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INDIAN ₹ GOES PLASTIC

Centre approves 1 billion polymer notes each of Rs 10 and Rs 20 for field trials; paper notes will continue alongside them.

NEW DELHI

The Centre has approved the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) proposal to begin field trials of polymer (plastic) banknotes in the Rs 10 and Rs 20 denominations, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

The RBI, following a recommendation from its Central Board, had proposed the move under Section 25 of the RBI Act, 1934. If the trials are successful, polymer notes in both denominations may be issued regularly.

But, the move has sparked curiosity with many wondering whether India is preparing to phase out traditional paper currency. But, the government has made it clear that there is no proposal to replace existing paper banknotes. Instead, the polymer notes will circulate alongside paper notes to see how they perform in real-world conditions before any larger decision is taken.

As part of the pilot, the RBI plans to issue 100 crore Rs 10 notes and 100 crore Rs 20 notes, taking the total trial to 200 crore polymer banknotes worth around Rs 3,000 crore. If the field trials are successful, the central bank may consider regular issuance of these denominations.



Polymer currency trial in depth

Denominations
₹10 and ₹20 notes will go plastic first

Trial quantity
2 billion total banknotes (1 billion pieces each).

Field trials
Testing in Indian Conditions

Timeline
Expected to launch around early FY28 (starting around April 2027/2028).

Paper currency status
No plans to phase out or replace existing paper money; polymer notes will circulate alongside standard paper notes.

Why is the RBI making the switch?

Lifespan
Designed to last two to four times longer than regular paper notes.

Durability
Higher resistance to moisture, dirt, and daily wear and tear.

Security
Enhanced features that make counterfeiting much harder while cutting long-term replacement costs.

Economic impact
Saving costs and space

Why only Rs 10, Rs 20 notes?

These are among the most widely used notes in daily transactions. In terms of the number of banknotes in circulation, they account for nearly a quarter of all currency notes in India, even though their value share is relatively small. Their high usage makes them the ideal candidates for testing durability under everyday conditions.

Will digital payments be affected?

Not immediately. The government told Parliament that the impact on digital payments can only be assessed after the notes are issued on a regular basis. For now, the proposal is limited to field trials.

What happens to paper notes?

The existing Rs 10 and Rs 20 paper notes remain legal tender and will continue to circulate even after the polymer trial begins. The RBI's step is meant to test whether plastic notes are better suited for India's cash economy, not to replace paper currency overnight.

Global adoption of polymer notes

India is far from the first country to explore plastic currency. Countries including Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Singapore and Romania already use polymer banknotes. These countries report that the notes remain cleaner for longer, survive rough handling better and are harder to counterfeit than conventional paper currency.

Security and counterfeiting

The fight against counterfeiting is getting smarter. Polymer banknotes have strong security features to stay ahead of fakes. The polymer material makes it possible to include many advanced security elements. These security features are often built right into the polymer substrate. They are hard to copy. Banknote designers use things like tiny printing, special inks, clear windows, and raised parts. These help keep counterfeits away. Also, each banknote has its own serial numbers. This helps in tracking and catching counterfeiters.

Advantages of plastic notes

The good things about polymer banknotes go beyond their toughness and security features. One important benefit is that they are cleaner. Paper banknotes can hold dirt and bacteria, but polymer notes are non-porous. This means germs have a hard time sticking to them. This makes polymer notes a more hygienic choice for daily transactions. Also, using polymer banknotes helps the environment as well.

When will plastic notes reach public?

There is no confirmed timeline yet for when the new polymer notes will reach the hands of the public. The Finance Ministry said the procurement process is currently at an initial stage. Because the process has only just begun, it is not possible at present to determine the exact timeframe for introducing polymer banknotes or the expenditure involved. The govt approval therefore marks the start of the process rather than an immediate rollout. For now, paper currency remains in circulation.

Give TN 12,000 cusecs for 15 days: CWRC to K'taka



NEW DELHI

In a setback for Karnataka in the ongoing Cauvery water-sharing dispute, the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) on Tuesday directed the state to ensure the release of 12,000 cusecs of water daily to Tamil Nadu for the next 15 days, starting from 8am on August 12. The water is to be released at the inter-state Biligundlu gauge station.

The direction came after the CWRC reviewed submissions from both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, along with reservoir storage levels, Central Water Commission (CWC) data and a seven-day inflow forecast for the Krishnaraja Sagar and Kabini reservoirs. While issuing the order, CWRC said it had adopted a cautious approach in view of the unpredictable weather pattern and the possibility of worsening El Niño conditions.

During the meeting, Karnataka argued that it was facing severe hydrological distress, stating that inflows into its four Cauvery reservoirs stood at 77.746 TMC, nearly 47 per cent below the 30-year average, and were declining sharply. The state contended that there was no scope for further releases, citing the need to conserve water for drinking purposes, essential needs and agriculture. Karnataka also urged the CWRC to defer any fresh directions until the monsoon situation became clearer.

Tamil Nadu, on the other hand, sought a revision of the earlier CWRC direction to release 3,500 cusecs for 15 days, arguing that the quantity was not based on a scientific distress-sharing formula. Despite Karnataka's objections, the CWRC directed the state to ensure flows of 12,000 cusecs at Biligundlu from August 12 for the next 15 days.

Committee directive

Quantum: 12,000 cusecs (cubic feet per second) per day.

Duration: 15 days starting from 8:00 am on August 12, 2026.

Measurement point: Biligundlu inter-state border.

Enforcing body: Endorsed by the CWMA during its 55th meeting.

State stances and reactions

Karnataka's position: Argued that inflows into its four basin reservoirs (KRS, Kabini, Hemavathi, Harangi) are 47% below normal averages and water must be conserved for drinking and local agriculture. Karnataka is examining legal remedies and plans to petition the Supreme Court.

Tamil Nadu's position: Maintained that its downstream cropping requirements and water deficits justify the immediate release of its entitled share.

Protests: Farmer and regional outfits in Karnataka have criticized the order, heightening local political tensions.

Maintain law and order in Mandya: CM to babus

BENGALURU

Following the CWRC's move, Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who was holding a video conference meeting with officials on other subjects, discussed the fallout of the order.

He informed officials that the committee had ordered Karnataka to release 12,000 cusecs of water and said the state government would take an appropriate decision on the matter.

He directed local officials to ensure that law and order is strictly maintained in Mandya district amid intense protests over the Cauvery water-sharing dispute, emphasizing that protecting peace is the direct responsibility of the district administration and police.

"Law and order has to be maintained. There should not be any unnecessary incidents. The DC and SP have to take care of it."

He added: "We're getting rain and there is water, we can't hold onto the water and keep it. We will release how

We're getting rain and there is water, we can't hold onto the water and keep it. We will release how much ever we can. Farmers have to be educated about it.

-DK Shivakumar, CM

much ever we can. Farmers have to be educated about it. We are protecting our farmers. We will hold meetings in the next 3-4 days."

Shivakumar also instructed the Mandya deputy commissioner and superintendent of police to remain vigilant and ensure that law and order is maintained in the district in view of the sensitive nature of the Cauvery issue. He said necessary measures had already been taken to protect the interests of farmers and appealed to all stakeholders to act responsibly.

Shivakumar asked district officials to immediately inform the government about any local issues arising out of the CWRC order, assuring them that he would personally monitor the situation and gather all relevant information before taking further steps.

LS clears 'Keralam', 'Co-operative' bills

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed two bills — the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, and the National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 — without a debate in roughly 14 minutes.

This occurred amid continuous Opposition protests demanding the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, which seeks to change the state's official name to Keralam, and legislation concerning the National Co-operative Development Corporation were cleared amid the din, with no formal debate.

Prez nod to Bill criminalising insult to Vande Mataram

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday gave assent to the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, giving Vande Mataram the same statutory legal protection as the National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana. The amendment expands the 1971 law to cover intentional prevention of the National Song's singing or disturbance of an assembly engaged in its rendition. Such offences can attract up to three years in prison, a fine, or both. However, the move has also drawn criticism from the Opposition.

NDA-INDIA lock horns outside Parliament

New Delhi: Opposition and ruling party MPs staged counter protests and raised slogans against each other outside Parliament on Thursday. A large number of MPs belonging to both camps stood outside the Makar Dwar of Parliament and raised slogans against the other side. While the ruling party MPs raised slogans against the Opposition for politicising the paper leak issue and raised slogans like "sharam karo, sharam karo" and "Vande Mataram", the opposition INDIA bloc MPs demanded the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan. Congress leader Sonia Gandhi also took part in the stir.

Flight turbulence probe: Pilot tests positive for marijuana

New Delhi: The pilot-in-command of an Air India Phuket-Delhi flight that rapidly lost altitude last week, causing injuries to 24 people, tested positive for a psychoactive substance during a post-flight screening, as per reports.

The pilot's preliminary drug test had returned "non-negative", a govt release earlier said. "The pilot in question has tested positive in the confirmatory test. He has tested positive for Marijuana," as per sources. On August 4, the Phuket-Delhi

flight AI2379 dropped 300 feet in a sudden loss of altitude during cruise, injuring 20 passengers and four crew members. An initial statement from Air India had cited turbulence as the reason. Soon after the incident, the aircraft, with 137 passengers and eight crew members on board, stabilised and landed safely in Delhi.

The pilots have been off-rostered pending a probe. The incident was classified as a serious one and is being investigated by the AAIB.

Sonia hails Manmohan as 'quiet but consequential PM

NEW DELHI

History will remember Manmohan Singh as a "quiet but a most consequential prime minister", Congress leader Sonia Gandhi said in a signed article on Tuesday, adding that his record of integrity stands in stark contrast with the Modi government's.

She also said that Singh's prophetic prediction of January 2014 is becoming increasingly self-evident with every passing day, in an apparent reference to his then statement that it would be "disastrous for the country" to have Narendra Modi as the prime minister.

The Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson's remarks in the article published in The Indian Express come days after the Supreme Court gave former PM Singh a clean chit in the coal block allocation case.

"History will indeed remember him kindly as a quiet, gentle but a most consequential prime minister," she said.

She said the judgement brings to a conclusion one of the most tragic arcs of our public discourse — "the witch-hunt against Dr Singh, a man of the most remarkable probity and integrity".

Lebanon becomes first Arab country to abolish death penalty

Beirut: Lebanon's parliament on Tuesday abolished the death penalty, making the country the first in the Middle East to formally end the practice.

"The draft law aimed at abolishing the death penalty in Lebanon was approved," the speaker of parliament's office announced. Lebanon had not carried out an execution since 2004. Justice Minister Adel Nassar called the abolition "historic", and said the spectre of capital punishment had previously prevented Beirut from obtaining the extradition of suspects from countries where it has been outlawed. The abolition came as part of a series of bills to be discussed in the current legislative session

NASA invites ISRO to set up first human outpost on Moon

NEW DELHI

The USA's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has invited Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to be a partner in the ambitious Moon Base programme in which the US space agency plans to build the first human outpost on the Moon.

The Moon Base is humanity's first lunar outpost, a place where astronauts would live, work, and explore near the Moon's South Pole.

Through a series of crewed and uncrewed missions, NASA and its partners would build the infrastructure needed to support an enduring hu-

man presence on the lunar surface while advancing science, technology, and exploration for the benefit of all.

The invitation to India was extended during a bilateral meeting on space-cooperation held in Bengaluru last week, the US Embassy said in a statement.

ISRO chairman V Narayanan and US Ambassador Sergio Gor addressed the meeting which was co-chaired by M Sankaran, director, UR Rao Satellite Centre and on the US side by Wesley Brooks, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs and Kathleen

Karika, NASA Associate Administrator for International and Interagency Relations.

What is NASA's Moon base programme?

NASA is embarking on one of the most ambitious endeavours in human history: building humanity's first outpost on another celestial body. Located near the lunar South Pole, the Moon Base will be built step by step through a series of robotic and human missions that help astronauts learn how to live and operate in one of the most demanding and dangerous environments humans have ever set out to explore. The discoveries

A major step in US-India space collab

NASA has invited ISRO to participate in its Moon Base mission, aiming to establish humanity's first permanent lunar outpost near the Moon's South Pole.

The Moon Base project seeks to enable astronauts to live, work, and explore the Moon, facilitating new scientific discoveries and preparing for future deep space missions.



This invitation strengthens the US-India space partnership, building on existing cooperation under the Artemis Accords and the TRUST initiative.

Discussions at the Civil Space Joint Working Group meeting in Bengaluru also covered open scientific data sharing and future science and human space flight technology collaborations.

Both nations reaffirmed commitment to UN COPUOS guidelines for long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

made and lessons learned there will help shape the future of exploration, from the Moon to Mars. The base is

planned to be constructed in a phase-wise approach with the assembling planned after 2032.

Quick Read



Ailing woman rescued and shifted to hospital

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Kodigehalli police came to the aid of a woman who collapsed by the roadside near Vidyaspurthi School. A member of the public noticed the unconscious woman around 7.45 am and alerted the Namma 112 emergency helpline. The information was immediately passed to ASI Ramesh and AHC Anappa Doddamani, who were on duty in Hoysala-167. The personnel rushed to the spot and found the woman lying by the roadside. Enquiries revealed that she had been walking when she suffered a sudden drop in blood pressure, experienced a seizure and collapsed. Police provided immediate assistance, while her husband and son arrived at the spot after being informed. Considering her condition, police helped shift her in an autorickshaw to a nearby hospital for further treatment.

Distressed student safely rescued by Begur police

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Begur police safely rescued a student who locked himself inside his house after becoming emotionally distressed over low marks in his studies. Around 10.53 pm, the boy's mother alerted the Namma 112 emergency helpline, stating that she had stepped out to buy medicines when her son locked himself inside the house on Manipal County Road. Namma 112 staff alerted ASI Mahalingaiah and APC Manjunath of Hoysala-214, who reached the spot within 12 minutes. Police calmly tried to persuade the boy to open the door, but he threatened to harm himself. Police coordinated with Fire and Emergency Services personnel to gain entry and safely rescue him. The boy and his family were subsequently counselled and advised on his safety and well-being.

Bengaluru woman alleges dowry harassment, threats after marriage

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A Bengaluru woman has alleged dowry harassment, physical abuse and threats by her husband and in-laws following her marriage in June 2025. She has also alleged that police action on her complaint was delayed for around eight months. According to the woman's complaint, her family provided dowry, including a car, at the time of her marriage to Sheikh Afran. She alleged that her husband told her on the first day of their marriage that he did not like her and subsequently subjected her to harassment. She further alleged that he was involved with another woman. The woman alleged that members of her husband's family made her perform household chores and subjected her to physical harassment. She claimed she was forced to massage family members and alleged that hot water was



Two workers killed in Bengaluru underpass cave-in

Underpass construction turned fatal after a sudden soil collapse.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Two workers were killed and three others injured after soil caved in at an under-construction underpass near FTII Circle in Bengaluru on Tuesday morning. The incident occurred around 11 am while workers were engaged in construction work being undertaken by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). Preliminary information suggested that water had accumulated in a pit dug for laying reinforced cement concrete (RCC). While workers were pumping out the water, the soil suddenly collapsed, trapping five workers. Three workers managed to escape, while two were buried under the soil. One of them, Sonaram, 26, from Odisha, was rescued and rushed to a hospital, where he was declared dead. Another worker, Parimal, 31, died after being



trapped beneath the soil. The injured workers were identified as Sadanand, Sunil and Irmiyaz, reportedly from Jharkhand and West Bengal. Police and emergency personnel rushed to the spot and launched rescue operations. BDA Commissioner P. Manivannan said the collapse may have been caused by rain and announced plans for a probe by a retired judge and a

CC "The soil suddenly collapsed, maybe due to rains."
— P. Manivannan, BDA Commissioner

UNDERPASS CAVE-IN

- 2 — Workers killed
- 3 — Workers injured
- 11 am: Approximate time of collapse
- Location: Near FTII Circle
- Agency: BDA
- Probe: Retired judge + chief engineer

Probe ordered into cave-in

Two workers died and three were injured after soil collapsed at a BDA underpass construction site near FTII Circle on Tuesday. Five workers were trapped after soil gave way while water was being pumped from an RCC pit. BDA Commissioner P. Manivannan said a retired judge and chief engineer would probe the incident. The contractor has been directed to compensate the victims' families and cover treatment expenses.

Ashoka demands Nagendra's resignation before Assembly session

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Opposition Leader R. Ashoka on Tuesday said the BJP would not allow the Assembly session to proceed as long as B. Nagendra remained a minister and demanded that Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar immediately seek his resignation.

Speaking at a press conference, Ashoka questioned Nagendra's reinstatement despite multiple cases allegedly pending against him. He said Nagendra faced three CBI cases, five Lokayukta cases, one SIT case, a CID case in Karwar and another case in Chennai, with 31 cases under investigation.

"Nagendra has to be in court every day. He is still an accused. In this situation, when will he come to Vidhana Soudha? When will he do the department's work?" Ashoka asked.

He said issues including Bidadi Township and KPSC needed discussion during the session, but insisted that Nagendra's resignation should precede any proceedings. He also questioned why Nagendra had been removed earlier and subsequently reinstated.



"This is daylight robbery being committed by the government itself."
— R. Ashoka, Leader of Oppn

BJP announces protests

Opposition Leader R. Ashoka said the BJP would intensify its agitation against the government, beginning with protests at all district headquarters and outside Deputy Commissioners' offices. He said protests would also be held inside and outside the Assembly. Ashoka demanded Nagendra's resignation and questioned his reinstatement despite several ongoing cases. He also criticised the government's garbage charges and alleged that Bengaluru residents were being burdened with additional taxes.

'New loot' in Clean Bengaluru

Ashoka alleged that the Congress government was "looting" people in the name of the Clean Bengaluru campaign. He criticised the proposed charges on vacant sites with garbage and said waste management was already covered under existing taxes.

He questioned the government's action on vehicles parked on roadsides, encroachments on footpaths and potholes. He claimed garbage collection charges for flats had increased from ₹40 to ₹400.

The BJP, he said, would stage protests at Deputy Commissioners' offices and inside and outside the Assembly.

Byappanahalli police rescue student near railway tracks

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Byappanahalli police safely rescued a student found sitting near railway tracks in an emotionally distressed state.

Around 1.07 pm, a member of the public noticed the boy near the tracks within Mahadevapura police limits and immediately alerted the Namma 112 emergency helpline.

The information was promptly relayed to ASI Venkataraju L. and HC Hanumanthappa Dasara, who were on duty in Hoysala-32 of Byappanahalli police station.

The police personnel reached the spot within three minutes and found the boy sitting close to the railway tracks. Recognising the potential danger, they calmly approached him, spoke to him and moved him to a safe location.

The personnel then contacted the boy's mother and asked her to come to the spot. Police counselled both the student and his mother and advised them appropriately before handing the boy over to his mother.

Harmful chemicals in cosmetics will invite ban: Khader

Karnataka may ban cosmetics containing harmful chemicals after laboratory tests confirm safety violations.



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka government will consider banning cosmetics found containing harmful heavy metals or carcinogenic substances, Health Minister U.T. Khader said.

