



**EU Ministers Discuss
Russia Sanctions Amid
Rising Global Security
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capacity
targeted at
3 million tonnes**

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UK cuts ‘Long Arm of Tehran’

IRGC now a terrorist organisation in United Kingdom; supporting it and its proxies outlawed under new state threats law; will attract a jail-term up to 14 years.

LONDON

UK Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood announced on Monday that the United Kingdom will designate Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organisation.

The move, under the National Security (State Threats) Act, which came into force last week, will make it a criminal offence to support the IRGC in Britain and comes after years of political debate over whether the powerful Iranian military force should be banned.

“I have rapidly designated three groups so those working for them will be tracked down and put behind bars,” said Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood. “I will leave no stone unturned to keep our country safe.”

The UK Home Office said ministers had concluded that there was sufficient evidence to believe the IRGC had engaged in activities that were inimical to the UK’s national security.

Ministers also announced plans to proscribe the Islamic Movement of the Companions of the Right (IMCR), which has been linked to attacks on Jews in the UK, and the



GROUPS THAT FACE BRITISH IRE

■ The IRGC, which is already subject to British sanctions, has served as an elite military force loyal to the Islamic Republic’s Supreme Leader since being established after the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

■ The Islamic Movement of Companions of the Right (IMCR)

■ The volunteer corps of Russia’s GRU military intelligence agency.

Russian Federation Volunteer Corps (GRU), the international branch of Russian military intelligence.

The government said the decision was taken after a series of alleged Iranian threats on British soil, including an alleged plot to assassinate two

In a nutshell

▶ The UK officially moved to ban Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on July 13, 2026, targeting them under the new National Security (State Threats) Act.

▶ The action, announced by PM Keir Starmer, outlaws support for the group and follows a wave of IRGC-linked antisemitic attacks and assassination plots on British soil.

Under the legislation, the IRGC is officially designated as a threat to national security. Key details of the ban include:

1 TARGETED PROXIES: The government is concurrently banning the “Islamic Movement of Companions of the Right” (IMCR) and the volunteer corps of Russia’s GRU military intelligence.

2 CRIMINAL PENALTIES: Belonging to, promoting, or assisting these designated organizations carries severe penalties, with those found guilty of carrying out criminal acts on their behalf facing up to life imprisonment.

3 LEGISLATIVE ACTION: The fast-tracked legislation is expected to be cleared by the British Parliament this week.

journalists working for Iran International television and cyberattacks targeting British interests.

The Home Office said the Home Secretary had “carefully considered all the evidence” before arriving at the decision. “Having carefully considered all the evidence, the home secretary has concluded that there is sufficient basis to reasonably believe that each of these bodies is engaged in foreign power threat activity, and that each designation is necessary to protect the safety and interests of the United Kingdom,” the department said in a statement.

Cabinet expansion plan gains pace as DKS set for Delhi visit

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday said he would travel to Delhi once the Congress high command gives him an appointment, while indicating there was no delay from his side regarding the cabinet expansion.

Shivakumar said convening the Assembly remained his immediate priority and that he would visit the national capital after receiving a date from the party leadership.

“Look, I am convening the Assembly on the 6th (August 6), which is my priority,” Shivakumar told reporters in Bengaluru.

He added, “There is no delay from my side (for cabinet expansion). Whenever they (party high command) give me time, I will go. They will give me a date in another three or four days. Once they do, I will go and come back.”

The state currently has 14 ministers, including the Chief Minister, while the

permissible strength of ministers in Karnataka is 34. At present, 20 posts are lying vacant.

According to the Congress sources, hectic lobbying is on, especially by the senior MLAs, to get a ministerial position.

Responding to questions on the Cauvery water issue, he said MLAs from Mandya had met him seeking the release of water and that the state would take a decision after a meeting scheduled for July 15.

“Yes, the Mandya MLA, Srirangapatna MLA and the district minister met me. There is a meeting on the 15th,” he said.



Berths that await faces

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar’s Cabinet expansion is imminent, with 20 of the 34 ministerial berths currently vacant. The CM is traveling to New Delhi soon for final consultations with the Congress high command to finalise the new ministers ahead of the legislature session starting on August 6.

VACANCY STATUS: The state currently has a 14-member ministry, requiring the filling of 20 vacant positions to reach the constitutionally mandated strength.

TIMELINE: Final consultations with the AICC leadership, including Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, are scheduled. The swearing-in ceremony is expected to take place shortly after in Bengaluru.

SELECTION STRATEGY: The expansion aims to address regional imbalances, ensure proportionate caste representation (balancing Vokkaliga, Lingayat, and AHINDA groups), and accommodate female representation following criticism of the initial all-male cabinet.

NOTABLE FRONTRUNNERS: Intense lobbying is underway for the berths. Prominent leaders and MLCs in consideration for induction include Saleem Ahmed, Rizwan Arshad, Laxman Savadi, AS Ponnanna, and former minister Laxmi Hebbalkar.

QUICK READS

**Vietnam boat tragedy:
Bodies of 15 Indian
tourists flown home**

HANOI

The bodies of the 15 Indian tourists who were killed in a speed-boat accident off Vietnam’s Phu Quoc Island were flown to India on Monday, the Indian Embassy in Hanoi said. The bodies were sent in a Vietnam Airlines flight that departed from Ho Chi Minh City around 6 pm local time. The governments of the victims’ home states would coordinate with their families for the onward transportation of their mortal remains from Mumbai airport to their respective destinations, the mission said. Ten of the victims were from Tamil Nadu, three from Andhra Pradesh, and two from Kerala.

**PM Modi to launch India’s
first hydrogen-powered
train on July 17**

CHANDIGARH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Haryana, Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh on July 17 and inaugurate a host of projects, including the country’s first hydrogen-powered train from Jind. Modi will inaugurate the country’s first hydrogen-powered train from Jind. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, India is rapidly advancing towards modern technology and world-class infrastructure. The selection of Haryana as the launch site for the country’s first hydrogen-powered train reflects the state’s leading role in innovation and development. The train will operate between Jind and Sonipat. Powered entirely by hydrogen fuel, it will be an environmentally friendly mode of transport that will help reduce pollution while promoting sustainable and clean mobility.

**2020 Delhi riots: Court
convicts ex-AAP councillor**

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday convicted former Aam Aadmi Party councillor Tahir Hussain and four others for the sensational killing of Intelligence Bureau officer Ankit Sharma during the 2020 northeast Delhi riots. Additional Sessions Judge Praveen Singh was hearing the case against a total of 11 accused, including Hussain, and convicted five of them. The court found Hussain guilty under the charges of promoting enmity, rioting, assault, criminal force and murder. The case pertains to an FIR registered at Dayalpur police station on the complaint of Ravinder Kumar, father of Ankit Sharma.

Guv suspends KPSC chief, seeks SC probe into daughters’ appointments

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a first in the history of the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot has suspended KPSC Chairperson Shivashankarappa S Sahukar, pending an inquiry, over allegations that he facilitated the illegal appointment of his two daughters as Industrial Extension Officers through the KPSC recruitment process.

The Governor has recommended to the President of India to make a reference to the Supreme Court of India under Article 317(1) of the Constitution for an inquiry into the allegations.

“To further ensure a fair, impartial and uninfluenced investigation while protecting the integrity and credibility of KPSC, the Governor has placed the Chairman under suspension until further orders from the President’s office,” read a statement from Karnataka Lok Bhavan on July 13. Pending the outcome of the proceedings, Gehlot directed the senior-most member of the KPSC to discharge the chairman’s functions, stating that the suspension was necessary to ensure a fair, impartial and uninfluenced investigation.

**Governor cites conflict of interest,
reservation violations**

The Governor’s Secretariat stated that it had received complaints alleging that Sahukar failed to recuse himself or declare a conflict of interest while his daughters participated in the KPSC recruitment process.

Seven petitions were filed in the SC seeking a direction to the parties to resolve the matter through mediation; but both Hindu and Muslim parties rejected the proposal, stating they prefer a judicial verdict over an out-of-court settlement.

LUCKNOW

Efforts to resolve the lingering disputes pertaining to the Kashi Vishwanath-Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi, Shree Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah Mosque in Mathura and Jama Masjid-Harihar Temple in Sambhal through mediation in the special ‘Lok Adalat’ failed with the parties maintaining that they would prefer the courts to decide the is-

sues.

The Supreme Court launched the ‘Supreme Court Action for Mediated Adjudication and Disputes Harmonisation Across Nation’ (SAMADHAN SAMAROH) to encourage the concerned parties to reach an amicable settlement of pending cases through mediation ahead of a Special Lok Adalat scheduled to be held on August 21, 22

and 23.

According to sources, in the Mathura dispute, the Muslim litigants failed to turn up in the special ‘Lok Adalat’ presided over by ADJ 11 Surendra Prasad after which the court passed the order stating that the mediation efforts have failed. The Hindu petitioners were pres-

Trump: US will ‘guard’ Strait — for a price

Washington:

President Donald Trump on Monday said the US is “taking over” the Strait of Hormuz. Minutes later, Iran issued its own statement declaring the same strait closed, blaming recent US military action.

Speaking to “Fox & Friends”, he said, “We’re taking over the strait. They’ve got nothing.”

Trump said Iranian leaders had taken part in an 11-hour round of negotiations with the US, during which “everything was agreed to”, before Iran later began asking for changes. “We’re going to keep the strait, and we’ll probably run it. We’ll become the guardian of the strait. Maybe we’ll call it the guardian angel of the strait. And we should be reimbursed for that.”

The US had effectively been guarding the strait “for nothing” up to now, but that this would change, with wealthy nations expected to pay for the arrangement going forward. “We’re going to get paid for guarding it. A lot of money.”

WAR OF FAITHS

SC’s mediation push in Kashi, Mathura, Sambhal disputes fail



WHAT NEXT?

With the rejection of the Samadhan Samaroh 2026 mediation push, the Supreme Court is expected to resume regular hearings to examine the broader legal questions, primarily regarding the applicability of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.

ent in the court.

Seven petitions were filed in the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the parties to resolve the matter through mediation. The apex court had referred these petitions to the special ‘Lok Adalat’ for this purpose.

Similarly, in the Kashi Vishwanath-Gyanvapi Mosque dispute also, both Hindu and Muslim parties insisted that they would prefer the courts to decide the issue. The Lok Adalat had asked the parties to appear before it on Tuesday for mediation in the matter.

Mohammed Yaseen, a mosque official, said that the

Muslim side would not take part in the proceedings.

As many as 18 petitions in connection with the dispute were being heard in the Allahabad High Court.

In the Sambhal dispute involving the Jama Masjid and Harihar Temple, the Muslim litigants said that it was up to the courts to decide whether the disputed place was a temple or a mosque.

“Since the matter is concerned with the faith of the two communities, only a judicial verdict will be proper,” a mosque official said in Sambhal.

The Hindu side, however, said that they had not yet received any official intimation or notice from anywhere in this regard.

In all these disputes, the Hindu side claims that there existed temples on the sites which were demolished by



PROPOSED ROPEWAY PROJECTS

Madhugiri Fort	Tumakuru
Mallalli Falls	Kodagu
Anjanadri Hill	Koppal
Ballari Fort	Ballari
Nrupatunga Hill	Dharwad
Yadgir Fort	Yadgir
Mylara Lingeshwara Temple	Yadgir
Holalamma Temple	Gadag
Kalakaleshwara Temple	Gadag
Savadatti Yellamma Temple	Belagavi
Devaragudda Malatesha Temple	Haveri
Gokak Falls	Belagavi
Mullayanagiri Peak	Chikkamagaluru

geshwara Temple in Yadgir, Anjanadri Hill in Koppal and Devaragudda Malatesha Temple in Haveri. The Gokak project has received Finance Department nod and will be placed before the Cabinet for clearance.

“Ropeway projects are much more than tourism infrastructure. They represent a sustainable and eco-friendly mode of connectivity that will improve access to remote destinations and create new opportunities,” he said.

Breakdown of the disputes

GYANVAPI (VARANASI/KASHI):

The Hindu side claims a section of the Kashi Vishwanath temple was destroyed by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb to erect the mosque. The Muslim parties maintain it is a legitimate Waqf property that predates Aurangzeb’s reign.

SRI KRISHNA JANMABHOOMI (MATHURA)

Hindu petitioners seek the removal of the Shahi Idgah mosque from the claimed birthplace of Lord Krishna, challenging the validity of a 1968 compromise.

SHAHI JAMA MASJID (SAMBHAL)

Based on a civil court survey ordered in late 2024, Hindu petitioners claim the mosque was built over a demolished Harihar temple. The survey process previously triggered violent clashes in the region.

the Muslim invaders and were converted into mosques. The Muslim side, however, rejects the assertions and maintains that no demolition had taken place.

Four in five Malleswaram residents oppose Mysore Lamps convention centre: Survey

Survey urges green development, seeks public consultation before Mysore Lamps site decision by govt

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

More than four out of five residents surveyed in Malleswaram have opposed the Karnataka government's proposal to build a convention centre at the historic Mysore Lamps site, with many instead favouring its preservation as a public green space, according to a community survey conducted by Greenpeace India.

The survey, carried out under Greenpeace India's Bengaluru Rising campaign, covered 245 residents, of whom 81% described the proposed convention centre as a "stupid" idea. The findings were

released during Namma Hasi-ru Nadige, a community walk organised by Preeti-4Malleswaram and Greenpeace India on Sunday to highlight the importance of protecting the neighbour-hood's green spaces.

Residents, environmental-ists, urban planners and com-munity groups participated in the walk, carrying banners displaying the survey findings and calling for the Mysore Lamps premises to be pre-served as an urban green commons rather than devel-oped into another concrete structure.

Addressing participants, Preeti Sundarejan of Preeti-



4Malleswaram said the sur-vey reflected the community's clear preference for safe-guarding the site for future generations. "Real develop-ment means creating more public green spaces where communities, children and el-

ders can thrive," she said. Greenpeace India cam-paigner Amruta S.N. stressed that Bengaluru's liveability depends on protecting parks, trees and open spaces that support biodiversity, public health and climate resilience.

Kadu Malleshwaram Gale-rya Balaga president B.K. Sivaram described Mysore Lamps as an integral part of Malleswaram's heritage and urged the government to pre-serve the site as a public green space. He also suggest-ed renaming it after Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar.

The organisers said the sur-vey reflected growing public demand for development that prioritises ecological resto-ration and community well-being over further con-cretisation, and urged the Kar-nataka government to engage with residents before taking a final decision on the future of the site.

Fake lease promise leaves 30 cheated

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A major alleged house lease fraud has surfaced in Bengal-uru, with more than 30 people accusing a woman of cheating them out of lakhs of rupees by falsely promising to arrange houses on lease.

According to the complain-ants, the accused, identified as Syeda Asma Javeed, allegedly claimed she could secure res-idential properties on long-term lease and persuaded peo-ple to pay substantial amounts in advance. Trusting her as-surances, several victims handed over large sums, ex-pecting possession of the promised houses.

Victims alleged that they paid amounts ranging from a few lakhs to as much as ₹25 lakh to ₹30 lakh under the purported lease agreements. Many said the money repre-sented their lifetime savings or funds borrowed from relatives and lenders, leaving them in severe financial dis-tress after the alleged fraud came to light.

Several complainants claimed they were shown buildings and other properties during negotiations, giving them confidence that the trans-actions were genuine. Howev-er, they later realised the promised houses were never handed over and that they had allegedly been deceived.

The alleged scam is believed to have affected over 30 peo-ple across the city. Victims also claimed that members of the transgender community were among those who invest-ed their savings after believing the accused's assurances.

On learning that they had allegedly been cheated, the victims assembled outside Hebbal Police Station, de-



Victims claim they were duped after paying up to ₹30 lakh for promised lease homes

Police begin probe

Based on complaints received from the victims, Hebbal Police have registered a case against the accused and launched an investiga-tion. Officials are ver-ifying financial transac-tions, property-related documents and other evidence to determine the scale of the alleged fraud and identify any additional victims or accomplices. Further ac-tion will be taken based on the findings of the investigation.

manding immediate action against the accused and re-covery of their money. Many expressed anguish, stating that years of savings had been wiped out and appealed to the authorities to ensure justice.

Police have begun collect-ing statements from the com-plainants and are examining documents, payment records and other evidence submitted by the victims. Investigators are also trying to establish the total amount allegedly col-lected and whether additional people may have fallen prey to the same modus operandi.

QUICK READ

Devanga association invites applications for talent awards

CH News, Bengaluru

The Karnataka State Devanga Employees' As-sociation, Sampangira-managar, has invited ap-plications for its Talent Awards for students from the Devanga community who scored over 90% in SSLC, CBSE, ICSE and II PU examinations during the 2025-26 academic year. Graduates, post-graduates, university gold medalists and candi-dates selected through Central and State Public Service Commissions are also eligible. Applica-tions, along with mark sheets, photographs, caste certificate and per-sonal details, must be submitted by August 15.

For details, contact 91645 75575, 98446 09722 or 98453 11813, the association said.

Absconding accused in 18 criminal cases arrested

CH News, Bengaluru

The KG Halli police have arrested a 60-year-old habitual offender who had been absconding and repeatedly failed to ap-pear before the court. The accused, identified as Nawaz Tothal Nawaz, is allegedly involved in 18 criminal cases. Police said eight proclamation or-ders, seven non-bailable warrants and three court summonses had been is-sued against him. A spe-cial operation was launched to trace and ap-prehend the accused for evading court proceed-ings. Following his arrest, police registered another case against him for vio-lating court orders. He has been produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody.

Rowdy sheeter's birthday with BJP MLA draws police scrutiny

CH News, Bengaluru

A video showing a Ben-galuru rowdy sheeter cel-ebrating his birthday with Yelahanka BJP MLA S.R. Vishwanath has gone vi-ral, prompting police to verify the circumstances surrounding the event. The footage purportedly shows the MLA felicitat-ing Dasa alias "King Mak-er Dasa", a rowdy sheeter registered at Chikkajala police station, during a celebration in Nelaman-gala. The incident has at-tracted attention as Dasa was previously at the centre of controversy af-ter a Bengaluru Police In-spector was suspended last year for attending his birthday celebrations. Po-lice said they are gather-ing details and will initiate appropriate action based on their findings.

Information Commission retrieves CCTV footage through FSL in landmark RTI case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a first-of-its-kind case, the Karnataka Information Com-mission has ensured that CCTV footage from two po-lice stations was retrieved through forensic examination and supplied to an RTI ap-plicant, while also recommend-ing disciplinary action against a senior police officer for pro-cedural lapses.

The case arose after M.R. Nagaraju of Malavalli sought CCTV footage recorded at the Malavalli Town and Rural po-lice stations between October 10, 2021, and March 31, 2022. His request was reject-ed by police authorities citing provisions of the Right to In-formation Act.

