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Vaishnav highlights UMANG transaction milestones



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Babar Azam returns to ICC Test Top 10



K'TAKA CABINET CONUNDRUM ENDS!

DKS allocates portfolios to 23 ministers in his cabinet; keeps Finance, Law and other key depts; the 33-member cabinet now heads into the monsoon joint legislature session without a female minister.

BENGALURU

Dispelling the suspense, Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday allocated portfolios to the 23 ministers in his cabinet, alongside a minor rejig of portfolios previously assigned.

The allocation, which comes a day before the Monsoon Session of the Legislative Assembly is set to begin on August 13, takes effect immediately.

Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot issued the notification on Wednesday under Article 166(3) of the Constitution read with Rule 5 of the Karnataka Government (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1977.

The delay since the August 3 swearing-in, which took the strength of the Council of Ministers to 33, just one short of the sanctioned limit, had left the new ministers without clarity on their departments amid Shivakumar's meetings with the high command in New Delhi over a potential minor reshuffle, possibly to include a woman minister.

However, the allocation comes after Shivakumar decided against an immediate cabinet reshuffle following discussions with the Congress high command in Delhi.

After returning to Bengaluru on Monday, Shivakumar had said the government would consider a reshuffle, including the induction of a woman minister, after the monsoon session. The decision followed growing discontent among senior Congress MLAs, who were left out of the expanded cabinet.

The party had been weighing changes to accommodate some of the disgruntled leaders, but sources said dropping newly-inducted ministers could trigger another round of dissent.

Congress had taken nearly two months to expand the ministry after Shivakumar and the first batch of 13 ministers were sworn in on June 3. Subsequently, 19 ministers were inducted on August 3, adding to the pressure on the leadership to settle competing demands over portfolios.

The sanctioned strength of Karnataka's council of ministers is 34, including the CM.

After the expansion, the cabinet now has one vacant berth.

Shivakumar retains key portfolios

DK Shivakumar retained key portfolios, including finance, cabinet affairs, personnel and administrative reforms, intelligence, information, law and justice, parliamentary affairs and legislation, agriculture marketing, town and country planning, and urban local bodies under BDA and BMRDA. He will also hold all unallotted portfolios.

Among the major allocations, UT Khader has been given Minority Welfare, Haj and Wakf, and Health and Family Welfare.

Ramalinga Reddy has been moved from the Water Resources portfolio to Forests

High points

Two months after assuming charge as Chief Minister, Shivakumar expanded his Cabinet on August 3.

He inducted 19 ministers, bringing the total strength to 33.

One slot remains vacant, which is expected to be filled by a female leader.

The missing representation

Zero women's representation in the cabinet has sparked pushback from civic groups and political opponents, and pressure is mounting on the Karnataka CM to fill up one vacant berth with a woman.

while N Chaluvayyaswamy has been assigned the Water Resources portfolio.

B Nagendra, who has been accused in a case involving alleged misappropriation of Valmiki Scheduled Castes Development Corporation's funds scam, has been allotted the Planning and Statistics portfolio.

Madhu Bangarappa will continue as the Minister for School Education and Literacy. Basavaraj Rayareddi, who was reportedly eyeing the Finance portfolio, has been given Higher Education. Rayareddi had served as the Higher Education Minister during the first Siddaramaiah government.

BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan has been given charge of Housing, while KH Muniyappa has been moved from the



Chief Minister DK Shivakumar along with his deputy Dr G Parameshwara holds a key meeting with cabinet colleagues and senior leaders at his home office Krishna in Bengaluru on Wednesday. The strategic session took place following the allocation of portfolios to 19 newly-inducted ministers and ahead of the state legislature's monsoon session.

food and civil supplies to the Social Welfare Department, the portfolio he had been lobbying for.

Shivalinge Gowda has been given excise, which has been transferred out of the Finance Department.

Puttaranga Shetty will oversee Animal Husbandry and Sericulture Departments, while Vijayanand Kashappanavar has been assigned Small-scale Industries and Public Enterprises.

Santosh Lad will handle Labour and Employment. KS Basavanthappa has been given Muzrai, Fisheries, Ports and Inland Water, while SS Mallikarjun will oversee the Mines, Geology and Horticulture Departments.

Narendra Swamy will handle Agriculture, HC Balakrishna Municipal Administration and B Nagendra, the minister of Planning and Statistics.

The portfolio allocation comes amid a broader expansion in the Karnataka Cabinet. However, despite much talk about inducting a woman minister into the Cabinet, the latest portfolio allocation does not indicate the inclusion of any woman minister.

The Congress leadership is also facing demands for greater representation for women in the ministry. Laxmi Hebbalkar, Annapoorna E Thukaram and Kaneez Fathima were among the names considered for induction, but the issue has been deferred for now.

Karnataka cabinet list 2026



DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister

Finance; Cabinet Affairs; Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms; Intelligence; Information; Law, Justice and Human Rights; Parliamentary Affairs and Legislation; Agriculture Marketing; Commissionerate of Town & Country Planning; all Urban Local Bodies under BDA and BMRDA areas; all unallotted portfolios.



Ramalinga Reddy
Forest, Ecology and Environment



BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan
Housing



Lakshman Savadi
Cooperation, excluding Agriculture Marketing



KH Muniyappa
Social Welfare



Rudrappa Manappa Lamani
Sugar and Textiles



Shivraj Tangadagi
Backward Classes Welfare; Kannada and Culture



UT Khader
Minority Welfare; Haj & Wakf; Health and Family Welfare



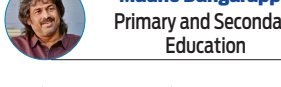
T Raghunurthy
ST Welfare



Dr. Ajay Singh
Minor Irrigation; Science and Technology



Cheluvayyaswamy
Major and Medium Irrigation



Madhu Bangarappa
Primary and Secondary Education



Basavaraj Raya Reddy
Higher Education



Shivalinge Gowda
Excise



Puttaranga Shetty
Animal Husbandry and Sericulture



Vijayananda Kashappanavar
Small Scale Industries; Public Enterprises



Santhosh Lad
Labour and Employment



KS Basavanthappa
Muzrai; Fisheries; Ports and Inland Water



SS Mallikarjun
Mines and Geology; Horticulture



Rizwan Arshad
Food and Civil Supplies; Consumer Affairs



Narendra Swamy
Agriculture



HC Balakrishna
Municipal Administration



B Nagendra
Planning and Statistics

Cong MLA Ponnanna appointed as Political Secretary to CM



Bengaluru: Karnataka government on Wednesday appointed Congress MLA AS Ponnanna as Political Secretary to Chief Minister DK Shivakumar with a cabinet minister's status.

Interestingly, the AICC had earlier named him as the party's nominee for the post of

Deputy Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.

"AS Ponnanna, Member of the Legislative Assembly from the Virajpet Assembly Constituency, is hereby appointed as the Political Secretary to the chief minister with immediate effect and until further orders, and is accord-

ed the status of a Cabinet Minister," an official notification said.

Ponnanna, who was a ministerial aspirant, had expressed displeasure over not being inducted into the cabinet, which, incidentally was expanded last week. An advocate, he had served as CM's

legal advisor during Siddaramaiah's tenure.

A letter from the Congress high command to CM Shivakumar on August 3, which included the list of ministers to be sworn in that day, had mentioned Ponnanna's name as the party's nominee for the Deputy Speaker's post.

SC to hear TN's Cauvery plea on Aug 17

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday said pleas of the Tamil Nadu government and others, including the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), seeking directions to the Karnataka government to immediately release Cauvery river water to the state, will be taken up for hearing on August 17.

Senior advocate P Wilson, appearing for some farmers, mentioned a separate plea for urgent listing before a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana. "This was to come up tomorrow before Justice Vikram Nath (-led bench). But he is not well," the CJI said.

Earlier, the Tamil Nadu government had said the state was not getting its due share of Cauvery waters in a rain-deficient year. On August 10, the

K'taka bandh today

Kannada Okkuta led by veteran Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj, with support from pro-Kannada and farmers' organisations, has called a statewide bandh from 6 am to 6 pm on Thursday. The protest is centred on the Cauvery water dispute and demands progress on irrigation projects, including Mekedatu, Mahadayi and Kalasa-Banduri.

apex court agreed to examine on August 13 a plea by the Tamil Nadu government, seeking directions to the Karnataka government for the immediate release of its share of Cauvery waters.

On August 3, Chief Minister Joseph Vijay-led Tamil Nadu

'Will decide future course after Aug 13'

Minister Ramalinga Reddy said the state would find it difficult to release 12,000 cusecs of Cauvery water daily to Tamil Nadu as directed by the CWMA. He said the government would decide its future course of action based on the outcome of a Supreme Court hearing on Thursday, asserting that it would ensure that no injustice was done to the state.

government moved the Supreme Court, seeking directions to the Karnataka government for immediate release of their share of Cauvery waters.

As per sources, Tamil Nadu claimed that Karnataka had failed to release water to Tamil Nadu on a proportionate basis.

NEW DELHI

Observing that the state "cannot have the luxury of prolonging trials for years", the Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Karnataka government to provide infrastructure for an additional special court to exclusively deal with cases under the UA on a day-to-day basis.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana passed the directions while hearing a plea filed by Shahid Khan, an accused in a PFI conspiracy case in which the prosecution proposes to examine 707 witnesses, including a few protected witnesses.

"We direct the State of Kar-

nataka to immediately provide the requisite infrastructure, including the creation of one additional post in the Karnataka Higher Judicial Service, along with the requisite staff and other allied facilities as per the norms fixed by the High Court. The necessary sanctions shall be accorded within two weeks," the CJI said in the order.

Once the state sanctions the requisite infrastructure, staff and posts, the chief justice of the Karnataka High Court will spare a judicial officer to preside over the special court to deal exclusively with Unlawful Activities Act on a day-to-day basis, the court said.

"The present case

shall also be entrusted to the special court. The Presiding Officer shall first examine the three protected witnesses, followed by the other vital witnesses, to ensure that the material evidence for the prosecution is recorded within a maximum period of three months," the bench ordered.

After the examination of material witnesses, the petitioner shall be at liberty to apply afresh for release on bail, it said. "Such an application shall be considered on its own merits without being influenced by the observations made in the impugned order," it said.

The court also took note of the existing workload of the special court.

'STATE CAN'T HAVE LUXURY OF PROLONGING TRIAL'

Ensure infra for special UAPA court: SC to K'taka

SC directives & infra needs

Judicial post: Create one new post in the Karnataka Higher Judicial Service for an exclusive presiding officer.

Staff & facilities: Provide supporting staff and allied facilities matching High Court guidelines.

Sanction window: Give official approvals and funding within two weeks.

Caseload control: Reduce judge burdens, noting a single judge should manage 12 to 15 UAPA trials instead of 90

Trial guidelines

■ **Fast-track hearing:** Run day-to-day proceedings without stoppages for routine bail requests.

■ **Witness priority:** Examine key protected witnesses and vital persons within a strict three-month window.

Quick Read

Peenya police promptly rescue youth from suicide attempt

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Peenya Police demonstrated exceptional responsiveness by saving a 26-year-old man from suicide. Following an alert via the 112 emergency helpline regarding a severe emotional breakdown over a failed relationship, Hoysala-115 officers ASI Kemparajayya and AHC Thippeswamy reached the scene in just six minutes. The personnel provided vital counseling and emotional support, ensuring his safety. He was subsequently handed over to his friend for ongoing care. This swift, humane intervention highlights the efficiency of Bengaluru City Police and the 112 system in crisis management, reinforcing public trust.

Karnataka bandh gets mixed support; KSRTC, metro to operate

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Karnataka bandh called for August 13 over the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu is receiving mixed support from Kannada organizations. Vatal Nagaraj-led groups, including the Dr. Rajkumar Fans Association, Kannada Sena and Kannada Jagruthi Vedike, are supporting the protest. However, the Narayana Gowda and Shivaramagowda factions of Karnataka Rakshana Vedike, private transport unions, farmers' organizations and most auto unions are not supporting the bandh. KSRTC, BMTC and metro services are expected to operate normally. Schools, colleges, hospitals, shops, hotels, government offices and industries are also expected to remain open. Some private-school and hotel associations have extended only moral support to the bandh.

Expedite Ejipura buffer road, flyover works: Maheshwar Rao

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao directed officials to expedite the Ejipura buffer road and flyover works and ensure timely completion. Maheshwar Rao issued the directions while reviewing the progress of various development works in the Bengaluru South City Corporation limits under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). He directed officials to speed up the 5.45-km buffer road project from Lower Agaram Junction to Ejipura Road. The project includes a 2.45-km stretch from Lower Agaram Road to Ejipura Road and another three-km



stretch from Ejipura Road to Sarjapur Road. For the project near Ejipura, 5.34 acres of Defence Department land has been handed over. Around 90 per cent of the retaining wall work has been completed, while drainage and footpath works are progressing. The Commissioner directed officials to design the

road to facilitate rainwater percolation instead of allowing it to flow away. As the adjoining ST Bed Colony is a low-lying area, suitable stormwater drains must be constructed to ensure smooth flow and prevent flooding.

Ejipura road work
Reviewing the flyover work, Rao directed officials to deploy additional manpower and accelerate construction. He also instructed officials to widen the narrow footpath along the service road beneath the flyover after completion. A dedicated cycle track must be developed along with the footpath, with suit-

able measures to prevent two-wheelers from entering it. Officials were also asked to prepare an estimate for installing adequate lighting beneath the flyover.

Jayanagar white-topping
Rao also reviewed the 690-metre white-topping project from Nagarjuna to Cool Joint on 22nd Cross, Jayanagar. He directed officials to open the completed stretch to traffic after curing and immediately take up the remaining portion. He also ordered shops to provide dustbins and directed officials to warn and fine establishments encroaching on footpaths.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY

Worker safety priority as Tunnel Road underpass expedited

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru Central City Corporation Commissioner Jagadeesh G. directed officials to expedite the Wind Tunnel Junction underpass work while ensuring strict worker safety standards. The Commissioner inspected the ongoing underpass construction at Wind Tunnel Junction near the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre on Old Airport Road. He directed officials and the contractor to deploy additional workers and complete the project within the stipulated timeline. He stressed that safety measures must be strictly followed during concreting and earthwork. Proper barricad-



ing, safety signboards and essential protective equipment for workers must be provided before construction activities begin. Temporary alternative

roads have been arranged on both sides of the junction using available spaces belonging to the Defence Department, ISRO, NAL and private

Safety measures made mandatory
The Commissioner directed officials and the contractor to ensure proper barricading, safety signboards and protective equipment at the site. All precautionary measures must be implemented before concreting and earthwork begin. Temporary alternative roads will facilitate traffic movement during construction. Officials have also been asked to prevent congestion, minimise inconvenience to motorists and closely monitor construction quality while ensuring timely completion of the underpass.

properties. Officials were instructed to ensure construction does not inconvenience motorists or lead to traffic congestion. Jagadeesh also

directed officials to continuously monitor every stage of the project and ensure that the work meets prescribed quality standards and technical specifications.

