



Social Welfare Department



**“Education is the most important weapon to
raise the standard of living of the people”**

-Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

135th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



Garlanding the Statue of

Architect of Indian Constitution, Great Humanitarian, Bharat Ratna

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR

April 14, 2026, Tuesday at 10.00 AM
East Gate of Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru



Stage Event

April 14, 2026, Tuesday at 10.30 AM
Grand Steps of Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru



As is enshrined in our constitution, “to value and preserve the rich heritage of
our composite culture” - is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.



Commissioner
Social Welfare Department

Secretary to Government
Social Welfare Department



@SWDGok



National Workshop on Ethnography begins at CIIL

MYSURU

A three-day national workshop on “Ethnography and Documentation of Culture” commenced on Saturday at the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), bringing together scholars, researchers and cultural practitioners from across the country.

The workshop is jointly organised by the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), Anthropos India Foundation (AIF), and CIIL. It aims to strengthen ethnographic research and improve documentation practices related to India’s diverse cultural heritage.

Delivering the welcome address, Prof. Sunita Reddy, Professor at the Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University, highlighted ethnography as an immersive, field-based research method that captures lived realities beyond theoretical frameworks. She stressed the importance of authentic documentation of cultural traditions and encouraged participants to actively engage in fieldwork.



Introducing the workshop, Prof. Amitabh Pande, Director of IGRMS, outlined its objectives and emphasised the need for practical application in research and noted that ethnographic practice requires continuous learning, unlearning and relearning. He said the programme is designed as an interactive, participant-driven exercise to foster critical thinking and collaboration.

In his inaugural address, Chief Guest Prof. M. R.

Gangadhar, Vice-Chancellor of Chamarajanagar University, underscored the urgency of preserving both tangible and intangible cultural heritage in an era of rapid globalization, and said culture forms the essence of human identity and described ethnography as a means of understanding communities through empathy and engagement. Modernisation and digitalisation pose challenges to traditional knowledge systems, making systematic

documentation essential.

He also highlighted the role of technology, including audio-visual tools and digital archives, in supporting such efforts.

Guest of Honour Dr. Devaraju A. Commissioner of the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Mysuru, stressed the need for scientific and authentic documentation. He pointed out that gaps in indigenous documentation have often led to reliance on external narratives and stressed the importance of integrating archaeological insights with ethnographic research.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Sukanya Guha Niyogi. The workshop is being coordinated by Prof. P. R. Dharmesh Fernandez, Deputy Director, CIIL.

Over 40 participants from universities and research institutions across India are attending the workshop. Resource persons, including Prof. Shalina Mehta, Prof. Tanka Bahadur Subba, Dr. Khirod Maharana and Ms. Steffy Larka, will conduct sessions on key aspects of ethnographic research.

New Hospital Block to Be Built Within Two Years: Dr. B. Dinesh

MYSURU

With the aim of ensuring that no patient faces a shortage of beds by 2040, a new 200-bed hospital block will be constructed.

The work will begin soon after government approval and is expected to be completed within 24 months, said Dr. B. Dinesh, Director of Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research.

During his visit to the Jayadeva Hospital in Mysuru, he inspected various facilities along with Medical Superintendent Dr. K.S. Sadananda. The inspection covered wards, canteen, emergency services, parking area, and ongoing construction works. Engineers were asked to ensure the provision of all essential basic amenities required for patients and their attendants.

Patients from Mysuru, Hassan, Mandya, Kodagu, and Chamarajanagar districts frequently visit Jayadeva Hospital for treatment. Considering the growing demand, the State Government led by Chief Min-



ister Siddaramaiah has sanctioned ₹186 crore in the budget for the construction of an additional 200-bed hospital block. The project will be implemented with the cooperation of local legislators.

The new building will include a pediatric cardiology department, vascular surgery unit, and catheterization laboratories (cath labs). There is also a proposal to establish similar Jayadeva hospital facilities in central and coastal Karnataka regions, and the project will proceed once approved by the government.

He also advised doctors and staff to work towards enhancing the reputation and quality of services at Jayadeva Hospital.

On the occasion, Medical Superintendent Dr. K.S. Sadananda, Dr. Harsha Basappa, Dr. Santhosh, Dr. Rajeev, Dr. Veenanjappa, Dr. Jayaprakash, Dr. Vishwanath, Dr. Srimanth, Dr. Kumar, Dr. Bharathi, Dr. Rashmi, Dr. Devaraj, Dr. Srinidhi Hegde, RMO Dr. Pashupathi, Dr. Manjunath, Harish Kumar, Vani Mohan, Gurumurthy, Nagaraj, and Champakamala were present.

N.Rangarao & Sons team wins CII Karnataka CCL league

MYSURU

The 4th edition of CII Karnataka Corporate Cricket League – Mysuru Zonal Round, concluded successfully at the BEML Cricket Ground, after two days of spirited competition. N Ranga Rao & Sons emerged as the Winners, while Automotive Axles secured the Runners-up position.

The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 10 corporate teams from the region, reflecting strong industry engagement and reinforcing the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, and camaraderie among member organisations.

At the valedictory session, Nagaraja Gargeshwari, Immediate Past Chairman, CII Mysuru Zone and President & Director, Automotive Axles



Ltd, honoured the winning and runner-up teams.

Speaking on the occasion, Gargeshwari said the CII Karnataka Corporate Cricket League is a commendable initiative that brings together industry members on a common platform beyond business, fostering team spirit, mutual bonding, and a culture of healthy competition. It is encouraging to witness such

enthusiastic participation from companies in Mysuru. He congratulated N Ranga Rao & Sons on emerging as winners and Automotive Axles on their impressive performance as runners-up.

The event served as an engaging platform for corporates to strengthen relationships, promote employee engagement, and celebrate the spirit of unity through sport.

VVIET hosts experts’ interaction on civil and infrastructure engineering



MYSURU

An expert interaction program on the transition from traditional Civil Engineering to the emerging field of Civil and Infrastructure Engineering was organized at Vidya Vikas Institute of Engineering and Technology (VVIET), Mysuru.

The program was held in view of the institution’s initiative to introduce this new department from the upcoming academic year, with an intake of 60 students.

Experts shared their views on the need to redesign engineering education in line with global requirements. In the context of rapid urbanization

and the growth of smart cities, the increasing demand for advanced infrastructure systems was highlighted.

The speakers explained the role of Civil and Infrastructure Engineering in achieving sustainable urban development through the integration of transportation, utilities, and digital infrastructure.

Discussions also focused on eco-friendly construction methods, green buildings, efficient use of resources, and measures related to climate resilience. The experts emphasized the importance of flood control, water resource management, transportation systems, and disas-

ter-resilient design.

Further, deliberations were held on how modern technologies such as Building Information Modeling (BIM), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the Internet of Things (IoT) are transforming infrastructure planning and implementation.

The interaction featured participation from Shashank, Assistant Engineer in the Urban and Rural Planning Department of the Government of Karnataka; Prem Sagar, Founder and CEO of Prem Constructions; Sneha J. Nayak, QA and QC Engineer at Prestige Group of Constructions; and Rajendra Prasad H.N., Assistant Professor.



Khushi passed 2nd PU exams in flying colors

MYSURU

Khushi R Gowda, a student of Vijaya Vittala PU College has passed the second 2nd year PU annual examination in distinction. She has scored 582 marks of the total 600 marks. Khushi is a daughter of T.R.Ravi and H.S.Pavitra.

Grand Conclusion of ‘GraVVIETy 2K26’ Cultural Fest

MYSURU

The prestigious Vidya Vikas Institute of Engineering and Technology (VVIET), Mysuru, celebrated its annual cultural fest ‘GraVVIETy 2K26’ with great grandeur on Mysuru.

The two-day event served as a vibrant platform show-

casing students’ talent, creativity, and cultural values, reflecting a fine blend of innovation and tradition.

On the first day, the exciting Auto Expo attracted widespread attention. A display of advanced supercars on the college campus created a buzz among automobile enthusi-

asts. Vehicle owners shared insights into the technical features of their cars, making the experience both informative and engaging for students.

Later in the day, the Ethnic Day celebration added cultural charm to the event. Students dressed in traditional attire representing Indian culture,

enhancing the festive atmosphere across the campus.

On the second day, the highlight of the fest, the Cultural Night, was held with great enthusiasm. A variety of performances by students, including dance, music, and artistic acts, captivated the audience.

Pomp and gaiety marked “ATMEYA-2K26”

MYSURU

‘Atmeya 2026’ was celebrated with great enthusiasm and grandeur at ATME College of Engineering, Mysuru.

As part of the celebrations, ten women civic workers were honoured in recognition of their dedicated service to society.

The event was inaugurated by popular Kannada television artist and Bigg Boss Season 12 contestant Suraj Singh, along with the Chairman of the ATME College of Engineering, L. Arun Kumar, and other dignitaries. The programme commenced with the ceremonial watering of a sapling, symbolizing environmental consciousness and sustainable development.

With the objective of instilling social responsibility among students, the college organizes its annual fest every year with a meaningful social theme. This year’s theme, “Respect Civic Workers – Build a Clean City,” aimed at creating awareness among the public about the invaluable contributions of sanitation workers.



On the occasion, ten deserving women civic workers from the Mysuru and nearby Gram Panchayats were felicitated on the stage. They were honoured with cash prizes, silk sarees, jasmine flower, green bangles, Arishina-kumkum, fruit basket and traditional tokens of appreciation in recognition of their selfless service.

Addressing the gathering, Suraj Singh appreciated the noble initiative of ATME College, stating that such socially responsible programmes serve as an inspiration to society. He em-

phasized that students should imbibe these values and contribute positively to nation-building.

During the event, students who had excelled in university-level sports and competitions were also felicitated with cash prizes and certificates.

The Cultural fest witnessed electrifying performances by DJ Rubz and the renowned Rapper Brodha V and his musical team, who enthralled the audience with their high-energy show. Students thoroughly enjoyed the vibrant and dynamic performances. The

celebration also featured spectacular cultural presentations by students, captivating the audience with music, dance, and artistic expressions

The event was presided by L. Arun Kumar, Chairman, ATMECE. K. Shivashankar, Secretary, R. Veeresh, Treasurer, H. Venkatesh, Trustee, Dr. L. Basavaraj, Principal, Dr. Sachchidananda Murthy, Administrative Officer, Dr. Puttegowda, Cultural Committee Chairman, Dr. Srinivasa K., Dean – Student Affairs, Harsha, Student Council, were President.

Welfare Impossible Without Dharma; Jeeyar Swamiji

MYSURU

Stressing the importance of dharma, Sri Madh Yadugiri Yattiraja Jeeyar Swamiji of Sri Yattiraja Mutt said that practicing righteousness is the duty of every individual and that a society devoid of dharma can never attain true welfare.

He was delivering his blessings during the Maha Kumbhabhisheka and associated rituals held at the historic Sri Prasanna Venkataramana Temple in Hale Bandikeri, Mysuru.

The temple, which has a history of around 250 years and is popularly known as Sakshi Venkataramana Temple, was established by Mummadi Sri Krishnaraja Wadiyar. It is also regarded as the first Sri Srinivasa temple in Mysuru. The ceremonies included Dwararchane, Chatushtana Archane, Maha Poornahuti and Maha Samprokshana. The religious rituals, which began on Friday evening, concluded on Sunday, with cultural programmes adding colour and vibrancy to the occasion.

Notably, the temple has undergone renovation for the



first time in the last 80 years, and the restoration works were completed in a record 35 days. “The renovation of this temple has transformed Hale Bandikeri into a renewed locality. Even during our earlier days, we used to visit this temple. It serves as a divine protector for all devotees in this region,” said the Swamiji.

He further noted that the temple’s Rajagopura and Vidhana Gopura are uniquely constructed, adding that renovation of temples reflects the overall health of society.

“Devotees believe the presiding deity here as Sakshi

Venkataramana. This reflects the inseparable bond between the temple and its devotees. For centuries, this temple has been a source of protection and solace for the people of Mysuru,” he said.

“Every temple is a reflection of society, and its growth contributes to the welfare of the community,” he added.

MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, BJP city president L. Nagendra, renovation committee president S. Ramaswamy, Srinivasa Iyengar and family members, among others, were present on the occasion.



Trump considered naming Gulf 'Gulf of Trump' once

P10



Jio, Bank of Baroda launch 'bob World Lite' service

P11



MI Stuck in Catch-Up Mode, Admits Hardik After Defeat

P12

Iran warns 'no port safe' as US moves to blockade Hormuz

Tensions surge as Tehran vows retaliation against sweeping US naval blockade

TEHRAN

Iran has issued a stark warning that "no port in the region will be safe" after the United States announced a naval blockade targeting Iranian maritime routes following failed ceasefire talks.

The escalation comes amid the ongoing West Asia conflict, with both sides hardening their positions after 21-hour negotiations in Pakistan ended without agreement. The US military confirmed that the blockade would apply to vessels entering or exiting Iranian ports across the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.

Iranian leaders responded swiftly, warning of broad retaliation. Parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf delivered a blunt message: "If you fight, we will fight." Military officials added that regional security would be "for everyone or no one," signalling potential disruption to key shipping hubs.

The Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint for global



US Action: Naval blockade of Iranian ports and coastal routes

Iran Warning:	Oil Impact:	Global Trade:	Diplomacy:
Threat to target all regional ports	Prices surge amid fears of supply disruption	Strait of Hormuz handles 20% of world oil	Ceasefire talks collapse; uncertainty beyond April 22

energy supplies, has already seen reduced vessel traffic since hostilities began. Analysts warn that the blockade could severely disrupt oil shipments and trigger further volatility in global markets.

US officials, including Vice President J. D. Vance, blamed Iran's refusal to curb its nuclear programme for the breakdown in talks. Meanwhile, Tehran accused Washington of

"maximalist demands" and shifting conditions at the negotiating table.

Despite the rising tensions, some diplomatic channels remain open, with regional players pushing for an extended ceasefire window. However, with threats intensifying and military posturing increasing, the risk of a broader regional conflict looms large.

INDIA GETS FIRST IRANIAN OIL IN SEVEN YEARS

NEW DELHI

India has received its first shipment of Iranian crude oil in seven years, according to ship tracking data from LSEG, marking a notable shift in energy trade flows.

The Iran-flagged VLCC Felicity has arrived at Sikka Port in western India, while the Curacao-flagged vessel Jaya has reached a port in Odisha, the data showed.

The development comes as Indian refiners take advantage of a temporary waiver granted by the United States last month, allowing limited crude purchases from Tehran after a long gap. India, the world's third-largest oil importer, had stopped receiving Iranian oil cargoes since 2019 under US sanctions pressure.

Each very large crude carrier (VLCC) can transport nearly 2 million barrels of crude oil, making the shipments significant for refinery operations and supply planning.

According to reports, Indian Oil Corporation has purchased Iranian crude transported on sanctioned vessels, while Reliance Industries has also been permitted to procure oil from select Iranian shipments.

The current US waiver is set to expire on April 19, adding uncertainty to future imports and refinery sourcing strategies. The arrival of these cargoes marks a rare reopening of a supply channel that had remained closed for years amid geopolitical tensions and sanctions-related restrictions.

Women's Reservation Act will shape India's future, says PM Modi

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India is on the verge of creating "new history" with the proposed amendments to the Women's Reservation Act, enabling its implementation ahead of the 2029 general elections.

Addressing the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Sammelan' at Vigyan Bhawan, Modi said the move would "realise the visions of the past and fulfil the resolutions of the future," emphasising that the legislation would strengthen women's representation in governance.

The law, officially known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, was passed unanimously by Parliament in 2023, providing for 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. However, its implementation was initially linked to the delimitation exercise after the 2027 Census, delaying enforcement until 2034.



Our country's Parliament is close to creating a new history... a decision dedicated to the empowerment of women.

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

The proposed changes aim to advance the rollout to 2029, increasing Lok Sabha strength to 816 seats, with 273 reserved for women. Modi noted that even Opposition parties had earlier supported faster implementation, calling it a collective national commitment.

The development marks a significant step toward enhancing gender equity in India's political landscape, with the government positioning it as one of the most consequential reforms of the 21st century.

Guarantee schemes are also a form of development: CM Siddaramaiah

Siddaramaiah noted that Karnataka's GDP growth stands at 8.1%, higher than the Centre's 7.14%.

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the government's guarantee schemes aimed at public welfare are also a form of development, and asserted that despite these guarantees, the state's financial condition is better than that of the Centre.

He was speaking after inaugurating a bridge built across the Bhadra backwaters connecting Handuru village to Narasimharajapura, along with launching multiple development projects and distributing benefits.

The bridge, constructed at a cost of ₹36 crore, is among several initiatives launched. Hitting back at Opposition criticism that the treasury is empty due to guarantees, he said the government has managed both welfare schemes and development simultaneously.



"Guarantees are also a form of development," he said, adding that B. R. Ambedkar had stressed that political freedom must be supported by economic, social, and educational empowerment.

