



Babar Azam returns to ICC Test Top 10

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 Vedithe, are supporting the protest. However, the Narayana Gowda and Shivaramagowda factions of Karnataka Rakshana Vedithe, 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

K'taka bans sale, distribution of tobacco & nicotine products

Karnataka has banned tobacco and nicotine products, intensifying enforcement to protect public health.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka has prohibited the sale and distribution of products containing tobacco or nicotine across the State. The Department of Food Safety and Drug Administration issued a notification on August 10, imposing the prohibition for one year from the date of issuance. The department said stringent enforcement measures are being undertaken against products containing tobacco and/or nicotine. Food Safety Officers are conducting special inspections targeting the manufacture, storage, transportation, distribution and

"The department is undertaking stringent enforcement measures against products containing tobacco and/or nicotine."
— Srinivas K, Commissioner, Food Safety and Drug Administration

sale of gutkha, pan masala and other prohibited products. The action has been taken under Section 30(2)(a) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and Regulation 2.3.4 of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011. Commissioner Srinivas K said the notification is issued on August 10 under the provisions of the law.



Tobacco-Nicotine Ban: Key Points

- Ban:** Sale and distribution of tobacco/nicotine products
- Effective:** August 10, 2026
- Duration:** One year
- Targeted products:** Gutkha, pan masala and other prohibited products
- Enforcement:** Manufacture, storage, transport, distribution and sale

Prajwal Revanna found with phone inside Bengaluru prison

Surprise raid exposes alleged phone use by rape convict inside Bengaluru prison.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, serving a life sentence after a rape conviction, was allegedly found using a mobile phone inside Bengaluru prison, prompting action against jail officials. According to sources, Crime Branch officials found Revanna with a mobile phone during a surprise raid. A case has been registered and an investigation launched to determine how the device entered the prison. Jail authorities have suspended Assistant Superintendent Eeranna Rangapur for alleged dereliction of duty and security lapses. Jail Superintendent Ansuch Kumar has also been served a show-cause notice seeking an explanation. The incident has renewed concerns over alleged preferential treatment of high-profile prisoners. Revanna was sentenced to life imprisonment last year



Prajwal Revanna
Phone Row: Key Facts

- Prisoner:** Prajwal Revanna
- Status:** Serving life imprisonment
- Incident:** Allegedly found using mobile phone
- Action:** Jail official suspended
- Further action:** Superintendent served show-cause notice
- Probe:** Crime Branch investigation underway

after being convicted in a rape and intimidation case. He was also convicted for circulating videos of the sexual assault. The latest development has also revived memories of actor Darshan's alleged prison

privileges in 2024, when photographs and videos showing him using a phone and socialising inside the prison surfaced. Several officials were subsequently suspended and Darshan was transferred to Ballari Central Prison.

Kharge ordered surprise raid after prison lapses

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge said he ordered a surprise raid at Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Prison after noticing administrative lapses during his recent visit. Around 100 Central Crime Branch personnel conducted the operation with Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's approval, uncovering several violations, including prohibited items in inmates' cells. Kharge said officials suspected of facilitating the violations have been suspended and warned of strict legal action. He said similar surprise raids would be conducted across prisons in Karnataka. A technical audit of prison digital infrastructure, including mobile-phone jammers, has also been ordered amid reports that some were not functioning properly. The Minister ruled out VIP treatment for inmates.

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

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.

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, BMRC 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.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY

Worker safety priority as Tunnel Road underpass expedited

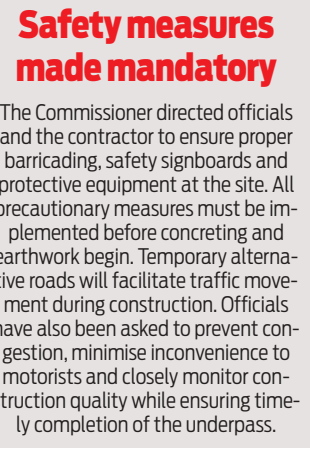
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

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

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 Vit-tasandra recorded 46 tonnes. The Corporation said the drive would be intensified to ensure Bengaluru North becomes free from C&D waste.

Quick Read

Har Ghar
Tiranga awareness
campaign held

CH NEWS,KALABURAGI
MLA Basavaraj Matti-
madu said hoisting the
Tricolour at every home
on Independence Day
would be a significant
way of remembering
the great personalities
who sacrificed their
lives for the country.
He was speaking after
inaugurating a bike rally
organised by the BJP
Mandal as part of the
'Har Ghar Tiranga'
awareness campaign in
Shahabad. He said the
Central Government
had launched the initia-
tive to encourage citi-
zens to hoist the nation-
al flag at their homes
and strengthen the spir-
it of patriotism among
people.
Carrying the national
flag, BJP workers began
the bike rally from Ba-
saveshwar Circle and
passed through the major
streets of the town before
concluding it in front of the
BJP office. BJP Mandal
pPresident Ninganna
Hoolagolkar, Anaveer Ingil
Shetty, Ashok Bagali, Lin-
garaj Biradar, Virendra
Patil, Nanda Baba, Sanjay
Miskin, Anand Patil,
Nagendra Pujari, Dinesh
Gowli, Basavaraj Biradar,
Kashanna Chennur and
Devendrappa Yelagod and
others participated in the
rally.

Authorities impose
curfew after Bichali
camp clash

CH NEWS,RAICHUR
Tension prevailed at
Bichali Camp follow-
ing a clash between
two groups over land
on which a Church and
an Anjaneya temple
have been construct-
ed at a resettlement
site.
The incident occurred
after a dispute be-
tween the groups es-
calated into
stone-pelting, leaving
two people injured.
The injured are under-
going treatment at the
RIMS Hospital. Fol-
lowing the clash,
Sub-Divisional Assis-
tant Commissioner Dr
Hampanna Sajjan has
imposed a seven-day
prohibitory order in
Bichali and Bichali
Camp to prevent fur-
ther escalation of ten-
sion. The dispute over
the land has reported-
ly been continuing for
the past two months.
According to officials,
no one has been shift-
ed to the resettlement
site so far, but differ-
ences have arisen be-
tween the groups over
the Church and An-
janeya temple con-
structed there. De-
spite peace meetings
conducted by the au-
thorities, the dispute
reportedly continued
and eventually led to
the clash. A case has
been registered at the
Yaragera Police Sta-
tion, and further in-
vestigation is under-
way.

Members question PDO Vinay
over infrastructure deficits

Members lash out at neglect of basic infrastructure; express displeasure against PDO

CH NEWS,BIDAR

The general body meeting of Hulsoor Gram Panchayat was held under police security amid tension over various infrastructure issues and matters related to the administration of the gram panchayat.Gram Panchayat President Deeparani Bosthe presided over the meet- ing. Vice-President Meerabai Gaikwad and PDO Vinay Kumar were present.