KEY DIRECTIONS

Location	Wind Tunnel Junction, Old Airport Road
Project	Underpass construction
Priority	Worker and public safety
Speed up	Deploy additional workers
Traffic	Alternative roads arranged
Quality	Continuous monitoring mandated

Infrastructure, scientific waste management to get priority: Yatindra Siddaramaiah

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Urban Development Minister Dr Yatindra Siddaramaiah has directed officials to prioritise urban infrastructure, civic services and scientific waste management across municipal corporations. A State-level committee meeting on the Mahatma Gandhi Urban Development Scheme (Phase-II) was held in Bengaluru under the Minister's chairmanship. The meeting reviewed infrastructure and development works being undertaken across municipal corporation limits and took several key decisions. Officials were directed to develop dedicated mobile applications or software to provide citizens easy access to municipal



corporation details, public services and essential information. All municipal corporations were asked to establish waste processing units with capacities higher than the quantity of waste generated in their jurisdictions. Authorities were also directed to procure segregation machines to facilitate scientific processing of waste at source. An action plan worth ₹185 crore for various infrastructure development works in Hassan Municipal Corporation was approved. For Tumakuru Municipal Corporation, an action plan worth ₹6 crore was approved for alternative works, including construction of overhead water tanks at B.M. Pallya and Shettihalli.

North City Corporation launches weekly Phone-In Programme

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru North City Corporation has launched a weekly Phone-In Programme to directly hear citizens' grievances and improve civic services across its jurisdiction. The programme, initiated by Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar, will be held every Friday. The first session is scheduled for August 14, 2026, from 7 am to 9 am, allowing residents to speak directly with the Commissioner on civic issues. Citizens can raise complaints related to road pot-holes and repairs, streetlight maintenance, door-to-door garbage collection and disposal, removal of hazardous trees and branches, mosquito control, stray dog menace, and development and maintenance of parks. Issues concerning unauthorised banners and posters, footpath encroachments, e-Khata services and other civic matters can also be brought to the Commissioner's attention during the programme. All grievances received through the Phone-In Programme will be registered on

CONTROL ROOM

📞 Mobile/WhatsApp: 9480685705

☎ Landline: 080-22975936 / 080-23636671

The Corporation urged citizens to make use of the weekly programme and digital complaint mechanism to report civic issues and help improve service delivery across North Bengaluru.

the Sahaaya 2.0 portal and immediately forwarded to the concerned departmental officers for necessary action. The Corporation said citizens will receive SMS updates containing details of their registered complaints and information about the officers assigned to address them. The initiative is aimed at strengthening direct communication between citizens and civic authorities and ensuring quicker resolution of local problems. Residents who are unable to participate in the Phone-In Programme can also submit their grievances through the Sahaaya 2.0 mobile application.

Deadline extended to August 22 for clearing vacant sites

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has extended the deadline for owners of vacant sites to clear debris and overgrown vegetation from August 15 to August 22, following requests for additional time. The extension comes as part of the "Freedom from Waste" campaign, being implemented by the GBA in coordination with the BDA, BESCOM, KRIDE, BMRL and KIADB to improve public spaces and make Bengaluru cleaner and safer. As part of the campaign, 100 trucks and 25 excavators have been deployed across the city to remove illegally dumped debris, weeds and other waste from public spaces. More than 30,000 tonnes of debris and overgrown vegetation have been cleared so far. The GBA said sustained improvement also requires property owners to take responsibility for maintaining their vacant sites. Owners have been urged to remove accumulated debris and weeds at the earliest.

Kadugodi police rescue minor girl in distress

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Kadugodi police acted swiftly to rescue a 16-year-old girl in distress after receiving an emergency call from her mother. At around 3.33 pm, the girl's mother contacted the 112 emergency response system, informing police that her daughter had consumed an excessive quantity of tablets and sustained an injury to her left hand. The information was immediately relayed to ASI Shivraj P. and APC Anil Kumar, who were on duty in Hoysala-232 of Kadugodi Police Station. The personnel reached the location within minutes and assessed the girl's condition. During their interaction, police learnt that the girl

was reportedly undergoing severe emotional distress following disturbing videos allegedly being sent to her by her maternal uncle through phone calls and messages. Recognising the seriousness of the situation, the police immediately arranged for her safe transportation to a hospital through a 108 ambulance. She was provided medical treatment at the hospital. The prompt intervention by the police and emergency medical personnel helped ensure that the minor received timely medical attention. The incident highlights the importance of quick communication and coordinated emergency response in protecting lives during critical

situations. The timely call made by the girl's mother enabled the 112 response team and Kadugodi police personnel to reach the location without delay. Police officials said the operation demonstrated the importance of the 112 emergency response system and the role of first responders in handling sensitive emergencies. The coordinated response involving the girl's family, Bengaluru City Police and emergency medical services ensured that she was moved to medical care promptly. The incident also underlines the importance of seeking immediate assistance when a person, particularly a minor, is in an acute emotional or physical crisis.

7,694 tonnes of C&D waste cleared in North Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru North City Corporation has disposed of 7,694 metric tonnes of construction and demolition (C&D) waste between August 1 and 11 under the "Freedom from Waste" campaign. The campaign is being implemented under the directions of Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and the guidance of Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar. The highest quantity of waste was cleared on August 5, when 1,230 metric tonnes were disposed of, followed by 1,146 tonnes on August 6 and

953 tonnes on August 4. On August 1, 228 tonnes were disposed of, followed by 42 tonnes on August 2 and 242 tonnes on August 3. The Corporation cleared 938 tonnes on August 7, 906 tonnes on August 8, 567 tonnes on August 9, 706 tonnes on August 10 and 736 tonnes on August 11. Centre-wise, Marenahalli recorded the highest disposal at 6,551 metric tonnes, followed by Yarappannahalli with 1,075 tonnes. Venkatapura accounted for 22 tonnes, while Vitasandra recorded 46 tonnes. The Corporation said the drive would be intensified to ensure Bengaluru North becomes free from C&D waste.



Quick Read



Karnataka schools to remain open today

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Karnataka schools will remain open on Thursday, August 13, despite a bandh called over the Cauvery water dispute with Tamil Nadu. The Karnataka Associated Managements of Schools (KAMS) withdrew its closure call, saying educating students about the issue is preferable to disrupting classes. Closures could affect academic schedules, especially as the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise has reduced class hours, with teachers deputised for voter list revision. KAMS expressed moral support for the bandh and asked schools to show solidarity by wearing black ribbons or black stripes as a symbolic protest against the directive to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

Bengaluru deaths renew safety concerns

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The deaths of two labourers and injuries to three others after a 20-foot-deep soil wall collapsed at an underpass construction site near Bengaluru's Dr. Rajkumar Memorial have renewed concerns over construction-site safety. Labour unions have questioned why workers continue to perform hazardous tasks despite the availability of advanced technology and heavy machinery. The incident has also highlighted gaps in enforcement and accountability. Critics argue that action often ends with compensation to victims' families, rather than fixing safety violations or holding responsible officials and contractors accountable. The tragedy has strengthened calls for stricter safety guidelines, regular inspections, better protective measures and firm action against those who compromise workers' safety.

K'taka Lok Bhavan to be open for public visit from Aug 16 to 18

Bengaluru's Lok Bhavan will welcome visitors for three days during Independence Day celebrations.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Lok Bhavan in Bengaluru will be open to the general public from August 16 to 18, officials said. Visitors can access designated areas between 5.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. on all three days. The opening is being organised to mark the 80th Independence Day. R. Prabhu Shankar, Special Secretary to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, said visitors must comply with security and entry guidelines. "All visitors shall compulsorily undergo security screening and frisking before entering the Lok Bhavan premises." Visitors must carry a valid government-issued identity card, including Aadhaar, and present it for verification at the entry point. They will be allowed only along prescribed routes and must maintain silence, discipline and decorum. Private taxis will not be

VISITOR TIMINGS	
DATES	August 16–18, 2026
TIMINGS	5.30 p.m.–7.30 p.m.
ENTRY	Valid government ID compulsory
SCREENING	Mandatory security check and frisking
ACCESS	Designated areas & prescribed route only
PRIVATE TAXIS	Not permitted inside

allowed inside the premises. Visitors are also prohibited from carrying bags, backpacks, food items, tobacco products, cigarettes, alcohol and other restricted materials. Professional cameras, video cameras, laptops and electronic or electrical devices are also prohibited. Sharp or metallic objects, matchboxes, lighters, inflammable materials, arms and ammunition will not be permitted.



VISITOR GUIDELINES
Carry a valid government-issued ID and undergo mandatory security screening. Follow the designated route and maintain discipline and decorum. Bags, backpacks, food, pan, gutka, tobacco, cigarettes and alcohol are prohibited. Professional and video cameras, laptops, electronic devices, sharp and metallic objects, matchboxes, lighters, inflammable materials, arms and ammunition are also banned. Private taxis cannot enter the Lok Bhavan premises during the public-visit period.

Integrated approach to major East Bengaluru infrastructure projects

Officials told to fast-track key roads, junctions and infrastructure projects across East Bengaluru.



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru East City Corporation Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar has directed officials to adopt an integrated approach to major road and infrastructure projects, with emphasis on quality, coordination and timely completion. A progress review meeting examined projects including Hennur–Bagalur Road, Horamavu Service Road, High-Density Corridor roads, ITPL Road, Hope Farm–Old Madras Road, Outer Ring Road junctions and the Yeshwanthpur–K.R. Puram Elevated Corridor. Officials were asked to prioritise Hennur–Bagalur and Horamavu works after site inspections and technical assessments. Drain width, stormwater capacity and future traffic requirements must be considered while finalising designs. The quality and progress of ITPL and Hope Farm–Old Madras Road works were also reviewed, with officials instructed to complete them by the end of September. For Outer Ring Road junctions, officials were directed to plan improvements beyond

KEY PROJECTS	
■ Hennur–Bagalur Road:	Priority works
■ Horamavu Service Road:	Site assessment and planning
■ ITPL–Hope Farm:	Completion targeted by September-end
■ ORR junctions:	Comprehensive improvements
■ Yeshwanthpur–K.R. Puram:	Project status review
■ Marathahalli:	Immediate drain-slab repairs

the junction itself, covering about 50 metres in all directions while considering traffic, pedestrian movement, drainage and connectivity. The meeting also reviewed the elevated corridor project and directed officials to coordinate with the government to expedite pending processes. Immediate repairs were ordered for damaged drain slabs near Sudarshan Silks in Marathahalli. "Major infrastructure projects must be planned as interconnected components, keeping future requirements in mind."

Future-ready planning
Officials were directed to identify coordination issues before construction begins and resolve them during planning itself. Roads, drains, bridges, junctions, utility services and elevated corridors must be planned together. Phase-wise execution plans should minimise public inconvenience. Regular reviews, timely issue resolution and strict quality monitoring are to be ensured. The corporation aims to deliver safer, sustainable and future-ready infrastructure through coordinated implementation across East Bengaluru.

Dinesh Gundu Rao seeks ₹100 crore seed fund for Brahmin Devpt Board

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Former Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has urged the Karnataka government to provide ₹100 crore as seed money to the Karnataka State Brahmin Development Board for the comprehensive development of the Brahmin community. Rao was speaking after launching the 2026–27 Sandipani Scholarship Scheme at an event organised by the board in Bengaluru. He said several welfare programmes implemented by the board have benefited economically disadvantaged members of the community and welcomed the growing number of beneficiaries. Rao also appreciated the board's loan recovery performance, noting that its recovery rate has crossed 98 per cent. He said stronger financial support would enable the board to expand its programmes and reach more beneficiaries. The Sandipani Scholarship Scheme is aimed at helping



economically disadvantaged Brahmin students pursue higher education. Board Chairman Asagodu Jayasimha said students studying in First and Second PUC and general degree courses will receive ₹15,000 annually towards maintenance expenses. For students pursuing professional courses through CET, NEET and other entrance examinations, the board will reimburse two-thirds of the admission fee, he said.

Sandipani Scholarship Scheme	
• Scheme:	Sandipani Scholarship
• Academic year:	2026–27
• Proposed seed fund:	₹100 crore
• PUC/general degree support:	₹15,000 annually
• Professional courses:	Two-thirds of admission fee reimbursed
• Loan recovery:	Above 98%
• Application deadline:	Dec 31

Priyank Kharge reviews security for Independence Day celebrations



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Minister for Home, Information Technology and Biotechnology, and e-Governance Priyank Kharge has directed police and Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials to ensure comprehensive security and traffic arrangements for the State's first public 'Swatantrya Habba-2026' celebrations at Vidhana Soudha on August 15. Kharge held a meeting with senior officials ahead of the event, which is expected to attract a large number of visitors. He directed authorities to make arrangements for security, smooth traffic movement, public entry and exit, vehicle parking, pedestrian safety and crowd management. The programme will be held at Vidhana Soudha from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and will feature the 'The People's India Parade', a special Vidhana Soudha tour, children's fair, quiz, cultural programmes, music concert, and food and handicraft exhibitions showcasing different districts. Special attention has been sought for the evening music programme and night-time fireworks, which are expected to draw large crowds. "Officials must work in coordination to ensure there are no lapses in public safety," Priyank Kharge said. Kharge also directed officials to ensure adequate emergency services and prevent inconvenience to visitors. Inter-departmental coordination was emphasised for effective crowd and traffic management.

Libraries are universal centres of knowledge: Dr Byrappa



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Libraries are universal centres of knowledge that transcend barriers of religion, caste, creed, gender and social background, said Dr Kuppanahalli M. Byrappa, Professor of Kannada and noted thinker. He was speaking at a special lecture titled "Jaga Belaguv Jnanālaya" (Library that Enlightens the World) organised by the Library and Information Centre and the Library Resource Optimisation Committee of Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, to mark National Librarians' Day. Dr Byrappa said libraries provide unrestricted access to knowledge and give everyone an opportunity to engage with books and ideas. Comparing libraries with places of worship, he noted that access to some places of worship may be governed by faith or restrictions, while libraries remain open to all. "Libraries are an

ocean of knowledge; explore their resources with curiosity and perseverance." He said sincere engagement with books could transform individuals, broaden their perspectives and help them build meaningful futures. Philosophers, thinkers, scholars, social reformers, leaders and pioneers who brought significant changes to society had made books an integral part of their lives, he added. Referring to Dr S.R. Ranganathan, widely regarded as the Father of Library Science in India, Dr Byrappa said the purpose of National Librarians' Day would be truly fulfilled only when people actively use libraries for knowledge sharing and intellectual development. The programme was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Som Zacharia, Director of the Library and Information Centre. Dr Uma Maheshwari, Coordinator of the Library Resource Optimisation Committee, welcomed the gathering.

Over 4.16 lakh voter forms digitised in Bengaluru South

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Electoral Roll Intensive Revision–2026 is progressing across the Bengaluru South Assembly constituency, with officials reporting that 4,16,292 Enumeration Forms (EFs) have been digitised so far. According to the Electoral Registration Officer and Revenue officials of the Bengaluru South constituency's An-

janapura division, the constituency has a total of 7,85,800 registered voters. Enumeration Forms have been distributed to all 7,85,800 voters as part of the revision exercise. The digitisation of the forms is aimed at updating electoral records and ensuring that the voter list accurately reflects the current status of residents in the constituency. Officials said the door-to-door verification exercise has

also identified voters who were unavailable at their residences. So far, 36,214 voters were reported absent during visits by field-level officials. The verification process also found a substantial number of voters who had permanently moved from the constituency. Officials reported that 2,73,494 voters had permanently migrated. In addition, 20,414 voters were reported deceased

during the verification exercise. The findings are part of the ongoing electoral roll revision process and will help authorities identify records requiring appropriate updates, including cases involving permanent migration and deaths. Officials said the exercise is being carried out systematically through household-level verification and digitisation of the enumeration forms.

