including Bengaluru MLA M Krishnappa, are firm on securing ministership.

AICC general secretary RS Surjewala and the CM have personally reached out to some senior MLAs to defuse



tensions, but the effort has not worked in some cases. Shivakumar, sources said, considered a minor revamp that included dropping two or three ministers and inducting senior legislators in their place.

DKS-KCV chalk out rejig plans
DK Shivakumar on Monday held further discussions with AICC general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal on a minor Cabinet reshuffle and the allocation of portfolios to the newly-inducted ministers, days after a late-night meeting with party president Mallikarjun Kharge. Shivakumar had held discussions with Kharge for more than two hours on Sunday night, and followed it up with talks with Venugopal on Monday morning before leaving for Bengaluru.

According to sources, the CM discussed the induction of a woman member into the Cabinet, along with the allocation of portfolios to the new-

ly-inducted ministers. A minor reshuffle in Cabinet allocations is also on the cards to accommodate disgruntled legislators, sources said, with one or two newly-inducted ministers likely to be dropped. "We have to induct one woman; we will do that. There is no urgency," Shivakumar told reporters after meeting Kharge.

Karnataka had seen a major Cabinet expansion early this month, with 19 ministers inducted, taking the Council of Ministers' strength to 33, including the chief minister. One berth in the Cabinet remains vacant.

AICC puts off reshuffle to a later date

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has put off a planned minor cabinet reshuffle and further adjustments in Karnataka to a later date, delaying efforts to appease senior legislators disgruntled by the recent August 3 cabinet expansion.

Reasons for delay

Dissent management:

The chaotic August 3 expansion led to protests, threats of resignation, and deep discontent among senior MLAs left out of the ministry.

Focus on legislature:

Party leaders indicated that any minor adjustments, such as inducting a woman member or dropping a few ministers, will only be considered after the ongoing monsoon session concludes.

High command interventions:

AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala and top state leaders are still attempting to defuse local tensions before making further structural changes.

Cabinet strength:

33 ministers are sworn in, leaving one vacancy



CM promises Yettinahole water to Kolar and Chickballapur by 2027-end

KOLAR

Announcing that the Congress government has decided to ensure water security as its seventh guarantee scheme for the people, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday said residents of the parched Kolar and Chickballapur districts would receive water from the Yettinahole Project by the end of 2027 as part of the new guarantee.

After inaugurating various development projects in Malur of Kolar district, he sought to allay fears about the feasibility of the Yettinahole Project.

"The JD(S) state president (HD Kumaraswamy) may say the Yettinahole Project cannot be implemented. It is a difficult project, but should we not make an effort to implement it? Nothing worthwhile comes easy. We are committed to bringing water from the Western Ghats through Hassan to Kolar and Chickballapur under the Yettinahole Project." Efforts had already been made to bring water up to Tumakuru, he said.

Filling lakes

The CM pointed out that 104 lakes in Kolar and Chickballapur districts had been filled through the K.C. Valley project, while work was under way to fill another 65 lakes through the HN Valley Project.



'Don't worry about Yettinahole Project feasibility'

Speaking after inaugurating various development projects in Malur taluk of Kolar district, CM DK Shivakumar allayed fears about the feasibility of the Yettinahole Project, promising that water from the Western Ghats will reach the Kolar and Chickballapur districts by the end of 2027 as part of the state's new water security 'guarantee'.

"We have decided to fill over 700 lakes with treated water. The aim is to recharge groundwater, fill lakes and ensure water reaches farmers. We have formulated several programmes to address the water shortage in Kolar and Chickballapur. On August 15, we will announce details of the projects launched by our government with respect to drinking water," he said.

Kolar farmers model to others

He hailed the farmers of the parched Kolar for their resilience and described them as a model for other farmers in the state. "The people of Karnataka should remember the farmers of this district. Even when the groundwater level receded below 2,000 feet, they did not lose hope or resort to extreme steps. Instead, they produced milk, vegetables, silk and flowers and supplied them to Bengaluru. They demonstrated self-respect and determination."

'We guarantee water'

State commitment to deliver water to parched regions.

Target completion set for late 2027 to supply water to arid districts.

Extension of pipeline networks following progress up to Tumakuru.

Plans include filling over 700 local lakes with treated water to boost groundwater levels.

Aimed at resolving long-standing drinking water scarcity across drought-hit southern regions.

Local development initiatives

Focus on creating new local jobs and filling vacant govt posts.

Plans announced to set up a new Govt Medical College in Kolar.

Acknowledgment of farming community resilience amid severe water shortages.

PARLIAMENT MONSOON SESSION

4 days left, key bills yet to see the light

NEW DELHI

Uncertainty looms over the key bills on women's reservation and delimitation, and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, with only four days left for the ongoing Monsoon Session. None of these are listed for today in Lok Sabha.

The Congress and its major allies have asserted that they would oppose these Bills in Parliament, though a few opposition parties have softened their stance on women's quota and delimitation issues.

The Bill that proposes a 33% quota for women in 2029 and expand the House strength was introduced in April but failed to muster two-thirds support for the Constitutional amendment.