During the hearing, the Commission found that the then Deputy Superintendent of Police had failed to transfer the RTI application to the competent public information authorities under Section 6(3)

of the Act and had not in-formed the applicant. It also noted that the first appeal had not been heard.

State Information Commis-sioner Rudranna Hartikote directed that the hard disks from both police stations be sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for exam-ination. The available footage relating to the applicant's vis-it and questioning was re-trieved, copied to a CD and furnished along with the fo-rensic report, while footage involving others was masked.

An inquiry later found that the RTI application had not been transferred as required. Based on the findings, the Commission directed the Bal-lari Superintendent of Police to initiate disciplinary pro-ceedings against the then DySP, now serving as Addi-tional SP in Ballari. It also warned the concerned police inspectors against ignoring RTI applications in future.

MUZRAI DEPARTMENT ISSUES SOPS TO STRENGTHEN TEMPLE SECURITY, TRANSPARENCY

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government's Muzrai Department has is-sued a comprehensive Stan-dard Operating Procedure (SOP) aimed at strengthening security, safety and financial accountability in temples un-der its administration.

The SOP mandates that all notified temples assess their security requirements and adopt appropriate measures based on local conditions. A key provision requires the in-stallation of high-resolution CCTV cameras with night vision and digital recording capabilities at temples wher-ever necessary. The surveil-lance systems must be linked to a central server through a web-based platform, enabling authorised officials to monitor live footage remotely and securely store recordings.

To enhance transparency in temple administration, the de-partment has directed temples

to digitise hundi collections, online donations and financial records. QR codes linked to the temple's official bank ac-count and IFSC code must be displayed prominently to fa-cilitate digital donations by devotees.

The guidelines also empha-sise safeguarding temple property, valuables, donation boxes and devotees by adopt-ing modern surveillance tech-nology and improved mon-itoring systems.

According to the depart-ment, the SOP has been framed in view of the grow-ing number of devotees visit-ing temples and the need to ensure better security, effi-cient administration and greater financial accountabil-ity. The measures are expect-ed to improve transparency in temple management while strengthening the protection of temple assets and ensuring a safer environment for de-votees and staff.

Minorities Commission urges MPs, MLAs to seek repeal of Wakf Amendment Act

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Minor-ities Commission has appealed to Members of Parliament and legislators to press the Centre for the repeal of the Wakf Amendment Act, stating that it has received numerous com-plaints from the Muslim com-munity over the legislation.

In a memorandum dated July 13, Commission Chair-man Nur Ahmed said the state government has no authority to revoke a law enacted by Parliament and, therefore, the Commission is directly urging elected representatives to take up the issue with the Union government.

The memorandum alleges

that the amended law curtails the autonomy of Wakf institu-tions by increasing govern-ment control, diluting the powers of State Wakf Boards, and permitting non-Muslim members in Wakf administra-tion. It also raises concerns over changes to property management, dispute resolu-tion, and the transfer of key powers to district authorities.

The Commission contends that these provisions under-mine constitutional safe-guards under Articles 25 and 26, which guarantee freedom to manage religious affairs, and has called for the Act to be withdrawn in the interest of protecting the rights of the Muslim community.

Supreme Court verdict puts spotlight on Bengaluru's broken footpaths



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Greenpeace India, under its Bengaluru Rising campaign, on Monday marked broken, missing and encroached foot-paths in Rajarajeshwari Nagar with yellow "crime scene" tape carrying the message, "Constitutional Right Denied Here," days after the Supreme Court declared the right to walk safely on footpaths a Fundamental Right.

The symbolic campaign sought to highlight the city's poor pedestrian infrastructure and urge civic authorities to implement the landmark June 19 judgment, which held that safe access to footpaths flows from Articles 19(1)(d) and 21 of the Constitution. The court also ruled that wherever roads exist, civic agencies have a

corresponding duty to provide and maintain safe footpaths.

According to Greenpeace India, Bengaluru has more than 14,000 km of roads, but a 2025 assessment found only 2.9 km of usable footpaths across 1,671 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads. Pedes-trians frequently encounter broken pavements, missing stretches, construction debris and encroachments, forcing them onto busy roads. The or-ganisation noted that pedest-rians accounted for nearly 28% of the city's road fatalities in 2025, with 218 deaths record-ed by the end of November.

Campaigner Amruta S.N. said footpaths are public com-mons and the backbone of an equitable transport system, stressing that every Metro or bus journey begins and ends

with a walk. She said safe, continuous and accessible footpaths are essential for en-couraging public transport and active mobility.

Resident Satish Karnath said Bengaluru's pleasant weather makes walking a practical op-tion, provided pedestrian infra-structure is safe and conven-ient. Greenpeace India and local residents urged the Greater Bengaluru Authority and other civic agencies to re-claim footpaths, remove all forms of obstruction and im-plement inclusive street de-signs that prioritise pedestri-ans while creating regulated spaces for street vendors. They said reclaiming footpaths is essen-tial to protecting citizens' con-stitutional rights and building a more liveable, inclusive and climate-resilient city.

Newlywed dies after consuming poison in Nelamangala

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 31-year-old newlywed wom-an died after allegedly consum-ing poison following a dis-agreement with her husband in Nelamangala, police said. The incident has shocked both fam-ilies as the couple had married recently after a love relation-ship. The deceased, identified as Tanuja from Beerrammana-halli in Gauribidanur, had mar-ried Ravindra, a resident of Mayasandra in Yelahanka, at Dharmasthala recently. Police said Ravindra had sought time to inform his family about the marriage and had arranged a rented house for Tanuja at Sin-gapore Layout in Yelahanka.

On the day of the incident, Tanuja allegedly called Ravin-dra asking him to come home immediately. When he told her he was at work and would visit the next morning, she switched off her phone.

Later that night, she report-edly messaged him that she had consumed poison and was at Basavanahalli in Nelamangala. Ravindra rushed there and shifted her to Nelamangala Government Hospital, where she died despite treatment.

EASE OF WALKING

Footpath drive clears nearly 500 km of encroachments across Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Au-thority (GBA) has undertaken one of the city's largest foot-path encroachment clearance drives, removing obstructions along nearly 500 kilometres of pedestrian pathways across Bengaluru in just ten days.

According to official data, the enforcement drive was carried out between July 1 and July 10, during which au-thorities cleared encroach-ments covering 490.55 km of footpaths spread across the five city corporation zones. The initiative forms part of the GBA's ongoing efforts to improve pedestrian mobility, reclaim public spaces and en-



sure safer, obstruction-free walkways.

The drive covered the Central, South, North, East and West zones, with civic offi-cials removing illegal struc-tures, unauthorised exten-sions, roadside obstructions

and other encroachments that had narrowed or blocked foot-paths. The objective was to restore walkways for pedest-rians and improve accessibility across the city.

Among all the zones, the West Zone recorded the high-

est extent of the clearance op-eration, accounting for 122.62 km of footpaths. The North Zone followed with 115.35 km, while the South Zone witnessed clearance along 94.01 km of walkways.

In the East Zone, officials removed encroachments cov-ering 88.42 km, while the Central Zone accounted for 70.15 km of cleared footpaths.

The large-scale operation reflects the civic body's re-newed focus on improving walkability in Bengaluru, where pedestrians often face challenges due to encroached, damaged or obstructed foot-paths. By reclaiming public walkways, authorities aim to provide safer passage for

schoolchildren, senior citi-zens, commuters and persons with disabilities while reduc-ing the need for pedestrians to walk on busy roads.

Officials said the drive will continue in phases across the city to ensure that footpaths remain accessible and free from fresh encroachments. They also stressed the impor-tance of sustained monitoring and enforcement to prevent illegal occupation of public spaces after the clearance op-erations.

Urban planners have long highlighted the need for unin-terrupted pedestrian infra-structure as a key component of sustainable urban mobility. The latest drive is expected to

complement broader initia-tives aimed at encouraging walking, improving first- and last-mile connectivity to pub-lic transport and creating more pedestrian-friendly neighbourhoods.

Footpath encroachment clearance (July 1-10)
West Zone: 122.62 km
North Zone: 115.35 km
South Zone: 94.01 km
East Zone: 88.42 km
Central Zone: 70.15 km
Total footpaths cleared: 490.55 km.

B'luru tops India in household income: PRICE-Tata report

PRICE-Tata Sons study ranks Bengaluru highest in household income, Chandigarh tops spending nationwide

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru has emerged as India's highest-income city, with households earning an average of ₹28 lakh annually, according to a new report by Mumbai-based People's Research on India's Consumer Economy (PRICE) in collaboration with Tata Sons. The findings reinforce the city's position as the country's leading technology and economic hub, driven by high-paying jobs, a thriving services sector and a robust business ecosystem.

The report, titled "The Many Urban Indias," places Bengaluru ahead of all other Indian cities in terms of average household income. Chandigarh ranks second with an estimated annual household income of ₹26 lakh.

While Bengaluru leads the country in earnings, Chandigarh has been identified as India's highest-spending city. The report estimates that an average household in Chandigarh spends nearly ₹19 lakh



annually, reflecting the city's strong purchasing power and affluent consumer profile.

The study draws on PRICE's nationally representative assessment of the financial behaviour of households across India's 100 largest cities.

It provides estimates for 2025-26 and projects trends in household income, expendi-

ture, savings, borrowing and wealth creation up to 2030-31, offering a comprehensive assessment of the financial behaviour of households across India's 100 largest cities.

According to the report, Chandigarh is followed by Thiruvananthapuram, Vadodara, Tiruppur and Surat in household expenditure. Interestingly, the study notes that the country's five highest-spending cities do not include any of India's six largest metropolitan centres.

On the income front, however, Bengaluru remains unmatched. The report identifies Chandigarh as a "frontier city" with the highest household income in its category, but notes that Bengaluru continues to lead nationally by a comfortable margin.

The findings underline Bengaluru's continued economic resilience, supported by its information technology sector, startup ecosystem, financial services industry and expanding employment opportunities. The city's ability to generate higher household incomes also reflects sustained demand for skilled professionals and strong growth across knowledge-based industries.

The report concludes that Bengaluru's top ranking in household income highlights its role as one of India's most prosperous urban centres and underscores the city's growing influence on the country's consumer economy, investment landscape and long-term urban growth trajectory.



19,000+ TREES FELLED IN BENGALURU IN 3 YEARS

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru has lost more than 19,000 trees over the past three years as large-scale infrastructure projects and approved development activities continue to reshape the city, according to official figures. The data has renewed concerns over the impact of rapid urbanisation on the city's already shrinking green cover.

Records available with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) show that 19,268 trees were felled between 2023-24 and June 2026-27. The removals were carried out for a combination of public infrastructure projects, roadside clearances and permissions granted for private properties.

Major public works, including the expansion of Namma Metro, road widening, flyover construction and other civic infrastructure projects, accounted for a substantial share of the tree loss. Official data indicates that 7,683 trees were cut specifically to facilitate public infrastructure projects across the city.

Besides government projects, a significant number of

Metro, road and flyover projects accelerate tree loss, raising fresh environmental concerns across Bengaluru

trees were also removed from roadsides after obtaining statutory permissions. The data shows that 737 roadside trees were felled in 2023-24, followed by 1,043 in 2024-25, 527 in 2025-26, and 161 during the first three months of 2026-27, taking the total to 2,468.

Tree removal from private properties was even higher during the same period. Authorities permitted the felling of 1,278 trees in 2023-24, 3,725 in 2024-25, 2,028 in 2025-26, and 871 up to June 2026, bringing the total to 7,902 trees.

The figures indicate that tree removal has remained a recurring feature of Bengaluru's rapid expansion, with transport and civic infrastructure projects emerging as the principal drivers. While authorities maintain that permis-

sions are granted in accordance with existing regulations and often accompanied by compensatory plantation measures, environmentalists have repeatedly stressed that mature trees cannot be replaced overnight.

Urban planners point out that Bengaluru's trees play a crucial role in reducing heat, improving air quality, supporting biodiversity and aiding groundwater recharge. They argue that preserving existing trees wherever possible should be integrated into project planning to minimise ecological damage.

With several major Metro corridors, road improvement projects and civic works still under implementation, the latest figures highlight the continuing challenge of balancing infrastructure development with environmental conservation. Experts say sustained afforestation, careful project design and stronger protection of mature trees will be essential to preserving Bengaluru's identity as India's Garden City while meeting its growing urban needs.

QUICK READ

BAMUL contractor booked for stealing dairy products

CH News, Bengaluru

A contractor associated with Bengaluru Milk Union Ltd (BAMUL) has been booked for allegedly stealing dairy products worth ₹4,460 from the union's dispatch dock at Dairy Circle in Aduodi. According to a complaint filed by BAMUL Chief Security Officer M. Suresh, the accused, D.S. Raghu (34), is a contractor and owner-driver of distribution vehicles who has been associated with the union for nearly a decade. During a routine inspection on June 26, officials found 10 packets each of 200-gram paneer and 500-gram ghee missing. CCTV footage allegedly showed Raghu taking the products without authorisation. Aduodi police have registered a theft case under Section 303 of the BNS and are investigating whether similar thefts occurred earlier.



Priyank Kharge defends KPSC chief's suspension

CH News, Bengaluru Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday defended the suspension of Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) President Shivshankar Sahukar, saying anyone facing corruption allegations should voluntarily step down and cooperate with the investigation. Reacting to the suspension, Kharge said it was ethical for any officer, public servant or institutional head under suspicion to resign from office, assist the probe fully and return only after proving innocence. Referring to reports that other KPSC members had sought Sahukar's removal, Kharge said it was inappropriate for a person facing serious allegations to insist on continuing in office. He maintained that accountability and transparency must be upheld in public institutions.

Govt schools accused of withholding transfer certificates from students

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Private school managements have alleged that several government schools across Karnataka are refusing to issue Transfer Certificates (TCs) to students seeking admission to private institutions, prompting demands for immediate government intervention.

The Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka claimed that nearly 1.5 lakh students who enrolled in private unaided schools this academic year are yet to receive their TCs from their previous government schools.

According to the association, some government school headmasters are allegedly withholding TCs to maintain higher student enrolment figures in official records. General Secretary D. Shashi Kumar said schools have no au-

thority to deny students their transfer certificates and described the practice as unfair to children and their parents.

He pointed out that if private unaided schools delay issuing TCs due to pending fees, the Department of School Education promptly issues notices against them. "The same standards should apply to government schools as well," he said.

The association claimed it has received complaints from different districts, indicating that the issue is widespread. Many of the affected students have shifted to private schools for Classes 6 and 8, largely because nearby government schools do not offer those grades.

General Secretary of the Organisation for Unaided Recognised Schools, Prabhakar Urs, said parents have every right to choose the school

they believe is best for their children. Refusing to issue TCs, he said, amounts to denying students their educational rights and creates unnecessary hardship during the admission process.

The two private school bodies have jointly appealed to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to intervene and direct the Department of School Education to ensure immediate issuance of TCs by government schools.

They have also sought an inquiry into the alleged withholding of certificates and recommended introducing an online facility through the Student Achievement Tracking System (SATS) to enable students to obtain Transfer Certificates digitally, reducing delays and ensuring a transparent, hassle-free process for families seeking school transfers.

NIA arrests two more absconders in Praveen Nettaru murder case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two more absconding accused in the 2022 murder of BJP Yuva Morcha leader Praveen Nettaru, taking the total number of arrests in the case to 24. Three accused are still on the run, with efforts continuing to trace and apprehend them.

The two arrested men, Abdul Nasir P alias Nasir and Naushad, were apprehended on Saturday from Kochi in Kerala and Hosur in Tamil Nadu during a coordinated operation based on intelligence shared by the Andhra Pradesh Police.

According to the NIA, both men had earlier been chargesheeted for allegedly

harbouring the main assailants involved in Nettaru's murder. The agency said they had knowingly provided shelter to the accused after the killing.

The case has been registered under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The NIA Special Court in Bengaluru had earlier issued lookout circulars and open-dated arrest warrants against both accused. The agency had also announced a reward of ₹4 lakh each for information leading to their arrest.

Praveen Nettaru, a district executive committee member of the BJP Yuva Morcha in Dakshina Kannada, was hacked to death on July 26, 2022, in Bellare village of

Sullia taluk. The NIA has alleged that the murder was carried out by cadres and members of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) on the instructions of accused Mustafa Paichar.

The central agency took over the investigation on August 4, 2022, and has since filed multiple charge sheets against those allegedly involved in the conspiracy and execution of the murder. The latest arrests come after the two accused remained absconding for nearly four years. The NIA said the investigation is continuing and efforts are underway to arrest the remaining absconding accused and complete the legal proceedings in the high-profile case.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A resident of Sobha Aspire apartments in Nagasandra has approached the Karnataka Lokayukta, alleging irregularities in the registration of an amended Deed of Declaration (DoD) and accusing the Peenya Sub-Registrar of failing to act on his complaint.

Apartment owner Subhash S. Shetty alleged that the amended DoD, registered on March 3, 2023, was executed without valid authorisation, the consent of all apartment owners or supporting documents. Claiming fraud, forgery and illegal registration, he sought an inquiry into the matter.

Acting on his complaint, the Rajajinagar District Registrar directed the Peenya Sub-Registrar on January 27, 2026, to examine the allegations and submit a detailed report. The sub-registrar issued notices to the apartment association seeking explanations and records, including a notice under Section 83 of the Registration Act directing the association president to appear and produce the

disputed document.

However, the District Registrar later observed that merely issuing notices was insufficient and instructed the sub-registrar to initiate action under Sections 82 and 83 of the Registration Act, wherever applicable.

In a report submitted on May 5, the Peenya Sub-Registrar maintained that the registration department's role is confined to registering documents presented under the Registration Act and Rules. It said questions relating to compliance with the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972, and the authority to execute the amended DoD fall within the jurisdiction of a competent civil court.

Unhappy with the response, Shetty approached the Karnataka Lokayukta, where his complaint, registered on May 21, is under preliminary scrutiny. He contended that the builder still owns the land as it has not been transferred to the association and warned that unauthorised amendments could trigger future disputes over common areas and open spaces.



Constituency development is my priority, says MLA ST Somashekar

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Yeshwantpur MLA ST Somashekar on Thursday said his primary focus is to bring government projects to the constituency and ensure they reach residents effectively.

Speaking after launching drainage improvement and road asphalt works at Classic County Layout in Kengal Hanumanthaiyya ward, he said infrastructure development would remain a priority across the constituency. Somashekar said white-topping roads would provide long-lasting solutions and benefit both residents and motorists. He added that Cauvery water supply would soon be extended to Beedi Colony and Arunachal layouts.

He said efforts would be made to asphalt roads in all layouts of Kengal Hanumanthaiyya ward and improve civic amenities. He also announced that ₹7 crore has already been released for railway bridge works in Kengeri suburb and the project would begin soon.