The statement came after Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA) officials collected 22 cosmetic samples, including lipstick, sunscreen, soap, shampoo and talcum powder, from roadside vendors, malls and showrooms across Bengaluru on Monday.

FSDA Commissioner Srinivas K. said preliminary analysis had detected carcinogenic substances in some products. Officials also identified 23 types of heavy metals and chemicals in various cosmetics. Samples will undergo laboratory testing, following which the government will decide on further action against brands.

"After laboratory analysis, if any harmful heavy metal content is found in cosmetics of any brand, the government will take a decision on banning them," Khader said. Meanwhile, FSDA officials

22	Cosmetic samples collected	23	Types of chemicals/heavy metals identified preliminarily
5	Other establishments inspected for food violations	132 kg	Food articles seized and discarded
15 l	Used cooking oil discarded	45 kg	Rotten meat seized at Skyye

continued inspections of hotels and eateries. The kitchen of Skyye lounge bar at UB City was locked after officials seized 45 kg of rotten meat, 6 kg of rotten vegetable cutlets, mouldy food, reused cooking oil and expired dairy products.

Officials said 132 kg of food articles and 15 litres of used cooking oil were seized and discarded from five other establishments. Notices were issued to several hotels for food safety violations.

Special inspections were also conducted at international food businesses in the Greater Bengaluru Area. At a McDonald's outlet on Brigade Road, officials found magnesium sulfite being used in connection with treatment of used frying oil and issued a notice to the operator.

FSDA steps up inspections

The Food Safety and Drug Administration has intensified inspections across Bengaluru following concerns over cosmetics and food safety. Officials collected 22 cosmetic samples for laboratory testing and reported preliminary detection of carcinogenic substances and heavy metals. Hotel inspections also resulted in seizure and disposal of rotten food, expired dairy products and used cooking oil. Authorities said legal action would follow confirmed violations.

Congress synonymous with corruption, alleges Chalavadi

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

BJP leader and Legislative Council Opposition Leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy on Tuesday accused the Congress of being synonymous with corruption and alleged that the party had introduced corruption to the country.

Speaking at the BJP state office Jagannatha Bhavan in Malleswaram, in the presence of State BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra and Assembly Opposition Leader R. Ashoka, he alleged that Congress leaders selectively raised issues and later avoided responsibility.

Referring to protests at Jantar Mantar over the NEET issue, Narayanaswamy alleged that the Congress had mobilised protests in the name of students. He claimed disruptive forces subsequently attempted to create a threat to the country, following which the

Centre introduced stringent measures.

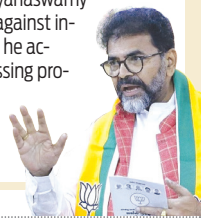
He criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, alleging that he opposed both examination leaks and measures aimed at preventing them.

"What did Rahul Gandhi do then? He opposed the leaks as well as measures to prevent leaks. Isn't this a double standard?" Narayanaswamy asked.

Referring to student protests in Jharkhand, he said students were demanding justice over alleged injustice. He alleged that the Congress and its ally were in power in the State and accused the government of suppressing protesting students. "Where have those who protested at Jantar Mantar disappeared?" he asked. Narayanaswamy said the BJP would stand with the struggles of young people and urged citizens to contribute to national security.

BJP backs student protests

BJP Legislative Council Opposition Leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said the party would stand with young people protesting against injustice. Referring to student demonstrations in Jharkhand, he accused the Congress-led government and its ally of suppressing protesters. He questioned the absence of those who had earlier participated in protests at Jantar Mantar and urged the youth to continue raising their concerns peacefully while safeguarding national interests.



JAPANESE MAN'S LEGAL BATTLE

Japanese man gets Rs 75,000 after 7-year legal battle

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Japanese national Hirotohi Tanaka, who spent 19 days in Bengaluru Central Prison and nearly seven years fighting legal battles, has finally received Rs 75,000 compensation from the Karnataka government.

The 36-year-old psychology graduate came to Bengaluru in October 2019 to study English.

His troubles began after he objected to classes being cancelled at his academy. During an argument with its head, Tanaka admitted punching him after grabbing his arm.

R T Nagar police registered a case against him for voluntarily causing hurt and criminal intimidation.

Though the offences were bailable, Tanaka was arrested on November 23, 2019, and remained in custody for 19 days. After his release, Tanaka alleged that a police officer demanded money from him on multiple occasions.

He later approached the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (KSHRC), alleging bribery and harassment.

The Karnataka High Court quashed the FIR in November 2020 after the coaching centre head agreed to settle the dispute.

Tanaka was deported to Japan in April 2021 but continued pursuing his complaint. The KSHRC ruled in his favour in May 2022 and recommended Rs 75,000 compensation,



besides disciplinary action against the police officer. Tanaka subsequently approached the Karnataka High Court seeking implementation

of the recommendation.

After years of delay, the state government paid Rs 75,000 to his counsel's account on June 22.

Quick Read

Essay and painting competition

CH NEWS, UDUPI
On the occasion of the Jayanthiyutsava of Katapady Brahmarshi Narayanaguru Samaj Seva Sangh, an essay writing competition on the autobiography of Udupi district-level gurus and a drawing competition of gurus has been organized for school and college students in Katapady Vishwanath constituency under the leadership of Narayanaguru Seva Dal on August 23. The essay and painting competition will be held for students from classes 5 to 7 in the primary section, 8 to 10 in the high school section, and 11 and above in the college section. Students can register their names with Shivaprasad of the Seva Dal office or Secretary Suresh T Poojary by August 20. It is mandatory to bring a school identity card or a teacher's letter, said Sudhir D Bangera, Honorary General Secretary of the temple's management board, in a statement.

Applications invited for establishment of Youth Associations

CH NEWS, UDUPI
The Shirur Town Panchayat has decided to establish Bharat Jodo Youth Associations in various parts of the town with the aim of promoting sports culture, scientific spirit and social harmony among the youth. Young men and women between the ages of 16 and 35 who are residents of Shiroor town are allowed to establish youth associations, and each association must consist of 100 youth. It is proposed to form a total of 4 youth associations by identifying respective areas within the town limits. The public of the respective area can join the youth association within their area. The youth should contact the town panchayat with their Aadhaar cards to register the association and obtain necessary information, said Town Panchayat Chief Officer Shivananda Alur in a statement.

Two students die in collapse at separate schools

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA
In two separate incidents in the district, two students collapsed and died at school. Akshara, a student of class 8 at Machenahalli Deaf and Mute School in Bhadravati taluk, collapsed in the school. The student was immediately taken to the nearby NU Hospital. The doctors who examined her said that Akshara died on the way. Akshara, from Annappagere village in Shikaripura taluk, was admitted to a school in Machenahalli on

NIGHTMARE FOR MOTORISTS

Vittal-Kanyana road turns into pothole-ridden stretch, cartoon mocks officials

CH NEWS, MANGALURU
The Vittal-Kanyana road has been reduced to a stretch full of potholes, causing daily hardship to motorists. Amid the poor condition of the road, the public has expressed its anger by putting up satirical cartoons along the roadside mocking officials over the road's poor state. The road connecting Vittal with Bairikatte, Kanyana, Upala and Manjeshwar in Kasargod district is an important inter-state route. More than 1,000 vehicles travel on this road every day. The stretch from Kanathadka to Kanyana has several curves. While one side of the



Wild elephant menace in Sullia, BEO appeals to parents to bring their children to school

District Education Officers said that due to the increasing threat of wild elephants in Sullia, parents have been advised not to send their children to school alone, especially those who travel through the forest, but to accompany them to school.

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

The menace of wild elephants continues in the Dugaladka, Kandadka, Neerbidire and Koikuli areas of Sullia Nagar Panchayat. As a precautionary measure, a holiday was declared for the school on Monday after elephants roamed around the Koikuli school premises on Sunday morning. A herd of wild elephants, which have been camped in the Kandadka area for the past several days, has now entered the Neerbidire and Koikuli areas.



There is a suspicion that they are camping in the forest in the same area, and Koikuli School was declared a holiday on Monday for the safety of the school children. The school reopened on Tuesday with safety measures in place. Forest Department officials

The Sullia ETF is also being supported by the Panja zone staff. In the wake of the elephant menace, MLA Bhagirathi Murulya called the forest department officials to their office and held an emergency meeting to discuss the measures to be taken for elephant control and public safety.

and Elephant Task Force (ETF) personnel visited the elephant transit area, monitored the movement of the elephants, and have begun

operations to safely return them to the forest. However, special precautions have been taken for the safety of children in the wake of the movement of wild elephants in the school environment. The Forest Department has promised to deploy staff for the safety of children during the school period. In the wake of the fear of wild elephants, especially on forest roads, parents have been advised not to send children to school alone, but to accompany their children to school.

Similarly, even after school ends in the evening, parents should come to school and take their children home with them. There should be no negligence in the matter of children's safety. We are in constant contact with the Forest Department regarding the movement of elephants and the situation is being monitored. I appeal to parents not to panic, take necessary precautions and follow the instructions of the department, Sullia Area Education Officer YS Haragi told.

Self-study and implementation for self-well-being

CH NEWS, UDUPI

This is the 16th Chaturmasya of Elacharya 108 Sri Prasang Sagar Muni, the second in Tulunadu. He had conducted the first Chaturmasya in 2017 in Venur constituency. Now he has conducted the Chaturmasya in Karkala. The Mahamastakabhisheka of Karkala Bahubali will be held in the first half of 2027, and it is special that the Chaturmasya of the sages is taking place before it. The Digambara tradition holds a unique place in Jainism. As the sages have said, anyone can embrace Jainism. Because its principle is to wish for the well-being of all. The motto 'Ahimsa Paramo Dharma' wishes for the well-being of the world.



The Elacharya 108 Sri Prasang Sagar Muni, is conducting the Chaturmasya fast at the Tyagi Bhaan of the Jain monastery at Karkala.

Usually, with the onset of the rainy season, changes occur in nature. Due to the continuous rains for four months, various microscopic insects and other living creatures emerge in the earth. To avoid the suffering caused to millions of living beings and to escape the diseases of the rainy season, the monks stop moving around for a while and stay in one place for four months and observe a fast, this is Chaturmasya, says Elacharya 108 Prasang Sagara Sri.

go wherever the disciples call and give them the necessary religious teachings. During Chaturmasya, the sages practice self-study, practice Japa tapasya, recite scriptures, and give religious teachings to the devotees for their spiritual well-being. Elacharya sages wake up at 4 am every day and conduct devotional devotionals, meditation, and sadhana. Then they talk to those who come to meet them and give them guidance. After receiving food at 9.30 am, they talk to the devotees. From 12 to 3 pm, they meditate, study, and read re-

Feast of St Lawrence celebrated with faith, fervour at Bondel

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

The annual feast of St Lawrence Church and Shrine, Bondel, was celebrated with deep faith, devotion and spiritual fervour, bringing together a large number of parishioners, devotees, pilgrims, clergy and well-wishers from Mangaluru and beyond. The festive Eucharistic celebration in the morning was presided over by Dr Peter Paul Saldanha, bishop of Mangalore, as the main celebrant. Several priests celebrated the Holy Mass, including Fr Basil Vas, parish priest and shrine rector; Fr Lawrence Cutinha, assistant parish priest; Fr Peter Gonçalves, principal of St Lawrence English Medium School; and Fr Richard Coelho, vicar forane of the City Deanery. In his homily, Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha presented St Lawrence as a model of courageous faith, selfless love and service to the poor. Reflecting on St Lawrence's famous witness, he reminded the faithful that the poor, sick and suffering are the true treasures of the Church. Linking his message to the feast theme, "Love one another as I have loved you", he urged everyone to make Christ's love visible through compassion, service and concern for those who are lonely, forgotten and struggling.



As the feast concluded, the faithful departed with hearts renewed in faith and inspired to 'love and serve' like St Lawrence, carrying forward his example of courage, generosity and faithful service in their daily lives.

The closing ceremony and Thanksgiving Mass in the evening was celebrated by Dr Francis Serrao, Bishop of Mysore, as the principal celebrant. In his homily, Bishop Serrao reflected on Christ's command to love one another and emphasized that genuine Christian love is expressed through service, forgiveness, generosity and sacrifice. Pointing to St Lawrence as an example, he encouraged the faithful to give wholeheartedly and to follow the saint's spirit of love and service. The liturgy was enriched by the Bondel church choir during the morning celebration and the Bondel parish children's choir during the closing Eucharist. The celebrations were supported by the Parish Council, Shrine Committee, commissions, associations, youth, volunteers

and various service teams. Generous donors were also felicitated with candles as a token of gratitude. At the conclusion of the closing ceremony, Fr Basil Vas, parish priest and shrine rector, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the bishops, priests, religious, parishioners, pilgrims, donors, benefactors, volunteers, choir members, liturgy teams, youth, media personnel, civil authorities and all those who contributed to the success of the feast. The feast flag, hoisted on August 1 to mark the beginning of the novena, was ceremonially lowered, signifying the conclusion of the annual feast. The presence of people from different walks of life and faith traditions added to the spirit of unity, harmony and devotion.

Kerala's Aija's brother, who committed suicide over NEET, commits suicide

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Arjun Mahesh (24), the brother of Aija R Mahesh (19), who recently committed suicide in Kerala over NEET, committed suicide on Monday under the jurisdiction of Bajpe police station, upset over the death of his sister. City Police Commissioner Sudhir Kumar Reddy shared information that a man named Arjun from Kasargod was found dead in a hotel in the city, apparently committing suicide. The exact reason for his suicide is not known. Arjun, originally a resident of Mukkudu in Kasaragod district, was working as an automobile engineer in Dubai. He was staying at a hotel in Maravoor under Bajpe police station limits. He was found hanging in his hotel room, Sudhir Kumar Reddy said. Death note found: The police, who visited the spot after receiving the news and inspected it, did not find any death note at the scene. However, a small note was written on it, Amma, I'm sorry, and asked two of his close friends to inform it, Commissioner Reddy said. The exact cause of the incident is yet to be known, but officials from Bajpe Police Station have visited the



spot and conducted an investigation. The police, who have registered a case, are conducting further investigations. Arjun had arrived in Mangaluru from Sharjah a day before his death. Despite repeated attempts by family members, he could not be contacted. He may have committed suicide due to the death of his sister. Police suspect that the exact cause will be known after the post-mortem examination. Speaking about the incident, Pallikkara Panchayat member Soumini Ramakrishnan expressed her grief, saying, "The family was already in pain due to Aija's death. Now Arjun's death has also brought grief. On June 3, Arjun's younger sister Aija (19) committed suicide by hanging herself in a hostel attached to a private NEET coaching centre in Cherpunkal, Pala. It was said that she had committed suicide due to mental stress while preparing for the re-examination after being upset over the NEET question paper leak.

Punctuality of pointsman saves life of passenger falling from moving train

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

A passenger who was in danger after accidentally falling from a moving train escaped unhurt due to the punctuality and bravery of pointsman Sandeep Nayak, who was on duty at Surathkal railway station on Monday (August 10), said Konkani Railway Public Relations Officer (PRO) K Sudha Krishnamurthy. The Madgaon - Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) Express train, train number 10107 that arrived at Surathkal station reached the station at 11:11 am on Monday and was ready to depart at 12:12 pm. When the train started moving slowly, a passenger ran and tried to board the moving train. At this time, he lost his way and started falling into the dangerous gap between the platform and the coach of the train. At the same time, Sandeep Nayak, the pointsman on duty at the station, realized the danger in a moment. Without delay, he immediately rushed to the scene and, with great courage and punctuality, pulled the passenger who was falling between the coach and the platform out. Due to this quick action of Sandeep Nayak, a possible disaster was averted. The train was then restarted at 12:16 pm and sent off.

Quick Read

Koppal seeks rental building for girls' hostel

CH NEWS, KOPPAL
The Social Welfare Department has invited private building owners to offer a suitable property for rent to house a post-matric girls' hostel in Koppal. The department needs a building that can accommodate 100 students and has basic facilities, including 10 toilets and 10 bathrooms. Interested owners should submit their proposals along with the required documents to the Assistant Director, Grade-I, Social Welfare Department, Koppal. The office is located near the new RTO office. Officials said the requirement has arisen because many students have been admitted to the hostel. Owners with suitable buildings have been urged to respond.

Koppal invites groups to organize Dasara games

CH NEWS, KOPPAL
The Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports has invited applications from private educational institutions and NGOs to organize taluk-level Dasara Games during 2026-27. Eligible organizations should have experience in conducting sports events, community activities, and government awareness programmes in their respective taluks. Applicants must agree to follow all department rules and successfully conduct the games. Interested institutions have been advised to collect complete details from the department before submitting their proposals. Applications must reach the department by August 24. For more information, organizations can contact the Assistant Director of the District Youth Empowerment and Sports Department at 08539-230121.

Retired employees of postal Dept hold get together

Mysuru
A get-together was held at Rishi Samskruti Kendra near Apollo Hospital, Mysuru, organised by retired Senior Accounts Officer Smt. Nagalakshmi. The programme brought together retired and serving postal department employees to share experiences and strengthen bonds, in memory of her father Moortiraya. Participants appreciated her efforts and continued support to colleagues. Her husband Ramarao and family members were present. Retired officials including S. Rajasekhar, N. Prakash, D. Shivayya, Dr. P. Shantaram Urs, Rajagopal, Obaiah, and others attended and shared their views.

MLA T.S. Srivatsa Launches 2026's Fifth-Week Drive

MYSURU
K.R. Assembly constituency MLA T.S. Srivatsa launched the fifth-week programme of the 2026 edition of the 'Green Mysuru' campaign, organised by Team Mysuru. As part of the programme, 31 saplings of different varieties were planted along Nanjangud Road, starting from the Gun House area. Srivatsa formally launched the drive by planting a sapling. BJP Vibhag Prabhari Swami Maralapura, former corporator of Ward 51 B.V. Manjunath, and more than 30

Shivraj Thangadgi assures fair water supply for farmers

Thangadgi assured farmers of fair canal water distribution, urging patience pending reservoir assessment and consultations with elected representatives and farmer leaders

CH NEWS, KOPPAL
—Minister Shivraj Thangadgi said the government would ensure fair distribution of Tungabhadra Project canal water among farmers in Koppal, Vijayanagar, Ballari and Raichur districts. Speaking before the 126th Irrigation Advisory Committee meeting at the TBP Hall in Munirabad on Tuesday, he said farmers' welfare remained the government's priority.

Thangadgi said the state was facing drought-like conditions despite rainfall in some areas, with 177 taluks affected by drought. He said water had reached the Tunga and Bhadra reservoirs and that the Tungabhadra reservoir currently had around 82 TMC of water. He asked farmers and people's representatives to consider the available water before deciding the release schedule.



Farmer leaders from Koppal, Vijayanagar, Ballari and Raichur demanded that the available 82 TMC of water be released into the canals to protect standing crops. They also urged the committee to pass a resolution immediately and ensure that downstream farmers were not denied their share of water.