The FCRA Bill seeks to tighten regulations on foreign funding received by Indian non-government organisations (NGOs). The Congress has



called the FCRA Bill "unconstitutional and anti-people" and alleged that it targeted minorities. The Monsoon Session began on July 20 and will continue till August 13.

The session appears headed for a virtual washout, with the opposition protesting over the police action on NEET agitators, except for a debate on the anti-paper leak bill that cleared both Houses of Parliament. Both the BJP and Congress have issued whips to their MPs to be present in Parliament for the final week showdown.

Govt yet to decide on FCRA Bill

The FCRA bill is likely to be taken up in this session, however Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the govt is yet to take a decision. The Opposition has alleged that the Bill will target religious and minority organisations, which often rely on foreign funding.

Major pending legislation

WOMEN'S RESERVATION AND DELIMITATION PROPOSALS

Stalled due to a lack of the required two-thirds majority support in the house and fierce opposition pushback regarding constituency redrawing.

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) AMENDMENT (FCRA) BILL, 2026

Faces sharp political resistance from opposition parties over stricter compliance norms for NGOs and foreign funding.

VIKSIT BHARAT SHIKSHA ADHISHTHAN (VBSA) BILL, 2025

Long-standing higher education governance reform currently under review by a joint parliamentary committee.

PRIVATE MEMBER BILLS

Important long-term proposals like the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Guarantee Bill and the Right to Health Bill remain pending without formal consensus.

Books Evidence, Taxation Bills passed amid Oppn walkout

New Delhi: Opposition parties on Monday staged a walkout from the Rajya Sabha after the Chair disallowed their attempts to raise issues like alleged theft of Ram temple donations and the use of pellet guns against protesters, even as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman moved the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026. The bill was passed amid opposition walkout. Sitharaman clarified that no extra charges or taxes would be imposed on UPI transactions. **4 bills tabled, 1 passed in LS** Four bills were tabled in Lok Sabha on Monday. The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, Tribunal Reforms Bill, 2026, which was passed without a debate amid sloganeering by the Opposition, and Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026.

51 killed as massive quake jolts Colombia



Colombia: At least 51 people were killed and dozens of buildings collapsed in cities across western Colombia on Monday after a powerful 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck the South American nation.

The quake trapped residents under debris, leaving more injured and forcing people to evacuate their homes as far as the capital of Bogotá.

The epicenter was in San Jose Del Palmar, a community of about 4,800 people in the Choco region about 250 miles west of Bogota, the U.S. Geological Survey and Colombia's counterpart reported. The USGS said it struck at a depth of 66 miles. The quake also was felt in neighboring Ecuador and Panama, though minimal damage was reported there.

Local officials confirmed that at least 18 people had been killed in the city of Pereira, two in the city of Manizales, and 27 people in the Valle de Cauca department, where Colombia's third-biggest city, Cali, is located.

The quake left cities across the west of the country — Pereira, Quibdo, Cali and Manizales — ravaged. A mix of residents and search teams picked through the rubble of collapsed buildings amid concerns by authorities of aftershocks. Colombia's interior minister said more than 20 municipalities across the country had been hit.

9 killed as van gets swept away in swollen drain in MP

RAJGARH (MP):

Nine persons, including a girl, were killed after a van carrying 11 passengers got swept away while crossing a swollen nullah (drain) amid heavy rains in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh district on Monday, police said.

Two occupants of the van managed to swim to safety following the incident that occurred around 9 am near Sarangpur town when the van driver was attempting to make his way through the Padana bypass culvert, an official

said. Villagers, risking their own lives, tied ropes and launched a rescue operation, managing to pull out some of the passengers, they said.

The bodies of nine people, including a girl, were recovered.

I-Day: 'Vande Mataram' to be sung for 1st time from ramparts of Red Fort

New Delhi: The defence ministry on Monday said that the theme for this year's Independence Day will be Youth Power and their contributions to national development and 150 years of Vande Mataram.

The national song will be sung from the ramparts of the Red Fort as a tribute to its enduring legacy for the first time.

The song will be sung at the start of the Independence Day celebrations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unfurl the

national flag followed by the national anthem.

Defence Secretary RK Singh said that the plan to celebrate the success and contribution of the youth was formulated before the students' protest at the Jantar Mantar.

ReGa invited
Singh said that Rahul Gandhi has been invited for the celebrations and the seating arrangements for the invitees will be strictly followed as per the Table of Precedence (ToP).

Snake bites 6 girls at Maha hostel, 3 die

Pune: Three tribal students died after being bitten by a venomous snake at a hostel in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district, while three others are undergoing treatment. Officials stated on Monday that an investigation into the incident has been initiated.

The incident occurred around midnight on Sunday at a tribal hostel school in Japtalai village, 10 km away from the Dhanora taluk HQ. The students were sleeping on the floor of the hostel when the venomous snake bit them.

DKS champions Gen Z leadership in visionary blueprint

The CM called for a youth-centric growth blueprint, urging leaders to listen to Gen Z, expand opportunities and strengthen youth leadership.

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday pitched for a youth-centric blueprint for the growth of the state, calling on the government and leadership to actively listen to Generation Z.

Posting an editorial penned in the Deccan Herald, the Karnataka CM framed young minds as the driving force behind the state and nation's future.

