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ISRO Steps Up Space Debris Mitigation



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Janhvi Kapoor rumored as tribal queen in 'Raaka'



KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY MONSOON SESSION

'BOWING TO IDEALS OF DEMOCRACY...'

DKS gears up to face Oppn salvo; bows to assembly door and CM seat, walks up to the opposition benches and greets LoP R Ashoka and DyLoP Arvind Bellad before the start of the legislative session.

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday bowed to the threshold of the Legislative Assembly and the CM's chair as he entered the House at Vidhana Soudha for the first time as Chief Minister.

The monsoon session, which began on Thursday, marks his first legislative session in the new role.

"With the blessings of crores of Kannadigas, bowing to the ideals of democracy, I take my first step into the House as Chief Minister," Shivakumar posted on X, sharing a picture.

Shivakumar walked up to the opposition benches and greeted the Leader of Opposition in the House R Ashoka and Deputy Leader of Opposition Arvind Bellad in the beginning of the day's proceedings.

Shivakumar posted on X that he was taking his first step into the House as CM while bowing to the ideals of democracy and with the blessings of Kannadigas. He also greeted opposition leaders R Ashoka and Arvind Bellad.

Shivakumar was sworn-in as the chief minister along with 13 ministers on June 3, following Siddaramaiah's resignation as CM on May 28.

He expanded his Cabinet on August 3, by inducting 19 ministers, bringing the total strength to 33. One berth remains vacant.

The monsoon session of the Karnataka legislature is expected to be stormy with the opposition likely to corner the Congress government on a host of issues, including drought management and the resignation of minister B Nagendra, who is facing corruption charges.

According to sources, the raging issue of Cauvery water release to Tamil Nadu, the acquisition of farmers' land for the proposed Greater Bengaluru



With the blessings of crores of Kannadigas, bowing to the ideals of democracy, I take my first step into the House as cm.

-DK Shivakumar, CM

BJP to boycott Assembly Speaker poll

Bengaluru: The Opposition BJP said on Thursday that it would boycott the election to pick the Speaker of the Karnataka Assembly, even as it and the JD(S) nominated a candidate for the Legislative Council chairperson post despite lacking the numbers in the Upper House. Both polls will be held on Friday. Speaking to reporters, LoP R Ashoka said the BJP was boycotting the election because the Congress high command had already announced the Speaker's name in a letter. "The House has sovereignty and the MLAs have the right. But the Congress has unconstitutionally mentioned the name of the Speaker to be selected on its letterhead."

Integrated Township (GBIT) project near Bidadi in Bengaluru South district, and the demand for Nagendra's resignation are likely to disrupt House proceedings.

On Thursday, the House paid tributes to D Sudhakar, a member of the current Assembly and a Minister, who passed away recently, during the obituary reference.



Eyeing RSS, Cabinet approves bill on use of public property

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Cabinet is learnt to have approved on Thursday a Bill requiring private organisations and associations to seek government permission to use public property for any activity, a move widely seen as targeting the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

The Karnataka Regulation of Use of Government Premises and Public Property Bill, 2026, drafted by the Home Department headed by Priyank Kharge, is likely to be introduced in the ongoing monsoon session of the legislature.

The Bill will replace an October 18, 2025 order that made "prior permission" mandatory for any private organisation, association or a group of persons to use government property or premises.

While the order did not specifically name RSS, it contained enough provisions to impact the activities of the Hindu majoritarian organisation, including its route marches. The order, however,

was stayed by the Karnataka High Court citing violation of fundamental rights.

Minimum wages: Cabinet panel formed

The Cabinet also decided to form a sub-committee headed by Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara to look into the hike in minimum wages in the state, which was done through a final notification by the Labour Department in May.

A pet project of Labour Minister Santosh Lad, the government revised minimum wages in the range of Rs 32,145 and Rs 20,350. While this was hailed by trade unions, it was criticised by employers as "too steep."

A case is currently ongoing in the High Court between employers and the Government of Karnataka.

It may be recalled that the Finance Department had advised all government departments to wait for the Cabinet's final decision before proceeding with the revision of minimum wages.

The business has finally started

The Karnataka Legislature's monsoon session began on August 13, 2026, and is scheduled to run until August 27, 2026, spanning 10 working days at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru. The session assumes significance as it comes after a considerable delay, amid mounting political developments, including the uncertainty over Cabinet expansion.

Schedule & details

Dates: August 13 to August 27

Location: Vidhana Soudha, B'luu.

Duration: 10 working days.

Summoned by: Governor Thawarchand Gehlot under Article 174(1) of the Constitution.

Major focus areas & background

Cabinet rejig: The session follows the recent induction and portfolio allocation for new ministers, with CM DK Shivakumar retaining major portfolios like Finance and Intelligence.

Expected issues: Proceedings are expected to focus heavily on state development, drought mitigation, regional water-sharing matters such as the Cauvery dispute, and facing opposition questions, including the absence of a woman minister in the Cabinet.

Cauvery: Govt to move SC

The Cabinet is learnt to have decided Thursday to file a petition in the Supreme Court challenging the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's (CWRC) direction that Karnataka should release 12,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu for the next 15 days. "About 7,000-7,500 cusecs of water is already flowing naturally. We're falling short by some 4,000 cusecs," an official said.

Parl monsoon session ends on a stormy note

11 Bills passed by both Houses despite repeated disruptions.

NEW DELHI

The Monsoon Session of Parliament concluded on Thursday after Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan adjourned their respective Houses sine die, ending a session marked by repeated disruptions, Opposition protests and the passage of several key bills without debate.

The Lok Sabha's final sitting began with the playing of Vande Mataram. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and other MPs were present as all six stanzas of the National Song were played before the House was adjourned.

In the Rajya Sabha, the final day saw the passage of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill by voice vote. The Upper House skipped Zero Hour and Question Hour and continued beyond its usual pre-lunch schedule before Radhakrishnan reviewed the session's functioning and adjourned proceedings sine die.

Rijiju flags low productivity Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said, "In terms of business, it was a very successful session; we



12 bills passed by both Houses are:

Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026

Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026

Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2026

Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026

Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026

Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026

National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026

passed a total of 12 bills. However, from the perspective of debate and discussion, it was not as successful," he said. According to him, Lok Sabha productivity stood at 19%, while the Rajya Sabha recorded 39%.

LOK SABHA PRODUCTIVITY AT 19%

The Lok Sabha recorded productivity of only around 19% of its allotted time, while the Rajya Sabha functioned at approximately 39%.

The Rajya Sabha functioned for 37 hours and 49 minutes during the session. Parliamentary data showed that 285 Starred Questions were listed, while 380 Zero Hour submissions and 380 Special Mentions were admitted.

However, disruptions meant that only 16 Starred Questions, 52 Zero Hour submissions and 93 Special Mentions could be taken up.

'Sandhya Kirana' for retired staff gets cabinet nod

BENGALURU

The Karnataka state cabinet on Thursday approved the launch of 'Sandhya Kiran' contributory cashless healthcare scheme for state government pensioners and family pensioners aged below 70 years.

The voluntary initiative aims to cover roughly 4.93 lakh beneficiaries, offering secondary, tertiary, and emergency medical care up to ₹5 lakh per family annually.

As per the government, to ensure comprehensive healthcare coverage for retired state government employees and their eligible dependents, this new scheme has been formulated under the regulations of the Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK) scheme.

The scheme will be implemented through the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST).

FEATURES OF THE SCHEME

Coverage & beneficiaries: In the initial phase, approximately 3.11 lakh state government pensioners under 70 years of age and their eligible dependents, bringing a total of about 4.93 lakh beneficiaries, will come under the scope of this scheme.

Healthcare benefits: As a contributory cashless health scheme, it provides cashless access to secondary, tertiary, and emergency medical treatments up to ₹5.00 Lakh per eligible family per year on a floater basis.

Hospital network: Benefit packages and revised package rates applicable under AB-ArK will extend to this scheme as well. Beneficiaries can avail of cashless treatment facilities at enrolled/approved hospitals under the scheme.

Premium contributions

Service pensioners must contribute 1.25% of their basic pension.

Family pensioners must contribute 0.75% of their basic family pension.

Financial impact (Treatment costs)

The scheme is expected to collect an estimated ₹117 Crore annually in premiums, with the annual treatment cost estimated at approximately ₹81.75 Cr.

As per AB-ArK policy, 70% of the treatment cost will be borne by the beneficiaries' share and 30% by the State Government's share.

Accordingly, the annual share will be approximately ₹57.22 Crore from beneficiaries and ₹24.53 Crore from the State Government.

To ensure long-term financial stability and effective corpus management, a mechanism is proposed to automatically increase the current premium rate by 0.05% (5 basis points) whenever corpus utilization exceeds 85%.

Social security significance

This scheme is a vital social security measure ensuring quality, affordable, and cashless healthcare services for state government pensioners and their families, helping significantly reduce the financial burden of unexpected medical expenses.

Phuket incident: Air India expands dope test for all pilots

NEW DELHI: Air India will begin mandatory substance testing for all pilots on Thursday, expanding checks beyond regulatory requirements days after a pilot involved in a serious mid-air incident tested positive for marijuana, according to an internal memo.

The tests will screen for substances and medications prohibited under aviation regulations and will be conducted alongside training sessions at the airline's Gurugram academy, after flights at briefing centres and offices, or at locations designated by pilots' home bases. Pilots at budget subsidiary Air India Express will also be tested.

Air India did not immediately respond to an email

seeking comment. Existing rules require airlines to randomly test at least 10% of their flight crew for psychoactive substances each year.

"We nevertheless now feel that it is important to go further," Air India said in the memo, adding that the initiative was intended to uphold safety standards and provide reassurance to passengers and other stakeholders.

The move comes as authorities investigate an August 4 incident involving an Air India Airbus A320neo flying from Phuket to Delhi that suddenly lost about 300 feet (91 metres) of altitude during cruise. The flight's captain tested positive for marijuana in a confirmatory drug test.



AP students take out 'Taksing Chalo, Bharat Bachao'

Guwahati: With the claims by community organisations and Opposition parties about incursion by Chinese forces on the border increasing pressure on the government, a team of the influential All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU) on Thursday began a march towards Taksing, where they seeks to hoist the tricolor on the Independence Day.

A team led by Mato Bui, AAPSU general secretary, began the march from the state capital Itanagar to Taksing, an interior area in Upper Subansiri district, where, according to local organisations, Chinese PLA forces had allegedly crossed the border recently and even blocked movement of the Indian forces.

Cauvery row: K'taka bandh evokes mixed response

Bengaluru: The Karnataka bandh called by pro-Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj on Thursday against the Cauvery water release to Tamil Nadu evoked mixed response, with intense protests in Mandya and preventive detentions at several places, while life remained unaffected in major urban centers like Bengaluru and Mysuru as organisations that had backed the agitation initially, later withdrew support.

The bandh was called by the Federation of Kannada organisations led by activist Vatal Nagaraj, in protest against the directions of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee and the Cauvery Water Management Authority to release 12,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu.

The call lost some momen-

tum after several Kannada organisations withdrew their support. Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said that some activists, including Praveen Shetty and Sa Ra Govindu, had met him and informed him that they were withdrawing the bandh call.

"They have said that they are withdrawing the call, which is very happy news. I congratulate them and thank them for it," Shivakumar told reporters.

Pro-Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj was taken into preventive custody from his residence in Bengaluru before he could join the planned protests.

In Mandya, the epicentre of the Cauvery agitation, farmers staged protests carrying empty pots and horse gram.



NHAI TWEAKS NORMS

10K fine if ambulance fails to reach crash site in 10-minute

The new norms give ambulances two minutes to start moving after accepting an emergency alert

NEW DELHI

The National Highways Authority of India has set a 10-minute deadline for ambulances deployed on national highways to reach accident sites within a 10-km radius, as part of new rules aimed at

cutting delays in emergency response. It said failure to meet the timeline could attract a penalty of Rs 10,000 for each incident.

Under the new guidelines, ambulances will also have to take accident victims to the nearest hospital within one hour of accepting a ticket, with a Rs 10,000 penalty for any failure. The norms, issued on Wednesday, are part of efforts to strengthen the Incident Management System through the NHAI Care System and improve the dispatch



of ambulances, cranes and patrolling vehicles.

In its policy guidelines, NHAI said, "Based on location of incident the ambulance

should not take more than 10 minutes (from time of the ticket acceptance) for covering any accident within 10-km vicinity." It added, "For incident locations beyond 10 km, allowed time shall be proportionally increased. The same shall be verified through GPS data/ IMS Care Dashboard."

There are around 3,000 ambulances and 1,000 patrolling vehicles and cranes covering about 50,000 km of highways under NHAI. Under the new service-level benchmarks, any

emergency ticket rejection by an ambulance will also attract a penalty of Rs 10,000. NHAI said all equipment, medicines and staff must be provided as per contract agreements, failing which a penalty of Rs 10,000 will be imposed.

The agency said AIS-140 compliant GPS devices have been installed on all on-road units, including ambulances, cranes and patrolling vehicles deployed on NHAI projects, to ensure effective implementation of the NHAI Care System.

Quick Read



Quick response helps reunite missing boy with family

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A three-year-old boy found walking alone near 4th Cross, Vithal Nagar, was safely rescued and reunited with his family by Chamarajapet police. At around 3.59 pm, members of the public alerted 112, following which ASI Rajasekhar R.J. and Police Constable Channabasappa, on duty in Hoysala-90, reached the spot within three minutes. Police comforted the child and learnt that he had walked from Ancephalya towards Vithal Nagar. After making enquiries in the surrounding area, police traced his parents and safely handed him over to his mother and grandmother.



Swift action by Begur Police: Lost Mobile Phone Traced

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Begur police swiftly traced and returned a lost mobile phone to its rightful owner following a 112 emergency call in Hongasandra on August 12. At around 12.01 pm, a woman contacted 112 after her husband lost his phone near a bar within Bommanahalli police limits. The emergency response team alerted ASI Srinivas N. and Police Constable Shabbir Mamadapur, who were on duty in Hoysala-215 of Begur Police Station. They reached the spot within three minutes and found that the phone was with the cashier of a nearby bar. After verifying ownership, police recovered the phone and handed it over safely to the owner.

GBA to revive welfare scheme, benefit 15,592 beneficiaries

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is set to revive its welfare scheme after a three-year gap, with benefits to be distributed to 15,592 beneficiaries. The distribution date will be announced later, according to GBA officials. Under the scheme, 4,200 students will receive school and college fee reimbursement, while 2,298 beneficiaries will receive financial assistance under the 'Onti Mane' scheme. Sewing machines will be provided to 3,917 people, while 1,507 beneficiaries will receive EV/CNG vending push carts. Under the Saarathi scheme, 732 beneficiaries will receive

Priyank Kharge targets BJP over 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign

Home Minister Priyank Kharge questioned BJP's patriotism narrative, urging the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign to begin at RSS headquarters.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Thursday criticised the BJP over its 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, saying the initiative should begin at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) headquarters in Nagpur. Kharge questioned the RSS's history of hoisting the national flag at its headquarters, claiming that the tricolour was officially hoisted there only in 2002. He also questioned why the organisation's ideological association with the Bhagwa Dhvaj took precedence over the national flag for decades. He asked whether RSS route marches had seen uniformed swayamsevak carrying the Indian tricolour, accusing the BJP of issuing



"Desh Bhakti" certificates to others while questioning their patriotism. His remarks came amid the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign being promoted as part of Independence Day celebrations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had urged citizens to hoist the tricolour at their homes and described the campaign as a tribute to freedom fighters and a pledge towards a developed India.

"Before lecturing every Indian on patriotism, perhaps the BJP should first explain why its ideological parent chose the Bhagwa Dhvaj over the Tricolour."
-PRIYANK KHARGE, K'TAKA HOME MINISTER

Kharge said the BJP should first explain the RSS's historical position on the national flag before lecturing citizens about patriotism.

Tricolour debate

Campaign	Har Ghar Tiranga
Target	BJP and RSS
Location	RSS headquarters, Nagpur
Flag	Indian Tricolour
Claim	Tricolour hoisted at RSS in 2002
Occasion	Independence Day celebrations

Flag and patriotism debate

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge criticised the BJP's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign by questioning the RSS's historical position on the national flag. He said the campaign should begin at the RSS headquarters in Nagpur. Kharge also questioned the absence of the tricolour from RSS route marches and accused the BJP of questioning others' patriotism.

Dr G. Parameshwara condemns 'purification' ritual after Kharge event

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Dr G. Parameshwara has strongly condemned the reported "purification ritual" conducted at a ground in Haldwani, Uttarakhand, after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge attended a party event there.

Kharge participated in a Congress public programme at Ram Leela Maidan on August 8. Parameshwara said he was deeply hurt by reports that the venue was subsequently subjected to a purification ritual because Kharge belongs to the Dalit community.

He said the incident exposed the continuing reality of caste discrimination and untouchability in Indian society. Pointing out that India had reached the Moon's south pole, Parameshwara said it was unfortunate that society still struggled to accept a Dalit as an equal.

He alleged that caste discrimination, untouchability and regressive practices continue despite constitutional

Parameshwara condemned the alleged caste-based ritual and demanded strict action against those responsible.

safeguards. Calling those who oppose constitutional values "anti-national", he said vested interests were attempting to keep such practices alive.

Parameshwara questioned whether India was returning to the era of Manusmriti under the Narendra Modi government and asked what the incident meant for ordinary Dalits if such treatment could be directed at a senior national leader.

He urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure that cases were registered against those responsible and that they faced stringent punishment under the law. He also called upon Dalit and marginalised communities within the BJP to introspect over the forces they were supporting.



Parameshwara's demand

Dr G. Parameshwara condemned the reported purification ritual at a Haldwani ground following Mallikarjun Kharge's Congress programme. He said the incident reflected the continuing presence of caste discrimination and untouchability. Parameshwara urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure legal action against those responsible and demanded stringent punishment. He also appealed to marginalised communities within the BJP to introspect about the forces and interests they support.

Karnataka HC upholds police power to freeze bank accounts under BNSS

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has upheld the statutory authority of police officers to debit-freeze bank accounts during crime investigations under Section 106 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, without obtaining a prior court order.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the ruling, according to Karnataka Cyber Command Director General of Police Pranab Mohanty. He said police are required to freeze the account during an investigation and report the action immediately to the jurisdictional Magistrate.