Thangadgi said the government would not do injustice to farmers while releasing canal water. He requested patience until the reservoir position was assessed and discussions

FARMERS DEMAND IMMEDIATE CANAL WATER RELEASE

Farmer leaders from Koppal, Vijayanagar, Ballari and Raichur districts urged authorities to release Tungabhadra canal water immediately for crops. Speaking ahead of the irrigation advisory committee meeting, they said the reservoir had 82 TMC of water and farmers were suffering as paddy, chilli, cotton and pulses faced drying conditions. Leaders also demanded repairs to canals, water measurement, action against illegal water drawing and an end to the on-off release system. They sought adequate drinking water and called for a separate meeting with ministers, legislators and officials to resolve canal-related issues. Farmers said timely action was essential to protect crops.

sions were held with elected representatives and farmer leaders. The committee considered the concerns of farmers from different districts before taking decisions on water distribution.

MLAs K. Raghavendra Hittal, Basanagouda Daddal, Hampangouda Badarli,

G. Hampaiiah Nayak, Basanagouda Turavihal, S.

Shivaraj Patil, Annapurna Tukarama and J.N. Ganesh attended the meeting. KADA president Hasanabas Nabisab Dotihal, officials, engineers and farmer leaders were also present.

The committee discussed protecting standing crops while maintaining a fair balance between upstream and downstream farmers.

Hindustani vocal recital in Mysuru on Aug 16

MYSURU

A Hindustani classical vocal concert by Pandit M.P. Hegde of Padigere will be held in Mysuru on August 16 as part of the 'Ninaada Griha Sangeeta'. The concert will begin at 6 pm at 'Ninaada', Rishabh Siddhi Layout, Kergalli, Mysuru.

Hegde, a musician from the Gwalior gharana, will perform khayal, thumri and tappa. He will be accompanied by Bhimashankar Bidanur on tabla and Pandit Veerabhadrayya Hiremath on harmonium.

Hegde, from Padigere near Sirsi, learnt music from his father and later trained under Pandit R.T. Hegde Shigehalli for several decades. He secured the first rank in the Karnataka government's Vidwat examination in 1979 and completed the Sangeet Alankar examination conducted by Gandharva Mahavidyalaya in 1980. He has also been an All India Radio artiste.

FDP on e-vehicle powertrain and battery management system begins

MYSURU

A five-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "Emerging Trends in Electric Vehicle Powertrain and Battery Management System" was inaugurated at Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering (VVCE), Mysuru on Tuesday.

It is jointly organised by the Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

The programme was inaugurated by the chief guest, Suraj S.D., Director, Decibels Lab Private Limited, Bengaluru. Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted the rapidly evolving technologies in the electric vehicle sector, advanced powertrain systems and the impor-



tance of Battery Management Systems (BMS). There is a need to achieve technological self-reliance in the electric vehicle sector through indigenous research, development of innovative technologies and stronger collaboration between industry and academic institutions.

VVCE Principal B. Sadashive Gowda presided over

the programme. VVCE Vice-Principal Shobha Shankar was present as the guest of honour.

Vinay K.B., Professor and Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Dr. Gopal Reddy K., Professor and Head of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, are serving as the programme coordinators.

Ravi K.S. and Mohammed Jalaluddin are working as programme coordinators.

During the five-day programme, experts will provide guidance and insights into various aspects of electric vehicle powertrains, battery technology, Battery Management Systems (BMS), power electronics and control systems.

Dr Mahadevappa, Venkatesh & Tanveer Sait hold closed-door huddle

MYSURU

A private meeting between three senior Congress leaders who were left out of the recent Cabinet expansion has created fresh political interest in Karnataka. Former ministers Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, K. Venkatesh and Tanveer Sait met in Mysuru on Tuesday for a closed-door discussion. Their meeting has drawn attention because all three leaders are senior members of the party and were seen as possible choices for ministerial positions. The development has raised questions about whether a new political understanding is emerging within the ruling Congress.

Tanveer Sait later played down the political importance of the meeting but admitted that the current situation had brought the three leaders together. He said they belonged to the same party but had not been particularly close earlier. According to Sait, the situation after the Cabinet expansion required them to discuss their concerns. He also indicated that the leaders felt they should perhaps have met much earlier. His remarks have added to speculation about growing disappointment among senior Congress leaders who were not included in the expanded ministry.

The meeting comes at a time when the Congress leadership is trying to maintain unity after the Cabinet changes. Several leaders who expected ministerial positions have reportedly been unhappy with the outcome. While there

The meeting follows Cabinet changes, amid Congress efforts to maintain unity, with disgruntled leaders possibly discussing concerns and whether to jointly approach party leadership

has been no clear indication of any organised group, the meeting has started discussions about whether the three leaders could jointly present their concerns to the party leadership. For now, the exact issues discussed during their private meeting have not been made public.

Later in the evening, Urban Development and Mysuru District In-charge Minister Dr. Yatindra Siddaramaiah met Mahadevappa, Venkatesh and Sait. His visit is being seen as an effort to understand their concerns and prevent the issue from growing into a larger dispute. Details of the discussion were not immediately available, but the meeting suggested that party leaders were keen to address the situation before it affects the Congress's public image.

The developments have left party workers and political observers watching closely. The key question is whether the Mysuru meeting was simply an informal discussion among disappointed senior leaders or the beginning of a wider political conversation. With the leaders yet to reveal their next steps, speculation is likely to continue until they make their position clear.

Student Union must become a voice of youth: Usha Narasimhan

MYSURU

The inauguration of the Student Union for the academic year 2026-27 of MMK and SDM Women's College, Mysuru, was held with enthusiasm on the college premises.

Inaugurating the programme and speaking as the chief guest, Usha Narasimhan, president of the Mysuru division of the Karnataka Lekhakiyara Sangha and noted novelist, said that a student union represents the institutional and organisational spirit of students. "Organisational strength is more powerful and valuable than individual interests. So, students should emerge as the voice of youth and as a voice that respects tradition. Along with pursuing a degree, they should cultivate discipline, restraint and culture.

She stressed the importance of women receiving quality education and said that women's empowerment was contributing to improving the lives of women. She congratulated the newly elected office-bearers and urged them to organise meaningful programmes through the Student Union, address challenges and move forward with confidence.

S.P. Shobha, Principal of MMK and SDM Pre-University College, who was another guest, said students should be like pure pearls formed from water and should imbibe the quality of adaptability found in water.

Quoting Swami Vivekananda's message that one must build one's own life, she said students should shape their future through determination and hard work. Believe in yourself first and move forward; this will open the path to achievement.

Presiding over the programme, Prof. N. Bharathi, Principal of the college, congratulated all the newly elected and nominated members of the Student Union.

Student Welfare Officer Jyothilakshmi G. Kava administered the oath of office and inducted the newly appointed Student Union representatives.

IQAC Coordinator K.S. Sukruth, Student Welfare Officer Jyothilakshmi G. Kava, Student Union President Sanjana,

Secretary Vaishnavi, class representatives, Student Union representatives, teaching and non-teaching staff were present at the programme.

“Environmental conservation is everyone’s responsibility”

MYSURU

As part of World Environment Day celebrations, a tree-planting programme was organised by Mysuru Lion Garden City at the Padma Shri Saalumara Thimmakka Park in the KBL Silicon City Layout near Hebbal in Mysuru. Speaking after planting saplings, Lion Garden City Secretary Dr. E.C. Ningraj Gowda said environmental conservation should not be limited to a one-day programme but must become an integral part of everyone's life. Trees provide humanity with clean air and shade while playing a vital role in maintaining ecological

balance. With the rapid increase in concrete construction in urban areas, green spaces are steadily declining. Keeping the welfare of future generations in mind, it is the collective responsibility of everyone to plant more trees and ensure their protection and proper maintenance, he said. Dr. Ningraj Gowda called upon people to contribute to environmental conservation by planting and nurturing trees in their homes, schools, offices and public spaces. "Everyone should come forward with the resolve of 'One Person—One Tree' and contribute towards building a greener Mysuru," he said.



A STATEWIDE CALL FOR EMPATHY, TRANSPARENCY, AND DECENTRALIZED GOVERNANCE

Drought crisis: State demands "Team Karnataka" approach

BENGALURU

In a massive, unprecedented administrative outreach, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar convened a sweeping video conference on Tuesday, addressing over 2.5 lakh state government officials across 750 locations.

Speaking from the Banquet Hall of Vidhana Soudha, the Chief Minister delivered a clear, impassioned mandate: politicians and bureaucrats must dismantle traditional hierarchies and operate purely as "Team Karnataka."

Against the backdrop of a looming ecological and agricultural crisis—with 164 of the state's 240 taluks facing severe drought conditions—the state's leadership underscored that bureaucratic delays and corruption would be met with zero tolerance. With groundwater levels plummet-



ing and a devastating lack of rainfall severely affecting crop yields, the government announced emergency relief measures, including the distribution of 1,00,000 fodder kits and the authorization of 51,000 man-days of labor under the VB-G Ram G employ-

ment scheme to curb rural migration. The sprawling virtual summit brought district-level administrators, police chiefs, and local panchayat officials face-to-face with top state leadership, resulting in tailored, region-specific directives aimed at stabilizing

Karnataka's agrarian economy and reforming its public services. Below are the detailed reports from key districts across the state, highlighting how local administrations are translating the Chief Minister's grand vision into immediate action.

MANDYA: GROWERS IN CRISIS

MANDYA

The agricultural heartland of Mandya is confronting a severe climatic anomaly. During Tuesday's extensive virtual interaction, local officials presented a grim reality to the state leadership: the district is grappling with a staggering 70% rainfall deficit for the crucial monsoon months of July and August.

The acute lack of rain has essentially stalled the sowing season, forcing the district administration to declare a localized monsoon failure. Responding to the crisis, the Chief Minister instructed the Agriculture Department and district administrators to establish a seamless coordination network to shield farmers from the brunt of the extreme weather. The situation in Man-

Directives for Mandya

- **Alternative cropping:** Officials must immediately initiate aggressive awareness campaigns to transition farmers away from water-intensive crops like paddy and sugarcane, promoting drought-resistant alternatives.
- **Grassroots presence:** Politicians and bureaucrats must operate directly from the taluk level to prevent farmers from having to travel long distances for grievance redressal.
- **Strategic Water Management:** Every drop of available water must be mapped and prioritized for local agricultural survival before interstate allocations are finalized.

dya is further complicated by interstate water-sharing obligations. The Cauvery Water Management Committee has recently mandated Karnataka to release 12,000 cusecs of water daily to neighboring Tamil Nadu over the next fortnight. Acknowledging the anxiety this has caused among local agriculturists, the Chief Minister assured that the state

cabinet would review the water release mandate in a high-level meeting within the coming days, keeping the interests of Karnataka's farmers at the absolute forefront.

In a strong rebuke of performative governance, the Chief Minister urged local leaders to abandon "publicity-driven programs" in favor of concrete fieldwork.

GADAG: COMBATING DRY SPELL

GADAG

The cascading effects of the drought have taken a heavy financial toll on the agrarian communities of Gadag. Following a comprehensive three-day ground inspection by Cabinet Minister Basavaraj Rayareddy, the district reported estimated agricultural and horticultural damages soaring to ₹164 crore.

During the video conference, the Joint Director of Agriculture for Gadag provided an urgent briefing to the state leadership, highlighting the district's proactive yet desperate measures. Recognizing the impending crop failures, the local administration has successfully mobilized a massive insurance registration drive. To date, an impressive 152,349 local farmers have been registered under the state's flagship crop insurance scheme (PMFBY), splitting into roughly 139,000 agricultural cultivators and 12,000 horticultural workers. However, the



Directives for Gadag

- **Immediate Compensation Tracking:** Local officials are tasked with monitoring the status of every registered farmer's insurance claim to prevent corporate delays.
- **Livestock Protection:** With neighboring states also facing crop failures, fodder imports have dried up. Gadag officials must prioritize the local distribution of the state's newly procured fodder kits.
- **Employment Generation:** Accelerate public works to ensure landless agricultural laborers have immediate access to daily wage work, mitigating the risk of mass migration to urban centers.

state leadership noted with frustration that insurance companies are dragging their feet on disbursing legitimate compensation. The Deputy Chief Minister

promised swift intervention, assuring that a separate governmental inquiry would be launched to force insurance providers to expedite payouts.

Vijayapura: Conscience of governance

VIJAYAPURA

Adopting a deeply philosophical tone, the Chief Minister addressed the civil servants of Vijayapura with a reminder of the historical weight their positions carry. "We do not want to merely read or write history; we are here to create it," he proclaimed, invoking the legacies of architectural and administrative pioneers like Kengal Hanumanthaiah and Sir M. Visvesvaraya.

The Chief Minister reminded the bureaucrats that out of Karnataka's sprawling population of over 70 million, only a fraction—roughly 550,000 individuals—have been granted the privilege of government employment. He framed this not as a right to authority, but as a sacred duty to serve the public. Power, he noted, is an opportunity bestowed by the people, and success is measured solely by how effectively that power translates into public welfare.

He further proudly referenced Karnataka's global standing, noting that international leaders often look to Bengaluru before the national capital—a testament to de-

Directives for Vijayapura

- **The 'Praja Seva' Initiative:** Implementation of a new public service framework requiring swift, local resolution to basic infrastructure demands like housing and drinking water.
- **Ethical Administration:** Employees were urged to work according to their conscience, embracing a mantra of "sharing and caring" rather than relying on strict bureaucratic red tape.
- **Youth Empowerment:** Rapid rollout of the 'Bharat Jodo Yuva Sangh' to engage young people in revolutionary public service and community building

CADES of clean governance, visionary investments by the historic Maharajas, and the enduring brilliance of the state's human capital.

The focus now, he argued, must be on ensuring that this top-tier development reaches the most marginalized rural pockets of districts like Vijayapura.

Directives for Karwar

- **Strict Residency Rule:** All government staff must physically reside within their assigned headquarters; violators face immediate disciplinary action.
- **Voter List Integrity:** Following 100% digitization of electoral rolls, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) must meticulously verify all recent name deletions to ensure no legitimate voter is disenfranchised.
- **Radical Transparency:** The deployment of public complaint boards and the immediate publication of civil servant contact directories to dismantle administrative secrecy.

KARWAR

In Karwar, the Chief Minister's message of transparency was met with immediate, strict implementation protocols by the local administration. Deputy Commissioner K. Lakshmi Priya wasted no time in translating the state's broad guidelines into hard, non-negotiable rules for the district's civil workforce.

In a bid to eliminate the absentee-bureaucrat culture, the district administration announced a severe crackdown on officials living outside their assigned headquarters. The practice of officials commuting from comfortable urban centers to rural postings—of-

ten resulting in truncated workdays—has been strictly outlawed. To enforce this, Karwar is compiling a comprehensive, transparent administrative manual. By August 15, the names, exact office locations, verified mobile numbers, and residential addresses of every government employee in the district will be made a matter of public record. Furthermore, anti-corruption mechanisms are being heavily fortified. Dedicated helplines and bold informational boards will be installed in every government building, empowering citizens to report bribery directly to the Chief Minister's Office, which is actively monitoring localized complaints.

CHITRADURGA: SECURING THE FUTURE

CHITRADURGA

The video conference in Chitradurga highlighted the intersection of social justice and digital innovation. The state government announced a historic, massive campaign to secure the land rights of rural and urban citizens through the issuance of digitized property records—delivered entirely free of cost and without the traditional hurdles of bribery.

Termed as a "land guarantee scheme," the initiative aims to distribute photographic, signed e-Khatas (property certificates) directly to the doorsteps of 11.1 million rural households and 2.5 million urban families within the next six months. The Chief Minister framed this as the unwritten "sixth guarantee" of his administration, de-

Directives for Chitradurga

- **Doorstep Document Delivery:** Execute the flawless, bribe-free distribution of e-Khatas across all panchayats and hoblis over the next two quarters.
- **Digital Auditing:** Mandate the use of modern technology to verify beneficiary identities and cross-reference welfare claims, effectively stopping "double billing."
- **Mandatory Field Inspections:** Taluk-level officers, including PDOs and Tahsildars, must submit daily activity logs detailing their physical visits to local schools, hospitals, and ashrams.

signed to provide absolute security to the hard-earned assets of the working class. To ensure the integrity of this massive rollout, as well as the state's existing welfare guarantees, Chitradurga officials were instructed to embrace advanced technology. By utilizing digital

records, biometric verification, and comprehensive data scanning across municipal and public works departments, the government intends to entirely eliminate the scourge of fake billing, duplicate beneficiaries, and tampered property documents.

HAVERI: HONORING THE PAST, BUILDING THE FUTURE

HAVERI

The interaction in Haveri carried a strong focus on community cohesion and democratic participation. Addressing the district's officials, the Chief Minister reiterated the urgent need to decentralize problem-solving. Bureaucratic hurdles should not force a farmer from Haveri to travel to the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru; rather, the Vidhana Soudha's authority must be exercised by the local Tahsildar on the ground.

To foster cultural and social unity in the wake of agricultural distress, the state

Directives for Haveri:

- **Democratic Vigilance:** Officials must remain hyper-vigilant regarding the SIR (voter roll revision) process, particularly ensuring that marginalized groups, minorities, and backward classes are not unjustly removed from the electoral lists.
 - **Grassroots Grants:** Facilitate the immediate establishment and funding of Bharat Jodo Sanghas to promote local unity and youth empowerment.
 - **Accountability Checkpoints:** District officials were warned that the state leadership will conduct random audits and direct calls to welfare beneficiaries every three months to independently verify that government services are reaching the ground uncompromised.
- announced the rollout of the "Bharat Jodo Sanghas" across all local panchayats. Backed by an annual gov-

ernment grant of ₹10 lakh per association, these grassroots groups are intended to be hubs of youth engage-

ment, social harmony, and localized talent development. The administration ordered that the membership drives for these groups be completed by the end of the month, ensuring inclusion across all communities and demographics. Additionally, a strong directive was issued regarding the upcoming Independence Day celebrations. Education officers were instructed to ensure that every school—private and public alike—participates vigorously in the national celebration, using the moment to instill a sense of shared civic responsibility in the younger generation.

Bidar leaders seek early approval for railway bridges

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale and former Legislative Council chairman Raghunath Rao Malkapure have urged the Union Railway Ministry to speed up work on two important railway bridges in Bidar.

They appealed for an overbridge near the Shapur railway gate and an underbridge near the old Adarsh Colony railway gate.

The leaders met Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti V. Somanna in New Delhi. They explained that the Detailed Project Report process for both projects was already

underway and requested early approvals and funds so construction could begin without further delay.

They said railway gates at Shapur and the old Adarsh Colony cause daily traffic jams and inconvenience to residents. An overbridge and underbridge would help vehicles move smoothly, reduce waiting time and improve safety near the railway crossings. The leaders also requested that the Vande Bharat service currently running up to Kalaburagi be extended to Bidar. They sought a new Bidar-Bengaluru train through Kalaburagi to improve connectivity.