Governance through open dialogue



Shivakumar pitched youth-centric blueprint for Karnataka's growth. Emphasizes listening to Gen Z voices and creating leadership opportunities. Stresses that young people need real opportunities and platforms rather than mere sympathy.

Shivakumar outlined his vision for his article 'Young Karnataka, New India', reflecting on his own student days. He emphasised the importance of opening leadership avenues and creating robust opportunities for the upcoming generation.

Whenever I look into the eyes of our young students, I do not just see the future. I see my own past. **-DK Shivakumar, CM**

on listening to young voices, creating opportunities, strengthening leadership and ensuring that every young mind can realise their aspirations. Read my article on why listening to Gen Z is essential to building a stronger, more inclusive and forward-looking Karnataka," the CM said.

He reaffirmed the state's commitment to strengthening youth leadership, expanding skill development, and fostering an environment where young aspirations can materialise into real-world achievements.

"I was once a young student with big dreams, standing in the crowd. Today, as

your Chief Minister, I open the doors of leadership for you. Karnataka's achievement is the achievement of all of India, and my proud wish is for every single youth to become a bright shining lamp, Siri Hanate, illuminating the state's future," he said.

Earlier on Sunday, Shivakumar detailed the long-languishing Bidadi Township project in Bengaluru, saying the futuristic hub will feature advanced road networks, metro connectivity, a modern sports arena, sprawling parks, and well-designed housing options.

In an X post, Shivakumar said through this project, the Greater Bengaluru Development Authority will transform the landscape of Bengaluru's South district.

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. Former Mayor Purushotham, former corporators, Zone Assistant Commissioner Girish, Assistant Executive Engineer 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 waste. Environmental engineers, Zone–9 officials and staff, and local residents took part in the operation. Together, 125 people 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 waste. Environmental engineers, Zone–9 officials and staff, and local residents took part in the operation. Together, 125 people participated.

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.

MCC Commissioner Savita M.K., Executive Engineer Mrityunjaya K.S., Zone–6 Assistant Commissioner Pratibha, Environmental Engineer Maitri, Health Inspectors Basavaraju and Manjun Kumar, supervisors, pourakarmikas, nearby shopkeepers and street vendors participated in the transformation drive.

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.



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 An-

ganwadi 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.

The District Health and Family Welfare Department has appealed to the public, elected representatives, religious leaders and voluntary organisations to actively participate in the campaign and help ensure that Albendazole tablets reach all children aged 1–19 years.

A Mop-Up Day will be observed on August 17 to administer tablets to children who may have missed the dose.

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Mohan K. stated this in a press release.

OBITUARY

Renowned Numismatist Dr. AVN Murthy passes away at 91

MYSURU

Renowned numismatist and historian Dr. A.V. Narasimha Murthy (Alambada Venkatasastri Narasimha Murthy) passed away at a private hospital in Mysuru on Sunday following a prolonged illness. He was 91.

He is survived by his wife Kamalamba, son Dr. A.N. Santosh Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of JSS Science and Technology University in Mysuru, and daughter Dr. Savita, who is based in the United States.

Dr. Narasimha Murthy held a postgraduate degree in History and pursued research at Harvard University as a Fulbright Scholar. He obtained his Ph.D. from Andhra University. He began his career in the Department of Archaeology and later served as Professor and Head of the Department of History and Archaeology at the University of Mysore. He was subsequently continued as a Fellow by the University of Mysore and later served as a UGC Senior Emeritus Fellow. As a scholar and mentor, he guided 48 research scholars who were awarded Ph.D. degrees. He



also served as president of the South Indian and Indian Boards of Numismatics.

Dr. Narasimha Murthy was the recipient of several prestigious honours, including the Rashtrakavi Govinda Pai Award, A.S. Alasekar Gold Medal, Karnataka Sahitya Academy Honour Award, Karnataka Rajyotsava Award and Karnataka Archaeology Ratna Award. He served as president of the Third State Numismatic Conference held in Bengaluru and the 70th Numismatic Conference held in Varanasi. He also served as president of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mysuru, for more than two decades.

His last rites were performed on Monday.

Schools agree to send students for ‘Clean Mysuru City’ campaign

MYSURU

There was overwhelming interest shown by the administrators, principals and teachers from over 10 leading schools of the city to contribute to recruit 10000 youths for Clean Mysuru City Campaign.

Everyone was appreciative of the renewed efforts of Mysore Grahakara Parishat (MGP) to involve the next generation. All expressed full faith in the well-known theory that it is absolutely essential to inculcate the idea of keeping the neighborhood and city clean from kindergarten. But there was apprehension of how to get children to “monitor” and prevent others from throwing garbage. Some even raised the question of what kind of protection officials give if some behave rudely and even may hurt the children.

MCC’s environmental engineer Sridevi intervened to comment that even fully authorized MCC staff is threatened in places like Manjunathpur and Paduvarhalli. Others commented that chances of young children requesting the elders (unless they are mentally disturbed or drunk) are more likely to be well received. It seems to have convinced the participants.