The judgment quashed earlier orders of the Principal City Civil and Sessions Court, Bengaluru, which had directed the release of seized gold and silver and the de-freezing of bank accounts in a case registered by Koramangala Police Station against M/s JAR Gold Retail Pvt Ltd under the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes (BUDS) Act. The High Court clarified the distinction between Sections 106 and 107

KEY RULING

The Karnataka High Court has clarified that police can debit-freeze bank accounts during investigations under Section 106 BNSS without prior court permission. However, officers must report the action immediately to the jurisdictional Magistrate. Section 107 separately governs judicial attachment and forfeiture, requiring prescribed approvals and court proceedings. The ruling is significant for cyber-crime investigations, where rapid action may help prevent suspected proceeds from being transferred or withdrawn before judicial intervention.

of the BNSS. While Section 106 enables police to take immediate protective action to prevent suspected proceeds from being siphoned off, Section 107 deals with formal judicial attachment and forfeiture. The court observed that insisting on prior judicial permission for every account freeze could hamper investigations, particularly in cyber-crime and digital financial fraud cases, where funds can be rapidly transferred.



MP Manjunath flags connectivity woes near Central Prison

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru Rural MP Dr C.N. Manjunath has sought urgent intervention to address mobile and internet connectivity problems affecting residents around Bengaluru Central Prison in Parappana Agrahara. He wrote to Communications Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia after raising the issue with Department of Telecommunications Secretary Amit Agarwal.

Manjunath said the installation of the Tower-Harmonious Call Blocking System and high-frequency Wi-Fi jammers around the prison had severely disrupted communication services in neighbouring areas. Residents are reportedly facing difficulties in making calls and accessing the internet, affecting essential daily activities.

The connectivity problems have become particularly challenging during medical emergencies, for students attending online classes and

Connectivity concerns
Location: Parappana Agrahara and surrounding areas
Issue: Mobile and internet service disruption
Cause: Call-blocking system and high-frequency Wi-Fi jammers
Affected: Residents, students and work-from-home employees
Nearby hub: Electronics City
Request: Technical solution balancing prison security and public connectivity

employees working from home.

The issue is also significant because the area is close to Electronics City, one of Bengaluru's major corporate hubs, where reliable connectivity is essential for professionals and businesses.

While stressing that prison security and preventing unauthorised communication by inmates are important, Manjunath said the measures should not adversely affect legitimate communication needs of residents living nearby.

He requested the Department of Telecommunications to examine the issue and explore a suitable technical solution that would maintain

prison security while restoring reliable mobile and internet services to the surrounding residential and professional areas.

Beneficiaries to get festival gifts

15,592	total beneficiaries
4,200	students - fee reimbursement
3,917	sewing machines
2,298	'Onti Mane' cash assistance
1,507	EV/CNG push carts
732	autorickshaws
730	electric two-wheelers
675	skill training

WELFARE BENEFITS

The GBA welfare scheme, being revived after three years, will provide assistance across education, livelihood, housing and mobility. Benefits include fee reimbursement, cash assistance, sewing machines, vending push carts, autorickshaws, electric two-wheelers, skill training and electric wheelchairs.



autorickshaws, while 730 people, including pourakarmikas and working women from disadvantaged sections, will get electric two-wheelers. Another 675 beneficiaries will receive free skill training aimed at improving employment opportunities.

The scheme also includes 592 two-wheelers with attachments for persons with disabilities, benefits under the Amrut Mahotsav Yojana for 444 people, and documents

related to housing for 426 beneficiaries through the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited. Seventy-one people will receive electric wheelchairs.

Officials said beneficiaries receiving vehicles, push carts and other movable assets will be subject to verification to ensure they are not sold for money.

Beneficiaries allotted corporation quarters will also be required to move into them instead of renting them out. Violators will face action, officials warned.

Prakash Raj accuses poll officials of cover-up

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Actor Prakash Raj has accused Karnataka election authorities of a "cover-up" over his voter registration status in Bengaluru amid the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. Raj had claimed on August 11 that his name was deleted from the electoral rolls. Election officials later clarified that his registration remained active in the Shantinagar Assembly constituency. They said a Booth Level Officer's door-to-door verification found that Raj had shifted from his previously registered address at Garden Apartments four years ago. His status was subsequently marked as "Permanently

"This fight is about the dignity of a citizen, of standing in queues, asking us to stand in queues."
-Prakash Raj, Actor

shifted", officials said, advising him to submit Form 6 to register his new address.

In a follow-up video, Raj challenged the explanation, alleging that officials changed their position only after his post gained widespread attention. He claimed officials initially told him that a mistake had occurred and later changed the website status from "Permanently shifted" to "Shifted".

Raj also questioned the circumstances surrounding a late-evening visit by the BLO to his former residence, describing it as "natak and dra-

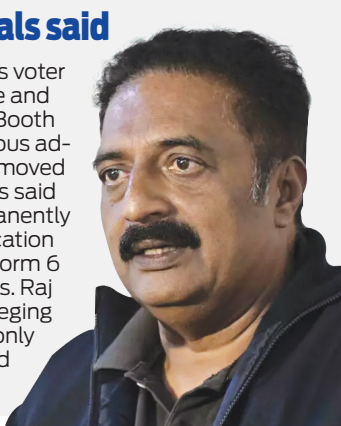
ma". He alleged that the exercise was conducted to create footage portraying him as being at fault.

The actor said the issue was not merely about his voter registration but about the dig-

nity and rights of citizens during electoral verification. He questioned whether ordinary voters would receive similar attention and said he would release more videos and hold a press conference.

What election officials said

Election authorities said Raj's voter registration remained active and denied arbitrary deletion. A Booth Level Officer verified his previous address and found that he had moved away four years ago. Officials said his status was marked "Permanently shifted" following the verification and advised him to submit Form 6 to register his current address. Raj disputed the explanation, alleging officials changed the status only after his public protest gained widespread attention.



Akshayanagar lake pollution, encroachments targeted in civic drive

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh inspected Akshayanagar and surrounding areas with civic officials, interacting with RWA representatives and residents to review key civic concerns.

Lake Protection, Encroachment Removal

Ramesh directed BWSSB and civic officials to jointly prevent polluted sewage flowing from Begur-Koppa Road from entering Akshayanagar Lake. Officials were instructed to clear encroachments, including those in Survey No. 334, and repair damaged play and gym equipment within the lake premises.

Traffic, Parking Measures

To ease congestion on Akshayanagar Main Road, officials were asked to examine an odd-even parking system in consultation with traffic police. Notices will be issued to establishments misusing basement parking for commercial purposes.

A survey of 20 guntas of kharab land between Hunali Brew Park and DMart was also ordered for possible road widening.



Drainage, Road Works

Contractors were directed to complete rajakaluve desilting immediately to prevent monsoon waterlogging. Officials were also asked to restore the road near Elenahalli Government School, dug up for BWSSB and BESCOM works.

Waste Collection, Safety

Five additional autos will be deployed for door-to-door waste collection following residents' complaints. Officials were also directed to protect two acres of government land in Survey No. 15 at Hanumangudda from encroachment.

Streetlight maintenance will be strengthened, while Animal Birth Control operations will be undertaken to control stray dogs.

Quick Read



2.41 lakh voters removed from Karnataka ASDDO list

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Karnataka removed 2.41 lakh voters from its Absent, Shifted, Duplicate, Dead and Others (ASDDO) list between August 5 and 12 during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), Chief Electoral Officer V. Anbu Kumar said. The ASDDO list fell from 1.11 crore to 1.08 crore, with 85,267 voters removed from the 'Absent' category and 95,037 from 'Permanently Shifted'. Another 80,492 cases classified as 'Others' were also removed. However, voters categorised as dead increased by 6,796 to 16.36 lakh, while duplicate entries rose by 12,918 to 7.01 lakh. Meanwhile, the number of polling stations increased from 59,050 to 60,898 after rationalisation, with each station limited to a maximum of 1,200 voters.



North civic body suspends official over bribery allegation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar has suspended Senior Health Inspector Rais Ahmed Aziz Mianavar with immediate effect following a complaint alleging that he accepted money from a salon owner in Ward 3. Mianavar, posted in the Yelahanka Division, allegedly sought money in connection with trade licence-related work and Health Department inspections. The action was also based on media reports about the alleged incident. The suspension was ordered under Rule 10(1) (a) of the Karnataka Civil Services (CCA) Rules, 1957. As Mianavar was serving on deputation from the Department of Municipal Administration, the Corporation has written to the department seeking confirmation of the suspension and further action.

P.H. Poojar files nomination as NDA candidate for Council Chairman

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Karnataka Legislative Council member P.H. Poojar on Thursday filed his nomination for the post of Chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council as the candidate of the NDA alliance. Poojar submitted his nomination papers to the Secretary of the Legislative Council in the presence of senior NDA leaders and legislators.

K'taka Assembly pays tribute to departed leaders, personalities

Karnataka Legislative Assembly members remembered departed leaders, lawmakers and cultural icons for their public and social contributions.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Thursday paid heartfelt tributes to several prominent personalities who recently passed away, recalling their contributions to public service, politics, social welfare and culture.

Pro-tem Speaker T.B. Jayachandra moved the condolence resolution at the beginning of the proceedings. The House remembered former minister D. Sudhakar, former Assembly Deputy Speaker C. Veeranna, former ministers Venkataramanappa and Ramachandra Gowda, former Rajya Sabha member H. Hanumanthappa and several former legislators.

The contributions of celebrated playback singers S. Janaki and Asha Bhosle were also recalled. Members highlighted Janaki's contribution to Indian cinema, noting her thousands of songs across several languages and numerous national and state awards. Asha Bhosle was remembered for her distinguished career spanning multiple Indian languages and musical genres.

The House also paid tribute to Chennamma, wife of former Prime Minister H.D.

"The House remembers with respect the public service and contributions of those who served society and the state."

T.B. Jayachandra, Pro-tem Speaker

TRIBUTES PAID IN ASSEMBLY

- D. Sudhakar: Former minister
- C. Veeranna: Former Deputy Speaker
- H. Hanumanthappa: Former Rajya Sabha member
- S. Janaki: Celebrated playback singer
- Asha Bhosle: Renowned singer
- Chennamma: Wife of H.D. Deve Gowda

Deve Gowda. Members recalled her simple lifestyle, hospitality and the support she provided to Deve Gowda throughout his political career.

Former minister D. Sudhakar was remembered for his service in several portfolios and his role in the movement for implementation of the Bhadra Upper Project. The House also recalled the public service of H. Hanumanthappa, who served three terms in the Rajya Sabha.



New ministers' introduction deferred

The introduction of newly inducted ministers was deferred on the opening day of the Legislature session after Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka raised an objection. Ashoka said the solemn condolence proceedings should not be mixed with the celebratory occasion of introducing new ministers. Though pro-tem Speaker T.B. Jayachandra initially said the introduction was permissible under convention and rules, CM agreed with Ashoka's suggestion. "Let the condolence proceedings take place first. I will introduce the new ministers to the House afterwards," Shivakumar said.

pa, who served three terms in the Rajya Sabha.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka and several

members spoke in support of the condolence resolution. The House later observed silence in memory of the departed.

'Clean & Green Hampi' campaign gets action plan push

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Tourism Department has initiated steps to make Hampi cleaner, greener and more visitor-friendly, with Tourism Secretary Dr. Ram Prasath Manohar directing officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan for the proposed "Clean & Green Hampi" campaign.

The initiative follows directions from Tourism and Energy Minister K.J. George and aims to strengthen cleanliness, environmental conservation, heritage protection and visitor infrastructure at the World Heritage Site.

During a video conference held to review cleanliness, visitor facilities and conservation measures, Manohar directed the Hampi Development Authority and Vijayanagara Deputy Commissioners to formulate programmes involving tourists and the public.

He stressed that maintaining a heritage destination like Hampi cannot be the responsibility of government agencies alone and called for greater public participation in keeping the site clean.

The Hampi Development Authority was directed to initiate the tender process for appointing a comprehensive agency responsible for cleanliness and maintenance across the heritage area.

The move is intended to ensure systematic and regular upkeep of different parts of the site.

ORR to get wider footpaths, bus bays and traffic measures

"All pending processes should be completed immediately so that the ORR works can be taken up and completed without delay."

Krishna Byre Gowda, Greater Bengaluru Development Minister



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has directed officials to undertake a series of infrastructure and traffic-management measures along Bengaluru's Outer Ring Road (ORR) to improve pedestrian safety and ease congestion.

Officials have been instructed to construct end-to-end footpaths at least three metres wide, while footpaths on slip roads can be up to 1.8 metres wide. All roadside encroachments are to be identified and removed.

The Minister also directed officials to identify and remove transformers installed by private entities in public spaces. Where buffer space is available along service roads, designated taxi and bus pick-up and drop-off points will be created, with colour coding introduced for better identification. Bus bays will also be constructed on the main carriageway.

White-topping works on the ORR are scheduled to begin in October and be completed by January. To facilitate the project, officials have been asked to engage with companies in the area and encourage 50% work-from-home arrangements until the works are completed.

ORR set for major traffic, safety exaltation

The ORR improvement plan focuses on pedestrian safety, traffic flow and smoother road works. Wider footpaths, bus bays and designated taxi and bus stops will be introduced. Encroachments and private transformers occupying public spaces will be removed. White-topping is scheduled from October to January, with companies encouraged to facilitate 50% work from home. Internal roads will be used to divert traffic, while ORRCA and police will be consulted.

rangements until the works are completed.

Greater use of internal roads has also been proposed to divert traffic and reduce congestion. The Minister directed officials to consult the Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA) and the Police Department before finalising traffic-management measures.

He also instructed officials to complete all pending procedures immediately and finalise the plans at the earliest.

D.K. Shivakumar hails withdrawal of bandh by pro-Kannada groups

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday congratulated leaders of pro-Kannada organisations for withdrawing the bandh called in the interest of the people of Karnataka.

Speaking to reporters at Vidhana Soudha, Shivakumar said the decision to call off the bandh was welcome and appreciated the organisations for considering the interests of the people. He assured that demands raised by the groups on behalf of farmers and the people of Karnataka would be examined by the government.

Shivakumar said representatives of the pro-Kannada organisations had met him earlier in the day and submitted a memorandum containing several demands. He said he had assured them that their

representation would be considered and appropriate action taken after examining the issues raised.

The Chief Minister said withdrawing the bandh was a responsible decision, particularly considering its possible impact on the public, businesses and daily activities across the state.

He also appealed to the media to play a responsible role in informing citizens. Shivakumar said news organisations should ensure that information reaching the public is truthful, impartial and fair.

The bandh call had been announced by pro-Kannada organisations over demands concerning farmers and other state-related issues. The groups later withdrew the proposed shutdown following discussions with the government.

KEY POINTS

Bandh: Called off by pro-Kannada organisations

Meeting: Leaders met Shivakumar at Vidhana Soudha

Demands: Issues concerning farmers and Karnataka

Govt: Assured examination of the memorandum

Public interest: Withdrawal welcomed by Deputy CM

Media: Asked to report truthfully, impartially and fairly

Chaluvarayaswamy directs officials to expedite Mekedatu project

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Newly appointed Water Resources Minister N. Chaluvarayaswamy has directed senior officials to accelerate work on the Mekedatu drinking water project and ensure that pending procedures are completed without delay.

Soon after assuming charge, Chaluvarayaswamy held a detailed meeting with senior officials of the Water Resources Department to review the project's current status, challenges and the proposed course of action. He sought information on the Detailed Project Report (DPR), approvals pending with the Centre and other authorities, environmental and for-

est-related clearances, land acquisition, rehabilitation and technical aspects of the project.

The Minister said Mekedatu was crucial for ensuring a sustainable drinking water supply to Bengaluru and surrounding areas and directed officials to speed up all necessary processes.

Karnataka's interests cannot be compromised
Chaluvarayaswamy stressed that the project must be pursued in accordance with legal and scientific requirements while safeguarding Karnataka's interests. "The drinking water rights of Karnataka's people and the interests of the state cannot be compromised for any reason," he said.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Food Department has sealed the canteen at Vikasa Soudha after officials reportedly found serious hygiene violations, including cockroaches in food plates.

The canteen, frequented by ministers and IAS officers, came under inspection as the department intensified its crackdown on unhygienic food establishments across Bengaluru. During the inspection, officials reportedly found several cockroaches in plates used for serving food, while the premises were found to be poorly maintained.

Following the findings, officials sealed the canteen and



initiated action over the alleged violations. The development has raised concerns over food safety at a government facility used by senior officials and elected representatives.

The Food Department has in recent days stepped up surprise inspections of hotels,

HYGIENE VIOLATIONS

Unhygienic conditions: Vikasa Soudha canteen sealed

ties have also found establishments failing to follow prescribed cleanliness and food safety norms.

The department has issued strict guidelines to hotels, restaurants and roadside eateries, directing them to maintain proper hygiene and ensure food served to consumers is safe.

Officials have warned that establishments failing to comply with food safety and cleanliness requirements will face stringent action.

The sealing of the Vikasa Soudha canteen comes amid increased scrutiny of food establishments in the city and renewed emphasis on maintaining hygiene standards to protect consumers from health risks.

Food safety crackdown

The Food Department has intensified inspections of hotels and eateries across Bengaluru. Officials are checking food quality, expired products, harmful substances and hygiene standards. Several establishments have reportedly been found violating cleanliness norms. Hotels, restaurants and roadside eateries have been directed to strictly follow food safety guidelines. Authorities have warned that violations will invite stringent action. The Vikasa Soudha canteen was sealed after unhygienic conditions were reportedly found.

Quick Read

Women invited to join entrepreneurship awareness camp

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A one-day Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp will be held for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women interested in starting businesses in Bengaluru district. The programme is being organized jointly by the Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood and Karnataka Entrepreneurship Development Centre, Dharwad. Interested women can register at the department office in Rajajinagar, West of Cord Road Industrial Area, during office hours until August 24. The initiative aims to encourage women to explore entrepreneurship and gain useful guidance for starting their own ventures. For registration and further details, candidates can contact 9008175702, 9448413948, or 9986332736 for assistance.

Vedike invites youth to participate in Torchlight march tonight

CH NEWS, Mysuru
The Hindu Jagarana Vedike invited youths to participate in a district-level torchlight march to be held in Mysuru on August 14 as part of the 79th Independence Day celebrations and Akhanda Bharat Sankalpa Day. As part of preparations for the event, members of the organisation distributed pamphlets and invited youths to join the march at the city bus stand and around the Jaganmohan Palace. According to the organisers, the march is intended to commemorate the Partition of India on August 14, 1947, and remember the tragedy associated with the division of the country. They said the event would also reaffirm their resolve to reunite territories that were separated during Partition and work towards building an “Akhanda Bharat.”