The CM alleged injustice by the Centre, stating that although ₹5,300 crore was announced for the Bhadra Upper Canal project in the 2023-24 Budget, no funds have been released so far.

He further said the state has spent ₹1.30 lakh crore on guarantee schemes, while accusing

the BJP of criticising them in Karnataka but replicating similar measures elsewhere.

Highlighting economic indicators, Siddaramaiah noted that Karnataka's GDP growth stands at 8.1%, higher than the Centre's 7.14%. He also claimed the state's financial health remains strong and compliant with fiscal responsibility norms.

Accusing the BJP of spreading misinformation, he said the Centre has failed to fulfil promises, while his government has delivered on its commitments.

Bengal will answer bombs with ballots, UCC will follow: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday declared that the people of West Bengal would respond to "bombs and bullets with votes," while vowing to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) if the BJP comes to power in the state.

Addressing multiple election rallies across Birbhum and Paschim Bardhaman districts, Shah launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the Trinamool Congress (TMC), accusing them of promoting corruption, lawlessness, and appeasement politics. He alleged that political violence has become widespread under the current regime, but asserted that voters would deliver a decisive mandate through the ballot.

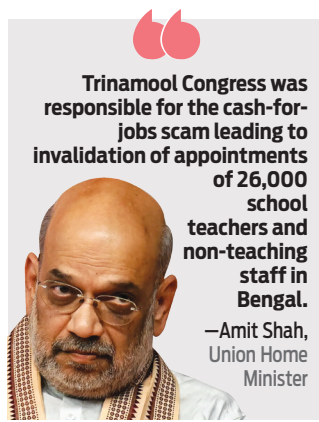
"The people of Bengal will reply to bombs with votes. Once BJP forms the government, justice will prevail and those responsible for violence will be held accountable," Shah said.

Reiterating BJP's poll promises, he said the party would

introduce the UCC in West Bengal to ensure equal laws for all citizens. He argued that such a move would promote uniformity and fairness in civil matters across communities.

Shah also accused the TMC government of shielding infiltrators and failing to safeguard the state's borders, claiming that the BJP would take decisive steps to address illegal immigration. He added that border infrastructure, including fencing, would be strengthened within a short time if the party assumes office. Highlighting alleged scams and governance failures, Shah said funds recovered from corruption cases would be returned to the people, particularly women and youth. He also promised industrial growth and welfare measures as part of the BJP's broader development agenda.

With polling dates approaching, Shah's remarks signal an intensified campaign as the BJP seeks to expand its political footprint in West Bengal.



Trinamool Congress was responsible for the cash-for-jobs scam leading to invalidation of appointments of 26,000 school teachers and non-teaching staff in Bengal.

—Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

Centre clears Bengaluru-Mumbai Vande Bharat sleeper train



NEW DELHI

The Union government has approved a new Vande Bharat Sleeper Train between Bengaluru and Mumbai, enhancing connectivity across Karnataka. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi had urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to improve rail links to North, Central, and Kalyana Karnataka. The train will run from KSR Bengaluru to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, covering Tumakuru, Davanagere, Haveri, Hubballi-Dharwad, and Belagavi. Initially proposed as a super-fast train, it will now be introduced as a Vande Bharat sleeper service. The project is expected to boost regional development, trade, and travel, especially benefiting Kalyana Karnataka.

Nation bids tearful farewell as Asha Bhosle cremated with state honours



MUMBAI

Legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle was cremated with full state honours at Shivaji Park Crematorium on Monday evening, marking the end of an era in Indian music. The final rites were performed by her son Anand Bhosle in the presence of family, dignitaries, and thousands of grieving fans.

The 92-year-old icon, honoured with the Padma Vibhushan, passed away on April 12 at

Breach Candy Hospital following multi-organ failure. Her mortal remains were kept for public homage at her residence earlier in the day, drawing a massive turnout of admirers. Several prominent personalities, including Amir Khan, Vicky Kaushal, Ranveer Singh, Vidya Balan, and Javed Akhtar, attended the funeral to pay their last respects. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis also paid tribute, highlighting her immense contribution to Indian culture.

SC stays HC order on IAS officer Sindhuri case

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Karnataka High Court's order directing sanction to prosecute IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri in the alleged 2021 Mysuru "cloth bag scam." A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma issued notice on her plea challenging the FIR approval. The case involves alleged inflated procurement of eco-friendly bags, causing losses to the exchequer. The High Court had earlier allowed investigation despite departmental clearance. Proceedings are now paused pending further hearing.



MANGALURU

A wild elephant that fell into an unused open well near Peraje in the Sullia forest range of Dakshina Kannada district was successfully rescued by forest officials on Monday after a swift and coordinated operation.

The incident is believed to have occurred on Sunday night when the elephant accidentally slipped into the several-feet-deep well located at the foothills of the Western Ghats along the Dakshina Kannada-Kodagu border. Forest personnel, alerted early Monday, rushed to the spot and immediately launched rescue efforts.

Officials deployed earthmovers to carefully remove



soil around the well and created a gradual slope to enable the animal to climb out safely.

After hours of effort, the elephant managed to walk out of the pit unhurt and is believed

to have returned to the nearby forest. The operation concluded around 1 pm.

"The elephant has been rescued. No injuries are seen. It is healthy," a senior forest officer said.

Local residents noted that a herd of elephants had been moving through the region in recent days, and the rescued animal may have strayed from the group. Dakshina Kannada district has witnessed frequent human-elephant interactions, often leading to crop damage and safety concerns.

The successful rescue highlights the prompt response and preparedness of forest officials in handling wildlife emergencies, preventing potential harm to both the animal and nearby communities.



Pics by Hampa Nagaraju

“SUMMER SIZZLES, MYSURU SWIZZLES” City Turns to Cool Sips to Beat the Heat!

**SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM
MYSURU**

As temperatures in Mysuru climb to a sweltering 35–36°C, the city is witnessing a vibrant surge in the sale of refreshing beverages. The scorching sun, especially between 11 am and 5 pm, has driven residents and visitors alike to seek relief in nature’s coolers—tender coconuts, watermelon slices, sugarcane juice, and a variety of fresh fruit juices.

Across busy streets and bustling marketplaces, colorful stalls have sprung to life, offering a visual and sensory treat. Green coconuts stacked in neat pyramids, bright red watermelons glistening under the sun, and the rhythmic whirring of sugarcane crushers have become defining sights of Mysuru’s summer.

Tender coconuts continue to be a crowd favorite, priced steadily at ₹60 each. Meanwhile, juicy watermelon slices sprinkled with salt and chilli powder are selling briskly at ₹10 per piece, of-

fering a tangy twist to beat the heat. Sugarcane juice, another popular thirst-quencher, is priced between ₹20 and ₹40 per cup depending on added flavors like ginger, lemon, or mint.

“Stepping out in this heat is unbearable. I make sure to stop for a tender coconut or juice at least twice a day,” said Ramesh, a local shopkeeper. Another resident, Anusha, shared, “I’ve completely cut down on oily food. A glass of watermelon or muskmelon juice feels lighter and keeps me hydrated.”

Tourists exploring Mysuru’s heritage sites are also turning to these roadside refreshment options. “After walking around the palace, sugarcane juice is the best relief. It’s fresh, sweet, and instantly energizing,” said Priya, a visitor from Bengaluru.

For vendors, this season is nothing short of a boon. Ravi, a sugarcane juice seller near a busy junction, said, “Summer is our peak time. We earn most of our



yearly income in these three months. During rainy and winter seasons, sales drop drastically.” Echoing similar sentiments, another vendor added, “People don’t mind spending ₹20–₹40 for a glass. The demand is so high that we barely get time to rest.”

Tender coconut sellers too are witnessing brisk business. “By afternoon, most of my stock is sold out,” said Mahesh, a roadside vendor. “Customers prefer natural drinks over packaged ones. Coconut water is healthy and

instantly cooling.”

With a wide variety of juices like mango, muskmelon, lemon, orange, pineapple, and chikoo readily available, Mysuru’s residents are clearly shifting towards liquid nourishment. The demand for heavy, oily foods has noticeably declined, as people increasingly opt for lighter, hydrating alternatives.

As the heatwave continues, Mysuru’s streets are not just surviving the summer—they are savoring it, one refreshing sip at a time.

FEAR GRIPS THE RULING CONGRESS PARTY

“Two Constituencies, One Message: Karnataka’s Mood Set to Be Revealed”

**SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM
MYSURU**

The political temperature in Karnataka is rising steadily, and all eyes are now firmly fixed on the bypoll results of Davangere South and Bagalkote Assembly constituencies.

For the ruling Congress, these are not just routine electoral exercises—they are a litmus test of public sentiment, a barometer that will reveal whether the goodwill it rode to power still holds firm or is beginning to slip. Within the corridors of power in Vidhana Soudha, there is a palpable sense of anticipation mixed with anxiety. The Congress leadership appears to be in a wait-and-watch mode, carefully studying the undercurrents before taking a crucial call on the long-pending urban local bodies elections. Across major cities, elected municipal bodies have long ceased to exist, their terms expiring without fresh polls being conducted. The delay has been justified through a variety of administrative and procedural reasons, but the underlying political calculation is becoming increasingly evident. The state government, in consultation with the State Election Commission, holds the key to these local elections, and the timing is anything but accidental. The Congress seems keen to first gauge the electorate’s mood through these bypolls before stepping into another electoral arena that could carry significant political risks.

Davangere South, in particular, has emerged as a constituency to watch closely. The



Congress Leaders React



Elections are ultimately decided by the people, not by so-called intelligence assessments. We are confident that the people of Davangere North and Bagalkote will reaffirm their trust in the Congress government and its guarantees.

—Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister



There is no question of panic within the party. We have done substantial work on the ground. Reports may come and go, but our strength lies in our cadre and our connection with the people.

—D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy CM

selection of the party candidate appears to have triggered internal ripples, especially among minority communities.

BJP Leaders React



These reports only reflect what people are already saying on the ground—there is growing dissatisfaction against the Congress government. The bypolls will expose their failures.

—B.Y. Vijendra, State BJP President



The Congress government has lost the confidence of the people within a short span. The bypoll results will be a clear indication that Karnataka is ready for change once again.

—Basavaraj Bommai, Former CM and MP

With multiple candidates from similar backgrounds in the fray, there is a growing apprehension within Congress cir-

cles about a possible split in minority votes—traditionally considered a strong support base for the party. Such fragmentation could prove costly in a tightly contested election.

On the other hand, Bagalkote presents a different political challenge altogether. Known as a stronghold of Hindutva politics, the constituency has witnessed an aggressive campaign by the BJP. The saffron party has strategically deployed suspended MLA and prominent Hindutva voice Basangouda Patil Yatnal to energize its cadre and consolidate its voter base. His presence has added a sharp edge to the campaign, potentially tilting the scales in BJP’s favour. Interestingly, from a purely numerical standpoint, the outcome of these two seats may not alter the balance of power in the Assembly significantly, as both were previously held by Congress. However, the symbolic importance of these results cannot be overstated. A victory for the BJP here would send a powerful message, suggesting a shift in public mood and providing the opposition with much-needed momentum. For the Congress, retaining both seats are not just desirable—it is imperative. A loss would raise uncomfortable questions about governance, leadership, and electoral strategy. More importantly, it could force the party to reconsider its approach towards the impending urban local bodies and Panchayat Raj elections, possibly delaying them further. Adding to the tension are reports from state and central intelligence agencies, which reportedly predict an unfavourable outcome for the Congress.

FROM SILK THREADS TO SOARING DREAMS

MYSURU AIRPORT WEAVES NEW FUTURE FOR SHGs

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

In the warm cultural heart of Mysuru, where tradition breathes through every thread of silk and every handcrafted artefact, a new chapter of opportunity is unfolding—this time, at the airport.

The Airports Authority of India has opened its doors to Self-Help Groups (SHGs), inviting them to set up vibrant stalls at Mysuru Airport. What was once just a transit hub is now set to transform into a lively showcase of local craftsmanship, giving artisans—especially women-led groups—a chance to connect with travellers from across the country and beyond. Mysore Airport Director P.V. Ushakumari told City Highlights that this initiative, part of AAI’s AVSAR (Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans of the Region) programme, blends commerce with culture. Alongside it, the One Airport One Product (OAOP) initiative by the Ministry of Civil Aviation ensures that every airport tells a regional story. For Mysuru, that story is woven in silk.

The legendary Mysore Silk—synonymous with elegance and heritage—will take centre stage, supported by the



Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation. But the stalls will offer much more than silk. From crunchy papads and tangy pickles to eco-friendly bamboo crafts and intricate handmade artefacts, the airport will soon echo with the colours, textures, and flavours of local enterprise.

She envisions this as more than just a retail initiative—it is a platform where stories of skill, resilience, and tradition meet a global audience. Commercial Head Ajmal Khan PA notes that SHGs will display Mysore Silk alongside their own creations, creating a rich blend of heritage and innovation.

To ensure inclusivity, AAI is offering a 50% concession on space rentals, making it easier for small and emerging groups to participate. Selected SHGs will initially operate for 30 days, with the possibility of extension—enough time to turn curious travellers into loyal customers.

Across India, similar initiatives are already taking root in cities like Agartala, Udaipur, and Chennai. Mysuru now joins this growing network, bringing its own unique charm to the national stage. As passengers pass through Mysuru Airport, they will no longer just be travellers—they will be participants in a cultural journey. Each purchase will carry a piece of the region’s soul, and for SHGs, each sale will be a step toward economic independence. Here, amidst the hum of departures and arrivals, local dreams are ready to take flight.

Athletes Honoured at Mysuru University Medal Ceremony

MYSURU

A colourful medal ceremony celebrating the achievements of talented athletes was held at the University of Mysore in Mysuru on Monday, bringing together sportspersons, parents, and faculty in a proud and festive atmosphere.

M.K. Savitha, Registrar, University of Mysore, who was the chief guest, congratulated the medal winners and said that the honour was not merely for victory but for the dedication, discipline, and perseverance shown by the athletes. Sports play a crucial role in shaping character, teaching resilience, and building confidence to face life’s challenges.



“Medals are milestones, not destinations. The real success lies in continuous effort and the determination to rise after every fall,” she remarked, urging the athletes to aim higher and continue striving for excellence.

Prof. Revana Siddappa, Senior Professor and Director, Department of Physical Education, and Ravi T. S., As-

stant Director and Athletics Coach, were present and lauded the athletes for their outstanding performances.

Parents of the medal winners also attended the event, expressing pride and joy over their children’s achievements. The programme concluded on a celebratory note, recognising the hard work and commitment of the young sportspersons.

MYSURU OPEN 2026 CONCLUDES AT MYSURU TENNIS CLUB

MYSURU

The Mysuru Open 2026 tournament, held at the Mysuru Tennis Club of Chamaraapuram in Mysuru, concluded successfully. The three-day sporting event featured high-quality tennis matches across Open, Mixed Doubles, and veterans categories including 35+, 45+, 55+, and 65+.

Enthusiastic participation and excellent sportsmanship were witnessed across all categories.

In the Open Singles category, Shreyant defeated Manjunath Prasad 9-6 to clinch the title. The same pair also emerged victorious in the Open Doubles category. In Mixed Doubles, the duo of Manjunath Prasad and Nidhi defeated Manish D and Unnati to secure the championship. In the veterans’ categories, Srikant won the 35+ Singles title and also partnered with Mouli to win the 35+ Doubles title. In the 45+ category, Mouli secured the Singles title, while Ramesh Balu and Sanjeev Iyer won the Doubles championship.



In the 55+ category, Srinivas Reddy dominated the Singles event and, along with Nagabhushan Reddy, won the Doubles title. In the 65+ category, Tulasiram won the Singles title and, along with Phalachandra, claimed the Doubles championship.

A special highlight of the tournament was the performance of Tournament Director Manjunath Prasad. Alongside his organizational responsibil-

ities, he actively participated in the competition, winning titles in Open Doubles and Mixed Doubles, and finishing as runner-up in Open Singles. His dedication, coordination, and passion for the sport drew widespread appreciation.

Under the calm and efficient supervision of Match Referee Murugan, and with the support of the organizing team, the tournament was conducted smoothly and successfully.

INSTILL GOOD VALUES IN CHILDREN: RAVI SHASTRI

MYSURU

Sri Krishna Trust Vice-President Ravi Shastri said that it is the responsibility of parents to impart good values and cultural discipline to children by introducing them to religious practices from an early age, thereby shaping them into responsible and cultured

members of society.

Speaking after inaugurating a 15-day religious summer camp organized by Sri Krishna Trust and Sri Krishna Mitra Mandal at Sri Krishna Dhama in Saraswathipuram in the city. The camp is being conducted for boys and girls aged between 7 and 14 years, where they are being taught

Sandhyavandana, chanting of divine names, shlokas, bhajans, moral stories, and other spiritual practices.