During the meeting, mem- bers questioned the PDO over several issues, including drink- ing water, drainage, street- lights, the building for persons with disabilities, 15th Finance Commission funds and road repairs. Members pointed out that the drinking water purifi- cation unit in Ward No. 6 had remained non-functional for the past five months, causing inconvenience to residents. They demanded that the prob-



lem be resolved immediately.

The members also demand- ed that steps be taken to fill the vacant post of bill collector, following the retirement of the incumbent, and that a proposal be submitted to the higher au- thorities for filling the post. They said there was a shortage of streetlight bulbs in all wards and that around 800 bulbs were required. The members demanded that bulbs be pur- chased and installed using the 15th Finance Commission funds and that necessary steps

be taken for payment of the bills.

Members raised objections over the alleged failure to pro- vide proper information and records related to the 15th Fi- nance Commission funds. A verbal exchange reportedly took place between the mem- bers and the PDO over the is- sue.The members insisted that records pertaining to the pan- chayat's financial transactions and various development works be made available to them. When members raised

The members also al- leged that some works car- ried out under the Jal Je- van Mission (JJM) were of poor quality. They pointed out that most roads within the gram panchayat limits were in a damaged condition and demanded that letters be submitted to the concerned authorities seeking their repair.They further demanded an in- spection of the alleged substandard works and ap- propriate action against those responsible.

issues concerning drainage and drinking water facilities in different wards, the PDO re- portedly cited a shortage of funds. The members objected and demanded that proposals be submitted to higher author- ities seeking adequate funds to address the problems.

Widespread rainfall
rescues withering
pulse crops

CH NEWS,KALABURAGI

The timely arrival of rain has come as a relief to red gram (tur), green gram and black gram crops, which were struggling due to the delayed monsoon. Crops sown in some parts of the taluk during the last week of May had ini- tially grown well, but began to wither due to a prolonged dry spell.According to weath- er department data, Sedam received 40 mm of rainfall on July 29, while Adaki recorded 24.3 mm, Mudhol 42 mm, Kodla 36.8 mm and Kolkunda 30.4 mm.On August 2, Sedam received 38.1 mm, Adaki 13.3 mm, Mudhol 38.01 mm, Ko- dla 61.1 mm and Kolkunda 36.3 mm of rain. On August 3, Sedam recorded 7 mm, Adaki 12.4 mm, Mudhol 48.2 mm, Kodla 7 mm and Kolkunda 8.06 mm.

The rainfall received across Sedam taluk over the past five to six days has brought much-needed relief to crops that were on the verge of withering, giving a fresh boost to agricultural activities.

The widespread rainfall has brought relief to farmers across most parts of the taluk. The sowing window for green gram and black gram during the monsoon has already end- ed, while farmers can still sow red gram. Some farmers have now begun sowing red gram, taking advantage of the recent rainfall. Farmers said that if the crop receives suffi- cient rainfall after sowing, it could provide a good yield. However, a lack of further rainfall could affect the yield.

Tanker hits auto-rickshaw,
claiming 6 lives

CH NEWS,BIDAR

Six migrant workers from dis- trict were killed in a horrific road accident involving a tanker lorry and an auto-rick- shaw on National Highway 65 in Telangana's Sangareddy district.

The accident occurred on the outskirts of Satvar village in Mogudampally mandal when the auto-rickshaw car- rying the workers was hit by a tanker while they were re- turning home after work.The deceased have been identified as Rekha, Sridevi, Kavita, Ni- kita, Reshma and auto-rick- shaw driver Devadas, all res- idents of Rajgira village in Bidar taluk.

Six others, Nirmala, Tula- jamma, Chandrakala, Radhi- ka, Shilpa and Shobha, sus- tained injuries in the accident. Tulajamma is reportedly in critical condition. The injured were shifted to hospitals in Sangareddy and Bidar for treatment. Police have regis- tered a case and are investi- gating the circumstances lead- ing to the accident.

RDPR Minister Eshwar Khandre on Wednesday visit-

ed the injured persons under- going treatment at the Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences (BRIMS) following a tragic road accident in Telangana that claimed the lives of six labourers from Bidar. Khan- dre met the injured persons at BRIMS Hospital and en- quired about their health and treatment. He spoke to them and assured them of all possi- ble support from the govern- ment.Of the injured, three are undergoing treatment in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) at BRIMS, while three others are being treated in another ward.

Another injured person is undergoing treatment at a pri- vate hospital in Hyderabad. Speaking to the media after meeting the injured, Khandre expressed deep sorrow over the deaths of six labourers from Rajgeera village in Bi- dar taluk.

It is extremely tragic that six people from Rajgeera vil- lage have lost their lives. The government will provide Rs 5 lakh compensation from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to the family of each deceased person, he said.

Yadgir vehicle owners ignore
traffic fine concession

CH NEWS,YADGIR

Vehicle owners and drivers in Yadgir have shown little in- terest in paying pending traf- fic fines despite the 50 per- cent concession announced by the police department. The concession was applicable to cases registered through traf- fic e-challans as well as pend- ing cases registered with the Transport Department be- tween 1991 and 2022. Vehicle owners were given an oppor- tunity to pay the fines at a 50% discount from June 21 to July 10. However, only Rs 1.23 lakh was collected during the 20-day concession period, which is very low compared to the total out- standing amount.

In Yadgir city, 12,119 e-challan cases had been regis- tered, involving fines of Rs 67.91 lakh. Before the con- cession period, Rs 6.40 lakh had been collected from 1,166 cases. Fines amounting to Rs 61.51 lakh remained pending in 10,953 cases. During the concession period, Rs 91,500 was collected offline from 323 cases, while Rs 32,000

Despite the lack of response to the con- cession scheme, traffic police personnel will continue to be deployed at major junctions and roads in the city and collect fines from those violating traffic rules, said District Superinten- dent of Police Prithvik Shankar.

was collected online from 112 cases. Thus, a total of Rs 1.23 lakh was collected from 435 cases.

As a result, Rs 60.91 lakh in fines is still pending for collection.The traffic police had deployed separate person- nel at the traffic police station to facilitate payment under the concession. PDA devices were also provided to traffic personnel to enable online payments. Despite these mea- sures, vehicle owners and drivers showed little interest in clearing their pending fines. Fines had been imposed for violations including signal jumping, triple riding, driving on one-way roads in the

wrong direction, overspeed- ing, roadside parking and parking two-wheelers and four-wheelers on footpaths. Penalties were also imposed for riding three persons on a two-wheeler, using mobile phones while driving, driving without seat belts and trans- porting more schoolchildren than the permitted limit, among other violations.

Meanwhile, traffic viola- tions, particularly illegal park- ing, continue unabated at sev- eral locations in the city. Ve- hicles are often parked hap- hazardly along roadsides, in markets, on footpaths and even near 'No Parking' signs, obstructing the movement of pedestrians and other vehi- cles. Areas including Netaji Circle, Chittapur Road, Rail- way Station Road, Old Bus Stand, New Bus Stand, Gand- hi Circle, Hattikuni Cross Road and Ganj Circle witness frequent roadside parking.Pedestrians say they face con- siderable difficulty while walking through these busy roads and market areas due to vehicles parked indiscrimi- nately.

