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INDIA-UK CETA COMES INTO FORCE

In total, the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement will see the UK remove or reduce tariffs on a total of 98.8% of its tariff lines and 99.5% of trade value.

NEW DELHI

The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), that was signed after several rounds of discussions on July 25, will come into force on July 15.

This will be the sixth free trade agreement to be implemented by the Narendra Modi government. Earlier, India implemented such pacts with Mauritius, UAE, Australia, EFTA (European Free Trade Association), and Oman. The agreement, one of the biggest for New Delhi in the past few years, will unlock duty-free access for nearly 99% of Indian exports.

Alongside CETA, the Double Contribution Convention (DCC) will exempt over 75,000 Indian professionals and around 900 employers from paying double social security contributions in the UK for assignments of up to five years.

Bilateral trade and investment

Trade with the UK grew by 8.62 pc to \$25.12 billion in 2025-26 from \$23.13 billion in 2024-25. India's exports dipped 7.6 per cent to \$13.44 billion last fiscal. Imports were up by 36.11 per cent to \$11.68 billion in 2025-26. In 2025-26, India received FDI worth \$1 billion. It was \$795 million in 2024-25.

What gets cheaper?

The phased tariff cuts are expected to lower prices of several premium British products over time, including Scotch whisky, gin, vodka, bourbon, rum, tequila, chocolates, biscuits, cosmetics, perfumes, soaps, soft drinks, salmon and lamb. India will also gradually eliminate tariffs on silver, Britain's largest export to India.

The operational deals include:

DUTY-FREE EXPORTS

Nearly 99% of Indian products—including garments, textiles, footwear, carpets, and processed foods—will now enter the UK at zero duty.

AUTOMOBILES

Tariffs on fully built, UK-made cars and trucks (such as JLR, Bentley, and Aston Martin) entering India will drop in a phased manner from 110% to 10%. India will allow a quota of 3.78 lakh conventional-engine passenger cars from the UK at concessional duties over the first 15 years. Electric and hybrid vehicles are protected with a five-year window before gaining preferential access.

SOCIAL SECURITY EXEMPTIONS

The Social Security agreement prevents double taxation by exempting Indian professionals working in the UK from making mandatory UK social security contributions, which is expected to save around \$500 million annually.

No concessions

India will not give any duty concessions on products like fresh apples, walnuts, whey and modified whey, blue-veined cheese, and specific seed categories, gold bars, and smartphones. The UK's exclusion list includes various meat products, egg-based items, semi-milled or fully milled rice, and solid-form cane or beet sugar.



'India's most aspirational trade agreement to date'

New Delhi: Calling the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) the country's "most aspirational" trade pact till date, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal on Tuesday said the agreement establishes a future-oriented economic architecture between two major economies and is one of India's most ambitious free trade agreements. "We call it a gold-standard and first-of-its-kind FTA because of its wide sectoral coverage and deep reduction in both tariff and non-tariff barriers," Agarwal said.

As per the Commerce Ministry, the UK has offered tariff liberalisation on 98.8% of tariff lines, covering 99.5% of the value of Indian exports. Of this, 97.7% of trade value will become immediately duty-free, while 0.5% of trade value has been excluded from tariff liberalisation. India's offer covers 89.5% of tariff lines and 89.4% of trade value, with immediate tariff elimination on 30.3% of trade value, while the remaining tariff reductions will be phased over time.

It said the agreement will provide duty-free access for several Indian export sectors. Existing UK duties of up to 12% on textiles and clothing, 16% on leather and footwear, 4% on gems and jewellery, 8% on organic chemicals, 4% on inorganic chemicals, 18% on auto parts, 8% on mechanical machinery, 14% on electrical machinery, 6% on plastics and rubber, 6% on surgical instruments, 10% on aluminium and 4% on copper will be reduced to zero under the agreement.



MEA: Passport not citizenship proof

The remarks triggered sharp reactions from certain opposition parties, including Cong, as they wondered how passport cannot be reflection of a holder's citizenship.

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday said that the passport is a document issued by the government to "regulate the departure" of Indian citizens from the country. The statement came amid a raging debate over whether it can be used to verify citizenship.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said passport is issued after due "verification" laid out by an established process and that less than eight per cent Indians currently hold the document.

Senior officials of the MEA during a briefing on the occasion of Passport Seva Divas on June 24 had described the passport as a travel document, and not a document to prove citizenship.

The remarks had come in response to a question on whether the passport can be used as proof of citizenship for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being conducted by the Election Commission in several states.

The officials had said passport is issued to travel to foreign countries and it is not a document to prove citizenship.

How to prove nationality?

This long-standing position — recently reiterated by MEA officials — has sparked significant political debate. Because India does not have a single definitive proof of citizenship document, experts and citizens alike are questioning what official records must be maintained as primary evidence of their nationality.

The remarks triggered sharp reactions from certain opposition parties including the Congress as they wondered how passport be reflection of a holder's citizenship.

The Congress had slammed the MEA and alleged that the government is laying the groundwork to arbitrarily deny citizenship rights to Indians with whom it disagrees.

"An Indian passport is a document that, as per the Passports Act, 1967, is issued by the Government of India to regulate the departure from India of citizens of India," Jaiswal said. He was asked for a clarification on the matter.

"It is issued after due verification laid out by an established process. The issue of passports to Indian citizens or any other individual is governed by The Passports Act, 1967 and Passports Rules, 1980," he said. "Currently, less than eight per cent of Indian citizens hold a passport," he added.



BENGALURU STAMPEDE

Govt clears ex-commissioner Dayananda of all charges

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has exonerated IPS officer B Dayananda and two others from all the charges in connection with the 2025 Bengaluru stampede that had killed 11 people.

In three separate orders issued on Tuesday, the government closed the departmental inquiries against the then Bengaluru Police Commissioner Dayananda, the then Additional Commissioner of Police (West) Vikash Kumar Vikash and the then Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Shekhar H Tekkannavar.

In all three orders, it was noted that Dayananda, Vikash and Tekkannavar had submitted their statements of defence on September 8, 2025. All three had denied the charges and sought exoneration.

"After examining the statement of defence of the charged officer and opinion rendered by the Administrative department, the competent authority has decided to drop the Departmental Enquiry against Sri B.

Dayananda, IPS," the order said.

Similar orders were also issued for Vikash and Tekkannavar. The orders further noted that all three officers were exonerated of the charges levelled against them. Tekkannavar, however, was let off with a warning "to act responsibly to ensure that such incidents shall not recur in the future".

On June 4, 2025, 11 people lost their lives and over 50 people sustained injuries following a stampede outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru where the fans had gathered in large numbers to take part in the victory celebrations of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) winning their maiden IPL title.

A day after the stampede, the then Siddaramaiah-led Congress government suspended the three IPS officers along with C Balakrishna, the then Assistant Commissioner of Police (Cubbon Park subdivision), and AK Girish, the then inspector of the jurisdictional Cubbon Park police station.



Indian killed in UAE tanker attack

DUBAI

An Indian crew member was killed and six other Indian nationals were among those injured after two UAE oil tankers were hit by Iranian cruise missiles in the Strait of Hormuz, close to Oman, on Tuesday.

The attack marks a significant escalation in the ongoing conflict in West Asia and has raised fresh concerns over maritime security in one of the world's busiest shipping routes.

Tankers targeted in Omani waters

According to the UAE Ministry of Defence, the country's tankers Mombasa and Al Bahiyah were struck by two Iranian cruise missiles while sailing through the southern shipping lane of the Strait of Hormuz within Omani territorial waters. The ministry confirmed that one Indian crew member aboard the Mombasa tanker lost his life in the attack.

Several crew members hurt

A total of eight crew members were injured in the missile strike, including six Indian nationals. Officials said four of the injured are in serious condition and are receiving medical treatment.



When Indian sailors died in US-Iran crossfire

March 1: The first reported Indian casualty came when the Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker MKD Vyom was attacked in the Strait of Hormuz on March 1, a day after the US and Israel attacked Iran and assassinated their Supreme Leader.

March 1: Later the same day, the Palau-flagged tanker Skylight was attacked near Oman's Musandam Peninsula. Two Indian sailors were reportedly killed. The incident took place as Iran exchanged strikes with the United States and Israel.

May 8: Another Indian sailor lost his life after a wooden dhow carrying Indian crew caught fire near the Strait of Hormuz.

June 9: Three Indian seafarers were killed after the US struck the Palau-flagged oil tanker MT Settebello off the coast of Oman.

Investigation underway

The UAE has condemned the attack and is working with regional

'Both vessels carried 30 Indian seafarers': MEA condemns attack

New Delhi : India summoned Iran diplomats including Deputy Chief of Mission, Mohammad Javad Hosseini, to lodge a protest over the killing of an Indian seafarer in Iranian missile strikes on two UAE oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) called in the senior Iranian diplomat on Tuesday. The strikes targeted the UAE tankers Mombasa and Al Bahiyah as they were sailing through the southern shipping lane of the Strait of Hormuz in Omani territorial waters, according to the UAE Ministry of Defence.