SC leaders seek quashing of KPSC FIR

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Marasandra Muniyappa, State president of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Religious Minorities Federation, has demanded that the FIR registered against two Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) members and three Scheduled Caste candidates be quashed. Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Muniyappa alleged that the Vidhana Soudha police registered the FIR based on three complaints filed by Kantha Kumar without conducting a thorough preliminary investigation. The individuals named in the complaints include KPSC members Bojanayak and Shantha Hosamani, and candidates Anup S., Mandir and Mamita. Muniyappa alleged that the complaints contained speculative claims about candidates allegedly paying money to KPSC members to se-



cure posts. He questioned why only Scheduled Caste members and candidates had been named when the commission has several members. He also pointed out that, according to him, the complaints did not include documentary evidence or identify the source of the alleged information. The interviews for the posts concerned were conducted in May and June after completion of the preliminary and main examinations. Muniyappa said the interviews were completed in the second week

of June, while the complaint was filed around 20 days later. "It is inexcusable that the police took action based on a complaint made without evidence and based on assumptions." Muniyappa alleged that the complaints were intended to intimidate members of the Scheduled Castes and damage their dignity. He demanded disciplinary action against police personnel if dereliction of duty was established. He also urged the government to take preventive mea-

sures to ensure that similar incidents do not recur and called for legal action against those responsible for allegedly making baseless accusations. Representatives of several Dalit and social organisations attended the press conference, including Basavaraj Kautal, P. Murthy, Prof. B. Krishnappa, Jeevanhalli Narayan, Kodigal Ramesh, S. Gangadhar, Thyagaraj and Venugopal Maury.

Demand for action
Marasandra Muniyappa urged the government to quash the FIR and investigate the circumstances under which it was registered. He also sought departmental disciplinary action if police officials are found to have neglected procedures. Muniyappa alleged that the complaints lacked supporting documents and relied on speculation. He called for preventive measures to protect Scheduled Caste candidates and KPSC members from what he described as unfounded allegations.

LITERARY RELEASE



Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah releases Dr Dwaranakunte Patanna's novels "Rani Ahilyabai Holkar" and "Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna" at an event in Bengaluru.

Quick Read

Scheduled Caste grievance meetings set for Aug 18

CH NEWS, MANGALURU
Meetings to discuss grievances of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities will be held across selected taluks on August 18 and 19, officials said. The Moodbidri taluk meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. on August 18 at the taluk office hall. The Mulki meeting will be held at 3 p.m. the same day at the Praja Soudha hall. On August 19, the Mangaluru and Ullal taluk meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Mangaluru Taluk Panchayat hall. Office-bearers of community organisations have been invited to attend and raise their concerns for discussion with officials.

PM scholarship applications open for ex-servicemen's children

CH NEWS, GADAG
Applications are invited for the Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme for 2026-27 from children of ex-servicemen admitted to eligible first-year professional or postgraduate courses. Courses covered include BE, BTech, BDS, MBBS, BED, BBA, BCA, BPharma, LLB, MBA and MCA, among others, recognized by authorised bodies such as AICTE, UGC and the Indian Medical Council. Eligible students must submit their applications online through the KSB website before December 31. The Department of Soldiers' Welfare and Rehabilitation urged eligible families to apply within the deadline. Applicants can visit www.ksb.gov.in for details and complete the application process.

ADC calls for better implementation of minority welfare schemes

CH NEWS, MANGALURU
Additional Deputy Commissioner Raju K has directed government departments to work together to ensure that welfare schemes under the Prime Minister's new 15-point programme reach eligible minority beneficiaries effectively. He stressed the need for co-ordinated action in education, housing, employment and other areas to ensure that deserving families receive government support. Speaking at a review meeting at the District Collector's office, Raju K asked officials to ensure that no eligible child is deprived of school education. He directed them to identify children who have dropped out and take steps to bring them back into the education system. Officials were also told to provide people in rural areas with clear information about schemes available

Mysuru women celebrate Bheemana Amavasya with devotion

MYSURU
The spirit of tradition and devotion filled Mysuru on Wednesday as women across the city observed Bheemana Amavasya, performing special rituals and offering prayers for the well-being, longevity and prosperity of their husbands and families. From the early hours of the morning, homes and temples witnessed women preparing for the auspicious occasion with traditional decorations, oil lamps and special puja arrangements. The festival, observed during the Amavasya (new moon) in the month of



‘50 Years of bandhs, but what did Karnataka gain?’

Vishwanath stated 50 years of bandhs yielded only losses, devastating small traders, street vendors, and workers while sparing wealthy businesses

MYSURU

Former MLC H. Vishwanath has urged people not to support the Karnataka bandh called by Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj on August 13, terming it “unnecessary” and warning that repeated shut-downs only inflict losses on ordinary people and small businesses. Speaking to reporters here on Wednesday, Vishwanath said Karnataka had witnessed bandhs for nearly five decades, but they had failed to produce any meaningful solution. Over the last 50 years, how many bandhs have been held and what has been achieved? There have only been huge losses. The bandhs primarily hurt small traders, street vendors and ordinary workers, while large five-star hotels and major showrooms often escape the impact. Instead of shutting down the State, the governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu should sit



across the table and resolve contentious issues through dialogue. The public must not to support the bandh even if attempts were made to enforce it forcibly. ‘Siddaramaiah’s interference must end’ Taking aim at former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Vishwanath alleged that his interference in the functioning of the government had increased considerably. “Siddaramaiah should immediately stop interfering and allow the new Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to function independently,” he said, adding that Shivakumar should be given freedom to choose a Cabinet that would

POLICE URGE PEACE AHEAD OF KARNATAKA BANDH

Mysuru City Police have warned of strict legal action against anyone involved in unlawful activities during the Karnataka bandh on August 13. Police said no protest has been permitted in Mysuru city. They warned against forcibly closing shops, businesses, schools, colleges or offices, blocking roads or stopping public movement. Burning tyres or effigies is also prohibited. Police said criminal action would be taken against those disturbing public order or damaging government and public property. Citizens and organisations were urged to maintain peace and avoid disrupting normal activities. Police stressed that coercion, obstruction or violence to enforce the bandh would invite legal action.

enable him to govern effectively. Vishwanath also accused Siddaramaiah of displaying excessive “son affection” by backing his son, Yathindra Siddaramaiah. He questioned the decision to appoint Yathindra as Mysuru district in-charge minister, arguing that he lacked the experience required to handle the responsibilities associated with a globally renowned city like Mysuru. “Mysuru is a world-famous city and major personalities

residents fume over vehicles blocking house gates

MYSURU

Residents of Second Cross Road near Surya Bakery in Hebbal are reportedly facing daily inconvenience as car owners allegedly park their vehicles in front of residential gates, blocking access to homes and creating frequent confrontations. A.R. Satyanarayana Murthy, an advocate and resident of Hebbal, has brought the issue to public attention, stating that residents have been forced to tolerate the problem for a long time.

Vijayapura prepares for Agniveer Recruitment Rally

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

An Agniveer Recruitment Rally of the Indian Army will be held at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar District Stadium in Vijayapura from September 10 to 23. District Collector Dr. Anand K. has directed departments to work together and make thorough preparations for a disciplined, transparent and smooth recruitment process. The rally will begin at 3 a.m. each day, with physical tests, medical examinations and document verification conducted at the stadium’s

synthetic track and indoor sports facilities. Officials were asked to arrange transport support because the bus and railway stations are located near the stadium. Waterproof tents, seating, drinking water and bio-toilets will also be provided for candidates. The Food and Civil Supplies Department has been asked to arrange accommodation for candidates, Army officers and supporting personnel. Special teams from the Revenue, Sports and Education departments will assist with document verifi-

cation from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Officials and staff will be deployed to complete verification quickly at the venue and reduce delays for candidates. Police will make security, barricading, parking and CCTV arrangements to manage traffic and ensure safety, particularly as many parents are expected to accompany candidates. Departments have also been instructed to ensure uninterrupted electricity, internet services, ambulances, fire extinguishers and adequate drinking water.

Congress leaders mark Siddaramaiah’s birthday with welfare activities

MYSURU

Congress leaders and supporters celebrated former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah’s birthday by organising various welfare activities for the poor and underprivileged in Mysuru on Wednesday. At the Government School for Blind and Deaf Children in Tilak Nagar, the Shivanna Sneha Balaga, in association with BGS Apollo Hospital and Sanjeevini Dental Clinic, conducted a free health check-up and distributed medicines and food to the students. MLC Dr. Thimmaiah, Mysuru City Congress president R. Murthy, Congress leader Shivanna, Ravi Manchegowdanakoppalu, Asha, Ravi, Dairy Venkatesh and Suresh Gold were among those present. Meanwhile, Congress leaders led by former Mysuru Zilla Panchayat member and Guarantee Schemes Committee chairman K. Maruthi cel-



ebrated Siddaramaiah’s birthday at K.R. Hospital by distributing biscuits and sweets to patients. Maruthi said Siddaramaiah had always championed the interests of the poor, backward communities, Dalits and farmers and worked for the overall development of Karnataka. In another programme, the Dr. S. Yathindra Siddaramaiah Foundation celebrated Siddaramaiah’s birthday by cutting a cake and distributing sweets in front of the Srikanteshwara Temple in Nanjangud taluk.

Foundation founder K.R. Ravikumar said prayers were offered for Siddaramaiah’s continued strength and active participation in politics and for the Congress to return to power in the next election. Zoo Authority chairman Rangaswamy, Ravi, president of Kempri Siddanahundi Gram Panchayat, Biligere Gold Suresh, Beerayya, Guarantee Schemes Committee member Ravi and several Congress workers and supporters participated.

CEO pushes continuous rural jobs across Vijayapura

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Rishi Anand directed officials to ensure continuous employment for rural workers under the VB-G Ram-G scheme and provide essential facilities at worksites. During his visit to lake revitalization work in Nagathana Gram Panchayat limits, he reviewed work progress, quality, attendance and employment generation. Anand said worksites must have drinking water, shade and first-aid facilities. He also directed officials to prevent payment-related technical problems and make face authentication mandatory for workers. Under the scheme, rural families can receive 125 days of employment annually at Rs. 382 per day. Families can also undertake works such as agricultural wells, cattle sheds, goat sheds and horticulture development. He stressed that every eligible family should receive employment. The CEO directed officials to provide continuous work to at least 100 workers in every Gram Panchayat of Vijayapura taluk and meet employment targets. He called for wide-spread village-level awareness and regular monitoring of job demand registration, work plans and attendance. During the inspection, 162 workers, including 100 women and 62 men, were engaged at the lake site. Later, Anand inspected a pre-matric girls’ hostel run by the Backward Classes Welfare

CEO ORDERS 200 DAILY JOBS PER PANCHAYAT

Zilla Panchayat CEO Rishi Anand urged officials to provide continuous employment to eligible rural workers under the VB-G Ram-G scheme. During a tour of Tikota taluk, he inspected works and spoke with labourers at several gram panchayats. He directed officials to ensure 150 to 200 workers get employment daily in each panchayat. Anand stressed that progress must come through actual work, not records alone. He also ordered wider awareness about the scheme and special facilities for women, senior citizens, pregnant women, lactating mothers and differently abled workers. He warned of disciplinary action if employment targets were not achieved.

Department and ordered officials to ensure quality food, clean drinking water and proper facilities. At the Indira Gandhi Residential School, he stressed full attendance, cleanliness, discipline, sports and extracurricular activities. He advised students to practise mathematics and science regularly and solve model papers. After having lunch with students, he reviewed their facilities and directed officials to improve water supply. Officials from the Taluk Panchayat, Gram Panchayat and various departments accompanied him during the visits.

A GOOD FRIEND IS EQUAL TO A LIBRARY’: PROF. CHANDRASHEKAR

MYSURU

Just as temples are filled with devotees, libraries too should be filled with students, said Prof. M. Chandrashekar, senior professor, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Mysuru. Speaking at a programme organised by the City Central Library to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, regarded as the Father of Library Science in India, as Librarians’ Day. Prof. Chandrashekar who inaugurated the programme by offering floral tributes to the portrait of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, said a good book is equal to a hundred friends, while a good friend is equal to a library. Speaking on the occasion, Amshi Prasannakumar, a senior journalist, explained the close and inseparable relationship between journalism and libraries and highlighted the importance of making effective use of library resources. Rakhi Chennabasavanna advised students not to depend solely on artificial intelligence but to cultivate the habit of reading books. Reading makes a person complete, writing makes one precise and

speech prepares one for life,” she said. G. Anand, Assistant Professor at Sharada Vilas Degree College, said books have the power to transform individuals into cultured and responsible citizens. Dr. B. Mallikarjunaswamy, Vice-Principal of Government Girls’ High School, People’s Park, and a member of the City Library Authority, who presided over the programme, said he had faced difficulties in life due to not having a close association with libraries and urged students to make continuous and meaningful use of library facilities. Certificates and prizes were distributed to students who emerged winners in various competitions held as part of the programme. Deputy Director of City Central Library Manjunath B., Deputy Director of District Central Library Suma B. Kodihalli, Chief Librarian Padmashree T., Assistant Librarian of People’s Park Library Sowmya S., Librarian of City Central Library Syed Noorussabha Salar, Office Superintendent Latha H. and First Division Assistant Shobha L. were among those present.

“Youth have a crucial role in building a strong nation”

MYSURU

Youth have a very important role to play in building a better and stronger nation. Young people should remain aware and protect themselves from dangerous infections such as HIV/AIDS and come forward to build a healthy society, said District AIDS Control Officer Dr. Brinda. She was speaking after inaugurating the International Youth Day programme held at Chamara-jendra Government College of Visual Arts, Mysuru, today. The programme was jointly organised by the Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society, Bengaluru, the District Health and

Family Welfare Department, Mysuru, the District AIDS Prevention and Control Unit, Mysuru, and Chamara-jendra Government College of Visual Arts, Mysuru. She said everyone should join hands in building an AIDS-free India and ensure that information and awareness about HIV/AIDS reach all young men and women in society. District Health Education Officer Muneendramma said it was a matter of concern that Karnataka ranks third in the country in terms of the number of people living with HIV. She stressed the need to create widespread awareness among students at the college level itself.

FAMILIES SEEK PROSPERITY

and decorated the puja space with flowers, turmeric, kumkum and other auspicious items. The rituals were accompanied by the chanting of prayers and devotional songs, creating a spiritually charged atmosphere. The festival is also associated with the traditional ‘Bheemana Amavasya’ ritual, in which women worship symbolic representations of Bheema and his wife Draupadi or a pair of sacred objects representing the divine couple. The rituals are believed to strengthen marital bonds and bring happiness and prosperity to the family.

Temples in different parts of Mysuru also witnessed devotees offering prayers and participating in special pujas. The festival provided an opportunity for families to come together and preserve customs handed down through generations. For many women, Bheemana Amavasya is not merely a religious observance but also a celebration of family values, affection and togetherness. Elder members of families guided younger women in performing the rituals, helping pass on the significance of the festival to the next generation.



Ashada, holds a special place in Karnataka’s cultural and religious traditions. Women dressed in colourful traditional attire performed the customary puja and sought divine blessings for

the welfare of their families. The lighting of lamps formed a significant part of the celebrations, lending a festive glow to households. In several homes, women prepared traditional offerings



Quick Read

Workshop encourages farmers to adopt beekeeping

CHIKKABALLAPURA
The Horticulture Department held a one-day workshop on beekeeping and detecting heavy metals in vegetables and fruits on Wednesday. Senior Assistant Director N. Ramesh inaugurated the programme at the Agriculture Department Training Hall. He explained government facilities for beekeeping and highlighted honey production as an additional income source for farmers. Expert Santosh explained scientific beekeeping methods, bee colony management, box maintenance, conservation and honey production. Officials also created awareness about identifying heavy metals in farm produce. Assistant Director Nitin DV., horticulture officers Lakshmi- pathi, Hemavati and Sophia Sultan, department staff and several farmers attended the programme.