BJP to protest
Nagendra's
reinduction

CH NEWS,KALABURAGI

BJP MLC Shashil G Namoshi has strongly opposed the rein- duction of former Minister B Nagendra into the Cabinet, questioning the Congress government's decision despite the alleged Valmiki Corpora- tion scam.

Speaking to reporters, Na- moshi alleged that Nagendra had earlier been dropped from the Cabinet after his alleged involvement in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corpora- tion scam came to light. Doc- uments have emerged show- ing that Rs 187 crore was al- legedly diverted and used for elections in Ballari, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. What justification is there for bring- ing back into the Cabinet a person accused of misusing funds meant for the SC/ST communities, Namoshi ques- tioned.He said the issue was extremely serious and ques- tioned why Nagendra was al- lowed to return to the Cabinet after the alleged scam had been established.

Madiga community protests youth murder in Sedam

CH NEWS,KALABURAGI

Members of the Madiga com- munity staged a road block- ade at Basaveshwar Circle in Sedam town, placing the body of a Dalit youth on the road, demanding the immedi- ate arrest of those accused in his murder and Rs 50 lakh compensation for the be- reaved family.

The deceased has been identified as Bhagyavanta (22) of Udgi village in Sedam taluk. According to the pro- testers, a youth named Nabi from the same village is the prime accused in the murder case.The protesters alleged that a personal dispute esca- lated into a violent confronta- tion, during which the youth was assaulted and killed.

As the body was brought



from Kalaburagi to the vicin- ity of Basaveshwar Circle, the family members broke down. Relatives, community leaders and youths placed the body on the road and staged a protest, demanding justice. Former MLA Rajkumar Patil Telkur visited the spot and consoled the bereaved family members. Speaking on the

occasion, he alleged that a group of youths from another community had allegedly gathered and attacked the vic- tim following a personal dis- pute, creating a sense of fear in the area.

He questioned the absence of the local minister from the spot and said it was unfortu- nate that no one from the

minister's side had consoled the bereaved family.Telkur urged the police to take string- ent action to prevent such incidents from recurring and demanded the immediate ar- rest of all five persons al- legedly involved in the murder.The protesters also de- manded Rs 50 lakh compen- sation for the victim's family and a government job for one family member under the pro- visions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.Madiga community lead- ers Vijayakumar Adaki, Shi- vakumar Bolashetty, Om- prakash Patil Tananalli, Shivaputrappa Moga, Bhi- mashankar Koravi, Hanamant Bharatanur, Ramu Kannikal and Maruti Mugutti were among those present.



2.09 LAKH ENUMERATION
FORMS DIGITISED

CH NEWS,VIJAYAPURA

As part of the Special Inten- sive Revision (SIR) of elec- toral rolls, Booth Level Of- ficers (BLOs) will continue their door-to-door visits in the Vijayapura City Assem- bly constituency until Au- gust 17, Electoral Registra- tion Officer and Municipal Commissioner Vijay Mek- kalki said.

Addressing a meeting with representatives of political parties at the City Corpora- tion office, Mekkalki said the draft electoral roll will be published on August 24. Voters can file claims and objections from August 24 to September 23.Notices will be issued and objections disposed of between August 24 and October 22, follow- ing which the final electoral roll will be published on Oc- tober 27, he said.

Mekkalki said that as of 4 p.m. on August 11, 2,90,479 enumeration forms had been distributed to voters in the constituency,

of which 2,09,772 forms had been digitised.As many as 2,512 applications have been submitted online, while

39,631 voters were found absent. A total of 24,683 voters have permanently shifted, while 8,055 voters have been reported de- ceased. Meanwhile, 8,205 new voters have already been registered, he said.

The list of 83,979 ASD (Absent, Shifted and De- ceased) voters identified across 285 polling stations in the constituency has al- ready been provided to rep- resentatives of political parties.

Mekkalki said BLOs had been instructed to collect in- formation if voters were found at their residences.

As a result, around 3,291 voters who had earlier been marked absent between Au- gust 3 and 11 returned,

filled in their enumeration forms and submitted them to BLOs. The digitisation of these forms has been com- pleted, he added. Mekkalki appealed to voters who re- ceived enumeration forms during the door-to-door campaign but have not yet returned them to contact their respective BLOs and submit the duly filled forms before August 17.

Strict loan norms deny relief to farmer families

CH NEWS,RAICHUR

wCrop losses, mounting debts and financial distress continue to push farmers towards the extreme step of suicide. How- ever, families who lose their breadwinners are facing an- other battle while seeking government compensation, as existing eligibility rules are reportedly coming in their way.

In several cases, compensa- tion is being denied on the grounds that the loan docu- ments are not in the name of the farmer who died by sui- cide. As a result, families are left to cope with grief as well

as the burden of repaying loans.The problem is particu- larly acute in rural areas, where the joint-family system continues to be prevalent. Land and other agricultural properties are often registered in the name of the father or an elder member of the family, while the actual responsibility of cultivation rests with the sons or other family mem- bers.

Recognition of a farm- er-suicide case as eligible for compensation has wider im- plications for the bereaved family. Once a case is ap- proved, the family is recorded in the district administration's

records as a victim family, en- abling it to access various government assistance and welfare measures, including support related to the educa- tion and employment of chil- dren.However, families whose cases are rejected fear that they may be deprived not only of compensation but also of several other government benefits.Affected families have urged the government to reconsider the rules so that genuine cases are not rejected merely because of differences between the names of the ac- tual cultivator, landowner and borrower.

According to the available



district figures, 18 farmer sui- cides were reported in Raich- ur district during 2025-26. Of these, nine cases were found eligible for compensation, while nine were rejected.Ta- luk-wise, Sindhanur recorded 11 cases, Manvi two, Maski three, and Lingasugur and Sirwar one each.During 2026-27, three farmer suicide cases

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

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

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-

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.



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



Aashada, 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

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.



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 D.V., 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.

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 Swachhtam portal and work towards making Mandya cleaner, safer and environmentally sustainable.

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.

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.

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

DC orders tough measures to improve road safety

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-

tional Highways Authority of India were asked to identify locations for truck terminals in Sedam, Chittapur and Sirsagi to reduce roadside parking.

The Collector also ordered installation of digital weighbridges and strict enforcement of the ban on heavy vehicles entering city limits between 7 am and 10 pm.

He directed officials to seek central approval to bring the Humnabad Cross-Afzalpur Cross road under National Highway authority jurisdiction.

A district-wide road safety audit must be completed within 30 days, with accident black spots identified and corrected. Unsafe speed bumps should be removed, while reflectors and warning signs must be installed. Sharif said the administration's main goal was saving lives and warned that deliberate delays or poor roadwork could result in FIRs and legal action.

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.