GBA potential candidate Chethan Gowda praised Somashekar for addressing public grievances promptly and working towards improving facilities such as drinking water supply and park development. He said residents considered it a matter of pride to have Somashekar as their representative.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY DRIVE

Encroachments blamed for 25% of road deaths

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Illegal encroachments on footpaths are contributing to nearly one-fourth of Bengaluru's annual road fatalities, prompting the City Police Commissioner to urge the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to launch an immediate citywide clearance drive.

In a letter addressed to the GBA Commissioner, the Police Commissioner highlighted that around 25 per cent of those killed in road accidents every year are pedestrians. He warned that widespread occu-



pation of footpaths by vendors, illegal structures and civic installations is forcing people to walk on busy carriageways, exposing them to speeding traffic and significantly increasing the risk of

fatal accidents.

The Commissioner noted that many pedestrians have also suffered permanent disabilities in crashes after being compelled to use the road instead of designated walkways. He stressed that restoring footpaths for public use is essential to improving road safety across the city.

According to the letter, encroachments have substantially reduced the effective width of several roads, affecting not only pedestrian movement but also vehicle flow. The narrowing of roads has resulted

in frequent traffic congestion, particularly during peak hours, causing inconvenience to commuters and increasing travel time.

The Police Commissioner also expressed concern that blocked and narrowed roads are delaying emergency response services. Ambulances, fire engines and other emergency vehicles often struggle to reach accident sites and hospitals quickly because of congestion caused by encroachments.

To address the issue, the Commissioner has recom-

mended a series of measures, including the removal of all illegal encroachments from footpaths, relocation of civic utility installations obstructing pedestrian movement, widening of footpaths wherever required and public awareness campaigns to discourage encroachment of walkways.

The communication further points out that the Greater Bengaluru Authority has identified 152 arterial roads and 265 sub-arterial roads across the city, many of which are affected by encroachments

that hinder both pedestrian safety and traffic management.

Seeking coordinated enforcement, the Police Commissioner has urged the GBA to work closely with the Traffic Police to conduct large-scale clearance drives. He assured the civic body that the Police Department would provide full support during the operations, emphasising that reclaiming footpaths is critical to reducing accidents, easing congestion and ensuring safer mobility for all road users in Bengaluru.

QUICK READ

Rabid monkey captured after attacking 12 people in Hulsoor

Bidar
Forest department officials captured a monkey that had created panic in Hulsoor town after attacking and injuring several people over two days. The monkey reportedly bit 12 people, including a 13-year-old boy and a 65-year-old woman, causing injuries that required medical treatment. Some construction workers were also injured while trying to escape from the animal. Officials said the monkey had separated from its group and became aggressive. It has been taken for treatment at the Basavakalyan veterinary hospital and will be released at a safe location following further instructions. Tahsildar Shivanand Metre and forest officials oversaw the operation.

Agriculture awards invite farmers for online applications

GADAG
Farmers' efforts and dedication to agriculture are being recognized through Agriculture Awards at state, district, and taluk levels in Karnataka. The Agriculture Department has invited online applications for the 2026-27 crop competition through the K-Kisan portal. Farmers can apply using their FID with required documents through citizen login or farmer contact centres. Crops selected in Gadag include jowar, cowpea, and groundnut during monsoon season. Applications are free and the last date is August 30, 2026. Eligible farmers should submit documents including identity proof, photograph, caste certificate if applicable and bank details. More information is available at offices.

Rashtrabhakta Balaga demands apology from MLA Gopalakrishna

Jadhav praised Eshwarappa's grassroots politics and questioned Gopalakrishna's contribution to nurturing political workers and leaders

SHIVAMOGGA

The Rashtrabhakta Balaga has strongly condemned the alleged derogatory remarks made by MLA Belur Gopalakrishna against former Deputy Chief Minister K.S. Eshwarappa and demanded that the legislator issue a public apology immediately.

Addressing a press conference organised by the group, leader Mohan Jadhav alleged that Gopalakrishna had made personal remarks against Eshwarappa for political gains. He said Eshwarappa continues to be a committed BJP leader and that questioning his contribution, nationalism and political journey was unacceptable.

Jadhav said Eshwarappa's political career was built through grassroots-level work



and that he had nurtured thousands of party workers by providing them opportunities in local bodies and various public positions. He questioned Gopalakrishna's contribution to developing political workers and leaders.

He also defended Eshwarappa's opposition to the Sharavathi Pump House project, stating that the former minister had not opposed the project for political reasons but had raised concerns over

its possible impact. He claimed that people of the Sagar constituency had also supported the opposition to the project.

Another group leader, Vishwas, said Gopalakrishna should clarify whether he stands with the people of his constituency or supports the proposed project. He alleged that people had doubts regarding the possible benefits associated with the multi-thousand-crore project.

Women group warns protest outside MLA residence

Members of a women's group affiliated with a nationalist organisation warned that they would lay siege to the residence of MLA Belur Gopalakrishna if he did not apologise within 15 days. Group representative Vishwas alleged that the MLA's remarks were politically motivated and said such statements are unacceptable.

He added that Belur, who had grown under the influence of former Chief Minister S. Bangarappa, should avoid making such comments. The group warned of further action if the issue was not resolved.

The group also criticised Gopalakrishna for allegedly referring to Maruthi Gurugi as "someone claiming to be a seer". The leaders said religious figures command respect among thousands of devotees and should not be insulted. The Rashtrabhakta Balaga leaders urged the MLA to maintain restraint while making public state-

ments and avoid comments that could hurt sentiments. They said Eshwarappa would continue to raise issues concerning public interest in the future. The press conference was attended by Rashtrabhakta Balaga members including Lakshmi Shankar Naik, Raju, Shankar Naik, Seethalakshmi, Kempamma Suresh, Pramod and others.

Boost exports to strengthen the rupee: Jain

MYSURU

Stressing the need to enhance India's export potential, Mysore Industries Association General Secretary Suresh Kumar Jain on Monday said that the value of the Indian rupee against the US dollar can improve only if the country reduces imports and significantly increases exports.

Speaking after inaugurating a six-day Export Management Training Programme here, he said that every increase in imports weakens the rupee against the dollar, while higher exports help strengthen the nation's economy and currency.

Referring to imports from China, Jain said the government does not provide subsidies for imported products such as Chinese solar panels and other foreign-made goods. Instead, consumers should give preference to high-quality products manufactured locally and encourage exports from India. The people to be aware of concerns regarding the quality and reliability of certain Chinese products.

Raghu Kautilya accuses Siddaramaiah of betraying backward classes

SHIVAMOGGA

Karnataka Legislative Council member and BJP Backward Classes Morcha State President Raghu Kautilya on Monday accused former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of betraying backward communities by failing to implement the caste census report based on the social and educational survey.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP office in Shivamogga, Kautilya alleged that Siddaramaiah, who had spoken extensively about the welfare of backward classes since 2013, had failed to show commitment through concrete action. He claimed that the delay in implementing the re-

port had caused injustice to Other Backward Classes (OBC) communities.

Kautilya alleged that around ₹600 crore of public money was spent on the survey process but the report was not effectively utilised. He said the government had failed to fulfil the expectations of backward communities despite conducting the survey in the name of social justice. He said the responsibility of conducting the caste census was initially assigned to the Kantharaj Commission in 2014 and later transferred to the Jayaprakash Hegde Commission. However, even after a decade, the social and educational survey report remained pending, he alleged.

Kautilya alleged Rs 600 crore spent on caste survey was wasted, accusing government of delaying report despite a decade-long social justice exercise

Comparing Karnataka's delay with other states, Kautilya said Bihar and Telangana completed similar exercises within shorter timeframes, while Karnataka's process continued for years without delivering results. He accused Siddaramaiah of misleading backward communities by delaying the release of the findings. Kautilya also criticised the decision taken during the previous government to conduct another social and educa-

tional survey under the leadership of Madhusudan R. Naik. He said the survey was announced with a promise that technology would help complete the process within three months, but the report was still not made public.

He demanded that the present Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar-led government immediately release the Madhusudan R. Naik committee report. He warned that backward class communities would launch a strong protest if the government failed to make the report public. BJP District President N.K. Jagadeesh, former MLC R.K. Siddaramanna and other party leaders were present at the press conference.

96.73% enumeration forms distributed across in Kalaburagi

KALABURAGI

As part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, 96.73 per cent of enumeration forms have been distributed across Kalaburagi district, Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer Ikram Shariff said.

The Deputy Commissioner said Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have been carrying out door-to-door visits to distribute the forms and collect necessary details from voters. He urged citizens to cooperate with officials during the verification process to ensure that eligible voters are included in the electoral roll.

The SIR exercise aims to update and verify voter details by collecting information from existing electors. In Kalaburagi district, the process

was launched with officials visiting households and distributing enumeration forms as part of the voter verification drive.

Officials have been instructed to ensure that no eligible voter is left out of the electoral list and that the revision process is completed smoothly within the stipulated timeline. The district administration has also appealed to residents to provide accurate information and complete the required forms.

The SIR process includes distribution of forms, collection of filled applications and subsequent uploading of details online. Election authorities across Karnataka have been monitoring the progress of the exercise, with door-to-door distribution being emphasised to ensure wider participation.

Police launch safety measures for Shivamogga city bus services

SHIVAMOGGA

The Shivamogga District Police has taken important steps to improve passenger safety and ensure smoother city bus services in the district. A meeting with city bus owners, drivers and conductors was conducted on July 12 at the District DAR Hall under the guidance of Shivamogga Superintendent of Police Nikhil, IPS.

Shivamogga Sub-Divisional Deputy Superintendent of Police Sanjeev Kumar participated in the meeting and listened to the issues, concerns and suggestions of bus operators. He issued several instructions aimed at improving public safety and maintaining disciplined traffic movement.

During the meeting, bus owners were directed to install CCTV cameras in all city buses on a mandatory basis. Drivers were instructed to strictly follow traffic rules



and operate vehicles carefully to prevent accidents and ensure passenger safety.

Police officials advised drivers and conductors to avoid stopping buses at random locations when passengers signal for boarding or getting down. They were instructed to use only designated bus stops to ensure organised traffic flow and reduce inconvenience to commuters.

The police department also introduced awareness measures to help passengers report any issues related to city bus services. Posters containing details of Shivamogga

District Police's "Public Eye" platform, Shivamogga Traffic Police helpline and emergency helpline number 112 were displayed inside city buses.

Officials said passengers can use these platforms to report complaints regarding misbehaviour by drivers or conductors, use of mobile phones while driving, playing loud or inappropriate songs, and other concerns affecting passenger safety.

The meeting was attended by Shivamogga Traffic Circle Inspector Devaraj, PSI Swapna, city bus owners, drivers and conductors.

Rajesh said Kambala reflects coastal Karnataka's heritage and should gain wider recognition across Karnataka and the country

MP WADIYAR PLAYING POLITICS OVER KAMBALA: CONGRESS LEADERS

MYSURU

Mysuru City District Congress Committee Spokesperson S. Rajesh on Monday accused Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar of attempting to politicise the inclusion of Kambala in the Mysuru Dasara celebrations and alleged that the BJP was following a policy of ignoring the rich cultural traditions of Tulu Nadu while trying to create unnecessary controversy over the issue.

Addressing a press conference at the MDJA here, Rajesh said there was no threat whatsoever to the sanctity or grandeur of the world-famous Mysuru Dasara festival because of Kambala. Dasara has always been a platform to showcase art, cul-

ture and traditions from different parts of the country. Dance forms such as Kathak and Kuchipudi, and several folk arts from various States have been presented during Dasara over the years. When diverse cultural traditions are welcomed, why should Kambala be singled out? he questioned.

Describing Kambala as much more than a sport, Rajesh said it represents the unique cultural identity of the coastal region and is an important part of Karnataka's heritage. Kambala is an exciting rural sporting tradition that deserves to be introduced to people across the State and the country. It should not remain confined to the coastal districts alone. Even the Karnataka High Court has recognised the cultural signifi-

cance of Kambala.

Rajesh said the Nadahabba Dasara festival provides an ideal platform to showcase the skill, courage and sporting spirit of Kambala jockeys before lakhs of visitors from across India and abroad. The traditional buffalo race promotes harmony, coexistence and sportsmanship, cutting across caste, religion and regional differences, and has no adverse impact on the environment. The erstwhile Mysore ruler Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar had encouraged Kambala during his reign. What was once confined to a single water body has now grown into a globally recognised rural sporting event. It deserves encouragement rather than opposition.

Alleging political motives behind the criticism, Rajesh

claimed that the BJP was unable to digest the successful conduct of the Mysuru Dasara celebrations under the Congress government since 2023. He said the decision of the government led by Chief Minister D.K.

Shivakumar to include Kambala in this year's Dasara would further enhance the festival's appeal and popularity.

The attempts by Yaduveer and others to oppose Kambala are politically motivated.

The BJP is trying to divide the people of Karnataka by creating differences between the coastal and Mysuru regions in the name of language, culture and sports. Such divisive politics is condemnable and against the spirit of Karnataka's unity, Rajesh asserted.

A MELODY FALLS SILENT

Mysuru Bids a Tearful Farewell to 'Janakamma'

MYSURU

Mysuru woke up to a morning wrapped in silence and sorrow on Sunday as thousands of grieving admirers gathered to bid an emotional farewell to legendary playback singer S. Janaki, fondly called Janakamma.

The city that had embraced the iconic singer as one of its own witnessed scenes of profound grief as people from every walk of life queued up patiently for hours to pay their last respects.

The serpentine queue stretched far beyond the ven-



ue where her mortal remains were kept at the sprawling Maharaja College Ground in the heart of city.

Young and old, homemakers, students, musicians, gov-

ernment employees, au-to-rickshaw drivers, artists and retired citizens stood shoulder to shoulder, united by one emotion—the loss of a voice that had become the

soundtrack of their lives.

Many arrived carrying flowers, while others came with folded hands and moist eyes. Some softly hummed her immortal songs as they waited for one final glimpse of the woman whose magical voice had comforted, celebrated and accompanied generations through every emotion of life.

For more than five decades, S. Janaki captivated millions with her soulful renditions in over 30 languages. Her songs transcended linguistic boundaries, touching hearts with unmatched emotion and ef-

fortless versatility. Though the singer has departed, her melodies continue to echo in countless homes, temples, celebrations and memories.

The atmosphere was heavy with emotion as elderly fans recalled listening to her songs on transistor radios, while younger admirers spoke of discovering her timeless classics through their parents and digital platforms. Every face in the queue carried a personal memory linked to one of her unforgettable melodies.

"I have been listening to Janakamma since my school days," said 72-year-old R.

Krishnamurthy, his voice choked with emotion. "There wasn't a single stage in my life without her songs. She sang our joys, our heartbreaks and our prayers. It feels as though a member of our own family has left us."

Homemaker Lakshmamma, who had travelled from a nearby village, wiped away tears as she said, "Whenever I was happy, I listened to her songs. Whenever I was sad, I listened to the same voice for comfort. Today I came only to say thank you."

College student Nithin reflected the feelings of the

younger generation. "I may belong to a different era, but her voice never grew old. Music changes, but Janakamma's songs remain eternal. She will continue to inspire every aspiring singer." Classical musician Vidushi Shobha described the singer as "an institution in herself." "Her effortless expression, flawless pronunciation and ability to breathe life into every lyric can never be replicated. We have lost not merely a singer, but an era." As the final journey began, cries of "Janakamma Amar Rahe" and heartfelt prayers filled the air.



QUICK READ

SIR awareness drive held at Mundagoda market

KARWAR

The district administration, District Sweep Committee and Taluk Sweep Committee conducted a voter list awareness programme at Mundagoda market under Special Intensive Revision work. Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer T.Y. Dasanakoppa inaugurated the event and explained SIR details to traders and citizens. He said census forms were distributed to households and requested people to submit completed forms to booth level officers by July 29. Taluk officials, NRLM staff, and residents attended the programme and supported efforts to improve voter records through accurate information collection and public participation across Mundagoda city area.

Voter list revision progress reviewed in K.R. Pete

MANDYA

A progress review meeting on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voters list was held in K.R. Pete under the Deputy Commissioner's leadership. Officials reviewed house-to-house visits, information collection, application disposal, and steps to ensure voter list accuracy. The Deputy Commissioner directed BLOs, supervisors, and officials to follow Election Commission guidelines and complete the work on time with transparency. He warned against negligence during the revision process. The meeting was attended by election officers, Tahsildar, BLO supervisors, and other officials who discussed improving the quality of voter records across the constituency for better public election services.

Mandya Lok Adalat settles many pending cases

MANDYA

The National Lok Adalat held in Mandya district, settled 2068 pending court cases through compromise methods. Various matters including civil disputes, property issues, money recovery suits, motor vehicle cases, criminal cases, and cheque bounce cases were taken up for settlement. Around 5347 eligible cases were considered from 86685 pending cases and 204238 pre-litigation cases were also addressed. The achievement was possible due to cooperation from judges, lawyers, and parties involved in the process. District Legal Services Authority officials said the Lok Adalat helped provide faster justice.

Health officials ordered to strengthen NHM programs

Officials urged to strengthen TB-free campaign, ensure early detection, treatment, awareness, and implement AIDS prevention initiatives through coordination

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu directed health department officials to ensure effective implementation of National Health Mission programs across the district and provide better medical services to the public. He gave the instructions during a review meeting held at the District Collector's office on Monday.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed several health schemes including family welfare, tuberculosis control, AIDS prevention, immunization drives, measles-rubella elimination, tobacco control and programs against mosquito-borne diseases. He asked officials from different departments to work together and achieve the targets set under the National Health Mission Programs. He instructed gynecologists to receive refresher training for



LTO surgeries so women can receive safer and quality treatment.

Officials were told to strengthen the 100-day TB-free campaign through early detection and proper treatment of patients. They were also asked to create awareness about tuberculosis symptoms and prevention. The Commissioner directed effective implementation of Mission AIDS Suraksha Abhiyan with support from various departments to spread awareness about AIDS prevention.

Under the national immunization and MR programs, officials should create awareness among teachers, students and parents about HPV vaccination and measles-rubella prevention. Health institutions and schools must inform people about disease symptoms and the importance of vaccination. The Deputy Commissioner stressed strict enforcement of the COTPA Act to control tobacco use across the district. He said regular raids should continue near schools, colleges, hospitals and other

public places. From April to June 2026, officials conducted 71 raids and registered 882 cases. He ordered strict action against violations and suggested awareness programs for students about tobacco and drug abuse.

He also directed departments to coordinate efforts to prevent dengue and malaria. Officials were asked to hold regular meetings and organize awareness campaigns during National Dengue Day and Anti-Dengue Month activities. People should be informed about keeping surroundings clean and avoiding water stagnation to stop mosquito breeding. The meeting was attended by Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Atik Pasha, District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Mahesh Kumar, program officers and other health staff. The administration said continued cooperation among departments will help improve healthcare.