The ministry said one Indian crew member aboard the Mombasa was killed, while eight others were injured.

The Indian Embassy in the UAE said, "We are closely monitoring the situation and are in touch with the local authorities to render all possible assistance to the injured and families."

authorities to probe the incident. The strike is expected to heighten tensions in the Middle East.

'5,927 GPs to be named after Mahatma Gandhi by Aug 15'

BENGALURU

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar B Khandre on Tuesday said a deadline has been set to rename all 5,927 gram panchayats (GPs) in the state as 'Mahatma Gandhi Panchayat' by August 15.

Speaking after launching the transfer counseling session for PDOs, secretaries, and accounts assistants at the department's commissionerate, he said that clear instructions have been issued to rename all panchayats, in accordance with the announcement made in Paragraph 279 of the 2026-27 budget speech, to perpetuate the memory of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

The scheme was named the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) in honor of the Father

of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, a proponent of Gram Swaraj. However, the Central Government has removed Mahatma Gandhi's name from the scheme in the notification implemented on July 1. Consequently, the State Government has decided to include Gandhi's name in the scheme's title across all panchayats.

He stated that during the conference of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Ministers from all states held last month under the chairmanship of the Union Minister for Rural Development, he had urged that all 2.68 crore Gram Panchayats in the country be named after Mahatma Gandhi.

He also said a demand had been made to rename the Viksit Bharat — Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) to 'Mahatma Gandhi VB-G RAM G.



FOOTBALL FEVER TAKES CENTER STAGE

FIFA fever: B'luru restaurants to stay open till 3.30 am

BENGALURU

Football fans in Bengaluru can enjoy late-night screenings of the FIFA World Cup semi-finals and final without worrying about restaurant closing hours, as the Karnataka government has permitted hotels and restaurants across the city to remain open until 3.30 am on July 14, 15 and 19, allowing them to serve customers during the matches.

The decision comes ahead of the first semi-final, scheduled to begin at 12.30 am on Wednesday, when France will face Spain. The relaxation will also cover the second semi-final on July 15 and the FIFA World Cup final on July 19.

Serving the football-crazy crowds



Chief Minister D K Shivakumar announced the decision on Tuesday following a representation from the National Restaurant Association of India seeking an extension of operating hours to facilitate

live match screenings.

Announcing the decision on X, he said the government had balanced public enthusiasm for the tournament with the need to maintain safety and order.

"This decision has been taken while ensuring that public safety, law and order, and the convenience of citizens remain our highest priorities. I urge everyone to enjoy the matches responsibly and

extend full cooperation to the authorities," he wrote in the post.

According to a note issued by the CM's Office, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh has issued the necessary order extending the closing time for restaurants hosting FIFA World Cup screenings.

Under the existing regulations, restaurants in Bengaluru are required to close by 1 am. The temporary relaxation extends the closing time by 2.5 hours exclusively for the three match days, enabling football enthusiasts to watch the tournament's biggest fixtures while dining at hotels and restaurants across the city.

Relaxation dates:

July 14, 15, and 19

Reason for relaxation:

FIFA World Cup 2026 semi-finals & final.

Areas covered:

Eateries across the city.

This temporary extension replaces the city's standard 1 am closing time to accommodate the 12.30 am kick-offs.

India bans import of goods made using forced labour amid US probe

New Delhi: India has prohibited the import of goods produced using forced labour, the trade ministry said on Tuesday, in a move that could help avert new tariffs from a probe by the United States.

The nation is one of the several countries facing proposed new US trade tariffs of up to 12.5% over allegations they failed to prohibit import of goods produced with forced labor."

India's foreign trade body will investigate whether imported goods were made using forced labour and, if evidence is found, recommend that the government ban imports of those products after consultations, according to the notification.

IN-SHORT

> The Indian government has amended the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), 2023, to prohibit the import of goods produced or manufactured using forced labour.

> Besides strengthening its trade policy framework, the move further aligns domestic regulations with internationally recognised labour standards.

> The latest move comes amid a US investigation into forced labour practices across 60 nations, including India, according to the report.

The notification will come into force after 30 days.

The US had launched two Section 301 probes on India in March and subsequently proposed fresh tariffs on June 3.

QUICK READ

Fake emails impersonate Bengaluru Archbishop in fraud bid

CH NEWS, BENGALURU Cyber fraudsters allegedly impersonated Archbishop of Bengaluru Most Rev Dr Peter Machado by creating fake email accounts to seek money and other favours from religious institutions and individuals. According to a complaint filed by Archdiocese spokesperson J.A. Kanthraj, several religious congregations reported receiving suspicious emails on June 27 that appeared to have been sent by the archbishop. The messages originated from an unofficial Gmail account and falsely claimed to represent the Archdiocese of Bengaluru. The archdiocese clarified that the emails were fraudulent and urged recipients to ignore them. Police have been requested to trace the IP addresses, identify those behind the fake accounts and initiate legal action.

Police raid 95 rowdy sheeters' houses in special drive

CH NEWS, BENGALURU KG Halli and Banaswadi police carried out a special operation, raiding the houses of 95 rowdy sheeters and warning them against indulging in illegal activities. The drive involved 185 police personnel, who also inspected 515 vehicles and verified several suspicious individuals. As many as 83 vehicles were seized during the operation, while nine cases were registered under the NDPS Act. Police also intensified action against drug peddlers, unlawful late-night gatherings and public drinking through special patrols. Officials said the operation aimed to strengthen law and order and instil confidence among residents. Senior officers interacted with traders, women and locals to address public grievances.

Brahmin Mahasabha condemns Harikatha video

CH NEWS, BENGALURU The All Karnataka Brahmin Mahasabha has condemned a social media video showing three young women performing a Harikatha, alleging that it contains remarks disrespectful to Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya and hurts Hindu religious sentiments. Mahasabha president S. Raghunath said the comments made during the performance had shocked devotees and undermined the community's faith. He also objected to references allegedly describing Shankaracharya's works as "dushyastra", calling them offensive and unacceptable. The Mahasabha urged people not to insult or criticise revered spiritual leaders and appealed for respect towards religious gurus and Hindu traditions.

Govt to clear Race Course land resolution for new HC complex

Govt plans new High Court complex as existing building faces severe space constraints.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government informed the High Court that it will soon pass an official resolution to allot the Bangalore Turf Club (Race Course) land in the heart of the city for constructing a new High Court complex to address the growing shortage of space in the existing premises.

Advocate General Shashikaran Shetty made the submission before a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice K.S. Hemalekha while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by social activist Sharan Desai.

The petitioner has sought directions to the State Government to allot at least 30 acres of land in Bengaluru for a modern High Court complex capable of



meeting the judiciary's present and future requirements. During the hearing, the Advocate General informed the court that the government was in the process of finalising the proposal and that a formal Cabinet resolution regarding the Race Course land would be passed shortly.

Taking note of the submission, the Bench orally observed that the proposed High Court complex should be designed keeping in mind the judicial requirements of the next 30 to 50 years. The judges empha-

sised that the new infrastructure must be capable of accommodating future expansion in the number of courts, judges, administrative offices and litigant facilities.

The court granted the State Government one month's time to place the relevant documents and details on record and adjourned the matter to August 28. The proposal to shift the Race Course has already received Cabinet approval. The State has sanctioned the lease of 110 acres and 20 guntas at the Kunigal Stud Farm near Tumakuru for 29 years to facilitate the relocation of the Bangalore Turf Club.

However, the relocation itself has run into legal hurdles. Environmentalist Vijay Nishanth has challenged the decision before the High Court, alleging violations of the Environmental Im-

pact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006. The High Court has already issued notices to the government on that petition. The present High Court functions from the historic red-brick Attara Kacheri building inside Cubbon Park. Constructed in 1868 during British rule, the building became the Mysore High Court in 1929 and has served as Karnataka's principal judicial institution for decades.

With Bengaluru's rapid population growth, increasing litigation and expansion of the High Court's jurisdiction, the existing premises have become inadequate. The proposed Race Course complex is expected to provide larger court halls, modern judicial infrastructure and sufficient space to meet the judiciary's requirements for decades to come.



Education should reach every child, says MLA ST Somashekar

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

MLA S.T. Somashekar stressed that every child in society should have access to education, saying it is the foundation for a brighter future and a stronger nation.

Speaking at the birthday celebrations of A. Ramakrishna, founder-president of the Appaji Charitable Trust, at Tataguni in the Yeshwantpur Assembly constituency, Somashekar distributed free notebooks and laddus to students of government schools.

He said education not only transforms lives but also instils values, discipline and culture. Emphasising the importance of quality education, the MLA urged everyone to work collectively towards building a

strong and progressive society through learning. Addressing the gathering, A. Ramakrishna appealed to financially well-off people to invest in education, healthcare and the welfare of underprivileged children instead of spending money unnecessarily. He said government schools should be encouraged through initiatives such as distributing notebooks and recognising meritorious students.