Religious leader Ibrahimsaba Doddamulla passes away

DHARWAD
Ibrahimsaba alias Basha- saba Usmansaba Doddamulla, 76, a respected Islamic religious leader of Jamia Masjid in Amminabavi, died on Wednesday. He had served Amminabavi and nearby villages for many years. His religious service and community guidance earned him widespread respect. Abhinava Shantaliga Shivacharya Swamiji of Amminabavi Sansthan Panchagriha Hiremath visited his residence and offered condolences. Doddamulla had also served as vice president of Amminabavi Gram Panchayat. He is survived by his wife, eight sons, two daughters and grandchildren. MLA Vinay Kulkarni expressed sorrow over his death.

Mandya Employment Office to hold direct interview

MANDYA
The Mandya District Employment Exchange Office, with M.P. Guarding Solution Pvt. Ltd. and HDFC Life Insurance, will conduct a direct interview on August 14 at 10 a.m. at its Mandya office. Vacancies are available for Electricians and Business Development Managers. Candidates aged 18 to 40 who have completed SSLC, PUC, ITI in Fitter, Welder or Electrician trades, Diploma, or any degree can apply. Selected candidates may work in Mandya and Bidadi. Applicants should bring their resume or bi- odata. For details, contact 9164642684, 9113500761, 9113875775 or 9741939716 before attending the interview.

HISTORIC LAKE THREATENED

Bheeshma Lake faces pollution crisis amid neglect

CH NEWS, Malingaraya Pujar

Bheeshma Lake, a historic landmark and important water source in Gadag-Betageri, is facing severe pollution, raising concern among residents and environmentalists. Sewage entering the lake has reportedly caused a foul smell and large numbers of fish to die. Residents fear continued contamination could affect the area’s groundwater. The lake attracts visitors who come to see the 116-foot statue of Jagadguru Basaveshwara and enjoy boating. It is also used by residents for

Deputy Commissioner reviews waste management progress in Mandya

Officials explained waste collection, segregation of recyclables, treatment processes, and scientific disposal of the remaining non-recyclable waste safely

MANDYA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar inspected several solid waste management facilities in Maddur and Mandya on Wednesday, reviewing waste collection, treatment, recycling and disposal under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 and Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)-2.0. At Hutagere and Shivapura in Maddur taluk, Kumar examined traditional waste disposal work and the functioning of solid waste management units. Officials explained the treatment of collected waste, separation of recyclable materials and scientific disposal of the remaining waste. He directed officials to ensure waste segregation at source, proper collection, recycling and safe disposal while maintaining environmental and public health standards. At Kalenahalli village, Kumar inspected waste collection and processing activities. He ordered officials to complete biomining and bioremediation of remaining



DEPUTY COMMISSIONER INSPECTS GIRLS' HOSTEL IN MADDUR

The Deputy Commissioner made a surprise visit to the BCM Girls’ Hostel in Maddur and inspected facilities provided to students. He checked food quality, drinking water, cleanliness, toilets, bathrooms, sanitary pads, healthcare, accommodation, electricity, safety, library and reading facilities. He also spoke with students about their problems and needs. Officials were instructed to provide nutritious food, maintain hygiene, ensure enough sanitary pads and create a better study environment. The Deputy Commissioner had lunch with students and checked the food quality directly. He also ordered regular monitoring, with special attention to student safety, health and education.

waste within the stipulated period and dispose of treated material scientifically. Waste left after processing should be placed in sanitary landfills, while leachate and groundwater quality must be

monitored regularly. He also directed separate collection of wet and dry waste during door-to-door services and checks on borewell water, fruits, vegetables and grass grown at the facility. During

Solid waste management review

Four waste facilities inspected across Mandya district

Source segregation of wet, dry waste mandated

Scientific processing and recycling given priority

Biomining and sanitary landfill disposal ordered

a surprise visit to the 3R waste management unit at Kuvempunagar, Mandya, he reviewed work based on reducing, reusing and recycling waste. He instructed officials to reduce waste generation, promote reuse and properly process recyclable materials. He also called for effective implementation of the rules and measures to control stray dogs, including sterilisation and anti-rabies vaccination. Officials were told to submit progress details through the district Swachhnam portal and work towards making Mandya cleaner, safer and environmentally sustainable.

Officials prepare Gram Panchayats for job fair

CH NEWS, RONA

Rona and Gajendragad taluks are preparing to hold a Job Card Fair and special awareness campaign from August 15 to help rural families obtain local employment. The programme will be conducted at Gram Panchayat level, with officials making arrangements to ensure eligible families can access employment opportunities and participate in rural development activities. Speaking at a meeting at the Taluk Panchayat Sabha Bhavan, Executive Officer Chandrashekar B. Kandakura said preparations had been completed in Gram Panchayats under both taluks. He said the campaign would focus on creating more employment days while ensuring that rural families receive the benefits of the scheme without difficulty. Officials will verify exist-

ing job cards, issue new cards to eligible applicants, renew cards and complete e-KYC procedures. Job demands will also be accepted according to the rules, and applicants will receive acknowledgements for their requests. People have been asked to approach their Gram Panchayat with the required documents to use the services. The administration will conduct house-to-house visits, village meetings and publicity campaigns using posters and banners to explain the Job Card Fair. Officials and staff have also been instructed to work together, maintain attendance and progress records digitally, and keep related documents updated. Kandakura said the main aim is to bring employment opportunities closer to eligible families and encourage their participation in local development works.

DC orders tough measures to improve road safety

KALABURAGI

District Collector Ikram Sharif has directed officials to take strict measures to reduce road accidents and improve traffic safety across Kalaburagi district. Speaking at the District Road Safety Committee meeting, he said road safety must receive top priority and warned that negligence in implementing safety measures would invite legal action against responsible officials and contractors. The Collector ordered strict checks on overloaded trucks carrying material from mines and quarries in Chittapur, Sedam, Wadi and Jewargi areas. CCTV cameras must be installed at mine and quarry entry and exit points within 15 days, with live links provided to transport and police officials. Violating vehicles should be seized and FIRs registered, while serious violations could lead to quarry

Major highlights of meeting

- CCTV installation at quarries mandated within 15 days
- Overloaded vehicles face seizure and FIRs
- Speed checks intensified across highways and roads
- Truck terminals proposed in three key locations
- Road safety audit ordered within 30 days
- Accident black spots targeted for immediate correction

licence cancellation. Officials were also told to effectively use speed detection guns and CCTV cameras on highways. Transport and police departments should jointly check speed governors on buses, lorries and cement factory vehicles. The Public Works Department and Na-

BJP leaders oppose Nagendra’s return to Karnataka cabinet

BIDAR

BJP state secretary and Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale and district president Somnath Patil have criticised the Congress government over B. Nagendra’s return to the Karnataka cabinet. They alleged that his re-induction, despite his earlier resignation linked to the Maharashtra Valmiki Development Corporation case, showed the government was not serious about corruption allegations. In a joint statement, the BJP leaders said Nagendra had resigned from the previous Siddaramaiah cabinet after the alleged Rs. 187 crore irregularities in the corporation came to light. They recalled that the BJP had protested and demanded his removal at the time. They said the investigation into the case was still continuing and questioned the decision to bring him back as a minister. The leaders also raised questions about the transparency of the government and asked why a person facing allegations in the case had been given another cabinet position. They alleged that

Leaders questioned government transparency, asking why an accused received another cabinet post, while alleging misuse of tribal welfare funds and ED scrutiny of related transactions

funds meant for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes were misused and claimed that the Enforcement Directorate investigation had also examined transactions connected to the case. The BJP leaders demanded that Nagendra resign immediately or be removed from the cabinet. They warned that if the government did not act, the BJP would join hands with its JD(S) ally to raise the issue inside and outside the legislature. They also announced plans for protests, including demonstrations in front of the Deputy Commissioner’s office. The leaders said their campaign would continue until their demand was addressed, making Nagendra’s cabinet return a fresh political flashpoint in Karnataka.

Karnataka group rejects Cauvery bandh as unscientific

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

The Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (Praveen Shetty) faction has said it will not support the Karnataka bandh called over the Cauvery water sharing issue. Abhishek Balaji, Kalyana Karnataka president of the organisation, said the sudden bandh would trouble ordinary people and lacks a clear basis. He said the Cauvery issue is important, but stopping normal life across the state is not a practical solution. He urged senior activist Vatal Nagaraj to use his experience and influence to seek a logical end to the dispute. Balaji said Karnataka has every right to protect its water interests, but protests should not create hardship for citizens. He also urged Nagaraj to raise other major public issues, including corruption and the closure of government schools.

Officials urge students to embrace reading

CH NEWS, UDUPI

Field Education Officer Dr. Ellamma said reading books is a powerful way to gain knowledge and improve language skills and general awareness. She urged people, especially students, to develop a regular reading habit. She said libraries provide valuable opportunities for learning, reflection and personal growth at every stage of life, and career preparation for students.

KSRTC LAUNCHES WEEKEND JOG FALLS PACKAGE TOURS

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

KSRTC has introduced a new package tour service to Jog Falls from Bengaluru, Davanagere, Challakere, Chitradurga, Holalkere, Hassan, Shivamogga and Tumakuru packages offer different routes and fares ranging from Rs. 450 to Rs. 1,000, according to the schedule. The tours are designed to make travel easier while allowing visitors to explore scenic and cultural attractions. Passengers can book advance tickets through the official KSRTC websites and obtain further information through the KSRTC booking service or helpline 080-26252625. The Bengaluru package uses a non-AC sleeper and includes Varadahalli, Varadammoola, Ikkeri, Keladi, Sagara and Jog Falls, with accommodation, at Rs. 3,300. Davana-

gere, Challakere, Chitradurga, Holalkere, Hassan, Shivamogga and Tumakuru packages offer different routes and fares ranging from Rs. 450 to Rs. 1,000, according to the schedule. The tours are designed to make travel easier while allowing visitors to explore scenic and cultural attractions. Passengers can book advance tickets through the official KSRTC websites and obtain further information through the KSRTC booking service or helpline 080-26252625. The package aims to make monsoon travel easier, comfortable and memorable for families, tourists and devotees

Khashempur consoles families of six accident victims

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Former minister and JD(S) leader Bandeppa Khashempur visited Rajgera village in Bidar South constituency on Wednesday and paid his respects to six workers who died in a road accident near Zaheerabad, Telangana. The workers were returning home after working in the neighbouring state. Khashempur visited the bereaved families, offered prayers for the departed souls, provided personal assistance and consoled relatives. He also expressed concern for six others injured in the accident and prayed for their speedy recovery. He said the tragedy was deeply painful because all six deceased workers belonged to the same village. He recalled a similar 2022 accident near Bemalkhedda, where six labourers from Udamanalli village died. Khashempur said he had then urged the government to prevent such incidents and expand employment opportunities locally.



P. SUNIL KUMAR, EDITOR
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

KARNATAKA'S CABINET DELAY: A POLITICAL RECORD BEST AVOIDED

The prolonged delay in completing Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's Cabinet has emerged as one of the most unusual instances of delayed cabinet expansion in Karnataka's post Independent political history.

D.K. Shivakumar became Chief Minister on 3 June 2026, along with 13 other ministers. His first major expansion took place on 3 August 2026, when 19 additional ministers were inducted. That means the first major expansion came about 61 days after he assumed office.

The delay naturally raises questions about political management within the ruling Congress. Cabinet formation is not merely about distributing positions. Ministers are entrusted with departments that directly influence administration, policy implementation and delivery of government programme. Leaving a substantial number of positions vacant for two months inevitably creates an impression of political uncertainty. Karnataka has certainly witnessed difficult cabinet formations before. Coalition governments, leadership changes and competing political interests have frequently complicated the distribution of portfolios. In 2019, B.S. Yediyurappa famously headed what was effectively a one man government for 25 days before expanding his ministry. Earlier governments, including the Dharam Singh administration, also experience lengthy gaps between subsequent expansions. Those circumstances, however, were not identical to a newly constituted government beginning with a substantially incomplete ministry.

Therefore, it would be premature to declare the Shivakumar government's 61-day wait conclusively the longest cabinet-expansion delay since Independence without exhaustive historical verification. Nevertheless, available comparisons indicate that it is certainly among the longest and perhaps the longest in Karnataka's modern political history.

The larger issue, however, is not the record, Karnataka needs a government whose attention is directed towards governance rather than prolonged negotiations over ministerial positions. The Cabinet is finally taking shape. The challenge before the government now is to ensure that the time lost in political negotiations is recovered through decisive governance.



JESHA S., SENIOR EDITOR
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

COCKROACH JANTA PARTY: WHEN A GOOD CAUSE TURNS INTO A BAD OPTICS BATTLE

In the last few weeks, what started as a Gen Z-led street protest has snowballed into memes, slogans, trolling and a political flashpoint being called the "Cockroach Janta Party". The name itself is meant to mock. But behind the mockery lies a bigger story of young people demanding accountability and a system that is struggling to respond without dismissing them.

The good cause, Gen Z took to the streets for reasons that are hard to argue with. Corruption and misuse of public funds, viral videos of lavish government spending while basic services crumble sparked anger. Unemployment and paper leaks: For a generation entering the job market, delayed results and leaked exams feel like a betrayal. The lack of dialogue, many young protesters said they were not against the government, but against being ignored. Social media became their parliament. The intent was not chaos. It was visibility. And for a few days, it worked. The protest forced conversations in newsrooms classrooms and even Parliament about issues that were being brushed aside.

How it turned, the bad optics, but every movement risks being hijacked by both opponents and its own extremes. What began as issue-based dissent is now being reduced to, trolling and name-calling, "Cockroach Janta Party" is being used to dehumanise protesters. Once you give a movement a derogatory label, it becomes easier to ignore its demands. Vandalism and misinformation, few clips of property damage and fake news are now being used to define the entire protest. Political weaponization opposition parties are trying to own it, ruling party supporters are trying to malign it. The original Gen Z voice is getting lost in the noise. The danger is clear when criticism turns into caricature, the public stops listening to the message and only sees the messenger.

The way forward, the solution, a protest named as an insult cannot be the end of the conversation. If we want to move from slogans to solutions, 3 things need to happen. Institutional listening, not lecturing, create structured youth consultation forums at state and central level. Not photo-ops, but quarterly public hearings where students, job seekers, and young professionals can present data-driven grievances. Separate the cause from the chaos, law enforcement must deal with vandalism and misinformation firmly, but without criminalising dissent. Labelling an entire generation as "anti-national" or "cockroaches" will only push more people to the streets. Deliver tangible outcomes, the fastest way to end a protest is to address its core. Fast-track recruitment, transparent exam systems, and a public dashboard for government spending would do more than any press conference.

Gen Z is not protesting because they hate the country. They are protesting because they care enough to show up. Mocking them as the "Cockroach Janta Party" might win a news cycle, but it will lose a generation. The government, the media, and the public all have a choice, reduce this to memes, or turn it into reform. The cockroach survives everything. The question is will our democracy?