Bhima Amavasya draws devotees to Mahadeshwara Betta

CH NEWS, CHAMARAJANAGAR

Devotees gathered at Sri Male Mahadeshwara Betta in Hanur taluk for Bhima Amavasya, with elaborate temple decorations and special arrangements.

Secretary G. Puroshottam of the Area Development Authority oversaw preparations to ensure devotees received basic facilities and smooth access.

A devotee from Hosur, Tamil Nadu, Rose Ramesh, decorated the temple with one

lorry of flowers costing Rs. 15 lakh. About 20 varieties, including lilies, orchids, carnations, gerberas, daisies and roses, adorned the sanctum, gopuram, temple grounds, Rudraksha Mantapa, Basava vehicle and chariot procession. Special pujas including Gandhabhishhek, Bilvachane and Kumkumarchane followed the traditional rituals.

Thousands of devotees arrived from across the state, stood in queues, offered prayers, lit lamps and performed mudi seva. Tight po-

lice security was arranged under District Superintendent of Police M. Muthuraj.

The authority provided clean drinking water, toilets, special Dasoh services and additional buses, helping pilgrims move comfortably. Authority staff, including Mahadevaswamy, Rajashekar and Umesh, worked to assist visitors.

Devotees praised the arrangements and administration for maintaining order and convenience during the festival year.

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 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 Bemalkhedra, where six labourers from Udamanalli village died. Khashempur said he had then urged the government to prevent such incidents and expand employment opportunities locally.

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



morning and evening walks. However, the worsening stench has made the area unpleasant, while people are worried that polluted air and water could create health problems.

The recent death of thousands of fish has increased

"The historic Bheeshma Lake should be made pollution-free immediately. A scientific purification unit or an alternative canal should be arranged so that sewage water does not permanently enter the lake. Strict action should be taken against the officials who have violated the Lokayukta's order. Otherwise, in the coming days, the Gadag-Betageri Citizens' Forum and the public will jointly organize a violent protest in front of the Municipal Council office"

- Santosh Akki, Yuva Morcha Gadag District President

public concern. Residents suspect that sewage and other pollutants have reduced oxy-

gen levels in the water. They have demanded that the pollution control authorities and municipal officials collect water samples and conduct scientific tests to identify the exact cause of the fish deaths.

The issue has also raised questions about official action. Deputy Lokayukta Justice K.N. Phanindra reportedly inspected the lake following a public complaint and directed officials to stop sewage from entering it. Residents allege that while the flow was temporarily stopped, no permanent alternative arrangement was made, allowing sewage to accumulate

near the lake and eventually enter the water.

The pollution has created another serious concern because wells and borewells around the lake depend on groundwater recharge. Several private tankers reportedly draw water from nearby sources for supply across the twin cities. Residents fear contamination could eventually affect drinking water and public health. They have urged authorities to act immediately, test the water, stop sewage inflow permanently and protect the lake before the damage becomes irreversible.



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

Because
On August 12, the universe is putting on a show. All in one day

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.

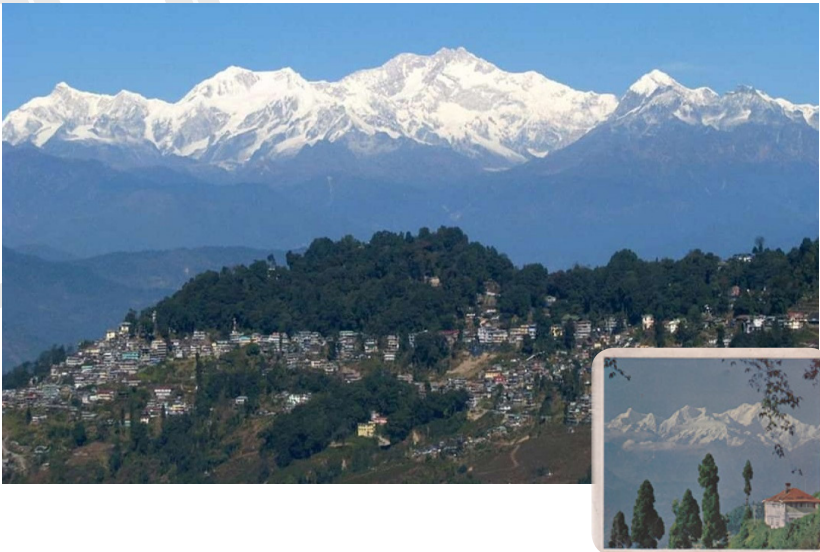
The eclipse will belong to those watching from its path. The Perseids will belong to everyone willing to step outside after midnight. And before sunrise, the planets will quietly take their places across the morning sky. Different events. Different distances. Different celestial mechanics. Yet from Earth, 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 confluence 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 bibimbap, kimchi, 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 Chowrasta. 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 elder daughter of the 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

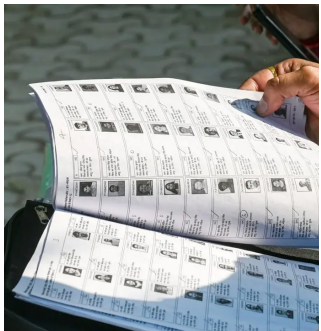
MANVI

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. PSI Somashekar Kenchareddy said police will act against hooliganism near schools, colleges and girls' hostels across Manvi and other parts of the taluk. He said theft and other illegal activities are being controlled, with some suspects already arrested. Police have also discussed plans with municipal officials to install more than 100 CCTV cameras at important places and junctions in town. Tahsildar Bheemaraaya Ramasamudra said officials had been asked to report on possible misuse of SEP and TSP funds meant for SC and ST development. He said action would follow rules on Bagair Hukum cases. Community leaders and officials, including Bagayyanayaka, Social Welfare Officer Shahida Begam, Municipality Manager Narasimha and others, attended the meeting. Participants welcomed the assurance of legal support and urged authorities to act quickly on grievances and ensure safety and equal rights.

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.

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.

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 Navalagund, 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.

Geneva Convention Day highlights humanity and service

Humanity above all. 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.

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

Mumbai biker killed in Chhattisgarh crash

Raipur

A 24-year-old Mumbai woman died after her motorcycle was hit by an unidentified heavy vehicle in Chhattisgarh's Balod district on Wednesday, Riddhi Thakkar was travelling with a 20-member biking group towards Bastar when the accident occurred around 6 am on National Highway 30. The vehicle fled the scene, Fellow riders alerted emergency services, and Thakkar was taken to hospitals in Kanker and Dhamtari. She later died from her injuries. Police are searching for the vehicle and driver.

Madurai man donates ₹60 lakh savings

Madurai

An 82-year-old Madurai man donated his lifetime savings of ₹60 lakh and pledged his body for medical research, setting an example of generosity and public service. P. Subbiah, a resident of Harvey Nagar in Tirupparankundram, made the donation during the district's public grievance meeting on August 10. He also presented a ₹10,000 cheque to Madurai Collector Nishant Krishna for the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. Subbiah's decision to donate his savings and pledge his body reflects his commitment to supporting society and medical research even in his later years.