He added that the trust has been supporting students by presenting talent awards to those securing top marks in the SSLC and II PUC examination s. Former Agara Gram Panchayat president C.N. Murthy, Kumar, Devaraj, Murthy, Gangaraju and several local residents attended the programme.

Son, son-in-law arrested for killing alcoholic father after family dispute

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Electronic City police have arrested a man and his brother-in-law for allegedly murdering the former's father, who frequently created disturbances at home under the influence of alcohol and assaulted family members.

The accused, Shahrukh, a mechanic, and his brother-in-law Shaheen, an autorickshaw driver, have been remanded to judicial custody for the murder of 42-year-old Rafiq, a resident of Ambedkar Nagar in Bommanahalli.

According to police, Rafiq worked as a bike mechanic in Hosur and was addicted to alcohol. He allegedly returned home drunk on a regular basis, quarrelling with his wife and children and often assaulting them. The family had reportedly grown increasingly distressed by his behaviour.

On July 4, Rafiq allegedly picked another fight at home after consuming alcohol. When he reportedly assaulted his wife, Shaheen intervened to stop him. Shahrukh also joined the confrontation, and the two allegedly assaulted Rafiq.

Police said the accused then told family members that they were taking Rafiq to a de-addiction centre for treatment. Instead, while travelling in an autorickshaw, they allegedly strangled him with a rope, killing him on the way.

The duo is accused of dumping the body in a eucalyptus grove near Singasandra Lake before fleeing the spot.

The crime came to light after local residents noticed a body lying in the grove and alerted the police. Officers who reached the spot found blood stains on the victim's face and marks around his neck, prompting them to register a murder case.

During the investigation, police questioned Rafiq's family members. His daughter reportedly told investigators that she had earlier suggested admitting her father to a rehabilitation centre and had informed both her husband and brother about the plan.

Based on the information gathered, police detained Shahrukh and Shaheen for questioning. During interrogation, the two allegedly confessed to the murder. Further investigation is underway.

Illegal parking, flawed bus stop choke Hebbal flyover service road

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Hebbal flyover, constructed to ease one of Bengaluru's busiest traffic bottlenecks, has itself become a major source of congestion, with illegal parking, encroachments and an unscientifically located bus stop turning the service road into a daily nightmare for commuters.

The flyover, opened to traffic last August, was designed to streamline the movement of vehicles travelling from Kempegowda International Airport towards the city via Esteem Mall and to provide seamless access from Nagawara to Bellary Road. However, the infrastructure has failed to deliver the intended relief due to poor traffic management and rampant misuse of public space.

The area beneath the flyover has been converted into an unofficial parking lot, with two-wheelers, cars, minibuses and even BBMP garbage trucks occupying the space. Several vehicles have reportedly remained parked there for weeks without any enforcement action, reducing available road space and creating bottlenecks for moving traffic.



Encroachments and poor planning leave Hebbal motorists battling daily congestion and hazardous commuting conditions.

Motorists have also raised concerns over the BMTC bus stop located directly in front of Baptist Hospital. Buses halt on the busy stretch to pick up and drop passengers, slowing traffic and increasing the risk of accidents. The bus stop affects vehicles travelling from Esteem Mall towards KR Puram as well as commuters moving between Nagawara and Hebbal.

Traffic pressure has intensified because of the prolonged roadwork on Sanjaynagar Main Road, which has continued for nearly one-and-a-half

Service road turns bottleneck

Motorists travelling from Hebbal towards the Outer Ring Road through Sanjaynagar and Bhupasandra are forced to use the narrow two-way service road near Baptist Hospital. Covering the 200-metre stretch often takes 10 to 15 minutes during peak hours, as vehicles inch forward amid congestion, illegal parking and frequent bus stoppages.

years. As a result, traffic has been diverted through Bhupasandra Main Road and the service road beneath the flyover. Vehicles from Vishwanath Nagenahalli also merge onto the same stretch through Cholanayakanahalli, further adding to congestion. The traffic circle near the railway track below the flyover has informally become another BMTC boarding point, worsening the situation. Simultaneously, ongoing roadwork on the Vishwanath Nagenahalli Main Road has increased the movement of tractors, construction vehicles, garbage tippers and other heavy vehicles through the area.

HC orders trial court to complete 2014 school rape case within eight weeks

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Expressing serious concern over the prolonged delay in the trial of the 2014 sexual assault case involving a six-year-old girl at a private English-medium school in Bengaluru, the Karnataka High Court has directed the trial court to complete the proceedings within eight weeks.

A single-judge Bench of Justice M. Nagaprasanna issued the direction while disposing of a petition filed by the victim's father, which raised certain legal and procedural issues connected with the case.

The court observed that the trial had remained pending for years on one pretext or another, describing the delay as unacceptable and unreasonable. It

said both the prosecution and the sessions court ought to have exercised greater vigilance, particularly in cases involving child sexual abuse.

Referring to Supreme Court judgments, Justice Nagaprasanna reiterated that the right to a speedy trial is an integral part of Article 21 of the Constitution and cannot be diluted or suspended at convenience. The court noted that cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act are expected to reach their conclusion within a year of commencement of legal proceedings.

The Bench also criticised the culture of repeated adjournments in criminal trials, particularly in sensitive cases involving children. It directed both the prosecution and the defence to

extend full cooperation to ensure that the trial is concluded within eight weeks from the date of receipt of the order.

The High Court, however, rejected the petitioner's request seeking to summon the magistrate who had recorded the victim's statement under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The petitioner had argued that the copy of the statement did not bear the signatures of either the child or the magistrate. The court declined to accept the contention.

The case dates back to July 14, 2014, when two gymnastics coaches employed at a private school in Bengaluru were arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a six-year-old student after keeping her inside a room following gymnastics practice.

HC stays proceedings against PDO in electrocution death case, seeks answers on BESCOM

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has stayed criminal proceedings against the Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) of Mannekote Gram Panchayat in Chitradurga district in connection with the death of a man who was electrocuted after coming into contact with a live electric wire connected to a borewell.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order while hearing a petition filed by PDO M.H. Girish (51), who sought quashing of the criminal case and the trial pending before the Principal Civil Judge (Junior Division) and JMFC Court at Molakalmuru.

Observing that the petitioner appeared to have no direct role

in the incident, the court stayed further proceedings against him until further orders.

The High Court also issued notice to the Station House Officer of Talaku Police Station, the respondent in the case, and questioned the rationale behind arraying the PDO as an accused while excluding officials of BESCOM, who are responsible for the electricity supply.

During the hearing, the court observed that the deceased had allegedly come into contact with a live electric wire installed at a public borewell and died due to electrocution. Prima facie, the Bench noted that there appeared to be no direct connection between the PDO and the incident.

TROUBLE FOR REVANNA

SC questions HC order discharging HD Revanna in molestation case

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Supreme Court issued a notice to Janata Dal (Secular) MLA H.D. Revanna on an appeal filed by the Karnataka government challenging a Karnataka High Court order that discharged him from a sexual harassment case filed by a former domestic worker.

A Bench comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K. Vinod Chandran sought Revanna's response to the State's appeal while also questioning why the Karnataka government had not immediately challenged the High Court's decision to drop

the charge under Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which deals with assault or criminal force to outrage a woman's modesty.

The Bench remarked that the government should maintain discipline in pursuing such matters and sought an explanation for the delay in filing the appeal.

During the hearing, the Supreme Court observed that the complainant had levelled separate allegations against Revanna and his son, former Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna. The

judges questioned how the High Court had modified the charges by quashing the Section 354 offence against H.D. Revanna despite the allegations made by the survivor.

Representing the State, the government submitted that the allegations against Prajwal

Revanna were more serious and included charges of rape under Section 376 of the IPC. It informed the court that charges had already been framed against Prajwal and that he had not been discharged from the proceedings.

The State further argued that the cases against the father and son formed part of the same transaction and originated from a common chargesheet, making it inappropriate to discharge one accused while continuing proceedings against the other.

However, the Supreme Court noted that the allegations against the two accused were distinct in nature. The Bench observed that the survivor had made separate accusations against the father and son, requiring independent consideration of their respective roles.

The allegations against H.D. Revanna and Prajwal Revanna

came to light after videos allegedly showing sexual assaults by Prajwal on multiple women surfaced on social media in 2024. Following the circulation of the videos, an FIR was registered on April 28, 2024, against both father and son based on a complaint lodged by one of the survivors.

Apart from the sexual harassment case, H.D. Revanna also faced a kidnapping case linked to the same controversy. He has since secured bail in both cases. The Supreme Court's notice now revives legal scrutiny over his discharge from the molestation case.

Tripura native ends life, police probe assault claims

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 27-year-old man from Tripura was found dead in his rented room in Ejipura, with police suspecting suicide. Investigators are also probing claims that he had been battling depression after sustaining serious injuries during an alleged assault by friends a few months ago.