Tourism officials asked to launch safe water activities

KARWAR

Deputy Commissioner K. Lakshmi Priya has directed Tourism Department officials to take steps for introducing water sports activities at selected beaches and lake areas after a Jetana survey report identified them as suitable locations. The report highlighted Nadibhag, Kagal (Bada), Kumta Head Port, Dhareshwar, Apsarakonda, Kasaragod and Honnavar Aresami Lake areas for possible adventure activities. The Deputy Commissioner was speaking at the District Tourism Development Committee meeting held at her office on Monday. She said water adventure sports should be conducted with maximum safety measures in areas approved by the survey report. She also instructed officials to begin the tender process for noise-free water activities using electric vehicles or solar energy at Kasaragod beach. She added that a well-equipped watch tower should be built at Kasaragod beach and discussions should be held with the Forest Department about transferring the Eco Park management to the Tourism Department. The decision on management and revenue sharing will be dis-

Deputy Commissioner directed safe water sports, eco-friendly activities, beach improvements, watch tower construction, and tourism development initiatives at Kasaragod and Karwar beaches

cussed separately with concerned authorities. The Commissioner also asked officials to improve the children's park on Karwar beach and make it more attractive for visitors.

The meeting discussed requests from operators in Gokarna and Murudeshwar seeking permission for additional water sports activities to attract more tourists. Officials were asked to obtain guidance from the Tourism Department headquarters before taking further decisions. Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Dileesh Shashi, Tourism Department Deputy Director Mangalagauri Bhat, Urban Development Cell Project Director Zaheer Abbas and others attended the meeting. The initiative aims to promote tourism through safe and eco-friendly water sports while creating new opportunities for visitors.

Ramesh Patil Solpur appointed Bukari to organise JD(S) at grassroots, strengthen Chitaguppa taluk party through coordination and efforts

New JDS president appointed in Bidar district

BIDAR

Former Minister and senior JDS leader Bandeppa Khashempur distributed the appointment letter to Syed Farman Ul Haq Bukari, who was appointed as the new Chitaguppa taluk president of the party in Bidar district. The letter issued by JDS district president Ramesh Patil Solpur was handed over during a programme held at Khashempur's residence in Old City, Bidar on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, Khashempur said party workers and leaders must work together to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots

level. He said the newly appointed president should take responsibility and work with taluk members to improve party activities. He expressed confidence that Bukari would perform his duties effectively and contribute to expanding the party's presence in the region.

The appointment order issued by Ramesh Patil Solpur stated that Bukari was selected to effectively organise the Karnataka Pradesh Janata Dal party from the grassroots level. It also wished him success and hoped that he would strengthen the Janata Dal Secular Party in Chitaguppa taluk through dedicated efforts and

coordination with members.

Several party leaders and activists attended the programme, including Ramesh Patil Solpur, Ashok Kodage, Sajjad Saheb, Shantaling Savalagi, Basavaraj Patil Harurageri, Santosh Rasure, Lalita Karanje, Japed Kadyal, Abid Ali, Nizam Hakim and Laikh Barod.

They congratulated Bukari on his new role and encouraged him to work for the growth of the party in Chitaguppa taluk.

The event reflected the party's efforts to strengthen its organisational structure through active leadership and committed workers.

Power delay slows Maradur lake filling project work

HUNSUR

The Maradur Lift Irrigation Project, aimed at filling 49 lakes in Hunsur taluk, has been completed, but the project is facing delays due to pending electricity supply from the Chescom department. Satya, President of Satya MAS Foundation, has urged officials to provide power connections immediately and begin the lake filling process without further delay. He said the project was completed after a contract worth more than Rs 85 crore was given to Mandya-based contractor Star Chandru. The initiative will help fill several lakes across villages and provide much-needed water support, especially during drought conditions.

Mayasandra festival dispute clarified by senior leader

MAGADI

Villagers of Mayasandra village in Magadi taluk are facing confusion over the Pattaladamma Devi and Kalikanteshwari festival idols, but senior leader Singri Gowda clarified that there is no objection to holding the annual fair. He said the issue was not about stopping the festival but about objections to notices issued by the Tahsildar and police department.

The dispute began after requests were made regarding permission for worshipping the Pattaladamma Devi festival idol of Mayasandra. Singri Gowda said villagers had agreed and allowed the celebration without unnecessary involvement of officials. However, he claimed that later demands were made to hand over the Kalagattamma Devi idol from Yellapur instead of the temple idol in

Mayasandra, creating more confusion. He questioned how an idol belonging to another village could be given away and said such demands were causing unnecessary tension.

He alleged that some people were giving incorrect information to officials and trying to create misunderstandings among villagers. Gowda said nobody had prevented worship and all communities were allowed to participate peacefully. He also rejected personal allegations against him, explaining that he was born in Yellapur in 1967, and had served the village through elected positions with public support.

Temple priest Anand said the festival had been conducted for decades with the aim of unity and welfare of villagers. He said preparations were made peacefully through community support and money was collected through lot-



tery tickets to avoid financial burden on anyone. He accused some people of filing complaints with authorities instead of discussing concerns directly with villagers.

Residents requested officials to help resolve the matter through discussion and allow the fair to continue peacefully. They said village festivals should bring happiness and harmony rather than create conflicts. Around 900 villagers attended the gather-

ing, including former Gram Panchayat president Chikka Bairayya, Sharadamma, Mohan, Dinesh, Mariyanna, Narayanappa, Ganga Hanumayya, Belurayya, Nanjagowda, Anjanappa, Chennappa and Huchegowda were present during the protest. Villagers appealed for cooperation from everyone and urged authorities to take steps that maintain peace and protect the traditional celebrations of the village deity.

NEW-POLICE-PERSONNEL

Passing out parade marks police training completion

UDUPI

The passing out parade of the 14th batch of Armed Reserve Police Constables from the Temporary Police Training School, Udupi, was held at the DAR Police Ground, Chandu Maidan. The event marked the completion of ten months of rigorous training for the new police personnel.

Inspector General of Police, Mangaluru West Zone, Amit Singh, attended the program as the chief guest and received the guard of honour. He congratulated the trainees and advised them to dedicate



their lives to public service. He said the day would remain memorable as the trainees began their journey in the police department.

Addressing the gathering,

Amit Singh said the police force is a disciplined organization and every officer must maintain discipline throughout their career. He advised the new constables to protect

law and order during difficult situations and perform their responsibilities according to the values of the Constitution. He urged them to respect the uniform and serve people with honesty, courage and professionalism. He also advised the trainees to remain physically and mentally strong by following regular exercise routines and managing stress effectively. Officers should maintain good relationships with senior and junior staff, develop leadership skills and create a balance between personal and professional responsibilities. He

said sincere work, proper behaviour and dedication would help them earn appreciation from the public. A total of 99 trainees, including 13 ex-servicemen, participated in the graduation parade after successfully completing their training. The trainees included candidates with educational qualifications ranging from high school to postgraduate degrees. Winners of various competitions conducted during the training period were honoured with prizes.

District Superintendent of Police Hiram Shankar welcomed the gathering.

Hunsur Math promotes education and social harmony

HUNSUR

Sri Nataraja Swamy of Gavadagere Gurulingajangam Math said maths play an important role in building an educated society. He spoke at the SNS Saugandha programme organized by the math dormitory and highlighted the importance of literacy and cultural activities for children. He said knowledge is the greatest wealth and schools should encourage programmes that bring out student talents. Karnataka Bank Manager Raghavendra praised the math's efforts in providing housing, education

and support to poor children across the country. He assured that necessary facilities would be provided by the bank for humanitarian work.

Taluk Journalists' Association President H.R. Krishnakumar said the math receives support from devotees and guides students with blessings and values. Administrator Shilpa Manjunath explained that hostel teachers work to identify hidden talents of students while promoting equality, harmony and learning. She said entertainment is also given importance along with education. Student Nihar Gaali gave introductory remarks.

QUICK READ

Venkatesh to tour Chitradurga for child rights

CHITRADURGA

Karnataka State Child Rights Protection Commission member Venkatesh will visit Chitradurga district on July 17 to review child welfare activities across the region. He will tour hostels, gram panchayats, anganwadis, sports hostels, children's help-line, district child protection unit and schools from 9:30 am to 6 pm. District Child Protection Officer Veena said the visit aims to understand issues affecting children and ensure proper support systems are available. Officials will work with the commission member during the inspection and provide necessary information about child care programmes and facilities in the district to improve protection and safety for children.

Karnataka Open University invites online admissions for courses

HAVERI

Karamuvia Regional Centre, Haveri, has invited online applications for UGC-approved courses for the July session of the 2026-27 academic year. Admissions are open for bachelor's, master's, diploma, certificate, and PG certificate programmes. The centre is offering fee benefits for eligible groups, including women students with BPL cards, defence personnel, auto and cab drivers' families, and certain employees. Free admission is available for children who lost parents due to COVID, transgender students, and visually impaired students. Interested candidates can contact the regional centre for more information about courses, eligibility, and admission procedures.

Free Gastro Camp Announced At District Hospital

CHITRADURGA

A free gastro camp will be held at the District Hospital on July 14 from 10 am to 1 pm in Room No. 15. Specialists from Davangere S.S. Narayana Health Hospital will provide medical consultations. Gastroenterologist and liver expert Dr. D.K. Ashwin will examine patients. People suffering from stomach pain, indigestion, vomiting, constipation, diarrhea, acidity, blood in stool, jaundice, or other related problems can use this service. District officials urged citizens to attend the camp and receive treatment. For details, contact the hospital authorities through the provided phone numbers during the camp for better public health support.

Modern facilities will shape future students: Governor

Governor said NEP 2020 promotes multidisciplinary learning, while new library facilities enhance digital resources, research and student opportunities

TUMAKURU

Karnataka Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot said modern educational infrastructure is essential for the overall development of students and plays a key role in promoting knowledge, research and innovation. He was speaking after inaugurating new facilities at Tumakuru University's Jnanasiri Campus in Bidarakatte on Monday.

The Governor inaugurated the newly built Centralized Kitchen, Library Building and Indoor Sports Complex and performed the foundation ceremony for Academic Block-II. He said these facilities would create a better learning environment for students, teachers and researchers while improving the university's position at national and international levels.

Recalling his earlier visits to Tumakuru University, Gehlot appreciated the institution's development activities. He said government support along with contributions from



philanthropic organizations and CSR initiatives had helped the university grow. He highlighted the role of the Incubation Centre, established through CSR support, in encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship and research among students. He also appreciated green campus and biodiversity conservation efforts.

The Governor said the National Education Policy 2020 has changed the education system into a multidisciplinary and student-focused model. He added that the newly launched projects sup-

port the goals of creating skilled, independent and innovative youth for the future. Describing the library as the heart of a university, he said the new facility with digital resources, e-books and research materials would provide better opportunities for learning.

He also said the Centralized Kitchen shows the university's focus on student health and nutrition. Healthy food helps improve concentration, learning ability and academic performance, he added. Speaking about sports, Gehlot said the Indoor Sports Com-

plex would encourage students to develop discipline, teamwork, leadership and confidence.

He expressed hope that the facility would help create athletes who can compete at national and international levels.

The Governor said Academic Block-II would support future generations with modern laboratories, smart classrooms, research facilities and innovation centres.

He encouraged students to learn emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Biotechnology and Digital Innovation to contribute to India's progress.

Union Minister of State V. Somanna, Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G.

Parameshwara, Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Venkateshwaralu, legislators, university officials, faculty members, students and other dignitaries attended the event.

The new infrastructure is expected to strengthen academic growth and provide students with improved opportunities.

M.T. Ramesh highlights role of dedicated party workers

KASARAGOD

BJP Kerala State General Secretary M.T. Ramesh said that the Bharatiya Janata Party has emerged as a major political force in the country due to the continuous efforts, dedication and commitment of its workers.

Addressing the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Kasaragod Organisational Mandal Training Campaign held at Sri Mahadeva Sabha Bhavan, Siribagilu Pulkkur, Ramesh said that committed party workers form the backbone of the organisation.

He said that the growth and expansion of the party across the country was possible because of the hard work of thousands of workers who have been actively involved in strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level. He emphasised that party workers play a crucial role in spreading the party's ideology, principles and service activities among the public.



Puttu Anjinappa aims for MLA seat with public support

SHIDLAGHATTA

Congress leader Puttu Anjinappa expressed confidence that he will become an MLA in the future with the support and blessings of the people. He said his main goal is public service and assured party workers that he would continue working for the welfare of citizens.

Anjinappa was speaking at a meeting of BLA-2 members and Congress workers during a special voter list revision campaign held at his farmhouse in Ajjakadirenahalli village under Doddakehalli Gram Panchayat limits. He encouraged party workers to actively participate in the voter awareness program and strengthen the connection with people at the grassroots level.

Comparing his political journey with Tamil Nadu TVK leader Vijay, Anjinappa said he also hopes to grow through the support of the public. He alleged that the voter list revision process was being misused to remove eligible voters and weaken democratic rights. He said efforts to take away voting rights of deserving communities must be opposed.

He stated that the Congress party is committed to protecting democracy, constitutional rights and the interests of the people. AICC trainer Vasudeva Murthy said protecting citizens' voting rights is an im-

Anjinappa compared his journey with Vijay's, alleging voter list misuse and urging protection of eligible citizens' voting rights

portant responsibility of the Congress party. He claimed that awareness programs are being conducted across the country to inform people about the importance of their votes.

Murthy said the party has no objection to the voter list revision process but opposed any attempt to remove the names of poor and minority voters unfairly. He urged people to remain alert and protect their democratic rights.

More than 10,000 Congress workers and supporters participated in a large workers' conference organized at Ajjakadirenahalli village. Food arrangements were made for thousands of participants during the event. Several people from the BJP and JD(S) parties joined the Congress during the program.

AICC trainers Abdul Munir and Vasudeva Murthy, Chikkaballapura district leaders Manjunath Reddy, K. M. Bhimesh, Srinivasaramaiah, Subhramani, Raj Kumar, Poo-saganadoddi Manjunath, Gowdanahalli Manjunath and other leaders attended the conference. The gathering highlighted the party's efforts to strengthen its organization among local people.

Farmers block GBA township survey, attack officials' cars over land acquisition row

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA

Opposition to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) township project's land acquisition process intensified on Monday after farmers and women residents of Mandalahalli village in Ramanagara district stopped officials who arrived to conduct a Joint Measurement (JMC) and survey. The protesting farmers, who have been opposing the proposed GBA township for more than 490 days, refused to allow the survey team to proceed. They alleged that the authorities were attempting to carry out the land measurement despite strong objections from local residents.

The situation turned tense when officials, accompanied by police personnel, arrived at the village to conduct the survey. Despite repeated requests from officials to allow the process, farmers remained firm in their opposition.

During the confrontation, some women protesters allegedly surrounded the officials' vehicles and attacked them with brooms. Stones and bricks were also allegedly thrown, causing damage to



two cars, with their windshields reportedly broken.

Farmers had earlier warned that they would not permit the JMC survey under any circumstances and cautioned officials against forcibly entering their land. They maintained that the township project would affect their livelihoods and demanded that the government reconsider the land acquisition process.

Members of the Byramangala-Kanchugaranahalli Bhoomi Hitarakshana Sangha alleged that some outsiders were involved in the stone-pelting incident. They said the protest was against the project and not against government officials personally.

Police officials present at the spot attempted to bring

the situation under control and appealed to protesters not to obstruct government officials from carrying out their duties. They also advised residents against taking the law into their own hands.

Following the incident, Ramanagara Superintendent of Police Srinivas Gowda visited the village and held discussions with farmers to assess the situation. Additional SP Ramachandraiah and Deputy Superintendent of Police Girish also reached the spot and gathered details from officials. The area continued to remain tense, with police maintaining a presence to prevent any further escalation. Further action is expected after reviewing the incident and statements from officials and protesters.

Banjara Samaj calls for movement against dowry

CHINCHOLI

Taluk Banjara Samaj President Ramshetty Pawar on Monday called for a united social movement against the dowry system and urged the community to create awareness to eliminate the harmful practice.

He was speaking at an awareness meeting on dowry eradication and preservation of Banjara culture organised at the Banjara Bhavan in

Chincholi.

Pawar said that along with creating awareness among people, collective efforts were necessary to fight against the dowry system, which continues to affect families. He said the Banjara community has a significant population in the border taluk and many economically weaker families face difficulties during marriages due to dowry demands.

He pointed out that some poor families are forced to

sell or mortgage their property and migrate in search of employment to meet marriage-related expenses. He said the dowry problem is increasing gradually and called upon people from all sections, irrespective of their economic status, to come together and oppose the practice. The meeting also focused on creating awareness about social issues and protecting Banjara traditions and culture. Community leaders stressed the impor-

tance of educating younger generations about the harmful effects of dowry and encouraging simple marriages. Several community members and leaders, including Narayan Rathod, Mohan Polakapalli, Mohan Pawar, Kishan Kusarampalli, Yamaraj, Mohan Master, Dileep Kumar, Govind Nayak, Ramesh Chikningadalli, Neelakanth, Bansilal, Omanath Jadhav and Desu Pawar, participated in the programme.

KASARAGOD

BJP Kerala State General Secretary M.T. Ramesh said that the Bharatiya Janata Party has emerged as a major political force in the country due to the continuous efforts, dedication and commitment of its workers.

Addressing the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Kasaragod Organisational Mandal Training Campaign held at Sri Mahadeva Sabha Bhavan, Siribagilu Pulkkur, Ramesh said that committed party workers form the backbone of the organisation.

He said that the growth and expansion of the party across the country was possible because of the hard work of thousands of workers who have been actively involved in strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level. He emphasised that party workers play a crucial role in spreading the party's ideology, principles and service activities among the public.

Ramesh said that training programmes such as the organisational campaign help

workers understand the party's vision, improve coordination and enhance their ability to serve society effectively. He urged workers to remain committed to public service and continue working towards strengthening the party structure. The programme was presided over by BJP Mandal President Gurprasad Prabhu. BJP Kasaragod District Committee President M.L. Ashwini, State Committee member Savitha Teacher, District General Secretary P.R. Sunil and other senior leaders were present. Several party functionaries, including District Vice President P. Ramesh, District Secretaries Pushpa Gopalan and Prameela Majal, District Treasurer Veena Arun Shetty, District Cell Coordinator Sukumar Kudreppadi, State Council members N. Satheesh and Harish Narampady, Mandal General Secretary Sridhar Koodlu, Mandal Treasurer Harish K.R., Mahila Morcha District General Secretary Anita Naik, and Madhur Grama Panchayat President Sujnani Shanbhag attended the event.