Somanna responded positively and assured the del-

egation that the proposals would be examined and necessary action taken. Beldale said continued efforts would be made through the Railway Department to fulfil the long-standing demands of Bidar residents. MP B.Y. Raghavendra, BJP district president Somnath Patil, MLAs Prabhu B. Chavan and Sharanu Salagara, former MLAs Prakash Khadre, and BJP leaders Peerappa Yaranalli, Kiran Patil, Babu Wali, Baburao Karbari, Basavaraja Arya and Ishwar Singh Thakur were present. The leaders said improved railway infrastructure would support safer travel, ease congestion and strengthen Bidar's development.

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

National Librarians Day is observed on August 12, marking the birth anniversary of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, regarded as the father of library science.

Dr. Suresh Dharmappa Horakeri, a librarian and social worker, believes libraries play a vital role in building knowledgeable and responsible citizens. He says books improve understanding, while libraries make diverse knowledge accessible to everyone.

Horakeri's work reflects this belief. He has contributed to library development and social service through environmental, educational and cultural initiatives. He has served as secretary of the

Rani Channamma Environmental Service Committee and Basava Environmental Protection Committee, while also supporting literacy and science awareness activities. His efforts connect books, learning and community service, giving libraries a wider social purpose.

He earned his Ph.D. in Library and Information Science under Dr. Gururaja Hadagali at Karnataka University. His career combines professional discipline with public service.

He has helped develop library facilities, organized literary and cultural programmes, and encouraged environmental awareness through tree planting and water conservation campaigns.



His commitment has earned him several awards and honours.

Horakeri's simple and service-oriented approach has remained strong despite setbacks and criticism. He values honesty, discipline, patience and respect for others, and believes librarians should understand readers and guide them according to their inter-

ests. He has also taken responsibilities in professional and literary organisations, including the Karnataka Vachana Sahitya Parishad and library associations. His work has earned recognition from educational and social organisations.

His journey shows that a librarian can be more than a keeper of books.

Quick Read

Vani Vilas Sagar to close for safety assessment

CHITRADURGA

Public access to Vani Vilas Sagar and Gayatri reservoirs in Chitradurga district will remain restricted from August 12 to 16, officials said. The temporary closure is being enforced as an Independent Panel of Experts conducts a detailed safety assessment under the Dam Safety Act, 2021. Experts will inspect both reservoirs and review their safety during the five-day visit. Some urgent dam safety works will also be carried out during this period. Officials have asked visitors not to enter the reservoir areas and to cooperate with the restrictions. The inspection is aimed at ensuring the dams remain safe and secure.

Gadag fisheries invites applications for subsidy schemes

GADAG

Beneficiaries in Gadag can apply online for fisheries subsidy schemes for 2026-27. The schemes include support for fish markets, two-wheelers and ice boxes, pond construction, fish farming, fishing equipment kits, fish fry purchase and stocking of Gram Panchayat lakes. Special assistance is available for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe fishermen. The last date to submit applications is September 11. Applicants can apply through www.gadag.nic.in. For details, contact the Deputy Director of Fisheries, or the Assistant Directors in Gadag and Mundaragi. Officials urged applicants to apply before the deadline without delay.

Parameshwara promises support for drought-hit farmers

Parameshwara directed officials to stay at headquarters and address public grievances promptly, with the new department ensuring faster solutions statewide

TUMAKURU

Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara on Tuesday inspected drought-hit areas and drinking water facilities across Tumakuru district, urging officials to treat the situation as an emergency. In Gubbi, he visited a borewell drilled under the Emergency Action Plan grant at Yaduvanahalli and reviewed water availability and supply arrangements for villagers. In Kunigal, he visited Naganahalli and Mandanapalya, where arecanut plantations were drying because of water shortage. Farmers sought drought relief and water through the Hemavati Express Link Canal. Parameshwara said the government had approved Rs.1,000 crore for the project, with Rs.450



crore already released. He said objections from farmers in Turuvekere and Chikkanayakanahalli would be addressed through talks. During a video conference, Parameshwara directed officials to remain at their headquarters and respond quickly to public problems. He said the new Public Service Department would help people receive quicker solutions from village offices to the state headquarters. He said drought had severely affected groundnut,

At a Glance

- Drought situation declared an emergency for officials
- ₹1,000 crore approved for Hemavati canal project
- ₹450 crore already released for project
- Farmers assured drought relief and water support
- One lakh quintals fodder seed distribution planned
- Employment works to prevent drought-driven migration

arecanut and other crops, while borewells had also dried in some areas. The

government would support farmers, ensure fodder supply and improve crop insurance access. He noted that Tumakuru Milk Producers Union planned to distribute one lakh quintals of fodder seed across the district. Parameshwara asked officials to repair rain gauges and monitor rainfall. He said weather officials had warned of worsening drought conditions in September. Officials were told to speed up employment under the VB Ji Ram Ji scheme, ensure timely wage payments and prevent migration. In Chikkanayakanahalli, he inspected dredging work and distributed millet seeds to farmers. He ordered an inquiry into an allegation that a Gram Panchayat Development Officer had demanded money.

CEO vacancy puts Gadag administration under pressure

CH NEWS, Malinagaraya pujar

Administrative work in Gadag district is facing difficulties as the Zilla Panchayat has remained without a permanent Chief Executive Officer for nearly a year. District Collector C.N. Sridhar is currently handling the additional responsibilities of Zilla Panchayat CEO and Municipal Administration Officer, along with his regular duties. IAS officer Bharat, who was serving as Zilla Panchayat CEO, was transferred in August 2025. Since then, the government has not appointed a permanent replacement. Citizens and farmer organisations say the arrangement has increased the workload on the Collector and delayed the disposal of important files. The absence of elected bodies has added to the concerns. Elections to the Zilla Panchayat, Taluk Panchayats and local bodies have not been held,

“Officials are not willing to come to Gadag district due to pressure from influential former ministers of the district, which is hampering the development of the district. The government should immediately take steps to appoint a permanent CEO” Anil Menasinakai, BJP leader in Gadag

leaving people with fewer elected representatives to raise local issues. Residents claim this has affected the implementation of rural and urban development programmes and government welfare schemes. Several project files related to drinking water, sanitation, drainage and roads are reportedly awaiting approval. The district is also facing poor rainfall, and preparations are underway to assess the drought situation. Citizens say the shortage of senior officials is making it harder to respond quickly to these challenges.

Officials stress regular deworming for healthy growth

CHITRADURGA

Taluk Health Officer Dr. B.V. Girish urged children to take deworming tablets every six months, saying the simple step can protect them from worms, malnutrition and anemia while supporting better learning and healthy growth. Girish spoke after children were given the tablets at a National Deworming Day programme held at SMS Pre-University College in the city. The event was jointly organized by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, health department, Taluk Health Officer’s office and Education Department, with students and health workers taking part. District Health Education Officer T. Krishnanayak stressed that personal hygiene is important. He advised peo-

ple to wash fruits and vegetables with clean water before eating them and to wear footwear while walking outdoors. Sub-district Health Education Officer Govindareddy Konnur urged people to wash their hands with soap before meals, after using the toilet and after handling garbage to reduce infection risks and protect health daily. Officials said free Albendazole tablets are provided to children aged one to 19 through Anganwadi centres, schools and colleges. The tablets are given on February 10 and August 10. During it, 100 college students and 86 children took the tablets. Children who missed the dose will receive it on August 17. Officials urged families to keep children healthy and make deworming a regular habit for better health.

Negligent Officials Will Face Action, Minister Warns

CHITRADURGA

District In-charge Minister T. Raghumurthy warned officials that disciplinary action would follow if they neglected their duties or delayed public services. Speaking at the District Disaster Management Meeting at the Zilla Panchayat Hall on Tuesday, he asked officials to work responsibly and solve public problems without delay. Raghumurthy said officials should conduct field inspections instead of relying only on reports submitted during meetings. He directed taluk-level officers to remain at their headquarters during droughts and other emergencies. Officials should not leave without permission, he said, adding that negligence, financial irregularities and in-

highlights of meeting

- Public meeting planned for faster grievance resolution
- Field inspections ordered instead of relying reports
- Headquarters stay mandatory during drought emergencies
- Compensation sought for 1.18 lakh hectares

difference towards people would not be tolerated. He announced that a public relations meeting would be held to hear people’s problems and provide quick solutions. Applications concerning roads, irrigation, land records and other departments would be examined, with concerned officials responsible for resolving them without

Journalists’ Society reports profit, earns B grade

KOLAR

The Kolar-Chikkaballapur Working Journalists’ Multipurpose Cooperative Society recorded a net profit of ₹89,269 during 2025-26 and secured a ‘B’ grade in its audit. District Working Journalists’ Association general secretary Kagati Nagarajappa urged members to remain united and protect the society’s welfare objectives. Speaking at the annual general body meeting at Yogi Narayan Mutt in Kaivara, Nagarajappa called for greater membership opportunities for journalists from Chikkaballapur district. Society president K.S. Ganesh said the organisation had entered its 19th year with strong member participation.

Madilu Organization expands support for rural schools

HUNSUR

Madilu Rural Development Organization President and State Mahila Congress General Secretary Triveni D.M. said government school students from rural areas deserve strong support and equal opportunities. She made the remarks while distributing free uniforms to 160 students at Government Higher Primary School in Uddur village near Bannikuppe. Triveni said she became interested in supporting the school after seeing its students represent the institution at the state level. Her organization, which began in 2017, has been conducting social awareness programmes and providing assistance to government schools across the taluk. She thanked parents, villagers and School Development and Monitoring Com-



mittee members for their cooperation. She said the organization plans to support more government schools and organize a free health camp soon for people from rural areas. Triveni recalled that several national leaders, scholars and scientists studied in government schools and later achieved distinction. She said teachers and parents should work together to help children reach higher levels of education and bring recognition to government schools. During the programme, free

sarees were also distributed to kitchen staff. The SDMC and parents honored Triveni for her social service. SDMC President Beeregowda, former Taluk Panchayat member Prasannakumar B.D., Vice President Lakshmagawda, committee members, Head Teacher Dinesh, teachers, village leaders and residents attended the programme. Triveni said her organization would continue supporting education and community welfare with commitment and encouraged everyone to join efforts to build a better society.

MLA Harish Gowda encourages children to pursue higher education

HUNSUR

MLA Cheeti Harish Gowda said it was a matter of great joy to see the Hunsur Taluk Sound and Light Owners Association growing, working actively and bringing members together. He praised the association for its efforts and assured members of continued support in their future activities and development. The association held its first anniversary programme at Salim Palace in the city. Children of members who pursued medical education abroad and other talented students were honored with awards, mementos and floral tributes were offered to portraits of actor and actress Janaki. Gowda said members work hard and should also focus on education and health. He recalled his promise to provide Rs 2 lakh when the

association was formed. He had initially given Rs 1 lakh and handed over the remaining Rs 1 lakh during the anniversary programme. HUDA President H.P. Amarnath praised the association for bringing Hindu, Muslim and Christian communities together in friendship. He assured support for getting a HUDA site under rules. Former MLA H.P. Manjunath was thanked for providing insurance facilities to members and promising support for development work. Religious leaders, former City Council member Ramesh Devaraja Wodeyar, Aaqib Apsare, Dr. Lohit and association office-bearers attended. The programme ended with a renewed promise to strengthen the association, support members and promote unity in Hunsur community.



Gadag attracts major investments in wind energy

CH NEWS, Malinagaraya pujar

Gadag district is emerging as a major wind power centre in Karnataka, with more than 800 wind turbines installed across rural areas. Private companies are developing projects by taking agricultural and hill land from farmers on long-term leases. The district’s strong and regular winds, especially around Kappatagudda, have attracted large renewable energy investments. More than 214 turbines have been installed around Mundargi and over 30 in Shirahatti. New projects are also progressing in Lakshmeshwar, Lakkundi and other areas. Modern turbines with capacities ranging from 3.3 MW to 5.2 MW are being installed. Some turbines have towers around 140 metres high, with blades reaching nearly 70 metres. These machines can generate power even when wind speeds are relatively low. The district has projects involving companies such as ReNew, Tata Power, Ayana Renewables, Suzlon Energy, NTPC and others. Power generated from these projects is supplied to the electricity grid, including through agreements with

Hubballi Electricity Supply Company. Karnataka contributes significantly to India’s wind power production, while the state aims to expand renewable energy capacity further by 2030. However, the rapid growth of wind projects has also raised concerns among local residents. People living near turbines have complained about constant noise from rotating blades. Birds and bats are reportedly at risk of colliding with turbine blades. Large vehicles transporting equipment have also damaged some rural roads. Farmers have expressed concern about the use of agricultural land for projects and possible effects on farming. The district’s growing wind energy sector could provide clean electricity and strengthen Karnataka’s renewable energy goals. At the same time, residents say development should protect farmland, wildlife and local communities. They want authorities and companies to address environmental concerns, repair damaged roads and ensure farmers receive fair benefits. A balanced approach will be important as Gadag expands its role in renewable energy.

Savita Samaj seeks Sachin Patil for Gadag Congress leadership

GADAG

Gadag District Savita Samaj president Krishna H. Hadapada has urged Congress leaders to appoint Sachin D. Patil as president of the Gadag District Congress Committee. He said Patil’s leadership could strengthen the party and help it perform well in upcoming local body elections. A delegation of district leaders and Savita Samaj representatives met AICC secretary and district chief observer Vivek Bansal, who was in Gadag to review the party’s

GADAG CONGRESS NEEDS FIGHTER, SAYS RAVIKUMAR REDDY

Former Gadag District Youth Congress president Ravikumar Reddy has urged the party high command to appoint Sachin Patil as the district Congress president. Reddy said the district needs a leader who works directly with party workers instead of remaining in an office. He praised Patil as a grassroots leader who has supported and encouraged young people in the party. Comparing Patil’s role with D.K. Shivakumar’s organizational skills in Karnataka, Reddy described Patil as a troubleshooter who can strengthen the party at the district level. He said appointing Patil would help improve the party’s organization and survival. situation and workers’ concerns. The delegation submitted a petition seeking Patil’s appointment and highlighted his organisational experience and public work. Hadapada praised Patil’s contribution to education through the K.H. Patil College and Polytechnic institu-

tions. He said Patil had helped provide quality education to students from poor and disadvantaged families and had personally supported some students facing financial difficulties. He described Patil as a leader who remained connected with ordinary people. He also credited Patil with helping party workers secure opportunities in Gram Panchayats, Taluk Panchayats, Zilla Panchayats, municipalities and other local bodies. Hadapada said Patil had the ability to bring workers together during disagreements and maintain unity despite

differences. The delegation said Patil’s public contact, organisational skills and ability to understand the district’s social diversity made him suitable for the post. Former Youth Congress president Ravikumar Reddy, Savita Samaj treasurer Arun Rampur, Nagar Sabha member Chummi Nadaf, youth leader Anilkumar Siddamanahalli and social activist Abdulmunaf Mulla were among those present. Hadapada urged AICC and KPCC leaders to consider the demand and appoint Patil to strengthen the Congress organisation in Gadag.

Karnataka Congress: Leadership transition and the challenge of internal unity



P. SUNIL KUMAR, EDITOR CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka’s political landscape has entered a sensitive phase, with leadership equations, cabinet representation and competing ambitions within the Congress emerging as important factors in the functioning and stability of the government. The transition of leadership from Siddaramaiah to D.K. Shivakumar marks a significant political development for the Congress in Karnataka. Shivakumar’s elevation to the Chief Minister’s position follows years of organisational work, political struggle and his persistent ambition to lead the State. However, a leadership change of this magnitude inevitably alters the balance of power within the ruling party and tests its ability to manage competing interests. For Siddaramaiah, the transition is equally significant. Having led the government with his own administrative priorities and political vision, relinquishing the Chief Minister’s position under an arrangement involving the Congress high command naturally changes his role and influence within the

government. The challenge for the Congress, therefore, is not simply about who occupies the Chief Minister’s chair, but how the political consequences of the transition are managed. Cabinet formation has consequently become crucial. Siddaramaiah is understood to have suggested certain names for inclusion while expressing reservations about the continuation of some existing ministers, including, reportedly, Zameer Ahmed Khan. The matter has assumed greater political significance amid allegations and internal complaints concerning the conduct of certain leaders during political campaigning in Davangere. Questions have reportedly been raised within party circles over whether some activities there worked against the interests of the Congress and leaders associated with Siddaramaiah. Claims have also surfaced regarding an audio conversation allegedly connected to the controversy. Unless independently authenticated or officially confirmed, such claims must be treated with caution. Nevertheless, reports that these concerns reached the Congress high command indicate unease within sections of the State leadership. The reported decision by Siddaramaiah to stay away from the swearing-in ceremony carries political symbolism. When a senior leader of his stature distances himself from an important government event, it inevitably sends a message to legislators, party workers

and the public.

A TEST FOR THE HIGH COMMAND

The Congress high command now faces a delicate balancing act. D.K. Shivakumar requires sufficient political authority to establish his leadership and deliver an effective government. At the same time, Siddaramaiah remains one of Karnataka Congress’s most influential mass leaders, with considerable administrative experience and political support. Allowing the transition to become a confrontation between rival camps would be politically costly. Governments do not suffer only because of Opposition pressure. Internal mistrust, competing power centres and unresolved grievances can cause equally serious damage. The Congress must therefore ensure that disagreements over cabinet positions, political appointments and leadership influence do not overshadow governance. Shivakumar now carries the responsibility of demonstrating that his opportunity to lead Karnataka is about administration, development and collective leadership rather than the fulfilment of personal political ambition. His ability to accommodate senior leaders, maintain legislative unity and establish an effective working relationship with Siddaramaiah will be critical. Siddaramaiah, too, has an important role. His experience and influence remain valuable political assets. A constructive relationship be-

tween the two leaders could strengthen the government; an escalating rivalry could weaken it considerably.

UNITY MUST PREVAIL OVER PERSONAL AMBITION

Karnataka’s electorate expects stability, development and accountable governance not prolonged struggles over positions, portfolios and political supremacy. The Congress leadership in Delhi must therefore act with political maturity, ensuring a workable balance between the State’s senior leaders while addressing genuine grievances before they develop into larger disputes. Leadership transitions are rarely easy, particularly when powerful leaders command their own political constituencies. Yet the success of any government ultimately depends on whether individual ambitions can be subordinated to collective responsibility. For D.K. Shivakumar, the Chief Minister’s chair represents the culmination of a long political journey. For Siddaramaiah, the transition marks a new phase of his political career. For the Congress, however, the issue is larger than either individual. The decisive question is whether the party can transform a difficult leadership transition into collective strength or allow internal differences to become its greatest political vulnerability. The answer could determine not only the stability of the government, but also the future direction of the Congress in Karnataka.



Mindful career: Choosing a path with purpose, not pressure

DR. VIJAY GARG CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In today’s fast-changing world, choosing a career is no longer just about earning a living. It is about finding work that aligns with our values, interests, strengths, and aspirations. Yet many students and professionals continue to make career decisions based on social pressure, salary expectations, or popular trends. A mindful career is an alternative approach—one that encourages thoughtful, informed, and purposeful career choices.