The deceased, identified as Tapan Nath, was employed at the beer manufacturing unit of a craft beer outlet in Koramangala. His body was found hanging in accommodation provided for the establishment's staff after he failed to report for work. The

incident came to light around 11.30 pm when one of his roommates discovered him.

According to police, Tapan's family members and friends alleged that he had been assaulted by a group of friends during a party three to four months ago. They claimed an argument broke out after the group consumed alcohol, during which he was allegedly attacked and sustained severe injuries to his private parts.

Police said Tapan reportedly did not inform his family about the incident due to embarrassment and instead sought medical treatment on his own.

QUICK READ



Man held for killing friend during drunken brawl over money

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The Kumaraswamy Layout police have arrested a 27-year-old man for allegedly murdering his friend by attacking him with stones during a drunken quarrel over money. The victim, identified as 19-year-old Rakesh, was a resident of Rajyotsava Nagar and worked as an assistant at an egg rice shop. He lived with his mother and two brothers. According to police, the incident occurred in a park at Rajyotsava Nagar during a liquor party. An argument over money allegedly escalated into a violent fight, during which the accused, Venkatesh, allegedly fatally assaulted Rakesh with stones before fleeing. He was later arrested and is being interrogated.

465 stray dogs sterilised, vaccinated in West Bengaluru: Minister

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Tuesday said 465 stray dogs have been sterilised and vaccinated against rabies over the past month in the West Bengaluru Municipal Corporation limits. Speaking during an inspection of the stray dog vaccination programme in Basaveshwaranagar ward under Zone-2, the minister said the civic body's Animal Husbandry Department is stepping up efforts to control the stray dog population and prevent rabies. He said the West Bengaluru Municipal Corporation has an estimated 69,341 stray dogs and assured that sterilisation and vaccination drives would continue at a faster pace. Byre Gowda added that similar programmes are being implemented effectively in other municipal corporation limits across Bengaluru.

KSOU invites applications for distance B.Ed. programme

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) has invited applications for admission to its distance education B. Ed. programme. Candidates in service who possess a degree along with TCH/D. Ed. qualifications are eligible to apply. The last date for submitting applications is August 10, while the common entrance examination will be conducted on August 16. For further details, candidates may contact the KSOU Regional Centre-1, First Floor, KSRTC Satellite Bus Stand, Mysore Road, Bajuplinagar, Bengaluru-560026, or call 080-26603664. They may also contact 98805 26439 or 90195 26439 for admission-related information.

Police Sub-Inspector booked for dowry harassment, assault

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) attached to the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner's Office has been booked on charges of dowry harassment, domestic violence, criminal intimidation and assault following a complaint lodged by his wife, who alleged that local police initially failed to take appropriate action. The complainant, Revathi, accused her husband, PSI Byrappa, of subjecting her to years of physical and mental abuse and demanding ₹50 lakh in dowry along with a house

New ownership law: Govt to consult apartment owners

Stakeholder meeting to seek suggestions before Cabinet clears proposed apartment ownership legislation.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government will hold a consultation meeting with apartment owners and stakeholders on Wednesday before finalising a new law aimed at strengthening apartment ownership rights and improving the management of residential complexes across the State.

The meeting, scheduled at the Nehru Planetarium Auditorium, will be chaired by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar along with Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda. Officials said the consultation is part of the government's effort to gather suggestions from apartment residents before placing the draft legislation before the State Cabinet.

The proposed law has been prepared following repeated demands from apartment owners



for a stronger legal framework to address issues relating to ownership rights, maintenance responsibilities and the administration of apartment complexes.

For several years, resident welfare associations and apartment owners have complained that the existing legal provisions are inadequate to resolve disputes involving builders, apartment associations and individual owners. Differences over common areas, maintenance charges, transfer of ownership, formation of associations and handover of facilities have frequently led to prolonged legal battles.

Government officials said the draft legislation seeks to introduce a comprehensive framework that clearly defines the rights and responsibilities of builders, apartment owners and resident associations. The objective is to minimise disputes while ensuring better governance of apartment communities.

According to officials, the consultation meeting will provide residents, apartment associations, legal experts, builders and other stakeholders an opportunity to study the proposed provisions and submit their suggestions. The government has indicated that genuine recommendations received during the meeting will be examined and incorporated into the draft wherever required.

The initiative follows directions issued by Chief Minister Shivakumar to modernise the

legal framework governing apartment ownership in view of Bengaluru's rapid urban expansion and the increasing number of apartment-based housing projects.

After the consultation process, the draft Bill will be placed before the State Cabinet for approval. Once approved, it will be introduced in the Legislature for consideration and passage.

The government expects the proposed law to bring greater transparency, improve accountability in apartment management and provide better protection for homeowners by reducing conflicts between developers, resident associations and individual apartment owners. Officials believe the legislation will create a more effective and balanced system for managing apartment communities across Karnataka.

Footpath encroachment clearance crosses 500 km, pace of drive slows

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The footpath encroachment clearance drive launched by the Greater Bengaluru Authority on July 1 has crossed the 500-km mark, but the pace of the operation has slowed considerably over the past two weeks.

The campaign, covering the jurisdictions of five municipal corporations, aims to remove encroachments from 1,500 km of major roads. Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda had announced the ambitious target at the launch of the initiative.

According to official figures, the operation was carried out over 10 working days between July 1 and July 13. No drives were conducted on July 5, 11 and 12 due to government holidays.

On Monday, clearance operations were undertaken only in the Bengaluru North and Central Municipal Cor-

poration limits, while officials from the South, East and West municipal corporations did not provide updates on the day's activities.

In the North Municipal Corporation limits, officials cleared encroachments along 8.6 km of footpaths. The operation removed eight roadside shops, eight pushcarts, 92 sheets and canopies, 98 steps and ramps, 83 advertisement boards and 115.5 tonnes of waste, soil and debris. Six JCBs, 18 tractors, one tipper, two other machines and 86 personnel were deployed for the drive, Commissioner Pom-mala Sunilkumar said.

In the Central Municipal Corporation area, Commissioner G. Jagadish said encroachments were cleared from 2.6 km of footpaths. Officials removed 19 pushcarts, six temporary shops, 33 sheet structures, 20 advertisement boards and two tonnes of construction debris.

Exdion launches AI-powered healthcare platform to improve patient care

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based healthtech company Exdion has launched its next-generation AI-powered healthcare platform aimed at improving patient care, streamlining hospital operations and expanding access to quality healthcare across India.

The platform combines artificial intelligence, machine learning and real-time patient monitoring to help hospitals and clinics deliver faster, more accurate and personalised treatment. It features AI-assisted diagnostics, automated patient record management, telemedicine integration and predictive analytics to support early disease detection. Announcing the launch, Exdion CEO Dr Arjun Mehta said technology must play a leading

role in transforming healthcare delivery. He said the platform is designed to reduce the workload of doctors, improve patient outcomes and extend quality healthcare services to remote and underserved regions.

According to the company, pilot deployments in three major hospitals in Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka have produced encouraging results. During the trial phase, hospitals reported a 40 per cent reduction in patient waiting time and a 25 per cent improvement in diagnostic accuracy.

Following the successful pilot, Exdion plans to expand the platform to more than 50 hospitals across the country by the end of 2026. The company will

focus particularly on tier-2 and tier-3 cities, where access to advanced healthcare technology remains limited.

Exdion also announced plans to collaborate with government health programmes, including Ayushman Bharat, to strengthen digital healthcare infrastructure and improve access to affordable medical services.

Founded in 2021 and headquartered in Bengaluru, Exdion develops AI-driven digital solutions for hospitals, clinics and patients. The company said its mission is to make healthcare smarter, faster and more accessible by leveraging advanced technology to support both medical professionals and patients.



KEA announces provisional UGCET first-round seat allotment results

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on Monday night announced the provisional results of the first round of seat allotment for admissions to various professional courses, including engineering, under UGCET.

According to KEA Executive Director H. Prasanna, the results were originally scheduled to be released on July 14 but were announced ahead of schedule. Candidates who have any objections to the provisional allotment can submit them online until 5 pm on July 14. The seat allotment has been prepared based on the preferences and choices entered by candidates up to 11 am on July 9.

KEA has advised candidates to verify their allotment details carefully and raise objections, if any, within the stipulated deadline before the final allotment results are published.

Rotary strengthening humanitarian values through social service: KV Prabhakar



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Rotary International is playing a significant role in strengthening humanitarian values and social bonding through its selfless service initiatives, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's media adviser K.V. Prabhakar said on Tuesday.

Speaking after presenting the Rotary Falcons Media Awards to journalists at a function organised jointly by Rotary and the Bengaluru Press Club, Prabhakar said Rotary's guiding principle of "Service Above Self" had become more relevant at a time when society was increasingly driven by self-interest.

He observed that while people today often focus only on personal gain, organisations like Rotary continue to work for the welfare of society through meaningful interventions in education, healthcare and environmental protection.

Prabhakar lauded Rotary's "One Billion Water Dream" initiative, calling it a timely programme that addresses one of the most pressing needs of the present day. He welcomed the decision to launch the project in drought-prone Kolar district, saying water conservation and supply are crucial for the region, where farmers continue to cultivate despite recurring drought conditions.