TRIBUTE-TO-VETERAN

Hanumanthappa honoured with state funeral in Chitradurga

CHITRADURGA

Former Rajya Sabha member H. Hanumanthappa was given a state honour farewell in Chitradurga on Monday. Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar paid tribute to the veteran leader and remembered him as a strong voice for irrigation development and farmers' welfare, especially for the implementation of the Bhadra Upper River Project.

Speaking after paying his respects at Murugarajendra Stadium, where Hanumanthappa's mortal remains were kept for public viewing, Shi-



vakumar said his contribution to the development of Chitradurga district was unforgettable. He praised Hanumanthappa for continuously fighting for irrigation projects and

raising important issues related to farmers and the region's growth.

The Chief Minister recalled his long association with Hanumanthappa since 1979-80.

He said they had lived nearby during their early political days and shared a close relationship. Shivakumar described Hanumanthappa as a simple and respectful leader who always worked for the welfare of party workers and people. Hanumanthappa had served as Chairman of the Railway Commission and later successfully worked as a Rajya Sabha member for three terms. Shivakumar said he had close connections with national leaders including Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi. He also praised Hanumanthappa's role

in strengthening the party organization in Chitradurga.

The Chief Minister said the government would provide all deserved honours to the late leader. He prayed for peace to the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family. Responding to questions about drought conditions in the state, Shivakumar said a review meeting would soon be held for the Bengaluru division and suitable decisions would be taken after discussions. The police department paid tribute by firing three rounds of salute, followed by a two-minute silence. Shiva-

kumar handed over the national flag covering Hanumanthappa's mortal remains to his son G.H. Mohan. The final rites were performed at Mukti Dham in Jogimatti.

Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G. Parameshwar, MPs, MLAs, senior government officials, party leaders and several dignitaries attended the funeral and paid their last respects. The gathering remembered Hanumanthappa as a dedicated leader whose efforts for irrigation, agriculture and public welfare left a lasting impact on Chitradurga district.

Delayed monsoon leaves farmers worried in Basavakalyan

BASAVAKALYAN

Farmers in Basavakalyan and Hulasur taluks are facing severe difficulties as the delayed monsoon has affected kharif sowing activities, leaving many farmers waiting anxiously for rainfall.

Farmers who prepared their fields weeks ago are now looking towards the skies, hoping for sufficient rain to begin cultivation. Those who have already sown seeds are worried that the lack of rainfall could damage their crops.

QUICK READ



Rajasthan HC gets fresh bomb threat email

Jaipur
Security was tightened at the Jaipur and Jodhpur benches of the Rajasthan High Court after both received fresh bomb threat emails on Monday. Police, bomb disposal squads and sniffer dogs searched the court premises, but no explosives were found. Court access was restricted as a precaution. Officials said the High Court has received more than 12 similar threat emails since late 2025, all of which turned out to be hoaxes. Cyber experts are investigating the source of the latest email.



NHRC seeks reports on factory blast, snakebite

New Delhi
The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought reports from the Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand governments over two separate incidents. It asked for details on the June 7 factory blast in Raipur that killed three workers and injured several others, including compensation and the condition of the injured. The NHRC also sought a report on a snakebite incident at a girls' hostel in Jharkhand's Lohardaga district, where one student died and three others were affected.

MP becomes technology investment hub: CM

Bhopal
Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said the state is becoming a major destination for technology investments, with strong growth in artificial intelligence, data centres and semiconductor manufacturing. Speaking at the MP Tech Growth Conclave 3.0 in Bhopal, he said investment proposals worth ₹46,000 crore were received in the first two conclaves, while over ₹12,000 crore has already been invested since the Global Investors Summit 2025. He added that the state is expanding into defence, drones, renewable energy and advanced technology sectors.

Monsoon session: Centre calls all-party meet on July 19

The government is expected to introduce several important Bills during the session, making it one of the busiest legislative periods this year

NEW DELHI

The Central Government has called an all-party meeting on July 19, one day before the Monsoon Session of Parliament starts, to discuss its legislative agenda and hear the issues that Opposition parties are expected to raise. The meeting will begin at 11 am and follows the usual practice of consulting political parties before every Parliament session. The Monsoon Session will be held from July 20 to August 13 after President Droupadi Murmu approved the government's recommendation to summon both Houses of Parliament. Union Parliamentary Affairs



Minister Kiren Rijju said the session would focus on meaningful debates, discussions and decisions on matters of national importance. The government is expected to introduce several important Bills during the session, making it one of the busiest periods of the parlia-

mentary calendar. At the same time, the Opposition is preparing to question the government on several major national issues, which could lead to heated debates in both Houses. Political developments within Opposition parties are also expected to influ-

ence the session. Reports suggest that the Trinamool Congress has witnessed internal unrest after its Assembly election defeat, with several MPs reportedly joining the National Citizens Party of India. Some leaders have also resigned from the Rajya Sabha before joining the BJP. The Monsoon Session is expected to witness heated debates over the alleged NEET-UG paper leak, Operation Sindoor and the proposed 130th Constitution Amendment Bill. Political developments, including reported shifts of MPs between parties, are also likely to influence the proceedings.

Ayodhya Ram temple trust Invites applications for CEO

AYODHYA

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust on Monday invited applications for the post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to manage the administration and daily operations of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Eligible candidates can submit their applications until 4 p.m. on July 18. According to the Trust's notification, applicants must be graduates with at least 20 years of experience in administration or finance. Preference will be given to candidates who have worked in temple administration or management. Applicants must also be followers of the Hindu faith. The selected CEO will be appointed for an initial period of three years and will be required to stay in Ayodhya throughout the tenure to supervise the temple's administrative and operational activities. The Trust has also decided to appoint a Secretary to assist with the recruitment process and support the appointment of the new CEO. The recruitment comes at a time when the Supreme Court



is hearing petitions seeking an independent, court-monitored investigation into allegations of misuse of donations received by the Ram Temple Trust. The apex court has issued notices to the Centre, the Uttar Pradesh government and the Trust. It has also directed the state's Special Investigation Team to submit a status report and details of the investigating team. Ram Mandir Construction Committee Chairman Nripendra Misra said the new CEO will strengthen temple administration and improve transparency. He said the CEO will work under the Trust's guidance, coordinate with the general secretary, oversee daily operations, focus on devotees' welfare and function without any government interference.

Eligibility criteria

- **Background:** Must be an active Hindu, with preference for a Ram devotee of the Vaishnava tradition.
- **Qualifications:** A bachelor's degree, 20+ years of managerial experience (administration, HR, legal, accounts), and proficiency in Hindi/English.
- **Age:** 50-70 years.
- **Terms:** The role is a 3-year renewable contract requiring residency in Ayodhya.
- **Deadline to apply:** Till 4 pm on July 18, 2026.

PIL challenges Bengal's new public safety law in HC

KOLKATA

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Calcutta High Court challenging the West Bengal Public Safety and Control of Anti-Social Activities Act, 2026, which came into force on Monday. The petition also seeks an immediate stay on the implementation of the new law. The PIL was filed by advocate and CPI(M) leader Sabyasachi Chattopadhyay before a division bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty. The court has admitted the petition and is expected to hear the matter later this week.

The petitioner has mainly challenged the provision allowing police to keep a person under preventive detention for up to one year if they are considered a threat to public safety. The petition argues that this provision could be misused and affect the rights of innocent people. The law has faced criticism from Opposition parties and sections of civil society since it was passed by the West Bengal Assembly last month. It became an Act after receiving the Governor's approval. Supporters of the law have defended the preventive detention provision, saying it includes legal safeguards.



They said the person concerned will get an opportunity to present their case before an advisory board that will review the detention order. The Act also empowers district magistrates and senior police officers to issue externment orders, allowing them to remove a person from a particular area or an entire district for up to one year if they believe the individual could disturb public order. The state government has maintained that the law is intended only for habitual offenders, anti-social elements and those involved in serious crimes. It has assured that ordinary law-abiding citizens have nothing to fear and that the legislation is aimed at strengthening public safety across the state.

Telangana irrigation row kicks up fierce political war of words

HYDERABAD

A sharp political confrontation broke out in Telangana after Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy made controversial remarks against Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leaders while responding to questions about the state's irrigation crisis. His comments triggered strong protests from the opposition, which accused him of ignoring farmers' concerns and using offensive language. During an interaction with journalists, the Chief Minister was asked how farmers would manage if drought-like conditions continued and irrigation water remained unavailable. In response, he criticised BRS leaders K. T. Rama Rao, T. Harish Rao and former Chief

Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, accusing them of misleading people and making corruption allegations against them. The remarks came amid the ongoing dispute over the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project. The BRS has been demanding that the Congress government release water from the Kannepalli pump house, claiming there is enough water to support farmers despite dry conditions. The state government, however, said it would follow the recommendations of the National Dam Safety Authority, which has advised against storing water in the project's barages until safety concerns are addressed. Revanth Reddy said his government was working to restore the project and urged

the opposition not to politicise the issue. The BRS strongly condemned the Chief Minister's remarks. Senior leader T. Harish Rao demanded an unconditional apology, saying farmers needed irrigation water, not political attacks. He accused the Chief Minister of using language unsuitable for a constitutional office. BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao also criticised Revanth Reddy through a social media post, accusing him of making inflammatory statements instead of solving farmers' problems. He said the party was ready to make any sacrifice for farmers but urged the government to ensure irrigation water reached agricultural fields without further delay.

'UNPREDICTABLE FLUCTUATIONS' IN FARES SC seeks aviation rules amid concerns over sky-high airfares

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Centre to submit within two weeks the rules framed under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024, while hearing a petition seeking regulation of airfares and better protection for airline passengers. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta asked the Centre to place the rules before the court in a sealed cover, regardless of whether they have been presented before Parliament. The Centre informed the court that



the draft rules are ready and are currently being translated. The case was filed by social activist S. Laxminarayanan, who has sought an independent regulator to ensure transparency, protect passengers

and regulate unpredictable airfare increases and additional charges imposed by private airlines. Senior advocate Ravindra Srivastava, appearing for the petitioner, argued that until

the new rules come into force, the existing rules remain in operation. He urged the court to establish a strong and independent regulatory mechanism to address the issue of high airfares. The Supreme Court has fixed August 3 for the next hearing. Earlier, while hearing the matter, the court had observed that airfare rationalisation was necessary and asked the Centre to provide relief to passengers. The petition alleges that private airlines have reduced the free baggage allowance for economy passengers from 25 kg to 15 kg without justifi-

cation, creating an additional source of revenue through baggage charges. It also questions the policy allowing only one checked-in bag. The plea further claims that airlines are increasing fares without any effective regulation, particularly during festivals and emergencies, and imposing hidden charges. It argues that the absence of a proper regulatory system has resulted in arbitrary pricing, inadequate grievance redressal and unfair practices, affecting passengers' rights and calling for urgent government action.

Narottam's tears follow supporters' violence after ticket denial

DATIA

Former Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra became emotional while addressing BJP workers in Datia on Monday during his first major public appearance after being denied the party ticket for the Assembly by-election. Speaking after BJP candidate Ashutosh Tiwari filed his nomination papers, Mishra appealed to party workers to ensure Tiwari's victory. He said he would campaign for the BJP from July 16 until the end of the election cam-

paign, stressing that the contest was about Datia's development and not any individual. While recalling his long association with the constituency, the six-time MLA broke down in tears. Folding his hands before the gathering, he urged party workers to continue serving the people of Datia with dedication and be ready to make sacrifices for the region if needed. Without mentioning the denial of his ticket, Mishra highlighted the development carried out in Datia during the BJP's rule.

QUICK READ



Vijay opens Perambur office, honors late Tamil writer

Chennai
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Monday inaugurated a new MLA office in Perambur, the constituency he represents. Later, he expressed grief over the death of noted Tamil writer and Sahitya Akademi Award winner Poomani. Vijay announced that the author would be given state honours during his final rites. He praised Poomani's contribution to Tamil literature, highlighting his award-winning novel An-nati and Vekkai, which inspired the acclaimed film Asuran.

American national held near Nepal border for illegal entry

Maharajganj
An American citizen has been booked for allegedly entering India without valid travel documents, police said on Monday. Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB) detained Jordan Brown near Sonauli while he was allegedly trying to enter Nepal without authorisation. Brown told officials he lost his passport in Thailand and entered India by sea in November 2025, later staying in Goa. Police registered a case under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, and further investigation is underway.

AIUDF chief slams proposed suspension rule for jailed CMs, PM

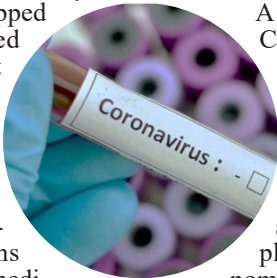
GUWAHATI

AIUDF chief and Binnakandi MLA Badruddin Ajmal on Monday criticised a reported recommendation by a parliamentary panel suggesting that a Prime Minister or Chief Minister should be suspended, instead of removed, if they remain in judicial custody for 30 days. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Assam Assembly session, Ajmal questioned the purpose of the proposal. He alleged that political leaders would never support laws that could later be used against themselves. According to him, lawmakers across political parties protect one another and are unwilling to introduce strict measures to ensure accountability. Ajmal claimed that many Members of Parliament are facing criminal cases and argued that such representatives are unlikely to pass tougher laws against elected leaders. He alleged, without providing evidence, that more than 65 per cent of MPs have criminal cases against them. He said the proposal would not

AP on alert after 2 Covid-19 deaths, 8 active cases

AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh Health Department has issued a statewide Covid-19 alert after two deaths and eight active cases were reported in recent days. Health officials have stepped up surveillance, restarted screening in government hospitals and increased preparedness to prevent any rise in infections. The State Surveillance Unit under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme issued directions on July 10 to all district medical and health officers, surveillance officers, government hospitals and medical colleges to remain alert and ensure readiness. The first victim was a 52-year-old man from Kadapa district who developed fever and cough, tested positive for Covid-19 and later died while undergoing treatment at Christian



Medical College in Vellore. The second was a 43-year-old man from the same district who tested positive after being admitted to the Government General Hospital and later died in the intensive care unit. According to the state Covid dashboard, eight active cases have been reported, while four patients have recovered and been discharged. Health officials collected 40 samples from affected areas, and positive samples have been sent for genomic sequencing to identify the virus variant. Officials said the active patients are asymptomatic and are under home isolation. The government has resumed Covid testing in all government hospitals and supplied RT-PCR kits and sample collection materials. Medical staff have been advised to wear personal protective equipment.

Centre-Bengal hold high-level talks on farm roadmap

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will visit West Bengal to review rural development schemes and meet farmers

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan will visit West Bengal on July 13 and 14 to review major agriculture and rural development programmes and hold discussions with state leaders. During the two-day visit, he is scheduled to meet Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari to discuss farming, rural roads, housing, employment and welfare schemes.

On the first day, Chouhan will review the progress of key Central government programmes, including the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Dhan Dha-



nya Yojana, PM-Kisan, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Viksit Bharat initiatives, rural housing and road development projects. Officials will also examine the implementation of these schemes and their impact on farmers and rural communities. A high-level meeting will

be held on July 14 at the new Secretariat building in Kolkata. Senior officials from the Centre and the state, including the Chief Secretary and department heads, are expected to attend. Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the Ministry of Rural Development and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research will present reports on various schemes, Minimum Support Price, Panchayat funding and future plans.

Later in the day, Chouhan will visit the ICAR-Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres in Barrackpore. He will interact with jute farmers and women from

Self-Help Groups to understand problems related to retting, water availability, pests, production costs and market prices.

Scientists will explain improved jute varieties, modern farming methods, water conservation and better processing techniques. Women's groups will also receive guidance on starting small businesses using jute products to improve village employment and incomes.

The visit is expected to strengthen cooperation between the Centre and the state while focusing on agriculture, rural development and better support for farmers across West Bengal.

In a first, Kerala BJP councillor to take oath from jail

KOCHI

Kerala will witness a first in its local self-government history on Tuesday when BJP councillor R. Sugathan takes the oath of office inside Viyyur Central Jail. The Kerala High Court allowed the swearing-in ceremony to be held in prison, where Sugathan remains in judicial custody under the Kerala Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act (KAAPA).

Sugathan, elected from the Vazhottukonam ward in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, had secured bail in two criminal cases but continues to remain in custody under a preventive detention order. The oath ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. in the office of the jail superintendent.

Shinde hints more political moves in Sena battle

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde has indicated that more political developments are likely in the ongoing battle over the party's legacy.

Referring to "Operation Tiger," Shinde said, "Picture abhi baki hai," suggesting that further defections could take place in the coming days.

His remarks came after six of the nine Shiv Sena (UBT) Lok Sabha MPs joined the Shinde faction, giving it the two-thirds strength needed to avoid anti-defection provisions. Political ob-

servers believe the statement is aimed at keeping pressure on the remaining Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders and workers.

According to analysts, the message also signals that the Shinde camp is trying to attract more MLAs and local representatives, especially from Mumbai, Thane and the Marathwada region. The move is seen as an effort to strengthen the ruling Mahayuti alliance ahead of future political contests.

Observers also noted that Shinde's comments reinforce his position within the alliance by highlighting his ability to bring influential leaders into his camp.

Modi govt silent on corruption in education: RaGa

NEW DELHI

Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday criticised India's education system, calling it a "dishonest extortion mechanism" that places heavy financial and emotional burdens on students and their families.

Ahead of his second interaction with students under the 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' campaign, Gandhi said the country now needs a major revolution in the education sector.

In a post on social media platform X, Gandhi said students themselves describe the present education system as corrupt, unjust, biased and dishonest. He alleged that instead of preparing young people for a better future, the system is pushing families into debt, stress and disappointment.

The Congress leader also blamed corruption for repeated examination paper leaks, saying they have destroyed the hard work and dreams of millions of students preparing for competitive exams. According to him, those responsible for the leaks continue to receive contracts and promotions, while students suffer

Rahul Gandhi alleged that India's education system has become unfair and corrupt, urging students to join a movement demanding reforms and greater accountability

the consequences. Gandhi accused the Narendra Modi government and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan of remaining silent despite growing concerns over examination irregularities and corruption. He said the government had failed to take responsibility and questioned the lack of public discussion on the issue.

Gandhi urged students to join the next 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' programme in Dehradun on July 17 and support the demand for education reforms. He said the campaign highlights issues affecting students nationwide. The initiative began with a rally in Kota, Rajasthan, on June 17, where he criticised the education system as unfair. He said students face heavy pressure and uncertainty, and called for a system that provides equal opportunities and encourages them to achieve their goals.

Delhi cops bust interstate ganja smuggling network, arrest 4

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police have busted an interstate drug trafficking network by seizing 765.6 kg of ganja worth about ₹2.30 crore and arresting four alleged members after a multi-state operation lasting more than 36 hours.