Every school commented that either through Eco-club or through some such clubs teachers are already trying to impart the children to not to throw garbage. Still all agreed that it is an uphill battle. Some even find difficult to keep the school camp clean. It was only when self motivated teachers - and not the nominated ones to fill the position for official purpose - get involved and inspire at least 50 students to get involved the initiative will have some chance to succeed. Such teachers also have to impress the children that each and every one has responsibility to give back to society.

It was stressed that children

should not be asked to collect garbage from the roads. Children should sensitive their parents and family members to use cloth bags while shopping, to use less SUP package materials. Children should be encouraged to bring out their creative ideas to keep city clean by poster design, street plays, and any out of the box ideas.

Correspondent of Vijay Vittal, Vasudev Bhat shared one idea of keeping the school premises clean by stopping the practice of giving chocolate (wrappers are often thrown despite the presence of dust bins) by asking them to give freshly prepared sweets in boxes. Some even

started to give some rice to be donated to orphanages.

Rotarian Col. Ravi announced that he would undertake the ambitious goal of reaching at least 25 schools to motivate children to get involved in the clean Mysuru Campaign. He also agreed to request schools to exhibit in each classroom MGP designed posters. Posters have simple mantra asking children not to throw garbage and stop others from throwing garbage. More than likely other interested Mysureans are likely to take this challenge.

Principal of Excel School and President of Private CBSE, Mathew K G along with Coordinator Harshida

Hari kumar have readily agreed to convince more than 100 city’s schools to participate in the clean Mysuru Campaign.

It was encouraging that Mathru Mandali school with mostly first generation children came forward to get involved by going around Paduvarhalli to convince residents to keep the premises clean.

All agreed that because of active participation, Clean Mysuru Campaign will get some more momentum to compliment many initiatives of MCC like cleaning Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVP), forceful steps taken to impose fines, involving every stakeholder group, etc.

CAVA alumni reunion brings together 400 ex-students in Mysuru

MYSURU

The CAVA Alumni Association organised a successful alumni reunion at Chamara-jendra Government College in Siddharthanagar, Mysuru, bringing together nearly 400 former students from the first KAWA batch of 1982 to last year’s graduating batch. The reunion provided an opportunity for alumni to reconnect with their alma mater and relive cherished memories of their college days.

As part of the programme, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the construction of a large-scale artwork near the Deputy Commissioner’s Office, connecting the college to the T. Narasipur Main Road. CAVA Dean A. Devaraju performed the groundbreaking ceremony and formally launched the project.

Later, under the theme “Growing Masterpiece,” saplings were planted on the college campus in the names of renowned and historic artists. In another programme, alumni picked up paintbrushes after two or three decades to create



graffiti artwork on the college compound wall, bringing back memories of their artistic days on campus.

At the subsequent stage programme, retired deans, professors and staff members of the college were felicitated by the Alumni Association. Dean A. Devaraju and former Administrator Nirmala Mahapatra were specially honoured on the occasion.

Speaking at the programme, Devaraju expressed concern over the recent decline in student admissions to CAVA, and warned that if the trend continued, it could adversely affect the very existence of the institution.

He appreciated the Alumni

Association’s special concern for the college and its students. “It is encouraging to see the alumni taking a keen interest in the welfare of the college and its students. Discussions have already been held with the association regarding the decline in admissions. All necessary steps will be taken in the coming days for the development and upgradation of the college,” he assured.

CAVA Alumni Association president Manjunath, vice-president Madhusudhan S.R., secretary Surya, joint secretary Ullas, treasurer Harish Hegde, and directors Ranjhu P., Pavan, Syed Muzaid, Ramesh S., Shwetha, Insha and Nithya Kalyani were present.

“Vipra means strength; unity is our power”

MYSURU

The need for members of the Brahmin community to set aside differences among the three traditional schools of thought and work together for the welfare of society was emphasised at the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Vipra Professional Forum (VPF) and the installation ceremony of its new office-bearers.

The event, organised by VPF at Nadamandapa, Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashrama, brought together achievers, professionals, office-bearers of various organisations and prominent members of the Vipra community. Speakers called for collective efforts to strengthen the community while using its collective strength for the larger good of society.

Achievers from various fields were honoured with the Vipratna Awards. The recipients were Anupama B. Pandit (education), Vedabrahma Dr. N. Shashishekar Dikshit (religion), actor Vasishtha Simha (cinema), Vidwan R.S. Nandakumar (music), Kundur Umesh Bhat (media), Narayana K. Bhat (culinary arts), Nithin Rajaram Shastri (sing-



ing), Pandit Aniruddhacharya Pandurangi (spirituality), Dr. K.L. Shankara Narayana Jois (Gurukula), Vidushi Dr. Krupa Phadke (Bharatanatyam), Dr. N. Chandrashekar (medicine), Trivikrama Nagesh (industry), Dr. Shelva Pillai Iyengar (history), H. Ramachandra (community service) and A.P. Chandrashekar (natural farming).

New Office-Bearers Take Charge

The new VPF executive committee for 2026–28 was formally installed. Outgoing president Srihari Dwarakanath handed over charge to the new president, Dr. S. Murali, by presenting him with the ceremonial baton.

A. Sudheendra, K.R. Sanyanarayana and K.R. Prabhakara Rao were inducted as

vice-presidents, while R. Manjunath Srivatsa took charge as secretary, CA S. Achyuth as treasurer and S. Srinath as joint secretary.