Mysuru shrugs off Cauvery bandh, city stays open

MYSURU
The Karnataka bandh called by several Kannada organisations against the Cauvery Water Management Authority’s direction to release 12,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu failed to create any major impact in Mysuru on Thursday.
Normal life continued across the city, with buses, autorickshaws, shops, hotels, markets and commercial establishments remaining open. The protest had been announced amid concerns over Karnataka’s uncertain monsoon and reservoir storage, but the shutdown received limited public support and major businesses did not join the call for a citywide closure.
Major trade and transport groups stayed away from the bandh, weakening the organisers’ effort to bring Mysuru to a standstill. The Mysuru Hotel-

568 volunteers clear 173.66 tonnes of waste in single day

CH NEWS, MYSURU
Eight garbage-vulnerable points (GVPs) across Mysuru were transformed into clean and aesthetically pleasing spaces on Thursday as part of the “Independence Day Cleanliness Campaign-2026: 80 Waste-Free Sites” initiative launched by the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC).
The cleanliness drive covered GVPs at Sandipani in Zone 1; 18th Cross Road in J.P. Nagar in Zone 2; near Sayyaji Mosque and on Nazarbada Main Road in Zone 6; near the Ganapati Temple at Natanahalli in Zone 7; opposite Sumana



Jana Spandana Aims To Resolve Problems Quickly

Somashekhar said the programme was held across wards, enabling residents to directly meet officials, raise concerns and seek solutions

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Yeshwantpur MLA S.T. Somashekhar said the main aim of the Jana Spandana programme is to solve people’s problems at the spot and reduce the need for residents to visit several government offices.
He was speaking after inaugurating a Jana Spandana programme and free health check-up camp at Saptagiri in Doddabidarakallu ward.
Somashekhar said the programme was being conducted in different wards so that residents could meet concerned officials directly and seek solutions. He said officials would try to resolve complaints immediately wherever possible. He also warned that there would be no place for rowdy elements, land mafia or illegal land grabbers in Yeshwantpur constituency.
About 50 complaints were received during the pro-



At a Glance		
■ 50 complaints were received from residents.	■ Remaining applications will be addressed quickly.	■ Drainage construction proposed across 110 villages.
■ Several public grievances were resolved on-site.	■ Cauvery drinking water project planned for ward.	■ Rajakaluve barrier planned to prevent house flooding.

gramme. The MLA reviewed the petitions and directed officials to resolve several issues immediately. He also instructed departments to take quick action on the remaining complaints and provide relief to residents without unnecessary delays.
Potential candidate R. Prasad Kumar said efforts would be made to ensure government schemes reach every eligible person. He said the

MLA had sanctioned hundreds of crores of rupees for development works in Doddabidarakallu, including drinking water facilities and road improvements.
Several permanent projects were also highlighted, including the Cauvery drinking water project from Thippagondanahalli reservoir, construction of a Rajakaluve barrier to prevent rainwater from entering houses, drainage works in 110 villages and changes to property accounts for houses under village station jurisdiction. Local Congress leaders, officials and representatives from various departments attended the programme. The organisers said direct public interaction would help identify civic problems faster and improve coordination between residents and government agencies. The initiative aims to bring administration closer to people and deliver practical solutions.

Kabini releases 10,000 cusecs, KRS adds 2,310 cusecs to Tamil Nadu

MYSURU:
The Cauvery basin is witnessing a sharp escalation in water releases, with the Kabini reservoir releasing a massive 10,000 cusecs into the river on Thursday, even as the KRS reservoir near Mandya was releasing around 2,310 cusecs.
The combined outflow from the two key reservoirs has triggered fresh concerns among farmers and water conservationists over the availability of water in Karnataka during the coming months.
According to the reservoir position on Thursday, Kabini stood at 2,282.36 ft against its maximum level of 2,284 ft. The reservoir was receiving an inflow of 8,448 cusecs, while its outflow was significantly higher at 10,000 cusecs.
At KRS, the water level stood at 109.74 ft against the maximum of 124.80 ft. The reservoir was receiving 4,875 cusecs, while about 2,310 cusecs was being released.
The high-volume discharge from Kabini assumes significance as Karnataka is already facing concerns over the uneven monsoon and the need to preserve water for drinking and irrigation requirements in the Cauvery basin.



Farmers have questioned the wisdom of maintaining such heavy releases when the monsoon is yet to stabilise. They fear that continued releases at the present rate could rapidly eat into the live storage of the reservoirs, leaving Karnataka with limited water reserves when the dry season sets in.
The situation is particularly worrying because Kabini’s outflow alone is more than its current inflow, indicating that storage could decline if the trend continues. Any prolonged reduction in inflows could put additional pressure on the reservoirs. With the Cauvery Water Management Authority directing releases to Tamil Nadu, the latest discharge figures are likely to intensify the political and farmers’ debate in Karnataka over balancing the State’s own water security with downstream obligations.
Water activists have warned that if the reservoirs are depleted now, Karnataka could face a serious water crunch well before the onset of summer.

Pro-Kannada activists stage novel protest in Mysuru

CH NEWS, MYSURU
Opposition to the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu intensified in Mysuru on Thursday, as members of the Mysore District Kannada Activists Association staged a unique protest outside the Cauvery Irrigation Development Corporation (CADA) office.
Led by association president B.A. Shivashankar, the protesters accused Tamil Nadu of repeatedly pressuring Karnataka before the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee, Cauvery Water Management Authority and the Supreme Court to secure water despite scarcity in Karnataka.
During the protest, activists used broomsticks to beat portraits of Tamil Nadu leaders, including Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, AIADMK leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Congress leader Manickam Tagore. They opposed directions for Karnataka to release 12,000 cusecs of Cauvery water daily for 15 days. Shivashankar alleged that the



water management bodies were favouring Tamil Nadu and demanded that the order be withdrawn. He said Karnataka’s drinking water needs must be protected before supplying water to neighbouring States.
Shivashankar also urged the Union Government to follow the National Water Policy by giving priority to filling canals, tributaries and lakes in the Cauvery and Kapila river basins. He said this was necessary to protect drinking water, livestock and agriculture. He also asked Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to take a firm stand on the Cauvery

‘Revanna’s phone to undergo forensic examination’

BENGALURU
Bengaluru police on Thursday rejected reports that pornographic or obscene videos were found on a mobile phone seized from former Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna’s prison cell.
Deputy Commissioner of Police Narayana M. said claims about numerous such videos were completely false

and asked people not to believe unverified reports.
Police also denied reports that 80 phones were recovered during Tuesday’s Central Crime Branch raid. Officials said the items seized included a Redmi smartphone, a white charger, a black SanDisk pendrive and a blue pocket notebook. The materials were sealed in the presence of witnesses and handed over to the

police station for further investigation. Narayana said the seized phone will undergo forensic examination. Investigators will try to unlock the device and examine its contents while also determining how the phone entered the prison. Police said SIM cards found during earlier raids had been registered under fake names or the names of deceased people.

Youth should lead Bharat Jodo Association formation

KAMPLI
Tahsildar Jugal Manjunayak said young people must take responsibility for forming Bharat Jodo Youth Associations in the taluk.
He was speaking at a meeting held at the Tahsildar office on Thursday to discuss the establishment of the associations and the steps needed to involve more youngsters.
He said the government is promoting the associations to encourage sports, culture, scientific thinking and social harmony among youth. Officials have been asked to identify and register young people aged between 16 and 35 and form associations at both urban and rural levels. The initiative aims to give youth a stronger role in community development.
Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer R.K. Sreekumar said

the associations would be established in Kampli taluk as directed by the government. He said the programme seeks to involve young people directly in local development, social unity and environmental protection. Sports, fitness and skill development would also support their economic and social empowerment.
Officials explained the procedures and responsibilities involved in forming the associations and urged departments to work together.
The programme is expected to provide young people with opportunities to participate in community activities and contribute to local progress. Chief Officer B. Mallikarjuna, T.M. Basavaraj, K. Virupakshappa, Gadilingappa, Mallappa, Mahabaleshwarappa and officials from various departments attended the meeting.

CLEAN MYSURU CAMPAIGN



School and near RGA School at Kalyanagiri in Zone 9; and the Eden Garden area of Rajiv Nagar 2nd Stage in Zone 8.
As many as 568 people, including MCC officials and staff, representatives of various organisations and local residents, participated in the drive.

A total of 173.66 metric tonnes of waste was removed during 39 man-hours of cleaning operations.
The transformation went beyond simply removing garbage. The cleaned locations were given a fresh look through painting, beautification works, plan-

tation and public awareness activities, turning neglected dumping spots into cleaner and more attractive neighbourhood spaces.
Speaking at the programme held at Eden Garden, MCC Commissioner Savitha M.K. stressed the need for sustained vigilance to prevent the transformed sites from becoming garbage dumping grounds again. She urged local residents and organisations to work closely with the civic body to preserve the cleanliness and beauty of the revamped spaces.
Sanitation Ambassador Sooraj appealed to citizens not to dump waste indiscriminately

and to segregate waste at source before handing it over to MCC collection vehicles. Such responsible practices, he said, would help in building a cleaner Mysuru.
With Thursday’s exercise, 40 GVPs have now been transformed under the campaign. The MCC has set a target of converting the remaining 40 sites within the stipulated period. The civic body said the transformed locations would be kept under continuous monitoring for 30 days to prevent fresh dumping. It also warned that those found illegally dumping waste in public places would face penalties as per the rules.

92 NCC Air Force cadets participate in Tiranga March

MYSURU
St Joseph’s Central School, Vijayanagar, Mysuru, organised a Tiranga March as part of its Independence Day celebrations here on Thursday. The march was held to promote patriotism, national unity, discipline, and respect for the National Flag.
A total of 92 NCC Air Wing Cadets of Troop No. 28 participated in the march with great enthusiasm and discipline. Carrying the Tricolor with pride, the cadets marched through the neighbourhood, spreading the message of patriotism and national pride. The

rally commenced from the school campus, proceeded towards K.D. Circle, Water Tank, Vidya Vardhaka Engineering College before reaching the school campus. The program was conducted under the guidance of Principal Elizabeth S. Thomas and Anthony Raj R., Associate NCC Officer (ANO), with the support of PI Staff Sgt. Arun G. Nair, 4 KAR AIR SQN NCC, Mysuru. The disciplined march and enthusiastic participation of the cadets made the event a meaningful and memorable patriotic initiative, inspiring the community with the values of unity, discipline, love for the nation.



Quick Read

August 31 deadline looms for power scheme applicants

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
The August 31 deadline is the final day for eligible beneficiaries to secure electricity connections under the illegal-regular scheme through the BESCOM Nagar sub-division. Those who had earlier paid Rs. 50 can apply again by paying a Rs. 10,000 penalty along with other prescribed charges. The facility is available only to people whose names appear on the existing beneficiary list. Applicants should verify their names, gather required documents, and approach the concerned BESCOM office before the deadline. Officials urged eligible beneficiaries to use this opportunity and complete the process promptly.

Youth Associations begin registration across Chitradurga district

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
Registration has begun for Bharat Jodo Youth Associations to encourage leadership, fitness, and social harmony among young people. A total of 46 associations will be formed across the district, covering gram panchayats and urban local bodies. Youth aged 16 to 35 can register through the BJYS website or mobile app using Aadhaar. Registration costs Rs. 10, and each person can join only one association. Each association needs at least 100 members and a 15-member committee representing all communities. Activities will include sports, cleanliness drives, environmental protection, health, culture, and youth empowerment. Officials urged eligible youngsters to register soon.

Ramanagara to get sweet Independence Day celebration

CH NEWS, RAMANAGARA
Ramanagara MLA H.A. Iqbal Hussain will distribute four lakh laddus to school and college students, teachers, government staff and people attending Independence Day celebrations across the district on August 15. The annual distribution has continued for 15 years, with Hussain saying it is meant to add joy to the national festival. At a programme held at S.S. Convention Hall, education department officials and District Government Employees Association president K. Satish received boxes of laddus. Hussain directed that sweets be given to students of government and private institutions, Anganwadi centres, madrasas and government offices across the district. Speaking to reporters, Hussain said Independence Day represents the sacrifices of na-

EMPLOYMENT ACCESS DRIVE

Job Card Melas to begin in state from Aug 15

CH NEWS, SHIRAHATTI
Job Card Melas and awareness campaigns will be held at Gram Panchayat level across Karnataka from August 15 to help rural families access employment opportunities, Shirahatti Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Ramanna Doddamani said. He said the campaign aims to provide job cards to eligible families, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities, persons with disabilities, women-headed households, landless labourers and other rural job seekers. The programme is expected to create more employment opportunities and increase the number

Kannada Sena protests Cauvery water release to Tamil Nadu

Protestors demanded Kannada protection, an MES ban, aid for Kannada schools, jobs for Kannadigas, and filling government vacancies

CH NEW, MANDYA

The district unit of Kannada Sena staged a protest against the proposed release of Cauvery river water to Tamil Nadu. The organisation urged the State and Central governments to reconsider the decision, saying several parts of Karnataka are facing drought and farmers are struggling to protect their crops without adequate water. District president Ravikumar said releasing water from a drought-hit Karnataka could create serious problems for farmers in Bengaluru, Mysuru and Mandya. The organisation demanded that water release be stopped immediately. It also urged the government to complete the Mahadayi, Kalasa-Banduri and Mekedatu projects without further delay and protect Karnataka's water interests. The protestors raised several other



demands, including an end to the alleged neglect of Kannada in the state. They sought a ban on MES activities in Belagavi, support and financial assistance for Kannada-medium schools, more jobs for Kannadigas in banks and immediate filling of vacancies in government offices. They also asked the government to ensure Kannada receives proper recognition in ICSE and CBSE examinations for the benefit of students.

The group also highlighted concerns over the HN Valley water reaching lakes in Chikaballapur district without adequate third-stage purification. It said polluted water could harm people, farmers and the environment if the issue remains unresolved. The organisation urged the government to complete the purification process quickly and provide safer water. Sridhar Kumar N, Sridhar, Bharath M, Raghav-

Key Demands

- Stop Cauvery water release to Tamil Nadu
- Implement Mahadayi, Kalasa-Banduri, Mekedatu projects immediately
- Ban MES activities in Belagavi border district
- Protect Kannada-medium schools through urgent funding
- Reserve bank jobs and fill government vacancies
- Implement Kannada in ICSE, CBSE examinations statewide

endra and other office-bearers were present at the protest, which ended with a renewed appeal for immediate government action.

Organic farming can boost soil health: Experts

KOPPAL

A training programme on balanced nutrient management was held in Koppal to help farmers improve soil health, reduce chemical fertilizer use and increase farm income. The programme was organised jointly by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur, Agricultural Extension Education Centre, Koppal, Department of Agriculture and Coromandel International Limited. Joint Director of Agriculture Krishnamurthy inaugurated the programme and urged farmers to reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers. He said demand for organic farm products is increasing and encouraged farmers to prepare their own organic inputs. Horticulture Joint Director Krishna Ukkunda said balanced nutrients can improve crop quality and advised farmers to grow horticultural crops on at least half their land. Fisheries Department Deputy Director Srinivas Kulkarni explained departmental schemes and fish amino acid production. Koppal Taluk Krishika Samaj president Vir-

upanna Halligudi stressed the need for regular farmer training and assured financial support for such programmes. Lecturer Malleshappa Bisiroti explained traditional methods of preparing and using solid and liquid bio-inputs. Coromandel representative Avinash spoke about nano urea, DAP fertilizers and drones. Koppal Agricultural Extension Education Centre head Dr. Badari Prasad P.R. said declining cultivable land makes soil protection increasingly important. He urged farmers to adopt organic practices and participate in monthly training programmes. Agricultural scientist Dr. Seshagiri Gubbi also shared his views. More than 100 farmers from Koppal and Vijayanagar districts attended the programme. Devaraja Meti compered the event. Officials encouraged farmers to use scientific and sustainable methods to protect soil, improve production and become financially self-reliant. The organisers said continued training would help farmers make better decisions and strengthen sustainable agriculture across the region.

Court seizes Gadag office equipment over dues

MALINGARAYA PUJAR

CH NEWS

A court-ordered seizure at the Gadag District Administration Building on Thursday has drawn attention to years of delay in paying a contractor for completed government works. Electronic office equipment was seized after the Gadag Additional District Sessions Court directed officials to recover unpaid dues, which had increased greatly because of accumulated interest. The dispute goes back to 2012-13, when several development works were completed under an urban development project in Lakshmeshwar, Mulgund and Shirahatti towns. Contractor S.S. Police Patil

reportedly completed the assigned work within the required period. However, the district administration did not release the pending Rs 18 lakh for years. Repeated visits to government offices failed to settle the issue, leaving the contractor with no option but to approach the court for relief. With the case pending, the unpaid principal continued to attract interest. The amount that was originally Rs 18 lakh has now risen to about Rs 60 lakh, according to the details presented in the case. The court took a serious

view of the prolonged non-payment and ordered action to recover the dues. The order also allowed seizure of property and office items linked to the district administration. During the seizure operation, court staff reached the administration building in the presence of officials. Gadag District Magistrate C.N. Sridhar was reportedly present as the process was carried out. A total of 35 office items were seized, including 19 computer monitors, 15 CPUs and a Xerox

Court staff seized 35 office items, including 19 monitors, 15 CPUs and a Xerox machine, while officials, the district magistrate and contractor's lawyer were present

machine. Contractor's lawyer S.S. Gattirdihal was also present with the relevant documents and a copy of the court order. The incident has raised questions about delays in clearing legitimate government bills and the cost such delays can create for public funds. It also sends a clear message that unpaid dues can grow into a much larger burden when official action is delayed. For contractors, the episode underlines the importance of timely payments, while for officials, it shows that ignoring pending bills can eventually increase the financial burden on the government and create avoidable legal trouble and public embarrassment for the administration as well.

Dr. Krishna warns officials over food security failures

DEVANAHALLI

Karnataka State Food Commission Chairman Dr. H. Krishna warned officials that any lapse in providing food to children, women, vulnerable people and elderly citizens through the public distribution system would invite action. Speaking at a progress review meeting held at the District Collector's Court Hall in the Bengaluru Rural district administration building, Krishna said the National Food Security Act, 2013, makes food a basic right and government duty for poor and needy citizens.

During inspections of government schools, colleges and hostels, he directed officials to address shortages of drinking water, hot water, toilets, doors, mosquito nets, libraries, quality food and cleanliness. He also stressed that hostel and institutional kitchens must have regular blood tests for cooks and food servers. The chairman said fair-price shops must keep food stocks safely and maintain clean warehouses. Shopkeepers were told to treat customers respectfully. Officials at farm-er contact centres must maintain proper fertilizer and medicine stocks, while pensions

should reach elderly beneficiaries on time. He urged departments to work transparently and responsibly within the law. From August 11 to 13, the chairman and commission members visited government hospitals, schools, colleges, hostels and fair-price shops across four taluks to inspect food safety and cleanliness. District Collector Dr. K.N. Anuradha, CAO Dr. Vasanthi Amar, commission members Lingaraj Kote, Sumanth Rao, Maruti M. Doddalanganavar and taluk officials attended meeting. Krishna said inspections should improve services.