AUGUST 12: WHEN THE UNIVERSE PUTS ON A SHOW, ALL IN ONE DAY



PRADIVYA NAMBIAR

There are some dates that make you want to look up, August 12, 2026, is one of them. Across the world, the Moon will sweep across the face of the Sun in a total solar eclipse. India will miss that spectacle, as the eclipse will occur beyond our horizon. But the Indian sky has its own story to tell. As darkness falls on August 12, the Perseid meteor shower will be approaching its annual peak. And as the night gives way to morning, several planets will gather across the sky.

One day. Multiple celestial events. And a reminder that the universe never really stops putting on a show. The eclipse we won't see.

A total solar eclipse is among nature's most dramatic spectacles. For observers within the path of totality, the Moon will completely cover the Sun, briefly turning day into darkness. The solar corona will emerge around the silhouette of the Moon, creating a sight that lasts only minutes but can remain unforgettable for a lifetime. The August 12 eclipse will be visible from parts of the Arctic, Greenland, Iceland and Europe, among other regions. India, however, is outside the eclipse's visibility zone. There will be no darkened afternoon here. No crescent Sun. No sudden mid-day twilight. The eclipse will be happening elsewhere while India is already preparing for night. And that is when our own celestial show begins.

The Perseids arrive, every August, Earth passes through the dusty trail left behind by Comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle. Tiny particles from that ancient trail enter Earth's atmosphere at tremendous

speeds, heating the surrounding air and creating the brilliant streaks we call meteors. Together, they form the Perseid meteor shower one of the year's most anticipated meteor displays. This year, the timing offers an added advantage. The Perseids reach their peak around August 12-13, close to the New Moon. With little moonlight brightening the sky, darker conditions can make it easier to see the shower's fainter meteors. There is no countdown. No fixed schedule. One moment, the sky may be completely still. Then a bright streak can suddenly race across it and disappear almost instantly. You may wait minutes for the next one. Or several may arrive close together. That unpredictability is part of the magic. The best time to watch.

The Perseids can appear throughout the night, but the hours after midnight and before dawn are generally the best time to watch. Find the darkest, safest location available. Get away from streetlights and bright buildings if you can. A quiet rooftop, open terrace or rural location can all work, provided it is safe and offers a wide view of the sky. You do not need a telescope. For meteors, your eyes are often the best instrument.

Put the phone away. Let your eyes adjust to the darkness. Lie back and look across as much of the sky as possible. Then wait. The sky does not need your attention. It simply needs you to notice it. Before sunrise, look for the planets. And if you are still awake, the sky has another surprise. In the morning hours, six planets — Jupiter, Mercury, Mars, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune — will appear across the broad region of sky along the ecliptic, the apparent path followed by the Sun and planets. It may be

described as a "six-planet alignment," but the planets are not literally arranged in a straight line through space.

From Earth, however, they can appear to gather across the same stretch of sky. Not all six will be equally easy to see. Mars and Saturn should be among the more accessible planets. Mercury and Jupiter will be closer to the horizon and may be more difficult to spot as dawn approaches. Uranus and Neptune are much fainter and are better suited to binoculars or a telescope. And perhaps you will not see all six. That is perfectly fine. Seeing even a few of them together is a reminder of the extraordinary scale of our solar system. Worlds separated by hundreds of millions — and sometimes billions — of kilometres can appear, from our tiny vantage point on Earth, to share the same patch of sky.

One day. An entire universe.

That is what makes August 12 so compelling.

The eclipse will belong to those watching from its path. The Perseids will belong to everyone willing to step outside after midnight. And before sunrise, the planets will quietly take their places across the morning sky. Different events. Different distances. Different celestial mechanics. Yet from Earth, they become part of one extraordinary day. A day that begins with the Moon eclipsing the Sun somewhere in the world. A night illuminated by ancient fragments of a comet. And a morning in which distant planets appear to gather above us. Perhaps the most remarkable thing is that none of it requires us to go anywhere. No ticket. No telescope. No journey into space. Just a clear sky, a little darkness and a willingness to look up.

DARJEELING DIARIES: HISTORY, HERITAGE AND HILLS

A hill town where history, culture and the rhythm of daily life blends quietly beneath the mist. The blowing whistle of the toy train, the lingering smell of delicious food and the sight of prayer flags fluttering with the wind Darjeeling greets every traveller not just with its scenic beauty but also with a story that lingers in the heart of every visitor. Darjeeling is known as the Queen of Hills, known for its rich history which is seeped into the cobblestoned roads but the place is more than its postcards — it's not a memory of the past but a thriving community which continues to preserve its heritage. The name continues to carry the legacy of the past generation telling its history of shifting powers, and it's culture continues to thrive in the blend of Nepali, Tibetan, Lepcha and Bengali tradition. From the aromatic tea that is famous across the globe to the festivals, food and places that define its rich soul. It is best discovered slowly, step by step like the lingering taste of tea.

Land of the thunderbolt history and heritage to help understand Darjeeling as it is today, one must begin with its name, a word that carries both legend and geography within it. It has been derived from the Tibetan word "Dorje" meaning thunderbolt and "Ling" meaning place or land. Darjeeling literally translates to "Land of the Thunderbolts." From its name grew a history shaped by power and transformation. It was once a home to the Lepcha people; the land eventually came under British influence in the 19th century. The British saw Darjeeling as a retreat from the heats of Calcutta (now Kolkata) and a fertile ground for cultivation. Soon tea plantation was introduced and it was hailed as the "champagne of teas." The British introduced the iconic Darjeeling Himalayan Railway's toy train which is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The rise of tea cultivation brought along the arrival of workers from Nepal and Tibet which added another intricate layer of culture, language and tradition to the town.

A confluences of culture, festivals and community life but Darjeeling is not defined by its history alone but by the people in their unbridled joy, the colours of festivals and the quiet lifestyle. The



town is a melting point of communities: Nepali, Tibetans, Lepcha, Bhutia and Bengali family's side by side, celebrating each festival with gusto. Festivals are celebrated with fervour from Dasain and Tihar which lights the home of Nepali people, Losar brings the Tibetan New Year with fluttering prayer flags across the monasteries. Christmas in Darjeeling carries the charm of an old hill while the Bengali Durga Puja adds grandeur to the streets. Music is woven in the life of people, the folk songs carried by the madal drums or young bands strumming guitars and singing in cafes blends the tradition with modern rhythm.

Flavours of the hills from tea gardens to global cuisines, the culture too makes its way to the homes of the people to their table. Here every meal from the steaming bowl of thukpa to a cup of golden tea tells a story of migration, memory and belonging. Darjeeling food reflects its diverse roots: momo with fiery dipping sauce sold on every nook and corner of the street, hearty bowls of thukpa in winter, churpi (Himalayan traditional cheese which is made of yak's milk) chewed by the kids like candies and aloo dum mixed with spicy chutney fills the heart of every local. The colonial shadow continues to linger in the aged worn bakeries which still serve sponge cakes and pastries along with the classic British staple food, letting the locals and the traveller's glimpse back to the past. In recent times the locals have embraced East Asian cuisine with the rise of K-pop and K-dramas. Today Korean cuisine such as bibimpap, kimbap, ramen is as common in Darjeeling cuisine as traditional Nepali foods were. Dish-

es like wontons and stir-fried noodles have become a staple food of the young youth. Yet amidst all the food, Darjeeling tea remains the crown jewel without the aromatic sip of rich tea, the days of the locals doesn't begin.

Iconic landmarks and scenic views in its streets, monasteries, pagoda, gardens and viewpoints Darjeeling carries memories that are carved into the very mind of the travellers. Tiger Hill draws a mass of crowds at the break of dawn just to get the glimpse of the snowy hilltop of Kanchenjunga, where the first rays of sun kiss the mountain on clear mornings, sometimes even Mount Everest is visible. The Peace Pagoda and old Ghoom Monastery help bring spiritual calm in the hearts of the people, while Chowrasta and Mall Road thrums with the vibrant life like the echoes of the storming hooves of horses running along at the heart of Chowrastra. The toy train still charms every traveller with its slow rhythmic sound while tea estates stretch like green carpets across the hills. Botanical gardens, colonial school and the hidden corner remind the travellers that Darjeeling is not just a travel vacation spot but rather a well lived town filled with countless stories that compels the visitors to return back to the Queen of Hills — bring back travellers with a tint of nostalgia.

Gorkha Haat and the Spirit of local enterprise is a lively community market held every Thursday is more than just a bazaar, it celebrates indigenous foods, crafts and sustainable products. Here you will find everything from homemade pickles, millet snacks and churpi to traditional crafts and local farm products. For residents, it's a weekly gathering that sustains livelihoods and tradition and for visitors it is an authentic way to taste the food and live through the tradition Gorkha Haat is Dar-

jeeling's answer to modern consumer culture — a reminder that heritage can thrive alongside innovation and technology. Darjeeling's voice has found its way on online platforms through Ask-Darj which is a WhatsApp based AI chatbot dubbed as a "local in a pocket" which offers instant answers to real life questions: hidden cafes, taxi rates, even public restrooms — things only locals will know.

Perhaps that is Darjeeling's magic not just the beauty it shows but the stories it holds, waiting to be discovered by the people. Darjeeling lingers not as a single picture but as a collage filled with names, history, culture, tradition, flavours all tied together by the locals. Its tea estates, toy trains and festivals speak of a heritage deeply rooted in the hills with the rise of East Asian cuisine which has influenced the town. To visit Darjeeling is to step in both the world — the past that shaped it and the present which is moulding the life and yet keeping its past alive. It does not only offer a journey to the travellers but it becomes one with them. The hills do not stand still and neither does Darjeeling. It is always moving like the locals vibrant with life.

To reach Darjeeling means to embrace every part of the journey winding roads, slow trains and sudden glimpse of snowy hill tops.

Whether you arrive through the winding roads from Siliguri, watching the plains slowly merging with the hills or aboard the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, where each turn reveals a new scenery. Within the town too, the steep stairways and the narrow lanes make every walk a new discovery even the locals living in Darjeeling many years are still discovering new pathways almost as if Darjeeling itself insists on being explored one place at a time. Yet Darjeeling is more than just a destination for the locals, it is home, a place of work, struggle and resilience — a town that balances its rich heritage with the demand of modern changes. Tourism fuels much of the economy but tea gardens and small trades continue to sustain the economy. Young people often look beyond the hills for opportunities yet their pride for Darjeeling remains deeply rooted. Political movements for recognition and identity have shaped modern decades, but amidst challenges, the rhythmic life continues to go on. Children in school uniforms running across the street, vendors arranging fresh vegetables and fruits in the bazaar and friends sitting in stalls sharing a cup of tea in the evening relaxing after a long day.

— SUHASINI THAPA MANGAR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cleaner Streets, Healthier City
Garbage accumulation on city roads has become a serious public health concern. Despite regular collection, waste is often dumped in open spaces. Authorities must ensure timely collection and strict action against

littering. Citizens should also segregate waste responsibly. A cleaner city requires cooperation between residents and civic authorities.

-Sharon Faustina J

Safer Roads Need Attention
Poorly maintained roads, potholes and inadequate street lighting are causing inconvenience and safety concerns for commuters. The civic authorities should conduct regular inspections and repair dam-

aged roads promptly. Pedestrians and motorists deserve safe infrastructure. Citizens can help by reporting hazardous locations so that timely action can prevent accidents and improve road safety.

-Stephen Joshua J

Control Noise Pollution Now

Noise pollution from unnecessary honking, loudspeakers and traffic has become a growing problem in residential areas. It affects students, elderly people and patients. Authorities should strictly enforce noise regulations and create awareness among the public.

-Mary Vanaja R

Quick Read

Police probe deaths of engaged bank employees

HUNSUR
A 26-year-old bank employee from Hunsur was found dead, while her fiancé was also found dead in Kerala, police said. Anushree, who worked as a clerk at a bank on Hunsur bypass road, was engaged to Amal, an employee at a bank in Ernakulam. Their wedding had been scheduled for December 26, 2026. Anushree was the elder daughter of Chandan, who lives on B.M. Road. Amal was the son of a family of circumstances surrounding the two deaths are being investigated. A complaint has been registered at Hunsur city police station, and police have begun further investigation into the matter.

Two arrested in Bidar ATM cash robbery case

BIDAR
Bidar police have arrested two accused in the January 2025 ATM robbery, ending a year-and-a-half-long search. The suspects allegedly attacked ATM staff near an SBI bank in the city, opened fire and escaped with about Rs 83 lakh. The incident occurred on January 16, when two employees were carrying cash to refill an ATM. During the escape, the accused later fired at a bus check in Hyderabad, killing Giri Venkatesh and seriously injuring Shivakumar. CCTV footage helped investigators trace the suspects to Bihar. Police are questioning the arrested men to uncover further details and identify others involved in the case.

Lorry, two cars collide near Jewargi, driver injured

JEWARGI
A serious road accident involving an Eicher lorry and two cars occurred near Hasanapur Cross at Katti Sangavi on the Jewargi-Kalaburagi road Wednesday. The lorry, travelling from Kalaburagi towards Jewargi, reportedly collided head-on with a Swift and a Nexa car heading towards Kalaburagi. Both cars were badly damaged in the crash. The lorry driver suffered serious injuries and was taken to hospital for treatment. The Nexa car driver sustained minor injuries, while other passengers escaped unharmed. Traffic was disrupted for some time following the accident. Faratabad police reached the spot, inspected the scene and began an investigation.

HAVERI
Life becomes meaningful when people develop humanitarian values along with a spirit of service and generosity, said Sanjeev Kumar Neeralgi, District Honorary Working President of the Indian Red Cross Society. He was speaking at a Geneva Convention Day programme held at SGSLP Government First Grade Women's College in Neelanagoudra Nagar. The programme was organised jointly by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Indian Red Cross Society dis-

Officials urge Chitradurga voters to complete SIR forms

Officials said BLOs began door-to-door census forms June 30, covering 14,40,534 voters at 1,661 polling stations, mostly computerized

CHITRADURGA
More than 12.98 lakh voter census forms have been computerized in Chitradurga district as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh said. He urged eligible voters who have not submitted their forms to complete the process before August 17. According to officials, Booth Level Officers have been distributing census forms door to door since June 30. Forms were issued to 14,40,534 voters across 1,661 polling stations, with more than 90 percent already computerized. The exercise is being conducted un-



der the directions of the Election Commission of India to update and verify electoral records. Constituency-wise, 2,32,691 forms have been computerized in Molakalmuru, 2,31,880 in Chitradurga, 2,22,415 in Holalkere, 2,21,920 in Hiriyur, 2,00,228 in Challakere and 1,89,541 in

Hosadurga. During verification, officials identified 70,133 permanent migrations, 30,768 deaths, 21,262 duplicate entries and 18,695 absentee cases. The deadline for submitting completed census forms has been extended to August 17 from the earlier August 8 date. Polling station rationalisation will also be completed by August 17. The draft electoral roll will be published on August 24, after which voters can file objections from August 24 to September 23. Officials will process applications and objections until October 22. The final electoral roll is scheduled for publication on October 27. The district administration has appealed to voters

Statistics
12,98,675 census forms computerized so far
14,40,534 voters received census forms
1,661 polling stations covered across district
70,133 permanent migration cases identified

to submit their forms within the revised deadline and cooperate with election officials. Authorities said timely participation would help ensure accurate voter records and a smoother electoral process in the district.