Bengal assembly passes Howrah ward delimitation bill

KOLKATA

The West Bengal Assembly passed the Howrah ward delimitation amendment bill, with state ministers stressing the need to redraw ward boundaries to match the city's growing population and improve the delivery of civic services.

Sedative used in Delhi husband's murder plot

NEW DELHI

A 45-year-old Delhi woman allegedly plotted the murder of her 55-year-old husband with her lover, promising him ₹50 lakh for the crime, police said. The accused, Manju alias Nazia, allegedly mixed a sedative in water and gave it to her husband, Munna Lal, to make him unconscious. Her lover, 20-year-old Chaman, and his associate, 28-year-old

Kiren Rijiju accuses Oppn of avoiding Parliament debates

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS READY TO DISCUSS ISSUES AND ANSWER QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT

NEW DELHI

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju criticised the Opposition for allegedly avoiding debates in Parliament, saying the government was ready for discussion and willing to respond to questions.



He stressed that discussion was necessary for Parliament to function effectively.

He questioned how Parliament could operate if there was no meaningful debate. Rijiju also accused Congress MPs of relying on slogans, placards and abusive remarks instead of participating in parliamentary discussions.

His remarks came after Home Minister Amit Shah wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking consultation with Opposition leaders over a debate on student protests. Rijiju said the government's move followed continued

disruptions in Parliament. Rijiju maintained that the government was prepared to present its views and answer questions in the House. He urged the Opposition to participate in discussions rather than disrupt proceedings. The remarks have added to the ongoing confrontation between the government and Opposition during the Monsoon Session, with both sides continuing to differ over how key issues should be debated.

BJP workers repaint Kolkata art counter saffron

KOLKATA

BJP workers repainted the old ticket counter of Kolkata's heritage Academy of Fine Arts saffron, restarting a dispute that has drawn political and cultural attention in the city.

The latest painting came a day after theatre personalities had covered the saffron colour with white paint. The saffron colour had earlier been applied to the counter on July 6 by members of a Hindutva group. The counter is located beside the main entrance of the Academy.

Actor and BJP legislator Rudranil Ghosh led the party workers during Wednesday's



repainting. He criticised the CPI(M), alleging that the party was trying to retain control of its trade union wing, Citu, over the heritage institution. Ghosh also defended the saffron colour, describing it as a symbol of sacrifice.

Ghosh accused the theatre personalities of acting without

permission from the trustee board when they painted the counter white. He also questioned their priorities, claiming they were focused on changing the counter's colour instead of addressing the need to renovate the Academy's art galleries.

The Academy of Fine Arts, established in 1933 by Lady Ranu Mukherjee and Maharaja Prodyot Kumar Tagore, was founded to promote Indian art. The repeated repainting of its ticket counter has now brought political differences into the institution's cultural space. The incident has also raised questions over who has the authority to make changes to the heritage property.

Bhopal prepares for rain emergencies

BHOPAL

Amid heavy rainfall, Bhopal administration has prepared a disaster management plan to tackle waterlogging and other monsoon-related problems. Collector Priyank Mishra said meetings were held with the Municipal Corporation, State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF), traffic police, revenue and road departments before the rainy season. An action plan was prepared for both urban and rural areas, with all departments assigned responsibilities. Officials are now working according to the plan to manage recurring monsoon-related challenges across the city.

Calcutta HC cancels new OBC certificates in Bengal

KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court cancelled OBC certificates issued under the new classification system in West Bengal during the previous Trinamool Congress government, ending the validity of certificates issued under the revised rules.

A division bench of Justice Rajasekhar Mantha and Justice Anuj Singh also ruled that the two categories, OBC-A and OBC-B, introduced after 2010, would no longer apply under the new arrangement. People holding certificates issued under these categories will now

be treated as belonging to the general category.

The issue has been under legal scrutiny for several years. In 2024, the Calcutta High Court removed 66 communities from the OBC list and ordered a fresh survey to prepare a new list. The then state government challenged the decision in the Supreme Court, which upheld the High Court's order.

Following the Supreme Court direction, the state government conducted a fresh survey and revised the OBC-A and OBC-B lists. The High Court later questioned the process, with allegations that the survey was



based on only 2,500 samples. A total of 142 communities were subsequently included in the OBC lists. The state again ap-

proached the Supreme Court, but no stay was granted.

With no stay in place, OBC certificates continued to be issued under the revised rules. The Calcutta High Court has now cancelled those certificates, changing the status of people who received them under the new system.

The ruling is likely to have implications for beneficiaries who relied on these certificates for reservation and other government benefits. The decision has once again brought the process of OBC classification in West Bengal under legal and political scrutiny.



Cong sets August 19 poll strategy meet

NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) will meet on August 19 to discuss the political situation in the country and chalk out the party's strategy for the upcoming Assembly elections. The meeting is expected to focus on strengthening the Congress's political campaign and preparing its organisation for the electoral battles ahead.

According to the report, the CWC is likely to discuss the Congress's approach towards the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre. Party leaders are expected to assess the prevailing political atmosphere and identify issues that could be raised against the government. The meeting comes at a time when the Opposition is seeking to sharpen its political strategy on several national issues.

The party's preparations for the Assembly elections expected early next year are also likely to be a major part of the discussions. Uttar Pradesh and Punjab are among the states that will receive attention as Congress leaders review their electoral preparedness. The leadership is expected to discuss campaign priorities, or-

AT A GLANCE	
CWC meet	August 19.
Main focus	National political situation.
Poll strategy	Upcoming Assembly elections.
Key states	Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.
Party goal	Strengthen Congress organisation.

ganisational activities and ways to strengthen the party's position in these states.

The meeting is also expected to provide senior Congress leaders an opportunity to coordinate their political and electoral plans. With Assembly elections approaching, the party faces the challenge of building a stronger campaign and improving its organisation at the state level.

The CWC meeting will therefore serve as an important platform for the Congress to assess its political position and finalise its strategy for the coming months. Discussions on the Modi government and preparations for the Assembly elections are expected to shape the party's immediate political agenda.

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA
Bengaluru-560001

No. HCRB/SDA-4/2026 (RPC)

Date: 11.08.2026

HCRB/SDA-5/2026 (KKR)

BRIEF NOTIFICATION

Online applications are invited by High Court of Karnataka for filling up of 20 posts of Second Division Assistant (18 posts under Residual Parent Cadre and 2 backlog posts under Kalyana Karnataka Region). Pay scale of the said post is **Rs.25,500/- Rs.81,100/-**. The Last date for submission of online application is **11.09.2026 till 11.59 p.m.** Eligible candidates are required to apply only through 'Online' by visiting the official website of High Court of Karnataka at **judiciary.karnataka.gov.in**. No other means / mode of applications will be accepted. The Notification and other details are available in the above mentioned portal and in the official Gazette (E-Gazette) of Karnataka dated **11.08.2026**.

Sd/- (M. CHANDRASHEKAR REDDY)

REGISTRAR GENERAL ,

DIPR/CP/2114/Zen/2026-27

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU.