Koppal golden jubilee event to spotlight cultural icons

KOPPAL

Viswa Dhuntha Basavanna Educational and Cultural Charitable Trust, Koppal, will hold its inauguration and golden jubilee celebration on Sunday, the 16th, at 10.30 am at the Government Employees' Hall. The programme will also honour senior journalist, thinker, film director and theatre artist Ramesh Suvera for his contributions across several fields. Organising committee chairman Dr. Mahantesh

Nelagani and general secretary Dr. Shivabasappa Maski announced the programme at a press conference held by the District Working Journalists' Association on Thursday. They said the event would bring together prominent personalities from literature, journalism, culture, education and public life to mark the occasion. Sri Shivashantha Veera Mahaswamy of Bisaralli Sri Gavisiddeshwara branch will grace the function, while for-

mer minister Shashikant Akkappa Nayak will inaugurate it. Litterateur Dr. Mahantesh Mallanagoudar will preside. Former vice-chancellor Dr. Mallika Ghanti and thinker Dr. Vitthal Rao Gaikwad will speak during the felicitation. Other guests include Mahantesh Patil Mainahalli, Dr. K.M. Syed, Venkatesh Barker, Dr. Devendrappa Balutigi and Sharanappa Hatty. Journalist Manjunath Gondaba will deliver the introductory speech.

Devanahalli plans patriotic rally for Independence Day

DEVANAHALLI

A pre-Independence Day meeting was held at the Devanahalli BJP office, where leaders urged people to celebrate August 15 with strong patriotic spirit. Taluk BJP General Secretary Anil Kumar said patriotism should start at home and every Indian family should hoist the national flag. He said young people could also display the flag on their bikes and join a rally through the town. Kumar added that such activities would encourage national pride and make Independence Day more meaningful. He called on BJP office bearers and party supporters to take part in the celebrations and asked all rally participants to wear helmets for safety. The rally will begin from the party office at noon on August 15 and pass through the town's main roads with slogans of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai." District and taluk leaders, Mahila Morcha, Yuva Morcha members, and office bearers from various wings attended the meeting. Organisers said participation would make the celebration meaningful and strengthen unity and national pride.

‘Sewing training helps women become financially independent’

HUNSUR

Tailoring training can help unemployed women become financially independent, Varsha Harish Gowda, wife of MLA Harish Gowda, said. She was speaking at a free tailoring training programme organised by JSS in nearby Karnakuppe village. She urged women to learn useful

skills instead of spending their time watching television or chatting. She said women could build self-employment through tailoring, handi-crafts, embroidery, blowtorch work, candle making, household products and architectural design. She also encouraged dairy farming, bag making and cottage industries. A

woman's firm decision, she said, can strengthen family finances, support children's education and create a more secure future. She noted that rural women often face difficulties because livelihoods depend on rainfall. Skill-based training, she said, can open new earning opportunities and help fami-

lies cope with uncertain incomes. She appealed to women to use training programmes seriously and become confident earners. JDS leaders Harave Sridhar, K.M. Rajanna, Midevappa, Ashok, trainer Kavitha, Chaitra and Pankaja attended the programme and were also present at the programme.



P. SUNIL KUMAR, EDITOR
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

BEHIND THE FIVE-STAR: DEPARTMENT RAID RAISES QUESTIONS

Five-star hospitality is built on trust. Guests pay a premium not merely for luxury and presentation, but for an assurance that the food served meets the highest standards of freshness, hygiene and safety. Recent scrutiny of procurement and storage practices in the hospitality sector, however, raises serious questions about whether commercial pressures are sometimes undermining those standards.

Hotel procurement normally follows a structured system: requirement identification, vendor approval, product sampling, quotations, price negotiation, rate contracts, purchase orders, delivery inspection, invoicing and payment. The Purchase or Materials Department generally handles commercial negotiations, while the Executive Chef and Food & Beverage team are expected to determine specifications and verify quality.

The weakness can emerge after the contract is awarded. Hotels often negotiate aggressively to obtain prices substantially below prevailing market rates. While competitive pricing is legitimate, unrealistic rates may create pressure on suppliers to protect their margins by compromising on grade, freshness, storage or consistency. A sample approved during vendor selection may be excellent, but what ultimately matters is whether every subsequent delivery maintains that same standard.

If inferior, ageing or improperly stored products enter hotel kitchens, culinary skill, seasoning and presentation must never become tools for concealing deficiencies. Equally serious are allegations of collusion or personal commissions involving vendors and hotel personnel. Such claims should not be treated as established facts without evidence, but they warrant investigation wherever credible irregularities arise.

Recent enforcement action by health authorities should therefore serve as a warning to the entire hospitality industry. Procurement cannot end with negotiating the lowest price. Hotels must conduct continuous vendor audits, random quality checks, proper cold-chain verification and strict receiving inspections.

In five-star hospitality, reputation begins long before food reaches the dining table.

THE CHAI NEVER GOES COLD

SHARON FAUSTINA J.
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Chai is the new addiction now, it has all the flavours I ever need, and most of it always comes with a smell I can never forget. There is something profoundly grounding about the way the steam rises from a freshly brewed earthen cup, carrying with it the robust notes of crushed cardamom, fresh ginger, and warm cinnamon. It is a sensory awakening that instantly anchors me to the present moment, turning an ordinary morning into a quiet, meditative ritual.

I need it in the morning, I need it at night, I need it every time I don't feel light. Chai comes to me and I will "Never Say Never". When the heavy shadows of exhaustion creep in or when the weight of the day threatens to pull me under, this golden elixir acts as a steady hand on my shoulder. It clears the fog of fatigue, whispering promises of warmth and renewed energy when I need it the most.

All the forms of drugs in the world lost on the battle field with the Goliath called drugs and my small cup of Chai called David. Chai is a blessing, came to me as "An Angel in Disguise". While the world often seeks fleeting, destructive escapes through artificial highs, my sanctuary is found in a simple, honest brew. It calms the restless storms within my mind without ever asking for anything in return, proving to be a gentle savior in a chaotic world.

Every time I see my beautiful Mother gets me my flavoured Chai with her Tea, my heart blooms like the way "Daffodils" were described by William Wordsworth. Those quiet moments shared across the kitchen counter transcend the simple act of drinking tea; they are wrapped in generations of care, unspoken affection, and the timeless comfort of home. Her presence, paired with the familiar aroma of the brew, fills the room with a golden light that chases away every shadow.

Chai Chai! Never let me down, let me embrace you like the sun going down. As the day surrenders to the twilight, wrapping the sky in hues of amber and deep violet, my hands wrap tightly around the warm mug. It is a comforting closure to the hours gone by, a quiet promise that no matter how unpredictable the world might be, this steadfast comfort will always be waiting for me at the end of the road.

Chai! Chai! Our love story never ends, let me love you, like Rose loved Jack with an never ending beginning. This profound connection is not merely a habit; it is a romance written in steam and spice. It is an infinite loop of comfort and devotion that defies the passage of time, growing deeper and richer with every single sip we share together.

Dear Chai, let me love you, like the day we first met, you never disappoint me, like I am Father's pet. That very first taste years ago felt like coming home, and that feeling has never wavered. Through every triumph and every quiet disappointment, my cup of chai has remained a constant, loving presence, offering unyielding sweetness and unconditional solace.

Chai! Chai! Let me love you, never let me down, like Charles did to Diana, then you will always be remembered like the Queen of My Heart! Unlike the fickle promises of the world that often fade or break under pressure, this brew remains fiercely loyal, standing tall as the undisputed



WHAT ARE YOU BEING SERVED, WHAT LIES BEHIND THE PERFECT MEAL?



PRADIVYA NAMBIAR

Food safety is not a premium feature. A modest establishment can maintain excellent standards, just as an impressive-looking establishment can have serious shortcomings behind the scenes. The price of a meal, the décor of a restaurant, the reputation of a chef or the number of followers on social media cannot guarantee that the food is safe. When we eat outside our homes, we place our trust in the people behind the meal. We trust that the food has been handled properly. We trust that ingredients have been stored at appropriate temperatures. We trust that employees understand basic hygiene. We trust that the kitchen is being maintained properly.

In most cases, we have no way of verifying these things ourselves. That makes the responsibility of the food business even greater. At a time when food-safety and hygiene concerns are receiving increasing public attention, scrutiny of food establishments is rightly becoming stronger. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and other relevant authorities have an important role in ensuring that food businesses comply with the standards expected of them. But regulation cannot carry the entire responsibility. It begins with the people who own and operate the establishment. Hygiene cannot be something that matters only when an inspection is expected. It has to be part of the everyday culture of the business. That culture is built on fundamentals: proper hand hygiene, suitable protective clothing, appropriate food handling, clean preparation areas and responsible storage. Even something as simple

"Because when we sit down to eat, we are not simply paying for what is on the plate. We are trusting the people behind it. The customer may only see the plate. The responsibility lies behind it."

as wearing gloves requires the right understanding. Gloves may be useful for certain food-handling tasks, but they are not a substitute for hand washing. Across India, fires at restaurants, hotels and other commercial premises have repeatedly shown how quickly an ordinary day can become a life-threatening emergency. When a fire breaks out, the quality of the food and the beauty of the dining room are irrelevant. What matters is whether the establishment was prepared. Are fire extinguishers available, accessible and maintained? Are emergency exits clearly marked and unobstructed? Are electrical systems properly maintained? Are LPG cylinders, gas lines and cooking equipment handled safely? Are exhaust systems and grease-prone areas cleaned? Are required alarms and other fire-safety systems functioning? Do employees know what to do if an emergency occurs? Can customers leave the premises quickly? These are not questions that should arise only after an incident. Fire safety cannot be treated as paperwork completed for a licence or certificate and then forgotten. It has to be part of the operation. A restaurant may have beautiful interiors and a sophisticated menu, but those things mean very little if basic safety systems have been neglected. The same standard should apply whether the establishment is a small local eatery or a large hotel. Safety should not depend on the size of the bill.

Modern technology can help food businesses manage some of these responsibilities more effectively. Digital systems can record stock movements, expiry dates, storage requirements and temperature read-

ings. Alerts can help staff identify products that require attention. Digital checklists can support cleaning schedules, equipment maintenance and routine safety inspections. Technology can also help owners and managers understand whether procedures are actually being followed. But technology is not a substitute for responsibility. An app cannot wash someone's hands. A camera cannot clean a preparation surface. A digital checklist cannot train an employee. A monitoring system cannot replace a functioning fire-safety system. Technology is useful when people use it to strengthen good practices not when they use it to create the appearance of compliance. If a business is capable of closely monitoring sales, inventory, finances, customer reviews and deliveries, the kitchen and its safety systems deserve the same level of attention. This brings us to enforcement.

A business that serves food is responsible not only for the quality of the meal but also for the conditions in which that meal is prepared and served. Perhaps there is one simple test every food establishment should apply to itself: If the customer could see everything that happens behind the kitchen door, would the business be proud of what they saw? Not just the plating. Not just the service. Not just the dining room. Everything. The food industry should continue to celebrate beautiful presentation, innovative menus and memorable dining experiences. There is nothing wrong with making food beautiful. But presentation should never become a curtain hiding poor practices behind the scenes. The perfect meal does not begin with the final garnish. It begins with clean hands, safe handling, responsible storage, well-maintained equipment, trained employees, proper supervision and a safe environment.



BEYOND THE MARKSHEET: HOW RESILIENCE SHAPES REAL SUCCESS

In education, success is often pictured as a straight line a neat progression of test scores, achievements, and honors. But the actual student experience rarely follows a straight path. It's full of setbacks, wrong turns, second-guessing, and unexpected obstacles. What separates students who thrive from those who don't isn't whether they hit these bumps everyone does. It's how they respond. That capacity to respond well has a name: resilience.

Talk to any teacher with a few years of experience, and they'll tell you the same thing: the students who go on to do remarkable things are rarely the ones who never struggled. They're the ones who struggled and stayed in the game anyway.

Why It Matters Now More Than Ever

Today's students face pressure from every direction exams, projects, internships, and the weight of expectations from family and society. Social media adds another layer, constantly putting everyone else's highlight reel on display and making ordinary struggles feel like personal failures. Knowledge and skill will only take a student so far. It is resilience the ability to absorb a setback and keep going that carries students through when plans fall apart. It's worth saying plainly: resilience isn't something you're simply born with or without. It's built, slowly, through practice much like a muscle that strengthens with use. There's also a quieter cost to consider. Students who never learn to sit with discomfort often struggle the moment life outside school stops being predictable a first job, a difficult relationship, an unexpected loss. The classroom, in many ways, is a training ground. What's practiced there tends to carry forward.

Where Resilience Shows Up

Academic setbacks, no one aces every test or nails every project. Students who bounce back treat mistakes as lessons, not verdicts. Time and stress management,



juggling coursework, extracurriculars, and a personal life takes flexibility and the willingness to protect one's own wellbeing along the way. Life outside the classroom, personal challenges don't wait for a convenient time. Resilience is what helps students stay grounded and keep their eyes on what matters. Peer pressure and comparison, watching classmates seem to sail through school effortlessly can be discouraging. Resilient students learn to run their own race instead of measuring themselves against someone else's timeline. Uncertainty about the future, not knowing exactly where a degree or a chosen path will lead can be unsettling. Resilience helps students sit with that uncertainty without letting it paralyze them. Financial and family pressures, for many students, academic stress is tangled up with real-world concerns tuition, part-time jobs, or responsibilities at home. Resilience here looks like showing up anyway, even when the odds feel stacked.

The Hidden Cost of "Toughing It Out"

There's a common misconception that resilience means gritting your teeth and pushing through no matter what, without ever pausing to acknowledge the difficulty. That's not resilience that's just endurance, and it tends to run out. True resilience makes room for rest, for asking for help, and for admitting when something is genuinely hard. A student

who takes a mental health day isn't giving up; they're often practicing one of the most mature forms of resilience there is knowing your limits and respecting them.

Small Habits That Build Resilience

Treat failure as feedback, every misstep carries a lesson, if you're willing to look for it. Stay connected, friends, mentors, and family can offer support that makes hard times easier to weather. Practice mindfulness, journaling, exercise, and meditation are simple ways to steady emotional balance. Set realistic milestones, breaking a big goal into smaller steps makes the climb feel manageable instead of overwhelming. Celebrate small wins, progress doesn't always look dramatic. Recognizing the quiet victories along the way keeps motivation alive. Ask for help without shame, reaching out to a teacher, a counsellor, a friend isn't a sign of weakness. It's often the smartest, most resilient move a student can make. Reframe the narrative, instead of asking "why is this happening to me," resilient students learn to ask "what can this teach me." The shift in language changes the entire experience. Give yourself permission to rest, recovery isn't a detour from progress it's part of it. Even the most resilient among us need downtime to keep going.

The Role of Schools and Families

Resilience doesn't grow in isolation. Teachers, parents, and mentors all play a part in creating an environment where it's safe to struggle, safe to fail, and safe to try again. A classroom that only rewards perfect outcomes teaches students

to fear mistakes. A classroom that values effort and growth teaches them to embrace the process setbacks included. The same is true at home; the way families respond to a child's disappointment often shapes how that child learns to respond to disappointment for the rest of their life. Schools that actively teach emotional literacy through counselling programs, peer support groups, or simply making space for open conversation tend to raise students who handle adversity with far more confidence. Resilience, in this sense, isn't just an individual trait. It's also a culture that institutions can choose to build.

Real Resilience Looks Different for Everyone

It's important to remember that resilience doesn't have one face. For one student, it might mean returning to campus after a difficult personal loss. For another, it might mean simply finishing an assignment on a day when getting out of bed felt like an achievement in itself. Comparing one person's resilience to another's rarely helps what matters is the quiet, personal act of choosing to continue.

A Word to Students

Remember this: education isn't just about marks and certificates. It's about growth intellectual, emotional, and social. Every difficulty you face is quietly shaping you into someone stronger, wiser, and more capable of empathy. Resilience is what ensures that, whatever comes your way, you keep moving forward. And on the days when moving forward feels impossible, remember that even standing still without giving up counts as resilience too. You are not defined by the setback. You are defined by what you choose to do the moment after it.

The Bottom Line

In a world where education and life keeps shifting under our feet, resilience may be the single most valuable skill a student can develop. It's what turns setbacks into lessons and failure into fuel. Success was never really about how high you climb. It's about how well you get back up when you fall and how many times you're willing to do it again.

DR. THEJAS GIGY THOMAS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

1. RBI's Steady Hand Amid Inflationary Pressures

The Reserve Bank of India's decision to maintain the repo rate reflects a calculated balancing act. While our nation proudly retains its status as the fastest-growing major economy, the looming shadow of rising food and crude oil prices cannot be ignored. Inflation places an immediate, heavy burden

on ordinary households. Monetary policy must remain deeply vigilant. Sustainable long-term growth requires protecting the common citizen's purchasing power alongside robust industrial expansion.

- A. JAIKUMAR

2. Cracking Down on Compromised Food Supply Chains

Recent regulatory raids targeting commercial warehouses and hospitality kitchens expose an alarming disregard for public health. When systemic cost-cutting allows expired or unlabelled goods into the market, consumer safety is severely compromised. Oversight cannot stop at retail inspection; accountability must extend deep into wholesale

networks and procurement desks. Authorities must enforce rigid compliance relentlessly. Public trust is built on safety, and strict penal action against violators is necessary to protect citizens.

-ANNA BENEDICT



ADITYA VERMA
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Cockroach Movement That Toppled a Minister

The most consequential protest wave began in an unlikely place a Supreme Court courtroom. In May 2026, Chief Justice Surya Kant compared unemployed youth and social-media activists to "cockroaches" and "parasites" who "attack the system". Within days, a 20-something digital strategist named Abhijeet Dipke, working from Boston, turned the insult into a movement, founding the satirical "Cockroach Janta Party" (CJP) as a direct rebuke. The timing was combustible. That same month, the National Testing Agency cancelled the NEET-UG 2026 medical entrance exam after discovering the same small pool of subject experts who set the paper had also been asked to translate it; a single point of failure that let the paper leak wholesale, forcing more than two million students to retake the test. Grief over students who died by suicide amid the chaos fused with the "cockroach" insult, and CJP's online satire became a physical occupation of Jantar Mantar in central Delhi by early June. What followed was six weeks of escalating confrontation. Ladakhi activist Sonam Wangchuk joined with an in-

definite hunger strike on June 28, losing over 9 kilograms before police forcibly hospitalised him on July 18 — a move organisers called an abduction. Two days later, on July 20, tens of thousands marched toward Parliament on the opening day of the monsoon session; police met them with tear gas, baton charges, and water cannon, injuring more than 150 protesters and 118 police personnel by official counts. International outlets described it as the largest anti-government demonstration in New Delhi in years. The government blinked. On July 25, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned the man CJP had branded "Pradhan Go Back" and the administration agreed to withdraw cases against non-violent protesters and compensate the families of students who died by suicide. Parliament also passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Act, 2026, providing for fast-track courts. For a Bharatiya Janata Party government that had "outmaneuvered opponents" and "squeezed the space for dissent" for over a decade, per CNN's analysis, it was a rare and startling retreat

WHY PROTESTS ARE HAVING A MOMENT IN INDIA?