Legal success requires practical skills, says Joshi

KALABURAGI
Retired Karnataka High Court Justice C.M. Joshi said legal professionals need more than textbook knowledge to succeed in their careers. He stressed the importance of detailed subject study, continuous legal research, practical experience, discipline and strong ethical values while speaking at an interaction programme for law students and young lawyers at the Central University of Karnataka. The programme, organised by the university's Law Department, focused on practical aspects of legal practice, court etiquette, professional ethics, legal research and the growing role of artificial intelligence in the judicial system. Joshi said lawyers must carefully study the facts and legal issues of every case and present their arguments responsibly after thorough preparation. He said learning does not

stop after completing a law degree. Instead, professional education truly begins with legal practice, requiring lawyers and students to develop a habit of continuous study and lifelong learning. He advised young professionals to avoid unnecessary arguments in court and remain focused on relevant legal issues. Speaking about artificial intelligence, Joshi urged lawyers to use AI-based legal tools carefully. He said information obtained through such systems must be checked for accuracy and should not replace human judgment. Professional responsibility, ethical values and careful reasoning, he added, must remain central to legal research and judicial work. During the interaction, Joshi shared experiences from his education, legal career and time as a judge, explaining how hard work, discipline and practical knowledge helped him progress.

Yadgir DC orders action to improve roads and footpaths

YADGIR
District Collector Rahul Pandey inspected roads, footpaths, markets and public areas across Yadgir city on Wednesday and directed officials to improve cleanliness and remove obstacles affecting public movement. During his early morning tour, he reviewed conditions from the Degree College area to Kanaka Circle and instructed officials to take immediate action. The Collector inspected internal roads and discussed traffic problems with Municipal Commissioner Umesh Chavan. He sought details about road widths and obstructions and ordered officials to remove anything blocking smooth traffic. He also directed that construction materials kept on roads be cleared immediately and that roads remain open across

their full width for public use. Pandey stressed that footpaths should be free of encroachments so pedestrians can move safely. He ordered officials to clear garbage from roadsides and impose fines according to rules on people who dump waste in public places. He also directed regular sweeping and thorough cleaning of roads to remove accumulated soil and dirt and keep the bitumen surface clearly visible. During his visit to the vegetable market, the Collector instructed officials to maintain cleanliness and ensure the area remains orderly. He also asked them to identify drains without slabs and install the required covers without delay. He said roads and footpaths must be maintained in a manner that ensures safe movement for residents. The Collector interacted with residents during the inspection and listened to their

BJP opposes Nagendra's return amid Valmiki case

YADGIR
BJP leaders in Yadgir have opposed the reinstatement of B. Nagendra as a minister while the investigation into alleged financial irregularities in the Maharshi Valmiki Development Corporation is continuing. District BJP president Basavarajappa Gowda Vibhutihalli said the party would strongly protest the decision and demanded that Nagendra resign. Speaking at a press conference at Patrika Bhavan, Vibhutihalli said Nagendra had earlier resigned from the cabinet following allegations involving around Rs. 186-187 crore in the corporation. He questioned the decision to appoint him again while investigators are still examining the

The BJP leader alleged tribal welfare funds were misused, called Nagendra's cabinet return a betrayal, and cited ED documents mentioning fund transfers and Telangana accounts case. The BJP leader alleged that money meant for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes was misused and described Nagendra's return to the cabinet as a betrayal of the community. He referred to Enforcement Directorate investigation documents, which, according to him, mention transfers of corporation funds to different bank accounts and the opening of accounts in Telangana.

Manvi DSP warns against illegal untouchability practices

MANVI
Manvi Deputy Superintendent of Police Chandrashekarnayak said victims from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities would receive appropriate legal protection while addressing their grievances. He was speaking at an SC-ST grievance meeting held at the Manvi police station and organized by Raichur District Police and Manvi Police. He said police would maintain peace and curb illegal activities within the station limits. He assured participants that complaints from SC-ST communities would receive necessary legal assistance. He also warned that untouchability is illegal and said action would be taken against discriminatory practices.

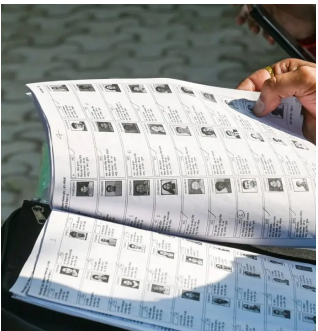
Congress workers push Sachin Patil for district president

GADAG
Karnataka Janapara Bhakti Vedike state youth unit president Suresh Beladhadi said Sachin D. Patil should be appointed Gadag District Congress president, describing him as a capable young leader who can strengthen the party from the grassroots. He said Patil could help Congress face upcoming local body and Assembly elections with confidence. Beladhadi led hundreds of workers and supporters to meet AICC secretary and district chief observer Vivek Bansal. They submitted a petition seeking Patil's immediate appointment. The group said Patil had remained a loyal party worker for nearly two decades and had developed strong organizational experience. They urged the observer to consider his record while deciding the district leadership.

Arun Beladhiya, who led the petition effort, said Patil had the organizational ability to strengthen the Congress in all four Assembly constituencies of the district. He warned that denying an young leader such responsibility could weaken the party. Senior Congress workers Krishna H. Hadapada, Hanumanthappa Rampura and Rafiq Abbigeri supported the demand and joined the appeal. Hundreds of party leaders, office-bearers of organizations and supporters attended the meeting and expressed strong backing for Patil. Beladhadi said the demand reflected the aspirations of workers who want leadership ahead of elections. The petitioners appealed to the AICC observers to consider the request and take a decision that would strengthen the party in Gadag.

VIJAYANAGARA BEGINS MAJOR REVIEW OF VOTER RECORDS

VIJAYANAGARA
The Election Branch in the Vijayanagara district is currently performing a thorough review of voter records. District Commissioner Kavita S. Mannikeri stated that this detailed process aims to make the special revision of electoral rolls completely transparent and accurate. Local officials are carefully examining every record to guarantee that all eligible citizens keep their voting rights. At the same time, they are working hard to remove duplicate or ineligible names from the system. During recent house-to-house checks of census forms, election workers identified 38,392 deceased voters and 69,339 permanently displaced individuals. Furthermore, they gathered details on 244,392 total cases across the district to



update the rolls properly before publishing the official draft list. Out of these checked records, 140,777 voter entries were successfully corrected following rollback and re-verification procedures. The remaining 103,615 records will receive official inquiry notices after the draft list is published. This step gives concerned citizens a chance to submit required documents and clear up any details. District officials confirmed that deceased and

permanently displaced names will be fully separated before the final electoral roll is published. Commissioner Mannikeri issued a strong warning regarding fraud. Anyone who submits false information, misuses family documents, or attempts illegal voter registration will face criminal charges. Officials noted that residents whose names are already present in the 2002 electoral roll do not need to provide new documents. Meanwhile, those whose parents or family members appeared on old lists can simply provide proof of relationship documents. Citizens who find mapping errors or receive official notices are advised to contact their local Assistant Electoral Registration Officer immediately to submit the necessary paperwork.

Geneva Convention Day highlights humanity and service

district and state branches, and the college's Youth Red Cross Unit. Neeralgi urged students and young people to develop an interest in social welfare and contribute to society. He said the Red Cross works worldwide to promote peace and humanitarian service, while the Geneva Convention highlights the importance of protecting human values and supporting world peace. Neeralgi encouraged students to develop leadership, compassion and a willingness to help others. He also said efforts were being made to secure greater government support for developing gov-

ernment schools and colleges in the district. He urged students to aim for success in different fields while remaining committed to social responsibility. Red Cross district officer and writer Hanumantha Gowda Gollara explained the purpose of the Geneva Convention and said the organisation works with humanity as its guiding principle. Students also spoke about the importance of humility, cooperation and helping others alongside education. College Principal Prof. Indira Bagalkote said learning should go together with social service and hu-



manitarian activities. YRC Programme Officer Veeresh Hitalamani introduced the event, while Dr. Ankit Anand explained the activities of the Youth Red Cross Unit. Sever-

al Red Cross office-bearers, college lecturers, officials, staff members and students attended the programme and supported its message of service, compassion and peace.

Dharwad digitizes over 83% of SIR forms

HUBBALLI
As part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Dharwad district has digitised 13,50,609 enumeration forms, accounting for 83.27 percent of the 16,21,961 forms distributed, Deputy Commissioner and District Electoral Officer Snehal R. said. The exercise is aimed at updating voter records and ensuring an accurate electoral roll. Officials identified 2,71,352 electors in categories including permanently shifted, deceased, absent and duplicate entries. The figure

includes 1,26,768 permanently shifted voters, 52,618 deceased voters, 26,756 duplicate entries, 63,667 absent voters and 1,543 cases placed under other categories during the verification process across the district. Constituency-wise, 1,93,394 forms have been digitised in Navalgund, 1,77,518 in Kundgol and 1,93,036 in Dharwad. Hubballi-Dharwad East recorded 1,80,738 forms, while Hubballi-Dharwad Central recorded 2,03,269. Hubballi-Dharwad West recorded the highest figure at 2,15,935, followed by Kalaghatgi with 1,86,719 digitised forms.

BJP PRESSURE BLOCKED MEETING HALLS, SAYS CJP

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke has accused the BJP of pressuring venue owners in Delhi, claiming several halls refused bookings for the party’s volunteer meeting

NEW DELHI

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of putting pressure on banquet and hall owners to prevent the party from holding meetings. Dipke claimed venue owners refused to rent their spaces because they feared facing trouble.

Dipke said a meeting of CJP volunteers planned in Naraina was cancelled after the banquet hall booked for the event withdrew the reservation at the last moment. Earlier, organisers had contacted venues before finding one that agreed to host the gathering. However, the booking was later cancelled when they reached the venue.

Speaking to reporters, Dipke said the party had approached at least 10 places,



but none were willing to provide space. He claimed that venue owners repeatedly cited “pressure from above” and said they could not risk allowing CJP members to use their premises. Dipke described the situation as an attempt to stop the party from organising its volunteers.

The CJP founder alleged that the pressure came from the ruling BJP, but he did not

provide evidence to support the claim. The allegations come as the CJP seeks to organise meetings and expand its activities in the national capital. The party has drawn public attention through its unusual name and political messaging.

The cancellation has raised questions about the ability of smaller political groups to find venues for public meet-

At least 10 places refused to give us space, saying there was pressure from above

Abhijeet Dipke, CJP founder

AT A GLANCE

- ➔ 10+ halls reportedly refused
- ➔ CJP volunteer meet cancelled
- ➔ Last-minute venue booking revoked
- ➔ Dipke alleges BJP pressure
- ➔ Meeting was planned in Naraina
- ➔ BJP response not mentioned

ings. While Dipke has accused the BJP of interfering with the party’s activities, the allegation remains his claim. No response from the BJP was included in the report, leaving the dispute unresolved for now.

Delhi HC questions Meta’s copyright rules

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked Meta to explain how it decides which users can access its copyright management tool, which helps creators protect original content on Facebook and Instagram.

A bench led by Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani was hearing a petition filed by content creator Mohit Kumar. He alleged that some people downloaded his videos and later used Meta’s Rights Tool to claim copyright over the same content.

Kumar argued that he was unable to protect his own videos because Meta had not provided him access to the copyright management tool. He questioned why other users could use the system to claim ownership while the original creator was left without similar access.



It is like giving the key to the robber and not to the owner of the house.

Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani

WHY THIS MATTERS

Creators need better control over their content as copyright misuse, Meta’s access rules, and digital ownership come under increasing scrutiny.

The court has now sought an explanation from Meta about the eligibility and criteria used to provide access to its copyright management system. The matter could have wider implications for content creators seeking stronger protection against unauthorised use of their work on social media platforms.

Rajya Sabha erupts over row on cultural identity

NEW DELHI

A political row erupted in the Rajya Sabha after CPM MP John Brittas alleged that BJP MP Sushmita Dev made a derogatory remark against him, calling him “lungi wala” during proceedings.

Brittas said the remark was made while he was speaking in the House. He said he was wearing a dhoti at the time and expressed pride in his Malayali and South Indian identity. The allegation led to a heated exchange between the two MPs.

The issue quickly disrupted proceedings in the Rajya Sabha, with the confrontation creating an uproar in the House. The proceedings were subsequently adjourned until 2 pm as tensions rose over the



alleged comment.

According to Brittas, the remark was inappropriate and directed at his appearance. He objected to the language used against him and said that wearing traditional clothing was not something he should be criticised for. He maintained that he was proud of his cultural identity.

The incident has added to tensions in Parliament, where political disagreements frequently lead to heated exchanges between members. The allegation also sparked discussion over the language used by lawmakers during parliamentary debates and the importance of maintaining dignity during proceedings.

Quick Read



Cyber fraud accused's bail plea rejected

New Delhi

A Delhi court has denied anticipatory bail to Ajay Sharma, accused in a cyber fraud case. The court said custodial interrogation was necessary to trace the money trail, recover digital evidence and identify the suspected fraud network. Additional Sessions Judge Samar Vishal said investigators needed custody to understand Sharma’s alleged role and uncover further details of the case. The investigation will continue as authorities examine financial transactions and digital evidence linked to the suspected fraud.



SpiceJet flight delayed after AC failure

New Delhi

More than 100 passengers on a Delhi-Pune SpiceJet flight faced hours of discomfort after the aircraft’s AC failed. Passengers said the cabin became unbearably hot and humid. The aircraft returned from the runway after protests. The flight, scheduled for 9.55 pm, finally departed around 5 am, nearly seven hours late. Passenger Leshpal Javalge said children, elderly passengers and pregnant women struggled in the heat. SpiceJet said an alternate aircraft was arranged and apologised for the inconvenience.

Fire at school in Manesar, no casualties reported

Gurugram

A fire broke out at Kautilya Academy in Manesar around 7.40 am after an electrical short circuit in the kitchen caused an explosion. Around 150 students were safely evacuated, three fire tenders were sent to the school, but two were delayed by traffic. The third reached within 15 minutes and firefighters brought the blaze under control within another 15–20 minutes. School staff broke classroom windows to help clear smoke. Officials confirmed that no casualties were reported.

Container ship collided riverbank near harbour

KOLKATA

A container ship collided with the Hooghly riverbank near Diamond Harbour in West Bengal after strong river currents and a possible steering gear problem affected the vessel’s movement. No injuries were reported.

The Singapore-flagged MV Nawata Bhum was carrying containers from Port Klang, Malaysia, to the Port of Kolkata when it failed to complete a turn near Diamond Harbour, around 50 km from Kolkata. The 147.82-metre vessel

struck the riverbank close to Nurpur ferry ghat, damaging part of the embankment.

An official said the ship’s master noticed the steering problem and repeatedly sounded the horn to alert people near the riverbank. Officials said the situation could have been more serious if a ferry had been operating close to the collision site. Strong currents in the Hooghly may also have contributed to the accident.

The ship’s pilot immediately informed the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Authority af-

ter the collision. The authority’s pilots guide vessels through the river’s difficult navigation channel, which has several sharp bends and shallow areas.

Tugs have been sent to the site and are expected to pull the ship away during the next high tide. Officials said the vessel’s hull was not damaged and that it could continue towards Kolkata with tug assistance. The incident has renewed attention on navigation safety along the busy Hooghly waterway, where similar accidents have occurred in the past.



Haridwar begins mega clean-up after Kanwar Yatra

HARIDWAR

Haridwar has begun a massive clean-up operation after nearly 48 million pilgrims visited the city during the two-week Kanwar Yatra, leaving more than 7,000 tonnes of garbage behind.

Large piles of plastic, clothes, Kanwars and non-degradable polythene have been reported across the city. The worst-affected areas include Ganga ghats, busy markets, roads connecting the city to national highways and parking areas used during the pilgrimage.