Shastri said that religious thinking is essential in life and that children should develop faith in God and imbibe cultural traditions and values from a young age. “During holidays, children are increasingly get-

ting absorbed in mobile phones and television. Hence, they have organized this camp with the aim of sowing the seeds of Indian culture and values in children and nurturing them into well-cultured citizens of the nation.

On the occasion, chief guests included Vidwan Varakhedi Acharya and Vidwan

Yadunandan Acharya, Director of Vidyapeetha.

Also present were P. S. Shekhar; President of Sri Krishna Mitra Mandal N. Gopalakrishnan; Secretary Guruprasad; professors Vidwan Srikanta Acharya and Mangala Abhyankar; Vidwan Manya Acharya, Srihari Acharya, Rohit Acharya, and parents.



QUICK READ



Kumaraswamy Credits Return to Divine Will, Public Support

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy on Monday said his return to Vidhana Soudha after two years will be guided by "God's will and the blessings of the people," hinting at a possible political comeback in Karnataka. Speaking to the media during his visit to Vidhana Soudha, Kumaraswamy said destiny and public support would determine his future presence in the state legislature. He added that political developments unfold as per divine will and people's mandate. He also said that his party remains committed to alliance politics, working in coordination with central and state leaders to regain public confidence.

Bengaluru Pushes Adoption Drive for Community Dogs

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Bengaluru Central City Corporation has directed officials to launch a citywide campaign promoting the adoption of community dogs. At a meeting with animal husbandry officials and NGOs, Additional Commissioner (Development) Daljit Kumar stressed that adoption initiatives must complement ongoing Animal Birth Control (ABC) and Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV) programmes. He instructed that all dogs undergo proper health check-ups and vaccinations before adoption. Officials were also asked to strictly follow Supreme Court of India guidelines on managing community dogs and ensure cleanliness at ABC centres.

IMD issues heat alert as Karnataka temperatures surge

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The India Meteorological Department has issued a warning over rising temperatures across Karnataka, urging residents to take precautions before stepping outdoors. According to officials, cities including Bengaluru are expected to witness a steady rise in temperatures over the next five days. The city, currently recording around 35°C, may see temperatures climb to 37–38°C, with intense heat likely between 11 am and 3 pm. Northern interior districts such as Bidar, Raichur and Kalaburagi could experience extreme heat ranging between 42°C and 44°C, prompting health advisories.

Helipad Plan at Jnana Bharathi to Boost Emergency Care Access

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A proposal to establish an air ambulance helipad at the Jnana Bharathi Campus is under consideration, aiming to significantly improve emergency medical response in traffic-clogged parts of the city.

The initiative was put forward by MLC Dinesh Gooligowda, who highlighted the urgent need for faster healthcare access in a letter to the Higher Education Minister. Acting on the request, the minister has directed authorities to assess the feasibility of

New Bengaluru Civic Bodies Struggle to Find Space for Council Halls

OF THE FIVE CORPORATIONS, FOUR LACK DEDICATED SPACES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

With elections to the newly formed city corporations approaching, officials are grappling with a major logistical hurdle — finding suitable spaces to host council meetings and administrative offices.

Of the five civic bodies, only the existing council building at NR Square, under the Bengaluru Central City Corporation, is currently equipped to conduct council sessions.

The remaining four corporations are yet to identify or develop dedicated “halls of power” for their elected rep-

resentatives. Both the Bengaluru North City Corporation and Bengaluru South City Corporation have allocated funds in their recent budgets but lack concrete infrastructure plans.

Each is expected to accommodate 72 corporators after elections, making space planning an urgent priority.

BNCC Commissioner Pom-mala Sunil Kumar said the corporation is exploring short-term solutions such as renting commercial spaces, particularly along Airport Road, to house council proceedings. However, he acknowledged that this may not be financially sustainable in



the long run. As a permanent solution, BNCC has proposed constructing a dedicated headquarters and council hall, earmarking Rs 40 crore for

the project. The commissioner has approached the University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, seeking 3–5 acres of land. The proposed facility

aims to consolidate currently scattered offices across Bytarayanapura, Dasarahalli and other areas. However, sources indicate that the university has not responded positively so far.

Meanwhile, the South corporation has set aside Rs 150 crore to build its own office complex on a site opposite the Banashankari Temple along Kanakapura Road. At present, it operates from a temporary office in Jayanagar.

With time running out before elections, the race to secure functional administrative spaces has become a pressing concern for Bengaluru's evolving civic landscape.



Drunk Pub Manager Assaults Cops After Ruckus Outside Closed Bar, Arrested

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 26-year-old pub manager was arrested after allegedly assaulting police personnel and creating a late-night ruckus outside a closed bar on Neeladri Road in Electronics City.

The accused, Saikumar Reddy, a resident of JP Nagar, was taken into custody following a complaint by Assistant Sub-Inspector K S Siddarama. The incident occurred around 1.45 am when Siddarama and constable Mutturaj were on night patrol duty.

According to police, the officers received an alert about a man causing disturbance near a bar at a junction off Neeladri Road.

On reaching the spot, they found Reddy in an inebriated state, repeatedly banging on the shutter of the closed SLR bar and shouting abuses at passersby.

Witnesses said Reddy demanded alcohol, yelling “I need a drink, open the door,” and even threatened to damage the shutter with a stone. The bar cashier attempted to calm him, but the situation escalated as the accused claimed he was a pub manager and insisted on being served.

When the police intervened and informed him that the bar was closed, Reddy allegedly turned violent. He reportedly abused the officers, grabbed Siddarama's uniform, punched him in the face and tore his shirt during the scuffle. Constable Mutturaj, who tried to assist, was also man-handled.

The accused then attempted to flee, pushing the officers and looking for objects to hurl at them.

However, he was overpowered and taken to the station in a Hoysala patrol vehicle. During transit, he allegedly continued to threaten the officers, claiming he could get them dismissed from service.

Peenya Flyover Load Testing Postponed, Traffic to Move as Usual

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The scheduled load testing of the Peenya Elevated Flyover on National Highway-4 has been postponed, bringing relief to commuters as no traffic restrictions will be enforced for now.

The testing, which was planned from 5 am on Monday until April 17, was part of the final phase following recent cable repair works. Earlier, the Bengaluru City Traffic Police had announced temporary restrictions on all vehicular movement along the flyover during the testing period.

As per the earlier advisory, traffic was to be halted on both sides of the flyover between Kennametal Vidya Upper Ramp and SRS Down Ramp. Commuters travelling from Nelamangala towards the city were advised to use the NH-4 main road and service roads via Dasarahalli, Jalahalli Cross, Peenya Police Station Junction and Gora-guntepalya.

Similarly, those heading towards Nelamangala were to take diversions through SRS



Load testing on Peenya Elevated Flyover postponed; no traffic curbs now.

Junction and surrounding stretches.

However, with the postponement of the load testing, authorities have clarified that vehicular movement will continue without any restrictions, easing concerns for daily commuters and transport operators using the busy corridor.

Meanwhile, in a separate initiative to tackle rising congestion and improve road safety, the traffic police, in

collaboration with the Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE) and Diageo India, have conducted a detailed study at key junctions across the city.

Locations including Chalkukya Circle, Cantonment Railway Station Junction and H Siddaiah Circle were analysed for traffic flow, pedestrian movement and safety challenges.

The study has recommended several low-cost improvements such as better lane segregation, pedestrian safety islands, enhanced signal systems and improved signage, aimed at easing congestion and ensuring safer roads in Bengaluru.

Speeding Reversing Car Kills Man near Mysuru Road Bus Stand

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 45-year-old man was killed in a tragic early morning accident near the Mysuru Road Satellite Bus Stand after a speeding car, reversing recklessly, rammed into him and pinned him against a parked bus.

The deceased, M Swamy Dorai, a fruit vendor from Siddhartha Colony near Sriganthada Kaval, had just returned from Tamil Nadu with his wife Jayashree after attending a relative's funeral. The couple was standing by the roadside, waiting to cross, when the incident occurred in full view of his wife.

According to police, a Hyundai i10 was parked in a designated area near a hotel close to the Kerala bus exit gate. The vehicle owner had handed over the keys to a parking attendant. However, the accused, identified as Balasubramanyam, a marketing executive, allegedly took the keys under the pretext of repositioning the car, despite not being authorised.

He then reversed the vehicle at high speed, hitting Dorai, dragging him and crush-



ing him against a stationary bus belonging to a blood bank. Dorai died on the spot, while his wife collapsed after witnessing the horrific incident.

The accused fled immediately, but bystanders rushed the victim to Victoria Hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.

The Byatarayanapura Traffic Police later traced and arrested the accused. An alcometer test revealed a reading of 89 gm/100 ml, indicating heavy intoxication at the time of the incident.

Based on a complaint filed by the victim's son, a case has been registered under Section 105 of the BNS for culpable homicide not amounting to murder. The accused has been remanded to judicial custody.

High Court Enhances Compensation to ₹51.6 Lakh for Kin of Accident Victim

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has enhanced compensation to ₹51.6 lakh for the family of a deceased government employee, dismissing claims of contributory negligence raised by the insurer of a Kerala-registered car involved in a fatal road accident nearly a decade ago.

The victim, Shahabuddin Khan, was serving as a first division assistant in the revenue department. On October 10, 2016, he was travelling from Bengaluru to Ooty along the Nanjangu-Gundlupet highway

when a car coming from the opposite direction collided with his vehicle. Khan succumbed to severe injuries, while his teenage son and daughter were injured in the crash.

Following the incident, Khan's wife and children approached the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, which in June 2023 awarded ₹41.5 lakh to the wife, ₹4.7 lakh to the son and ₹3.5 lakh to the daughter.

The tribunal had fixed full liability on National Insurance Company Ltd, the insurer of the offending vehicle. Challenging the ruling, the insurer argued be-

fore the High Court that contributory negligence by the vehicle in which Khan was travelling had not been considered.

However, the claimants countered this by pointing to the spot sketch, which indicated that the Kerala-registered car had veered to the wrong side and caused the collision.

A division bench comprising Justices S G Pandit and K V Aravind, after examining the evidence, observed that the offending

vehicle had significantly more road space on its side compared to the victim's vehicle, clearly establishing negligence on the part of its driver.

The court also noted that Khan's annual military pension of ₹2 lakh, earned as an ex-serviceman, had not been factored into the original compensation calculation. Taking this into account, the bench revised the total compensation to ₹51.6 lakh in the main claim.



Senior Citizen Duped of ₹6.4 Lakh in Fake Old Currency Deal

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 67-year-old man from Ejipura was allegedly cheated of ₹6.4 lakh in a cyber fraud after being lured with a promise of ₹1.7 crore for his collection of old currency notes and coins.

According to police, the victim came across a Facebook account under the name “Rahul Kumar Jindal” on April 6, which advertised lucrative deals for rare currency collections. Intrigued, he contacted the numbers listed on the profile and shared photographs of his notes and coins.

Soon after, the fraudsters assured him of a payout of ₹1.7 crore and began communicating through multiple phone numbers. They convinced him to transfer money in phases under

various pretexts, including income tax, TDS and GST charges.

Between April 6 and April 7, the victim transferred ₹6,39,000 through RTGS, NEFT and digital payment platforms to several bank accounts provided by the accused. The fraudsters claimed they would soon collect the currency but continued demanding additional payments. When the victim realised he had been duped and sought a refund, the accused stopped responding.

A case has been registered at the Central Cyber Crime Police Station under provisions of the Information Technology Act and Section 318 (cheating) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Police officials said efforts are underway to trace the accused.

ACTION TO SAVE LIVES



the project, with Bengaluru University Vice-Chancellor tasked with submitting a detailed report.

The proposed helipad is intended to cater primarily to Bengaluru's south and west

zones, where traffic congestion often delays ambulances. Officials point out that road traffic frequently hampers emergency services, with several instances of patients failing to reach hospitals in time.

The plan emphasises the importance of the “golden hour” — the critical window following an accident or medical emergency when prompt treatment can save lives. In cases such as heart attacks, trauma incidents and organ transplants, air ambulance services can drastically cut travel time and improve survival chances.

However, the project faces several regulatory hurdles. The lush greenery of the Jnana Bharathi campus means clearance from the Forest Department will be essential before any construction begins.

Additionally, approvals from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) are mandatory for setting up and operating a helipad.

Authorities will also need to carry out site inspections and environmental assessments before granting final clearance.

Only after securing all permissions can the project move to the execution stage.

For now, the proposal remains under review, with further progress dependent on the university's feasibility report and subsequent approvals from concerned agencies.

QUICK READ



Blood donation camp marks Ambedkar Jayanti

CHITRADURGA
A blood donation camp will be held on April 14 at Sri Maharshi Valmiki Bhavan in Chitradurga to mark the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution. The programme will begin at 11 am. It is jointly organised by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Social Welfare Department and the Municipal Council. The camp will be conducted with City Health Care Society and Vasavi Blood Center, opposite Basappa Hospital on Turuvanur Road. Officials urged the public and youth to participate in large numbers and donate blood.

Applications open for prestigious school admissions

CHIKKABALLAPURA
Applications have been invited online at www.sw.kar.nic.in for 2026-27 admission to prestigious schools for Scheduled Caste students in Chikkaballapura district. Last date is May 4. Eligible students must submit caste income Aadhar and 5th class marksheet with bank passbook copy. Only SC students with above 60 percent marks are eligible. Family income limit is two lakh rupees. Selection will be through district level entrance exam. Two children per family allowed. Details of schools include Agalpurki Chintamani Madanahalli Chikkaballapura Gudibande institutions are listed. Students should apply carefully through the website and submit documents to social welfare department offices.

Challakere labour office relocated to new premises

CHITRADURGA
The Labour Inspector's Office in Challakere has been shifted from near Pyramid Park in Thyagaraja Nagar to a new location at Challakere Circle. From March 1, 2026, the office will function in a building near Gayatri Kalyana Mantapa Road, close to Karnataka Gramin Bank in Valmiki Nagar. Officials said citizens can visit the new office address for services and information. The Labour Inspector requested the public to use the relocated office for assistance. Residents of Challakere and nearby areas are informed that all labour related services will now be available at the new office location without difficulty.

TRADITIONAL FOLK PRESERVATION

Theatre festival revives values, culture

CHITRADURGA
A vibrant theatre festival in Chitradurga highlighted the importance of drama in shaping values and preserving culture. The Shivasachara Drama Festival-2025 was held at Bapuji Educational Institution in Pillekrenahalli under the joint efforts of several cultural and educational groups. Presiding over the event, Shivsharan Madara Chanayya Mahaswamy said theatre is a simple and powerful way to teach life lessons and

Spl revenue sub-village campaign launched in dist

SUDHAKAR LAUNCHED REVENUE VILLAGE CAMPAIGN, TARGETING 1.4 LAKH BENEFICIARIES, ISSUING PHASED TITLE DEEDS AND OWNERSHIP DOCUMENTS STATEWIDE



CHIKKABALLAPURA
Higher Education Minister and District In-charge Minister Dr. M. C. Sudhakar launched the Special Revenue Sub-Village Creation Campaign in Kotagal village of Chintamani taluk on Monday. He said the district has identified around 1.4 lakh beneficiaries under the Revenue Village Campaign scheme aimed at providing permanent land ownership records. He explained that after the

current government came to power, several reforms have been introduced in the Revenue Department. As part of the Special Revenue Village Campaign 2.0, houses built on both government and private land without proper documents have been identified, and survey and measurement work has already been completed for these properties. The minister said the process of issuing title deeds to eligible beneficiaries is being taken up in a

phased manner. He added that except for properties involved in court cases, all others will be provided ownership documents through a large-scale distribution programme, which is planned to be held in the presence of the Chief Minister. He informed that the target is to issue 15,202 title deeds in Chintamani taluk alone. He also said Chikkaballapura district has been selected as a pilot under the Bhu Suraksha Yojana, under which 3.5 lakh

pages of land records are being digitised. The work in several taluks has already been completed, and the remaining will be finished in the next two months. The minister added that online access to nearly 2 lakh pages of documents has already been provided to the public. Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu said that 1,700 revenue villages will be formed in the coming 10 months and survey work has begun from Kotagal village.