He also appreciated Rota-

ry's efforts towards environmental conservation, noting that the effects of climate change are becoming increasingly visible, with summer-like conditions persisting even during the monsoon season. Such initiatives, he said, are essential to protect future generations.

Highlighting the broader impact of community service, Prabhakar said social work not only benefits the poor and underprivileged but also improves their economic condition and quality of life while fostering unity within society.

He praised entrepreneurs and professionals associated with Rotary for dedicating their time and resources to public service alongside their professional commitments.

Expressing concern over the decline of human relationships in the digital era, Prabhakar said rapid technological advancements and excessive dependence on mobile phones had weakened interpersonal bonds. In such circumstances, organisations like Rotary were helping reconnect people through community-centred activities, he added. Minister Ramalinga Reddy, filmmaker and writer Nagathihalli Chandrashekhara, Rotary representatives Anil Gupta and Nagesh, Bengaluru Press Club president Sridhar and general secretary Shivakumar Bellatitte were among those present.

POLICE OFFICER BOOKED



and a residential site from her parents.

According to the complaint, the couple married five years ago and lived peacefully for nearly three years. They have a three-year-old daughter. Revathi alleged that her husband's behaviour later changed and he began harassing her over dowry demands.

She claimed Byrappa frequently abused her in obscene language, physically assaulted her and often returned home intoxicated. She further alleged that he repeatedly forced

her and their young daughter out of the house during domestic disputes and would leave home for several days after packing his belongings.

Revathi also alleged that on July 12, when her father visited the couple's residence to mediate a family dispute, Byrappa picked up a machete and attempted to attack both her and her father. Following the incident, she approached the Kengeri Police Station seeking legal action.

She alleged that instead of registering a criminal case, the

police initially issued only a Non-Cognisable Report (NCR). Claiming that her complaint was not handled fairly because the accused was a police officer, she decided to escalate the matter by approaching the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner and the Director General of Police (DGP).

Following further intervention, Kengeri police registered a case against the PSI under relevant provisions relating to dowry harassment, assault and criminal intimidation.

Police later took Byrappa into custody for questioning.

QUICK READ

Kannada music workshop to honour K.V. Subbanna

Chitradurga

Rangasaurabha Kala Sangha, along with the Kannada and Culture Department, Bengaluru, will conduct a Kannada song singing training workshop and lecture programme to remember Ninasam founder member and theatre personality K.V. Subbanna. The event will be held on July 16 at Siddharameshwar Residential High School premises. Educationist Dr. G.N. Mallikarjunappa will inaugurate the programme. Senior journalist M.N. Yogeesh will deliver a lecture on Subbanna's life and writings. Students will receive training in patriotic songs and cultural compositions. The programme will also honour senior journalist S. Manjunath and award winner K.P. Omkaramoorthy for their achievements.

Long wanted criminal finally caught by Police

Mangaluru

Ullal police have arrested a notorious rowdy named Imran alias Surmo Imran, who had been evading arrest by wearing a burkha and avoiding court appearances. The accused had been absconding for a long time despite several court warrants being issued against him. Police acted on specific information and took him into custody. Imran is involved in a total of 23 cases registered across various police stations in Mangaluru city and Udupi district. These cases include attempt to murder, assault, robbery and other serious offences. He had been deliberately skipping court hearings and remaining in hiding to avoid arrest. Ullal police confirmed that the accused has now been taken into custody and will be produced before the court for further legal proceedings. The arrest has ended his attempts to remain at large by changing his appearance.

Virendra Pappi seeks special grants for Chitradurga projects

MLA sought ₹25 crore grant to revive Chitradurga Durgotsava as a state-level festival promoting history, culture, art and tourism

CHITRADURGA

MLA K. C. Virendra Pappi has requested Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar to provide special grants for four major projects aimed at the comprehensive development of Chitradurga city and the preservation of its historical heritage.

The MLA submitted a request letter to the Chief Minister during his visit to Chitradurga on July 13. In the letter, he highlighted the need for government support to improve infrastructure, promote tourism and address the growing needs of the city.

Virendra Pappi requested funds for widening important roads in Chitradurga city, stating that increasing vehicle movement and narrow roads have resulted in traffic congestion and accidents. He said road expansion would improve transportation facilities, support business activities and give a boost to the overall development of the city. He



also requested approval and grant allocation for the project during the upcoming August session.

The MLA also sought a special grant of ₹25 crore to revive the historic Chitradurga Durgotsava and organize it as a state-level festival. He said the festival, which was earlier held in 2006 and 2015,

has been inactive for several years. Restarting the event would help promote the district's history, culture, art and tourism, he added.

Another important request was the establishment of the Chitradurga Fort and Chandravalli Development Authority for the planned development and protection of these

heritage sites. He said forming an authority similar to those created for other historical locations in Karnataka would help in conservation, infrastructure improvement, tourism growth and employment generation.

The MLA also requested administrative approval and ₹47.50 crore for constructing a new high-tech bus station in Chitradurga. He pointed out that although Bhoomi Puja for the project was conducted on March 24, 2023, the work has remained pending due to a shortage of funds. He urged the government to release funds and begin construction soon.

Virendra Pappi said these four projects would improve city facilities, protect historical landmarks, increase tourism opportunities, create employment and contribute to the overall progress of Chitradurga district. He appealed to the Chief Minister to consider the proposals and provide necessary support.



Farmers urged to take crop insurance with loans

CHIKKABALLAPURA

District Collector G. Prabhu has instructed bank managers to encourage farmers to register for crop insurance while providing agricultural loans. He said farmers should be informed about the benefits of insurance and guided to protect themselves from crop losses caused by natural conditions.

The Collector was speaking at a review meeting on the progress of crop insurance registration held at the Sir M. Visvesvaraya Zilla Panchayat Hall. He reviewed the registration process under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for the 2026-27 monsoon season and directed officials to speed up the work.

The Agriculture Department has been given a target to register 80,000 farmers under the scheme in the district. However, only 22,406 applications have been received so far. The Collector expressed dissatisfaction over the slow progress and warned officials of strict action if the given targets are not achieved within the remaining period.

He said only a small number of farmers who have taken loans from banks have received crop insurance coverage. Bank managers were asked to adopt a farmer-friendly approach and ensure that all eligible farmers who have taken loans, as well as those applying for loans in the future, are covered under the insurance scheme.

The Collector directed Agriculture and Horticulture Department officials to review

Collector criticized low crop insurance registrations, urged banks and officials to ensure eligible farmers receive coverage and meet targets promptly

the progress of crop insurance registration daily and submit reports to his office. He urged officials to create awareness among farmers and help them complete the registration process through available centres and representatives.

Explaining the importance of crop insurance, G. Prabhu said the district has faced nearly 80 per cent rainfall shortage so far. Even if rainfall improves in the coming days, crops may suffer partial damage. He explained that insurance support can help farmers recover losses during such situations.

He said farmers can receive compensation based on the extent of crop damage after paying a small premium amount. For example, millet farmers who pay ₹399 per acre for registration can receive financial assistance in case of crop loss. He appealed to all farmers to register under the scheme before the deadline.

Joint Director of Agriculture Abid, Joint Director of Horticulture Devaraj, representatives of Tata AIG and bank managers attended the meeting. Officials urged farmers to contact Farmer Contact Centres, self-help group representatives and department officers for assistance with crop insurance registration.

Advocate S.V. Patil said court-imposed bail conditions were followed, procedures completed, and Swamiji signed required documents before release

VACHANANANDA SWAMIJI COMPLETES BAIL PROCESS IN COURT

DAVANAGERE

Vachanananda Swamiji of the Veerashaiva Lingayat Panchamasali Peetha appeared before the Davanagere District POCSO Court and completed the bail process on Tuesday. He said he respected the court's decision and would follow all legal conditions. Speaking after the court proceedings, Swamiji said the conditional bail granted by the court was a victory for truth. He thanked his devotees and legal team for their support and appreciated advocate

S. V. Patil for presenting the required documents before the court.

Swamiji said that those following the path of spirituality often face difficulties and criticism. He stated that truth, justice and righteousness would ultimately prevail. Since the matter is currently before the court, he said he would not comment further on the case and would respect the legal process.

He also spoke about the teachings of his spiritual journey and said he had learned yoga and meditation from his

guru, Yoga Bharatiya Swamiji. Referring to the importance of silence and patience, he said that some answers come through time rather than words.

Meanwhile, advocate S. V. Patil said the court had directed Swamiji to follow all conditions while granting bail. He said the necessary bail procedures were completed and Swamiji had signed the required documents before the court.

The advocate said Swamiji would appear before the court again on August 20. He added

that the second accused in the case has also been directed to appear before the court on the same date.

According to the lawyer, the court has imposed conditions including submission of a bail bond of ₹1 lakh, regular appearance before the court, avoiding any interference with witnesses and cooperating with the speedy completion of the case. The legal proceedings will continue as per the directions of the court, while Swamiji and his supporters have expressed confidence in the judicial process.