The operation was carried out under the Centre's 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan' with coordinated surveillance across Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Delhi, Haryana and Punjab. Police said they acted on specific intelligence received on June 20 about the movement of a large consignment of narcotics.

The first arrest was made near Madhuban Chowk in Pitampura, where Ashok Kumar, a resident of Delhi, was caught carrying two bags containing 22.610 kg of ganja. A case under the NDPS Act was registered at Rani Bagh Police Station.

During questioning, Ashok allegedly revealed details of a larger consignment and identified an alleged supplier using the name Ajeet Singh. Further investigation and



technical surveillance identified the suspect as Inderjeet Ray from Patna, Bihar.

Police tracked Ray across several states before arresting him along with his associate Nitish Kumar from a hotel in Ludhiana on July 10. Their interrogation led police to a rented warehouse in Jamalpur, Ludhiana.

A raid at the warehouse resulted in the recovery of another 743 kg of ganja. Police also arrested Dharmender Kumar, who allegedly helped operate the storage facility.

With the latest recovery, the total seizure reached 765.6 kg of ganja, valued at nearly ₹2.30 crore in the illegal market. Investigators believe the warehouse served as a distribution centre for drug supplies across Punjab and Haryana.

Zilla Panchayath, Chamaraajanagara

BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE DEPARTMENT

District Admnistrative Office, Room No.131, First Floor, Chamaraajanagara

E-Mail: dobcmchamarajanagara@gmail.com Phone No: 08226-222180

No:BCWD/AS/CR-01/2026-27 Date: 10.07.2026.

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub:-Vacancies for Cooks, Cook Assistants, Night Watchmen, Cleaning Staff in Pre-Metric/ Post Metric Hostels under Backward Classes Welfare Department of Chamaraajanagara District and Teaching/ Non-Teaching and Cook, Cook Assistants, Night Watchmen Vacancies in Morarji Desai Residential Schools., Sanitation Staff, and Taluk Backward Classes Welfare officer Vacancies in the offices of Data Entry Operator Grade-2, Typist in the District Office to seek human Resource Services on outstanding basis to recruit qualified personnel temporarily through the outstanding agency under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act (KTPP) Rules 2000 are intended to be procured through e- procurement.

1. Tender Notification Date: No. BCWD/AS/CR-01/2026-27, Date: 10.07.2026.

2. Tender Amount Rs.388.62 lakhs.

3. Start date for upload Tender form Date: 10.07.2026.

4. Pre bid Meeting Date: 16.07.2026 Time: 11.00 am

5. Last date to upload tender form date: 09.08.2026 Time: 17.00 O'clock.

6. Place date and time to opening Technical bid Date:14.08.2026 Time 17.30 O'clock, District Office, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Admnistrative Office, Room No.131, First Floor, Chamaraajanagara.

7. Place date and time to Opening Financial Bid: date:24.08.2026 at 11.00 O'clock, District Office, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Admnistrative Office, Room No.131, First Floor, Chamaraajanagara.

8. EMD amount to be paid with Tender Form: 7,80,000-00.

9. Concerned Officer Name, Office Address and contact No. for Correspondence: District Officer, Backward Classes Welfare Department, District Admnistrative Office, Room No.131, First Floor, Chamaraajanagara, Ph. 08226-222180.

District Officer,

Backward Classes Welfare Department,

Chamaraajanagara Dist, Chamaraajanagara.

NO: DIPR: CHANAGAR: 236: 2026-27

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Climate Management Cell and Lakes, Zone-1, 9th Cross, 9th Main, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011

CORRIGENDUM

Ref: EE/CMC&Lakes/Zone-1/TN-02/2026-27, Dated: 10.07.2026

As per the above reference, Name of the Work in Sl. No. 2 should read as 'Yelenahalli Lake' instead of 'Yelachenahalli Lake'.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Climate Management Cell and Lakes, Zone-1, Bengaluru South City Corporation

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ

ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-562110

ನಂ.ದೇವು/ಕಾ.ಶಾ.ಜಿ.ಪ್ರ/ಆರ್/05/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.07.2026

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಟೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಪಿ.ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್) ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

(ಗ್ರಾಂಡ್‌ಪಾಕ್ಟ್‌ಮಂಟ್ KW-1 & 2 ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಆರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಗೆ 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ. ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ಅನುದಾನ, 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಆಸ್ತಿಗಳ ಸ್ವೀಕರಣ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ಅನುದಾನ ಮತ್ತು 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಪ್ರೈವೇಟ್, ಪಂಪ್ ಮೋಟಾರ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು, ವೆಟ್‌ಮ್ಯಾಕ್ ಹಾಕುವುದು, ಪೋಲೀಸ್ ಟೌಕಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ, ಚೈನ್‌ಲಿಂಕ್ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತಿಬೇಲಿ, ಕಬ್ಬಿಣದ ಗೇಟ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು, ಕೌಚಾಲಯಗಳ ದುರಸ್ತಿ, ರಾಜಕಾಲುವೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ, ಮದ್ಯಕೆ ಕಂಬ ಮತ್ತು ಟಿ.ಸಿ. ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ : 166.14 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು 12 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಟೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಟೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.

ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಟೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: (As per KPPP Portal ಫಂಟಿಯವರೆಗೆ) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: (As per KPPP Portal) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯವನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಸಹಿ/-

ಶ್ರೀ ಮಂಜುನಾಥ ಪಿ.ಆರ್ (ಕೆ.ಎ.ಎಸ್). ಶ್ರೀ ಶಿವಮೂರ್ತಿ ಎ. (ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಎ.ಎಸ್)

ಅಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ

ಪುರಸಭೆ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಾಪ್ರ/1605/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಎ/2026-27

QUICK READ



Medicine shortage threatens patients across Pakistan

Karachi
Pakistan is facing a serious shortage of more than 100 essential medicines, including life-saving drugs for cancer, heart disease and other critical illnesses. The shortage follows delays of over two years in approving revised medicine prices despite rising production costs. Pharmaceutical companies say they cannot continue manufacturing at current prices, forcing reduced supply. Industry leaders have urged the government to approve pending price revisions, warning that shortages could worsen and increase the circulation of counterfeit medicines.

18 dead as ‘Typhoon Bavi’ wreaks havoc in Philippines

Manila
At least 18 people have died and 12 remain missing after Typhoon Bavi and the enhanced southwest monsoon triggered heavy rain across the Philippines. Most deaths were caused by landslides and drowning, while around 562,000 people have been affected. Authorities have deployed rescue teams as flooding and landslides continue to threaten several areas. The storm also hit eastern China, where heavy rain caused flooding concerns in Zhejiang Province. Officials have strengthened disaster response as Typhoon Bavi gradually weakens.

EU pushes biggest Russia sanctions expansion

EU foreign ministers discuss new Russia sanctions, international issues; EU foreign policy chief says, ‘We are also working for 21st sanctions package where we don’t have agreement yet.’

BRUSSELS

European Union foreign ministers met in Brussels on Monday to discuss a new package of sanctions against Russia, the ongoing war in Ukraine and several international security issues. However, EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said member countries have not yet reached an agreement on the proposed 21st sanctions package. Speaking before the meeting, Kallas said ministers were hoping to approve around 250 new sanctions listings. She explained that the proposed measures were a

response to Russia's recent attacks on civilians in Ukraine. The ministers also discussed the situation of Ukrainian civilians reportedly being held in Russian-controlled areas, including teachers and journalists, along with prisoners of war and children who were allegedly taken from their families. Kallas said the European Union is considering creating a special platform to help secure their release. She noted that collecting information about detained civilians has been more difficult than tracking abducted children.



Kaja Kallas, EU foreign policy chief

The meeting also focused on the European Union's Black Sea strategy. Ministers reviewed ways to strengthen cooperation with Bulgaria and Romania to protect important infrastructure and respond to hybrid threats in the region.

Kallas said the Foreign Affairs Council is also expected to approve a new partnership mission for Armenia. The mission aims to help the country deal with hybrid threats, foreign misinformation and out-side interference. The EU ministers also discussed Middle East security with Gulf partners, stressing that navigation through the Strait of Hormuz must remain free and unrestricted. They reviewed the situations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Western Balkans and Sudan, urging continued international engagement to support peace, stability and conflict resolution.

In-short
European Union foreign ministers convened in Brussels to deliberate a massive expansion of Russia sanctions, targeting 250 additional individuals and entities in response to recent civilian attacks. The EU is also pursuing an ambitious 21st sanctions package, though members remain divided over proposed bans on maritime services and liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Vietnam boat tragedy: Mortal remains of 15 Indian tourists repatriated

HANOI

The mortal remains of 15 Indian nationals who died in the tourist boat accident near Vietnam's Phu Quoc Island will be flown to India on Monday, the Indian Embassy in Vietnam said. The Vietnam Airlines flight is scheduled to depart Ho Chi Minh City in the evening and arrive in Mumbai later the same day. The embassy said the concerned state governments have been informed and requested to coordinate with the families for transporting the bodies to their hometowns. It also assured all possible assistance to the bereaved families.

India-Japan hold key dialogue to boost defence industrial collab

TOKYO

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh met Japan's Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi in Tokyo on Monday to discuss regional security, defence cooperation and defence industry partnerships. The meeting marked Singh's first official visit to Japan as Defence Secretary and followed recent high-level talks between the leaders of the two countries. Koizumi said the discussions covered a wide range of issues, including follow-up actions after Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's recent visit to India. He described the talks as broad and constructive, focusing on regional developments and expanding defence industry cooperation between the two countries. During his visit, Singh laid a wreath at the Self-Defense Forces Memorial Stone in To-



India and Japan reviewed defence cooperation, regional security and economic ties while reaffirming their commitment to peace, technology and stronger bilateral relations

kyo to honour the soldiers who sacrificed their lives in service of Japan. India's Ministry of Defence said the tribute reflected the strong Special Strategic and Global Partnership shared by both nations, built on mutual respect, shared democratic values and a common commitment to peace and

stability. Singh's visit comes soon after Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi travelled to India from July 1 to 3 for the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit. During the summit in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Takaichi reviewed the full range of bilateral relations, including trade, investment, economic security, clean energy, emerging technologies, defence cooperation and people-to-people exchanges. The leaders exchanged agreements on economic security, artificial intelligence, energy resilience and critical technologies. They also planned activities to mark 75 years of diplomatic ties. Addressing the India-Japan Joint Economic Forum, they discussed boosting investment, strengthening supply chains, expanding manufacturing and enhancing cooperation in clean energy and advanced technologies.

Kuwait and Bahrain raised security alerts after Iran claimed retaliatory attacks following recent United States military strikes.

Kuwait-Bahrain respond as regional tensions escalate

KUWAIT CITY

Kuwait said on Monday that its armed forces were intercepting hostile aerial targets within the country's airspace, while neighbouring Bahrain sounded emergency sirens and advised people to move to the nearest safe place. The developments followed claims by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) that it had launched missile and drone attacks against United States military bases in Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait. The Kuwait Army said any explosions heard by residents were caused by air defence systems intercepting hostile targets. Authorities urged the public

to remain calm and strictly follow all security and safety instructions issued by government agencies. Bahrain's Ministry of Interior also issued a public advisory after emergency sirens were activated. The ministry asked citizens and residents to stay calm and immediately move to the nearest safe location until further instructions were issued. Tnewshe IRGC said the attacks were carried out in response to recent US airstrikes on southern Iran. The United States had said its military action followed alleged attacks on ships in the Strait of Hormuz. The IRGC claimed it had intercepted two ships that had switched off their



tracking systems and taken an unauthorised route through the strategic waterway. It said the first phase of its retaliation targeted the Prince Hassan Air Base in Jordan using missiles and drones. Iran claimed it targeted US military bases in Bahrain and Kuwait, though the claims remain unverified. Any disruption in the Strait of Hormuz could affect global oil supplies, trade and regional stability.

Australia will soon introduce digital passenger cards nationwide



SYDNEY

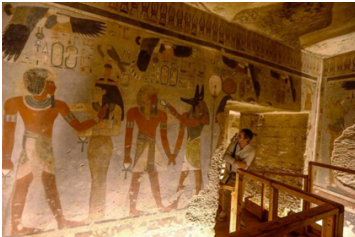
The Australian government has announced plans to replace paper passenger cards with digital passenger cards for all international arrivals over the next 12 to 18 months. The initiative is part of a \$6.1 million Australian dollar investment to modernise airport travel systems before the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games. The decision follows a successful trial of the digital Australia Traveller Declaration on selected Qantas flights to Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, where more

than 450,000 passengers used the system since October 2024. The digital service allows travellers to complete their personal details and customs declarations up to three days before departure instead of filling out paper forms during their journey or after arrival. The government said the system will be expanded to Qantas flights arriving in Perth and Adelaide before the end of 2026, followed by all international airports and seaports. Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke said the project would improve the travel experience and strengthen border management.

Ancient New Kingdom Tomb Unearthed In Egypt’s Luxor Region

CAIRO

Egypt has announced the discovery of a Pharaonic tomb dating back to the New Kingdom period during archaeological excavations on the West Bank of Luxor. The tomb was uncovered by a Dutch archaeological mission working in the Theban Necropolis.



According to Egypt's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, inscriptions identify the tomb's owner as "Paser." Officials said the structure dates to the New Kingdom period between 1550 BC and 1069 BC. Archaeologists will now carry out detailed studies to identify those buried there and better understand the site's historical importance. The tomb includes an open courtyard, a T-shaped rock-cut chapel and several underground burial chambers, reflecting the design of private tombs from that period. The courtyard remains well preserved and features a mud-brick mastaba, a central niche for a funerary stone and a staircase leading to the main entrance. Officials said parts of the wall paintings are covered by debris, but excavated sections reveal colourful artwork showing Paser honouring ancient Egyptian gods. Other scenes depict him and his wife seated before a traditional offering table. The discovery follows another major archaeological find announced in April, when a Spanish mission uncovered a rare tomb from the Roman and Greek periods in Minya province.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BHUMIKA CHAKOTI VISHWANATH (Given Name OR Old name), a resident of AT AMEENGAD, POST KOWTHAL, MASKI TALUK, RAICHUR, KARNATAKA, 584120, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to BHOOMIKA (NEW Name OR Given Name) VISHWANATH (New Name OR Last Name) (New Name OR Given Name) VISHWANATH (New Name OR Last Name) vide affidavit dated 08-07-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

NAME CHANGE

I, MUMTAJ W/o Ismail Khan, resident of No 51, 7 Cross, Near Noor Masjid, Maneshwara Nagar, Mangamanapalya, Bommanahalli Po, Bengaluru-560068, have changed my name to MUMTAZ, vide affidavit dated: 13.07.2026, before Notary V. RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MALLAMMA OR VISHALAXI VISHWANATH (old name), a resident of AT AMEENGAD, POST KOWTHAL, MASKI TALUK, RAICHUR, KARNATAKA, 584120, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to VISHALAKSHI (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 08-07-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DEEPIKA CHAKOTI VISHWANATH (Given name OR Old Name), a resident of AT AMEENGAD, POST KOWTHAL, MASKI TALUK, RAICHUR, KARNATAKA, 584120, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to DEEPIKA CHAKOTI (New Name OR Given Name) VISHWANATH (New Name OR Last Name) vide affidavit dated 08-07-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

NAME CHANGE

I, SIRAJ KHAN SAHAMEER KHAN S/o Schameer Khan, resident of No 11, 8 Main, 8 H Cross, Near IBM, New Guruppan Palya, Bengaluru-560029, have changed my name to SIRAJ KHAN, vide affidavit dated: 13.07.2026, before Notary V. RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru.

Document Lost

This is to inform to General public that my client Smt.Mab Jan W/o Nayaz.A., Residing at 2nd Main , Cheluru Village, Cheluru Village Panchayath, Cheluru Hobli, Cheluru Taluk, Chikkaballapura District, I am the Owner of the Below said Property, while Sale Deed for taken Digital copy , have lost following Documents of property pertaining to Below Mentioned property Situated at Residing at Cheluru Village, Cheluru Village Panchayath, Cheluru Hobli, Cheluru Taluk, Chikkaballapura District, had published the factum of lost of his: Original Sale deed, Dated:- 05-11-2025, Registered Sale Deed executed by Sri.Shek Irfan in favour of Smt. Mabjan W/o Nayaz.A. In respect of the property bearing item no.2, situated at Cheluru Village, which is registered as No.CMVN-1-04686-2025-26, Book-1, in the office of the SRO, Chikkaballura, police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO. Lost Report no.2300982/2026, DATED:-11-07-2026, and complaint dated:-11-07-2026, by respective person, if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address.

Place:-Chinthamani, Date:-11-07-2026

K.S.HARISH KUMAR
ADVOCATE
Office: NEAR KISHORE SCHOOL, ABOVE APPOLO PHARMACY, BESIDE SANTHOSHI MATHA TEMPLE, BANGALORE MAIN ROAD CHINTHAMANI, MOBILE NO-9980110692

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANJUNATHA S/o Mahabala Poojari, aged about 27 years, residing at Room No. 7-65, Cherkady, Cherkady Post, Cherkady, Udipi, Karnataka - 576215, hereby declare that my name is changed to MANJUNATHA POOJARI for all practical purposes, vide affidavit dated 13-Jul-2026 sworn before Advocate & Notary Ravi Kumar. V., Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bharath Gowda K.C. son of Chikkakaradappa, residing at Karadigowdanadoddi Village, Urugahalli Post, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District, hereby notify that as per the affidavit sworn before the Ramanagara Notary D.Shivaram on 09-07-2026, my father's name in my school, college, and other official records was erroneously recorded as Chikkaradappa. His true and correct name is Chikkakaradappa. Henceforth, he shall be addressed as Chikkakaradappa for all official purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, SYED SHAHAABUDDIN, resident of No 16/1, 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, M.D Block, Chamarajpet, Sirsi Road, Bangalore 560 018, have changed my mother name from SHAHEEN BEGUM to HASEEN TAJ MAHABOOB PASHA, vide affidavit dated: 13.07.2026 before notary M. PRABHAKAR, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bhaskar C. son of Chikkakaradappa, residing at Karadigowdanadoddi Village, Urugahalli Post, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Bangalore South District, hereby notify that as per the affidavit sworn before the Ramanagara Notary D.Shivaram on 09-07-2026, my father's name was incorrectly recorded as CHIKKADAPPA and my mother's name as KOUSALYA in my school, college, and other documents. Their actual and correct names are CHIKKAKARADAPPA and KOWSHALYA respectively. Henceforth, for all official purposes, the same shall be considered as CHIKKAKARADAPPA and KOWSHALYA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, R SARASWATHI D/o RAMACHANDRAPPA, W/O VENKATESH M, R/o No. 578/6, Near Shri Sharada School, Sarjapura Hobli Anekal Taluk, Halasahalli Thippasandra, Gunjur Post, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560087, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHARADA.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHAIK MUHIUDDIN WAJID, S/o, Shaik Mohiuddin, Resident of No 7/52, South Cross Street Neelsandra Bengaluru Dist 560047, have changed my name to GHOUSE BASHA WAJID, vide affidavit dated: 13.07.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, NAYEEMUNNISA, resident of No 14, 8th Main, 5th Cross, Shamanna Nagar, Pipe Line Road, Bangalore 560 026, have changed my father name from WAZEER AHMED to K. WAZEER, vide affidavit dated: 13.07.2026 before notary M. PRABHAKAR, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Lokesh N, son of Late Nagaraju P, aged about 20 years, residing at Ward No. 30, Malleshwara Badavane, Ramanagara Town, inform the public that in my school, college, and other documents, my mother's name was incorrectly recorded as Gangambike H.S. I filed a suit in the Court of the Hon'ble Principal Civil Judge, Ramanagara, in O.S. No. 245/2025. Pursuant to the order dated: 01/07/2026 passed by the Hon'ble Court in the said case, my mother's correct name is ordered to be corrected as Gangamma H.S. Henceforth, for all official purposes, my mother's name shall be considered as Gangamma H.S.