A mindful career begins with self-awareness. Before selecting a profession, individuals should understand who they are. What are their interests? What are their strengths and areas for improvement? A career chosen with self-knowledge is more likely to bring long-term satisfaction than one chosen simply to impress others.

The modern workplace is evolving rapidly due to artificial intelligence, automation, and digital transformation. Jobs that were once considered secure may disappear, while entirely new professions continue to emerge. In such an environment, career decisions should be flexible rather than rigid. A mindful career means preparing to learn continuously, adapt to change, and acquire new skills throughout life.

Another important aspect of a mindful career is purpose. Financial stability is important, but money alone cannot guarantee happiness. People who find meaning in their work often experience greater motivation, resilience, and well-being. Whether someone becomes a teacher, engineer, artist, scientist, entrepreneur, healthcare worker, or farmer, every profession has value when it contributes positively to society.

Unfortunately, many young people compare themselves with others and feel pressured to follow the crowd. Some choose medicine because their relatives expect it, engineering because their friends are doing it, or government jobs because they are considered prestigious. Such decisions often lead to frustration when personal interests and career paths do not match. A mindful career encourages independent thinking instead of blind comparison.

Parents, teachers, and career counselors have a crucial role in supporting mindful career decisions. Rather than imposing their own dreams, they should

help students explore different possibilities, understand emerging careers, and recognize their unique talents. Open conversations, career assessments, internships, mentoring, and real-world exposure can help students make informed choices.

Technology has expanded career opportunities beyond traditional professions. Fields such as data science, cybersecurity, renewable energy, digital marketing, robotics, environmental science, content creation, sports management, biotechnology, and artificial intelligence are creating exciting opportunities. A mindful individual remains curious, explores these options, and evaluates them carefully instead of following outdated assumptions.

Mental well-being is also connected with career choices. People who constantly work in fields they dislike often experience stress, burnout, and dissatisfaction. On the other hand, those whose work aligns with their interests and values generally enjoy better emotional health and stronger professional commitment. Success is not merely reaching a high position—it is maintaining a healthy, balanced, and meaningful life.

A mindful career also values ethics and responsibility. Professional success should never come at the cost of honesty, compassion, or social responsibility. Ethical professionals build trust, strengthen institutions, and contribute to sustainable development. Integrity is as important as intelligence.

Students should remember that career decisions are not one-time events. A career is a lifelong journey of learning, growth, and adaptation. Changing careers, upgrading skills, or pursuing higher education are all normal parts of professional life. The willingness to learn is becoming more valuable than any single qualification.

In conclusion, a mindful career is about making conscious choices instead of rushed decisions. It combines self-awareness, continuous learning, adaptability, purpose, and ethical responsibility. As the world of work continues to change, those who choose their careers thoughtfully will be better prepared not only for professional success but also for personal fulfillment. A mindful career is ultimately not about finding the highest-paying job—it is about building a meaningful life through meaningful work.

Bengaluru has been cleaned up; Now, let’s keep it that way

PRADIVYA NAMBIAR CH NEWS, BENGALURU

There is something almost unfamiliar about Bengaluru these days: you can see the city again.

The recent clean-up drive led by Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has brought a visible and, frankly, welcome change to several parts of the city. Roads look clearer. Pavements are more accessible. The clutter that had slowly become accepted as an unavoidable part of everyday Bengaluru has, at least for now, been pushed back. And the difference is not subtle.

Personally, I have not seen Bengaluru this clean in a long time. For those who remember the city as lush, green and relatively open, this is a welcome reminder of what Bengaluru can look and feel like when public spaces are actually reclaimed. It is a good beginning. But it cannot remain a beginning. Because Bengaluru has seen clean-up drives before. The familiar cycle is simple: enforcement arrives, roads are cleared, pavements are reclaimed and then, slowly, the carts return, vendors creep back onto pavements and parking once again takes over whatever space is available. By evening, some of the very roads that look impressively clear during the day can begin to tell a different story. That is the real test of this exercise.

A city cannot be managed through occasional drives. It needs consistent enforcement. If a pavement is cleared today, it must still be a pavement tomorrow. If an encroachment is removed, it should not be allowed to reappear gradually because nobody is watching.

There is also a larger question of balance. Street vendors are part of Bengaluru’s social and economic fabric, and the answer cannot simply be to push them from one street to another. But neither can the public be expected to surrender pavements and roads indefinitely. The city needs designated spaces,



clear rules and, above all, predictable enforcement. The same urgency applies to parking. Bengaluru’s roads are already under enormous pressure. Yet on major roads, vehicles are routinely parked wherever their owners please. On narrower streets, double parking can turn an inconvenience into gridlock within minutes.

We cannot celebrate a road being cleared of encroachments while allowing parked vehicles to become the next encroachment. Parking enforcement therefore needs to become an integral part of the clean-up, not an afterthought. Main roads, narrow arterial stretches and high-traffic neighbourhoods require regular monitoring. A public road is not an extension of someone’s private parking space. But there is another uncomfortable truth that we, as citizens, need to confront. A government can clear a street. It cannot follow every individual carrying a food wrapper. Walk through almost any busy part of Bengaluru and you will see it: someone finishes eating and drops the wrapper on the pavement; another throws a piece of paper onto the road; someone spits wherever they please; garbage is left beside an overflowing bin rather than inside it. These are not always failures of municipal administration. They are personal choices.

We cannot blame the gov-

ernment for every act of poor hygiene committed by citizens themselves. There is a moral responsibility that comes with living in a city. If we expect the government to clean our streets, we also have a responsibility not to dirty them in the first place. The same principle applies to garbage, parking and public spaces more broadly. We cannot demand a cleaner Bengaluru while treating the road outside our own home, office, shop or car as somebody else’s problem.

Civic sense cannot be outsourced. That does not absolve the government of its responsibilities. The administration must provide adequate waste collection, enforce rules, regulate parking, manage vending and maintain public infrastructure. But citizens have to meet the government halfway. A cleaner Bengaluru will ultimately require both: effective governance and responsible citizenship. Perhaps most importantly, this clean-up has reminded Bengaluru of something we seem to have forgotten: the city’s greatest asset is not just its economy. It is its environment.

The Bengaluru people fell in love with was lush, green and relatively open. It had trees, neighbourhoods with breathing space and streets that did not feel permanently overwhelmed. Much of that character has been lost amid rapid growth, poor planning

and an increasingly casual attitude towards public space. This clean-up offers a glimpse of that old Bengaluru. The challenge now is to resist the temptation to declare victory too early. Will the pavements still be clear months from now? Will vendors be given sustainable and lawful spaces rather than simply moved temporarily? Will double parking still be tolerated? Will enforcement continue after the headlines disappear? And will citizens themselves stop treating public spaces as dumping grounds?

Krishna Byre Gowda deserves credit for demonstrating that change is possible and that the deterioration of Bengaluru’s public spaces is not inevitable. But a clean city is not created by a clean-up campaign alone. It is created by consistency from the government and from us. The government must enforce. Citizens must cooperate. The government must provide. Citizens must take responsibility.

The government can clean the street. But it cannot stop someone from throwing a wrapper on it. That choice belongs to us.

Bengaluru looks better today. For once, there is a sense that we may be getting a little bit of our city back cleaner, greener and more liveable. Now, the responsibility is collective. Let us make sure we keep it that way.

The Glamour of Ordinary Things

SANCHIA JOANNA S CH NEWS, BENGALURU

There is a certain poise to the ordinary, a glamour that reveals itself only when we give the moment it is due. And it is these, intricate fragments that lend glamour to our day.

College is abundant of such moments. Circles of friends scattered across the green park, their laughter overpowering the bells. Lending a hand with a friend’s bag, a gesture so obscure, yet tender. The ever-present chatter of the campus the rhythm no one composed yet everyone knows.

The restless anticipation outside the lifts, eyes flaring, watching the numbers descend as if the choice of a door might change the course of their day. The cafeteria counter-staff who, with a familiar smile, remembers your regular order before you even

utter a word making you feel seen in a fleeting crowd. And those keen helpers, who sweep and brighten every corner, leaving the campus immaculate as if it were a sanctuary of youth.

The slow drift of evening breeze near Café Zamorin, where a medley of departments bond over a coffee. The dancers rehearsing in corners, their speakers unleashing beats that make students around tap their feet in sync. Security guards, with calm smiles, straightening bikes and aligning scooters as if every wheel mattered. These unspoken gestures, often overlooked, are what make belonging feel like home.

Meanwhile, sudden plans sprout among friends an impulsive café run, a reckless bunk, an impromptu memory etched forever. A friend unwraps tandoori momos, steam twirling into the cool air with

the first bite, it is joy in the simplest, spiciest form. Monsoon arrives, leaving the campus’ plants smiling, leaves dripping in silver and walkways glimmering. And in the crowd, there are glances exchanged delicate, fleeting, as though words would only diminish them.

The ID card, a quiet witness to every ebb and flow, is more like a second skin and a passport to belonging. The bell rings, and order gives way where attention scatters like birds set free.

This is the glamour of ordinary things. Not chandeliers or champagne, but cafeteria chatter, resonating laughter, rain slick trees, and the human kindness of those who make this place what it is. One day, all of it will become ‘good old days’. Until then, we live inside a film that unwraps itself daily, a life that is ordinary yet extraordinarily ours.

Quick Read



₹40 lakh spent from welfare fund

Thiruvananthapuram
In a first-of-its-kind initiative, a cooperative society has stepped in to strengthen the cash-strapped Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), buying a bus with its public welfare fund and offering it to the state-run transport utility. The Calicut City Service Cooperative Society has forked out Rs 40 lakh to purchase a new KSRTC bus, with the vehicle proposed to operate on the Kozhikode-Palakkad-Muthalamada-Parambikulam route. Transport Minister C.P. John on Tuesday welcomed the initiative, describing it as a strong example of how public sector institutions could be supported through people's participation.

13-Year-Old Tigress Dies in Sundarbans

Kolkata
A Royal Bengal tigress, aged about 13 years, died at the Jharkhali Tiger Rescue Centre in Sundarbans in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, said forest department officials on Tuesday. The physical condition of the tigress suddenly deteriorated. Although forest workers started treatment quickly, the tigress could not be saved. The tigress died while undergoing treatment. An autopsy has already been done on her body to find out the real cause of death.

Rahul faces questions over student protests in Jharkhand

NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) continues to question Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's alleged dual approach where the Congress has been aggressively protesting against the Centre over reported National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) irregularities and the Delhi Police action while being restrained on similar issues in Jharkhand, where his party is part of the coalition government.

They argue that it took a specific question for the Congress leader to spell out a rhetoric of sorts on his party's stand on the Jharkhand issue, and protesters at Parliament entrance to seek answers from Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

As she was entering Parliament, Priyanka faced the demonstration accusing Rahul Gandhi of not visiting Jharkhand amid the student agitation and subsequent police

Government diverting attention from key issues: Venugopal

Cong MP accused Centre of diverting attention from alleged police brutality during July 20 march by highlighting action against protesting students in Jharkhand

NEW DELHI

Congress MP K.C. Venugopal accused the BJP-led Centre of trying to divert attention from alleged police brutality against protesters during the July 20 Parliament march by highlighting police action against student agitators in Jharkhand.

Venugopal was reacting after NDA and Opposition MPs staged rival protests outside Makar Dwar of Parliament over issues, including the Jharkhand students' agitation, selective outrage and repeated disruptions in the House.

The Opposition demanded that Union Home Minister Amit Shah attend Parliament



and address the alleged police action against students protesting examination irregularities in Jharkhand, including allegations concerning the use of pellet guns. The NDA, meanwhile, accused the Opposition of stalling parliamentary proceedings.

Speaking to reporters, Venugopal said police action against students was contestable wherever it occurred, but argued that the

AT A GLANCE

- Venugopal condemns police action against students.
- Opposition seeks Amit Shah's presence in Parliament.
- Rahul Gandhi backs peaceful student protests.
- Congress calls for dialogue over force.

Jharkhand issue should not be used to shift focus from alleged excesses in Delhi.

His remarks came a day after Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi condemned the use of force against protesting students in Jharkhand. Gandhi said stu-

dents had a right to peaceful protest and urged the state government to continue dialogue and resolve their concerns. Congress MP Amar Singh also said the party opposed lathi-charge and any use of force against students, including when such action involved a government allied with the Congress. Pramod Tiwari similarly said force against students should be condemned irrespective of location.

Samajwadi Party MP Pushpendra Saroj supported the JMM-led Jharkhand government amid the protests but cautioned that the situation should not escalate into another Jantar Mantar-like confrontation.

Extreme heat becoming more frequent and intense: UN agency

GENEVA

Periods of extreme heat are becoming more frequent, intense and longer-lasting as climate change warms the planet, the U.N. weather agency said on Tuesday, noting changes since the famously hot European summer of 1976.

Parts of Europe are enduring their fifth heatwave of a summer marked by drought, wildfires and record-breaking temperatures. Extreme heat is becoming more frequent, more intense, it's lasting longer, and covering much wider areas than in the cooler climates of the past, John Kennedy, the World Meteorological Organization's head of climate information, told a press briefing in Geneva.

Punjab Min slams Harbhajan over Rajasthan video

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Cabinet Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Tuesday criticised former Indian cricketer and Rajya Sabha MP Harbhajan Singh for sharing a video from Rajasthan and allegedly presenting it as an incident from Punjab.

Cheema said Harbhajan Singh, who was sent to the Rajya Sabha by the Aam Aadmi Party to represent Punjab and raise issues concerning its youth, should have used his platform to encourage youngsters to take up sports instead of sharing content that allegedly tarnished the state's image.

Referring to the video, Cheema said the Punjab Police had traced its origin to Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan and established that it had no connection with Punjab. He accused the BJP's IT machinery

KEY INSIGHTS

- More than 3,000 sports stadiums have been built across Punjab.
- Another 6,000 sports facilities are being developed
- Cheema linked sports investment to the state's anti-drug campaign.
- The minister said better sporting opportunities could help youth pursue healthy and productive futures.

of picking up videos from other states and portraying them as incidents from Punjab to malign the state and its youth.

The minister also linked the controversy to the state government's 'Yudh Nasheyen Virudh' campaign against

drugs.

He alleged that the BJP was attempting to undermine the progress made by the Bhagwant Mann government in tackling the drug menace.

Cheema said drug abuse had intensified during the 2007-2017 SAD-BJP government, claiming that terms such as chitta and smack became widely associated with Punjab during that period.

He said the government was simultaneously expanding sports infrastructure to provide young people with alternatives to drugs. According to Cheema, more than 3,000 sports stadiums have already been built across Punjab, while another 6,000 are under development.

The minister said investment in sports was aimed at helping Punjab's youth pursue healthier and productive futures.

BJP leader shrugs off DMK-BJP alliance buzz: Vanathi

CHENNAI

BJP leader Vanathi Srinivasan on Tuesday played down speculation about a possible alliance between the BJP and the DMK in Tamil Nadu, saying political alliances would be announced by the parties concerned if and when such a decision was taken.

Her remarks came amid renewed political discussions over possible realignments in the state following the formation of the Tamil Nadu government headed by Chief

Minister C. Joseph Vijay. The changing political landscape and movement of leaders between parties have fuelled speculation about new combinations ahead of the next parliamentary election.

Several political leaders, including former AIADMK ministers, have shifted their political affiliations since the change of government. Against this backdrop, sections of the ruling establishment have also raised the possibility of the DMK and BJP coming closer before the par-

liamentary polls.

The speculation gained further attention following remarks by DMK MP Kanimozhi Somu, who said political parties should be prepared to support initiatives that were beneficial to Tamil Nadu, irrespective of where they originated.

There are no permanent enemies or friends in politics. Whatever is good for Tamil Nadu, wherever it comes from, we will certainly accept and welcome it, Kanimozhi Somu had said.

Centre empowers women panchayat leaders: Rajiv Ranjan Singh

NEW DELHI

The government has launched a Specialised Training Module as part of Shashkta Panchayat Netri Abhiyan for the capacity building of Women Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and to improve their participation in democratic institutions, the Lok Sabha

was informed on Tuesday.

Panchayati Raj Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, in a reply, said that household responsibilities, social hesitation and male dominance during discussions are some of the key factors identified by a study for the limited participation of women in Gram Panchayats

The focus of the Shashkta

Panchayat Netri Abhiyan training module is to build the capacity of Women Elected Representatives across different aspects of rural governance and enhance their knowledge and practical skills for the effective discharge of roles and responsibilities as elected representatives, thereby promoting women-led governance, he said.

India slams Pakistan over Pok violence

NEW DELHI

India strongly condemned alleged human rights violations in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and other parts of Pakistan, calling on the international community to hold Islamabad accountable for what it described as repeated abuses and flagrant violations.

Addressing a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said more than 90 people had been killed and several others injured in PoK amid protests and growing public discontent. He alleged that Pakistani authorities had responded to the unrest with bullets, blackouts, repression and oppression.

Jaiswal was responding to questions about alleged atrocities in Balochistan, which observed its 79th Independence Day on Tuesday. He said India continued to monitor developments globally but highlighted the situation in PoK and other parts of Pakistan.

The MEA spokesperson also referred to protests that have taken place in PoK during recent months, including during and before elections. According to him, public grievances had been met with force, internet restrictions and repression, resulting in significant casualties.

The protests, initially driven by concerns over electricity prices and the rising cost of essential commodities, have



PoK Unrest

- Protests initially focused on electricity and essential commodity prices.
- Demands have expanded to political reforms and greater accountability.
- Internet restrictions and alleged police brutality have intensified concerns.
- India has called for international scrutiny of Pakistan's actions.

expanded into demands for political reforms, greater accountability and more representative governance.

Jaiswal said the developments had attracted international attention and urged the global community to take note of the alleged violations and hold Pakistan responsible.

The remarks came amid reports and social media videos alleging police brutality during demonstrations, including in Kotli, where women protesters were reportedly seen fleeing as security forces opened fire during a rally.

₹125 CRORE CYBER FRAUD NETWORK EXPOSED

SURAT

The Surat City Cyber Crime Cell has arrested four alleged members of a Jamtara-based cyber fraud network from a hotel in Patna after tracing a fake PNB One.APK file used to siphon Rs five lakh from a local victim, with the investigation so far uncovering 336 malicious APK files linked to 31,174 installations, 5,613 compromised devices and cyber fraud worth Rs 125.39 crore across the country.

The arrests followed a technical investigation into a complaint relating to a Rs five lakh fraud reported in May. According to the police, the victim received a fake PNB One.APK file through WhatsApp.

Once installed, the application allowed the accused to gain access to the phone and subsequently transfer Rs five lakh from the victim's bank account without their knowledge.

An FIR was registered at the Surat Cyber Crime Police Station under sections 318(4), 336(2), 338, 336(3), 340(2), 61(2), 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and sections

66(c) and 66(d) of the Information Technology Act.

Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime) Karanraj Vaghela said the investigation was initially focused on tracing the developer of the APK file.