Bhovi Swamiji seeks minister post for MLA Venkatesh

TUMAKURU

With discussions about a possible cabinet expansion gaining momentum, Bhovi community leader Immadi Siddarameshwara Swamiji has urged Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwar to recommend Pavagada MLA H.V. Venkatesh for a ministerial position. Swamiji met DCM Parameshwar at Siddhartha Medical College in Heggere, Tumakuru, and held discussions for nearly an hour. During the meeting, he reportedly requested support for Venkatesh, who belongs to the Bhovi community, to be considered for a place in the state cabinet.

Speaking to reporters later, Siddarameshwara Swamiji said his meeting with the Deputy Chief Minister was mainly related to other matters. However, he added that there are three MLAs from the Bhovi community and expressed his wish that one of them should receive representation in the government.

MLA H.V. Venkatesh also responded to the development and confirmed that Swamiji had discussed the ministerial opportunity with him. He said he is also interested in serving as a minister if given a chance. The discussions come at a time when several leaders are seeking representation ahead of the expected cabinet changes.

Governor urged to strengthen State Information Commission

BELAGAVI

Belagavi-based RTI activist Bheemappa Gadad has urged the Governor to strengthen the State Information Commission by taking action against officials accused of failing to properly enforce the Right to Information Act. He said the system must be protected to ensure transparency and accountability in public administration.

Gadad submitted a complaint against Information Commissioners and alleged that the Act was being weakened due to improper implementation. Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, he said several activists and organisations had

also approached the government with similar concerns. He added that documents were submitted to the Chief Secretary, but no action was taken. The matter was later brought before the Governor for necessary intervention.

Gadad requested the Governor to examine the allegations and take steps to improve the functioning of the commission. He claimed that the appointment process of the Chief Information Commissioner and other commissioners did not follow the required procedure. He also alleged that Supreme Court guidelines regarding a search committee were not followed. He warned of legal action if the issues were not in-

vestigated promptly.

He said the Governor, as constitutional head of the State, should protect important institutions and help strengthen the Information Commission. Gadad alleged that some applications under the RTI Act were rejected without proper reasons and said activists should not face restrictions for seeking information. He urged authorities to maintain fairness and follow legal provisions while handling RTI matters. The activist expressed hope that timely action would restore public confidence in the commission and improve transparency across government departments. He said enforcement of the law was necessary.



Mullur PACS gets ₹9.45 crore loan support

HUNSUR

Mysore District Cooperative Bank Chairman Dodda Somegowda said cooperative societies play an important role in improving farmers' economic condition and urged members to repay loans on time. He was speaking at the annual general meeting of Mullur Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society in Hunsur taluk. He announced that the Mysore District Cooperative Bank has sanctioned a loan limit of ₹9.45 crore for the society for 2026-27, and said ₹1.38 crore agricultural loans have already been provided to farmers. Remaining eligible members will receive loan facilities according to their requirements. He explained that cooperative societies are not only lending centres but also support savings, agricultural growth and rural development.

Somegowda advised members to use available schemes and increase agricultural production through proper planning. The meeting approved the annual report, income-expenditure accounts and future

plans of the society. Members shared suggestions and expressed confidence in supporting the organisation's growth. HUDA President HP Amarnath distributed Yashasvini health cards and said the scheme provides valuable support to rural families during health emergencies.

He added that every member should benefit from the programme and mentioned that former MLA HP Manjunath pays the registration fee for new members joining through the society as a public service. Association President BK Channarasgowda presided over the meeting. Directors, staff, farmers and villagers including Jayalakshmi Madevaraj, Somasekhara, Govardhana and others participated in the programme. The gathering highlighted the importance of cooperative societies in strengthening farmers' financial security and encouraged members to actively participate in development activities. The society continues to work towards helping farmers achieve better opportunities and rural progress.

MADIKERI

District Collector S. J. Somashekhar said that 99 per cent of census forms under the Electoral Roll Special Comprehensive Revision (SIR) have been distributed across Kodagu district. He said the revision work is progressing as per the instructions of the Election Commission of India.

Speaking at a review meeting held at the Collector's office, Somashekhar said 552 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are visiting voters' homes in the two assembly constituencies of Kodagu district and distributing the census forms. He said the collection of filled forms and digitization through the BLO app will continue until July 29.

The Collector said voters can also submit the census forms online. So far, 952 people have completed the online submission process. He informed that details of 70 absent voters, 2,228 shifted families, 1,629 deceased voters, 274 duplicate entries and 14 other cases have been identified during the revision process.

He said there were 4,68,657 voters in the two assembly constituencies, and the same number of census forms were printed. Out of these, 4,63,301 forms have been distributed, while 1,21,226 filled forms have been collected and digitized. The form distribution process has achieved 98.86 per cent progress, he added.

The Collector instructed



BLOs to strictly follow Election Commission guidelines while conducting door-to-door verification. He directed officials to ensure house visits, checking of stickers, repeated visits to locked houses and proper verification of voter details.

Somashekhar said digitiza-

tion of collected forms through the BLO app should be monitored regularly and completed within the given deadline. He also advised officials to organize special camps at polling stations and BLO centres to help voters complete the process easily.

He instructed BLOs to ver-

ify information regarding voters who have shifted, deceased persons and other changes before updating the electoral roll. He also emphasized the importance of conducting meetings with Booth Level Agents (BLA) of political parties and sharing information about the revision process.

The Collector directed nodal officers to closely monitor BLO activities and ensure that all documents related to the voter list revision are maintained without errors. He said officials must complete the entire process according to the schedule fixed by the Election Commission of India. Additional District Collector Sahana S. Hadimani and other departmental officers were present at the meeting.

Satish Jarakiholi reviews lake filling project progress

Jarakiholi said lake conservation continues through government projects, with plans for check dams on Tunga and Varada rivers to boost groundwater

HAVERI

Public Works Minister and Haveri District In-charge Minister Satish Jarakiholi said the project to supply Tung-abhadra river water to 88 lakes in Hirekerur and Rattihalli taluks will greatly benefit farmers, residents and livestock in the coming days. He made the statement after inspecting the Sarvajna lake filling project under the Tunga Upper Bank Project Zone of Karnataka Irrigation Corporation.

The minister said more efforts are needed to fill additional lakes across the district. He explained that storing available water properly and strengthening lake systems will help provide irrigation facilities to farmers, drinking water for people and essential water for animals during periods of reduced rainfall.

Satish Jarakiholi said lake construction and conservation were given importance by kings and elders since ancient times. Continuing that tradition, the government is now implementing lake filling projects to improve future water security. He added that plans are also being prepared to construct check dams



across the Tunga and Varada rivers to increase groundwater levels and support agricultural activities.

During the inspection, the minister reviewed the functioning of the jackwell, pump house operations, water supply arrangements and the progress of lake filling work. Officials explained that the project will bring water from the Tung-abhadra river near Ukkadagatri village in Harihara taluk and supply it through MS and HDPE pipelines to lakes in 42 villages of Hirekerur and Rattihalli taluks.

The project has received administrative approval of Rs 185 crore from the government. It has a total water storage capacity of 671.67 million cubic feet, with 345.50 million cubic feet capacity already created. A 66 KV

power line and sub-centre have also been established near the pump house to provide electricity for the project.

Officials informed the minister that three motors of the project have been operating since July 8 following instructions to begin lake filling after increased water flow in the Tungabhadra and Varada rivers. The water supply process for 88 lakes is currently underway.

Hirekerur-Rattihalli MLA U.B. Bankar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. L. Nagaraj, Wakasa Corporation Vice President Sunil Hanamannavar, Zilla Panchayat Officer H.Y. Mesi, Executive Engineer Basavaraj B. and other district officials were present during the inspection. The project is expected to improve water availability and

Bidadi land acquisition will follow consent: Satish Jarkiholi

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi said land for Bidadi Township will not be taken forcibly and only land from willing owners is being considered. Speaking to reporters in Ukkadagatri village, he responded to the FIR filed against farmers and said officials were surveying only those who had agreed to provide land. He added that no pressure was applied on farmers and investigations would reveal details of the incident. The minister also addressed other political issues during his interaction. Meanwhile, protests by farmers during the survey created tension, leading police to provide security and control the situation.

strengthen the rural economy in the region.

BJP seeks drought relief as farmers face losses

KOPPAL

BJP leader Basavaraj Cavatar has urged the state government to immediately conduct a drought survey and announce special relief measures as farmers in Koppal district continue to suffer due to poor rainfall. He said the situation has become serious as June and July are nearing completion without sufficient rain.

Cavatar made the statement after visiting several villages, including Murlapura near Alavandi in Koppal taluk, with a BJP delegation to review the condition of farmers. He said many crops have completely dried up due to water shortage, forcing farmers to destroy their own crops. He expressed concern over the incident of a farmer from Murlapur destroying five acres of sunflower crop after facing heavy losses.