A. Amogha Aprameya, H.S. Ashwini Shankar, H.N. Chandrashekar, Dr. Hanumantha Joshi, Dr. Y. Karthik Pandit, G.S. Ganesh, S. Harsha, K.S. Shivashankar, H.R. Keshav, N.R. Manjunath, R. Murali Mohan, D. Narayan, A.R. Raghuram, M.R. Roopashree, Samarath Vaidya, C.S. Satyaprakash, Shivaprasad and Sriram Dwarakanath assumed charge as executive committee members.

Former VPF president Srihari Dwarakanath said the organisation was established with the objective of bringing everyone together. He urged members not to remain divided by identifying themselves

as belonging to different traditions, but to unite under the common identity of “Vipra”.

Actor Vasishtha Simha said that although the three Brahmin traditions have differences in philosophical thought, their common objective is the preservation of Sanatana Dharma and the transmission of tradition to future generations.

Referring to the three-faced form of Lord Dattatreya as a symbol of unity among the three guru traditions, he said the traditions of Shankara, Ramanuja and Madhwa should be viewed with a sense of unity.

MLA T.S. Srivatsa called upon achievers and professionals from various fields to come together on a common platform and work towards strengthening the community. Sri Datta Vijayananda said Vipras should work not only for the welfare of their community but also for the welfare of society and the world at large.

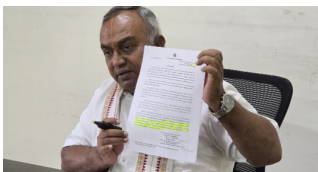
He said the gathering of representatives of all 65 Vipra organisations on a single platform had demonstrated that the perception that Vipras cannot unite was wrong.

MLA Srivatsa demands SIT probe into multi-crore SDJ/DJF gold scam

MYSURU

Krishnaraja Assembly MLA T.S. Srivatsa on Monday demanded the constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to conduct a comprehensive probe into the alleged multi-crore SDJ/DJF Gold financial scam, involving transactions of more than 600 kg of gold.

Addressing a press conference here, Srivatsa said hundreds of investors had been pushed into severe financial distress following the alleged fraud. The issue came to wider public attention after DGP& IGP Dr M.A.Saleem issued a notification asking affected investors to lodge formal complaints.Police subsequently arrested the prime accused, Chinna Thambi, and five to six associates. Howev-



er, their release on bail after about six to eight weeks in judicial custody had caused considerable disappointment and anger among the victims. The situation turned tense recently when a group of aggrieved investors allegedly vandalised the office premises of the accused in Mysuru. Srivatsa condemned the incident and appealed to victims not to resort to violence or take the law into their own hands. “Destroying property or indulging in violence will not help recover the lost money or gold. Instead, such acts could lead to criminal cases

against the victims themselves,” he warned.

The MLA said efforts were already under way through legal channels to secure the interests of the affected investors. A legal team representing around 75 victims has initiated proceedings under the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments (KPID) Act, 2006. Following the proceedings, the Assistant Commissioner of Mysuru has reportedly been designated as the competent authority to identify and attach properties belonging to Chinna Thambi and his associates for recovery of the investors’ money.

Srivatsa, however, questioned how an alleged operation involving more than 600 kg of gold could have continued within the jurisdiction of

the Kuvempunagar Police Station without timely detection or intervention. He sought accountability for any lapses in monitoring and investigation.

He said the matter would be raised in the coming session of the State Legislative Assembly through an Attention-Calling Motion, urging the government to constitute an independent SIT which should investigate the alleged network across districts and States, identify the middlemen and other persons involved, fix responsibility for lapses and ensure speedy recovery of the victims’ investments. The authorities must expedite the court-monitored liquidation of attached properties and ensure that the proceeds are returned to the affected depositors at the earliest.

KABINI NEARS FULL-RESERVOIR MARK

KRS receives over 11,500 cusecs inflow

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



RESERVOIR SNAPSHOT	
■ KRS: 108.66 ft Inflow 11,587 cusecs Outflow 2,335	
■ Nugu: 2,369.80 ft Inflow 283 Outflow 0	
■ Kabini: 2,283.04 ft Inflow 12,044 Outflow 12,000	
■ Harangi: 2,409.65 ft Inflow 16 Outflow 0	
■ Hemavati: 2,858.22 ft Inflow 6,571 Outflow 7,125	

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 inflow 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.

AIISH Launches Punarjeevan

Advanced neurorehabilitation unit in Mysuru

MYSURU

The All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH), Mysuru, has launched Punarjeevan, a state-of-the-art, technology-enabled neurorehabilitation unit aimed at restoring function, independence and quality of life among persons affected by stroke, traumatic brain injury, brain and neurological cancers, dementia and other neurological and neurodegenerative conditions.

The unit was inaugurated by Trishika, a member of Mysore royal family and a wife of Kodagu-Mysuru Lok Sabha Member Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar,, in the presence of Dr. Pushpavathi, Director, AIISH; Dr. S. P. Goswami; and faculty and staff members of the Centre for Children and Adults with Speech-Language Disorders (CSLD) and the Clinic for Adults and Elderly Persons with Communication Disorders (CAEPLD).