Tumakuru to host Sambhram media festival 2026

TUMAKURU
Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwar announced that he will take part in the alumni interaction programme during the upcoming media festival "Sambhram-2026" organised by Sri Siddhartha Media Studies Centre in Tumakuru. He said the event will be a meaningful platform for former students working in the media field to reconnect, share experiences, and discuss present challenges in journalism. The Home Minister released the festival poster and also inaugurated the alumni association nameplate after meeting members who invited him to the programme. He appreciated the initiative and said such gatherings help strengthen professional networks and encourage new ideas in the media sector. Organisers said "Sambhram-2026" will bring together more than 400 journalism and degree students from across Karnataka. The two-day festival will include workshops, expert talks, exhi-



bitions, and interactive sessions. The theme of this year's event is "Environmental Journalism", focusing on the role of media in protecting nature and raising awareness. As part of the programme, around 35 civic workers of Tumakuru city will be honoured for their contribution to maintaining cleanliness and supporting environmental protection. The event is dedicated to environmental activist Saalumara Thimmakka in recognition of her lifelong tree-planting work. Students will also participate in eight competitions including radio jockey performance, news reading, photography, and reporting tasks. Free accommo-

Parameshwar to attend Sambhram-2026 media festival in Tumkur, promoting alumni networking, environmental journalism theme, workshops, and participation of over 400 students statewide

modation and food will be provided to participants. Organisers said experts from the media industry, government advisors, and journalists will attend as guests and guide students. The festival aims to build skills, encourage environmental awareness, and create stronger connections between media students and professionals across Karnataka.

Padma Shri Kaka sacrifice beyond value

VIJAYAPURA
Lawyer KF Ankalagi praised Padma Shri Kaka Karkhanis during a five-day literary fair in Vijayapura, saying his sacrifice cannot be measured in money and seeing him was like seeing Mahatma Gandhi. He spoke at the May Sahitya Mela held from April 10 to 14 at Darbar High School grounds, organized by Dalit and progressive groups along with a Buddha, Basava and Ambedkar book fair. A procession was taken out by students of Kaka Karkhanis Boarding School and their families from the school to the book fair venue, creating slogans praising Kaka for educating Dalits and women. He also said that using remaining donation money from Kaka centenary celebrations a memorial high school was built which stands as an important contribution to education.

Farmers and activists oppose wildlife sterilisation plan, calling it unscientific; demand data, better corridors, and humane solutions

Farmers protest wildlife sterilisation plan sparks anger

CHAMARAJANAGAR
Farmers and environmentalists have strongly opposed a government plan to sterilise wild animals to reduce human wildlife conflict. In Chamarajanagar district, members of the Karnataka State Sugarcane Growers Association blocked the Bangalore Dindigul National Highway near Mariala flyover in protest. They called the idea unscientific and demanded that the project be withdrawn immediately. Leader Halikerehundi Bhagyaraj said sterilising wildlife is inhuman and harmful to biodiversity. He added that officials should first present scientific data before taking such steps. Environmental activist Joseph Hoover also criticised the proposal, saying there is no proof that elephant numbers have

gone beyond control. He suggested strengthening elephant corridors and using better scientific methods instead of sterilisation. Experts warned that similar experiments elsewhere have sometimes increased aggressive animal behaviour. Farmers warned of continued protests if the plan is not dropped. They said they will intensify agitation to protect their agricultural fields and safety. Officials from the Forest Department maintained that the proposal aims to reduce increasing incidents of conflict between humans and wild animals near farmlands and villages. They said the idea is still under discussion and no final decision has been taken, while consultations with experts and local communities will continue in the coming.

Health officer urges lifestyle change

CHITRADURGA
On the occasion of World Health Day, Taluk Health Education Officer B. Moogappa urged people to change their daily habits and adopt a healthier lifestyle to improve their future well-being. He was speaking at an awareness

program organized by the Health Department, Indian Red Cross Society, and NSS unit at Government Arts (Autonomous) College in Chitradurga. Moogappa advised people to stay away from harmful habits, follow a balanced diet, and focus on cleanliness. He said that changing small habits

can lead to a better and healthier life. He added that modern science and technology are helping people live longer, and everyone should make use of these benefits responsibly. He also stressed the importance of preventing both communicable and non-communicable diseases such as diabetes,

blood pressure, and cancer. He encouraged people to maintain hygiene and support efforts to build a disease-free society. Government Arts College Principal Prof. Tarini Shubhadayini said that health is the greatest wealth and everything becomes possible when people are healthy.

5 LAKH SAPPLINGS DRIVE LAUNCHED FOR GREEN FUTURE

CHIKKABALLAPURA
A large-scale tree plantation initiative aimed at environmental conservation was launched in Chikkaballapura district, with a target of growing five lakh saplings. Principal District and Sessions Judge T. P. Ramalingegowda inaugurated the programme at Indira Gandhi Residential School premises in Appegowdanahalli, Shidlaghatta taluk. He said the initiative is part of efforts linked to Environment Day and reflects social responsibility towards protecting nature. The State Legal Services Authority has entered into an agreement with Dhara Foundation to plant and nurture five crore

saplings across the state. The judge emphasized that planting trees alone is not enough and stressed the importance of protecting them for at least three years until they grow fully. He said the district target of five lakh saplings will be achieved with cooperation from the district administration, forest department, and social forestry department. As part of the programme, around 400 saplings were planted at the school campus on the launch day. He appealed to non-governmental organisations and the public to actively participate and take responsibility for protecting planted saplings. District Magistrate G. Prabhu said that about three lakh

saplings are already planted annually in the district and this new initiative will further strengthen green cover. He added that regular monthly monitoring will be done to ensure at least 80 percent survival of saplings. Officials said that increasing green cover will also help improve groundwater levels and contribute to ecological balance in the region. Senior Civil Judge B. Shilpa, Conservator of Forests Girish, and other district officials attended the programme along with teachers and students. The initiative is expected to create long-term environmental benefits while encouraging public participation in conservation efforts.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMBARISH SALAGUNDI S/o SIDDANGUDA SALGUNDI, R/o 41, Ward No 06, Arali Oni, Karatgi, Gangavathi, Koppal, Karnataka-583229, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SAMARESHA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CHITRA H ANKOLEKAR alias CHITRA NARAYAN SINGANNANAVAR W/o LATE NARAYAN SINGANNANAVAR, R/o 5/2, Shri Manjunatha Nilaya, 2nd Main Road, 3rd Cross, Opp Kabbadi Ground, Govindarajnagar, Vijayanagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560040, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as CHITHRA.

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR C.Ms.No. 7/2026

Sri Muniraju S/o late ByanjappaAged about 40 years.R/At: Gundasandra Village, Doddabellavangala Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk. ...Petitioner

V/s The Tahasildar, Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapura. ...Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Sec 13 (3) Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969, R/W Rule 9 of Karnataka Registration of Births and Death Rules, seeking death certificate of his father by name BYLANJINAPPA S/o LATE NARASIMHAIAH died on 06-06-1980 at at Gundasandra Village, Doddabellavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura taluk. 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 15.05.2026 at 11 O clock will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order. Given Under my hand and seal of the Court on the day of 09.04.2026

By the order of the court
Chief Ministerial officer,
PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
Advocate for the Petitioner: Channegowda

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MADHUKAR S R alias MADHUKAR RAMAMURTHY SARODE S/o S RAMAMURTHY, R/o Flat No A-303, 3rd Floor, Temple Bells Apartment Survey No-41/6, 23rd Main, Ideal Homes Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Near Bata Showroom, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560098, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MADHUKAR RAMAMURTHY SARODE.

DECLARATION

I, Mr. Ritesh Ojha, aged 52 years, residing at No. A/401, Saimitra Meadows, 1st A Cross, Kagga Dasapura, CV Raman Nagar, Bangalore - 560093, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:

1. That Ms. Swetha, Aadhaar No. 3929 3071 0272, daughter of Mr. Rudraswamy, native of Gulbarga District, aged 41 years, was employed as domestic help at my residence since the year 2014.

2. That she has voluntarily expressed her intention to discontinue her services and to reside with her relatives.

3. That I have accepted her decision, settled all dues payable to her in full and final, and confirm that she vacated my residence on 11 April 2026, carrying all her personal belongings. There is nothing pending to her from my side.

4. That from the aforesaid date, I have no further association, responsibility, or liability towards her safety, wellbeing, or conduct.

RITESH OJHA Date: 12-04-2026

Place: Bangalore

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR C.Ms.No. 8/2026

Sri Muniraju S/o late ByanjappaAged about 40 years.R/At: Gundasandra Village, Doddabellavangala Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk. ...Petitioner

V/s The Tahasildar, Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapura. ...Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Sec 13 (3) Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969, R/W Rule 9 of Karnataka Registration of Births and Death Rules, seeking death certificate of his Grandmother by name SIDDAGANGAMMA W/o LATE NARASIMHAIAH died on 18-06-2016 at at Gundasandra Village, Doddabellavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura taluk. 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 15.05.2026 at 11 O clock will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order. Given Under my hand and seal of the Court on the day of 09.04.2026

By the order of the court
Chief Ministerial officer,
PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
Advocate for the Petitioner: Channegowda

NAME CHANGE

I, SADIYA AJAZ AHMED MERCHANT, w/o. Ajaz Ahmed Merchant resident of : R C Elite residency, GF 001, no. 65, Hutchins Road, 2nd Cross, Cooke Town, St. Thomas Town Post, Bangalore - 560084. have changed my name to SADIYA AJAZ MERCHANT, vide affidavit dated: 11.04.2026, before Notary N NAGAPPA, Bengaluru.

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE I-ADOL CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT K.G.F. C.M.C. No: 106/2026.

PETITIONERS: 1. SMT. CHENNAMMA W/o Late Shankarappa Aged about 65 years, 2. SMT. KANTHAMMA D/o Shankarappa W/o H.N.Krishnappa Aged about 60 years, Both are R/At: Nallagattur Village, Srinivasandra Post, Kyasamballi Hobli, KGF Taluk. ...-V/S-

RESPONDENT : THE TAHSILDHAR, KGF TALUK KGF.

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the petitioner are filed a Petition under section 13(3) of Registration of Birth & Death Act 1969, for obtaining the Death Certificate of the Petitioner No.1 deceased Husband SRI. SHANKARAPPA, S/o late Venkataramappa & late Akkayamma, was died on : 14-04-2002 due to ill-health at Nallagattur Village, Srinivasandra Post, Kyasamballi Hobli, KGF Taluk, Karnataka State. The hearing date of the case is posted on: 19.05.2026 if any person having any claim or objection has to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by pleader in the above said hearing date at about 11.00am to answer the same, failing which the petition will be disposed off as ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this 24/3/2026.

By The Order of the Court
CHIEF MINISTERIAL OFFICER
PRL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC COURT
KOLAR GOLD FIELDS.

Advocate for Petitioners : SRI. SUHAS RAI, R. B.A., LL.B., Advocate, K.G.F. PLACE: K.G.F. DATE: 24-03-2026.

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR C.Ms.No. 9/2026

Sri Muniraju S/o late ByanjappaAged about 40 years.R/At: Gundasandra Village, Doddabellavangala Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk. ...Petitioner

V/s The Tahasildar, Doddaballapur Taluk, Doddaballapura. ...Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Sec 13 (3) Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969, R/W Rule 9 of Karnataka Registration of Births and Death Rules, seeking death certificate of his Aunty by name SIDDAGANGAMMA W/o LATE HANUMAIAH died on 02-06-1993 at at Gundasandra Village, Doddabellavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura taluk. 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 15.05.2026 at 11 O clock will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order. Given Under my hand and seal of the Court on the day of 09.04.2026

By the order of the court
Chief Ministerial officer,
PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
Advocate for the Petitioner: Channegowda

QUICK READ

Ambedkar Jagjivan Ram awards announced

CHITRADURGA

District administration has announced district level Dr B R Ambedkar and Dr Babu Jagjivan Ram awards for 2026. Winners were selected for their service to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward communities. The awards will be given at Ambedkar Jayanti programme at Sri Maharshi Valmiki Bhavan. Awardees for Ambedkar category include D Kumaraswamy, K Ramachandrappa, T Vijayakumar and others. Babu Jagjivan Ram awardees include K Rajanna, B L Narasimha Murthy, Veerabhadrappa and others. Officials said the recognition highlights social service and community development efforts in the district. Public leaders appreciated the contribution of all selected awardees.

Applications open for horticulture training programme

GADAG

Ten-month horticulture training will be held for farmers' children from May 2, 2026 to February 28, 2027. Applications are open until April 20. Selected centres and schedule have been fixed. Candidates must have passed SSLC. Parents or guardians should own land, with revenue department proof required. Age limit is 18 to 33 years for SC/ST and 18 to 30 years for others. Application fee is Rs 30 for general and Rs 15 for SC/ST, payable by IPO or DD. Interviews will be held on April 23 at 11 am near Bheeshmana Lake at Deputy Director office. Forms available online. Officials said interested candidates should apply in time without delay for selection process successfully now.

Gadag marks Ambedkar Jayanti with tributes events

GADAG

The Health Department Employees Association and several staff groups in Gadag along with Karnataka State Chalavadi Mahasabha and Karnataka State Bhalgai Union are observing Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's 135th birth anniversary with programmes in the district today.

At Gadag Betageri Municipal Council premises, employees will gather at 10 am to garland Dr Ambedkar statue and pay tribute. The event will include speeches by district leaders and participation from health staff union members. Separately, Chalavadi Mahasabha leaders have organized another.

MLA orders urgent action to prevent water crisis

Bidar MLA directed urgent measures for summer water shortage, including tankers, pipeline repairs, and new water sources

BIDAR

Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale has directed officials to take immediate steps to address the growing drinking water shortage during the summer season. He said the issue is not just an inconvenience but a serious concern affecting the daily lives of people.

He was speaking at a task force meeting held at the Taluk Panchayat Hall in Bidar city. The meeting was attended by officials from various

departments and focused on reviewing drinking water supply and ongoing development works.

The MLA instructed officials to prepare clear action plans to resolve water shortages in affected areas. He suggested using tanker water supply systems where needed, repairing old pipelines, and identifying new water sources immediately.

He emphasized that rural areas must receive equal attention and that no village should suffer due to lack of

drinking water facilities. He also ordered the implementation of emergency water supply systems in severely affected regions. Dr. Beldale directed officials to work responsibly and ensure that citizens do not face hardships during the peak summer period. He asked departments to speed up ongoing development works and complete them without delay. He reviewed the progress, quality, and timelines of various projects and warned officials to improve efficiency to avoid public

inconvenience.

Officials present at the meeting included Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Manikarao Patil, Tahsildar Ravikumar Dama, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department AEE Rajkumar Dasare, and other departmental officers. The MLA stressed that quick response and better coordination between departments are essential to solve the drinking water crisis and ensure smooth public services across the constituency during summer.



Use Vishwakarma Scheme: MP to youths

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Member of Parliament Dr. K. Sudhakar has urged young people and traditional workers to make full use of the Central Government's Vishwakarma Scheme, saying it helps artisans become job creators instead of job seekers.

He was speaking at the PM Vishwakarma Toolkit Distribution and Awareness Programme organised by the Postal Department at Kannada Bhavan in Chikkaballapura. On the occasion, toolkits were distributed to around 300 artisans.

Dr. Sudhakar said the scheme trains artisans to produce goods according to current market demand, which helps them earn better income. He explained that products made using outdated designs may not find buyers, and stressed the need to adapt to changing customer preferences.

ences.

He said the scheme provides financial support, including loans starting from Rs 1 lakh and going up to Rs 2 lakh, along with free training. He added that interest on loans is very low and a major portion is supported by the government. The MP said that artisans such as carpenters, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, masons, basket makers, and others form the backbone of rural economy and cultural heritage. He stressed the importance of respecting and supporting their work. He also highlighted that nearly 1.49 lakh beneficiaries across the country have received loans worth Rs 1,190 crore under the scheme. So far, about 12,000 artisans have received toolkits. Dr. Sudhakar said India should promote local industries globally under the "Vocal for Local" vision, citing examples like Channapana



toys that have strong export potential. He called on youth to identify traditional skills in villages and develop them into strong businesses that can compete in international markets. Officials said the programme aims to strengthen rural entrepreneurship and preserve India's traditional crafts while improving income opportunities for artisans.

Sudhakar highlighted artisan scheme offering training, loans, and toolkits, supporting rural craftsmen, boosting income, and benefiting thousands under government-backed financial assistance programme nationwide

KKCCI welcomed confirmed Kalaburagi-Bengaluru rail route, calling it historic, crediting Ministry of Railways coordination



Kalaburagi set to benefit from Vande Bharat route

KALABURAGI

The Kalyana Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KKCCI) has welcomed the decision to route the proposed Mumbai-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Sleeper Train through Kalaburagi, calling it a major boost for regional development and connectivity.

In a statement issued on Monday, KKCCI president Sharanabasappa M. Pappa and secretary Shivaraj V. Inginshetty said the confirmation of the route has removed earlier confusion about the train's alignment. They described the decision as a historic step for the Kalyana Karnataka region. The chamber said it had been continuously working with the Ministry of Railways to improve rail connectivity between Kalaburagi and Bengaluru. Earlier, a delegation met Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in December 2025 and submitted a detailed representation requesting better rail infrastructure for the region. The group also met Union Minister Prahlad Joshi on April 8, following up on the demand for improved transport links.

KKCCI said it later received confirmation from Mr. Joshi that the Vande Bharat Sleeper Train will pass through Kalaburagi after consultations with senior railway officials.