He said agriculture in Koppal district mainly depends on rainfall, and the problems of farmers have increased further as water has not been released from the Tungabhadra dam to canals even in areas with irrigation facilities. He demanded immediate government action to protect farmers who are struggling due to the



Cavatar visited villages, highlighted drought losses, and expressed concern over farmers destroying crops due to severe water shortages

drought situation.

Legislative Council member Hemalatha Nayak said farmers have suffered losses of at least ₹25,000 per acre in crops including maize, cotton, urad and sunflower. She criticized the delay in conducting a drought survey and said the government should immediately send agriculture department officials to assess the ground situation.

Nayak demanded special compensation for affected farmers, complete waiver of cooperative loans and payment of agricultural loan interest from nationalized and com-

mercial banks by the state government. She also requested immediate release of Tung-abhadra dam water to canals to support farmers and livestock.

The BJP team said it would conduct a detailed study of drought conditions across the Koppal Lok Sabha constituency and submit a report to the District Collector. Leaders said the report would highlight farmers' difficulties and seek necessary government assistance.

BJP leaders and farmers including Dr. Basavaraj Cavatar, Hemalatha Nayak, Mahantesh Patil Mainahalli, Veeresh Sajjan, Venkatesh Halavarthy, Srinivas Kaladagi, Hanumanthappa Unki, Basanna Murlapur, Andana Gowda Patil, Suresh Channahalli and Siddappa Dambala were present during the visit. The leaders assured farmers that they would continue raising their concerns with authorities.

QUICK READ



KPSC exams bring restrictions around Gadag centre

Gadag

The Karnataka Public Service Commission will conduct departmental examinations from July 17 to July 19. A 300-metre restricted zone has been declared around CDO Jain English Medium School in Sarvodaya Colony to prevent malpractice and maintain order during the exams. Only authorised staff and candidates can enter the area between 8:00 am and 7:00 pm on exam days. Officials have banned mobile phones, communication devices, and access by groups near the centre. Xerox shops and photo copying services are also restricted. Media persons may record only student arrival and departure moments while entry into rooms is prohibited.

Govt assistance details to be shared at programme

Koppal

The Karnataka Entrepreneurship Development Centre (CEDOC) under the Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Department has announced a one-day entrepreneurship promotion programme in Koppal. The programme aims to encourage self-employment by providing information about starting businesses, government support, financial assistance, and future entrepreneurship training opportunities. Interested people can register for the programme by July 20. Participants aged between 18 and 40 years are eligible to apply. Officials advised aspiring entrepreneurs to take part and gain useful knowledge for starting their own ventures. More details are available at the CIDAC office in Koppal.

Rayawat community seeks survey and reservation benefits

HUNSUR

Members of the Benirayawat Sangh have urged the government to conduct a survey of the Rayawat community and address their concerns regarding reservation and recognition under Category 1. Taluk president G Jayaram said the category includes 94 castes and around 380 communities including sub-castes and sub-tribes, while the reservation provided is only four percent.

He said Rayawat people are among the most backward communities and have been living in Karnataka for centu-

ries with many depending on agriculture and traditional occupations for their livelihood. Jayaram added that the community is spread across several districts but has not received adequate political recognition and attention from parties except during elections.

He said leaders from Category 1 communities should be identified through proper surveys and their conditions should be documented by authorities. He appealed to journalists and media representatives to highlight the issues of such communities so that their concerns reach the government. The association re-

quested the backward classes department to prepare a detailed report and recommend steps to the state government for further action and consideration.

The community leaders expressed hope that the survey would bring more awareness about their social and economic challenges. They said proper measures would help improve opportunities for backward groups and ensure fair representation in society. They also requested continued government support to protect the interests of marginalized communities and create a more equal future.

FARMERS OPPOSE TOWNSHIP PROJECT DURING LAND SURVEY

RAMANAGARA

The controversy over the Bidadi township project has intensified after an FIR was registered against 11 people following an alleged attack on officials during a land survey. Farmers opposing the project have continued their protest, stating that they will not give up their land. The agitation against the township project has now crossed 500 days.

The incident occurred on Monday when officials arrived to conduct a survey related to the project. Protesters allegedly confronted the officials using brooms, leading to a complaint being filed. Following the incident, an FIR was registered against 11 individuals. Meanwhile, the Janata Dal (Secular) party has announced plans to support the accused farmers and prepare bail applications.

Speaking at Byramangala village, lawyers Pradeep and Narasimhamurthy said two FIRs were



registered regarding the incident. They claimed that one complaint was filed against 11 people, while another was submitted by farmers. They questioned the timing and process of the police action, stating that the complaint was registered several hours after the incident.

The lawyers alleged that some farmers who were not present

during the incident were also included in the case. They said legal action should be taken fairly and questioned whether such complaints against people leading the protest would stand in court. They also alleged that supporters of the township project had blocked roads and staged protests earlier, but similar action was not taken against them.

HUNSUR

Inner Wheel, an organisation founded by Rotary International for women, highlighted the importance of women's self-reliance and service to society during a programme held at Rotary Bhawan in the city. PDC Purnima Ravi said independent women contribute greatly to families and communities through their skills and dedication.

During the event, Jayalakshmi Shettigowda took

charge as the new president of Inner Wheel from the outgoing leadership. Purnima Ravi said social service should focus on creating awareness among people and building a better society. She added that women are now making their mark in different fields and becoming an important part of social progress. The organisation encourages women to work together and support others by using available resources for community welfare.

New president Jayalakshmi



Shettigowda said her seven years of experience in the organisation inspired her to continue social work. She thanked her parents for encouraging leadership qualities and promised to follow their path while serving society. New secretary Shivakumari also spoke on the occasion and expressed commitment towards strengthening the organisation.

Former president Jyoti Vishwanath, former secretary Then Woli, former president Smitha Dayanand, Dr. Sarojini Vikram, Dr. Rajeshwari, Dr. Manjula and new members attended the programme. Rotary Club President Shyamanna, Secretary Louis Perera, Dr. Prasanna and other members were present.

Public demand leads to new bus service

PAVAGADA

MLA H.V. Venkatesh inaugurated a new government bus service to Sewalapur Tanda after responding to public demands raised during a meeting. The service aims to solve transport problems faced by residents of BK Halli, Kyathaganakere, Sewalapur Tanda and nearby villages for many years.

The MLA launched the service by giving a green signal and driving the bus himself. He said the facility would help students, employees, farmers and the public access education, healthcare and daily travel more easily. Taluk officials, government employees, depot staff and local leaders attended the program. The new route is expected to improve connectivity and provide better opportunities for people in surrounding areas. Authorities appreciated the quick response and said the bus service would strengthen public convenience by reducing travel difficulties and supporting growth across the villages through reliable transport facilities in the future.

DISEASE PREVENTION AWARENESS

Anti-dengue campaign raises awareness among students

KOPPAL

The district administration, Zilla Panchayat and Health Department organised an Anti-Dengue Month awareness programme at Karnataka Maulana Azad Public School in Diddikeri to educate students about preventing dengue and other infectious diseases.

Deputy District Health Education Officer Devamma explained that dengue spreads through the bite of infected

Aedes mosquitoes. She said these mosquitoes breed in stored water and advised students to clean water containers like drums, barrels, tanks and other storage items twice a week. She also asked people to keep containers covered, avoid stagnant water and maintain cleanliness around homes and schools.

Devamma said dengue symptoms include high fever, headache, vomiting, pain behind the eyes, skin rashes, black stools and bleeding



gums. She urged people not to ignore fever and advised them to visit nearby government hospitals for blood tests and

proper treatment. She also highlighted the importance of personal protection from mosquito bites and cooperation

with health workers and Asha workers during home visits.

School Headmaster Prakash said health awareness programmes help students understand disease prevention methods and requested them to spread awareness among people in their villages. Health Inspector Lohit Oddodagi provided information about seasonal diseases, tuberculosis prevention, leprosy control, adolescent health care, HPV vaccination, snakebite prevention and dog bite

control programmes.

Health officials encouraged students to participate in cleanliness activities and follow dry day practices every Friday to control mosquito breeding. Teachers, health department staff and students attended the programme. The event highlighted that preventing dengue requires collective efforts from every citizen and regular awareness can help create healthier surroundings for communities.

QUICK READ

JNVST applications open for sixth class admission

Chikkaballapura

Online applications have been invited for the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Selection Test (JNVST)-2027 for admission to Class 6 for the 2027-28 academic year. The registration process has started and interested students can submit applications free of cost through the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti website. The last date for submitting online applications is July 31. Students and parents can check eligibility details and admission notifications on the official portal. The Principal of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Chikkaballapura, informed that the selection process will be conducted as per Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti guidelines for eligible candidates.

Consumer forum invites applications for member post

Chikkaballapura

The Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum (CGRF) of BESCOM Chikkaballapura district has invited applications for the post of nominated non-official member. The selected member will serve a three-year term from 2026 to 2029. Applicants should have knowledge about power consumers' issues and electricity-related matters. The selected candidate will receive salary and allowances as per Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission rules. Interested persons can submit their resume and consent letter to the CGRF office in Chikkaballapura. Executive Engineer Ramesh Kumar P.G. informed that eligible candidates should apply within the given period for consideration.