Hundreds of sanitation workers have been deployed to clear the waste as pilgrims began leaving after the Shrawan Shivratni Ganga Aarti. Officials said the cleaning

process will take several days as the garbage must be collected, transported and properly disposed of.

Municipal Corporation Town Commissioner Nandan Kumar said around 7,000 tonnes of waste was generated during the pilgrimage and clearing operations began on Tuesday evening. Workers have been deployed in groups around Har-ki-Pauri and the Mela area. Experts have urged authorities to remove the waste quickly, warning that delays could worsen pollution and increase health risks in the pilgrimage city. The clean-up drive is now focused on restoring public spaces and preventing the accumulated waste from creating further environmental and health problems.

₹9.4 crore worth of meth seized, three foreigners held

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), with help from local police, has busted an inter-state drug racket and seized methamphetamine worth ₹9.4 crore from Mumbai and Greater Noida.

The operation led to the arrest of an Israeli national and two foreign women. Officials seized 2,050 grams of methamphetamine worth around ₹4 crore from Bandra East in Mumbai. Another 2,688 grams, valued at ₹5.4 crore, was recovered from a factory in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

According to officials, the Israeli national told investigators during questioning that he had purchased the drug from the Greater Noida factory. Acting on the information, the ATS and local police raided the facility and recovered the suspected drug along with materials allegedly used for manufacturing it.

The seizure comes days after a separate operation in Mizoram, where 15 kg of methamphetamine tablets val-



ued at ₹45 crore were recovered from an ambulance. Three people, including a woman allegedly posing as a patient, were arrested in that case. The vehicle was also seized during the operation.

The Mizoram operation was conducted jointly by the Assam Rifles and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence after receiving information about the suspected drug movement. The arrested suspects and seized material were handed over to the DRI for further investigation and legal action under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. The recent seizures highlight continued efforts by enforcement agencies to track illegal drug networks operating across states.

Rural skilling scheme leaves youth unplaced

NEW DELHI

Nearly one in three rural youth trained under the government’s flagship skilling programme have not secured reported employment, according to a parliamentary standing committee report.

Since the launch of the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) in 2014, more than 1.8 million rural youth have received training. However, only around 1.2 million were placed in jobs, giving the programme an overall placement rate of about 65%.

The committee, headed by Congress MP Saptagiri Sanakar Ulaka, also questioned the performance of Rural Self Employment Training Institutes. Of the 6.2 million people trained through these institutes, only 4.5 million were reported to have started self-employment.

The placement rate dropped further to 47.7% in 2025-26, compared with an average of 77.7% during the previous three financial years. The

RURAL SKILLING AT A GLANCE	
• 1.8 million youth trained under DDU-GKY.	
• Only 1.2 million secured placements.	
• National placement rate stands at 65%.	
• 2025-26 placement rate fell to 47.7%.	
• Tamil Nadu led with 95.3% placement.	

government attributed part of the decline to changes introduced under DDU-GKY 2.0, which increased the minimum period required for a job to qualify as a placement from three months to six months.

The committee also noted major differences between states. Tamil Nadu recorded the highest placement rate at 95.3%, while Uttar Pradesh stood at 43%. Experts said skill training alone cannot guarantee employment, as the availability of suitable jobs also plays an important role.

BIHAR-PROHIBITION-POLICY-POLITICAL-REACTIONS

Bihar liquor ban faces fresh review debate

PATNA

A new report by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) recommending a review of Bihar’s liquor prohibition has triggered fresh political debate over the state’s eight-year-old ban. Leaders from the ruling and Opposition parties have offered different views on its impact and enforcement.

Bihar introduced complete prohibition in 2016 under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. JD-U leaders have defended the policy, pointing to changes in rural communities, particularly among women. JD-U spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said prohibition would continue and rejected the possibility of adopting Gujarat’s model.



Prohibition will remain in force in Bihar; anyone who touches it will be destroyed. —Neeraj Kumar, MLC

JD-U MP Devesh Chandra Thakur took a more measured view, saying the ban had reduced public drinking and related disturbances but completely stopping alcohol consumption was unlikely. He supported reviewing the policy, stressing that prohibition should be controlled rather than loosely enforced.

Bihar Prohibition Minister Madan Sahani said people in-

volved in illegal liquor trade and smuggling would face strict action.

He also said the government would pursue legal measures against liquor brands seized in the state. Meanwhile, Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi called for a prohibition system similar to Gujarat, while RJD MLA Bhai Virendra criticised enforcement and questioned efforts to stop smuggling through Bihar’s borders.

The contrasting positions have brought the liquor ban back into political focus. Supporters continue to highlight its social benefits, while others are calling for changes in implementation. The NCAER report has added fresh momentum to a debate that has continued since prohibition began in Bihar.

Government of Karnataka	
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI	
No: EE/PWD/Klb/Div/TS-2/TN/2026-27/ 2646	Dated: 11.08.2026
Short Term Tender Notification	
1) Name of Work : "Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites tender of (KC-4, KW-2,3&4) works under CMIDP & KRDCL Bridge DPR Tender WI- SE1427, SE1429 "KKRDB, 2216 5054-APPENDIX-E & KRDCL WI- 20826-CALL-2,36808,37259, 36602, 37000 ,37560, 38818, 36269, 38406,38949,39714,39764,39763,39833,39476,38829(Reserved for Cat-I) in KPPP portal. " 2) Estimated Cost : Estimate cost Min Rs. 11.70 Lakhs Max Rs. 500.00 Lakhs. 3) Eligibility of Contractor : "PWD, Civil Contractor License Class-IV and above for Civil works"Empanelled Consultants For DPR works" 4) Tender fees and EMD details : Application Fees as per KPPP portal EMD Min Rs. 19,000.00 and Max Rs. 5,95,000.00 5) Pre-Bid meeting : 18/08/2026 upto 11.00 Hrs, 6) Last date for queries : 20/08/2026 upto 17.30 Hrs. 7) Last date for submission of tender : 21/08/2026 upto 16.00 Hrs, 8) Date of opening of Technical Bid : 24/08/2026 upto 16.30 Hrs, 9) Date of opening of Financial Bid : 25/08/2026 at 16:30 Hrs. 10) Enquiries : Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi. 11) website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, 12) Bidders Should Note That : "Note: 1) Undersigned reserves the right to Cancel/ Postpone/Recall/Reject any or all the tenders at any point of time during tender process without assigning any reason."2) Changes in the tender process, Cancel/ Postpone/Recall/Rejection of tender will not be Published in the News Papers Bidders may get Details of Changes In KPPP Portal Only."	
DIPR/Kalaburagi/424/KSMC&A/2026-27	
Sd/-Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi	

Quick Read

Hi-Tech Pipes profit falls 4.2%, shares slide

Mumbai

Hi-Tech Pipes reported a 4.2 per cent year-on-year decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 20.04 crore for the June quarter of FY27, as higher expenses and finance costs offset strong revenue growth. Revenue from operations surged 78.5 per cent to Rs 1,412.8 crore from Rs 791.4 crore a year earlier. EBITDA rose 20.3 per cent to Rs 49.38 crore, but its margin narrowed to 3.5 per cent from 5.2 per cent. Total expenses climbed 81.5 per cent to Rs 1,386.9 crore, while finance costs more than doubled. Shares fell nearly 7 per cent to Rs 78 on the NSE.

IT services M&A hits \$14.8 billion in H1

New Delhi

IT services mergers and acquisitions recorded 449 deals worth about \$14.8 billion in the first half of 2026, an EY India report said. Deal volume remained broadly stable compared with 456 transactions in H1 2025 despite economic uncertainty, softer discretionary spending and AI-led disruption. Cloud services, data and analytics, cybersecurity and managed services led activity. Seven major transactions accounted for much of the disclosed deal value, while excluding them, value stood at about \$4.5 billion. Strategic buyers represented 47 per cent of deal volume, while PE-backed roll-ups accounted for 36 per cent and direct private equity investments 17 per cent. M&A activity is expected to remain selective through 2026.

ABN Amro raises guidance to €6.8 billion earnings

Amsterdam

Dutch lender ABN Amro raised its annual commercial net interest income guidance to €6.8 billion after reporting stronger-than-expected second-quarter results. The revised target is up from €6.4 billion previously forecast. Quarterly profit jumped nearly 30 per cent to €780 million, exceeding market expectations by more than €100 million, helped by higher revenue and cost controls. The bank's shares rose about 5 per cent to a record high in early trading. ABN Amro's cost-to-income ratio improved to 53.7 per cent from 61.5 per cent a year earlier, already beating its 2028 target of below 55 per cent. The bank's CET1 capital ratio stood at 15.9 per cent.

TECH INFRASTRUCTURE FOCUS

Bank of America pledges \$250 billion for US infrastructure

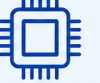
NEW YORK

Bank of America said on Wednesday it plans to deploy \$250 billion by July 2027 to support digital and infrastructure projects across the United States, joining a growing push by major Wall Street banks to finance investments in artificial intelligence, energy and critical infrastructure. The bank said its new Critical Infrastructure Finance Initiative will provide lending, investments, capital markets services and banking and advisory support for projects considered important to the US economy. The programme is aimed at mobilising large-scale private capital while supporting economic growth and job creation.

Bank of America said the \$250 billion commitment will focus on three major areas. The first is digital infrastructure, including artificial intelligence data centres and computing facilities. The

second covers energy and power infrastructure, including renewable energy generation and energy storage. The third includes core infrastructure such as transportation networks and natural gas projects. The target will be measured over an 18-month period beginning January 1, 2026, and ending July 4, 2027. Karen Fang, global head of infrastructure and sustainable finance at Bank of America, said meeting the country's growing infrastructure requirements would require capital to be deployed across increasingly connected sectors.

Fang said the financing would include corporate and project-level funding through both public and private markets. She added that the bank could deploy more capital after July 2027 if demand remains strong, as many infrastructure projects require substantial investment before becoming operational. The initiative comes

INVESTMENT ALLOCATION SUMMARY			
INVESTMENT CATEGORY	TARGET SECTORS & PROJECTS	LOCATION / SCOPE	PURPOSE
 DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE	- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) DATA CENTERS - COMPUTING AND TECH FACILITIES - SEMICONDUCTORS - TELECOMMUNICATIONS	UNITED STATES 	 TO EXPAND COMPUTING CAPACITY AND POWER MODERN TECHNOLOGY DEMANDS.
 ENERGY & POWER INFRASTRUCTURE	- RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION (AND CONVENTIONAL) - ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS - POWER GRID OPTIMIZATION	UNITED STATES 	 TO MEET RISING ELECTRICITY DEMAND AND UPGRADE GRID TRANSMISSION.
 CORE INFRASTRUCTURE	- TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS - NATURAL GAS PROJECTS - WATER SYSTEMS - CRITICAL MINERALS	UNITED STATES 	 TO SUPPORT BASIC ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, SUPPLY CHAINS, AND LONG-TERM COMMUNITY GROWTH.

as demand for AI data centres, critical minerals and energy infrastructure grows rapidly in the US. Technology companies are expanding computing capacity, while rising electricity demand is encouraging investment in power generation, transmission and storage.

Bank of America's announcement follows similar moves by other major US financial institutions. Morgan Stanley recently said it would facilitate about \$1.5 trillion over the next decade for technology and infra-

Exports grew 15% in 4 months, says Goyal

Achieving the \$1 trillion target would mark a major milestone, up from previous exports of about \$863 billion

NEW DELHI

India recorded around 15 per cent growth in exports during the first four months of the current financial year and is targeting total exports of \$1 trillion this year, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said recently.

Goyal said the latest export performance reflected India's growing strength in global markets despite continuing uncertainty and geopolitical conflicts. He said achieving the \$1 trillion target would be a significant milestone, noting that exports stood at about \$863 billion in the previous financial year. The minister's comments come as India seeks to expand its presence in international markets through trade agreements, greater competitiveness and wider market access for domestic businesses. India has concluded several



free trade agreements in recent years, creating additional opportunities for exporters across different sectors.

During April-June, India's exports rose 15.92 per cent to \$129.32 billion, while imports increased 19.89 per cent to \$216.18 billion, according to available trade data. Final export and import figures for July are scheduled to be released on August 13. Goyal has stressed the need for Indian businesses to improve scale, competitiveness and

access to overseas markets to sustain export growth. The government is also seeking to strengthen domestic manufacturing and encourage companies to identify products that can be produced competitively within India.

India recorded its highest-ever combined goods and services exports of about \$863 billion in 2025-26, with merchandise exports contributing around \$442 billion and services exports exceeding \$421 billion. The government now aims to build on this performance and push exports towards the \$1 trillion mark during the current financial year. Goyal said the strong growth in the first four months provides encouraging signs, although global economic conditions and geopolitical uncertainties remain key challenges for exporters.

Vaishnaw highlights UMANG transaction milestones

NEW DELHI

The Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG) has registered more than 11.66 crore users and recorded about 798 crore transactions over the past 3 years, highlighting the growing use of digital platforms for accessing government services, according to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw provided the figures in a statement submitted to the Rajya Sabha on August 7. As of July 31, around 2,575 government services were available through UMANG, including 880 services from the Central Government and 1,695 from state governments.

The government said UMANG and other Digital India initiatives are aimed at making citizen services more accessible while reducing the need for physical visits and paper-based procedures. The platforms can be accessed through mobile applications



The UMANG platform offered approximately 2,575 government services, comprising 880 central and 1,695 state services

and web portals, allowing citizens to use services from different government departments through a single digital interface. DigiLocker has also recorded significant growth. The platform has more than 72.43 crore registered users and provided access to about 72.86 crore documents and related transactions during the same three-year period. It cur-

rently offers 5,437 document types and services, including 661 from the Central Government and 4,776 from state governments.

The government said both platforms are integrated with digital public infrastructure such as Aadhaar, eSign and API Setu. Security measures, digital document verification and consent-based sharing are intended to support secure and paperless service delivery.

To expand access in rural and remote areas, the government has also strengthened the network of Common Service Centres. As of June 30, 4,07,122 centres were functioning at the Gram Panchayat level nationwide, with 70,069 operated by women Village Level Entrepreneurs. The government said digital literacy programmes such as PMGDISHA and the availability of services in multiple Indian languages are helping improve access. Central and state departments are also continuing to add more services to UMANG and DigiLocker.

FCNR inflows may lift FY27 loan growth to 16%

Recent estimates indicate that measures implemented by the RBI could draw substantial foreign-currency inflows into the banking system

NEW DELHI

Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) deposit inflows could provide Indian banks with additional funding and push overall loan growth to around 16 per cent in FY27, particularly benefiting lenders with weaker liability franchises, according to a report. The expected inflows come after the Reserve Bank of India introduced measures to encourage FCNR(B) deposits and improve foreign-currency funding for banks. Analysts expect the measures to ease pressure caused by loan growth continuing to outpace deposit mobilisation. Recent esti-

mates suggest the RBI measures could attract substantial foreign-currency inflows into the banking system.

Banks have faced increasing competition for domestic deposits as credit demand remains strong. The resulting gap between credit and deposit growth has pushed lenders to seek alternative funding sources, including certificates of deposit and wholesale borrowings. FCNR deposits could provide a relatively stable source of foreign-currency funding and reduce dependence on more expensive liabilities. The benefit is expected to be greater for banks that have comparatively weaker liability franchises. Such lenders could use FCNR inflows to strengthen their funding base, support additional lending and reduce reliance on costly wholesale deposits. Banks with established overseas operations and stronger access to foreign-currency deposits may also be well positioned to capture the opportunity.