According to the chamber, the inclusion of Kalaburagi in this high-speed rail corridor will greatly improve passenger travel between Mumbai, Kalaburagi, and Bengaluru. It is also expected to support trade, business activities, and industrial growth across the region.

KKCCI said better connectivity will help reduce travel time, improve mobility, and create new economic opportunities for local industries and entrepreneurs.

The chamber expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna, and Union Minister Prahlad Joshi for considering the long-pending demand. Officials said the project marks an important step toward strengthening infrastructure and boosting economic development in northern Karnataka.

Kaka Karkhanis legacy inspires Dalit education movement

VIJAYAPURA

Senior researcher Krishna Kolhar Kulkarni said that Ganesh Govinda Karkhanis opened schools and a boarding facility for Dalit students in Vijayapura district before Dr. B R Ambedkar's influence spread here. He said Kaka Karkhanis faced untouchability and social boycott but chose to live among Dalits and formed the Harijan Sevak Sangh. He taught Bhagavad Gita to Dalit students and encouraged them to study and compete with Brahmin students, where many won top ranks. He also worked closely with Kaujalagi Hanamantaraya and started education programs for Devadasi women through the Har-

ijan Kanya Mandir in Vijayapura. Karkhanis not only educated Dalits but also helped them find jobs and arranged marriages, which people remember as his key social service. Speakers at the Vijayapura book fair praised his life and said his work is a model for social change in India. In 1939, Dr. B R Ambedkar visited Vijayapura for a court case and held a public meeting where he met Karkhanis and appreciated his efforts. Karkhanis was a lifelong bachelor, a yogi, and lived for nearly a hundred years, remembered for discipline and service. He once trained at Sabarmati Ashram and protested there against the practice of showing his diary to Gandhi. He also wrote a

book on Devadasis and worked for their dignity and education throughout his life. Retired judge Vasant Mulasavalagi said society should remember him and celebrate his birth anniversary every year. Other speakers at the event said his efforts against untouchability and for education changed many lives. The program was attended by writers, social workers, students, and members of Karkhanis's school family and organization. Anil Hosamani conducted the session at the Buddha Basava Babasaheb Ambedkar Book Fair. Organisers of the book fair said the aim of the event is to highlight the work of social reformers like Karkhanis who fought caste discrimination and promoted education.

Awareness drive planned on women reservation bill

KALABURAGI

BJP state spokesperson Surabhi Hodigere said that special awareness programs on women's rights will be conducted over the next ten days in the backdrop of the "Nari Shakti Vandan" Bill. She was speaking at a press conference held at Patrika Bhawan in Kalaburagi.

She said a special Parliament session will be held from April 16 to 18 regarding the implementation of women's reservation. Hodigere urged all political parties to support the bill, stating that it will create more opportunities for women experts in politics and other fields.

BENGALURU MEGA EXPO SHOWCASES AI INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

BENGALURU

Bengaluru has entered a new phase of industrial growth with the launch of major international exhibitions at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), highlighting the growing role of artificial intelligence in manufacturing and construction sectors. The mega event brings together six major trade expos under one roof, including

Print & Packaging Expo, Label & Barcode Expo, Paper India Expo, India Paint & Coating Expo, Advanced Building Materials Expo, and Doors, Windows & Facades Expo. Organisers said the combined platform is creating new opportunities for industries and entrepreneurs. The exhibitions focus strongly on AI-based innovations, especially in paint and coating technology. One of the main

attractions is automated painting machines powered by artificial intelligence, capable of painting high-rise buildings, apartments, and houses without human intervention. Experts said these technologies represent a major shift in industrial practices and are expected to improve efficiency, safety, and productivity in the construction and manufacturing sectors.

At the inauguration, digni-

taries said Bengaluru, already known globally as India's IT hub, has the potential to become a leading global centre for paint, coating, and building technology industries as well. Industry leaders including G.S. Prasad Murthy, Kamal, Kaushik Jain, Vikram Agarwal, Arun Patel, Danappa, and Ramesh Shivanna attended the event and highlighted the importance of innovation-driven growth.



40th State Journalists' Conference Held in Bidar: Tagaduru Expresses Gratitude

BENGALURU

Karnataka Working Journalists Association (KUWJ) State President Shivananada Tagaduru has expressed gratitude to everyone who contributed to the successful and meaningful conduct of the 40th State Journalists' Conference held over two days in Bidar.

He said the conference, held in the land of Basava and Sufi saints, stood out as unique and meaningful. Sessions on the journalistic contributions of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, along with discussions on Kalyana Karnataka development and media-related issues, added depth to the event.

Tagaduru noted that discussions on Artificial Intelligence and digitalisation provided new insights and opened fresh possibilities for newsroom professionals. Sessions on the Right to Information Com-

mission, border region issues, and media-industry relations further enriched the conference.

He appreciated the participation of journalists from all districts, from Chamara-janagar to Kalaburagi and Vijayapura, and said the felicitation of award winners was a memorable moment.

He thanked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for inaugurating the event and appreciated Chief Minister's media advisor K. V. Prabhakar for coordinating between the government and the media fraternity.

Tagaduru also lauded Minister Eshwar Khandre, the Bidar District Working Journalists Association, district president Anand Devappa and his team for successfully organising the event despite challenges. He thanked the district administration and all supporting teams for their hospitality and efforts in making the conference a "festival of Bidar".

PESTICIDE MARKET REGULATION

Strict rules issued for fertiliser dealers in Challakere

CHALLAKERE

Agriculture department officials in Challakere have warned fertiliser, seed, and pesticide dealers of strict legal action if rules are violated or products are sold at inflated prices.

Deputy Director of Agriculture Dr. D. Umesh said that shop owners must mandatorily display available stock of seeds, fertilisers, and pesticides for the benefit of farmers. He stressed that proper maintenance of stock registers and matching them with phys-



ical inventory is essential.

He also instructed that farmers must be issued proper receipts with signatures for every purchase, and all transactions should strictly follow

the Fertiliser Control Order, Seeds Act, and related regulations.

The directions were issued during a workshop on safe pesticide use and a meeting

with agricultural input dealers organised by the Agriculture Department at the Taluk Panchayat Hall.

Officials said that Aadhaar-based documentation should be followed while distributing agricultural inputs, and fertilisers must be supplied based on crop requirement and field needs. Assistant Director of Agriculture (Vigilance Bureau) Mallanagowda said that fertilisers and seeds must be distributed in a transparent and regulated manner to avoid misuse.

Assistant Director S. T. Ra-

mesh warned that dealers selling products above the prescribed price will face strict legal action. He also said that artificial scarcity of seeds and fertilisers must not be created under any circumstances.

Officials further advised dealers to avoid hoarding and ensure timely supply of quality inputs to farmers. They also urged shopkeepers to behave politely and responsibly with farmers and provide proper guidance.

The department emphasized that poor quality seeds or unfair practices

QUICK READ

Mumbai
Crash Toll Rises to Eleven
Mumbai
The death toll in a tragic road accident near Kalyan in Mumbai rose to 11 after two injured persons died in hospital on Monday.
The crash occurred around 11 a.m. near Rayta Bridge on the Kalyan-Murbad road when a car collided head-on with a mixer truck. Eight people died on the spot, while others later succumbed to injuries. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expressed grief. Police have launched an investigation, suspecting overspeeding or loss of control as possible causes.

Minor Girl Poisons Parents over Marriage Plan
Morena
In a shocking incident, a minor girl in Madhya Pradesh's Morena allegedly tried to kill her parents by mixing rat poison in chapati dough. Police said she took the step to clear the way for her marriage with her boyfriend. After eating the food, her parents fell seriously ill and were later shifted to a hospital in Gwalior for treatment. Their condition remains critical, while police have started an investigation into the case.

Elderly Man Dies after Lift Shaft Fall
Valsad
An elderly man died after falling into a lift shaft in a residential society in Gujarat's Valsad district, with his body found two days later. The incident occurred at Nirmal Society, where a technical fault reportedly caused the lift door to open without the cabin present. The victim, a gardener, stepped forward and fell from the third floor. Police recovered the body after residents noticed a foul smell. A case has been registered, and an investigation into maintenance lapses is underway.

Six Arrested Over Jana Nayagan Film Leak Case
Chennai
Tamil Nadu cybercrime police have arrested six persons for leaking actor Vijay's film Jana Nayagan online in HD before its release. The film was leaked on April 10, leading to widespread outrage. Police registered a case and tracked the accused through digital investigation. Over 300 piracy links have been blocked. The accused shared the film through cloud platforms and links. Officials warned that sharing or watching pirated content is a punishable offence.

President, Vice President mourn pilgrims killed in Gujarat accident

Seven pilgrims died after a speeding truck hit them during an early morning journey in Gujarat

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan on Monday expressed deep sorrow over the tragic road accident that claimed seven lives in the district. The President, who is currently visiting Gujarat, said the incident was extremely sad and offered condolences to the families of the victims. She also prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the mishap.

The Vice President also

shared his grief and extended support to the affected families during this difficult time. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier expressed similar sorrow and said the incident was deeply distressing. According to officials, the accident happened around 1.20 a.m. on the Lakhtar Viramgam highway. A speeding dumper truck reportedly hit a group of pilgrims from behind while they were walking along



the roadside. The victims belonged to the Bharwad community and were travelling from Gadgha village in Rajkot district for temple darshan and a ritual. They were part of a larger group of hundreds of devotees on pilgrimage. At least four people were seriously injured and were admitted to hospital for treatment. Police said the truck driver fled the scene after the accident and a case has been registered. Emergency teams reached quickly and shifted

the victims for medical care and post mortem procedures. Officials said an investigation is underway to find the exact cause of the accident and to identify any lapses in safety measures. Authorities have urged drivers to follow speed limits and remain alert on highways, especially during night hours. Locals also demanded stricter checks to prevent such incidents in future. Meanwhile and assistance are being provided to the injured and bereaved families by authorities.

Repeated bomb threats to Delhi Assembly raise concerns

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Assembly received another bomb threat through email on Monday, raising serious security concerns and prompting Speaker Vijender Gupta to seek urgent action from the Delhi Police.

According to officials, the threatening email was received at 11.12 a.m. on the Assembly's official email ID. It contained alarming claims about explosives being used inside the Assembly premises. This is not the first such incident in recent weeks. Earlier, on March 25, a similar email claimed that 16 RDX based improvised explosive devices had been planted inside the



Assembly building and would be detonated before the House session. However, after a thorough search, the threat was found to be a hoax. In a letter to Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golcha, Speaker Gupta highlighted the repeated threats sent to both the Assembly's official email and his personal email. He said these messages are creating fear among staff and

affecting the normal functioning of the institution.

Gupta stressed that the Assembly is an important democratic institution and any threat to it must be taken seriously. He urged the police to trace the source of these emails, take strict action against those responsible, and strengthen security measures around the premises. The Assembly has also witnessed other security incidents recently. On April 6, a man drove through the high security gates of the complex and managed to escape. In another case on April 9, the Delhi Secretariat also received a bomb threat email, which later turned out to be false.

TRS name row triggers fresh political clash

HYDERABAD

A new political dispute has emerged within the family of former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao over the use of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi name. The issue began after his daughter K. Kavitha indicated that her proposed political party may use the TRS name. In response, her brother K.T. Rama Rao said the Bharat Rashtra Samithi is also considering returning to its original name. Kavitha, who separated from the BRS after her suspension last year, is preparing to launch a new party. She has said the TRS name is currently unused and open for anyone to adopt.

Delhi Police bust interstate cyber fraud racket, arrest accused



NEW DELHI

Delhi Police Crime Branch has busted an interstate cyber fraud network and arrested a key accused from Kerala involved in handling cheated money. The accused, identified as Jamsheed K., 33, from Malappuram district, was allegedly part of a well organised gang running fake investment schemes. Police said he played a major role in managing and transferring funds collected from victims.

The case came to light after a complaint by Sandeep Kumar, who was contacted through Facebook and added to a WhatsApp group promoting a trading platform. He was asked to download an app named INDIAN NIVESH and invest money with promises of high returns.

Trusting the claims, the victim transferred Rs 45.9 lakh into several bank accounts.

Later, the app showed a fake profit of around Rs 7 crore. When he tried to withdraw the amount, his request failed. The fraudsters then asked him to deposit more money, and when he refused, they blocked his account and stopped all communication.

During investigation, police traced Rs 10 lakh to a bank account linked to a firm in Kerala. The account showed multiple suspicious transactions and was connected to more than 21 cyber fraud complaints across states.

A special police team tracked the accused to Kerala and arrested him on April 5 with local support. Police said he earlier worked abroad and later rented his bank accounts to fraudsters after his business failed.

An FIR has been registered and further investigation is underway to identify other members of the network.

CITIZENS UNITE TO PROTECT MUMBAI GREEN SPACES

MUMBAI

Nearly 300 citizens gathered at Versova Beach to protest and demand protection of Mumbai's mangroves, forests, and open spaces from unchecked development activities.

The peaceful protest, called "Green Mumbai Sunday," was organised by Save Mumbai Mangroves on April 12. It brought together people from various groups like Save Aarey and Save SGNP, along with several citizen led initiatives working to protect the city's environment.

Participants marched from the beach entrance to the Seven Bungalows rocks, raising slogans against environmental damage. The rally ended with speeches, songs, and poetry focused on conservation. A human chain was also formed along the shoreline to show unity and commitment to saving green spaces.

Members of the Koli fishing community joined the protest and spoke about the importance of mangroves. They said these ecosystems support marine life, provide

income for fishermen, and even have medicinal value. They warned that destruction of mangroves would harm both nature and local livelihoods.

Several speakers claimed that local communities are often not properly consulted before major coastal or infrastructure projects are approved. They called for more transparency and public participation in decision making.

The protest comes amid concerns over the proposed Versova Bhayandar Coastal Road project, which activists say could affect over 45,000 mangroves. The project had received approval from the Bombay High Court in December 2025.

Activists said they are preparing to challenge the project legally on new grounds. They stressed that development should be balanced with environmental protection.

Organisers said the event highlights the importance of public involvement and warned that Mumbai's ecological future depends on responsible planning and continuous citizen action.



Maharashtra ties up to fight childhood diseases

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Public Health Department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with AIIMS Nagpur to improve prevention and treatment of childhood non communicable diseases across the state. The agreement was signed with support from UNICEF Maharashtra in the presence of Health Minister Prakash Abitkar and other officials.

The initiative comes as cases of childhood diseases such as type one diabetes asthma and obesity are rising and affecting children at younger ages leading to long term health problems and financial pressure on families.

To address this issue the partnership will follow a systems based approach. AIIMS Nagpur will act as a technical centre while UNICEF Maharashtra will help plan and support implementation within the government health system.

The programme will develop standard operating protocols for six major conditions including type one diabetes asthma obesity mental health disorders congenital heart disease and sickle cell disease.

It will also set up special clinics for children in ten district hospitals and train health workers in selected areas to



Maharashtra partners with AIIMS Nagpur and UNICEF to tackle rising childhood diseases through better care, early screening, and stronger public health systems across the state.

handle these cases effectively.

The plan further aims to improve screening at community level so that children can be identified early and referred for timely treatment.

Dr Prashant Joshi of AIIMS Nagpur said the effort connects medical knowledge with public health services and helps create models that can be expanded across the state.

Officials said UNICEF Maharashtra helped unite departments, experts, and partners to design the programme and ensure equal child healthcare access. They added the pact will strengthen the health system, improve response to rising child diseases, and raise awareness on early detection and prevention.

Vijay transforms campaign strategy in Tamil Nadu elections



CHENNAI

A new style of election campaigning has emerged in Tamil Nadu, with actor turned politician Vijay appearing as a 3D hologram to reach voters across constituencies.

The technology was first used in Kumbakonam on April 12, where a life sized digital projection of Vijay appeared alongside party candidate Vinoth Ravi. The hologram delivered a synchronised speech from a campaign vehicle, creating the impression that the IWWearer was present in person and attracting large crowds. Party leaders said the idea was introduced to manage the challenge of campaigning in more than 200 constituencies. They explained that it is not possible for Vijay to visit every location physically, so the hologram helps share his message widely.

sage widely.

The project was developed by Praveen K, a 20 year old student, who created a short AI based video that was turned into a hologram within three days. He said the technology has received strong interest from other political parties as well. According to estimates, each hologram campaign may cost between Rs 2 lakh and Rs 3 lakh. Analysts believe this modern approach is aimed at attracting young voters and setting the party apart from traditional campaign methods used by others. Meanwhile, Vijay continues limited physical campaigning and recently attended events in Kanyakumari. With elections scheduled on April 23 across all constituencies, parties are trying new strategies to connect with voters and increase their outreach effectively across the state.