Technical analysis led police to Uttar Pradesh, where they had earlier arrested Rohit, a resident of Kasganj district, who was allegedly the main developer supplying fake APK files to cyber criminals.

Rohit was a developer who prepared APK files according to the demands of different cyber criminals.

Whether it was SBI, Punjab National Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank or UCO Bank, or names such as hospitals, RTO challans and customer support, he developed files designed to mislead victims and allow cyber criminals to access their accounts, Vaghela said.

Police said analysis of Rohit's laptop and mobile phone indicated that he had developed and supplied more than 121 APK files, with data linked to around Rs 64.38 crore in cyber fraud.

Adani thanks supporters after us court verdict

AHMEDABAD

Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, took blessings from the Almighty and his parents, and thanked people for keeping their faith in him during tough times.

Taking the blessings from God and his parents, Gautam Adani thanked all those who stood by him even during tough times and kept their faith in him, the Adani Group said in an X post.

Earlier, a court in the US dismissed all criminal charges against him and others in a case related to securities and wire fraud. Judge Nicholas Garaufis of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York dismissed all criminal charges against the Adani Group officials.

The billionaire industrialist welcomed the US court's de-

cision with humility and deep respect for the judicial process, as the court dismissed all criminal charges against Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani and their associate Vneet Jaain.

Throughout this challenging period, our faith in truth, fairness and the rule of law remained unwavering, the Adani Group Chairman said in a post on X.

My deepest gratitude to those who never lost faith in us, in the system and in India's capacity for justice, said Gautam Adani.

Separately, the court finalised a settlement between the Adanis and the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which will see the former pay the US government \$18 million and formally settle the civil securities fraud charges against them.

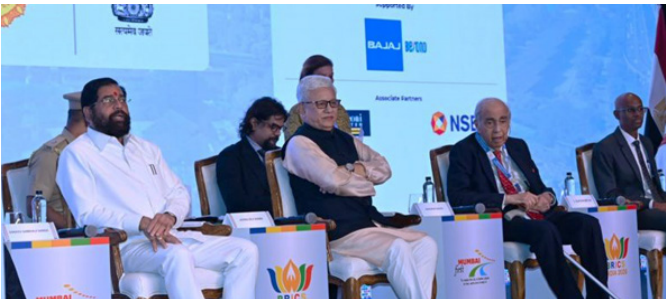
BRICS URBAN COOPERATION

BRICS cities urged to share innovation

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Urban Development Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday called upon BRICS countries to strengthen cooperation by sharing advanced technology, knowledge, information and experiences to address common urban challenges.

Speaking as the chief guest at the BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave 2026 in Mumbai, Shinde said closer cooperation among cities could provide fresh momentum to global development and help



build sustainable, resilient and citizen-centric urban centres.

He said cities were not merely structures of brick and concrete but engines of economic growth and development. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

vision, Shinde said urbanisation should be treated as an opportunity rather than a problem.

The deputy Chief minister noted that cities across countries increasingly face similar challenges, including

rapid urbanisation, climate change, floods, heatwaves, traffic congestion, pollution, water management and affordable housing. He said finding solutions to these issues required cities to look beyond national boundaries and learn from one another.

Shinde stressed that successful urban development could not be measured only through tall buildings or modern skylines.

Instead, ease of commuting, access to safe housing, clean air, opportunities for children and effective disaster management should re-

main central to urban planning.

He said Maharashtra was pursuing sustainable urban development through stronger infrastructure, digital governance and climate-responsive planning.

Projects across Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Nashik, Thane and Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, he added, were receiving renewed momentum in areas such as metros, roads, drainage, redevelopment, affordable housing, digital services, green infrastructure and disaster management.

Quick Read



CBI arrests Vishal Paul in Sarkar murder case

Kolkata

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested one more person in connection with its ongoing probe into the murder of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) worker Avijit Sarkar, who was killed during post poll violence following the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections.

The arrested person has been identified as Vishal Paul, also known as Gopal Das. He was taken into custody by CBI sleuths from Madhyamgram in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. Officials said he had been absconding for a long time. Last week, the CBI arrested another absconding accused in the case, Arup Das, from Assam.

527 people rescued from flood-hit areas in MP

Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Tuesday reviewed the flood situation in the state from the State Disaster Management Situation Room and interacted with officials as well as people rescued from affected areas, amid continued rainfall and rising water levels in rivers and streams. Yadav visited the Home Guards headquarters in Bhopal and reviewed the situation in different parts of the state through video conferencing. During the review, he was informed that 527 people had so far been rescued from flood affected areas. The Chief Minister also spoke directly to some of the rescued people and enquired about their well being and the assistance being provided to them.

‘50 lakh dairy farmers receiving credit card benefits’

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh announced that the number of animal husbandry farmers getting access to institutional credit under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme more than tripled to 50.42 lakh in 2025–26 from 15.08 lakh in 2021–22.

The Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister further stated that India’s annual milk production reached 247.87 million tonnes in 2024–25, comfortably surpassing domestic demand of 243 million tonnes, while total dairy exports reached \$407.18 million in FY 2025–26.

To boost long-term yield and genetic resilience, the Ministry is actively expanding flagship schemes such as the Rashtriya Gokul Mission

(RGM) and the National Livestock Mission (NLM).

The Centre has been implementing Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) since December 2014 for development and conservation of indigenous breeds, genetic upgradation of bovine population and enhancement of milk production and productivity, thereby making milk production more remunerative to farmers.

In order to promote scientific breeding and improve fodder quality in the country, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying is also implementing the scheme of National Livestock Mission since the financial year 2014–15.

The scheme is aimed at employment generation, entrepreneurship development, increase in per animal productivity and thus targeting.



affordable sanitary napkins, safe and environment-friendly disposal and counselling on menstrual practices.

Patel said Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management is a multidimensional and inter-ministerial issue requiring coordinated action by multiple stakeholder Ministries/Departments and states/UTs.”

- Anupriya Patel, Union Minister

India ranks sixth-largest economy at \$3.92 trillion

India ranked as the world’s sixth-largest economy in 2025-26, with a nominal GDP of \$3.92 trillion, Parliament was informed

NEW DELHI

India emerged as the world’s sixth-largest economy in 2025-26, with a nominal GDP of \$3.92 trillion, according to the International Monetary Fund’s April 2026 World Economic Outlook, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said the ranking was based on nominal GDP measured at prevailing US dollar exchange rates. He cautioned that India’s position could change depending on economic growth, currency movements, prices, revisions to national accounts and the performance of other major economies.

The government, he said, has adopted a broad-based strategy to strengthen India’s growth potential, with a focus



on agriculture, manufacturing, infrastructure, logistics, MS-MEs, innovation and research.

Manufacturing growth is being supported through Production-Linked Incentive schemes and the relaxation of certain Quality Control Orders, while infrastructure development is being driven by public investment, PM Gati Shakti and the National Logistics Policy.

The government is also seeking to attract investment through higher public capital expenditure, a liberalised foreign direct investment policy and tax reforms covering direct taxes and the Goods and Services Tax.

Chaudhary said India was further working to strengthen its external competitiveness by expanding its network of free trade

Economic data
Global rank: 6th
Nominal GDP: \$3.92T
Reference period: 2025-26
Source: IMF, April 2026 WEO
FPI gross sales: Rs 29.8 L Cr
Data period: January-August 5, 2026

and economic partnership agreements.

He added that maintaining macroeconomic stability through fiscal management and price stability remained a key priority. Foreign portfolio investment also remained substantial, with gross FPI sales reaching Rs 29.8 lakh crore between January and August 5, 2026.

NASA invites ISRO to join moon base programme

NEW DELHI

India and the United States have discussed expanding cooperation in human spaceflight, scientific research, lunar exploration and commercial space activities, with NASA inviting ISRO to participate in its Moon Base programme during high-level bilateral talks held in Bengaluru earlier this month, the US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor said on Tuesday.

The two-day meeting was held at the Indian Space Research Organisation’s (ISRO) headquarters in Bengaluru on August 5 and 6 and brought together officials from ISRO, NASA and the US State Department to review ongoing projects and identify new opportunities for cooperation.

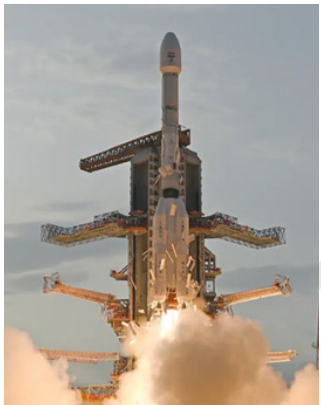
“NASA has invited ISRO to join its Moon Base program, deepening the

tion between the two countries in lunar exploration.

The proposal builds on co-operation under the Artemis Accords, a framework designed to promote international partnerships for the peaceful exploration of the Moon and beyond.

Both sides also agreed to continue discussions on sharing open scientific data under the Artemis framework and explored opportunities for future partnerships in space science, advanced technologies and human spaceflight.

The talks come on the heels of the successful launch of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission, a landmark joint project aimed at monitoring changes on Earth’s surface and supporting scientific research related to natural hazards, ecosystems and environmental changes.



U.S.-India deep space partnership! The news came as StateDept and NASA co-chaired the 9th Civil Space Joint Working Group in Bengaluru, advancing the TRUST initiative,” he said in a post on social media platform X.

A key outcome of the discussions was NASA’s invitation to ISRO to join its Moon Base programme, reflecting growing collabora-

Kerala HC suggests pension hike for freedom fighters

KOCHI

With only around 60 freedom fighters now surviving in Kerala, most of them aged above 90, the Kerala High Court asked the Centre and the state government to consider creating a special welfare fund for them, including a mechanism to accept public contributions.

A division bench of Chief Justice Soumen Sen and Justice V.M.Syam Kumar issued the direction while disposing of a public interest litigation filed by Sabu Stephen seeking greater welfare measures and recognition for freedom fighters.

The petitioner told the court that around 60 freedom fighters were currently living in Kerala, of whom 27 were receiving the Central government’s freedom fighters’ pension and 33 the State pension.

SC UPHOLDS FREEZE ON TMC BANK ACCOUNTS

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court declined to interfere with the Enforcement Directorate’s (ED) freezing of three bank accounts of the Trinamool Congress in connection with an alleged money laundering probe, while allowing the existing interim arrangement for the party to meet its day-to-day expenses under the supervision of a court-appointed Special Officer.

A Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Prasanna B. Varale was hearing a plea filed by the Trinamool faction led by Mamata Banerjee, challenging the Calcutta High Court’s order refusing to grant interim relief against the ED’s freezing of the three HDFC Bank accounts.

The apex court also dis-

posed of a separate petition filed by rebel TMC leader Biswanath Das, who had challenged the Calcutta High Court’s order, contending that he represented the “real party”.

The Justice Sundresh-led Bench observed that the order of the High Court was a “balanced” arrangement as it ensured that the party’s day-to-day operations were not stalled while keeping the operation of the accounts under judicial supervision.

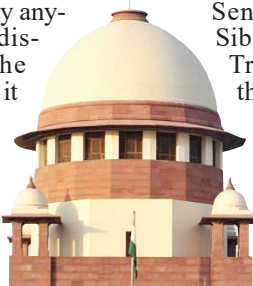
“We will not say anything. We will dispose of both the matters and leave it to the discretion of the Special Officer appointed by the High Court. Whatever you want

to say, say it in the main petition,” the top court said.

The Supreme Court clarified that it was not concerned with the dispute between the rival factions of the party and was only examining the limited issue concerning the operation of the frozen bank accounts.

It left it open to the parties to raise their respective objections before the Special Officer and in the main proceedings pending before the Calcutta High Court.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Trinamool, submitted that while the alleged proceeds of crime were around Rs 160 crore, more than Rs 400 crore was lying in the frozen bank accounts.



Government steps up menstrual health support

NEW DELHI

The Centre Informed the Rajya Sabha that the Menstrual Hygiene Policy for school-going girls is being implemented through coordinated action by states and Union Territories to ensure access to safe and affordable menstrual hygiene measures in schools.

Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel, in a written reply, said the Union government implements the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme under which adolescent girls are provided support through awareness generation, access to quality and



coordinated action by multiple ministries, departments and state and UT authorities according to their respective mandates.

Under the National Health Mission, states and UTs receive support for menstrual hygiene schemes based on

The Health Ministry conducts periodic monitoring of the dialysis programme through Common Review Missions and visits by senior officials, with corrective action sought for non-operational centres.

proposals submitted through their Annual Programme Implementation Plans and applicable norms.

The Ministry also conducts sustained Information, Education and Communication activities through health facili-

ties, community platforms, frontline health workers, digital channels and adolescent-focused programmes.

Monitoring is carried out through a multi-layered mechanism, including reviews of state-wise deliverables against approved targets during National Program Co-ordination Committee meetings. Annual Common Review Missions also provide independent assessments of implementation and progress.

In a separate reply, Minister of State Prataprao Jadhav said the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme is operational across all 36 states.

India rejects China’s Arunachal objection

NEW DELHI

India firmly rejected China’s objection to New Delhi’s decision to identify 27 locations in Arunachal Pradesh by their Indian names, reiterating that the northeastern state is an “inalienable and integral” part of the country.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said nothing could alter the “indisputable reality”. His remarks came after Beijing termed India’s move “null and void” and objected to the use of Indian names for locations in Arunachal Pradesh.

“Arunachal is an inalienable and integral part of India and this is a fact which is self-evident. At the same time, let me also underline that nothing can change this indisputable reality,” Jaiswal said at a media briefing in New Delhi.

Jaiswal also underlined that India considers border issues with China among the most serious aspects of the bilateral relationship. He said maintaining peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control remains essential and that the situation on the border would have a direct bearing on broader India-China ties.



India firmly rejected China’s objection to Indian names for 27 Arunachal Pradesh locations, stressing that the state’s territorial status remains unchanged and indisputable despite Beijing’s objections

IN FOCUS

■ India calls Arunachal Pradesh an integral part of the country.

■ China had termed India’s naming move “null and void”

■ MEA linked border peace to broader bilateral relations.

■ India and China reviewed the LAC situation at the 36th WMCC meeting.

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

No.: BDA/EE(East)/TEN/501/2026-27Date: 11.08.2026

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

The Executive Engineer, East Division, Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Bengaluru, on behalf of the Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers through GoK e-Procurement portal (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>) for **Maintenance Work of Varthur Lake**. Approx. e-value of work: **Rs. 530.00 Lakhs**. EMD: **Rs. 8.00 Lakhs**. Period of completion (Including Monsoon): **11 Months**. Bid Due date: **24.08.2026 up to 16.30 hrs**. **Technical bid opening: 25.08.2026 at 17.00 hrs**. For further details, please log on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> or call e-Procurement help desk on 080-46010000/68948777 and e-Procurement Cell Contact No: 080-22230960, 080-22234115 Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Executive Engineer, East Division, BDA, Bengaluru

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

No.: BDA/EE(NPKL)/Tender/2026-27/213Date: 11.08.2026

CORRIGENDUM-1

Sub: "Work to install CCTV cameras in required locations of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout".

Ref.: Tender Notification No. BDA/EE NPKL/Work_TN/168/2026-27, Dt: 03.08.2026.

With reference to the above Subject, Tender has been published on 06.08.2026 in Newspapers. The Corrigendum is issued due to technical reasons. Following clarification is provided, remaining tender conditions will remains same.

Sl. No.	AS PUBLISHED	TO BE READ AS
1.	"Work to install CCTV cameras in required locations of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout" No. BDA/EE(NPKL)/Tender/2026-27	" Work to install CCTV cameras in required locations of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout" No. BDA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT254/Call-2

Applicant may download bidding documents from the e-procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>
Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Executive Engineer, NPKL Division, BDA, Bengaluru

DESI FARMS INDIA LIMITED
(formerly known as SER Industries Limited)
CIN: L60231KA1963PLC004604
Regd. Address: Chikkakuntanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli Ramnagar Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka, India, 562109 **Corporate Office:** Plot No 79, 501, 5th Floor Lakwani House, Sakore Nagar Viman Nagar, Pune, Maharashtra, India, 411014
Email: info.serindustries@gmail.com | Website: <https://www.desifarmsindia.org/>

EXTRACT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE 1st QUARTER ENDED 30.06.2026 (Figures in Lakhs)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
		30.06.2026	31.03.2026	30.06.2025	31.03.2026
		Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	-	11.00	31.00	55.30
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional items and extraordinary items)	(8.93)	(39.20)	18.05	4.15
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items and extraordinary items)	(8.93)	(39.20)	18.05	4.15
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items and extraordinary items)	(8.93)	(43.59)	18.05	(0.24)
5	Total Comprehensive Income/ (Loss)	(8.93)	(43.59)	18.05	(0.24)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	99.46	99.46	99.46	99.46
7	Earnings Per Share (EPS)				
(a)	Basic	(0.90)	(4.38)	1.82	(0.02)
(b)	Diluted	(0.90)	(4.38)	1.82	(0.02)

1. The above financial results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and taken on record by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 05th August, 2026.

2. These results are reviewed by Statutory auditor of the company.

3. Segment reporting under IND AS is not applicable to the company since the entire operation of the company relates to single segment.

4. Previous year/ quarter figures have been regrouped/ recasted where ever necessary.

5. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the BSE under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2026 are available on the website of BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website at <https://www.desifarmsindia.org/investors-disclosures>.

The same could also be accessed by scanning the QR Code provided herein.

On Behalf of the Board of Directors For **Desi Farms India Limited** (formerly known as **SER Industries Limited**)

Place: Pune
Date: 11.08.2026

Sunil Kumar Shahi
Managing Director (DIN: 01887403)

Quick Read

UKMTO reports incident involving container ship

London
The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations said on Tuesday it received a report of an incident involving a container ship and military forces in the Gulf of Oman, after changing the vessel type from tanker to container ship. Maritime security sources said the container ship is believed to have been hit by a missile off the coast of Pakistan. According to initial assessments, the Panama-flagged container ship Vela Nova was believed to have been hit by a missile, when sailing through the Gulf of Oman on Tuesday, some 71 nautical miles off Pakistan's coast.



Houthi attack on small cargo ship in Red Sea kills three crew members

Houthi
A small cargo ship was attacked by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis in the Bab el-Mandeb strait on Tuesday, killing three crew members, said two Yemeni coast guard sources and two military officials in the government. If confirmed, the fatalities on the Tanzania-flagged Tihamah would be the first deaths in a Houthi strike on a ship since the Middle East conflict was triggered by U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran at the end of February. The Houthis, who have not yet claimed the attack, declared a naval blockade against Saudi Arabia in the Red Sea last month.