EBOLA OUTBREAK SPREADS ACROSS 5 DR CONGO PROVINCES

KINSHASA

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has reported Ebola cases in five provinces, with the total number of confirmed infections rising to 1,873, including 672 deaths, according to the latest report released by the country's health authorities. The outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo ebolavirus, was officially declared on May 15.

The latest report includes Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Haut-Uele and Tshopo among the affected provinces. Haut-Uele and Tshopo have appeared in the national outbreak report for the first time. Health officials said investigations found that the new cases in both provinces were linked to



the main outbreak in Ituri through infected contacts and the movement of people between regions. According to the report, 763 patients are currently in isolation or receiving treatment in hospitals. Treatment centres are operating at 95.1 per cent bed occupancy, showing the growing pressure

on the healthcare system. So far, 306 patients have recovered from the disease. Authorities have also recorded 299 suspected Ebola cases, including 91 deaths, while investigations continue. The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said a confirmed Ebola infection in a United States humanitarian worker has increased concerns about the safety of frontline responders. The worker was involved in supporting the Ebola response in the affected areas of the DRC. Africa CDC said health workers continue treating patients and tracing contacts despite challenging conditions. Authorities are investigating how the infected humanitarian worker was exposed.

WC HEAVYWEIGHTS SET FOR blockbuster semifinal clashes

ATLANTA

The FIFA World Cup has reached a mouth-watering semifinal stage, with four former champions—Argentina, Spain, France and England—set to battle for a place in the final in what promises to be one of the strongest last-four line-ups in the tournament's history.

The four teams entered the competition as the top-ranked nations in FIFA's standings and are now just two victories away from lifting football's biggest prize. France will take on Spain in Arlington, Texas, on Tuesday, while defending champions Argentina face England in Atlanta on Wednesday.

It is the first time since the 1990 World Cup that all four semifinalists are previous champions, underscoring the quality and pedigree of the remaining contenders.

The England-Argentina clash revives one of football's fiercest rivalries, shaped by decades of dramatic World Cup encounters and the political backdrop of the 1982 Falklands conflict. From Antonio Rattin's controversial dismissal in 1966 to Diego Maradona's infamous "Hand of God" goal in 1986 and David Beckham's red card in 1998, the fixture has consistently produced unforgettable

moments.

Attention will also focus on 39-year-old Lionel Messi, who is set to play his first World Cup match against England. Widely regarded as the greatest player of his generation, Messi is chasing a second World Cup title, a feat that would elevate his legacy even further and make Argentina the first nation since Brazil in 1962 to successfully defend the trophy.

The other semifinal pits reigning European champions Spain against an in-form France side eager for revenge after losing to La Roja in the Euro 2024 semifinals. The contest also offers a fascinating duel between France captain Kylian Mbappé and Spain's teenage sensation Lamine Yamal.

The race for the Golden Boot adds another layer of intrigue. Messi and Mbappé lead the scoring charts with eight goals each, while England's Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham have six apiece. France's Ousmane Dembélé has five goals, with Spain's Mikel Oyarzabal on four.

Messi, Mbappé, Yamal and Kane headline unforgettable race for football's ultimate prize together

With elite talent, historic rivalries and World Cup glory at stake, the semifinals promise two unforgettable nights as football's biggest stars compete for a place in Sunday's final.

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Argentine legend prepares for long-awaited clash in football's fiercest WC rivalry this week

MESSI SET FOR FIRST ENGLAND TEST AS ARGENTINA EYE ANOTHER WC FINAL

ATLANTA

Lionel Messi will finally face England on the World Cup stage for the first time in his illustrious career when defending champions Argentina meet the Three Lions in a blockbuster FIFA World Cup semifinal on Wednesday.

The 39-year-old Argentine captain has played against every other former World Cup-winning nation, including Brazil, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Uruguay, but England have remained the one notable omission from his international résumé.

That long-awaited meeting will now take place in Atlanta, with a place in the World Cup final at stake. The Argentine Football Association described the contest as "the match fate owed Messi," highlighting the significance of the encounter for one of



football's greatest players.

Messi came closest to facing England in a friendly in Geneva in November 2005. However, he missed the match after being sent off on his senior international debut against Hungary earlier that year. England won that friendly 3-2, with Wayne Rooney and Michael Owen

leading the comeback.

"It's special because they're a great team and a football powerhouse," Messi said after Argentina's dramatic 3-1 extra-time victory over Switzerland in the quarterfinals.

"We need to recover well because we've had several physically demanding matches. Our aim is to keep competing the way we have throughout the tournament," he added.

Argentina have endured a gruelling knockout campaign, defeating Cape Verde in extra time in the Round of 32 before staging a remarkable comeback from two goals down to beat Egypt in the Round of 16. Against Switzerland, Messi provided the assist for Alexis Mac Allister's opener, although it was the first World Cup match since Argentina's 2022 group-stage win over Poland in

which he failed to score.

England, meanwhile, reached the semifinals after overcoming Norway in extra time, with Jude Bellingham playing a starring role.

Former England defender Micah Richards believes Messi remains Argentina's biggest weapon.

"England can outrun Argentina, but they have that little genius in Messi. Everyone plays for him, and marking him is almost impossible," Richards said.

Beyond the battle for a place in the final, the clash renews one of football's fiercest rivalries, shaped by unforgettable World Cup encounters and decades of sporting history. For Messi, it offers another opportunity to strengthen his extraordinary legacy by leading Argentina one step closer to back-to-back World Cup titles.

ARLINGTON

Spain's teenage sensation Lamine Yamal will have another opportunity to underline his status as football's brightest young star when he comes face-to-face with France captain Kylian Mbappé in a blockbuster FIFA World Cup semifinal on Tuesday.

The clash pits one of the game's most accomplished superstars against its most exciting emerging talent, with a place in the World Cup final at stake.

Mbappé, now 27, is aiming to guide France into a third successive World Cup final after winning the title in 2018 and finishing runners-up in 2022. The French captain has been in scintillating form throughout the tournament, scoring eight goals to share the Golden Boot lead with Argentina's Lionel Messi.

Yamal, meanwhile, is chasing history of his own. The Barcelona winger is hoping to emulate Mbappé by winning the World Cup as a teenager. The Spaniard first announced himself on the global stage at Euro 2024, when his stunning semifinal goal helped Spain eliminate France before they went on to lift the continental title.

Although Yamal has scored only once at this World Cup, Spain captain Rodri has urged the 19-year-old to remain patient.

"Lamine sometimes needs to calm his anxiety because he wants to show how important he is for the team," Rodri said, expressing confidence that the youngster will deliver when it matters most.

Spain's attack has lacked some of the cutting edge that defined its European Championship triumph, while France have rediscovered their attacking rhythm with Mbappé leading a formidable forward line.

The semifinal also extends an intriguing personal rivalry. Across club and international football, Yamal has enjoyed considerable success against Mbappé, winning eight of their previous 10 meetings.

For Mbappé, the stakes are equally significant. Victory would take France into a third consecutive World Cup final, matching a feat achieved only by Brazil's Cafu. The Real Madrid forward is also closing in on Messi's World Cup scoring record, trailing the Argentine by just one goal.

With youth challenging experience and two of football's biggest names ready to share the spotlight, Tuesday's semifinal promises to be one of the defining contests of the tournament.

Young Yamal seeks place in WC history



Teenage sensation eyes another statement win as France seek revenge against Spain

FIFA faces scrutiny over Balogun ban amid Trump intervention controversy

ZURICH

FIFA has come under intense scrutiny after reports revealed that the decision to suspend United States striker Folarin Balogun's one-match World Cup ban was approved by only one member of its 18-member disciplinary committee, raising fresh questions over the governing body's decision-making process.

According to a report, FIFA Disciplinary Committee chairman Mohammad Al-Kamali unilaterally approved the suspension of Balogun's ban for 12 months after the striker was sent off during the United States' Round of 32 victory over Bosnia and Herzegovina. The suspension allowed Balogun to feature in the Americans' Round of 16 clash against Belgium.

The decision has attracted widespread attention because



high-profile disciplinary matters are typically handled by a panel comprising multiple committee members. In precedent-setting cases, FIFA generally appoints a three-member panel to deliberate before reaching a verdict.

Reports claim that none of the committee's remaining 17 members were consulted before Al-Kamali made the decision, making the ruling highly unusual.

The controversy deepened after FIFA acknowledged that United States President Don-

ald Trump had personally contacted FIFA president Gianni Infantino to request a review of Balogun's red card. Trump later confirmed he had intervened after Balogun was dismissed for a studs-up challenge on Bosnia defender Tarik Muharemovic.

Although FIFA has maintained that the disciplinary process remained independent, critics have questioned the timing and manner of the decision, particularly given the political involvement surrounding the case.

Balogun remains the only player at the 2026 World Cup to have his suspension deferred despite 14 players receiving red cards during the tournament. The remaining players either served their suspensions during the competition or will do so in future FIFA matches if their teams have already been eliminated.

Norway coach questions England equaliser after controversial World Cup quarterfinal

MIAMI

Norway head coach Stale Solbakken has reignited controversy over England's equalising goal in their FIFA World Cup quarterfinal, insisting the ball struck an overhead camera cable before Jude Bellingham scored in England's dramatic 2-1 extra-time victory.

England recovered from Andreas Schjelderup's first-half opener to book a semifinal clash with defending champions Argentina, thanks to Bellingham's brace. However, Solbakken believes the momentum changed after an unusual incident moments before England's equaliser in first-half stoppage time.

The Norwegian coach claimed goalkeeper Orjan Nyland's clearance hit one of the cables supporting the overhead camera system, causing the ball to change direction before it fell to an England player and sparked the attack that led to Bellingham's goal.

"The ball fell straight down from the sky, so it changed its direction," Solbakken said after the match.

"It caused a misunderstanding among our players. But we can't do anything about that. I don't think we will play the



game again."

According to Solbakken, Norway's players and coaching staff immediately raised the issue with match officials at halftime but were informed the referee had not seen the incident and VAR had not intervened.

During the match, FIFA issued a statement saying the tournament's "Connected Ball" technology detected no contact between the ball and the overhead cable.

"The sensor in the Connected Ball showed no peak in the

heartbeat of the ball while it was in the air," FIFA said, indicating there had been no impact.

While acknowledging FIFA's explanation, Solbakken remained unconvinced.

"If there's been no sound or nothing on the chip, what can I say against that? But the ball dropped straight from heaven. Everyone saw it, including our goalkeeper. We will probably talk about the wire until we are all dead," he remarked.

Despite his frustration, the Norway coach stressed he did

not want the incident to overshadow his team's outstanding campaign, which included a memorable Round of 16 victory over Brazil and their first World Cup quarterfinal appearance since 1998.

England manager Thomas Tuchel said he had not noticed the incident during the match but expressed confidence in the tournament's technology.

"I wasn't aware of it. There's a chip in the ball that can detect the slightest touch, so they should be able to tell if it happened," Tuchel said.

Blaney survives late drama to dominate rain-hit NASCAR race in Atlanta

HAMPTON

Ryan Blaney produced a dominant performance before surviving a dramatic final-lap battle to win the weather-delayed NASCAR Cup Series race at EchoPark Speedway in Atlanta early Monday morning.

The Team Penske driver, who started from pole position, led 171 laps, swept all three stages and emerged victorious after a thrilling three-wide fight with Bubba Wallace and Christopher Bell in overtime.

Wallace initially crossed the finish line in second place but was later penalised for passing below the double yellow line on the final lap, dropping him to 29th in the final classification. Bell was promoted to second, while Carson Hocevar and Ty Gibbs completed the top four.

The race was interrupted for three hours and nine min-

utes because of rain and lightning before finally ending at 1.45 a.m. local time.

Blaney's victory was far from straightforward. With 29 laps remaining, he brushed the outside wall after slight contact with Wallace, leaving his Ford with visible damage and a severe vibration.

"I got loose and hit the fence. I thought it was just concrete and paint on the wheels. Luckily, the car still drove really well," Blaney said after securing his victory.



Despite reporting the vibration to his team over the radio, crew chief Jonathan Hasler decided against bringing the car into the pits.

"There were 30 cars on the lead lap and not many laps left. Staying on track gave us the best chance to win," Hasler explained.

The race was forced into overtime after a multi-car accident involving Kyle Larson, Chase Briscoe and Riley Herbst with five laps remaining.

Earlier, NASCAR officials had suspended the race after lightning was detected within eight miles of the circuit, asking spectators to leave the grandstands before heavy rain arrived. Racing resumed shortly after midnight.

Blaney joked that he used the lengthy delay to "take a nap and eat some food," while Larson admitted the restart came well past his usual bedtime.

QUICK READ



KOSPI drops nearly 9 percent after trading halt

SEOUL
South Korean stocks plunged nearly 9 percent on Monday as heavy selling in technology shares and renewed Middle East tensions rattled investor confidence. The benchmark KOSPI dropped 8.95 percent after a circuit breaker briefly halted trading. Samsung Electronics and SK hynix posted steep losses as investors locked in profits following SK hynix's U.S. ADR debut. Institutions and foreign investors were major sellers, while individuals bought shares. The Korean won weakened against the U.S. dollar, and government bond yields rose. Energy-related stocks, including SK Innovation, outperformed amid concerns over potential disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz.

AI features drive smartphone purchases for most consumers

NEW DELHI
Artificial intelligence has become a key factor in smartphone purchases, with 68 percent of consumers prioritising AI features, according to a CyberMedia Research (CMR) report released on Monday. The survey found 82 percent valued transparent data practices, while 61 percent preferred on-device AI for better privacy and responsiveness. Performance, AI-enhanced cameras and AI capabilities ranked above design, price and battery life. About 77 percent regularly used AI photography tools, and 71 percent frequently accessed generative AI features such as search, writing assistance, translation and summarisation, reflecting AI's growing role in everyday smartphone experiences.

Oil prices surge above 4 percent on Iran tensions

NEW DELHI
Global crude oil prices jumped over 4 percent on Monday, nearing \$80 per barrel, after renewed military tensions between the United States and Iran triggered concerns over possible Middle East supply disruptions. Brent crude gained \$3.28 to trade near \$80, while WTI crude rose 4.55 percent to \$74.66 per barrel. Market sentiment weakened after reports of heightened clashes and uncertainty over diplomatic efforts. Fears of disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz, a key energy route, pushed prices higher. Asian markets also declined, with major indices including Japan's Nikkei, Hang Seng and South Korea's KOSPI falling sharply.

Alumina refinery capacity targeted at 3 million tonnes

Aditya Birla Group proposes Rs 12,000 crore Odisha investment to expand alumina refinery capacity to 3 MTPA.

BHUBANESWAR

The Aditya Birla Group has proposed an investment of around Rs 12,000 crore to expand the capacity of its alumina refinery in Odisha to 3 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), marking a significant move to strengthen its presence in the aluminium value chain.

The proposed expansion is expected to enhance production capabilities, improve operational efficiency and support the growing demand for alumina in domestic and international markets.

The investment is part of the group's broader strategy to scale up its mineral and metals business while contributing to industrial development in Odisha.

The project will further



strengthen Odisha's position as a major hub for aluminium and allied industries, supported by the state's rich mineral resources and established industrial ecosystem. The expansion is also expected to generate employment opportunities and create additional economic activity in the region.

Alumina is a key raw material used in aluminium production, and increasing refinery capacity will help improve supply security for

downstream operations. The Aditya Birla Group has significant interests in the aluminium sector through its flagship metals company, which operates large-scale mining, refining and smelting facilities.

The proposed investment aligns with India's broader push to increase domestic manufacturing capacity, reduce dependence on imports and develop globally competitive industrial infrastructure. Rising demand from sectors

such as transportation, renewable energy, construction and electronics has strengthened the outlook for aluminium consumption.

The Odisha government has been focusing on attracting large industrial investments through policy support, infrastructure development and improved ease of doing business.

The Aditya Birla Group's proposed expansion is expected to reinforce investor confidence in the state's industrial potential. The project will require necessary approvals and clearances before implementation. Once completed, the expanded refinery capacity is expected to play a key role in supporting the group's aluminium operations and strengthening India's position in the global metals market.

India must develop resilient software and hardware systems to counter cyber threats, says MeitY Secretary, stressing stronger digital security.

India urged to build resilient cybersecurity systems against threats

NEW DELHI

India must develop resilient software and hardware ecosystems capable of withstanding evolving cyber threats, MeitY Secretary S. Krishnan said, stressing the need for stronger digital security frameworks to protect the country's growing technology infrastructure.

He highlighted that as India expands its digital economy, cybersecurity preparedness has become increasingly important across government, businesses and critical infrastructure sectors. Building secure systems from the design stage and strengthening domestic capabilities will be essential to address emerging risks.

The MeitY Secretary emphasised the importance of

innovation, research and collaboration among industry stakeholders, academia and government agencies to create robust cybersecurity solutions. He noted that the country needs advanced technologies and skilled professionals to tackle increasingly sophisticated cyberattacks.

With rapid adoption of digital services, cloud platforms, artificial intelligence and connected devices, India faces a growing need for secure software and hardware development practices. Strengthening cyber resilience will help safeguard sensitive information, maintain trust in digital platforms and support long-term economic growth.

The government has been focusing on expanding cybersecurity capabilities through policy initiatives, capacity

building and promotion of indigenous technology development. Strengthening domestic cybersecurity products and solutions is also aligned with efforts to improve India's digital sovereignty.