Tejashwi attacks Bihar government over governance, remote control rule

PATNA

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Monday criticised the Bihar government, alleging poor governance and claiming the state is being controlled from outside. Yadav targeted the BJP JD(U) alliance, accusing it of failing to address key development issues in the state. He claimed that people linked to the BJP were influencing governance, including within the JD(U), affecting law and order. He said Bihar continues to face serious challenges such as poverty, low per capita income, weak education and healthcare systems, and lack of industrial growth despite years of rule by the current alliance.

Yadav also criticised the government's economic performance, alleging that resources have been exhausted

without meaningful progress. He said public concerns like unemployment, inflation, migration, and problems faced by farmers are being ignored.

The RJD leader further alleged administrative slowdown, claiming that Cabinet meetings have not been held for months and decision making has been delayed. He also raised concerns about rising crime and corruption, and said many election promises remain unfulfilled.

Referring to political developments, Yadav hinted at internal changes within the ruling alliance while commenting on recent poster updates featuring Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Repeating his "remote control" remark, he claimed that real power in Bihar lies outside the state leadership.

LPG SUPPLY

Delhi assures steady LPG supply, urges calm

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday assured residents that LPG supply in the city remains stable and sufficient, asking people not to panic or believe rumours circulating on social media. She said there is no shortage of cooking gas or any other fuel in the capital.

Sharing details, the Chief Minister said that on Sunday, 1,11,766 domestic LPG bookings were recorded, while oil companies delivered 1,30,094 cylinders. This shows that



supplies are more than demand and pending orders are being cleared quickly. She added that the average deliv-

ery time has improved to 3.87 days from 4.24 days earlier.

On the commercial side, Delhi has a daily quota of

6,480 LPG cylinders. However, the average daily use over the past week was only 4,268 cylinders, including smaller 5 kg cylinders. This clearly shows that supply is higher than consumption.upta appealed to commercial users not to stockpile cylinders unnecessarily. She said the distribution system across the city is working smoothly and enough stock is available for all users. To help consumers, a control room has been set up by the Food and Civil Supplies Department. People facing issues can contact helpline

numbers between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. any day.

The Chief Minister also encouraged people to use Piped Natural Gas wherever available, as it offers a steady and safe fuel supply. Hospitals, schools, and other large users have been advised to switch to PNG soon.

She added that people can also consider electric or induction cooking as a long term option. The government is monitoring the situation daily to ensure uninterrupted LPG supply across Delhi without disruption.

QUICK READ



Boat Tragedy:
Death Toll Rises to
Fifteen

MATHURA
The death toll in the Yamuna river boat capsizes in Mathura has risen to 15 after two more bodies were recovered on Monday. Police identified the victims as Monika and Yash Balla (22). Yash, a student from Ludhiana, had joined a pilgrimage group and was seen playing a drum before the accident. One person, Par-kaj Malhotra, is still missing. Rescue teams, including NDRF and SDRF, continue search operations. The boat had capsized after hitting a floating drum near Kesi Ghat in Vrindavan.

Godman Sent To
Custody in Third Rape
Case

NASHIK
A court in Maharashtra's Nashik has sent self-styled godman Ashok Kharat to seven-day judicial custody till April 20 in a third rape case. He is accused of sexually exploiting a seven-month pregnant woman, wife of his staff member, between 2023 and 2025. The case surfaced after the victim's husband recorded evidence using a hidden camera. Police said objectionable videos were submitted. Kharat, arrested in March, will also be produced in court in a fourth case on Tuesday.

HEALTH HACKATHON

NHA Invites Innovators for Health Hackathon 2026

NEW DELHI

The National Health Authority has invited innovators across India to participate in the AB PM-JAY Auto-Adjudication Hackathon 2026 to improve digital health systems and claims processing efficiency nationwide.

The Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, one of India's largest health schemes, currently processes around 50,000 claims daily across more than 1,900 treatment packages. At this scale, maintaining speed, accuracy, and compliance in claims settlement is very important. Officials said that only 15 to 20 percent of claims are currently processed automatically, showing the need for a more advanced and scalable system.

The hackathon aims to develop innovative solutions that can automate claims adjudication, reduce manual work, and improve transparency. Authorities are encouraging the use of artificial intelligence,

Kanimozhi Attacks Centre over NEET, Seeks Voter Support

TIRUNELVELI

DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi campaigned in Tirunelveli, urging voters to support the party's "Rising Sun" symbol and continue its development agenda.

Addressing the public, she said the government led by Chief Minister M. K. Stalin has fulfilled several key promises. She highlighted welfare schemes for women, students, and farmers, stating these initiatives have improved lives across Tamil Nadu and would be expanded further.

Kanimozhi criticised the Centre over the NEET exam and the National Education Policy, claiming they limit opportunities for students in the state. She also targeted the AIADMK-BJP alliance led by Edappadi K. Palaniswami, accusing it of failing to protect Tamil Nadu's interests.

She stressed the importance of education, social welfare, and inclusive growth, pointing to student aid, skill



development programmes, and employment support. She also outlined plans for Tirunelveli, including industrial growth, better transport, and improved healthcare.

Meanwhile, BJP leader Tamilsai Soundararajan criticised the DMK, alleging lack of development and basic amenities in several constituencies. She claimed the NDA would secure a strong mandate in the upcoming elections. Tamil Nadu will vote in a single phase on April 23, with counting scheduled for May 4.



Modi Congratulates Magyar on
Hungary Election Victory Shift

HUNGARY WITNESSED A MAJOR POLITICAL SHIFT AS PETER MAGYAR SECURED A LANDSLIDE VICTORY, ENDING LONG-STANDING LEADERSHIP

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday congratulated Peter Magyar after his Tisza Party won a decisive mandate in Hungary's parliamentary elections. The victory marks a significant change after 16 years of rule by Viktor Orban's Fidesz party. In a message shared on social media, Modi highlighted the strong and historic ties between India and Hungary, describing them as rooted in shared values and mutual respect.

He also expressed his willingness to work closely with the new leadership to strengthen bilateral cooperation and further develop the India-European Union strategic partnership for mutual growth and prosperity. Magyar's victory is being seen as a turning point that could reshape Hungary's domestic



to work closely with the new leadership to strengthen bilateral cooperation and further develop the India-European Union strategic partnership for mutual growth and prosperity. Magyar's victory is being seen as a turning point that could reshape Hungary's domestic

gic partnership for mutual growth and prosperity. Magyar's victory is being seen as a turning point that could reshape Hungary's domestic

policies and its role within the European Union.

After the results, outgoing Prime Minister Viktor Orban accepted defeat and personally congratulated Magyar on his success. According to official figures, the Tisza Party secured 138 seats in the 199-member parliament, winning 53.6 percent of the vote. In comparison, Fidesz managed 55 seats with 37.8 percent support.

The election outcome received positive reactions from several global leaders. Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez described the result as a

win for European values and democracy. Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz also congratulated Magyar and expressed hope for stronger cooperation in building a united and secure Europe.

The wave of international support reflects the importance of Hungary's political shift on the global stage. With a strong mandate, Magyar is expected to bring policy changes and strengthen Hungary's engagement within Europe. Further developments are anticipated as the new government prepares to take charge.

Hormuz Blockade
Uncertainty
Raises Global Oil
Supply Concerns

NEW DELHI

Rising tensions over a possible Strait of Hormuz blockade have created uncertainty for global oil trade and regional stability.

Foreign affairs expert Robinder Sachdev said there is still no clear picture of how the proposed US-led blockade of the Strait of Hormuz will be implemented. He explained that ships loading oil from Iran, especially from Kharg Island, could face strict sanctions similar to those imposed in 2018. These may include freezing of financial assets, blocking of dollar transactions, and visa restrictions for associated individuals. Sachdev noted that the United States aims to stop Iran from earning revenue through oil exports, which currently stand at about 1.8 million barrels per day. However, enforcing such sanctions could be complex, especially if ships use alternative payment methods like cryptocurrencies or yuan.

He added that vessels passing through the Persian Gulf and paying tolls to Iran may also face penalties. Verifying such payments could lead to further tensions, including possible boarding of ships by US forces, which may trigger diplomatic disputes.

The expert also pointed out that recent talks involving Iran failed due to differences over nuclear issues, particularly uranium enrichment. While the US accused Iran of pursuing nuclear weapons, Iran reportedly insisted on maintaining enrichment for peaceful purposes. Sachdev said the Strait of Hormuz is a key strategic tool for Iran, and any blockade could have serious consequences. It may affect India's energy imports and raise costs due to disrupted supply chains. Possible Chinese support to Iran could worsen tensions, while US plans to block Iranian ports raise global oil concerns.

Rahul Backs Khera in Passport Row

NEW DELHI

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Monday extended strong support to party leader Pawan Khera amid the ongoing passport controversy involving Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his wife Riniki Bhuyan Sharma.

In a post on social media, Gandhi described Sarma as the "most corrupt" Chief Minister in the country and alleged misuse of state power to target political opponents. He stressed that the allegations raised by the Congress must be properly investigated, highlighting the importance of transparency, accountability, and rule of law in a democracy. Gandhi also made it clear that the Congress party would stand firmly with Khera and would not be intimidated.

The remarks came after Assam Police moved the Supreme Court challenging the Telangana High Court's order



granting Khera transit anticipatory bail for one week starting April 10. As per the court's direction, Khera must approach a competent court in Assam for further relief.

The controversy began after Khera alleged that Riniki Bhuyan Sharma possessed multiple passports and that the family had business interests worth Rs 52,000 crore in the United States. However, the Chief Minister denied all allegations, calling them baseless.

Following the claims, Sharma filed an FIR against

Rahul Gandhi backed Pawan Khera in the passport controversy, accused Assam CM of corruption, and demanded a fair probe while political tensions in the state continue to rise.

Khera, leading to police searches at his residence. The issue has intensified political tensions in Assam, with leaders from both sides exchanging sharp remarks.

Assam Congress president Gaurav Gogoi also criticised Sarma, claiming the Chief Minister was in "panic mode" due to the widespread attention the allegations received. He said strong reactions from the Chief Minister reflected desperation and insisted that facts cannot be changed through pressure or authority.

The matter remains under legal and political scrutiny, with further developments expected.

Shubhanshu Shukla Marks
Cosmonautics Day With
Inspiring Message

NEW DELHI

Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla extended greetings on the 65th anniversary of human spaceflight and encouraged people to explore space. In a video shared by the Russian Embassy in India, Shukla recalled the historic journey of Yuri Gagarin, who became the first human to travel to space on April 12, 1961.

He said this landmark event continues to inspire generations and is celebrated every year as International Cosmonautics Day.

Shukla highlighted the courage shown by Gagarin, noting that at the time of the mission, very little was known about how the human body would react in space. Despite the risks, Gagarin successfully completed the mission, making it a symbol

of hope and progress for humanity. Encouraging young people and space enthusiasts, Shukla urged everyone to remain excited about space exploration and to carry forward the spirit of discovery. He said exploring space brings purpose and inspiration, and called on people to look towards the future with confidence and determination.

Shukla, who trained at Russia's Star City between 2020 and 2021, has been an important figure in India's growing space journey. Earlier this year, he was awarded the Ashok Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry award, by President Droupadi Murmu during Republic Day celebrations. He made history by becoming the first Indian to visit the International Space Station, marking a major milestone for the country's space programme.

KARNATAKA STATE AKKAMAHADEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY, VIJAYAPUR

Registrar Office, Vijayapur - 586108.

Phone:08352-297064, Website: www.kswu.ac.in

No:KSAWU/ADM/Notification/2026-27/182 Date: 08.04.2026

NOTIFICATION

17th Annual Convocation of Karnataka State Akkamahadevi Women University, Vijayapura

It is proposed to organise 17th Annual Convocation of Karnataka State Akkamahadevi Women University, Vijayapura at the Jnanashakti premises on 21.04.2026. The candidates who have studied in the affiliated colleges/Post-graduate departments/Post-graduate colleges passed various degree examinations during the academic year 2024-25 and B.Ed Examination during December-2024 to receive various degrees are eligible to receive convocation. For further details regarding convocation fees and submission of convocation applications you are informed to visit university website: www.kswu.ac.in

Sd/- Registrar,
Karnataka State Akkamahadevi women's University, Vijayapura

ವಾಸಾಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/23/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂ‌ವಿ/2026-27

Government of Karnataka

Public Works Department,
Special Division, Hunsur

Tender Notification

(Through <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

IFT No: 01/2026-27 Date: 09-04-2026

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka the undersigned has invited itemised tender for 13-works related to Hunsur Division as per terms and conditions of "standard tender documents" KW-3 & KW-4 from the eligible registered contactors under PWD through KPPP Portal. Maximum amount put to tender Rs.687.27 lakhs and Minimum amount put to tender Rs.42.34 lakhs, Maximum EMD amount of Rs.10,31,000/- and Minimum EMD amount of Rs.42,350/- Tender documents downloaded from <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> website on Dt: 09-04-2026 and Last date for submission of filled tender documents is, as per tender notification works Sl.no 1 to 12 Dt: 24-04-2026 and Sl.no 13 Dt: 11-05-2026 Period for completion of works (including monsoon) Maximum 11-Months & Minimun 2-Months For more details visit the undersigned during office working hours.

Note: 1) The employer reserves the rights to Reject or Accept any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons. 2) Tender extension/Addendum/Corrigendum etc, will be notified only in KPP Portal and will not be published in news papers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD, Special Division,Hunsur

DIPR/DDMYS/47/KSMCA/41/2026-27

Executive Engineer
Public Works Department
No.1 Building Division, S.J.P. Campus,
Bengaluru. Ph: 080-22255210

No. EE/Bld.1/AE- 3/2026-27/02 Date: 10.04.2026

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 repair and renovation of 16 No.s of toilets, partition works, renovation of car parking shed, fabrication, providing and improvements to Fire Fighting System, PMC (Project Management Consultancy) services for the work of Construction of Retaining Wall and other development works, **total of 03 works** at various notified places. Approx. value of work: **Min. Rs. 6.52 lakhs, Max. Rs. 281.43 lakhs.** EMD: **Min. Rs. 16,400/-, Max. Rs. 4,22,500/-.** Cost of Document: As in e-portal. Period of Completion for each work: **from 3 Months to 9 Months (including rainy season).** Last date for downloading Tender through e-procurement portal and submission through online: **17.04.2026 up to 5.00 PM.** Date of opening the Tender: as per e-procurement guidelines. Further information, brief details of the works, 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>

DIPR/DD-C.P/160/KSMCA/2026-27 Sd/- Executive Engineer

Government of Karnataka

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION,
KALABURAGI

No: EE/PRED/KLB/KKRDB /TS-5/2026-27/ 65 Date: 08/04/2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through E-Procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of work : 1. Development of Sri Kattimani Sansthanmath Hiremeth Sukshetra Halkatti at Halkatta Village in Taluka, 2. Development work of Kambaleshw Math at Chittapur town in Chittapur taluka, 3. Development work of Sri.Bhojalingshwar Math at Sugur(N) village in Chittapur Taluka, 4. Development work of Sri.Siddalingshwar Math at Pethasiroor Village in Chittapur Taluka, 5. Development work of Siddalingshwar Kattimani Hiremath at Mugulnagaon Village in Chittapur Taluka, 6. Construction of warehouse to store pottery scraps in Melkunda K village of Kalaburagi South Assembly constituency in Kalaburagi Taluka and Construction Public toilet at Buddha Nagar of Tarfil colony in Kalaburagi Taluka, 2) Head of account CM Infrastructure Development Project 2025-26, 3) Amount put to tender **Minimum : Rs.67,20,681.41, Maximum: Rs.1,27,00,300.38**, 4) Class of Contractor Class- II & Class-III and Above, 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents **09.04.2026 to 23.04.2026 upto 4.00 pm** , 6) Tender Form Fee As per KPPP Norms, 7) E.M.D. Fee **Minimum Rs.84,000.00, Maximum Rs.2,00,000.00**, 8) Receipt of completed tender documents, **09.04.2026 to 23.04.2026 upto 4.00 pm** 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: **24.04.2026 After 4.00 pm**, 10) Financial Bid opening Date: **27.04.2026 After 11.00 am**, 11) For more details contact Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Opp: Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office, Kusnoor Road, RajapurKalaburagi, 12) Website Address www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/Kalaburagi/32/ Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Deshpande Publicity/2026-27 Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Kalaburagi

QUICK READ

Asia flight chaos leaves thousands stranded across airports

New Delhi

Aviation across Asia faced severe disruption as over 1,400 flights were delayed and 67 cancelled, leaving thousands of passengers stranded. Major hubs including Delhi, Tokyo, Dubai, Bangkok, Singapore, Jakarta, Mumbai, and Bengaluru reported heavy operational strain. Airports experienced long queues, issued connections, and overcrowded terminals as delays cascaded across regional and international networks. Jakarta and Bangkok recorded the highest disruption levels, while Tokyo and Delhi also saw significant impact. Airlines such as IndiGo, Air India, Emirates, and Singapore Airlines were among those affected.