Earlier estimates from Motilal Oswal Financial Services had raised the FY27 credit-growth forecast for banks under its coverage to 14.6 per cent from 13.6 per cent. Large private-sector banks were projected to grow loans faster than public-sector lenders, supported by improving funding conditions and a revival in corporate credit demand. The improved funding outlook could also help banks manage their credit-deposit ratios, which have remained elevated as lending has expanded faster than deposits. However, analysts expect net interest margins to remain under pressure in the near term because deposit costs are still high and CASA growth remains subdued.

FCNR inflows could therefore become an important source of liquidity during FY27, helping banks meet rising loan demand while gradually easing funding pressures. The extent of the impact will depend on the

FCNR deposits ease bank funding pressure

Banks face growing competition for domestic deposits amid strong credit demand. To bridge this funding gap, lenders are turning to Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) deposits as a stable alternative. Analysts project strong credit growth of 14.6% for FY27, favoring private lenders.

size and speed of foreign-currency inflows and how effectively banks convert the additional liquidity into credit growth. If sustained, the funding support could help the banking sector approach the 16 per cent loan-growth mark while improving conditions for lenders seeking to strengthen their liability base.

Indian chip startups raise \$206 million since 2022

NEW DELHI

Indian semiconductor startups have raised about \$206 million through 51 funding rounds since 2022, with investors increasingly directing larger amounts of capital toward companies that are closer to commercialization, according to a reports. The report said semiconductor startups raised \$61.9 million during the first half of 2026, equivalent to about 81 per cent of the \$76.6 million raised during the whole of 2025. At the same time, the number of funding rounds has declined, indicating that investors are becoming more selective.

Funding rounds fell from 16 in 2024 to 13 in 2025 and 7 during the first half of 2026. Despite the decline in deal numbers, the amount of capital deployed has increased, reflecting growing investor preference for startups that

have progressed further in product development, validation and commercialization. The report said 7 recent Series "A" funding rounds raised a combined \$73.7 million, accounting for roughly one-third of the total capital raised by Indian semiconductor startups since 2022. For many companies, the period between seed funding and Series A ranged from seven to 22 months.

Government-backed semiconductor programs are also increasingly linked with private venture investment. Of the 24 chip-design projects supported under the Design Linked Incentive programme, 14 later secured institutional venture capital. Together, these companies raised \$100.8 million across their 1st and 2nd funding rounds. The report said India's semiconductor startup ecosystem is also expanding beyond traditional chip design.

NYC council probes Polymarket over marketing practices

NEW YORK

The New York City Council has opened an investigation into prediction market platform Polymarket over allegations that it used predatory marketing practices to attract young traders, including minors. Council Speaker Julie Menin raised concerns in an August 11 letter to Polymarket CEO Shayne Coplan. The letter also mentioned Kalshi, Coinbase and Gemini Titan. Prediction markets allow users to trade contracts linked to outcomes in politics, sports, entertainment and other areas. The industry has grown rapidly, drawing millions in trading activity and increasing regulatory scrutiny.

The council cited reports alleging that Polymarket worked with marketing agents and social media influencers to reach young adults and minors through deceptive advertising. Allegations include undisclosed influencer payments, fake trades shown on websites resembling Polymarket, and content portraying losing bets as successful. Officials also questioned whether campaigns encouraged insider trading.

The council asked Polymarket to provide details about its influencer and social media activities and explain its marketing practices clearly. A Polymarket spokesperson said the company looked forward to engaging with the council.

The inquiry comes as prediction markets face concerns over gambling and consumer protection concerns. Polymarket operates under US Commodity Futures Trading Commission regulation.



Pep talk: Ready for success at Chelsea

Chelsea has officially signed Spanish left-back Pep Chavarria from Rayo Vallecano on a five-year contract until 2031

LONDON

English football club Chelsea has officially completed the signing of Spanish defender Pep Chavarria from La Liga team Rayo Vallecano. The 28 year-old player has signed a long-term 5 year agreement that keeps him at Stamford Bridge until the summer of 2031.

Chavarria is set to join his new teammates at the Cobham training ground immediately. The squad is currently working hard to prepare for the upcoming 2026 to 2027 season, hoping to bounce back from a disappointing 10th place finish in the Premier League last year.

After finalizing the move, the excited defender shared his thoughts with club media. He stated that joining such a massive global organization feels like a dream come true. He acknowledged that this is a huge challenge for his career, but he feels fully ready to give his absolute best. He promised to work tirelessly to help the team win trophies and achieve great success on the pitch. He also took a moment to thank



his family for their endless love and support throughout his journey.

The journey to the Premier League has been a steady climb for the left-back. He started his career playing for his local team, UE Figueres, in the 4th tier of Spanish football. He made his senior debut at just 18 years old. He quickly grew into a fast, attack-minded defender who loved joining the attack.

Later, he moved to UE Olot before joining Real Zaragoza in the Spanish 2nd division in 2020. He proved himself at every single step, eventually earning a transfer to Rayo Vallecano in 2022.

Over the past 4 years, Chavarria became a key player for Rayo. He helped them achieve historic results, including 2 consecutive 8th place finishes in La Liga. Last season, he played 44 matches and helped his former club reach a European final, where they narrowly lost to Crystal Palace.

Now, the experienced defender is ready for a fresh start in London. Fans hope his talent and fighting spirit will help fix the defensive problems that troubled the Blues last year. Chelsea will start their new league campaign with a tough London derby match against Fulham on August 24th.

‘...Club football still offers me more’

NEW DELHI

Former Liverpool manager Arne Slot has finally explained why he turned down the chance to become the next head coach of the Netherlands national football team. The 47 year old coach emerged as the top candidate to replace Ronald Koeman following the 2026 FIFA World Cup tournament.

Slot held formal discussions with the Royal Dutch Football Association, known as the KNVB, regarding the high-profile vacancy. However, he ultimately chose to end the talks before discussing any potential contract terms. Speaking with media outlets, the Dutch tactician made it clear that his passion lies in the day-to-day rhythm of club management rather than international football.

He noted that at this specific point in his professional career, he prefers being out on the training pitch with his players every single morning. He pointed out that this intense daily connection is something national team man-



agers simply do not get to experience. Despite declining the offer, Slot expressed deep respect for his home country's football association and praised everyone for handling the professional negotiations so smoothly. He firmly believes that club football still has plenty of exciting challenges and opportunities left to offer him.

Slot also wanted to shut down rumors that money played any role in his final choice. He has been a free agent since May, when he left

Liverpool after spending just one brilliant season at Anfield. In that single campaign, he successfully guided the Merseyside giants to the Premier League title before departing the club. Although managing his national team sounds like an amazing honor, Slot felt the timing was completely wrong for now. He admitted that coaching the Netherlands remains a major dream for his distant future, but right now, he wants to focus entirely on leading a club team every single week.

Sarthak deserves this success, says Dagar

NEW DELHI

The North Delhi Strikers secured a dominant 8 wicket victory over the West Delhi Lions in a recent Delhi Premier League match at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Following the impressive team win, standout bowler Mayank Dagar took time to praise team captain Sarthak Ranjan for his ongoing brilliant form with the bat. Reflecting on the match, Dagar explained that it was a very convincing performance from the squad. He noted that the bowlers did a fantastic job restricting the opponents before the batters chased down the target with ease. He highlighted the great team balance, pointing out that everyone understands their specific role clearly. Interestingly, the middle and lower-order batters have not even needed to bat yet because the top-order players



are taking total responsibility and performing consistently.

Dagar then shared high praise for his skipper. Having played cricket together since their under-16 and under-19 days, Dagar expressed pride in watching Sarthak grow both as a player and as a per-

son, stating that he truly deserves his current success. During the match, Dagar delivered an exceptional bowling spell, claiming 2 wickets while giving up only 14 runs across 4 overs. He even grabbed attention with a unique wicket celebration, which he revealed was inspired by football star Paul Pogba.

Batting first, the West Delhi Lions struggled against the disciplined Strikers attack and managed 146 runs for 7 wickets. Mayank Gusain top-scored with an unbeaten 42, while Sombir Sheokand added 34. In response, North Delhi made a flying start as captain Sarthak and Vaibhav Kandpal put on a massive 160 run opening partnership. Sarthak scored a quick 57 runs off 30 balls, while Kandpal stayed not out on 64 to guide the Strikers home safely with 8 wickets remaining.

BABAR AZAM RETURNS TO ICC TEST TOP 10

DUBAI

Pakistan cricket Captain Babar Azam has made a triumphant return to the top 10 of the official ICC Test batting rankings. This exciting update follows Pakistan's impressive 8 wicket win over the West Indies in Port of Spain, which successfully tied their recent 2 match Test series.

During that crucial match, the skilled right-handed batter played a major role in securing victory. He scored 88 runs in the first innings and stayed calm under pressure to finish with 24 not out during the successful run chase. This strong display pushed him up 5 spots to 10th place globally. It marks his 1st time back in the elite top group since September 2024, ending a 2 year absence.

Meanwhile, teammate Abdullah Shafique made an even bigger jump in the batting list. Recalled to bat at number 3, he won the Player of the Match award after hitting a brilliant, unbeaten 160 runs in the first innings alongside 24 not out in the second. His stellar effort vaulted him up 25 places to 32nd position.

Pakistan bowlers also enjoyed great success in the latest rankings update. Off-spinner Sajid Khan climbed 5 spots to reach 30th place in the bowling charts. Fast bowler Mohammad Ali moved up to 85th, while left-arm spinner Ali Usman made a massive leap of 58 spots to land at 97th.

For the West Indies, fast bowler Shamar Joseph moved up one notch to 19th after claiming 3 wickets in the game. Teammate Brandon King also rose to joint 69th despite missing the 2nd innings due to a back injury.

At the very top of the global Test lists, Australian star Travis Head keeps his place as the number one batter. Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah holds the top spot for bowlers, and Indian star Ravindra Jadeja remains the leading all-rounder. Additionally, recent one-day matches between Afghanistan and Ireland brought ranking shifts, with Afghan opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz climbing to 11th and captain Rashid Khan strengthening his hold on the top ODI bowling spot.

Following Pakistan's Test series draw against the West Indies, captain Babar Azam has re-entered the ICC top ten batting rankings after a two-year absence



Can Dickwella fill SL's batting void?

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka Cricket has announced a 16 member squad for the upcoming first Test match against India, which begins on August 15th in Galle. Captain Dhananjaya de Silva will lead the team, but the hosts will be missing two key starting batters for this important series opener. Star batter Kusal Mendis has been ruled out of the fixture due to a right hamstring injury. He suffered the setback while running between the wickets during a domestic 2020 match in Colombo last month. He has been undergoing treatment and rehab at the National High Performance Centre ever since.

Meanwhile, opening batsman Pathum Nissanka is also unavailable for selection. He is currently recovering from a wrist surgery that he underwent in London during July.

With both senior players



sidelined, the national selectors recalled veteran wicket-keeper Niroshan Dickwella to add experience to the dressing room. Dickwella, who has played 54 Test matches, last represented the country in the red-ball format back in 2023. His selection edges out younger hopeful Anjala Bandara. In addition, off-spinning all-rounder Keshara Nuwantha has earned his very first Test call-up. He impressed

selectors by taking 3 wickets in a recent 3 day warm-up match against the visiting Indian side. Top-order batsman Nishan Madushka also kept his place in the squad following strong scores of 66 and 63 not out during that same practice game.

The squad features a strong core of experienced players, including Vice-captain Kamindu Mendis, Dinesh Chandimal, and Lahiru Udara. The spin attack will rely heavily on Prabhath Jayasuriya and Ramesh Mendis, supported by newcomer Nuwantha. Meanwhile, the fast bowling lineup includes Asitha Fernando, Lahiru Kumara, Vishwa Fernando, Milan Rathnayake, and Dilshan Madushanka. Following the opening match in Galle, the second and final Test of the series will take place at the historic Sinhalese Sports Club Ground in Colombo from August 23rd to 27th.

Fencing stars push India medal count to 29

LAGOS

India's fencing stars delivered a stunning show on day three in Nigeria. The team grabbed 3 gold medals, one silver, and one bronze, pushing their total medal count to an amazing 29. In the women's foil event, Kanaglakshmi won the gold medal with a sharp performance. Her teammate Joys Ashitha proudly took the silver right behind her. Next, Rajendran Shanthimol Sherjin fought hard in the men's epee category to claim India's 2nd gold of the day.

The gold rush did not stop there. Singh Karan Singh showed great skill to win the men's sabre final. Another Indian player, Kumarasana Padma Gisho Nidhi, added a bronze medal to the proud tally. As this exciting championship ends today, the joyful Indian squad is ready for the final matches. Fans back home are cheering loudly, hoping the team finishes this wonderful journey with even more shiny medals.



Taekwondo tournament: Chitradurga wins overall, Tumakuru Finishes 2nd

BENGALURU

Chitradurga and Tumakuru districts emerged as the 1st and 2nd overall winners respectively at the 3 day 41st State-Level Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior Taekwondo Championships, along with the 10th Cadet Kyorugi, 14th Poomsae, 3rd Para Taekwondo and 4th Expo Taekwondo competitions organised by the Karnataka State Taekwondo Association in Chitradurga. More than 450 athletes from 14 districts participated in the tournament.

The event was conducted under the leadership of Karnataka State Taekwondo Association President J. Thirumal, along with Chitradurga Taekwondo Association coaches and the organisers of the state-level tournament, M. Sunitha Praveen Kumar and M. Anitha Manthesh.

In the Sub-Junior Girls category, Tumakuru district secured

1st place, while Chitradurga finished 2nd. In the Sub-Junior Boys category, Bengaluru bagged the 1st position and Tumakuru secured the 2nd position.

In the Cadet Boys category, Bengaluru emerged 1st and Tumakuru finished 2nd. In the Cadet Girls category, Chitradurga secured 1st place, followed by Bengaluru in 2nd place.

In the Junior Boys category, Chitradurga emerged victorious, while Bengaluru secured the 2nd position. In the Junior Girls category, Bengaluru secured 1st place and Tumakuru finished 2nd. In the Senior category, Tumakuru secured the 1st position, while Bengaluru finished 2nd. Chitradurga won the Overall Championship, with Tumakuru securing the 2nd position.

Darwin Test: Shanto ready for Australia

DARWIN

Bangladesh cricket captain Najmul Hossain Shanto remains confident that his team is fully prepared to face Australia's fierce pace bowling attack, despite a disappointing collapse in their recent practice match. The upcoming match marks Bangladesh's first Test on Australian soil since 2003, creating huge excitement among cricket fans.

The visitors suffered a setback when they were bowled out for just 54 runs during a warm-up game against a local side. However, Shanto insisted that one bad performance during the preparation stage will not define his team's overall readiness. He pointed out that the squad intentionally trained on bouncy pitches back home over the last few months to prepare for this tough tour. In addition, arriving in Australia nearly two weeks early helped the players adapt to the local conditions and pitch bounce.

Acknowledging the quality of the opposition, Shanto noted that dealing with Australia's world-class fast bowlers, including Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, and Josh Hazlewood, will present a massive test. He highlighted that handling the brand-new ball will be the biggest obstacle for his top-order batters. He urged his team to play with high concentration, stick to their natural game, and aim to bat for long periods to build strong innings.

The visiting team received a significant boost ahead of the clash with star player Litton Das declared fully fit to play. His return brings stability, depth, and crucial experience to the middle order. Bangladesh is also considering a balanced bowling line-up featuring three fast bowlers alongside two frontline spinners, Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Taijul Islam.