India is in the middle of one of its most disruptive stretches of youth-led unrest in years, and the through line connecting street protests from Delhi to Jharkhand is remarkably specific: broken exams, not broken ideology.

Why This Movement Succeeded Where Others Stalled?

Political scientist Rahul Verma of the Centre for Policy Research offered the sharpest explanation for why CJP broke through when farmers' protests, anti-CAA demonstrations, and demonetisation backlash had not: this was the "first movement driven by administrative failure" rather than policy or ideological disagreement, which meant the government couldn't rally its base with a counter-narrative. Verma also noted the demographic problem for the BJP specifically the protesters were largely middle- and lower-middle-class youth, "a demographic that has traditionally formed an important pillar of BJP support".

The numbers underlying the anger are structural, not incidental. India has more than 360 million people aged 15 to 29, and a recent report found nearly 40% of graduates aged 25 and under are unemployed. Independent tracking of exam integrity failures compiled from court records shows roughly 135 confirmed major paper leaks between 2004 and 2026, with 59 of them — nearly as many as the previous seventeen years combined — occurring in just the last five years. Across 45 major leak cases since 2002 involving more than a lakh candidates each, 1,658 people have been arrested but only 18 convicted. For a generation that did everything asked of it; studied, competed, queued for exams and still found the system rigged against it, this was not an abstract grievance.

Social media amplified rather than merely reported the anger. Mainstream television initially ignored the protests; students filmed their own Instagram reels, memes, and livestreams, and by the time TV networks caught up, the movement already had national momentum. Modi himself, known for a controlled public image, was reduced to posting selfie-style video messages to students; reshooting one after mockery of the camera angle a striking departure from his usual command of the narrative.

The Aftershocks Are Still Spreading

The CJP's core demand was met, but the underlying anger over examination integrity has not gone quiet; it has diffused geographically. On August 10, just over two weeks after Pradhan's resignation, police in Jharkhand used tear gas, batons, and water cannon against thousands of youth marching on the state legislature over alleged wrongdoing in civil service exams. The pattern that started in Delhi young people, exam grievances, a march on a legislature, a forceful police response repeated itself almost exactly, in a different state, over a different exam.

This matters because CJP leaders explicitly framed their withdrawal from Delhi's streets as tactical, not terminal. Founder Dipke's parting words at Jantar Mantar were blunt: "This is not the end. We will meet again soon". Protester Devansh Gupta told media the movement had become "a fight for the youth" that put "all problems the youth have... in front of the government" for the first time in years. Whether that translates into a durable political force or fades as a single-issue flash point is the open question — India's next general election isn't until 2029, giving both the movement and the government years to see whether this energy calcifies into something electorally significant.



The Test Ahead

The government's concessions; Pradhan's resignation, fast-track courts, compensation, a new anti-cheating law address the immediate triggers but not the structural rot that produced 135 leaks in two decades with a conviction rate near 1%. The Jharkhand march suggests the anger CJP tapped into is bigger than any single exam, minister, or protest camp. Whether India's institutions can now move faster than its streets is the question this monsoon session and the years leading to 2029 will answer.

J. KEVIN FERNANDO
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A Signing New Delhi Can't Ignore, But Won't Confront

On August 7, in the Saudi holy city of Mecca, the leaders of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey signed a document that received remarkably little sustained attention in the Indian press given what it represents: the region's dominant Sunni-majority military powers binding themselves to treat an attack on any one of them as an attack on all three. Four days later, India's Ministry of External Affairs offered the diplomatic equivalent of a shrug, saying only that it was "closely following the development" and "examining its implications". That measured non-response is, in itself, the story worth examining, because it captures how little leverage New Delhi currently has over a re-alignment happening in its own strategic backyard.

The text of the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement is sparse by design. The joint statement says only that "any armed attack against any one of the three states shall be regarded as an attack against them all," and that the pact "provides for the enhancement of all aspects of defence cooperation". No annexes, no force commitments, no clarity on what obligations actually get triggered. This is not incidental vagueness. As strategic analyst Bashir Ali Abbas has pointed out, credible mutual-defence pacts are usually public and hierarchical precisely so adversaries know what they are deterring; NATO's Article 5, or the Gulf Cooperation Council's own three-decade-old joint defence agreement, both spell out sequenced obligations in documents anyone can read. The Mecca Pact does the opposite, and that opacity should worry New Delhi at least as much as its substance, because it means India cannot even calculate with confidence what scenario would draw Ankara or Riyadh into a conflict involving Islamabad.

THE MECCA PACT AND THE LONELINESS OF INDIA'S WEST ASIA POLICY



Three Worries Folded Into One Signing

For India, three separate concerns are folded into this one signing. The first, and most immediate, is Turkey. Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government has for years been the most consistently hostile of any major Muslim-majority power toward New Delhi on Kashmir, and Ankara's military relationship with Islamabad is not aspirational but proven: Turkish drones and cooperation featured directly in Pakistan's playbook during its brief but intense clash with India in April and May of last year. A formal defence pact that gives Turkey a treaty-based reason to deepen that cooperation further, rather than merely a friendly inclination to do so, changes the baseline for how India must plan its western and northern defence postures simultaneously. Pakistan and Turkey are already co-producing advanced hardware; the KAAAN fifth-generation fighter for Islamabad, the Akinci drone platform that has already seen combat use. A formal pact professionalises what was informal collaboration into treaty-backed industrial policy.

The second concern is more structural and, in the long run, probably more damaging: Saudi

Arabia's slow drift into a security architecture built around Pakistan and Turkey, with China quietly supplying much of the underlying military-industrial muscle. India has spent a decade and considerable diplomatic capital building what both governments describe as a "strategic partnership" with Riyadh; energy ties, labour migration, investment flows, counter-terrorism cooperation, a genuine and hard-won warming that outlasted decades of Saudi Arabia treating Pakistan as its default partner in the Islamic world. That investment was never going to erase Riyadh's older, deeper relationship with Islamabad, but it was meant to balance it. The Mecca Pact suggests the balance may be tilting back. Saudi Arabia's own vulnerability is driving this: reports indicate the kingdom burned through roughly 86% of its pre-war Patriot interceptor stockpile in the opening weeks of its exchanges with Iran and Iran-aligned forces, leaving Riyadh anxious about a US security umbrella it no longer fully trusts and eager for alternative suppliers of hardware and expertise. Pakistan, as the only nuclear-armed state in the Islamic world and an already-integrated defence partner to both Ankara and Beijing, becomes

an indispensable node in that hedging strategy; indispensable in a way India, for all its economic weight, cannot easily displace.

The third concern is the hardest to game out precisely because the pact's own signatories seem uncertain about it themselves: what this means for a "Sunni axis" that Israeli officials, including former prime minister Naftali Bennett, have already started naming aloud, and that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned against in terms vague enough to function as self-fulfilling prophecy. Al Jazeera's regional correspondents argue the pact's real target isn't Iran, despite Tehran's missile and drone strikes on Gulf infrastructure being the proximate trigger for the original Saudi-Pakistan agreement a year earlier, but Israel; a read reinforced by Turkey's escalating friction with Israeli forces over Syria, where Ankara's influence over the al-Sharaa government now runs headlong into Israeli operations from the south. If that assessment holds, the Mecca Pact is less a response to Iran than the opening structure of a broader Sunni-Muslim security bloc positioned against Israel, with Iran as a secondary, situational threat.

Washington's Retreat, Everyone Else's Hedge

There is also a quieter, more uncomfortable lesson in why the pact came together at all. Analysts across the ideological spectrum from Al Jazeera's correspondents to the American defence consultant Harlan Ullman converge on the same diagnosis: this is fundamentally a hedge against declining confidence in the United States as a security guarantor, driven by an erratic Trump administration whose foreign policy in West Asia has visibly prioritised Israel above traditional Gulf and Turkish security concerns. "Our allies are looking elsewhere," as Ullman put it. If Riyadh and Ankara no longer trust Washington's security commitments enough to rely on them exclusively, India should draw the obvious inference for its own planning: the assumption that American strategic backing will reliably counterbalance a hostile regional grouping cannot be taken for granted either. India's own partnership with Washington, however deep on trade and technology, has never included the kind of binding mutual-defence language that Pakistan just secured from two sepa-

rate, serious regional powers.

None of this demands panic, and Pakistan's own foreign minister, Ishaq Dar, has gone out of his way to describe the pact as "purely defensive" and open to new members rather than aimed at any one adversary. But India's calm, wait-and-watch posture should not be mistaken for a strategy; it is, more honestly, an admission that Indian diplomacy has not yet built the tools to shape outcomes in a re-forming West Asian security order, only to react to them after the fact. The countries that matter most to India's western flank — Saudi Arabia above all — are recalculating their alliances around threats and vulnerabilities that have little to do with New Delhi's preferences. If India wants to be a shaper of this new architecture rather than merely an anxious observer of it, the coming months, as Turkey pushes to expand the pact to Egypt, Qatar, Syria or the UAE, will be the moment to find out whether its "wide-ranging strategic partnership" with Riyadh amounts to genuine influence or just a well-worded phrase in ministry statements.

Signatures Are Not the Same as Shots Fired

What should concern Indian strategists most is not that this pact will immediately translate into hostile action; as the Indian Express's Bashir Ali Abbas correctly notes, mutual-defence treaties are invoked far less often than signed, and the last unambiguous case of a state going to war purely on the strength of a defence-pact obligation was Britain's declaration against Germany in 1939. Pakistan has fired no shots defending Saudi Arabia against Houthi and Iranian strikes over the past year, just as Riyadh has taken no action against a Taliban-run Afghanistan with which Pakistan has waged what its own defence minister calls "open war". Treaties like this typically function as signalling devices and industrial-cooperation frameworks long before, if ever, they function as triggers for collective military action. The Gulf Cooperation Council's own joint defence agreement has sat on the books, unused, for 26 years. But signalling matters in a region where India's options for signalling of its own are thin. New Delhi's response so far "closely following," "examining implications," a promise to "take all necessary measures" is the standard vocabulary of a government that genuinely does not yet know how hard to push back, because pushing too hard against Saudi Arabia or Turkey individually risks unravelling bilateral relationships India has spent years building, while saying nothing risks normalising a regional architecture that treats Pakistan as an indispensable defence partner to two of the Islamic world's most consequential military and economic powers. This is the structural bind: India's western strategy has long rested on treating its relationships with Riyadh, Ankara, and Islamabad as separable, manageable in parallel tracks with different tools for each. The Mecca Pact is a bet by all three signatories that those tracks should instead be merged, and that India, watching from outside a trilateral document it has not seen in full, has limited means of contesting that bet directly.

What a Sharper Indian Response Would Look Like?

What might a more assertive Indian response look like? Three tracks suggest themselves, none dramatic, all overdue. The first is diversifying defence-industrial partnerships in the Gulf itself, so India is not merely a buyer of Gulf capital and seller of labour but an active co-producer of the hardware Pakistan and Turkey now offer Saudi Arabia. India's defence-export ambitions give New Delhi a genuine card to play, if played with the urgency Ankara and Islamabad have shown. The second is accelerating the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, announced with fanfare in 2023 but slowed since by the Gaza war's regional aftershocks; an India economically indispensable to Gulf infrastructure plans carries more security leverage than one that shows up only for summits. The third is simply talking to Riyadh and Ankara with more candour about what the pact means for India specifically, rather than repeating the boilerplate "closely following" language now issued twice, almost verbatim, across two separate Pakistan-Saudi defence announcements a year apart.



The District Employment Exchange Office will hold a direct interview on August 18 at 10 a.m. for Collection Recovery Officer posts at Bharat Financial Incorporation Limited. The interview will be held at Shivananda Nagar, 7th Cross Road, Kalsapur Road, Nagar. Candidates aged 18 to 30 with SSLC, PUC, or degree qualifications can apply. Vacancies are available in Gadag, Laksheshwar, Mundargi, Naragund, and Ron. Applicants must bring copies of educational marks cards, two resumes, Aadhaar, and PAN cards.



Ranebennur Deputy Agriculture Director Kariyallappa Korachara will handle Malanayakanahalli and Tumminakatti. KRIDL Assistant Executive Engineer Santosh will oversee Antaravalli and Kuppelur. Sericulture Extension Officer Sarmada has been assigned Sumakallabidari and Joisarahralli.

FIR filed against 300 protesters in Jharkhand



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ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕೆಪಿಎ ಪೋರ್ಟರ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯು.ಎ-4) ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಯಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಪ್ಪಾಯಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **KPPP** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡು ನಂತರ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು **KPP** ಪೋರ್ಟರ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಟ್ಟು)	ಇಂದಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	Providing Operation and Maintenance for Multi village water supply scheme to 12 villages from Gummanakolli to Shirangala in Kushalnagar Tq of Kodagu Dist(O&M For 5 Years)	249.77	3.75

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ವಿವರ

- ಪ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ಡಿಂಗ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ಸ್ಥಳ: ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಗ್ರಾ.ಕು.ನೀ. & ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ : 24-08-2026 11.30
- ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 03-09-2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 05.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
- ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 04-09-2026ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 05.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಅಥವಾ ಮುಂದೆ ಸೂಚಿಸುವ ದಿನದಂದು

ಸೂಚನೆ: ಇತರರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಾಸ್‌ಕೇಸ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.kppp.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಗ್ರಾ.ಕು.ನೀ & ನೈ ವಿಭಾಗ-ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

Parliament passes bill to rename Kerala as ‘Keralam’

Parliament has cleared a Bill to rename Kerala as Keralam, following unanimous state Assembly support and proposed constitutional amendments to formalise the change

NEW DELHI

Parliament has passed a Bill proposing to change the name of Kerala to Keralam, following a unanimous resolution by the Kerala Assembly supporting the change.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the Kerala Assembly had passed a resolution in 2024 asking the Centre to introduce legislation to officially change the state’s name. The state government forwarded the resolution to the Centre in June 2024. The proposal was later referred to the state legislature for its views, after which the Assembly unanimously supported the Bill.

The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill provides for the change and includes amendments to the Constitution and other related provisions. The First Schedule of the Constitution will be amended to replace the name Kerala with Keralam under Article 3. Rai said the



AT A GLANCE
• Proposed name: Keralam.
• Assembly resolution: 2024.
• Resolution sent to Centre: June 2024.
• Constitutional provision: Article 3.
• Key change: First Schedule.
• Assembly support: Unanimous.
• Bill: Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill.

proposed change represents the pride of Kerala’s people and reflects India’s diverse languages, cultures and traditions.

During the debate, Rai linked the proposal to the government’s broader aim of removing what it describes as symbols of colonial rule and promoting India’s cultural heritage. He said the change was consistent with the idea of “One India, Best India”, where different traditions and languages contribute to national unity.

Rai also raised the issue of action taken by the Kerala government against teachers over a controversial quiz question about Hindutva ideologue VD Savarkar. He criticised the action and described Savarkar as a freedom fighter who made significant sacrifices. The renaming Bill now provides the legal framework for officially recognising the state as Keralam, marking a significant change in its constitutional identity.

Kharge calls Haldwani ritual an insult

DEHRADUN

The alleged purification ritual at a stage used by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge during an August 8 rally in Haldwani reached the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, triggering a political confrontation.

Kharge said a ‘havan’ was performed at Ramliha Gaurav after his public meeting and alleged that people linked to the BJP conducted it to “purify” the stage. He described the incident as an insult to him and the constitutional principle of equality and demanded criminal action against those involved.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Kharge said he did not want to turn the matter into a political dispute but believed it had wider social implications. Identifying himself as a member of a Scheduled Caste, he questioned how such an act could take place in a democracy and alleged that it treated him as an untouchable.

Union Minister and Leader of the House JP Nadda called the incident deeply regrettable and said the BJP did not support such behaviour. He assured Kharge that the matter would be investigated and condemned the incident. However, Nadda objected to blaming

the BJP as an organisation for the alleged act.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra criticised the BJP and RSS, calling the alleged ritual a reflection of what she described as a degraded mindset. Congress leaders Kumari Selja and Uttarakhand spokesperson Garima Dasouni also condemned the incident and demanded strict action. Dasouni said the controversy concerned the dignity and rights of marginalised communities. The Congress has sought a detailed investigation and accountability from the authorities.

Rahul draws battle line against Modi and Shah

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said opposition parties would continue to challenge the BJP-led government until Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah step down. Addressing the Ratchnatmak Congress National Convention, Gandhi said the opposition had begun expressing itself and described the movement as “unstoppable”.

Gandhi said the opposition would keep Modi and Shah “awake”, arguing that the political fight was about protecting the country’s values, ethos and culture. He criticised the government’s political approach, alleging that the BJP sought to impose an order that benefited the party and certain other groups.

The Congress leader also criticised the government over Pakistan’s role in the ongoing West Asia crisis. He said India could have played a more active role because of its friendly relations with countries involved in the

conflict. Gandhi argued that India should use its relationships and influence to contribute to efforts aimed at addressing the crisis.

His remarks came as Congress and other opposition parties have stepped up their criticism of the government on several issues. Gandhi said the opposition’s political expression had gathered momentum and would continue. He maintained that the campaign was not simply about changing political leadership, but about defending the country’s broader democratic and cultural values.

The Congress leader’s comments are expected to add to the political debate between the ruling party and opposition. He said the opposition would remain united in raising questions before the public. With both sides taking stronger positions on national and international issues, the confrontation is likely to remain a key feature of parliamentary and public political discussions in the coming days.

Air India starts mandatory pilot screening

NEW DELHI

Air India has started mandatory substance screening for all group pilots, following concerns over pilot safety after a recent incident involving a Phuket-Delhi flight. The screening will check pilots for prohibited substances and medications. Air India said the testing will be conducted alongside training at its Gurugram Academy and through post-flight procedures at designated offices and flight briefing centres. The airline said the move goes beyond existing regulatory requirements and aims to strengthen safety standards, professionalism and passenger confidence. Air India also urged pilots to maintain the trust placed in the airline by passengers and the wider community.

First accused arrested in Manipur IED case

NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested S. Palal Thadou, the first accused in an IED attack in Manipur’s Bishnupur district that killed two minor children in April, the attack took place on April 7 at Tronglaobi Awang Leikai in Moirang, when suspected militants allegedly launched an explosive device from a hillside towards a residential area. The device hit a house wall, seriously injuring three family members. Two children later died from their injuries, while another person was injured. An unexploded improvised RPG was also recovered near the site. The case was initially registered at Moirang Police Station before the NIA took over the investigation and re-registered it on April 23. The latest arrest marks the first major action in the case as investigators continue examining the attack and identifying those involved.



Former Jaipur judge loses ₹2.5 Crore

JAIPUR

A 90-year-old former district judge, Ganpat Singh Bhandari, allegedly lost Rs 2.5 crore after fraudsters posing as CBI officials and an RBI manager kept him under “digital arrest” for around 15 days.