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

No. BDA/E.(E)/484/2026-27

Date: 12.08.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTICE

Short-Term Tender for electricity related works is invited by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT269 & BDA/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT270). Tender Schedule is as below.

Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **13.08.2026**. (2) Last date and time for submission of Tender: **19.08.2026, 17.00 Hrs.** (3) Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **20.08.2026, 17.10 Hrs.** (4) Date of opening Financial Bid of Tender: **Refer to e-proc.**

Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Electrical Division of BDA during office hours.

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @ BDAOOfficialGok

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele.),

Electrical Division, BDA, Bengaluru

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Bangalore South District
District Urban Development Cell, Ramanagara-562159

Telephone No. 080-27274108, E-Mail : ka.ramanagara.dude@gmail.com

No. RDUDC/MUN(1)/Amrutha Nagarothana-4/Magadi(Savings)/CR/75/2025-26

Date : 10.08.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, DUDC, Bangalore South District, Ramanagara invites tenders from Eligible contractors for Amrutha Nagarothana (Municipality)-4 Project in TMC Magadi limits works as detailed below:-

Interested contractors shall register on the KPP Portal to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from the KPP Portal. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at KPP Portal. EMD and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically.

Indent No: DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT60782. Amount put to Tender **Rs. 137.72 Lakhs.** EMD Amount **Rs.2.06 Lakhs.** Pre-Bid Meeting **Date: 18.08.2026 at 3.00 PM.** Last Date for uploading of completed tender documents: **28.08.2026 at 5.30 PM.** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **31.08.2026 at 11:00 AM.**

Tender conditions and further information can be obtained from the said office during working hours. If any changes in the calendar of events and the conditions will be notified on KPP portal only and newspaper advertisement will not be published.

Sd/- Executive Engineer

District Urban Development Cell

DIPR/BSD/242/SA/2026-27

Bangalore South District, Ramanagara

CM Patel transfers ₹646 crore aid to students

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel transferred more than ₹646 crore in financial assistance to over 4.72 lakh students under the Namo Laxmi and Namo Saraswati Vigyan Sadhana schemes.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS	
• ₹646 crore transferred as financial aid	
• 4.72 lakh students benefited	
• Namo Laxmi and Namo Saraswati schemes	
• DBT used for direct transfers	
• Education support remains the main focus	



The assistance was provided through the state government's Education Department along with other incentive-based support for higher education. The funds were transferred directly to students' bank accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system.

The transfer was made during a ceremony held at Swarnim Sankul in Gandhinagar. According to the Chief Minister's Office, more than 4,72,260 students across Gujarat received the financial assistance.

Speaking at the event, Patel highlighted the importance of education in the state's development. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid a strong foundation for educa-

tion, which has contributed to Gujarat's continued growth and development. The Namo Laxmi and Namo Saraswati schemes are aimed at providing financial support to students and encouraging education. The latest assistance is expected to help beneficiaries meet educational expenses and continue their studies. The state government said the direct transfer of funds reflects its focus on providing timely financial support to students through welfare schemes.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, Building Division, SJP Campus, Bengaluru, Phone: 080-22255210

No. EE/Bld.1/AE-3/2026-27/18

Date: 12.08.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

The above Department invites Tenders through e-procurement portal of GoK (**http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) from Eligible Tenderers for **Providing False ceiling, painting and polishing, repairs and renovation of toilets, providing UPVC windows, repairs to wall paneling, carrying out tail roof work and other development works, total 03 works at various notified places.** Approx. value of work: **Min. Rs. 1.69 lakhs, Max. Rs. 36.15 lakhs.** EMD: **Min. Rs. 4,250/-, Max. Rs. 72,500/-.** Time Period: **2 to 3 Months (including rainy season).** Cost of Document for each work: **As in e-portal.** Last date for downloading Tender through e-procurement portal and submission through online: **19.08.2026 up to 5.00 PM.** Date of opening the Tender: **as per e-procurement guidelines.** Further information, brief details of the works, Indent No.s, approx. amount, EMD and mode of payment, Reservation, etc. can be obtained from the above office or from e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer

DIPR/DD-C/P.2117/KSMCA/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬಿಡ್ಡು ಕ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು		
ಬಿಡ್ಡು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ		
ಸಂ.ಕಾ.ಇ.ಇ.ಬಿ.ಬಿ.ಕೆ/1029/2026-27	ದಿನಾಂಕ : 11.08.2026	
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಬಿಡ್ಡು ಕ), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು KW-1 STD ಪರವಾನಗಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಡ್ಡು ಮಾಡಿದ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ಕರೆಯನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಎ.ಎ. ಮೂಲಕ ಅಪ್ಲಾಡ್ ಮಾಡಿದ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.		
ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಇಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಬಿಡ್ಡು (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	Shifting of HT & LT lines of F-02 Ramanahalli & F-07 Gopahalli of Urugahalli MUSS due to road widening works Kodigahalli road bridge in Urugahalli O&M section of bidadi Sub division(Under Self Execution Work)PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT37326	10.60
2	Providing internal electrification wall mounting fan and modular LED fittings to newly constructed Sri.Chenna Keshava Swamy Samudaya Bavana building at Kaidala Tumkur taluk. PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT37611	8.48
ಮೇಲಿನ ಬಿಡ್ಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ ಸಂ: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07-08-2026 ರಿಂದ 21-08-2026 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಭೆಟಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ಕರೆಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21-08-2026 ರಿಂದ 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬಿಡ್ಡು ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು Karnataka Public Procurement Portalಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.		
ಸಹ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ಎ), ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ/ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್/2110/ಎಂ.ಎಸ್/2026-27 ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.		

Quick Read

Indonesia

ferry fire leaves, one dead

Jakarta

One person died and 172 others were rescued after the KM Putri Yasmin ferry caught fire in waters off Indonesia's Lombok on Wednesday, authorities said. The ferry was travelling from Padangbai port in Bali to Lembar port in Lombok when the incident occurred in the Lombok Strait at 4:39 a.m. More than 200 rescue personnel were deployed, with boats assisting passengers and searching for anyone still missing. Among those rescued was one Australian national, while the remaining survivors were Indonesian. Authorities said the cause of the fire was not immediately known. Officials were also checking whether overcrowding contributed to the incident.

Ebola death toll surpasses 2,000 in Congo

Kinshasa

The death toll from Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo has crossed 2,000, with more than 4,000 cases confirmed, according to health authorities. The outbreak has raised concerns over the spread of the deadly virus and increased pressure on local health services. Health workers and authorities are continuing surveillance, treatment and containment measures to limit further transmission. Communities affected by the outbreak are being urged to follow public health guidance and report suspected infections promptly. The latest figures highlight the continuing challenge posed by Ebola in the country and the need for sustained medical and emergency response efforts.