Lula faces tightest first-round contest since 2002: Datafolha poll

Brazil

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is facing his most competitive first-round election scenario since his 2002 victory, according to a new Datafolha survey. The poll indicates that Lula's lead in early voting intentions has narrowed significantly, placing him in a tightly contested race against major opponents in the 2026 presidential election. The data reflects a broader trend of increasing polarization in Brazil's political landscape, with opposition candidates closing gaps as voter concerns over the economy and governance rise. While Lula remains a frontrunner in several scenarios, the shrinking margins suggest a far more

Lufthansa strike cancels hundreds of flights across Germany

New Delhi

Lufthansa has cancelled hundreds of flights after pilots and cabin crew launched strikes over pay, pensions, and working conditions. The industrial action caused major disruption across Germany, with Frankfurt Airport reporting around 580 cancellations and Munich Airport about 400. The union said participation was extremely high, leading to widespread grounding of Lufthansa Airlines and its subsidiary CityLine. While some flights operated through partner carriers like Austrian Airlines and Eurowings, most services were severely affected. The strike coincided.

Russia allegedly planned fake Orban assassination plot

Alleged Russian intelligence plans reportedly aimed to influence Hungary's elections through a staged political assassination scenario.

HUNGARY

A reported intelligence document has alleged that Russia's foreign intelligence service, the SVR, drafted a plan to stage a fake assassination attempt on then-Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban ahead of the country's recent parliamentary elections, in an effort to influence voter sentiment. The alleged operation, described in a report cited by The Washington Post, was internally code-named "The Gamechanger" and was intended to shift Hungary's election discourse away from economic issues toward emotional themes such as national security and political stability. The document reportedly sug-



gested that a staged attack could consolidate support for Orban's ruling party by reshaping public perception in the final phase of campaigning. According to the report, the SVR assessment also analyzed Hungary's political landscape, claiming significant voter dissatisfaction even in traditional ruling-party strongholds. It also character-

ized opposition leader Péter Magyar as aligned with Western interests, while outlining broader influence operations involving disinformation campaigns and AI-generated content. The Kremlin has denied the allegations, with spokesperson Dmitry Peskov dismissing the claims as disinformation. Russian officials and the SVR have not public-

ly confirmed any such plan.

The report further comes amid broader concerns within the European Union about intelligence-sharing and alleged political influence operations. Some EU officials have reportedly raised concerns over Hungary's ties with Moscow, leading to increased caution in intelligence cooperation.

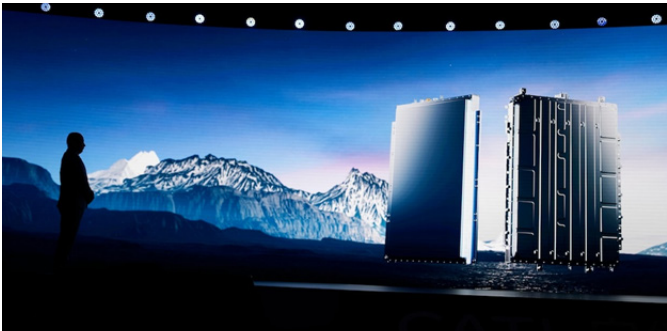
The election ultimately resulted in a victory for the opposition, with Magyar's party securing a parliamentary majority, marking a significant political shift in Hungary. The allegations, however, have added to ongoing debates over foreign interference, hybrid warfare, and the role of information operations in modern democratic elections.

The Iran conflict-driven global energy crisis is accelerating renewable adoption, strengthening China's dominance in clean technology markets worldwide.

Iran conflict boosts China's clean tech advantage globally

HONG KONG

The ongoing Iran conflict and resulting global energy disruptions are accelerating a structural shift in the world energy landscape, strengthening China's position in clean technology manufacturing and exports. With instability around the Strait of Hormuz disrupting oil flows, energy-importing nations across Asia and beyond are facing rising fuel costs and supply uncertainty. This has increased urgency for alternative energy solutions, particularly renewable power and electric mobility. At the center of this shift is China, which already dominates global production of electric vehicles, batteries, and solar equipment. Companies such as BYD and CATL are expected to benefit from rising global demand as countries diversify away from fossil fuels. China produces a majority share of global EVs and battery cells and continues to expand exports to Southeast Asia, Europe, and other energy-im-



port-dependent regions. Analysts note that rising oil prices often make electric vehicles and solar systems more economically attractive, further boosting demand for Chinese clean tech products. The United States, which has emphasized fossil fuel production and energy exports, is seen as pursuing a different energy strategy, creating what analysts describe as a "diverging energy path" between global powers. Countries such as Pakistan, Indonesia, and several European economies are increasingly investing in renewable infrastructure, including solar and battery storage systems, to reduce exposure to

volatile fuel markets. Early indicators suggest rising EV adoption and stronger demand for clean energy imports in these regions.

Experts say the current energy shock may accelerate long-term structural change rather than temporary demand spikes, as governments and industries reassess energy security strategies.

Overall, the crisis highlights how geopolitical instability is reshaping global energy economics, potentially reinforcing China's leadership in clean technology while pushing more countries toward electrification and renewable energy adoption.

US HINDI BOOK EVENT CANCELLED AMID IDEOLOGY ROW

MARYLAND

A planned Hindi-language library event in Maryland, US, was cancelled after controversy over alleged ideological affiliations and protests from multiple community groups. The event, titled "Many Languages, One Library: Celebrating Hindi," was organized to mark the addition of more than 160 Hindi-language books to a public library collection in Montgomery County. It was partly supported by the Balvihar Hindi School, which is linked to the Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America. However, a coalition of civil rights and advocacy groups objected to the involvement of

the organization, alleging that it promotes "Hindutva ideology" and could introduce political or exclusionary narratives into public institutions. The groups argued that cultural programming in public libraries should remain neutral and inclusive. Following the backlash, Montgomery County Public Libraries (MPCL) announced the cancellation of the event, stating that it would reconsider how to celebrate the Hindi-speaking community in a more inclusive and community-focused manner.

The decision sparked strong reactions from supporters of the VHPA, who accused opposing groups of spreading misinformation and expressed

concern over what they described as bias against Hindu cultural organizations. They maintained that the initiative was purely aimed at promoting language and literature, not political ideology. Community leaders and local political candidates also weighed in, with some emphasizing the importance of distinguishing between cultural celebration and ideological promotion, while others stressed the need to ensure public institutions remain free from perceived political influence.

The controversy highlights ongoing debates in the United States around cultural representation, ideological concerns.

Trump considered naming Gulf 'Gulf of Trump' once

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump revealed that he once seriously considered renaming the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of Trump," before deciding against the idea during internal discussions on geographic renaming initiatives.

Trump said the suggestion emerged while he was advancing a broader policy push to rename the body of water. He explained that the idea was part of a series of informal proposals linked to his effort to reshape federal geographic naming conventions under a national branding framework.

Trump noted that although the "Gulf of Trump" name was briefly discussed, he ultimately concluded it would not be a practical or appropriate choice. Instead, he moved forward with an alternative renaming, officially designating the area as the "Gulf of America" through an executive order issued earlier in his second term.

The order instructed federal agencies to update official documents, maps, and communications to reflect the new designation. It also emphasized the geographical significance of the Gulf, which borders several US states including Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. The renaming has sparked



Trump says he once considered renaming the Gulf of Mexico "Gulf of Trump" but dropped the idea after concluding it would not work well.

considerable political and diplomatic attention. Mexican officials have opposed the change, arguing that the term "Gulf of Mexico" has been in use for centuries and remains globally recognized in international geography and maritime references. Trump's comments highlight how naming decisions can carry symbolic political weight beyond administrative changes. Such actions often become part of broader debates about national identity, historical interpretation, and diplomatic sensitivity. While the "Gulf of Trump" proposal was ultimately abandoned, the revelation adds another layer to ongoing discussions surrounding the administration's approach to symbolic rebranding and its impact on international perceptions.

Russia offers Iran uranium transfer in peace plan

RUSSIA

Russia has said it is ready to take custody of Iran's enriched uranium as part of a potential peace framework linked to stalled negotiations with the United States, according to the Kremlin.

The proposal, originally put forward by Russian President Vladimir Putin, is aimed at supporting diplomatic efforts to resolve long-running tensions over Iran's nuclear program. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov confirmed that the offer remains valid and has been communicated to both US officials and regional stakeholders, although it has not yet been acted upon.

The development comes after recent diplomatic efforts involving the United States and Iran failed to produce a breakthrough. Talks held over the weekend reportedly ended without agreement, further delaying progress on a broader settlement to ease escalating tensions in the region.

Russia's plan involves transferring Iran's enriched uranium to Russian custody as a confidence-building mea-

sure, potentially reducing concerns over nuclear escalation while negotiations continue. Moscow has positioned itself as a mediator willing to support long-term stability and prevent further deterioration of the conflict.

The announcement follows renewed instability in the Middle East, where ongoing hostilities have already disrupted energy markets and international shipping routes. The situation has heightened global concern over supply chain security and regional economic stability.

Russia's diplomatic engagement underscores its continued role as a key external actor in Middle East negotiations, particularly in efforts involving Iran and the United States. Officials in Moscow reiterated their support for dialogue and emphasized that a negotiated settlement remains the preferred outcome.

Overall, the proposal highlights ongoing international attempts

to manage nuclear tensions through indirect mechanisms while broader peace talks remain stalled.

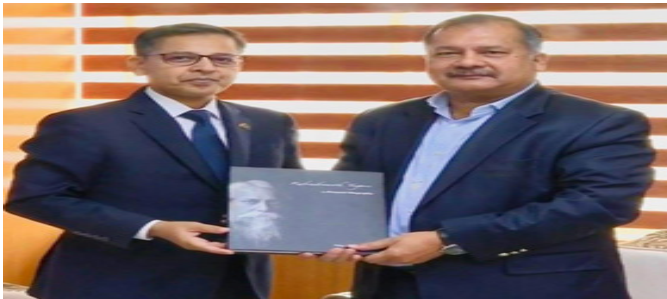


CROSS BORDER MEDIA

India, Bangladesh expand media exchange cooperation

DHAKA

India and Bangladesh have agreed to strengthen cooperation by enhancing exchange visits of media delegations, aiming to improve mutual understanding and promote closer ties between the two neighbouring countries. The agreement was reached during discussions between officials from both sides, focusing on expanding people-to-people contact and fostering better communication between media professionals. The initiative is intended to create op-



portunities for journalists to observe each other's media ecosystems, reporting practices, and institutional frameworks more closely. Under the arrangement, media delega-

tions from India and Bangladesh will undertake reciprocal visits, allowing journalists to engage with news organizations, government institutions, and cultural centres in both

countries. The exchanges are expected to help build trust, reduce misinformation, and encourage more balanced coverage of bilateral issues.

Officials noted that media cooperation plays an important role in strengthening diplomatic relations, particularly in a region where shared history, culture, and economic ties are significant. The initiative is also seen as part of broader efforts to deepen connectivity and collaboration across multiple sectors, including trade, education, and cultural exchange. The agreement reflects

ongoing engagement between the two countries to maintain stable and constructive relations. Both sides emphasized the importance of open communication channels and responsible journalism in shaping public perception and regional harmony. Overall, the media exchange initiative is expected to contribute to greater understanding between India and Bangladesh, while supporting long-term diplomatic and cultural cooperation through sustained interaction between journalists and media institutions in both nations.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	9		2	5		1	
	5			4		7	9
1		6	7		9	5	4
8	3		4	6		1	5
7	2		5	9		4	3
6	4	5		1	7	2	9
5	7			2		9	8
2				8	5	6	4
	6	8		7	4		

1	7	5	8	9	3	4	2	6
6	9	4	1	7	2	8	5	3
3	8	2	5	4	6	7	1	9
4	1	9	6	8	5	2	3	7
5	2	7	9	3	1	6	4	8
8	3	6	7	2	4	5	9	1
9	4	8	2	1	7	3	6	5
7	5	3	4	6	9	1	8	2
2	6	1	3	5	8	9	7	4

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle





QUICK READ

Government eases CAFE 2027 norms for automakers relief

New Delhi

The government has proposed softer CAFE 2027–2032 fuel efficiency norms, easing compliance pressure on automakers. The revised draft by the Ministry of Power and Bureau of Energy Efficiency replaces a rigid target system with a phased tightening approach. It reduces earlier advantages for heavier vehicles while introducing a flatter compliance curve through 2032. Super credits for electric and hybrid vehicles allow them to count as multiple units for emission compliance. Credit trading between manufacturers has also been permitted to provide additional flexibility. Small manufacturers producing fewer than 1,000 units annually are exempt from compliance obligations. Penalties remain significant for large automakers, making EV adoption and hybrid credits financially important mechanism.

India-UK build propulsion testing facility unmanned aviation

New Delhi

India and the United Kingdom have partnered to develop a propulsion testing facility for unmanned aviation under a collaboration between the Technology Development Board (TDB) and Gurugram-based Casey Aviation Private Limited, with UK-based ARC Aerosystems Ltd. The project focuses on hybrid propulsion and Jump Take-Off systems for unmanned aerial platforms, enabling short and near-vertical take-off capabilities. It will also establish North India's first dedicated test bench facility for rotorcraft propulsion validation, supporting startups and aerospace developers in advanced air mobility. The initiative aims to improve disaster response, logistics, medical evacuation and surveillance operations in remote regions while strengthening India's unmanned aviation ecosystem through international research cooperation and sustainable aviation innovation development efficiency.

Pi data centers to launch 3MW Mumbai facility in August

New Delhi

Pi Data Centers will launch a 3MW data centre in central Mumbai in August 2026, marking Phase I of its expansion into India's growing digital infrastructure market. Pi Data Centers is also planning a larger 23MW expansion for hyperscale, colocation, and cloud services, with advisory support from JLL. The new facility complements its existing 60MW capacity in Amaravati and an upcoming 3MW site in Hyderabad. The project targets rising demand from AI workloads, cloud adoption, and data localisation. India's data centre sector is expanding rapidly, driven by strong enterprise and hyperscaler demand. The Mumbai launch strengthens low-latency access, scalability, and infrastructure resilience across key markets in the coming years ahead.

Nifty, Sensex recover partially; Defence stocks outperform

The Nifty 50 and Sensex recovered from intraday lows as defence stocks rallied amid global geopolitical tensions.

MUMBAI

The Nifty 50 and Sensex recovered from deeper intraday losses on Monday, as last-hour buying helped trim declines, though overall sentiment remained cautious amid global geopolitical tensions.

Both benchmark indices ended lower, with the Nifty closing down nearly 208 points and the Sensex falling over 700 points. However, sharp recovery from day's lows indicated selective buying interest, particularly in defence-related stocks, which



outperformed broader markets.

Defence stocks attracted strong investor attention, supported by expectations of increased government spending and heightened geopolitical uncertainty in West Asia. This sectoral strength helped cushion overall market weakness during the final trading hours.

Broader markets also mirrored the recovery trend, although mid-cap and small-cap indices still ended in negative territory. Selling pressure was visible across multiple sectors, including auto, oil and gas, FMCG, and IT, reflecting widespread risk aversion among investors.

Within the benchmark indices, select banking and financial stocks provided support, while auto and consumption-related shares remained among the top laggards. Heavyweights such as ICICI Bank and Axis Bank helped limit deeper losses.

Analysts noted that key technical levels are likely to guide near-term market direction, with resistance expected around higher psychological levels and support zones emerging after recent consolidation.

Overall, while late-session buying offered temporary relief, market sentiment remained fragile, influenced by global uncertainty and fluctuating risk appetite. Investors are expected to remain cautious in the near term, closely tracking geopolitical developments and crude oil price movements.

Reliance Jio and Bank of Baroda introduce bob World Lite, enabling secure digital banking access for feature phone users across India.

Jio, Bank of Baroda launch 'bob World Lite' service

MUMBAI

Reliance Jio has partnered with Bank of Baroda to launch 'bob World Lite', a mobile banking solution designed specifically for feature phone users, marking a significant step toward digital inclusion in India. The initiative aims to bring essential banking services to millions who do not use smartphones, particularly in semi-urban and rural regions.

The 'bob World Lite' app has been introduced on the JioPhone Prima 4G device, making it one of the first comprehensive banking applications tailored for feature phones. Unlike traditional mobile banking apps that require smartphones, this platform is built with a lightweight design, low bandwidth



usage, and keypad-based navigation, ensuring ease of use for a wider population.

Through this application, users can access key banking services such as UPI payments, money transfers, bill payments, and mobile recharges. The app also supports simple onboarding, allowing both existing Bank of Baroda customers and new users from other banks to join

conveniently.

The collaboration leverages Jio's vast digital reach and Bank of Baroda's strong banking network to expand access to financial services. With millions of feature phone users still present across India, this initiative aligns with broader national efforts to enhance financial inclusion and promote digital payments adoption.