Ebola deaths surpass 2,000 in Democratic Republic of Congo

DAKAR
Democratic Republic of Congo said that confirmed Ebola deaths had reached 2,011, the latest grim milestone in what health officials have described as the fastest-spreading outbreak on record.
The latest data from Congo's public health institute, also reported 4,381 confirmed cases across five provinces. Delayed detection, conflict and strained health services have helped the virus spread more rapidly than in previous outbreaks.
The current outbreak, Congo's 17th, is caused by the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola, for which there are no approved vaccines or treatments.
The World Health Organization has declared the outbreak, which has also led to cases in neighbouring Uganda, a public health emergency of international concern.
A study published last

ZAPORIZHZHIA MISSILE ATTACK

Six Killed In Zaporizhzhia Missile Attack

MOSCOW
Russian forces killed six people in an overnight attack on Ukraine's southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia, involving what President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said were North Korean ballistic missiles, as Moscow intensified strikes across Ukraine.
Zelenskyy said the attack also involved Zircon anti-ship missiles and KAB precision-guided aerial bombs. He described the assault as a brutal attack designed to cause maximum damage to civilian infrastructure.
Regional Governor Ivan



Syria Court Hands Assad Death Sentence

A Syrian court has sentenced ousted leader Bashar al-Assad to death in absentia, marking his first conviction over killings, torture and crimes against humanity

DAMASCUS
A Syrian court on Tuesday sentenced ousted President Bashar al-Assad to death in absentia, convicting him of killings, torture, arbitrary arrests and crimes against humanity during the country's nearly 14-year war.
The ruling marked the first conviction against Assad, who was removed from power in a rebel offensive in December 2024 that ended decades of authoritarian rule by his family. Assad fled Damascus as rebel forces advanced and later received asylum in Russia on humanitarian grounds.
The death sentence was issued during a trial of former government officials. The judge cited the premeditated

Switzerland Rejects Stricter Neutrality Proposal

ZURICH
The Swiss government on Tuesday rejected a campaign seeking to impose a stricter constitutional definition of neutrality, arguing that the proposed changes would weaken the country's ability to respond to evolving security threats.
The referendum, scheduled for September 27, has been backed by the right-wing Swiss People's Party and follows a campaign that collected more than 100,000 signatures, enough to force a vote under Switzerland's direct democracy system.
Campaigners want the constitution to declare Swiss neutrality perpetual and armed, while barring the country from joining military alliances. They also seek restrictions on Switzerland's involvement in conflicts between third countries and want sanctions

and intentional murder of multiple people, including children, along with torture, arbitrary detention and crimes against humanity.
Assad's brother Maher, who commanded the Fourth Armoured Division, was also sentenced to death in absentia. The division played a central role in suppressing protests and recapturing territory during the war. Maher was also accused of involvement in drug production and trafficking.
Atef Najib, a former security official in Deraa and a cousin of the Assad family, received the same sentence. He was detained in early 2025 and was the only accused tried in person.
The verdict prompted cele-

against warring states to be imposed only when authorised by the United Nations.
The initiative has gained momentum among critics who argue that Switzerland has moved away from its traditional neutrality by adopting European sanctions against Russia following its invasion of Ukraine and strengthening cooperation with NATO in areas including training.
Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis, launching the government's campaign against the proposal, said Switzerland remained neutral and did not need a more restrictive definition.
Cassis argued that existing arrangements already recognise Switzerland's neutrality and that the country is not a member of any military or defence alliance. He warned that the proposed constitutional amendments could limit Switzerland's room for manoeuvre

Myanmar military intensified air attacks and abuses before election

GENEVA
Myanmar's military stepped up aerial attacks on civilians before an election held last December and January, and all sides in the country's civil war committed war crimes and serious abuses including torture and sexual violence in the past year, U.N. investigators said on Tuesday.
Over the past year, the Mechanism's investigations showed that the frequency and intensity of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Myanmar military and by various armed groups continued to escalate, the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) said in a report.
The mechanism was formed in 2018 to investigate abuses in Myanmar since 2011, including crimes committed against the mainly Muslim Rohingya

ZAPORIZHZHIA MISSILE ATTACK

Six Killed In Zaporizhzhia Missile Attack



Fedorov said 20 people were wounded in Zaporizhzhia. Images released by Ukrainian officials showed buildings and vehicles engulfed in flames following the strikes.
Six additional people were



brations in Damascus and Deraa, where crowds waved Syrian flags and displayed photographs of people killed or detained during the war.
Prosecutor Noha al-Masri, whose brother died during a 2011 Deraa protest crackdown, said the ruling reflected the sacrifices and suffering endured by Syrian families.
The four-month trial has been presented by Syria's new

Swiss Neutrality Vote

■ Referendum: September 27

■ Signatures collected: More than 100,000

■ Poll support: 34%

■ Opposition: 54%

■ Backed by: Swiss People's Party

■ Key demand: Ban military alliances and restrict sanctions without UN authorisation

in security policy.
A June Tamedia poll showed the initiative facing opposition, with 54 percent of respondents against it and 34 percent supporting it. The vote could nevertheless reshape the legal framework governing Switzerland's long-standing policy of neutrality.



ya minority in 2017 when hundreds of thousands were forced to flee a military crackdown and other abuses since a military coup in 2021.
The report said attacks on civilians had continued in the last year and that violence increased before the military-managed election held between December 2025 and January 2026.
The election, which Western governments and rights groups said was neither free nor fair, was won by a military-backed party, allowing Myanmar's then junta leader Min Aung Hlaing to become presi-

ZAPORIZHZHIA MISSILE ATTACK

Six Killed In Zaporizhzhia Missile Attack

The city was hit by North Korean ballistic missiles, Zircos and KABs.
- Volodymyr Zelenskyy

confirm the use of North Korean missiles in Zaporizhzhia, and Pyongyang did not comment on the allegation.
Russia's Defence Ministry said its forces struck the Nova Poshta sorting complex in Kyiv, alleging that the facility stored and distributed dual-use materials, including components for drones and electronic warfare equipment. It also said a metallurgical



Key pointers

First conviction against Bashar al-Assad since his ouster

Court cited killings, torture and arbitrary arrests

Assad's brother Maher also sentenced to death

Former Deraa security official Atef Najib convicted in person

Verdict sparks celebrations in Damascus and Deraa

Trial presented as a step toward transitional justice

Islamist-led authorities as a move toward transitional justice.

Farm Gains Shield Food Supply From El Niño

SINGAPORE
Near-record inventories, technological advances and the rise of key exporters such as Brazil and Russia have made the global food system more resilient to this year's super El Nino than similar past events.
World farm production has outpaced consumption and population growth since the 1980s, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and analysts say. The changes have been driven by higher-yielding crop varieties, greater use of fertiliser and improved irrigation and crop protection, lifting yields of staples such as rice, wheat, corn and soybeans.
Even during drought conditions, better irrigation management and crop science mean we can still produce marketable yields, said.

dent. He made a landmark visit to Thailand this month in search of international legitimacy.
Myanmar's military government did not immediately respond.
The IIMM said it had documented a pattern of deliberate aerial attacks on homes, schools, medical facilities, religious buildings and camps for internally displaced people. There was a notable escalation in aerial attacks in the months preceding the elections, it said.
The military increasingly used low-cost paramotors, gyrocopters and drones to conduct low-altitude strikes with unguided explosives, it said, adding that it was investigating incidents in Sagaing Region in which pilots allegedly cut their engines before reaching targets, allowing them to glide silently and giving civilians little warning.

ZAPORIZHZHIA MISSILE ATTACK

Six Killed In Zaporizhzhia Missile Attack

plant in Zaporizhzhia producing flat-rolled steel used by Ukraine's military was targeted.

The latest Russian strikes followed a Ukrainian drone attack that Russian authorities said killed at least 13 people and wounded 39 in Nizhnekamsk.
The escalation comes as the war enters its fifth year, with Russia relying increasingly on ballistic missiles that are difficult for Ukraine's air defences to intercept.
Ukraine, meanwhile, has expanded strikes inside Russia, targeting refineries, warehouses and other infrastructure.



Spain Tightens Security for Solar Eclipse

MADRID
Spain is mounting a major police and public safety operation ahead of a rare total solar eclipse on 12 August, with authorities preparing for millions of visitors during one of the country's most dangerous periods for wildfires.
Regional governments along the eclipse's path expect around six million people. Authorities have designated 660 official viewing sites, alongside parking and camping areas to prevent uncontrolled gatherings in vulnerable natural zones.
More than 35,000 police officers will be deployed. Authorities are particularly concerned about fire risks from large crowds, including sparks or discarded cigarettes in dry vegetation.
Virginia Barcones, secretary-general for Civil Protection and Emergencies at Spain's Interior Ministry, said the country had experienced an exceptionally difficult summer marked by repeated major forest fires. She warned that activities capable of generating sparks must be restricted.
Several regions are under weather alerts for eclipse day, with temperatures forecast to reach 40 degrees

LATVIA FINDS TUNNEL UNDER BELARUS BORDER

VILNIUS
Latvia said on Tuesday a tunnel had been discovered under the border with Belarus and announced plans to combat networks that it says are helping a growing number of migrants cross the frontier illegally.
Latvian soldiers last month used teargas and fired a warning shot to stop migrants trying to enter from Belarus, which shares a 173-km (107-mile) border with European Union member state Latvia. The protection of Latvia's eastern border will be strengthened, with closer co-

NAME CHANGE

We, **Nayaz Ahmed S** and **Roomana**, parents of our minor daughter, hereby declare that her name **ANNISA**, appearing in Aadhaar/other records, has been changed to **MAHIRA**, as recorded in her Birth Certificate, for personal, religious and numerical reasons. **ANNISA** and **MAHIRA** refer to one and the same person, born on 07/10/2020. Henceforth, she will be known as **MAHIRA** for all purposes and record hereafter.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NAGARAJ SURESH NAIK**, S/o Late Suresh J. Naik, residing at No.74, Anuragraha, 4th Cross, 3rd Main, Navodayanagar, J.P. Nagar, 7th Phase, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560078, hereby declare that I have changed my name from **NAGARAJ NAIK** to **NAGARAJ SURESH NAIK** and shall hereafter be known and addressed by my new name **NAGARAJ SURESH NAIK** for all purposes. Vide affidavit dated 03.07.2025 before Advocate & Notary **H. Venkatappa**, Chickballapur

NAME CHANGE

I, **KHAMRUNNISA** W/o **Mohammed Sadiq**, residing at No. 19, 16th Cross, Tannery Road, Sagayapuram, Bengaluru-560045, have changed my name to **MUSHTARI BEGUM**, Vide affidavit dated: 11.08.2026 before notary **N.NAGAPPA**, Bangalore

NAME CHANGE

I, **SYED ATHAULLA SYED YOUSUF**, S/o, Syed Yousuf, Resident of No 183, 1st Cross Madeena Mohalla Opp Noor Masjid Devarajevanahalli A C Post Bengaluru Dist 560045, have changed my name to **SYED ATHAULLA**, vide affidavit dated: 11.08.2026 before notary **B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO**, Bengaluru.



Spain is deploying thousands of officers as millions prepare to watch Wednesday's eclipse amid extreme heat and elevated wildfire risks

We must restrict any kind of activity that could generate a spark - Virginia Barcones, Civil official.

Celsius and wildfire risks rated high or very high.
The eclipse will be visible in totality from Spain and Iceland, making Spain a major destination for eclipse watchers seeking views from mainland Europe.
Spain has already recorded severe wildfire activity this year. About 200,000 hectares have been scorched so far, roughly six times the area burned by the same date in 2025, according to the Environment Ministry.
Three major fires were still burning on Monday in Huelva, Segovia and Huesca.
Forest expert Raul de la Calle said the eclipse falls during a statistically dangerous period, when Spain typically records its highest number of wildfires.

operation between the Border Guard, State Police, National Armed Forces and security services, and more intensive use of drones for early detection and detention.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RESHMA HANNAH BHAT** D/o **M RADHAKRISHNA BHAT**, W/o **SHASHANK ROMAUAT ROBEY**, R/o 99-B, 13th Loop Road, Behind Bank Of Maharashtra, Ideal Homes, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560098, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **RESHMA HANNAH ROBEY**.

NAME CHANGE

We, **Nayaz Ahmed S** and **Roomana**, parents of our minor daughter, hereby declare that her name **ANNISA**, appearing in Aadhaar/other records, has been changed to **MAHIRA**, as recorded in her Birth Certificate, for personal, religious and numerical reasons. **ANNISA** and **MAHIRA** refer to one and the same person, born on 07/10/2020. Henceforth, she will be known as **MAHIRA** for all purposes and record hereafter.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NAGARAJ SURESH NAIK**, S/o Late Suresh J. Naik, residing at No.74, Anuragraha, 4th Cross, 3rd Main, Navodayanagar, J.P. Nagar, 7th Phase, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560078, hereby declare that I have changed my name from **NAGARAJ NAIK** to **NAGARAJ SURESH NAIK** and shall hereafter be known and addressed by my new name **NAGARAJ SURESH NAIK** for all purposes. Vide affidavit dated 03.07.2025 before Advocate & Notary **H. Venkatappa**, Chickballapur

AFFIDAVIT

I Adinarayanappa S/o Late Venkatappa, aged about 53 years, Residing at Jiginiwandapalli village, Gulur Hobli, Bagepalli Taluk, Chikaballapur Dist., do here by solemnly affirm and stated as follows:-
1) Therefore, I reside at the above address.
2) Documents related to me: My house located in Jiginiwandapalli village, Gulur hobli, Bagepalli taluk was accidentally burnt down on 26/05/2015. I have also obtained a fire disaster certificate from the Karnataka Fire and Emergency Services.
3) In the said fire disaster, the land measuring 2 acres 0.20 gunte in R.Survey.No.156, Gulur Hobli, Jiginiwandapalli village, Bagepalli taluk, Chikaballapur district, relating to me, bearing cultivation certificate number: LND RVC CR(G)/52/1998-99, and the house along with the articles and documents have been burnt down. I have also obtained a copy of the above documents from Y. Lakshmiipathi Reddy, an advocate and Notary, and have duly notarized them On: 31/07/2026.
4) This certificate will be required to be presented before the concerned authorities to confirm the above information.

AFFIDAVIT

I Adinarayanappa S/o Late Venkatappa, aged about 53 years, Residing at Jiginiwandapalli village, Gulur Hobli, Bagepalli Taluk, Chikaballapur Dist., do here by solemnly affirm and stated as follows:-
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4) This certificate will be required to be presented before the concerned authorities to confirm the above information.



Quick Read

Morgan stanley targets \$1.5 trillion funding

New York

Morgan Stanley has launched the U.S. Innovation Infrastructure Initiative, aiming to facilitate approximately \$1.5 trillion in capital raising, financing, advisory and related investment activity over the next decade. The initiative will support companies, technologies and infrastructure considered important to US economic growth and national security. The programme will focus on artificial intelligence, advanced computing, quantum technology, semiconductor, cybersecurity, data infrastructure, aerospace and defence, pharmaceuticals and critical minerals. Morgan Stanley said the initiative will combine its advisory, capital markets, wealth management and investment management capabilities to help businesses scale and access funding.

Meta opens Muse Glimmer weights, Spark 1.2

Menlo Park

Meta has released the weights of Muse Glimmer, a 30-billion-parameter open-weight artificial intelligence model designed to run locally on consumer hardware. The model is optimized for agentic tasks and can operate using a single graphics card, making advanced AI more accessible to developers and users. Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg also announced plans to release Muse Spark 1.2, the company's most advanced AI model, as an open-weight system in the coming weeks. Zuckerberg has advocated wider access to powerful AI models, arguing that AI capabilities should not be concentrated among a small number of companies or governments.

TSMC, Sony plan \$4.7 billion sensor venture

Taipei

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co (TSMC) and Sony Group will invest \$4.69 billion in a joint venture to develop and manufacture next-generation image sensors in southern Japan. Volume production is expected to begin in 2029. Sony will hold controlling ownership and invest 465 billion yen, or about \$2.92 billion, through cash and asset transfers, including its newly built factory in Kumamoto. TSMC will invest 282 billion yen. The venture, Advanced Vision Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp, will be based in Kumamoto, where TSMC operates its Japan chip plant. Sony will lead sensor technology development, product planning and design, while TSMC will provide advanced manufacturing technology and expertise.

RECORD CASH MOUNTAINS

Samsung AI windfall raises special dividend hopes

SEOUL

Samsung Electronics' strong cash generation from the artificial intelligence (AI) boom is increasing expectations that the South Korean technology giant could announce a special dividend or expand shareholder returns.

Samsung and fellow memory-chip maker SK Hynix are generating record cash as demand for chips used in AI applications continues to grow. Investors have consequently increased pressure on both companies to return a larger portion of their surplus cash through dividends or share buybacks.

Samsung currently targets shareholder returns equivalent to 50 per cent of free cash flow. Its existing three-year shareholder return programme runs through 2026, with the company expected



AI can make more Indians bankable: RBI

Governor Sanjay stated that it represents an innovative approach to executing banking operations

MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Tuesday said artificial intelligence (AI) could transform credit delivery, improve customer services and accelerate financial inclusion, potentially making more Indians eligible for formal banking services.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the FIBAC 2026 conference in Mumbai, Malhotra said AI could become a defining force for Indian banking during the current decade, much like economic liberalisation shaped the 1990s and digitalisation transformed the sector in the 2010s.

Malhotra stressed that banks should not treat AI as merely another technology project. Instead, he said it should be viewed as a new way of conducting banking operations, assessing risks, serving customers, pricing capital and organising institutions. He urged banks to make deliberate decisions about their AI strategies rather than allowing technology adoption to happen without clear direction.

The RBI Governor said many banks were already de-



“lenders to develop their AI capabilities with a clear purpose and responsible approach. The central bank considers AI a capability that should be responsibly harnessed, rather than simply treated as a risk that needs to be controlled.”

- Sanjay Malhotra, RBI Governor

AI boosts credit access

AI expands financial inclusion by evaluating alternative data for customers without credit histories. However, banks must carefully balance this innovation with responsible, transparent practices to protect customer interests and ensure reliable lending decisions.

ploying AI, while several others were examining its potential applications.

Highlighting its potential for financial inclusion, Malhotra said AI could improve the economics of credit delivery by helping banks assess customers who do not have formal credit histories. Advanced technology could enable lenders to evaluate alternative information and make more informed lending decisions, potentially bringing underserved sections of society into the formal financial system.

He said the adoption of AI would require banks to balance innovation with responsible practices. As the technology increasingly influences lending and customer-facing decisions, financial institutions will need to ensure that its use remains reliable, transparent and aligned with the broader interests of customers and the banking system.

Malhotra's remarks come as Indian banks increasingly explore AI for lending, customer service, fraud detection and operational efficiency.

Toyota Recalls More Than 508,000 Vehicles in US

A malfunctioning display can compromise several critical safety features

WASHINGTON

Toyota Motor Corp will recall 508,354 vehicles in the United States over a problem with the instrument cluster display that could prevent critical safety information from being shown, increasing the risk of crashes or injuries, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The recall covers certain 2025 and 2026 Toyota Camry Hybrid vehicles. The issue involves a failure in the instrument cluster display when the vehicle is started. If the display does not function properly, several important safety features may also be affected.

According to the US auto safety regulator, the defect could deactivate the hazard warning lights, turn signals, seat belt warning system and smart key reminder. The loss of these functions could prevent drivers and other road users from receiving important safety alerts and signals, potentially increasing the risk of an accident.