Six killed in Houthi strike on ship

Aden

Yemen has claimed that six people were killed in a Houthi "double-tap" strike targeting a ship in the Red Sea's Bab al-Mandeb Strait. The incident has raised fresh concerns over maritime security along the vital international shipping route. Yemeni authorities said the attack involved repeated strikes on the vessel, though further details about the ship and the identities of those killed were not immediately available. The Bab al-Mandeb Strait is a key passage connecting the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and is heavily used by commercial vessels. The reported attack adds to ongoing tensions and security threats facing ships operating in the region.

RAIN BRINGS FLOODS

Philippines warns of water-borne diseases amid floods

MANILA

Philippine health authorities have warned residents in flood-hit northern areas about the rising risk of water-borne diseases as heavy southwest monsoon rains continue to affect several parts of the country.

Health officials in the Ilocos region urged people to take precautions against illnesses including leptospirosis, dengue and influenza, which can become more common during the rainy season. The warning came as flooding continued across the region, according to local media re-

Putin warns of retaliation over vessel seizures

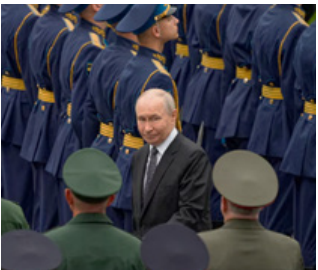
EU authorities detained crews and inspected shadow fleet vessels while expanding sanctions against hundreds of linked ships

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned that Russia will respond in kind if European countries seize Russian merchant vessels, escalating tensions as the European Union steps up measures against Moscow's so-called shadow fleet.

According to Russia's state-run TASS news agency, Putin described the seizure of Russian ships as "piracy and banditry" and said Moscow would be forced to retaliate if such actions were implemented. He added that any Russian response would not necessarily be confined to the waters where Russian vessels were seized.

Putin said Russia could take action "wherever we deem it necessary and appropriate,"



according to TASS. His remarks come as European governments consider stronger maritime enforcement against vessels suspected of helping Russia evade Western sanctions. The EU has also expanded sanctions targeting hundreds of ships linked to the shadow fleet, while some European authorities have detained vessels and crews for inspections.

The shadow fleet refers to a network of vessels that Russia

Shadow Fleet Scrutiny

Russia faces intense European scrutiny over its shadow fleet used to bypass sanctions. Meanwhile, President Putin criticized NATO during a Sakhalin visit, accusing the alliance of expanding dangerously in the Asia-Pacific and escalating tensions across the Arctic region.

is accused of using to transport oil and other goods while avoiding international sanctions and restrictions. European nations have increased scrutiny of these ships as part of efforts to tighten economic

Palestinian students sue Columbia over discrimination

WASHINGTON

A group of current and former Palestinian students and staff have sued Columbia University, accusing the institution of discriminatory treatment of its Palestinian community since late 2023, according to a court filing in New York.

The lawsuit alleges that Columbia failed to adequately protect Palestinian students and staff from harassment while subjecting members of the community to what the plaintiffs described as unfair and biased disciplinary proceedings. The case comes amid continuing disputes over the university's handling of pro-Palestinian demonstrations and tensions surrounding free speech and campus safety.

Columbia has previously rejected accusations of discrimination and said it opposes hate and harassment. The university did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. Local media reported that Columbia declined to comment on the pending litigation.

Protests have taken place at Columbia and universities across the United States since the outbreak of the Gaza war following the October 2023 attack by Hamas. Demonstrators have called for an end to U.S. support for Israel and demanded that universities



Campus Protests and Disciplinary Measures

Library Demonstration: In May 2025, Columbia University suspended more than 65 students following a pro-Palestinian protest that shut down the institution's main library.

Free Speech Backlash: Free speech organizations heavily criticized the university's disciplinary approach, which encompassed arrests, multi-year suspensions, expulsions, and the revocation of academic degrees.

Multi-Million Dollar Agreement: In July 2025, Columbia announced an agreement to pay more than \$200 million to the U.S. government to settle federal investigations and restore the vast majority of its withheld federal funding.

divest from companies they say support Israel.

The university faced renewed scrutiny over its response to campus protests. In May 2025, Columbia suspended more than 65 students after a pro-Palestinian demonstration shut down the university's main library. The action came while the university was negotiating with the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump, which had withheld federal funding after accusing Columbia of failing to adequately address antisemitism during campus protests.

Protesters, including some Jewish organisations, have rejected claims that criticism of Israel or support for Palestinian rights is inherently antisemitic. They have argued that advocacy for Palestinian rights should not be equated with support for extremist groups.

Columbia later agreed to pay more than \$200 million to the U.S. government to resolve federal investigations and restore most of its federal funding.

The agreement was announced in July 2025.

Mahmut alleges Uyghur identity erasure through children

LONDON

On International Youth Day, Uyghur rights activist Rahima Mahmut has raised concerns over the alleged separation of Uyghur children from their families, saying the practice threatens the community's language, culture and identity.

Mahmut, executive director of Stop Uyghur Genocide, alleged that up to 900,000 Uyghur children had been separated from their parents as of 2019 and placed in state-run

boarding schools and residential kindergartens. She said the number could be considerably higher.

According to Mahmut, the separation of children from their families is part of a wider campaign aimed at weakening Uyghur cultural and religious identity. She alleged that children are increasingly educated in Mandarin rather than Uyghur and face pressure to adopt political and cultural values promoted by the Chinese state. Mahmut also referred to

footage that she said showed Uyghur children aged between five and 11 being encouraged to pledge loyalty to the Chinese military while speaking in Mandarin. She described such practices as indoctrination rather than education. She further alleged that some children had been left without parents because family members were detained in political prison camps, while others were separated from their parents following forced labour transfers. Mahmut also raised allegations

concerning forced abortions and sterilisation among Uyghur women, saying such policies had affected families and future generations.

Her comments come amid longstanding international concern over China's treatment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang. Researchers and human rights organisations have documented concerns about family separation, state-run boarding schools and restrictions on Uyghur language and cultural expression.

North Korea fires missile ahead of drills

SEOUL

North Korea fired a ballistic missile toward waters off the Korean Peninsula's east coast on Wednesday, South Korean and Japanese authorities said, days before major military exercises between the United States and South Korea.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile was launched from the Wonsan area at around 6 a.m. local time. It travelled about 700 km before falling into the sea, according to South Korean and Japanese defence authorities. The launch came six days after another suspected ballistic missile was fired from the same area.

The latest test occurred ahead of the annual Ulchi Freedom Shield exercises, scheduled from August 17 to 27. The drills are designed to strengthen the allies' ability to respond to North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile threats. Pyongyang has long criticized the exercises as preparations for an invasion.



The allies conduct drills to counter North Korea's nuclear threats, while Pyongyang condemns the exercises as invasion preparations

Analysts said the timing of Wednesday's launch could have been intended to send a warning to Washington and Seoul. Hong Min, a researcher at the Korea Institute for National Unification, said the test may have been part of North Korea's weapons development programme, but deciding when to conduct it also involved a political calculation.