The unit envisaged as the first-of-its-kind integrated technology-enabled neurorehabilitation facility in India that brings advanced, internationally aligned rehabilitation technologies together with multidisciplinary clinical expertise while making such specialised services accessible and affordable to the public. The launch comes at a time when neurological disorders are emerging as a major public-health challenge. Globally, more than 3 billion people are estimated to live with a neurological condition, while stroke alone accounted for approximately 93.8 million prevalent cases and 11.9 million new cases in 2021. Dementia affects more than 57 million people worldwide, with nearly 10 million new cases reported every year. These conditions frequently result in long-term difficulties affecting communication, cognition, mobility, swallowing, balance and independent living.

The program has been designed to address these complex rehabilitation needs through an integrated multidisciplinary model. It brings together advanced Speech-Language Therapy, cognitive-linguistic rehabilitation, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and technology-assisted rehabilitation



under one comprehensive facility.

A major strength of the unit is its state-of-the-art Speech-Language Therapy facility, which provides advanced assessment and intervention for aphasia, dysarthria, cognitive-communication disorders, swallowing difficulties and other communication problems associated with neurological conditions. Conventional evidence-based therapy is augmented by digital cognitive-linguistic rehabilitation, transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) and digital therapeutic applications such as the Constant Therapy (CT) app, enabling structured, personalised and intensive rehabilitation.

The facility also incorporates robotics and advanced rehabilitation technologies, including robotic gait training, balance rehabilitation systems and task-oriented rehabilitation equipment. These technologies facilitate repetitive, intensive and goal-oriented practice for individuals with difficulties in walking, balance, coordination and functional activities.

The multidisciplinary approach is particularly beneficial for persons recovering from stroke and traumatic brain injury, who may simultaneously experience speech and language impairment, cognitive difficulties, swal-

lowing problems, weakness, balance disorders and reduced functional independence. Individuals with brain and neurological cancers can also benefit from rehabilitation addressing communication, cognition, swallowing and physical functioning. Similarly, persons living with dementia and other neurodegenerative disorders can receive specialised cognitive-communication and functional rehabilitation.

Importantly, it is not limited to the use of advanced equipment. Its focus is on combining clinical expertise, technology, personalised intervention and measurable functional outcomes. The unit is also envisioned as a centre for clinical research, innovation, professional training and capacity building in technology-enabled neurorehabilitation.

The establishment of Punarjeevan reflects AIISH's commitment to providing rehabilitation services that are responsive to the changing needs of society and aligned with contemporary international standards. By integrating speech-language pathology, cognitive rehabilitation, neuromodulation, digital therapeutics, robotics, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, the facility aims to provide comprehensive rehabilitation closer to the needs of the individual and family.



Preeth Appaiah set to scale Australia’s highest peak, Mount Kosciuszko

MYSURU

Mysuru’s Preeth Appaiah, who recently drew attention by winning two gold medals with a national record in the 10-metre air rifle category at the 14th Karnataka State Shooting Competition and Championship-2026, is now preparing to scale Mount Kosciuszko, the highest mountain in Australia.

Mysuru City and District Brahmin Association president D.T. Prakash, said while participating in an event organised by the KMPK Trust and Cauvery Kodava Okkoota in front of the Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple in the city on Monday.

T. Prakash said Bannimantap resident Preeth Appaiah had proved that age is merely a number in sports and had enhanced the reputation of Mysuru at the State and national levels through both shooting and mountaineering.

KMPK Trust president Vikram Iyengar said Preeth had earlier successfully scaled Africa’s highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro, in 2023 and

Mount Elbrus in Russia in 2024, where he hoisted the Indian Tricolour. She is now pursuing the ‘Seven Summits’ goal of climbing the highest mountains on all seven continents. Mount Kosciuszko, located in Kosciuszko National Park in the Snowy Mountains region of New South Wales, Australia, stands at an altitude of 2,228 metres (7,310 feet) above sea level.

Preeth Appaiah is preparing to scale the peak and hoist the national flag on Independence Day, bringing pride to the country and Mysuru.

Hotel Owners’ Association president C.Narayan Gowda, former corporator M.V.Ram Prasad, Jagadish, BJP Chamundeshwari City Mandal president Rakesh Bhat, S.N. Rajesh, Vidwan Krishnamurthy, Vijayalakshmi Iyengar, Sukrut, Cauvery Kodava Okkoota president Ajjikanda Chittiyappa, vice-president Atrangada Praveen, committee members Koter Kushalappa and Nerapanada Sannu Mandappa, and Mysuru Kodava Sangha vice-president Machimanda Nanayya were present.

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, Yaranagahalli, Siddharthanagar, Alanahalli, Nandini Layout, Giridarshini Layout, Gousiyannagar and Kyathamaranahalli, besides surrounding rural and urban areas.

Residents in these areas have been advised to store sufficient drinking water in advance, the Executive Engineers of the Water Supply and Underground Drainage Division of Mysuru City Corporation have appealed to residents to cooperate in view of the temporary disruption in water supply.



DENIAL OF CABINET BERTH TO MLA TANVEER SAIT

Supporters stage massive protest in Mysuru

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.