Bhandari received a WhatsApp call on July 28 from a person claiming to be a CBI officer. The caller accused him of involvement in a Rs 50-crore hawala transaction and threatened arrest.

Another caller, posing as an RBI manager, sought details of his investments and financial documents. Bhandari transferred Rs 2,50,51,000 between August 3 and 10. An SBI manager later stopped further transfers, leading to a police complaint.

ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲಾಲ್ ಬಾಗ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-04.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DH-ADMNOSV(STAT)/7/2025-SV **ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 13.08.2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ, ಲಾಲ್ ಬಾಗ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಆಡಳಿತ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ 10 ಬೆರಳಚ್ಚುಗಾರರು, (DEO) 11 ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು, ಹಾಗೂ 04 ಸೇವಕರನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ, ಬಾಹ್ಯ ಮೂಲಗಳಿಂದ ನೇಮಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅರ್ಹ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ/ಸರ್ಕಾರೇತರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪರ ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ [KPPP.karnataka.gov.in](https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮೂಲಕ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.08.2026 ರಂದು 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ [KPPP.karnataka.gov.in](https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಅಪರ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಆಡಳಿತ)

ವಾಹನಂ/ವಾ.ಪಾ/ಎಎಎ/2150/2026-27

KALYAN KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION VIJAYAPUR DIVISION

NO:KKRTC:VIP:TR:COMM:1509:2026-27 **Dated:12.08.2026**

E-Tender Publication No: 14/2026

Vijayapur Division invited E-Tender(Through E-Procurement) for Commercial Shops, Refreshment Rooms, Open Space of Various Bus Stands Comes under this Division Detailed tender schedule is as below.

1) Last Date for submitting online application: **02.09.2026** at 17.28 PM.

2) E-Tender Opening **Date :04.09.2026** at 10.00 am onward

For details visit <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> or Contact D.T.O: 7760992252 or Commercial Case Worker (Traffic Section)/ KKRTC, Divisional Office Vijayapur during office hours.

Sd/- Divisional Controller,
K.K.R.T.C Vijayapur Division.

ವಾಹನಂ/ವಿ.ಪಾ/ಎಎಎ/250/ ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಎಎ/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
(Infrastructure Development and Port and Inland Water Transport Department)

Karnataka Maritime Board

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,PORT DIVISION,

BAITKHOL, KARWAR, UTTAR KANNADA-581302

Phone:-08382-229672 Email: eepdk@rediffmail.com/eepdkwr4@gmail.com
NO.EE/PDK/TND/2026-27/366 **Date:11-08-2026**

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION (CALL-3)
(Only in KPPP Portal) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Tender is invited in KPPP Portal to execute below mentioned Services. To participate in KPPP Portal, and for more information may be obtained in www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in website. For further Extension refer above mentioned website. No separate paper notification will be issued.

“GST shall be paid to the Tendered Amount separately”

Name of work and Indent Number: **CONSTRUCTION OF OUTER FISHING HARBOURIN MURDESHWARA IN BHATKAL TALUK, UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT** INCLUDING SURVEY. INVESTIGATION DESIGN, OBTAINING ALL STATUTORY CLEARANCE, AND COMMISSIONING OF MURDESHWAR FISHING HARBOR WITH SUITABLE BREAKWATER AND JETTY INCLUDING BEACH LANDING AREA, FISH HANDLING CENTER, FISH LOADING AREA, AUCTION HALL, ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK, CONCRETE SURFACE, NET MENDING CENTER, REST SHEDS, GEAR SHEDS BOAT REPAIR SHOP, RESTAURANT, TOILET, ELECTRIFICATION WITH GENERAL LIGHTING, FRESH WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, STORM WATER DRAINAGE, SUPPLYING AND COMMISSIONING OF CETP, INTERNAL ROADS AND OUTER DOUBLE LANE ROAD INCLUDING MAINTENANCE FOR A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF WORK “LUMP SUM NO VARIATION”

Indent No: IDD/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT130/Call-3

Amount put to Tender(Rs.In Crores): **302.99**, Last date and Time for queries: **27-08-2026 at 16.00 hours**, Last date and Time for receipt of Tender: **22-09-2026 at 17.00 hours**

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/344/26-27 **Sd/- Executive Engineer,**
dt. 13.08.2026 **Port Division, Karwar**

(CH)CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad
contact: 080-41209042

Congress says Modi govt rattled

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday accused the Modi government of being “scared and rattled” during the Monsoon Session, alleging that BJP leaders avoided parliamentary proceedings while opposition unity remained strong.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were largely absent from Parliament and appeared only shortly before the House was adjourned sine die. He alleged that the government was avoiding questions raised by the Opposition on several issues.

Ramesh said the Opposition had several achievements during the session. He claimed that the proposed ‘One Nation, One Election’ legislation was delayed, while the report of the joint committee examining the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill was also not presented.

He also cited the delay in another constitutional amendment concerning the removal of leaders after prolonged detention.

He said the referral of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act Bill to a joint

Jairam Ramesh said PM Modi and Amit Shah stayed away from parliamentary proceedings, appearing only on the last day before adjournment

committee was another achievement, although the Opposition wanted the legislation withdrawn. Ramesh also claimed that an amendment related to delimitation could not be introduced because the government lacked the required two-thirds majority.

Congress Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi alleged that important issues, including examination irregularities and alleged corruption, were not allowed adequate discussion. He also criticised the passage of some Bills without debate and demanded the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah on alleged action against students, and an apology from the Prime Minister. The Congress said the session highlighted the Opposition’s unity.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department Division, Haveri

This office letter No.EE/PB/Tnd/2026-27/8443-5054 Bridge/1964 **Dated:11-08-2026**

E-Tender Notification

On 11-08-2026 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal tender notification has been issued for the following Work Indent No. 35506/Call-3 & 37907 works Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : **20-08-2026** (upto 4:00 PM) and for the following Work Indent No.38987 & SI No.4 Works Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : **27-08-2026** (upto 4:00 PM). For further additional information, any changes & queries visit <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/- (N.N.Patil)
Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Haveri

DIPR/Haveri/283/KSMCA/2026-27

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, Zone-2, 2nd Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore - 560 010.

No.:EE/SD/TEND/15/2026-27 **Date:13.08.2026**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through KPP Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, Special Division, BWCC Zone-2, invites tenders from eligible tenderers for work detailed in the table below.

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1.	Selection of Advertising Agencies for Day-to-Day Maintenance and Exclusive Commercial Advertising Rights on Existing Skywalks at Pantharapalya on Nayandahalli Main Road under Bengaluru West City Corporation . Tenure: 10 Years . Base Ground Rent: Rs. 6,94,334/- EMD: Rs. 50,000/- (Reserved for Others) .
2.	Selection of Advertising Agencies for Day-to-Day Maintenance and Exclusive Commercial Advertising Rights on Existing Skywalks at Kengeri Satellite Bus Terminal Road under Bengaluru West City Corporation . Tenure: 10 Years . Base Ground Rent: Rs. 4,90,613/- EMD: Rs. 50,000/- (Reserved for Others) .
3.	Selection of Advertising Agencies for Day-to-Day Maintenance and Exclusive Commercial Advertising Rights on Existing Skywalks at Sumanahalli Signal, Kamakshipalya under Bengaluru West City Corporation . Tenure: 10 Years . Base Ground Rent: Rs. 22,08,150/- EMD: Rs. 25,000/- (Reserved for SC/ST) .
4.	Selection of Advertising Agencies for Day-to-Day Maintenance and Exclusive Commercial Advertising Rights on Existing Skywalks at Magadi Main Road, near Raheja Apartment under Bengaluru West City Corporation . Tenure: 10 Years . Base Ground Rent: Rs. 13,04,100/- EMD: Rs. 45,000/- (Reserved for Others) .
5.	Selection of Advertising Agencies for Day-to-Day Maintenance and Exclusive Commercial Advertising Rights on Existing Skywalks at PSET College, Hosakerehalli under Bengaluru West City Corporation . Tenure: 10 Years . Base Ground Rent: Rs. 4,89,636/- EMD: Rs. 75,000/- (Reserved for Others) .
6.	Selection of Advertising Agencies for Day-to-Day Maintenance and Exclusive Commercial Advertising Rights on Existing Skywalks at N.R. Colony, Basavanagudi under Bengaluru West City Corporation . Tenure: 10 Years . Base Ground Rent: Rs. 10,03,968/- EMD: Rs. 25,000/- (Reserved for SC/ST) .
7.	Selection of Advertising Agencies for Day-to-Day Maintenance and Exclusive Commercial Advertising Rights on Existing Skywalks at Brigade, Opp. to Orion Mall under Bengaluru West City Corporation . Tenure: 10 Years . Base Ground Rent: Rs. 5,70,308/- EMD: Rs. 20,000/- (Reserved for Others) .

1)Tender documents can be downloaded from KPP portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from **18.08.2026, onwards**. 2) Date of Pre-bid meeting : **21.08.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.** 3) Last Date for receipt of tenders:**27.08.2026 upto 16:00 Hrs.** 4) Opening of Technical Bids: **29.08.2026 at 16:30 Hrs.** 5) Opening of Financial Bids: **will be intimated**. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Special Division, BWCC Zone-2.

Quick Read

Five killed defusing explosive device Sevastopol

Sevastopol

Five people were killed while attempting to de-fuse an explosive device in Russian-controlled Sevastopol, regional governor Mikhail Raz-vozhayev said on Thurs-day. Four emergency service bomb-disposal specialists and a security guard were conducting clearance operations after a Ukrainian drone attack when the device exploded. The incident occurred amid intensi-fied air attacks between Russia and Ukraine, now in the fifth year of Mos-cow's full-scale inva-sion. Russia's Defence Ministry said its air-de-fence forces intercepted or destroyed 362 Ukrainian drones over-night across several Russian and Rus-sian-controlled regions, including Crimea. Russia seized and annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014.

Meloni faces youth backlash ahead of election

Rome

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is facing growing dissatisfaction among young voters ahead of next year's na-tional election, with polls showing her govern-ment's approval among under-35s at just 25%. Analysts say young Ital-ians are increasingly supporting centre -left parties, which together command nearly 50% support among voters under 35, compared with less than 30% for Meloni's right-wing coa-lition. Experts blame limited economic re-forms, weak youth em-ployment opportunities and low education spending for the growing discontent. Italy has the euro zone's lowest em-ployment rate among 15- to 24-year-olds, while many young gra-duates leave the country for better opportunities abroad. Meloni also fac-es competition from far-right leader Roberto Vannacci, whose Na-tional Future movement is polling around 7% and has attracted some younger anti-immigra-tion voters. Security measures targeting pro-tests, cannabis, squat-ting and juvenile crime have further angered young people. Analysts say youth turnout could prove decisive in the 2027 election. Further-more, experts warn that addressing these sys-temic structural chal-lenges will require ag-gressive, long-term in-vestments rather than short-term political fixes.

Trump says law blocks third term bid

RATIFIED IN 1951, THE 22ND AMENDMENT LIMITS ANY INDIVIDUAL TO BEING ELECTED TO THE PRESIDENCY TWICE.

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has acknowledged that he would like to seek a third term in the White House in 2028, but said the law re-mains a major obstacle to such a bid.

Asked about the possibility of running for another term, Trump's remarks come amid continuing speculation among his supporters about whether he could remain in office be-yond the constitutionally per-mitted two elected terms. The US Constitution's 22nd Amendment states that no person can be elected presi-dent more than twice.

Trump began his second presidential term in January 2025 after defeating Demo-cratic candidate Kamala Har-



"I'd love to, but the law is very strong."

He added that he is frequently asked about the issue and indicated that the legal restrictions on presidential terms would make another campaign difficult.

- Donald Trump, US President

ris in the 2024 election. He had previously served as president from 2017 to 2021. A

TRUMP THIRD TERM

TRUMP ACKNOWL-EDGED STRONG SUPPORTER INTEREST IN A POTENTIAL THIRD PRESIDENTIAL TERM WHILE CANDIDLY REC-OGNIZING THE DEFINI-TIVE CONSTITUTIONAL BARRIER THAT CUR-RENTLY PREVENTS HIM FROM LEGALLY RUNNING FOR ANOTH-ER OFFICE AGAIN.

successful third-term bid would therefore require over-coming the constitutional res-triction.

The possibility of Trump seeking another term has re-peatedly generated political debate in the United States. Some of his supporters have

promoted the idea, while Trump has occasionally made comments that have fuelled speculation without present-ing a clear legal or political plan to pursue a third term.

His latest response ap-peared to acknowledge both his personal interest and the legal barrier. Trump said that "everybody wants me to do" it, while reiterating that the law is strong on the matter.

The comments are likely to keep the third-term debate alive among Trump's sup-porters and opponents. However, any attempt to run in 2028 would face significant consti-tutional questions and would require changes to the exist-ing legal framework. For now, Trump's statement stops short of announcing any formal ef-fort to seek a third term.

UN panel blames AQIS for red fort blast

NEW YORK

A United Nations Security Council terrorism monitoring team has attributed the deadly Red Fort suicide car bombing to Al-Qaida in the Indian Sub-continent (AQIS), warning that the group is developing new networks and expanding its presence across South Asia.

According to a report pre-pared by the Analytical Sup-port and Sanctions Monitor-ing Team, the attack, which killed 11 people last Novem-ber, was "officially attributed to AQIS". The report said the organisation has evolved from a fragmented group into a re-gional terrorist entity, relying on decentralised cells rather than large formations.

The team said AQIS has es-tablished logistics and finan-cial networks and is increas-ingly operating through small, scattered cells. It also warned that the group was attempting to exploit Bangladesh to es-tablish new cells, amid broad-er concerns over the intensi-fying terrorist threat in South Asia.

AQIS was founded in 2014 by former Al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri. The UN monitoring team, based in New York, comprises 10 ex-perts who track terrorism threats linked to Al-Qaida, Islamic State and their affilii-

The group also sought to exploit Bangladesh for new cells amid escalating terrorist threats across South Asia.

ates. Its findings assist the Security Council's sanctions committees in identifying groups and individuals for possible sanctions.

The latest assessment ap-pears to strengthen earlier in-dications regarding the Red Fort attack. A February report had said Jaish-e-Mohammed was reportedly linked to the bombing, while the new re-port directly attributes the at-tack to AQIS. The report also noted close ties between JeM and Al-Qaida.

The bombing marked a worrying pattern in which highly qualified professionals were allegedly drawn into ter-rorism.

At least four doctors were arrested in connection with the case, while the suicide bomber, Umar-un-Nabi, was identified as an assistant pro-fessor of general medicine at a university in Faridabad.

The UN team also high-lighted activities of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, includ-ing its restructuring and cre-ation of separate divisions focused on Kashmir and Gil-git.

Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia deepen defence pact

Although likened to NATO's collective defense principle, officials emphasize the pact is merely a framework for trilateral cooperation.

ANKARA

Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will establish polit-ical and military mechanisms to coordinate their activities under a joint defence agree-ment signed last week, Tur-key's Defence Ministry said on Thursday.

The three countries signed the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement on August 7, strengthening security coo-peration among the regional powers. The pact was agreed as the countries faced grow-ing concerns over instability in the region and Iranian missile attacks targeting Gulf states.

The agreement states that an armed attack against any one of the three countries would be considered an at-tack against all members. The arrangement has been compared with NATO's col-lective defence principle, although officials have de-scribed the pact as a frame-work for closer cooperation among the three countries.

Speaking at a weekly briefing in Ankara, Turkey's Defence Ministry said the new coordination mecha-nisms would bring together the defence ministers, for-eign ministers and military chiefs of Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The ministry said the three countries were also planning joint military exercises as part of the agreement. Such exercises are expected to strengthen coordination, im-prove operational coopera-tion and enhance the coun-tries' ability to respond col-lectively to security threats.

Defence industry coopera-tion will also form an im-portant part of the partner-ship. According to the min-istry, Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia could pursue joint defence production,



Mecca Joint Defense Agreement

- **Collective Defense Principle:** An armed attack against any one of the three member countries (Turkey, Pakistan, or Saudi Arabia) will be considered an attack against all of them, drawing comparisons to NATO's mutual defense model.
- **Coordination Mechanisms:** Regular platforms and brief-ings will be established to bring together the defense minis-ters, foreign ministers, and military chiefs of all three nations.
- **Joint Military Exercises:** The nations plan to conduct collaborative military drills aimed at strengthening tactical coordination, boosting operational cooperation, and im-proving collective responsiveness to security threats.
- **Defense Industry Collaboration:** The partnership em-phasizes joint defense production, technology sharing, and cooperative projects designed to bolster their respec-tive domestic military manufacturing capabilities.
- **Geopolitical Alignment:** The pact unites three predom-inantly Sunni Muslim nations that share close historical and strategic ties with the United States while inde-pendently pursuing their own regional security objectives.
- **Scope and Future Outlook:** While officials have not explicitly stated whether the framework will evolve into a formal, highly integrated military alliance on par with NATO, the agreement marks a major expansion of trilater-al defense cooperation

technology sharing and oth-er projects aimed at strengthening their domestic military capabilities.

The agreement brings to-gether three predominantly Sunni Muslim countries that maintain close ties with the United States while also pur-suing their own regional se-curity interests. Turkey is a NATO member, while Paki-stan and Saudi Arabia have longstanding strategic re-lationships with Washington.

The new mechanisms are expected to provide a regu-lar platform for political consultations and military coordination among the three partners. Officials have not indicated whether the ar-rangement will develop into a formal military alliance comparable to NATO, but the agreement signals a sig-nificant expansion of de-fence cooperation between Ankara, Islamabad and Ri-yadh.

Japan condemns Putin visit to disputed Islands

TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has strongly criticised Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to the disputed Kuril Islands, calling the move "absolutely unac-ceptable" and saying it hurt the sentiments of the Japanese people. Putin visited Iturup, one of the four southern Kuril Islands claimed by Japan, on Thursday.

Takaichi said Tokyo consid-ers the islands, which Japan calls the Northern Territories, to be an inherent part of Jap-anese territory. Her comments came after Putin's first re-ported visit to the island chain, which has remained a major source of tension between Russia and Japan since the end of World War II.

During his visit, Putin toured a fish-processing facil-ity and other local sites and met officials from Russia's Sakhalin region. The Russian president reiterated Moscow's position that its sovereignty over the islands is supported by international agreements and post-war arrangements. Russia has controlled the is-lands since Soviet forces seized them in the final stages of World War II.Japan disputes Russia's sovereignty over Iturup, Kunashir, Shikotan and the Habomai Islands. Tokyo has repeatedly demanded the return of the four territories, while Moscow maintains that the islands are legally Russian territory. The disagreement has prevented Russia and Japan from concluding a formal post-World War II peace treaty.Relations between Moscow and Tokyo have deteriorated further since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, with Japan joining international sanctions against Russia. Putin's latest visit is therefore likely to add to existing diplomatic ten-sions. Japanese officials have reaffirmed that Tokyo will continue to defend its territori-al position and seek a resolu-tion to the long-running dis-pute through diplomacy.