By integrating banking services directly into affordable devices, the partnership addresses a critical gap in accessibility. It demonstrates how technology and finance can work together to bridge the digital divide, enabling more people to participate in the formal financial ecosystem and benefit from secure, convenient banking solutions.

Mineral auctions expanded in India: G Kishan Reddy

NEW DELHI

India has significantly expanded its push to secure strategic resources by auctioning 46 critical mineral blocks and launching the seventh round of auctions with 19 additional blocks, according to statements from Union Minister G Kishan Reddy. The initiative is aimed at strengthening domestic supply chains for essential minerals used in clean energy, defence, and advanced manufacturing.

The move comes as part of India's broader strategy to reduce import dependence on critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earth elements, which are vital for batteries, electric vehicles, and high-tech industries. By accelerating exploration and commercial allocation of mineral-rich blocks, the government seeks to boost



self-reliance and attract private investment into the mining sector.

Officials highlighted that the ongoing auction process reflects a structured approach to unlocking India's geological potential. The inclusion of new blocks in the seventh round signals continued momentum in policy reforms designed to streamline approvals, improve transparency, and encourage participation from both domestic and glob-

al players.

The critical mineral push also aligns with India's energy transition goals, particularly the expansion of renewable energy capacity and electric mobility. Securing stable raw material supplies is considered essential for sustaining long-term industrial growth and technological advancement.

Industry observers note that the auction strategy could help position India as a more competitive player in the global minerals market, while also strengthening supply chain resilience amid geopolitical uncertainties.

Overall, the initiative reflects a strategic effort to integrate resource security with economic development, ensuring that India is better prepared for the demands of a rapidly evolving global energy and technology landscape.

KSE-100 index plunges after Iran port blockade shock

NEW DELHI

Pakistan's KSE-100 Index fell sharply after geopolitical tensions escalated following reports of a blockade on Iranian ports, triggering panic selling across markets.

The index dropped more than 5,000 points in intraday trade, sliding from its previous close near 167,000 levels to an early low of about 161,600 before partially recovering later in the session. Despite brief rebounds, volatility remained elevated as investors reacted to fast-changing developments in West Asia.

The sell-off followed heightened uncertainty after escalating conflict dynamics involving the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global oil shipping route. Concerns over potential disruption to energy flows intensified risk aversion in regional equities, including Pakistan's market.

Broader sentiment was also affected by fears that prolonged geopolitical instability could impact trade, inflation, and foreign investment inflows. Banking, energy, and industrial stocks witnessed the steepest declines, reflecting widespread pressure



Pakistan's KSE-100 index plunged over 5,000 points amid geopolitical tensions after reported Iranian port blockade, triggering sharp volatility and broad-based selling across markets.

across key sectors.

Earlier in the month, the KSE-100 had seen a strong rally driven by optimism over a temporary ceasefire, marking one of its biggest single-day gains in history. However, the latest reversal underscores the market's sensitivity to geopolitical headlines.

Analysts noted that continued uncertainty around global oil supply routes and diplomatic tensions is likely to keep volatility high in the near term. Investors are expected to remain cautious until clearer signals emerge regarding stability in the region and the status of key maritime routes.

Sagar Adani meets Qatar Central Bank Governor



DOHA

Sagar Adani of Adani Green Energy recently met Sheikh Bandar bin Mohammed bin Saud Al-Thani in Doha, reflecting a growing dialogue between major energy players and global financial institutions. Their conversation focused on evolving trends in global finance and investment, particularly at a time when markets are adjusting to shifts in sustainability priorities, geopolitical dynamics, and capital flows.

The meeting signals a broader alignment between infrastructure-driven companies and sovereign financial bodies. As the head of the Qatar Central Bank and a key figure connected to the Qatar Investment Authority, Sheikh Bandar represents significant financial influence, especially in long-term global investments. Engaging with such institutions allows companies like Adani Green to explore funding avenues, strategic partner-

ships, and expansion opportunities beyond domestic markets.

For Adani Green, which operates at the forefront of renewable energy development, discussions around global investment trends are especially relevant. The energy sector is undergoing a transformation, with increasing emphasis on clean energy financing, cross-border collaboration, and large-scale infrastructure deployment. Conversations like these often lay the groundwork for future cooperation, even if no immediate agreements are announced.

More broadly, the interaction underscores strengthening economic engagement between India and Qatar. It reflects how business leaders and financial policymakers are working together to navigate a rapidly changing economic landscape, where sustainability, capital access, and international partnerships play an increasingly central role.

EV STOCKS SURGE

EV stocks rally on Delhi petrol vehicle phase-out plan

NEW DELHI

Shares of electric vehicle companies rallied after the Delhi government released its draft Electric Vehicle Policy 2026–2030, which outlines an aggressive roadmap to phase out petrol and CNG-powered vehicles in key segments and accelerate the adoption of clean mobility solutions.

The policy proposes a gradual restriction on new fossil fuel vehicle registrations, including a plan to stop new petrol two-wheeler registrations from April 2028 and CNG three-wheelers from January 2027. It is designed to reduce air pollution in the capital by pushing a faster transition toward electric mo-



bility, especially in high-usage urban transport segments.

Market participants reacted positively to the announcement, with strong buying interest seen across EV-related stocks. Ather Energy surged over 5 percent during intraday trade, reflecting optimism about future demand for electric scooters. JBM Auto gained more than 2.5 percent,

supported by expectations of increased electric bus and fleet orders. Meanwhile, Olectra Greentech also advanced nearly 3 percent as investors priced in stronger long-term growth prospects.

The draft policy also includes fiscal incentives such as a full waiver of road tax for electric vehicles and a 50 percent concession for hybrid

vehicles priced up to ₹30 lakh. Instead of direct subsidies, the focus is on tax benefits and infrastructure expansion to encourage adoption.

The policy has been opened for public consultation until May 10, allowing stakeholders to provide feedback before finalization. Authorities have emphasized that the initiative aims to create a cleaner, more sustainable transport ecosystem while addressing rising urban pollution levels.

Overall, the announcement strengthened investor sentiment in the EV sector, highlighting expectations of accelerated policy-driven growth in India's electric mobility market.



Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated Rajasthan Royals by 57 runs at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad on Monday.

MUMBAI INDIANS Urged to Reduce Dependence on Bumrah

MUMBAI

Former South Africa captain Faf du Plessis has advised the Mumbai Indians to reduce their heavy reliance on star pacer Jasprit Bumrah if they hope to achieve consistency in the ongoing Indian Premier League season.

Despite being widely regarded as Mumbai's biggest bowling asset, Bumrah has struggled to make an impact this season, going wicketless in the first four matches. The

team, known for slow starts in previous editions, has already suffered three consecutive defeats after winning their opener, raising concerns about their overall balance.

Speaking after Mumbai's recent loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru, where they conceded a massive total of 240 runs, du Plessis emphasized that the issue lies beyond Bumrah's contributions. He pointed out that while Bumrah typically delivers economical spells, the rest of

the bowling unit has failed to contain runs, especially in high-scoring encounters.

Du Plessis suggested that Mumbai must rethink their strategy, ensuring Bumrah is used more effectively during crucial phases of the game rather than overburdening him. He also highlighted the importance of reassessing their approach in the Powerplay, possibly through tactical changes or by introducing fresh personnel to strengthen the attack.

Sports Ministry Pushes Dual-Squad Strategy for Hockey WC & Asian Games

NEW DELHI

The Union Sports Ministry has urged Hockey India to consider fielding two separate squads for the upcoming FIH Hockey World Cup and Asian Games, aiming to better manage player workload and maintain peak performance across both competitions.

The Hockey World Cup is scheduled to be held in Belgium and the Netherlands from August 15 to 30, followed closely by the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4. While the events do not overlap, the short gap between them has raised concerns over fatigue among key players in both the men's and women's teams.

Sources within the ministry believe India has sufficient depth to field two competitive sides, thereby reducing the burden on top players. Importantly, the Asian Games holds added significance as it serves as a direct qualifier for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, increasing the stakes for sending a full-strength squad.

"There should ideally be two teams, with the strongest



squad prioritised for the Asian Games," a ministry source indicated, underlining the importance of securing Olympic qualification early.

However, the proposal has reportedly met resistance from national team coaches, including men's head coach Craig Fulton and women's coach Sjoerd Marijne, who are said to prefer maintaining a single core group for both tournaments to ensure consistency and team cohesion.

Hockey India Secretary General Bholanath Singh stated that no final decision has been taken yet. "We will send the best teams for both events. All aspects, including player fitness and scheduling, are be-

ing evaluated," he said.

The debate highlights a recurring challenge in international sport — balancing player workload with competitive ambitions during tightly packed calendars. With no hockey competition scheduled at the upcoming Commonwealth Games, some pressure on the calendar has eased, but the proximity of the World Cup and Asian Games still poses a significant challenge.

As discussions continue, the final call will be crucial in shaping India's medal prospects and long-term Olympic ambitions.

Sonam Finishes Fifth as India End Shooting World Cup with One Gold

NEW DELHI

Sonam Maskar produced a spirited performance but finished fifth in the women's 10m air rifle final as India wrapped up their campaign at the ISSF Shooting World Cup in Granada with a solitary gold medal.

Sonam registered a score of 188.5 in the final, bowing out after the 18th shot in the 24-shot contest. Despite showing resilience and composure under pressure, she fell short of securing a podium finish in a highly competitive field.

World No. 1 Wang Zifei clinched the gold medal with an impressive score of 252.9, while Norway's Jeanette Hegg Duestad took silver with 252.4. China's Han Jiayu secured bronze with 231.5.

Sonam had earlier qualified for the final in seventh place with a score of 632.8 in the



qualification round. Fellow Indians Mehuli Ghosh and Shruti finished 44th and 63rd respectively in a field of 91 shooters.

In the final, Sonam began strongly with a 10.6 but followed it up with a 9.8, which proved costly in the long run. However, she showed remarkable grit, avoiding elimination multiple times, including a standout 10.9 on her 14th shot. Despite a solid finish with a 10.5, the deficit proved too large to overcome.

India's campaign saw participation in seven finals, but the only gold medal came on the

opening day through the 10m air pistol mixed team event, where Mukesh Nelavalli and Palak delivered a winning performance.

In other events, Niraj Kumar shot 589 in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions qualification, while Akhil Sheoran scored 588, finishing outside the qualification zone. Chain Singh had exited earlier in the competition. While the campaign yielded limited medals, India's shooters displayed promise and depth, reaching multiple finals and gaining valuable experience ahead of upcoming international events.



Manoj Tiwary Vows Protest if Shreyas Iyer Is Ignored for India's T20I Squad

MUMBAI

Former India cricketer Manoj Tiwary has strongly backed Shreyas Iyer for a return to India's T20I setup, even vowing to "protest and fight" if the in-form batter continues to be overlooked by selectors.

Tiwary's remarks come after Iyer's match-winning unbeaten 69 for Punjab Kings against Sunrisers Hyderabad, further extending his impressive run in the Indian Premier League 2026 season. Iyer has been in exceptional touch since IPL 2025, where he captained Punjab Kings to the final, showcasing consistency and composure under pressure.

Speaking during a cricket discussion, Tiwary praised Iyer's ability to anchor innings and finish games, stressing that such qualities are crucial for India in the shortest format. "If even after this he is not selected, we will go and protest and fight for him," Tiwary said, underlining his frustration with the selection decisions.

He also pointed out that with senior players like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma stepping away from T20 internationals, India needs dependable middle-order batters like Iyer who can control the game and guide the team in high-pressure tournaments.

Echoing similar sentiments, former India opener Virender Sehwag expressed surprise over Iyer's exclusion from the previous T20 World Cup squad. He highlighted Iyer's track record of delivering match-winning performances consistently, both in franchise cricket and domestic competitions.

"Shreyas has been finishing games regularly. It was surprising he wasn't picked for the World Cup despite leading his team to the IPL final," Sehwag noted, adding that he hopes the batter secures a place in India's squad for upcoming global events. Iyer's current form, marked by calculated aggression and maturity, has reignited the debate around team selection and the importance of rewarding consistent performers.



BCCI Issues Notice to Rajasthan Royals Official Over Alleged Protocol Breach

MUMBAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has initiated an investigation into an alleged anti-corruption protocol breach involving a Rajasthan Royals official during an Indian Premier League 2026 match.

According to reports, Rajasthan Royals team manager Romi Bhinder has been served a notice by the BCCI's Anti-Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) after he was seen using a mobile phone in the team dugout during a match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. The incident, which surfaced through videos on social media, quickly sparked widespread attention and raised concerns over adherence to league protocols.

As per established anti-corruption guidelines, while certain team staff may be permitted to carry electronic devices under specific conditions,

their usage during matches—especially from sensitive areas like the dugout—is strictly regulated. Bhinder has reportedly been given 48 hours to submit an explanation regarding the incident.

IPL Governing Council chairman Arun Dhimal confirmed that the matter has been referred to the ACSU for a detailed probe. The investigation aims to determine whether the phone usage violated any anti-corruption rules or posed a potential integrity risk.

Sources cited in reports suggest that Bhinder's possession of the phone may be linked to medical reasons. He has reportedly faced serious health issues in the past, including a lung condition, and is said to have been advised to limit physical exertion. This could explain why he kept the phone with him instead of frequently moving between the dugout and dressing room.

MI Stuck in Catch-Up Mode, Admits Hardik Pandya After Defeat

MUMBAI

Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya conceded that his team has been playing catch-up cricket instead of controlling matches, following their defeat to Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the ongoing Indian Premier League 2026 season.

Chasing a daunting 240/4, powered by half-centuries from Phil Salt, Virat Kohli and skipper Ra-



Captain calls for urgent rethink as MI struggle to dictate games consistently

jat Patidar, Mumbai Indians fell short at 222/5 despite a blistering unbeaten 71 off 31 balls by Sherfane Rutherford.

Reflecting on the loss, Pandya admitted that both the batting and bowling units have failed to assert dominance, leading to a pattern of reactive play. He pointed out that conceding such a massive total left the team with an uphill task from the outset.

"In the last few games, we've been catching up rather than leading. That's not helping us," Pandya said, acknowledging that the team's strategies have not yielded desired results. The defeat marked Mumbai's third loss of the season, pushing them down to eighth place on the points table.

Pandya emphasized the need for introspection, revealing that the team would use the short break to reassess tactics and explore new options. He hinted that both batting and bowling

combinations could be revisited to find a more effective balance.

A key area of concern, according to the skipper, is the Powerplay phase. Mumbai Indians have struggled to gain momentum early, whether setting or chasing targets, allowing opponents to dictate terms. "We need to find ways to build momentum in the Powerplay. Right now, we're trying to catch up even in those crucial overs," he noted.

Despite the defeat, Pandya found positives in Rutherford's explosive innings, which he believes adds depth and flexibility to the lineup. His performance, Pandya said, provides confidence to experiment with combinations going forward.

Meanwhile, RCB skipper Patidar credited the strong start provided by Kohli and Salt, which laid the foundation for a commanding total and ultimately secured a comprehensive win.

Top-order brilliance powers Bengaluru to commanding total in Wankhede run-fest clash

RCB Revel in Run-Fest to Outgun Mumbai Indians in High-Scoring Thriller

MUMBAI

Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru showcased their batting firepower in a high-scoring spectacle, defeating Mumbai Indians by 18 runs in the Indian Premier League 2026 at the Wankhede Stadium.

On a batting-friendly surface that offered little respite to bowlers, RCB piled up an imposing 240/4 — their fourth consecutive 200-plus total this season. The foundation was laid by a rare collective effort from their top three, with Phil Salt (78 off 36), Virat Kohli (50 off 38), and skipper Rajat Patidar (53 off 20) all registering contrasting yet impactful half-centuries.

Salt set the tone early with an explosive start, taking on the bowlers from the outset, while Kohli anchored the innings with composure. Patidar



then accelerated dramatically, nearly recording one of the fastest fifties in league history, falling just short of matching Yashasvi Jaiswal's record.

RCB's dominance was evident in their partnerships, particularly the 120-run opening stand and a rapid middle-phase surge that left MI

bowlers struggling. Multiple 20-run overs, including a brutal assault on the spinners, ensured the visitors maintained relentless pressure throughout the innings.

In reply, Mumbai Indians started positively, with Ryan Rickelton leading the charge and Rohit Sharma providing

support before retiring hurt due to a hamstring issue. However, the momentum shifted when leg-spinner Suyash Sharma struck twice in a crucial over, dismissing Rickelton and Tilak Varma.

Middle-overs control from Suyash and Krunal Pandya proved decisive, as they contained big hitters like Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya.

With the required rate climbing steeply, MI struggled to keep pace despite a valiant unbeaten 71 off 31 balls by Sherfane Rutherford.

Ultimately, RCB's disciplined bowling in the middle overs and their explosive top-order batting sealed a comprehensive win. The victory marked their third in four matches, while Mumbai Indians slumped to their third straight defeat, continuing their inconsistent start to the season.