The protesters said it was a grave injustice to senior and experienced leader Tanveer Sait to deny him a ministerial position. In the past, Mysuru district had two ministers as well as a Chief Minister, but the district had not received adequate representation this time.



Supporter Syed Iqbal said Sait was deeply disappointed

over being left out of the Cabinet and had even consid-

ered resigning as MLA. However, he appealed to Sait not to resign under any circumstances. “Our fight will continue as long as necessary to ensure that Tanveer Sait gets a ministerial berth while remaining within the party,” he said.

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.

The protest was attended by Karnataka Exhibition Authority Chairman Ayub Khan, Narasimharaja Block Congress president Iqbal, former corporators Pandu, Basheer, Pradeep Kumar and Satyaraj, and leaders Akmal Pasha, Soughat, Shaheen Shah, Aftab and Sharath, among others.

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.



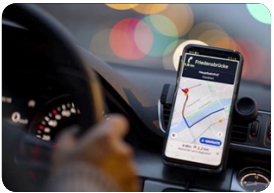
The measure has been undertaken to strengthen the verification of LPG con-

sumers 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.

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.



"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 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.

AAP seeks 25-year domicile rule for BDA site allotments

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Aam Aadmi Party State Organising Secretary Dr Satish Kumar on Monday urged the Karnataka Government to extend the existing 15-year domicile criterion for allotment of Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) sites to at least 25 years.

Addressing a press conference, Kumar said the criterion introduced in 1984 was outdated and no longer reflected Bengaluru's demographic and economic changes.

"Bengaluru has changed completely over three decades, but government rules have remained unchanged. This has directly affected Kannadigas who have lived in Karnataka for generations," he said.

Kumar questioned the policy of acquiring land from Kannada farmers for urban development, converting it into sites and subsequently pricing them beyond the reach of ordinary Kannadigas.

He warned that continuing with the 15-year domicile requirement would further re-



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.

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.

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.

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 sepa-

rate 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 in-

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

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.

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.

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.

Minister Puttarangashetty targets BJP over alleged political payments

CH NEWS, CHAMARAJANAGAR

Minister C. Puttarangashetty questioned how much money Chalavadi Narayanaswamy allegedly gave BJP leaders to become a member of the Legislative Council and opposition leader.

Speaking to reporters at Chamarajanagar Tourist Mandir, he made the remarks while discussing political developments and party appointments. He said his party did not follow a system of paying money for positions.

Puttarangashetty said Congress ministers received their portfolios because they had worked honestly for the party. He added that the Cabinet portfolios were expected to be distributed by tomorrow. He also questioned former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy over comments about unhappy legislators and mocked the JD(S) leader's influence in Karnataka.

He asked when the JD(S) had come to power on its own strength and said Kumaraswamy was neither a king nor a king maker. He said the

government had continued the Bidadi township project and argued that Bengaluru needed development. He questioned why opposition parties were now protesting and taking their issues to the streets.

During the drought assessment, Puttarangashetty visited villages in Chamarajanagar and Kollegal constituencies and inspected crops and drinking water conditions. At Yaranahalli, Shindanaiyanapura and Madalavadi, he observed that sunflower, jowar and chilli crops had dried up completely, while turmeric, banana and garlic crops faced water shortages. Officials were instructed to ensure adequate fodder and drinking water for cattle during the period.

In Bommanahalli, shepherd Maniyya said sheep were facing water shortages and families were being forced to depend on private lands. Farmers also raised concerns about difficulties and sought government support. KADA President P. Mariswamy and district officials attended the visit.

Gadag prepares for grand Hari Jatra

CH NEWS, GADAG

Gadag-Betageri is preparing for the Hari Jatra of village deities Sri Dyamavva and Sri Durgamma, a traditional festival held once every 12 years. The celebrations will take place from August 18 to 28, bringing devotees together for religious rituals, cultural events and community gatherings.

Trust chairman Kotrappa Kamatara said devotees have decided to celebrate the festival with faith and unity. The idols will be installed at Sri Dyamavva Temple in Okkalageri Oni on August 18. Cultural programmes will continue each evening until August 25, while a special food offering is planned for August 24.

Varadenahalli dairy accused of financial mismanagement

CH NEWS, MAGADI

Sasikala, a won an 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

120 litres daily were not receiving proper treatment. Although equipment is available to record milk quality online, he claimed entries were being made offline. He also alleged that retired staff were working without an official tester and demanded an inquiry into the appointment of the secretary without proper advertisement or democratic procedures.

The directors urged officials to intervene immediately, introduce mandatory online systems and protect farmers' interests. They said transparent records, proper meetings and accurate milk testing were necessary to restore trust among producers.

They also called for an independent departmental inquiry into the allegations and accountability from those found responsible.

'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.

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.