Toyota has informed authorities about the issue and



Toyota recalls camrys for display defect

Toyota is recalling over 508,000 vehicles in the U.S. (specifically certain 2025–2026 Camry Hybrid and standard Camry models) due to an instrument cluster software glitch that can fail at startup. This defect can deactivate essential safety features like hazard lights, turn signals, and warning chimes, increasing crash risks. Dealerships will update the display software free of charge.

restoring the affected safety-related functions.

The NHTSA said the software update is intended to resolve the display malfunction and reduce the associated safety risks.



foundry operations and other advanced technologies.

Samsung's first-quarter 2026 dividend was set at 372 won per common and preferred share, with a total payout of 2.45 trillion won. The company has also conducted share repurchases in recent years as part of its shareholder-return strategy.

Market expectations for an additional payout have risen as analysts assess Samsung's ability to generate strong free cash flow from the AI-driven semiconductor cycle. Some forecasts have

Financial drivers & investor pressure

- **AI-driven growth:** Record cash generation is fueled by robust demand for advanced memory chips tailored for AI applications, servers, and broader AI infrastructure.
- **Capital allocation conflict:** Investors are pressing Samsung to distribute a larger share of its surplus cash via dividends and share buybacks.
- **Complementary strategies:** Alongside regular dividends, Samsung has utilized share repurchases in recent years to support its overarching shareholder-return strategy..
- **Current policy framework:** Samsung's current three-year shareholder return programme targets returns equal to 50 percent of free cash flow and runs through the end of 2026.

pointed to the possibility of a sizeable special dividend, although the final amount and timing depend on Samsung's free cash flow, investment requirements and board decisions.

Shareholders are also pushing for stronger capital allocation as Samsung's shares have faced pressure despite record earnings. Investors argue that larger pay-



UP to resume smart meter rollout after awareness drive

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh will resume the rollout of smart electricity meters after conducting a consumer awareness campaign, State Power Minister said on Tuesday. The move is aimed at addressing concerns among consumers and ensuring greater understanding of the technology before expanding its implementation.

The decision comes amid efforts by power distribution utilities to increase consumer confidence in smart metering. Awareness programmes are expected to explain how smart meters work, how electricity consumption can be monitored and how consumers can use digital tools to track their usage and payments.

Smart meters are being promoted as an important part of modernising India's electricity distribution system. They can provide consumers with near real-time information on electricity consumption, enable digital bill payments and



help households monitor their power usage. For distribution companies, the technology can improve billing and collection efficiency and support better management of the electricity network.

The Uttar Pradesh government's decision to undertake awareness activities before restarting the rollout reflects the importance of consumer engagement in the transition. Earlier studies have found that lack of awareness about smart-meter applications, billing details and prepaid systems can affect consumer acceptance.

The Centre's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) has made smart metering a key component of

Awareness programs will explain smart meter functions, consumption tracking, and how consumers can use digital tools for payments

electricity distribution reforms. As of December 31, 2025, around 3.90 crore smart meters had been installed under RDSS, while the overall number installed across various schemes stood at 5.28 crore. The government has also said that consumer awareness programmes are being conducted to improve confidence in prepaid smart meters.

The minister said the rollout in Uttar Pradesh would proceed after consumers are adequately informed about the technology and its benefits. The awareness drive is expected to help address doubts and encourage smoother adoption when installation work resumes.

Dhoot Transmission IPO flags key business risks

MUMBAI

Dhoot Transmission Ltd's initial public offering (IPO) has highlighted several business risks, including heavy dependence on a few customers, cybersecurity threats and related-party transactions, according to the company's red herring prospectus (RHP).

The company's customer concentration remains a major concern. Its top five customers contributed 71.56 per cent of total operating revenue in FY26, compared with 71.18 per cent in FY25 and 66.17 per cent in FY24. Dhoot Transmission said it does not have long-term supply agreements with these customers and supplies components based on requirements from original equipment manufacturers (OEMs).

The company also warned that customers have the right to terminate their contracts. Any reduction, suspension or discontinuation of orders from major customers could therefore have a significant impact on its business, financial per-

formance and revenue.

Cybersecurity is another key risk disclosed in the RHP. Dhoot Transmission said it faced a cyberattack during FY25, which resulted in the leakage of significant data, including confidential information relating to product designs and pricing. Following the incident, the company said it strengthened its systems and increased investments in cybersecurity. However, it cautioned that there can be no guarantee that future cyber incidents will be completely prevented.

The company has also identified related-party transactions as a significant risk. These transactions include product sales, rent, commissions, purchases of fixed assets and reimbursement of expenses. In FY24, shareholders approved transactions involving the sale of current assets worth around Rs 57.42 crore and immovable assets, including land and buildings, worth about Rs 23.75 crore to its subsidiary Dhoot Auto-Components Pvt Ltd.

Related-party transactions & governance risks	
■ Nature of Risk: The identification of related-party dealings as a significant risk highlights potential conflicts of interest inherent in intra-group transactions.	■ Types of Transactions: These dealings span multiple operational categories, including product sales, rent payments, commission structures, fixed-asset purchases, and expense reimbursements.
■ Material Scale: Substantial asset transfers occurred recently; in FY24, shareholder approvals sanctioned the sale of current assets worth approximately Rs 57.42 crore and immovable assets (land and buildings) worth around Rs 23.75 crore to its subsidiary, Dhoot Auto-Components Pvt Ltd.	■ Board Discretion: Management has acknowledged that the board periodically scales up transaction limits with associate entities for logistics and supply needs, with no absolute guarantee that future terms will always match open-market or arm's-length favorability.

Mutual funds see ₹2.35 lakh crore inflow

NEW DELHI

Mutual fund schemes in India recorded a net inflow of Rs 2.35 lakh crore in July, while total assets under management (AUM) stood at Rs 85.76 lakh crore at the end of the month, according to data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) on Tuesday.

Debt-oriented schemes led the overall inflows, attracting nearly Rs 1.88 lakh crore during July. Equity-oriented schemes also remained positive, recording net inflows of Rs 24,697 crore. The total AUM of mutual fund schemes stood at Rs 85,75,656.52 crore as of July 31, compared with an average AUM of Rs 86,33,798.38 crore during the month.

Open-ended schemes ac-

counted for the largest share of industry assets and inflows. They recorded net inflows of Rs 2,36,595 crore, taking their AUM to Rs 85,59,041 crore. Among equity schemes, small-cap funds attracted the highest inflow of Rs 7,767.50 crore, followed by mid-cap funds at Rs 6,192.31 crore and flexi-cap funds at Rs 4,709.08 crore. Large and mid-cap funds received Rs 3,425.34 crore, while multi-cap funds attracted Rs 3,227.29 crore. Sectoral and thematic funds recorded inflows of Rs 1,328.27 crore. However, large-cap funds saw a net outflow of Rs 1,321.69 crore. ELSS funds recorded an outflow of Rs 959.13 crore, while dividend-yield funds saw an outflow of Rs 169.16 crore.

Hybrid schemes attracted Rs 11,490.56 crore.



India wins seven medals at Fencing Championship

INDIA'S IMPRESSIVE MEDAL TALLY HIGHLIGHTED THE COUNTRY'S EXPANDING TALENT POOL AND RISING COMPETITIVENESS ON THE GLOBAL FENCING STAGE

LAGOS

India continued its impressive performance at the Commonwealth Fencing Championship in Lagos, Nigeria, securing seven medals on the second day of competition.

The Indian team won one gold, two silver and four bronze medals across the Senior Individual Women's Sabre, Women's Epee and Men's Foil events. The strong medal haul underlined India's growing depth and competitiveness in international fencing.

In the Senior Women's Epee event, Tanishka Khatri produced an outstanding performance to claim the gold medal, while compatriot Khushi Dabhade finished second to take silver. Prachi Lohan added another bronze medal, giving India three podium finishes in the discipline.

India also enjoyed a strong outing in the Senior Women's Sabre individual competition. Aakhari secured the silver medal after finishing behind England's Brierley, who won



MEDAL TALLY BREAKDOWN		
DISCIPLINE	MEDAL	ATHLETE
Senior Women's Epee	GOLD	Tanishka Khatri
Senior Women's Epee	SILVER	Khushi Dabhade
Senior Women's Epee	BRONZE	Prachi Lohan
Senior Women's Sabre	GOLD	Brierley (England)
Senior Women's Sabre	SILVER	Aakhari
Senior Women's Sabre	BRONZE	Jefarlin & Shruti Joshi

gold. Indian fencers Jefarlin and Shruti Joshi shared

bronze medals, further strengthening India's medal

tally on the second day.

In the Senior Men's Foil event, Tejas Patil battled through a competitive international field to win bronze. Cyprus' Alex Tophalidas secured the gold medal, while England's Oliver Starange took silver. Patil's performance added another medal to India's successful campaign.

The Indian squad's progress has been supported by coaches Bharatji Thakor, Shrihari Pise and Shankar Narayanan, along with physiotherapist Amruta Balkawade and team manager Manu Tyagi. Their preparation and support have played an important role in maintaining the team's strong performances.

Fencing Association of India Secretary General Rajeev Mehta congratulated the medal winners, coaches, support staff and officials for their efforts. The championship will continue in Lagos until August 14, with India aiming to maintain its medal-winning momentum in the remaining events.

Navy officer Taniksha wins Commonwealth fencing gold

Taniksha hard work has propelled her to the Olympic qualifiers, showcasing consistent growth in international competition

NEW DELHI

Indian Navy officer and fencer Taniksha Khatri has added a Commonwealth Championship gold to her growing list of achievements after defeating compatriot Khushi Dabhade 15-7 in the senior women's epee final in Nigeria.

Taniksha's victory marks another major milestone in a fencing journey that began in 2012. Over the past 14 years, she has dedicated herself to training while building a career in the Indian Navy. Her efforts have also taken her to the Olympic qualification stage, highlighting her steady progress on the international circuit.

Taniksha said every day of training had contributed to her development as a fencer. She credited her family for standing by her through the challenges and helping her contin-

ue her sporting career.

The fencer also expressed gratitude to her coaches, saying their guidance and training had played an important role in developing her skills. She praised the Indian Navy for providing support, motivation and encouragement while she pursued fencing alongside her service.

Her Commonwealth title came in an all-Indian final against Dabhade. Taniksha eventually estab-

lished control and secured a convincing 15-7 victory to claim the women's épée crown. The success has strengthened her confidence ahead of upcoming international competitions.

Taniksha now has her sights set on the Asian competitions and the Olympics. She said she would continue training with the aim of delivering her best performances on the biggest stages.

The Commonwealth gold represents the reward for years of discipline, preparation and perseverance. For Taniksha, however, the achievement is not only a personal accomplishment but also a moment of pride for India.

She said the victory belonged not just to her, but to the country that earned the gold through her success.



That fencing, despite being a respected sport, does not receive enough support and promotion in India.

- Taniksha Khatri, Indian Navy officer and fencer

Bindra calls beijing gold sporting life's "Biggest Peak"

NEW DELHI

Indian shooting legend Abhinav Bindra has reflected on the historic gold medal he won at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, describing the achievement as the "biggest peak" of his sporting life, 18 years after creating history.

On August 11, 2008, Bindra became the first Indian to win an individual Olympic gold medal when he triumphed in the men's 10m air rifle event with a score of 700.5. The landmark victory became one of the defining moments in Indian sporting history and elevated shooting to greater prominence in the country.

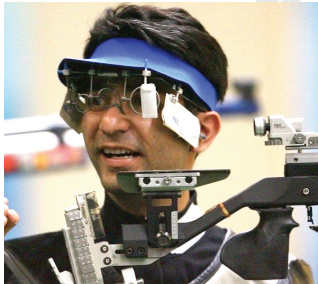
Marking the anniversary, Bindra looked back on his journey and said the years since Beijing had taught him that the periods between major achievements are equally important. He represented India at the 2012 London Olympics, where he finished 16th,

before returning for the 2016 Rio Games and narrowly missing another medal with a fourth-place finish.

Bindra's career extended well beyond his Olympic triumph. The former shooter became a seven-time Commonwealth Games medallist, including four golds, and won three Asian Games medals. He also captured the 10m air rifle world championship title in 2006 and collected more than 150 individual medals during a career spanning nearly two decades.

His contribution to Indian sport continued after retirement. Bindra established the Abhinav Bindra Foundation Trust, which works to support grassroots athletes through sports science, high-performance training and education. He also served as vice-chair of the International Olympic Committee Athletes Commission.

During his IOC tenure, Bin-



dra became the first Indian recipient of the Olympic Order, recognising his contribution to the Olympic movement. His post-retirement work has focused on helping create better opportunities and support systems for the next generation of athletes.

Eighteen years after his historic Beijing triumph, Bindra's reflection highlights both the significance of reaching the sporting summit and the value of the journey that follows. His 2008 gold remains a landmark achievement that continues to inspire Indian athletes.

Miller, Allen, Klaasen headline ILT20 signings for the 5 season

DUBAI

International stars David Miller, Finn Allen and Heinrich Klaasen will headline the pre-auction signings for the fifth season of the DP World International League T20 (ILT20), while Australian all-rounder Marcus Stoinis will return to the tournament after a three-year absence.

New Zealand opener Finn Allen has joined Abu Dhabi Knight Riders, while South African batters David Miller and Heinrich Klaasen have signed for Gulf Giants. All three will make their maiden appearances in the ILT20. Stoinis, meanwhile, will represent Dubai Capitals as he returns to the competition.

Allen is regarded as one of the most destructive openers in T20 cricket. The 27-year-old has scored 1,663 runs in 62 T20 International matches, including three centuries, at a strike rate of 170.73. He also hit a 33-ball century against South Africa in the 2026 T20 World Cup semi-final. Miller has scored 2,804 T20I runs for South Africa, while Klaasen has accumulated 1,000 runs in 58 T20Is and is known for his aggressive batting against spin.

Other notable signings in-



ILT20 SEASON 5 FRANCHISE SIGNINGS	
Abu Dhabi Knight Riders	Finn Allen, Jason Holder, Sunil Narine
Desert Vipers	Shimron Hetmyer
Dubai Capitals	Mustafizur Rahman, Rovman Powell
MI Emirates	Nicholas Pooran, Rashid Khan, Romario Shepherd
Sharjah Warriorz	Sikandar Raza

clude Jason Holder and Sunil Narine for Abu Dhabi Knight Riders, Shimron Hetmyer for Desert Vipers, Mustafizur Rahman and Rovman Powell for Dubai Capitals, and Nicholas Pooran, Rashid Khan and Romario Shepherd for MI Emirates. Sikandar Raza will return to Sharjah Warriorz.

The six franchises completed their foreign-player pre-auction signings by the August 3 deadline, with each team allowed up to four such

signings. The Season 5 player auction will be held in Dubai on October 1, where teams will add UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other foreign players. Each squad can have between 18 and 23 players, with one additional wildcard signing permitted after the auction.

The high-profile additions are expected to significantly strengthen the league's batting firepower and add further international appeal to its fifth season.

Trump backs under-fire FIFA Gianni Infantino

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has thrown his support behind FIFA president Gianni Infantino, who is facing growing criticism from several football governing bodies over his leadership and a controversial proposal involving private investment in World Cup commercial rights. Trump warned that removing Infantino would be a "terrible mistake" and described the FIFA chief as a highly successful leader.

Trump's intervention comes at a time when Infantino is under increasing pressure from major football confederations. UEFA, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and CONCACAF have jointly criticised the FIFA president over a proposal to sell a stake in World Cup commercial rights to private investors. The plan was withdrawn following widespread opposition. The three confederations accused Infantino of acting without adequate consultation and said the episode had damaged trust in FIFA leadership. They have called for an independent review and stronger safeguards to prevent similar decisions from being taken without wider consultation among FIFA's member associations.

Rhodes sees fewer bilateral ODIs in future

MUMBAI

Former South Africa cricketer Jonty Rhodes believes bilateral ODI series could become less frequent in the future, but said it would be difficult to imagine cricket without the traditional 50-over format.

Rhodes was speaking during the jersey launch of European T20 Premier League side Rotterdam Dockers in Mumbai. He acknowledged the growing influence of franchise-based T20 cricket but said passionate supporters would continue to give international cricket, including ODIs, strong relevance.

The former South African star said the expansion of T20 leagues could put pressure on bilateral 50-over cricket. With players increasingly balancing international commitments and franchise opportunities, Rhodes suggested that some cricketers could choose to end their international careers earlier to focus on T20 competitions.

Rhodes pointed out that T20 cricket had not eliminated Test cricket despite concerns when the shortest format was intro-



At this stage, I think there will be fewer and fewer bilateral series," while adding that it remained "very difficult to think of cricket without the 50-over version."

- Rhodes Jonty, Former South Africa cricketer

duced. Instead, the three formats have developed alongside each other, although the growing number of franchise leagues could create greater competition for players and scheduling space.

He also highlighted the importance of fans in preserving ODI cricket. According to Rhodes, supporters remain deeply attached to their national teams and will continue following them regardless of the format. Major international

tournaments, particularly the ODI World Cup, provide the 50-over game with an important platform.

Rhodes also discussed South Africa's prospects at the 2027 ODI World Cup, which the country will co-host with Zimbabwe and Namibia. He said South Africans were excited about staging the tournament and hoped the national team could finally win another ICC limited-overs trophy.

The former cricketer also praised the evolution of fielding, noting that modern teams place far greater emphasis on athleticism, fitness and fielding standards. He credited players and coaches for raising expectations and said teams could no longer afford to hide weak fielders. Rhodes' comments come as international cricket continues to balance traditional formats with the rapid expansion of franchise T20 leagues worldwide.

NEW DELHI

Former South African cricketer Jonty Rhodes and Bollywood actor John Abraham unveiled the official jersey of Rotterdam Dockers ahead of the inaugural European T20



Premier League (ETPL).

The unveiling marks another step towards the launch of the new franchise-based cricket competition, which aims to expand the reach and popularity of T20 cricket across Europe. Rotterdam Dockers will

represent the Netherlands in the tournament.

Rhodes, widely regarded as one of cricket's finest fielders, has been associated with the Rotterdam franchise, while Abraham is part of the ownership group. Their presence at the jersey launch added significant attention to the team ahead of the inaugural season.

The ETPL is expected to bring together international players and emerging European talent, providing a platform for cricketers from the continent to gain greater exposure in a competitive T20 environment.

Rotterdam Dockers will look to build a strong identity around the new franchise as preparations gather pace. The jersey unveiling is also expected to help strengthen the

team's connection with local supporters and cricket fans in the Netherlands.

The competition is being positioned as an important development for European cricket, where T20 leagues have grown in popularity in recent years. Organisers are hoping the ETPL will create a sustainable professional pathway for players while attracting international audiences and commercial interest.

With Rhodes' cricketing credentials and Abraham's profile in Indian entertainment and sports, Rotterdam Dockers have already generated considerable interest before taking the field. The franchise will now focus on completing its squad and preparations for the historic first edition of the ETPL.