Experts have highlighted that cyber resilience requires a coordinated approach involving continuous monitoring, threat intelligence sharing and quick response mechanisms. As businesses and public institutions become more dependent on digital systems, investments in cybersecurity infrastructure are expected to remain a priority. The MeitY Secretary's remarks underline the importance of preparing India's technology ecosystem for future challenges while ensuring that digital transformation progresses securely and sustainably.

India builds globally competitive manufacturing capabilities

NEW DELHI

India is steadily transitioning from being a low-cost manufacturing destination to building globally competitive industrial capabilities, supported by favourable policy measures, infrastructure investments and expanding trade access, according to a report released on Monday.

The report by Cernelian Asset Management and Advisors said the country's manufacturing sector is entering a new phase of structural growth, with multiple factors working together to strengthen its position in global supply chains. It added that the firm's first manufacturing-focused investment fund has delivered a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of over 32 percent since its launch in 2020. According to the report, the next phase of "Manufacturing 2.0" will be driven by sectors such as electronics manufacturing services.

Small business credit portfolio surges 13.4 percent in FY26

Small business credit portfolio grows 13.4 percent
Outstanding credit reaches Rs 49.2 lakh crore
Active MSME loans rise to 7.5 crore
Loan Against Property leads lending growth
AP, Uttar Pradesh post strongest growth

MUMBAI

India's small business credit ecosystem continued its steady expansion in FY26, with the total outstanding credit portfolio reaching Rs 49.2 lakh crore as of March 2026, marking a 13.4 percent year-on-year increase despite global economic headwinds, according to a report released on Monday.

The fourth edition of the CRIF-SIDBI Small Business

Spotlight Report revealed that the number of active small business loans rose to 7.5 crore by the end of March 2026, reflecting sustained demand for credit among micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Sole proprietors remained the primary drivers of growth, accounting for 80 percent of the total portfolio and more than 87 percent of active loans, including borrowers with enterprise-linked credit exposure.

Among lending products, Loan Against Property (LAP) retained its position as the largest segment, contributing 27.1 percent of the overall portfolio, followed by business loans at 24.8 percent and working capital products at 22.8 percent. The share of LAP increased from 25.5 percent in March 2025 to 27.1 percent in March 2026, underlining the growing preference for secured lending in



the MSME sector. The report highlighted that the top 10 states accounted for nearly 72 percent of the total portfolio outstanding, indicating a concentration of small business credit in key regions. Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh recorded the strongest portfolio growth, registering year-on-year increases of 16.5 percent and 18.5 percent, respectively.

Tamil Nadu emerged as a mature and resilient market, with its portfolio outstanding rising 11.6 percent to Rs 4.6 lakh crore while maintaining improving asset quality.

Growth in enterprise term loans moderated to 4.7 percent, signalling opportunities for lenders to support MSMEs through financing for technology upgrades, sustainability initiatives and capacity expansion. Manufacturing accounted for 31.3 percent of enterprise term loans, while services and trading together contributed 47.6 percent. The report noted that manufacturing-related credit growth was concentrated in key industrial districts, with Bengaluru, Jaipur, Pune and Rajkot emerging as major growth centres.

MAXPO GCC summit 2026 to host global technology leaders

BENGALURU

MAXPO is set to bring together more than 500 Global Capability Centre (GCC) leaders, 200 global enterprises and 30 industry experts at the GCC Summit 2026 in Bengaluru on July 15, highlighting India's growing role as a global hub for innovation, technology and business transformation.

The summit will focus on the evolving GCC landscape, emerging technologies, digital transformation strategies and the future of enterprise opera-



tions. It will provide a platform for industry leaders, technology experts and global organisations to exchange insights on building next-generation capabilities.

The event is expected to feature discussions around artificial intelligence, cloud computing, cybersecurity, automation, data analytics and

other technologies shaping the future of global businesses. Experts will deliberate on how GCCs are moving beyond traditional support functions to become strategic centres for innovation and value creation.

India has emerged as one of the world's largest destinations for GCCs, supported by

its skilled technology workforce, expanding digital ecosystem and strong enterprise capabilities. Bengaluru, recognised as a leading technology hub, continues to attract global companies establishing and scaling their innovation centres.

The summit will also highlight opportunities for collaboration between multinational corporations, technology providers and ecosystem stakeholders. Sessions will explore strategies for improving operational efficiency, developing talent pipelines and leverag-

ing emerging technologies to drive business growth.

With GCCs becoming increasingly important in global corporate strategies, the event aims to showcase India's capabilities in delivering advanced technology solutions and supporting worldwide business operations.

MAXPO said the summit will serve as a key forum for industry stakeholders to discuss trends, challenges and opportunities shaping the next phase of GCC growth in India and across global markets.

Private equity flows into India's real estate sector rise 3.2%

NEW DELHI

Private equity investments in India's real estate sector reached \$3.2 billion during the first half of 2026, registering a 33 percent year-on-year growth, reflecting rising investor confidence in the country's property market, according to a report released on Monday.

Global real estate consultancy firm Savills India said private equity institutional inflows stood at \$2 billion in the second quarter of 2026, marking a 25 percent increase compared with the same period last year.

The investment figures include equity transactions executed through private routes, structured debt deals by Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), and non-convertible debenture issuances. The data excludes conventional debt deals, qualified institutional placements, public market transactions and platform formations.

Data centres emerged as the leading investment segment in the second quarter, accounting for 38 percent of total inflows and reversing the earlier dominance of office-led investments. The office segment contributed 30 percent, while residential real estate secured a 16 percent share.

For the first half of the year, office assets remained the preferred investment category, attracting 34 percent of total equity inflows. Investors also expanded exposure to alternative real estate segments, including hospitality with an 8 percent share and student housing or co-living spaces with 3 percent.



Indian real estate attracts \$3.2 billion private equity investments in H1 2026, rising 33% amid strong investor confidence.

Domestic investors contributed 51 percent of total private equity inflows during H1 2026. The capital was spread across multiple asset classes, although office properties remained the primary focus, accounting for 68 percent of domestic investments, particularly in major Tier-I cities.

Foreign investors accounted for the remaining 49 percent of inflows, with the US and Canada contributing nearly 69 percent of overseas capital. Foreign investments were mainly directed towards data centres and hospitality assets.

Savills India Managing Director Sumet Bhatia said the strong inflow of private equity capital highlights growing confidence in India's real estate sector.

He added that increasing diversification into hospitality, healthcare and student housing reflects a maturing investment approach focused on digital and alternative real estate opportunities.

The report expects investment momentum to continue in the coming quarters as global and domestic investors strengthen their long-term commitment to India's expanding real estate market.

Meta expands Louisiana data center to boost AI computing capacity

Meta expands Louisiana data center for AI
Investment exceeds \$50 billion in region
Facility targets five gigawatts computing capacity
Local businesses receive \$1.6 billion contracts
AI infrastructure demand drives massive expansions

WASHINGTON

Meta Platforms has announced plans to expand its data center in Richland Parish, Louisiana, to achieve 5 gigawatts of computing capacity as the company accelerates investments in artificial intelligence infrastructure.

The expansion is part of Meta's broader strategy to strengthen its computing capabilities and support the growing demands of AI development, including advanced AI models and agent-based technologies. The company said the project represents an investment of more than \$50 billion in the Louisiana region.

Since construction began in December 2024, local Louisiana businesses have received more than \$1.6 billion in contracts linked to the data center project, according to Meta.

The company also plans to invest over \$1 billion in local infrastructure improvements, including upgrades to roads, water systems and wastewater facilities.

The move highlights the rapid expansion of AI-focused data centres by major technology companies as demand for computing power contin-



ues to exceed available capacity. Meta, along with other global technology firms, has been committing billions of dollars toward building large-scale infrastructure to support artificial intelligence workloads.

The company has announced plans to invest \$600 billion in US infrastructure and jobs over the next three years, with a significant portion directed toward expanding data centre networks and AI capabilities.

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has placed artificial intelligence at the centre of the company's future growth strategy, with investments aimed at developing advanced AI systems and applications. The Louisiana facility is expected to become a major component of Meta's global computing infrastructure.

The expansion is also expected to provide economic benefits to the region through construction activity, local business opportunities and infrastructure development.

As competition intensifies among technology companies to secure AI computing resources, large-scale data centre investments have become a key priority.

Meta's Louisiana expansion reflects the broader industry shift toward building powerful infrastructure needed to support the next generation of artificial intelligence technologies.

Fleming ends 17-year stint as CSK head coach

Mutual decision closes one of IPL's longest and most successful coaching partnerships ever

CHENNAI

Five-time Indian Premier League (IPL) champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and head coach Stephen Fleming have mutually agreed to part ways, bringing an end to one of the most successful and enduring partnerships in the tournament's history.

The announcement was made by the franchise on Monday through a post on X, thanking the former New Zealand captain for his immense contribution since the team's inception in 2008.

"The Super Kings and Head Coach Stephen Fleming have mutually decided to part ways. Together, we shared one of the most successful and enduring partnerships in IPL history. The legacy you've built will

continue to inspire us," the franchise said.

Fleming joined CSK as a player in the inaugural IPL season in 2008 before taking over as head coach in 2009. During his tenure, the franchise established itself as one of the league's most consistent teams, winning five IPL titles and two Champions League T20 crowns. Under his guidance, CSK also reached the IPL playoffs a record 12 times and appeared in 10 finals.

However, the team's fortunes have dipped since losing the IPL trophy in 2023. CSK failed to qualify for the playoffs in each of the last three seasons, leading to growing scrutiny of Fleming's role despite his remarkable record.

CSK owner Rupa Gurunath described Fleming as

the "heartbeat" of the franchise's coaching setup.

"For nearly two decades, he has helped shape our identity, vision and pursuit of excellence. On behalf of everyone at the Super Kings, we extend our deepest gratitude for his unwavering commitment, passion and leadership," she said.

While the franchise has not announced a successor, the departure marks the end of an era for CSK, whose identity became closely associated with Fleming's calm leadership and tactical acumen.

With skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad expected to lead the team's rebuilding phase, attention will now turn to who takes charge of one of the IPL's most decorated franchises ahead of the 2027 season.

Dravid tipped for England Test role after McCullum exit

LONDON

Former India head coach Rahul Dravid has emerged as one of the leading contenders to succeed Brendon McCullum as England's Test coach following the New Zealander's dismissal after the team's disappointing red-ball performances.

According to a report, Dravid is among several high-profile candidates being considered by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), alongside former England coach Andy Flower and ex-England spinner Richard Dawson.

McCullum's four-year tenure as England's Test coach came to an end after the side suffered a 1-2 home series defeat to New Zealand. The ECB said it was "the right time to make a change" ahead of next year's Ashes series, although McCullum will continue as coach of England's ODI and T20I teams.

Dravid, 53, is regarded as an attractive candidate because of his meticulous planning, technical expertise and calm



Indian legend reportedly shortlisted, though full-time coaching role may not interest him currently

leadership. During his stint with India, he guided the team to the 2024 ICC T20 World Cup title and the 2023 World Test Championship final, enhancing his reputation as one of the game's finest coaches.

However, the report noted that Dravid currently has "no desire" to return to full-time

coaching. It suggested that England's Test-only role, which allows extended breaks between assignments, could nevertheless appeal to him and help preserve his preferred format of the game.

Zimbabwe great Andy Flower is also viewed as a strong contender. Widely regarded as England's most successful modern-day coach, Flower guided the team to three Ashes series victories and the No. 1 Test ranking. He has also enjoyed success in franchise cricket, including back-to-back IPL titles with Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Richard Dawson, currently Glamorgan's head coach, is another serious candidate after impressing in county cricket. Other names linked with the vacancy include Sri Lanka great Kumar Sangakkara, England Lions coach Andrew Flintoff, Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson and former Australia coach Justin Langer.

The ECB is expected to begin consultations soon as England look to appoint a new Test coach before preparations gather pace for the 2027 Ashes.

Australian becomes latest foreign coach to leave Pakistan setup amid continued management instability recently

McDermott resigns as Pakistan fielding coach ahead of West Indies, England tours

LAHORE

Pakistan fielding coach Shane McDermott has resigned from his position ahead of the national team's upcoming Test tours of the West Indies and England, becoming the latest foreign support staff member to exit the Pakistan cricket set-up. According to sources close to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), the Australian coach, who joined the team around a year ago, will not accompany the squad on the two-Test series in the Caribbean or the subsequent three-Test tour of England.

The PCB has not officially disclosed the reason behind McDermott's resignation. However, it is expected to appoint Mansoor Amjad, currently the fielding coach of the Pakistan Shaheens and Under-19 teams, as his replacement.

"Mansoor Amjad, who has been the fielding coach with the Pakistan Shaheens and Un-



der-19 side, is likely to replace McDermott," a source familiar with the development said.

Pakistan's squad is scheduled to depart on Monday for the Caribbean, where it will play a two-Test series before travelling to England for three more Tests as part of a crucial overseas campaign.

McDermott's departure continues a pattern of foreign coaches and support staff leav-

ing Pakistan cricket in recent years, often without official explanations. His resignation follows the exits of trainer and physiotherapist Cliffe Deacon, while former head coaches Gary Kirsten and Jason Gillespie also stepped down from their roles in the past year.

The PCB has also been reviewing its coaching structure following inconsistent performances across formats. Reports have suggested that Test head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed and captain Shan Masood are also under scrutiny after a string of disappointing results.

Pakistan cricket has witnessed frequent changes in its coaching staff over the past decade. One of the most notable departures came in 2019 when former fielding coach Steve Rixon resigned following differences with the board.



CHENNAI

India T20I captain Shreyas Iyer has urged his team to learn quickly from its disappointing tour of England after suffering a 0-4 series defeat that ended the side's reign as the world's No. 1-ranked T20I team.

The loss extended India's winless run under Iyer's captaincy to seven matches across the England and Ireland tours, putting both the newly appointed skipper and head coach Gautam Gambhir under pressure just months after India's T20 World Cup triumph.

Despite the difficult start to his leadership tenure, Iyer insisted captaining India remains a privilege rather than a burden. "Every individual has dreams

of captaining India. I love pressure and believe these experiences will make me a better leader. Good and bad phases are part of the game, and I'm not thinking about what people will say after this series," he said.

Reflecting on the tour, Iyer said India's immediate priority is to build a strong team culture capable of succeeding in overseas conditions. With the next T20 World Cup scheduled in Australia in 2028, he believes the current setbacks will help shape a more competitive squad.

"Our focus is to remain positive, nurture the players around us and build the camaraderie needed to succeed overseas. We have many tours coming up, and these experiences will prepare us better," he said.

England's series victory also saw them replace India at the top of the ICC T20I rankings, adding further significance to the defeat. India now face the challenge of regaining their status as Asia's highest-ranked T20I side to strengthen their prospects for qualification to the cricket competition at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Quicker we learn, the better: Shreyas after England T20I whitewash

India skipper says setbacks will strengthen team ahead of 2028 T20 World Cup challenge

SINNER RETAINS WIMBLEDON CROWN, WINS FIFTH SLAM

LONDON

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner successfully defended his Wimbledon title with a commanding 6-7(7), 7-6(2), 6-3, 6-4 victory over Germany's Alexander Zverev, claiming his fifth Grand Slam crown and cementing his status as the dominant force in men's tennis.

The 24-year-old Italian became only the 10th man in the professional era to retain the Wimbledon singles title, extending his remarkable winning streak over Zverev to 10 consecutive matches.

Overcoming the disappointment of narrowly losing a gripping first-set tiebreak, Sinner responded with trademark composure, winning the second-set tiebreak before taking control of the contest with aggressive baseline play and clinical serving.

"There's no better place to play tennis," Sinner said after lifting the iconic Challenge Cup. "You never know how many times you'll get this opportunity, so I never take it for granted. The support over the last two weeks has been incredible."

The opening set featured high-quality shot-making from both finalists before Zverev edged ahead in a tense tiebreak. However, the momentum shift-

ed in the second set as Sinner raised his level and comfortably won the breaker to draw level.

A pivotal moment came midway through the third set when Zverev earned his first break point after more than two-and-a-half hours of play but slipped awkwardly while chasing a drop shot, clutching his right knee in pain. Although the German resumed after treatment, the incident appeared to affect his rhythm.

Sinner capitalised immediately, breaking serve for a 5-3 lead before sealing the third set. He struck again in the fourth, breaking for a 4-3 advantage as Zverev's resistance faded. Serving confidently, the Italian closed out the match before collapsing onto the Centre Court grass in celebration.

For Zverev, the defeat marked a fourth loss in a Grand Slam final, extending his wait for a maiden major title.

"Congratulations, Jannik. You showed once again why you're the best player in the world," Zverev said during the trophy presentation.

Sinner's latest triumph narrows the gap on rival Carlos Alcaraz's tally of seven Grand Slam titles and further strengthens his position at the summit of men's tennis.

Mladenovic, Guo capture maiden Wimbledon women's doubles title

LONDON

France's Kristina Mladenovic and China's Guo Hanyu produced a dominant display to defeat second seeds Gabriela Dabrowski and Luisa Stefani 6-3, 7-5 and win the Wimbledon women's doubles title, securing their first Grand Slam crown as a partnership.

The victory marked a remarkable comeback for 34-year-old Mladenovic, who was sidelined by a serious injury last year that left her on crutches. The six-time Grand Slam doubles champion teamed up with Guo only earlier this season, making their Wimbledon triumph all the more impressive.

"It feels like a dream. I definitely cannot believe what just happened," an emotional Mladenovic said after lifting her maiden Wimbledon women's doubles trophy.

The 10th-seeded French-Chinese pair made a blistering start, reading Dabrowski's lobs with ease and racing into a commanding 5-0 lead in the opening set. Although the Canadian-Brazilian combination fought back to claim three consecutive games, Mladenovic and Guo



stayed composed to wrap up the set 6-3.

The second set proved far more competitive as Dabrowski and Stefani settled into the contest and created two break-point opportunities at 5-5. However, Mladenovic's powerful forehands and calm shot selection helped the pair escape trouble.

The decisive moment arrived in the 11th game when Guo, playing in her first Grand Slam final, struck a superb cross-court backhand winner after an aggressive return at the net earned the crucial break. Serving for the championship, Mladenovic sealed victory with a trademark forehand that forced an error from their opponents.

Guo, overcome with emotion, thanked her partner during the trophy presentation. "I feel so lucky to have you on my side and to share this trophy with you. Thank you for choosing me and trusting me," she said.

Mladenovic praised Guo for believing in her despite her injury setbacks.

"I had no ranking after my injury, but Guo never hesitated to partner with me. I'm incredibly proud to be standing here with her," she said.

The title marks Guo's first Grand Slam triumph and Mladenovic's seventh women's doubles major, completing a memorable fortnight for the newly formed partnership at the All England Club.

Italian rallies from set down to secure historic back-to-back Wimbledon championships triumph brilliantly