The 12-hour opportunity is expected to draw large crowds. Later, Halaravi Seva will be held at 4.28 pm, followed by special abhishek with milk, curd, turmeric and saffron. A large chariot festival will begin at 12.30 pm

after the night-long rituals. The festival idol of Chamundeshwari Amma will be placed on the decorated chariot, which will then be pulled by devotees and dignitaries. Temple authorities expect around two lakh devotees this

TEMPLE URGES DEVOTEES TO COOPERATE

Bhima Amavasya puja is being performed at Sri Kshetra Gowdagere for the welfare of devotees and the world. Devotees believe that the day offers 12 hours of auspicious time and that the mother fulfills sincere wishes. This faith has increased attendance from thousands to lakhs this year. Dharmadarshigalu Dr. Mallesh Guruji welcomed devotees and urged them to remain careful as crowds continue to grow. He asked visitors to follow safety guidelines issued by the police and temple staff. Visitors are advised to maintain discipline, cooperate with officials, and ensure a pilgrimage.

year, after more than one lakh people visited the shrine during Bhima Amavasya last year. Free parking and no VIP darshan tickets will be available as usual. The temple has

also arranged drinking water, almond milk and chocolates for devotees waiting in long queues. Dasoha services will provide prasad throughout the day.

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'



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

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 Srigavi 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, childbearing, 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.

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,



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-

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 involve-

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.

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

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-

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.

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

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.

NCP REFUTES ALLIANCE RUMOURS

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-



ture projects, and cultural recognition. At the outset of the meeting, PM Modi enquired about the health of veteran leader Sharad Pawar. Commending Pawar's work ethic and political journey, the Prime Minister noted that his

energy and dedication remain an inspiration for everyone in public life, said Dr Kolhe. During the delegation's interaction, the NCP(SP) MPs presented several crucial regional demands. The delegation submitted a request to

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 Rashttrasant 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-

cal treatments. MPs Suresh (Balya Mama) Mhatre and Dr Amol Kolhe requested the Centre to expedite the final decision on naming the Navi Mumbai International Airport after late leader D.B. Patil, following the state government's proposal. The Prime Minister's attention was drawn to accelerating major projects, including the Nashik-Pune high-speed railway line, Pune-Nashik Metro, PM Gati Shakti schemes in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, JNPT port expansion, and the Kalyan-Mumbai railway line, said Dr Kolhe.

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-

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.

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

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.

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

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-186/2026-27Date: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

Srirampada, Sarswathamma, B
 enkatesh has filed the petition seeking for
 assurance of the death certificate of said Late
 Narayana the details is as mentioned
 below:
 Name of Dead person: Late Narayana
 Name of the Father of deceased: Sri
 enkatarajamma Date of Death: 30.05.2014
 Cause of Death: Billerihalli Village
 Vasamballi Hobli KGF
 Anybody interested to oppose the said
 petition are requested to appear in cou
 person or through an advocate o
 10.07.2026, failing to do so the matter w
 be proceeded forthwith.
 Dated this day the 10.08.2026 at KGF
BY ORDER OF THE COURT
CHIEF MINISTERIAL OFFICER PRL CIVIL
JUDGE AND JMFC COURT KOLAR
GOLD FIELDS



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 res-

ignation, 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



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.

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 Ricketton 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. Ricketton 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

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 Ricketton both

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 Muzam-

mil 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'luu 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

HYUNDAI 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

Smart tech highlights ■ **70+ Features:** Includes remote checks, vehicle health diagnostics, and digital keys. ■ **450+ Voice Commands:** Fully supports smart AI voice control across five different languages. **Future roadmap** ■ **2019:** Bluelink launched on the Venue SUV. ■ **2025:** Connected Car Navigation Cockpit introduced. ■ **2030:** Target of 2 million cumulative smart sales.

intelligence across five different languages. Looking ahead, Hyundai plans to make its next-generation connected vehicle technology a standard feature across all variants of its upcoming mass-market electric SUV. Leadership notes that combining smart connectivity with electric mobility will deliver future-ready ownership experiences. Since launching Bluelink on the Venue model back in 2019, the automaker has continuously upgraded its software roadmap, introducing over-the-air updates and advanced navigation cockpits.

₹ 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.

NEW DELHI India is making rapid progress in building better public infrastructure. A government fact-sheet shows that total spending on 1,847 major central infrastructure projects has touched Rs 21.97 lakh crore as of June 2026. This amount represents more than 54 percent of the total Rs 40.54 lakh crore investment set aside for these mega initiatives, showing steady and fast construction work nationwide. Many of these projects are



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

slight contraction. The EBITDA margin dropped to 15.3 percent down from 17.2 percent, largely impacted by the ongoing overseas restructuring costs. Bharat Forge operates across three main segments: Forgings, Defence, and Others. Along with releasing the quarterly financial statements, the company board approved a proposal to raise fresh funds via equity or debt-linked securities, pending shareholder and regulatory clearance.

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, Sitan-shu 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

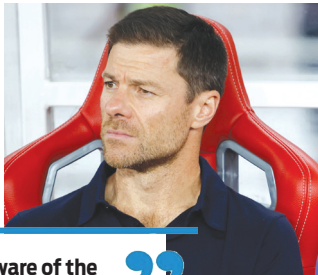
managed to clear only 1.84 meters before failing all three of her attempts at 1.87 meters, which forced her exit from the tournament. Meanwhile, Australia's Izobelle Louison-Roe claimed the gold medal with a brilliant clearance of 1.92 meters. Lilianna Batori from Hungary and Spain's Aitana Alonso earned 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.