Taiwan condemns Chinese navy drill near Island

TAIPEI

Taiwan has condemned planned Chinese naval exercises with an Indonesian warship in waters east of Taiwan, calling the move dangerous and accusing Beijing of trying to create a false impression that it exercises jurisdiction over the area.

China's Defence Ministry said the planned mid-August activity would be a navigation exercise involving an Indonesian navy ship. It would mark the first time China has conducted a military drill with a foreign country in waters east of Taiwan.

Indonesia, however, said its warship, the I Gusti Ngurah Rai, was carrying out routine "passing exercises" while returning from a visit to Russia. Indonesian Navy spokesperson Tunggal said such exercises were a traditional practice when naval vessels transit through another country's maritime area and were not related to war fighting.

Ousted Myanmar Envoy Goes On Trial In London

LONDON

Myanmar's former ambassador to the United Kingdom, Kyaw Zwar Minn, went on trial in a London court. He faces criminal charges for trespassing at the official diplomatic residence, a property he has stubbornly refused to vacate after being sacked for opposing the 2021 military coup in his home country. The dramatic situation began 5 years ago when Minn was locked out of his embassy

shortly after the February 2021 military takeover. He had publicly called for the release of Myanmar's detained civilian leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. Although the junta replaced him with their own chosen representatives, Minn refused to leave the ambassador's residence in northwest London, where he has continued to live ever since. Prosecutors charged him last year with trespass covering a period between May 2021 and November 2024.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SURESH RAI**, S/o. Narayana Rai Nuliyalu Bajadaguttu, Resident of No. 14, Belaku 4th Cross, Patelappa Layout, Nagashetty Halli, RMV 2nd Stage, Bengaluru -560094, Karnataka, have changed my name to **SURESH RAI B**, vide affidavit dated: 12.08.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **MUZAMIL**, Resident of No. 1193, Joseph Garden, D J Halli, Bengaluru -560045, Karnataka, have changed my name to **MUZAMIL PASHA**, vide affidavit dated: 12.08.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

IN THE COURT OF THE 1ST ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR

Cri.mis. No: 181/2026

Petitioner: 1. Sri.Muniraju S/o Late Karagaiah Aged about 63 years, 2. Sri.Munikrishna S/o Late Karagaiah Aged about 55 years, 3.Sri. Rakesh S/o Muniraju Aged about 34 years 4.Smt.Manjuja W/o Munikrishna Aged about 48 years 5.Kum.Rekha D/o Munikrishna Aged about 22 years All are residing at Ekashipura Village Kasaba Hobali, Doddaballapur Bangalore Rural Dist. **V/s Respondent:** The Thahasildar, Doddaballapura Taluk Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of father of petitioner No.1,2 and grandfather of petitioner No.3 & 5 and mother in law of petitioner No.4 by name KARAGAI AH S/O LATE YALLAPPA who died on 15.05.1986.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 05.09.2026 at 11:00 am. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order. Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 07.08.2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prt. (Jr. Dvm) & JMFC Court, Doddaballapur
Advocate of Petitioner: Manjunath K.B., Doddaballapur-561203

IN THE COURT OF THE 1ST ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR

Cri.mis. No: 182/2026

Petitioner: 1. Sri.Muniraju S/o Late Karagaiah Aged about 63 years, 2. Sri.Munikrishna S/o Late Karagaiah Aged about 55 years, 3.Sri. Rakesh S/o Muniraju Aged about 34 years 4.Smt.Manjuja W/o Munikrishna Aged about 48 years 5.Kum.Rekha D/o Munikrishna Aged about 22 years All are residing at Ekashipura Village Kasaba Hobali, Doddaballapur Bangalore Rural Dist. **V/s Respondent:** The Thahasildar, Doddaballapura Taluk Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of mother of petitioner No.1,2 and grandmother of petitioner No.3 & 5 and mother in law of petitioner No.4 by name GANGAMMA W/o Late KARAGAI AH who died on 14.03.1970.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 05.09.2026 at 11:00 am. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order. Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 07.08.2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prt. (Jr. Dvm) & JMFC Court, Doddaballapur
Advocate of Petitioner: Manjunath K.B., Doddaballapur-561203



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.

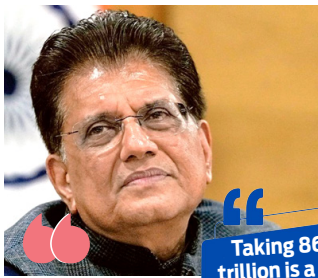
Exports grew 15% in 4 months, says Goyal

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.

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.

N CHANDRASEKARAN TO STEP DOWN FROM TATA

NEW DELHI

Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran's decision not to seek reappointment after completing his current term reflects his integrity and will provide the Tata Group sufficient time to ensure a smooth leadership transition, Association of National Exchanges Members of India (ANMI) President Kamlesh Shroff said recently. Chandrasekaran has decided not to offer him-

self for another term when his current tenure ends on February 20, 2027. His decision came after the Tata Sons board failed to reach consensus on extending his tenure. Shroff said the move should not necessarily be viewed as a fallout from the reported differences over his renewal.

Shroff said Chandrasekaran's nearly four decades of contribution to the Tata Group demonstrated his commitment and hard work. He said

choosing to step down rather than pursue another term without unanimous support showed the chairman's credibility and integrity. "I think that after doing four decades of work at the company," Shroff said, describing the decision as part of the normal course of leadership transition. He also said Chandrasekaran's willingness to remain in office until the end of his existing term would give the organisation adequate time to

prepare for the next chairman. The ANMI president said it would be difficult to speculate about who could succeed Chandrasekaran, adding that the Tata Group was expected to follow an appropriate process to identify a suitable candidate. He said he was not aware of any major names currently expected to be part of the succession process. Chandrasekaran, who became Tata Sons chairman in 2017 after serving as chief execu-

tive of Tata Consultancy Services, has overseen the group through a period of significant expansion and strategic investment. His departure comes amid reported tensions between Tata Sons and Tata Trusts, which controls a majority stake in the holding company.

Shroff said the decision to complete the full tenure and facilitate a carefully managed transition was a positive approach.

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.

TECH INFRASTRUCTURE FOCUS

Bank of America pledges \$250 billion for US infrastructure

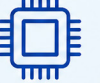
NEW YORK

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-

FOCUS AREAS OF THE INVESTMENT

- Digital Tech:** Building AI data centers, computer chips, and modern tech facilities..
- Power and Energy:** Funding green energy sources, power storage, and electricity grids.
- Core Systems:** Upgrading roads, transport networks, water systems, and natural gas projects.

Summary of the investment

- Target Amount:** \$250 Billion.
- Time Frame:** 18 Months
- Main Goal:** Boost Jobs and Tech Growth

structure projects, while JPMorgan Chase announced a \$1.5 trillion plan last year focused on strategic industries. Fang said greater infrastructure investment could support economic growth and create long-term employment opportunities.



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 Kusel 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 Prabath 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.