FARAGE QUILTS PARLIAMENT

Nigel farage faces Count Binface in Clacton

- **Unusual Contest Setup:** Major political parties are sitting out the Clacton by-election, leaving Reform UK leader Nigel Farage facing over 30 rivals, most notably the satirical novelty candidate Count Binface.
- **The Satirical Challenge:** Count Binface (created by comedian Jonathan Harvey) is running a humorous cam-paign, presenting an unconventional hurdle for Farage in a race drawing heavy media attention.
- **Motivations and Momentum:** Farage triggered the snap vote to re-establish his local mandate and prove his en-during voter backing.
- **Financial Scrutiny:** The election follows an ongoing parliamentary standards investigation into an undeclared £5 million donation/gift. If found in breach of rules, Farage could face sanctions and potential electoral consequences.
- **Local Context:** Clacton is an economically challenged sea-side constituency in eastern England where Farage previ-ously secured 46 percent of the vote in 2024, making Thursday's outcome a critical measure of his grassroots support.



30 rivals. The long list in-cludes independent candidates and novelty figures, with Count Binface expected to provide the strongest chal-lenge.

Count Binface, the sil-ver-clad character created by comedian Jonathan Harvey, has contested elections against several senior British politicians over the past de-cade. His campaign is known for satire and humorous polit-ical messaging, making the contest an unusual test for Farage and Reform UK.

Farage is using the election to demonstrate that he retains strong support among voters despite the controversy sur-rounding his finances. Reform UK has sought to build mo-mentum by presenting itself as an alternative to Britain's established political parties.

The donation issue remains under investigation by Parlia-ment's standards commissioner. Lawmakers are generally required to declare certain donations received during the year before an election within a month of taking office. If Farage is found to have breached parliamentary rules, he could face sanctions that might lead to another elec-tion.

Farage maintains that he was not required to declare the donation because he con-sidered it a personal gift.

Farage faces Count Binface in Clacton election

LONDON

Voters in the English seaside constituency of Clacton went to the polls on Thursday in a closely watched election fea-turing Reform UK leader Nigel Farage and his unusual main challenger, comedian Count Binface.

Farage resigned from Par-liament last month to seek a fresh mandate after facing scrutiny over allegations that he failed to properly declare a £5 million donation from a wealthy backer. He has de-nied wrongdoing and said the election would allow voters to judge the allegations and his political record.

The contest has attracted unusual attention because ma-jor political parties decided not to field candidates, leav-ing Farage facing more than

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When the ball goes soft: Morkel’s blueprint

GALLE

India’s bowling coach Morne Morkel has warned his pace attack to prepare for tough conditions ahead of their upcoming 2 Test series against Sri Lanka, which begins from August 15th. Speaking to the media, the former South African fast bowler emphasized that handling extreme heat, heavy humidity, and an aging ball will require absolute mental toughness from the squad.

The visiting seam department faces a major setback after star bowler Jasprit Bumrah was ruled out due to a knee injury.

With Bumrah sidelined, Mohammed Siraj steps up as the most experienced leader of the attack.

He will be joined by younger bowling options including Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, and newly added squad member Auqib Nabi.

Morkel pointed out that the Kookaburra red ball typically loses its hard core relatively quickly in subcontinental weather.

He noted that the leather usually softens down after just 25 to 30 overs, forcing players to change their tactics.

Because of this rapid change, bowlers must rely on short, explosive spells while pouring maximum energy into hitting accurate areas.

The coach stressed that maintaining high intensity and building tight pressure will be vital,

especially since the team lacks recent red-ball match practice.

Once the shine wears off, Morkel wants his players to be street smart by utilizing the bowling crease creatively and mixing in clever short deliveries to trouble opposing batters. The opening match of the series kicks off in Galle on August 15, followed by the second Test in Colombo starting August 23.

Morkel remains confident that hitting the deck hard on good lengths can still yield positive results if the pacers adapt quickly to the tricky island conditions.

India bowling Coach Morne Morkel warned his pace attack about tough conditions for the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka.



Will years of waiting pay off for Dubey?

NEW DELHI

Spinner Praveen Dubey is ready to prove his worth in the Indian Premier League. After spending many seasons waiting on the bench and learning from cricket legends, the talented leg-spinner believes he finally has the skill and confidence to make his big chance count.

Dubey started his IPL journey with Royal Challengers Bengaluru back in 2016. Later, he moved to Delhi Capitals and now plays for Punjab Kings. During these years, he did not get enough chances to show his true talent. Instead of feeling sad, he used that time to improve his game in domestic matches and local leagues.

While at RCB, Dubey spent time talking with Virat Kohli. Those chats helped him build a strong mental mindset. Later, during his time with Delhi, he got a chance to play and even reached the final in the year 2020. Now, at Punjab Kings, he gets to share the dressing room with Yuzvendra Chahal. Since they were teammates in the past, Dubey enjoys talking with the star spinner, learning how to bowl against tough batters, and hoping they might play together when pitches help spin. When it comes to bowling, Dubey loves to take wickets rather than just stop runs. He believes that attacking the best batters forces them to take risks and make mistakes.

India welcomes World Badminton Championships

NEW DELHI

The Indian Olympic Association warmly welcomes global badminton stars to New Delhi for the BWF World Championships. Starting August seventeen at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, this prestigious event reinforces India’s deep dedication to the Olympic Movement and sports growth. IOA President P. T. Usha shared her excitement, noting that hosting top players proves India’s ability to run world-class sports events. With strong backing from the government, India is quickly becoming a preferred global hub for international sports. Fans are especially thrilled to watch local heroes like two-time Olympic medallist P. V. Sindhu lead the home challenge.

‘Hardik Pandya is my ultimate idol..’



GUWAHATI

Young all-rounder Doikho Das is turning heads in the inaugural Assam Premier League 2026, currently shining as the top wicket-taker for the table-topping Dibrugarh Warriors. Representing a side that boasts 5 wins from 6 games, Das revealed that Indian star cricketer Hardik Pandya serves as his ultimate idol and inspiration.

The talented seamer has already claimed 13 crucial wickets across 6 matches at a steady economy rate of 7.80. His standout performance came during a brilliant spell where he picked up 4 wickets for 33 runs against the Charaideo Sunrisers. Das stated that he actively models his aggressive bowling approach and mindset directly after Pandya.

According to the young pacer, hitting the deck hard with an attacking style brings him the best results. He relies heavily on the short delivery as his stock weapon, noting that helpful pitch conditions

have allowed him to maximize this strength. Although he has done major damage with the ball, Das views himself as a true all-rounder and eagerly waits for a chance to showcase his batting skills.

Maintaining discipline has been a core part of his game plan throughout the tournament. Instead of getting intimidated by opposing batters, Das keeps a clear mindset by focusing entirely on his bowling lengths and sticking firmly to the team strategy. He believes this simple approach stops him from getting distracted during intense match situations.

Despite his stellar individual numbers, the youngster insists that personal milestones take a backseat to team victories. He remains unsatisfied with his current form, vowing to keep working hard to push his squad forward. With the Warriors sitting comfortably at the top of the standings, Das hopes to finish the tournament by lifting the championship trophy.

Egyptian challengers oust Chand in Semifinal

KOLKATA

Indian smquash hopes suffered a major setback as top women’s seed Tanvi Khanna and 4th seeded men’s player Suraj Kumar Chand exited the HCL Squash PSA Challenger Tour at the semifinal stage in Kolkata. Both athletes fought hard but ultimately fell to tough Egyptian opponents after thrilling matches.

Tanvi Khanna went down fighting against Egypt’s 3rd seed Sohayla Hazem. After winning the opening game comfortably, Tanvi lost her momentum as Sohayla bounced back with strong rallies, taking the next 3 games to seal the match with scores of 6-11, 11-2, 11-7, 11-7. Earlier in the tournament, Tanvi had shown great form by defeating Vasundhara Nangare and compa-

triot Nirupama Dubey in straight games.

Meanwhile, Suraj Chand faced a tough challenge against Egyptian top seed Mohamed Gohar. Coming off a recent singles crown at the World University Championships, Suraj put up a brave fight but lost in straight games with a scoreline of 8-11, 2-11, 7-11. His journey to the final four included brilliant wins, notably a grueling seventy-three-minute five-game thriller against Egypt’s Hassan Menshawy in the pre-quarterfinals.

Following these semifinal matches, the tournament heads toward exciting all-Egyptian finals on 14th August. In the women’s division, Sohayla Hazem will face second seed Menna Walid for the champion-



ship trophy. Meanwhile, Mohamed Gohar will lock horns with third seed Seif Refaay to claim the men’s crown.

The ongoing Kolkata leg features a total prize fund of nine thousand dollars each for both the men’s and women’s sections. As part of the wider Professional Squash Association second-tier circuit, the tour has already traveled successfully through Indore, Mumbai, and Chennai, bringing top-class international squash action to fans across India.

From India to Central Stags, Malan’s journey

CHRISTCHURCH

Heinrich Malan is back in New Zealand cricket. The experienced coach has signed a fresh 3 year deal to lead the Central Stags team. He takes over the coaching role from former captain Greg Hay and former batter Ben F. Smith, ready to bring new energy to the squad.

Malan brings deep international experience to the domestic scene. His most recent big job was coaching the Ireland national team. He ended that chapter on a very high note by guiding Ireland to a historic two-nil T20 series win against India, the reigning world champions.

Before his time abroad, Malan had a great first run with the Stags starting in 2013. Over several successful years in Napier, he helped the team win the Plunket Shield, The Ford Trophy, and the Super Smash title. Later, he coached the Auckland Aces to more championship wins and also worked with New Zealand ‘A’ and the Black Caps.

During his early years with Central, Malan played a huge role in shaping young talents. Stars like fast bowler Blair Tuckner and spinner Ajaz Patel credit him for helping their development. He loves working hands-on during practice sessions and is eager to meet the newer players in the group.

Malan stated that testing himself in international cricket helped him grow on a personal level. Now, he wants to share that valuable experience with the Stags players.

He feels very excited to get back to domestic coaching and help young cricketers showcase their skills on the field. With his winning past and strong passion for training, the Stags are ready for an exciting new chapter under his expert guidance.

‘Learning from legends’, Avinash embraces IPL journey

NEW DELHI

Punjab Kings young star Pyla Avinash is ready to make a big mark in the Indian Premier League. The talented player from Andhra Pradesh believes his brave and attacking style of play can turn him into a true match-winner.

Bought by Punjab Kings for 30 lakh rupees after showing great skill in the local league, Avinash wants to keep his natural aggressive nature. However, he is also learning how to play with more care and responsibility when the pressure is high.

Avinash’s journey to the big stage started after 3 solid seasons. His biggest moment came when he smashed an unbeaten 105 runs from just 58 balls, hitting 11 massive sixes.

During that special knock, he even hit 5 sixes in a single over. While that feat brings back memories of Yuvraj Singh, Avinash admits that hitting 6 sixes in 1 over is a big dream he hopes to achieve soon.

Getting picked for the big league came as a huge shock. He did not expect it at all. When he joined the team, he felt nervous because he was surrounded by many cricket legends. But the franchise owners, coaches, and staff made him feel very welcome. They took great care of him both on and off the field.

Working with head coach Ricky Ponting has been like

a dream come true. Avinash grew up watching the Australian legend play on television. Now, getting tips from him has helped him fix small technical details in his batting style.

Even though he wants to be smart, Avinash does not want to lose his fearless attitude.

He spends time watching senior players to learn how they handle tough bowlers. He likes to stay calm at the crease, whether it is the first ball or the last ball of the match.

Avinash also gives huge credit to his elder brother,

Bought for 30 lakh rupees by Punjab Kings, young Andhra batter Pyla Avinash aims to showcase his fearless, attacking style under Coach Ricky Ponting.



Hard work finally rewarded: Saransh Jain

GALLE

Madhya Pradesh off-spinner Saransh Jain has finally earned his maiden India Test call-up. After 10 years of hard work in domestic cricket, he is part of the squad for the upcoming 2 game tour of Sri Lanka, starting August 15th in Galle.

Jain was heading to a temple when he noticed multiple missed calls and messages telling him about his selection. The 33 year-old said he did not feel nervous joining the national squad because he has already played alongside most of his new teammates in domestic circuits.

Having made his Ranji Trophy debut back in the 2014 – 15 season, Jain noted that patience is crucial for success. His long journey required massive sacrifices and a belief that his hard work would eventually pay off. His father, a former Ranji Trophy player, always told him to stay patient and trust the process.

With 54 first-class matches under his belt, Jain has claimed 188 wickets and scored

2223 runs. He played a massive role in helping Madhya Pradesh win their maiden Ranji Trophy title in 2022. His stellar form continued into the 2025 – 26, where he scored over 500 runs and took 30 wickets, followed by a Player-of-the-Series display in the Duleep Trophy.

After years of grinding in domestic matches and serving as a net bowler, Jain is now ready to showcase his talent on the biggest international stage. With his deep experience, family backing, and clear mindset, he stands on the verge of making a dream Test debut for his country.



India can challenge anyone, says Savita

NEW DELHI

Experienced goalkeeper Savita Punia believes the Indian women’s hockey team has what it takes to challenge any opponent at the upcoming FIH Hockey Women’s World Cup. Heading into her third consecutive global tournament, the veteran player feels ready to guide her squad with a fresh sense of confidence.

The team enters the World Cup following a massive morale boost after winning the FIH Nations Cup. According to Savita, that gold medal proved that India can go toe-to-toe with powerhouse nations like the Netherlands, Argentina, and Germany.

Hard-fought matches in past Pro League games taught the players that they truly belong among the world’s best.

Beyond recent victories, Savita highlighted a major shift in how the players prepare. Unlike past years when athletes relied solely on coaches, today’s squad takes full personal responsibility for



their fitness, diet, and recovery. Extra training hours have become normal routine, especially for goalkeepers who put in multiple extra weekly sessions to stay sharp under pressure.

As a senior leader, Savita aims to lead by example, remaining calm and steady when matches get

tough. She also praised team captain Salima Tete and vice-captain Navneet Kaur, noting that their strong partnership and energetic playing style help keep the squad tightly united. With great speed in the midfield and strong defensive organisation, the team feels thoroughly prepared.

Every single match at the World Cup will present a tough challenge, and nobody expects an easy path to victory. However, the squad’s physical conditioning, tactical awareness, and mental toughness give them a genuine shot at a podium finish. The players are fully focused on executing their game plan and playing to their absolute strengths.

For Savita and her teammates, this tournament is not just about participation; it is a golden chance to show the entire world how far Indian women’s hockey has truly evolved.

The countdown to glory has officially begun, and the entire nation stands firmly behind them as they chase history.

Quick Read

Gold, silver imports soften in July

NEW DELHI

India's gold and silver imports softened in July following a sharp increase in customs duty on these precious metals, according to data released by the commerce ministry. While gold imports rose by only 4.77 per cent to USD 4.16 billion, silver imports dipped 66.1 per cent to USD 171.68 million in July, the data showed. The government has increased import duty on precious metals from 6 per cent to 15 per cent effective May 13.

Remain fully focused on driving growth: TMPV

NEW DELHI

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles will remain fully focused on driving growth, creating sustained value for its stakeholders, and its capex plans will remain unaffected by the imminent change in leadership of Tata Sons, its Managing Director and CEO Shailesh Chandra said on Thursday. Tata Motors (Passenger Vehicles) has a clear strategy and a strong management team focused on execution. The company operates through a robust governance process and long-term strategic plans, Chandra said in an earnings call.

Microsoft slowly pulls back from China

BEIJING

Tech giant Microsoft has quietly shut down at least 15 branch offices and joint ventures across China over the past five years. Facing intense pressure from strict U.S. export controls and China's strong push for domestic software, the company has chosen to scale back its operations in the region. Corporate filings show that Microsoft even considered completely leaving the Chinese market in 2023. Leadership felt the rising geopolitical risks outweighed the financial returns, especially since China accounts for a tiny 1.5% of the company's total global revenue. However, executives ultimately decided to stay to maintain access to world-class local engineering talent and service massive clients. Instead of targeting government contracts like it did in the 1990s, Microsoft found a profitable niche helping Chinese firms expand globally. Companies such as TikTok's owner ByteDance and retailer Shein rely on Microsoft's cloud services to manage overseas data. Furthermore, Microsoft offers these enterprises exclusive access to cutting-edge Western artificial intelligence tools that are otherwise unavailable within the mainland market.

ISRO Steps Up Space Debris Mitigation

ISRO is strengthening measures to address growing orbital debris and collision risks, with its Debris Free Space Mission focusing on mitigation, satellite disposal and active debris removal.

NEW DELHI

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is stepping up efforts to tackle the growing threat posed by Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite constellations and the accumulation of space debris, the Parliament was informed on Thursday.

Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh said ISRO's 'Debris Free Space Mission' would play a key role in safeguarding space assets and preventing further generation of orbital debris through Active Debris Removal (ADR) and other measures.

Responding in the Rajya Sabha, Singh highlighted the increasing collision risks cre-



ated by internet satellite constellations, which can comprise thousands of satellites operating in crowded orbital regions. Some satellites may also malfunction and lose their ability to manoeuvre, increasing the possibility of collisions.

He said small, untraceable debris posed an additional challenge because such objects cannot be effectively

Highlights

ISRO's Debris Free Space Mission targets orbital debris mitigation.

Growing satellite constellations are increasing collision risks in LEO.

Small, untraceable debris can cause mission-ending spacecraft damage.

India mandates internationally recognised debris mitigation guidelines.

avoided through collision-avoidance systems or adequately shielded against. An impact could cause mission-ending damage to a spacecraft while generating more debris. India's institutional engagement on the issue includes ISRO's member-

INDIA'S JULY EXPORTS SURGE DESPITE TENSIONS

India's merchandise exports climbed nearly 20 per cent in July, even as geopolitical tensions and higher crude prices widened the trade deficit.

NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports rose 19.6 per cent to \$44.24 billion in July from \$40.41 billion in June, despite continued uncertainty in global markets caused by the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal said the increase was driven by higher shipments of electronics, engineering and marine products, along with petroleum goods. India's exports to West Asian countries also increased 8.62 per cent to \$5.7 billion during July.

However, imports recorded a sharper increase, rising to \$76.22 billion in July from \$70.84 billion in June. The rise was attributed largely to higher global crude oil prices amid continued disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz,

Trade Snapshot:

July exports: \$44.24 billion

July imports: \$76.22 billion

Trade deficit: \$31.98 billion

West Asia exports: \$5.7 billion

April-July exports: 173.78 billion

April-July imports: 292.38 billion

a critical route through which about 20 per cent of the world's oil and gas exports transit.

The situation has been further complicated by Houthi attacks on shipping near the Red Sea, restricting movement of oil and other goods from the Gulf and adding pressure to global supply chains.

As imports outpaced exports, India's merchandise trade deficit widened to

\$31.98 billion in July from \$30.43 billion in June.

The government, however, said the widening deficit largely reflected higher imports of essential and productive goods required for economic growth, industrialisation and export competitiveness, rather than a structural weakness in the external sector.

Crude oil, electronic goods, machinery, capital goods, gold, precious stones, fertilisers and intermediate inputs account for a significant share of India's imports. These are needed for domestic consumption, energy security, manufacturing, infrastructure and industrial expansion. During April-July, exports increased 17.04 per cent to \$173.78 billion, while imports rose 19.27 per cent to \$292.38 billion.

Pakistan's debt swells 75 pc to Rs 83.6 trillion in four years

NEW DELHI

Pakistan's federal government debt has surged by 75 per cent over the past four years despite a sharp rise in revenues and repeated fiscal tightening measures under International Monetary Fund (IMF)-backed programmes, a report has said. A report by The Express Tribune citing the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) -- said the federal government's debt, excluding IMF borrowings and certain other liabilities held on the central bank's balance sheet, rose to Rs 83.6 trillion by the end of June 2026.

It further showed that the debt stock increased by Rs 35.8 trillion (Pakistani rupee) compared with June 2022, when the Pakistan Democratic Movement-led government presented its first budget after assuming power. Moreover, federal debt grew by Rs 5.8 trillion or 7.3 per cent during the last fiscal year alone.

Centre Clears Farm Funds for States

NEW DELHI

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday approved financial allocations of Rs 340.59 crore for Rajasthan and Rs 265.12 crore for Telangana under the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) and the Krishonnati Yojana, aiming to accelerate agricultural development and improve delivery of benefits to farmers.

The approvals were issued during a virtual meeting chaired by Chouhan from Bhopal with Rajasthan Agriculture Minister Kirori Lal Meena and Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao. Agriculture Secretary Atish Chandra and senior officials from the Union Government and the two states also participated.

The financial releases followed a review of the annual action plans approved during the respective Project Approval Committee meetings, utilisation of the first mother sanction and expenditure progress recorded so far.

Chouhan appreciated Telangana's new model for Farmer ID and fertiliser distribution, saying the initiative could help make delivery of services more transparent and effective for farmers.

However, he noted that ex-

"The financial approvals are aimed at ensuring the timely and effective implementation of agricultural schemes in the states."

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan

penditure under the Oilseeds and Pulses Missions in Telangana was behind schedule.

He stressed the need for regular monitoring of expenditure and implementation progress to ensure that allocated resources translate into tangible outcomes.

For Rajasthan, the Union Minister called for special attention to the Kisan Credit Card situation. He emphasised that farmers should receive timely and hassle-free access to institutional credit support.

Chouhan said the approvals were intended to ensure timely and effective implementation of agricultural schemes. He stressed coordination between the Centre and states to strengthen resources, technical assistance and monitoring.

The allocations are expected to support agricultural infrastructure, productivity enhancement, input assistance and farmer welfare activities in both states, while accelerating implementation at the ground level.

India's installed power capacity reaches 552 GW

NEW DELHI

India's total installed power capacity reached 552 GW in July 2026, up from 249 GW in 2014, a government factsheet said on Thursday, adding that non-fossil capacity reached 300.50 GW (as of July 31, 2026), accounting for over 54 per cent of total installed capacity. India ranks third globally in renewable energy installed capacity. India's installed solar capacity has reached 164.59 GW (as of July 31, 2026), rising from 2.8 GW in 2014.

Solar is now the largest component of India's renewable energy capacity. India became the world's second-largest solar growth market in 2025, adding more than 37 GW of solar capacity, compared with 34 GW added by the United States, the factsheet informed. Launched with a total outlay of Rs 75,021 crore for 1 crore households in February 2024, the PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana has seen 51.58 lakh households benefiting from rooftop solar installations across the country (As of August 12, 2026).

Air India begins rigorous drug screening for all group pilots

NEW DELHI

Air India has begun conducting mandatory screening of all pilots across the group for substances or medications prohibited under aviation regulations as part of a measure aimed at reinforcing safety standards and public confidence, as per sources on Thursday.

The letter addressed to pilots said that the testing programme begins on August 13 and covers all group pilots.

The Tata Group-owned carrier said Air India has historically built its reputation on the professionalism, skill and commitment to safety demonstrated by its pilots and other employees and stressed that maintaining public trust remains a top priority.

Many of you have recently reached out to share the same sentiment, the airline said in the communication.

Govt Weighs MDR On Select Transactions

NEW DELHI

The government is considering restoring the merchant discount rate (MDR) on certain high-value UPI transactions or introducing a tiered incentive structure to gradually reduce government support for the digital payments ecosystem, the Finance Ministry has told a Parliamentary panel.

In a reply to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, the Department of Financial Services (DFS) has said that it was examining the two options in view of the sustainability of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ecosystem and the burden on the government exchequer.

The department is examining the feasibility of restoring MDR for certain high-threshold transactions or merchants and a tiered incentive structure that would phase out government support over the next few years.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Q1 profit plunges 80 pc to Rs 775 crore

MUMBAI

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Limited on Thursday reported a sharp decline in profitability for the first quarter of FY27, with consolidated net profit falling more than 80 per cent year-on-year (YoY).

According to the company's regulatory filing, consolidated net profit dropped 80.3 per cent to Rs 775 crore in the June quarter from Rs 3,924 crore in the corresponding period last financial year (Q1 FY26).

The automaker's revenue rose 9.3 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 95,799 crore, compared with Rs 87,677 crore in the year-ago quarter, it added in its filing. At the operating level, performance remained under pressure. EBITDA declined 17.2 per cent to Rs 6,326 crore during

Mukesh Ambani strengthening financial services

MUMBAI

It was BlackRock in 2023, Allianz in 2025 and now Bank of America in 2026. Mukesh Ambani is rapidly gaining muscle in India's vast and rapidly growing financial services industry through partnerships with titans of global finance. Jio Financial Services (JFS) and Bank of America (BoFA) announced a definitive agreement, under which the US banking giant would pick up 49.9 per cent interest and become a joint venture partner in JFS' non-banking financial subsidiary Jio Credit Limited. Bank of America's investment, including the equity shares and warrants (if fully subscribed), would be to the tune of \$1.9 billion (Rs 18,268 crore).

JFS demerged from Reliance Industries in July 2023.

mand and the success of our recent launches.

Our leadership in electric mobility strengthened further, with record quarterly EV volumes of over 34,000 units and 112 per cent YoY growth, he added.

The new avatars of Tiago and Punch have received a strong response, with robust bookings across powertrains, reinforcing the strength of our multi-powertrain strategy. We are encouraged by the growing adoption of EVs across segments and the rapid mainstreaming of electric mobility in India, Chandra noted.

Dhiman Gupta, Chief Financial Officer, TMPVL said: Q1 FY27 was a quarter where we focused on carrying forward the growth momentum in the domestic business and preparing for an important transition year at JLR.



the quarter from Rs 7,639 crore a year earlier.

As a result, the company's EBITDA margin narrowed to 6.6 per cent, compared with 8.7 per cent in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year, as per the filing. Commenting on the performance, Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director & CEO, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Limited said that Q1 FY27 marked a strong start to the year for Tata Motors PV, with industry-beating 46 per cent YoY volume growth driven by robust customer de-

MANUFACTURING GROWTH DRIVERS

NITI Aayog Flags Key Manufacturing Sectors

NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog on Thursday identified four high-potential manufacturing sectors — chemicals, textiles, telecom and network equipment, and solar photovoltaic manufacturing — that could play a significant role in India's ambition to emerge as a global manufacturing powerhouse.

The sectors have been highlighted in a report titled 'Key Sectors to Position India as a Global Manufacturing Hub', which examines India's manufacturing landscape against global trends, sectoral growth opportunities and international



al benchmarks.

The report assesses several factors that determine manufacturing competitiveness, including market potential, infrastructure readiness, policy support, availability of raw materials, technology readiness, employment potential

and India's existing position in global value chains.

According to NITI Aayog, the exercise aims to identify sectors where India has substantial growth potential and where targeted interventions can strengthen domestic capabilities, improve competitive-

ness and value addition, and accelerate export-oriented manufacturing.

The current edition covers four sectors, while reports examining eight additional sectors are expected to follow.

The chemicals industry has been identified as an important area for increasing domestic value addition. It is broadly driven by petrochemicals and organic chemicals, specialty chemicals and inorganic chemicals. Petrochemicals and organic chemicals form the largest segment, covering polymers, synthetic fibres, performance plastics, intermediates and other products.

Janhvi Kapoor rumored as tribal queen in ‘Raaka’

Producer Vamsi hypes Vishwanath & Sons

Big rumors are floating around the film industry about the upcoming science-fiction movie "Raaka," directed by hitmaker Atlee and starring star actor Allu Arjun. The massive project is already grabbing heavy attention from fans because it will mix ancient Vedic and Purana history with modern times. Reports state that themes of past life rebirth and revenge will drive the main plot.

While top actress Deepika Padukone is already locked in as the primary female lead, fresh gossip from Bollywood says the script needs 2 more important heroines. Current rumors suggest that popular young stars Janhvi Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna might join the heavy star cast to play crucial characters. Insiders claim that Janhvi Kapoor could portray a fierce tribal queen whose part holds a very vital place in the film's timeline. Meanwhile, talk suggests that Rashmika Mandanna might step into the shoes of a legendary savior. However, film lovers should note that none of these casting reports are confirmed yet, as the makers have not released any official word.

Right now, the cast and crew are busy shooting key scenes in Mumbai. The high-budget production aims to give viewers a unique cinematic experience by blending old mythology with futuristic sci-fi action. Fans eagerly wait for an official statement from the production house to clear up the rumors about the full cast. If everything goes according to the current plan, the big-budget entertainer is scheduled to hit the silver screen worldwide in December next year.

Atlee and Allu Arjun's high-budget sci-fi film "Raaka" blends ancient Vedic history with futuristic action.



Movie fans are buzzing with excitement as the new drama "Vishwanath & Sons" gets ready to hit the big screen. The hype grew even bigger after well-known producer Naga Vamsi shared a very bold statement on social media about how good the movie truly is.

Vamsi took to the internet to tell fans that his team feels extremely proud of this project. He wrote that it has been 6 full years since he felt this level of pure confidence in any film made under their banner.

According to him, the story is powerful enough to make viewers laugh out loud, shed real tears, and feel a deep mix of different emotions. He be-

lieves people will walk out of the cinema hall with the movie staying in their thoughts for a long time.

Directed by talented filmmaker Venky Atluri, the movie features star actor Suriya in the lead role alongside the lovely Mamitha Baiju. The promotional trailers and songs released so far have already caught the attention of the public, building a solid and positive mood before opening day. Fans have praised the colorful look and the fresh pairing of the main stars.

Industry experts are paying close attention because Vamsi boldly compared the potential success of this project to his previous mega-hit, "Ala Vaikunthapuramuloo." If his strong words turn out to be true, the team could be looking at a massive box office victory this weekend.

Aside from the lead actors, the film features a talented supporting cast including senior stars Radhika Sarathkumar and Raveena Tandon, along with comedian Viva Harsha. Music director G V Prakash Kumar has provided the tunes, which have already become popular among listeners.

With advance ticket bookings looking steady and positive energy surrounding the project, all eyes now turn to release. Families and movie lovers will finally get to see if the emotional drama lives up to all the heavy praise. The stage is fully set for a grand theatrical arrival.

DHARMAN: Rajinikanth starrer eyes Pongal 2027

Excitement is growing among movie fans as the team behind the upcoming action drama "Dharmam" shares a major production update. The film brings a massive opportunity for young director Ashwath Marimuthu, who gets to direct veteran superstar Rajinikanth in a grand project.

The makers released a special video to mark a fresh milestone, confirming that the 2nd schedule of shooting has officially started with Rajinikanth joining the sets. Production is moving forward at a very fast pace, and the team is working hard to meet their goal of releasing the movie during the Pongal festival in 2027.

Produced under the banner of legendary actor Kamal Haasan, the high-budget film features Rajinikanth playing the unique role



The project boasts a talented star cast, with actresses Simran and Raashii Khanna playing crucial roles alongside the main lead. Meanwhile, popular musician Anirudh Ravichander is on board to compose the soundtrack, promising a high-energy musical score that will match the grand scale of the production.

With the second schedule now underway, the film crew remains fully focused on completing the remaining portions on time. Fans and trade analysts are keeping a close eye on the development of this massive collaboration between some of the biggest names in the film industry. The stage is set for a major cinematic treat next year.

Salman & Sanjay reunite in 7 Dogs

Bollywood megastar Salman Khan has officially launched the high-octane Indian release trailer for the global action thriller "7 Dogs." Set to hit local silver screens on August 21, the project has already sent shockwaves through the entertainment industry by marking a major screen reunion for legendary stars Salman Khan and Sanjay Dutt.

The action-packed promo gives fans a thrilling glimpse of the iconic duo sharing the screen in a gritty international setting. Their special appearances have instantly spiked anticipation for the multi-national project, which bridges talent from India, Egypt, Hollywood, Europe, and West Asia. Egyptian heavyweights Ahmed Ezz and Karim Abdel Aziz lead the story, supported

by a massive global ensemble. The star-studded international cast features top-tier names like Monica Bellucci, Giancarlo Esposito, Tara Emad, Nasser Al-Qasbi, and Max Huang. Produced by Sela Studios alongside the General Entertainment Authority and Riyadh Season, the movie is helmed by acclaimed directors Adil El Arbi and Bilal Fallah, who previously directed Hollywood hits like "Bad Boys for Life." The original story concept and co-writing credit belong to Turki Alalshikh.

To match its massive scale, the production brought in top-tier Hollywood stunt talent. Combat sequences were developed with 87Eleven, the renowned action team behind the "John Wick" franchise. Veteran stunt coordinator Stephen Dunleavy, whose credits



Ravi Teja starrer ‘Irumudi’ trailer creates buzz



Movie excitement is touching new heights as the official trailer for actor Ravi Teja's upcoming film, "Irumudi," dropped recently to a very warm public response. Directed by filmmaker Shiva Nirvana, this emotional family drama has quickly become one of the most talked-about projects heading to the big screen this season.

The newly released video gives fans a clear look into a very different side of the star actor. Known widely for

high-energy action films, Ravi Teja steps into a grounded role as a flawed middle-class family man. The story puts a strong spotlight on his tender relationship with his young daughter, played by child artist Baby Nakshathra, while actress Priya Bhavani Shankar plays his loving wife.

The trailer shows how unexpected personal struggles and heavy challenges shake their quiet household. To regain control of his life and win back his family's trust,

the lead character takes on a spiritual path, committing to a sacred pilgrimage. Viewers have heavily praised Ravi Teja's intense emotional delivery and the unique plot, which builds great curiosity ahead of the premiere.

Backed by major producers Mythri Movie Makers, the movie also features music composed by G V Prakash Kumar, whose background score in the trailer added extra depth to the emotional scenes.

Dulquer Salmaan's ‘I'm Game’ targets September release

Fans waiting to watch Dulquer Salmaan on the big screen will need to wait a little longer. The makers of his upcoming action thriller movie, "I'm Game," have officially announced that the film is postponed from its previous release date of August 20, 2026. It will now open in theaters worldwide on September 3, 2026.

The production team shared this update online, explaining that the short delay was made to ensure a much bigger rollout. Instead of a limited opening, the team wants to give the project a massive platform across multiple regions. Because of this updated plan, the movie will now hit the silver screen simultaneously in five different languages - Malayalam, Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, and Kannada.

While talking about the change, the team apologized to excited fans for pushing back the date. However, they promised that the extra time will help the project achieve the grand scale and reach it truly deserves. They believe that viewers in different parts of the country deserve to experience the high-octane drama properly on a large canvas.

Directed by Nahas Hidayath, the movie features Dulquer Salmaan in the main role. It also stars a strong supporting cast including Kayadu Lohar, Antony Varghese, Mysskin, Kathir, and Samyuktha Viswanathan. The recently started promotional campaign had already built solid excitement, and the team hopes this wider strategy will pay off at the box office next month.



Dulquer Salmaan's action thriller "I'm Game," directed by Nahas Hidayath, has been postponed to September 3 for a wider pan-India release.

Sunny Deol leads historical drama Batwara 1947

Anticipation is reaching a fever pitch for the historical drama "Batwara 1947," which hits silver screens on August 14. Ahead of the public premiere, well-known filmmaker Ramesh Taurani attended a special screening alongside producer Aamir Khan and actor Ali Fazal, later taking to social media to share glowing praise.

Taurani described the project as a deeply sensitive, emotional, and humanity-glorifying story that viewers should catch on opening day. He highlighted how the plot serves as a powerful reminder of human resilience and compassion during one of history's darkest chapters. He strongly

urged audiences not to miss the theatrical experience.

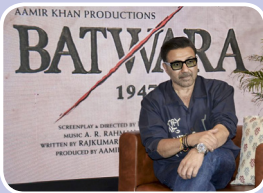
The filmmaker also applauded the stellar star cast, singling out lead actor Sunny Deol for delivering a terrific and impactful performance. He expressed joy at seeing Preity Zinta return to the big screen, while praising Shabana Azmi, Ali Fazal, and Karan Deol for adding deep authenticity to their respective characters. Actor Abhimanyu Singh received special mention for his unsettling and compelling portrayal of the villain.

Helmed by veteran director Rajku-

mar Santoshi, the narrative follows a Muslim man who moves to Pakistan during the Partition, only to discover a Hindu woman living in his new home. He takes up the heavy responsibility of protecting her while keeping his own family safe.

The movie also marks Preity Zinta's comeback after a decade and features the first on-screen collaboration between Sunny Deol and his son Karan.

Backed by Aamir Khan Productions, the project faces a box office clash with Emraan Hashmi's "Awara-pan 2."



Fahadh Faasil starrer drops ‘Cakeu Walku’ track

Movie excitement skyrocketed as the makers of actor Fahadh Faasil's upcoming film, "Don't Trouble the Trouble," officially released the very first track. Titled "Cakeu Walku," the catchy music video gives fans a clear look at Fahadh playing a quirky character named Suri, setting a fun tone for the project.

The lively song quickly grabbed widespread attention, even catching the eye of global star Priyanka Chopra. She shared a glimpse of the track on social media, cheering on presenter SS Karthikeya with

an excited message. Karthikeya, known for his association with the massive "Baahubali" team, is presenting this high-energy fantasy entertainer alongside veteran producers Shobu Yarlagadda and Prasad Devineni.

Talented musician Kaala Bhairava composed the lively track and even appeared in the special music video alongside Fahadh Faasil and co-star Ssara. Kaala Bhairava co-wrote the lyrics with MC Hari, creating a track that matches Fahadh's wild and chaotic energy from his past hits.

‘Jai Hind Jai Sindh is my best work...’

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