Baburao Chinchansur accuses BJP of voter suppression

Chinchansur urged villagers and women to verify electoral details, submit accurate SIR forms, and ensure timely BLO submission

GURUMATKAL

Former minister and Congress leader Baburao Chinchansur has leveled serious allegations against the BJP, claiming the party is actively working to disenfranchise key demographic groups. During an awareness program focused on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Yaddalli village, Chinchansur accused the BJP of pursuing an agenda designed to keep Dalit, Muslim, and backward class voters away from the democratic process.

Addressing the gathering, Chinchansur emphasized the importance of electoral participation, urging villagers and women to proactively ensure



their names are correctly listed. He advised them to fill out the necessary SIR forms accurately and submit them to their Booth Level Officers (BLOs) within the designated timeframe.

Looking toward the future, Chinchansur appealed for

support in the upcoming 2028 assembly elections. Expressing his commitment to the community, he stated, "I am not in power now, so I cannot serve you to the fullest extent. However, I have no family of my own—you are my family. I will serve you as long as I

am alive."

Supporting the initiative, Gurumatkal Block Congress Committee President Krishna Chapetla underscored the urgency of the voter registration drive, warning that residents must act quickly to prevent their names from being excluded from the records. The program, which featured an introductory speech by Veerabhadrapa Yaddalli, saw a significant turnout of local leaders, party activists, and villagers, all gathered to learn more about the electoral revision process. The event concluded with a strong call for grassroots mobilization to ensure that all eligible citizens are represented in the upcoming electoral cycles.



Citizens must become forest soldiers: Judge Manjunath

SHIVAMOGGA

Principal District and Sessions Judge and District Legal Services Authority Chairman Manjunath G. A. said every citizen should become a "soldier within the village" to protect forests and preserve nature. He stressed that saving forest wealth is as important as protecting the borders of the country.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Afforestation and Lakes Rejuvenation Campaign-2026 at Government Women's Polytechnic College in Shivamogga. The programme was jointly organized by the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, District Judiciary, District Administration, Forest Department and District Legal Services Authority.

Justice Manjunath said forests and water resources are essential for maintaining ecological balance. Without proper conservation of forests and water bodies, people may face serious difficulties in getting clean air and water in the future. He urged every citizen to consider environmental protection as a responsibility and actively participate in conservation activities.

Comparing forest protection with national security, he said soldiers guard the country's borders from external threats, while citizens must work together to protect the environment within the country. He also encouraged students to develop awareness about forest conservation and environmental protection from a young age.

Justice Manjunath stressed forest and water conservation, urging citizens and students to protect the environment, comparing it with safeguarding national security

Chief Conservator of Forests Dr. K. T. Hanumanthappa said protecting lakes and increasing greenery should be given priority. He said clean water, pollution-free air and a healthy environment are important for human survival. He added that the main aim of the campaign is to create awareness among people through sustainable environmental activities.

Senior Civil Judge and District Legal Services Authority Member Secretary Santosh M. S. said that 25 lakh saplings are being planted across the state through cooperation between the Forest Department and other agencies. He also expressed concern over the increasing human-wildlife conflicts and said protecting natural resources is the responsibility of everyone.

During the programme, judges, officials, teachers and students planted saplings and launched the green initiative. Director of Satvanidhi Pvt. Ltd. Prakash A. N. spoke about alternatives to harmful plastic products. Forest officials, college principal Raghuraj, staff members and students participated in the event and pledged support for environmental protection.

BORDER STUDENTS FACE TEXTBOOK SHORTAGE CRISIS

RAICHUR

Over 10,000 students enrolled in Kannada-medium primary and high schools across the border regions of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana are facing a significant educational crisis. Despite the academic year being underway for more than a month, these students have yet to receive essential textbooks for their subjects, sparking widespread outrage among parents and local activists.

The shortage impacts 16 primary schools and 17 high schools, where the lack of resources has forced teachers to resort to desperate measures. In many classrooms, a single book is being shared among seven to eight students, severely hindering the learning process. Educators are also attempting to mitigate the

deficit by collecting and reusing old textbooks from previous batches, though this remains an inadequate solution.

Activists have been vocal in their criticism of the government's handling of the situation. Basavaraj Kalasa, a prominent activist, noted that these schools have served border villages for over a century.

However, he warned that the current state of neglect is driving students away from Kannada-medium education toward Telugu or English-medium institutions. Further concerns were raised regarding hostelry access, with allegations that students residing in border areas are being denied admission to Karnataka state hostels on residency grounds.

Responding to the mounting pressure, Mallikarjun G.,

Deputy Director of the Raichur School Education Department, stated that the necessary requisitions for textbooks were submitted to the state government as early as May. He assured the public that the books are arriving in phases and are being distributed to the affected Kannada schools in neighbouring states as supplies become available.

Despite these assurances, the delay has raised serious questions regarding the government's commitment to supporting regional education and protecting the future of students in these sensitive border zones. The situation remains a point of contention as parents continue to demand immediate, full-scale delivery of learning materials to ensure that no student is left behind due to administrative delays.

Farmers urged to complete crop survey soon

GADAG

Farmers in Gadag district have been advised to complete the crop survey due to poor rainfall conditions affecting agriculture.

The Agriculture Department said the survey will help farmers receive crop loans, insurance benefits, compensation, and support schemes.

Around 2,57,401 hectares have been sown in the district this year, while many farmers face financial difficulties due to insufficient rain. Out of 3,34,987 land records, 56,889 have been surveyed and the remaining must be completed before July 18. Joint Director of Agriculture Chetana Patil urged farmers to participate in the survey to reduce possible losses.

Former Minister Rajugowda urges action on farmers' suicide

YADGIR

Former Minister Rajugowda has issued a stern demand for the state government to intervene in the growing agricultural crisis in Yadgir, following a series of tragic farmer suicides. During a visit to Chattalli village, where he met with the family of a farmer who recently took his own life, Rajugowda criticized the administration for its perceived inaction in the face of widespread crop failure.

Accompanied by a delegation of BJP leaders, Rajugowda expressed deep concern over the loss of two lives in Chattalli within a single week. He attributed these tragedies to the severe lack of rainfall over the past month and a half, which has left standing crops in a state of decay. He accused the state government of neglecting the agricultural sector, alleging that ministers are prioritizing political matters over the urgent needs of the farming



community.

Rajugowda directly challenged district MLAs to set aside their political aspirations for ministerial positions and instead focus on visiting affected villages to address farmer grievances. He warned that if the government does not take immediate remedial measures to support the farmers and curb the rising suicide rate, the BJP would launch a widespread public protest.

On the controversial Bidadi Township project, the former minister insisted that any development must be predicated on the explicit consent of the affected farmers. He emphasized that projects should not

be driven by the interests of brokers, but rather by the welfare of those whose land is at stake.

To provide immediate relief to the grieving family of the deceased farmer, Mallikarjuna, senior BJP leader Rachana Gowda Mudnal personally contributed ₹51,000. The event was attended by various district BJP leaders and office-bearers, all of whom reiterated their commitment to supporting the region's agricultural community during this period of distress. The local administration has yet to provide a formal response to the demands raised by the delegation.

Agriculture students begin rural field training

RAICHUR

The University of Agricultural Sciences in Raichur has officially launched its Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) program, providing 135 final-year agriculture degree students with a hands-on immersion into the realities of farming.

Over the next 70 days, these students will live in rural communities, specifically in the villages of Santhekallur, Aminagad, and Vatagal in Maski taluk, to bridge the gap between academic theory and field application.

During this program, students will work directly alongside farmers, participating in every stage of the agricultural cycle. The initiative is designed to foster professional relationships, allowing students to observe and assist with local farming practices, pest and disease management, seed production, and agricultural engineering. Additionally, stu-

dents are tasked with studying the functionality of local agricultural organizations and hosting exhibitions to share their findings and technical knowledge.

Inaugurating the camp, Vice-Chancellor Dr. M. Hanumanthappa emphasized that agricultural education must extend far beyond classroom walls. He urged the students to focus on practical learning, covering critical areas such as soil conservation, animal husbandry, and the value addition of agricultural products. "This program is a crucial platform for students to develop essential skills, gain deep awareness of rural life, and understand the diverse challenges and needs of our farming community," he noted.

University officials, including Director of Education Dr. Gururaja Sunkada and Dean Dr. Jagajeevan Ram, attended the launch to support the students as they embark on this intensive fieldwork.

Inquiry suspects foeticide in Yadgir district

YADGIR

A report from a state-level multidisciplinary expert committee has exposed severe lapses in the monitoring of maternal health in Yadgir district. Following a five-day investigation conducted in April 2026, the committee submitted a 74-page report detailing that authorities have no follow-up information or final outcomes for over 16,000 pregnancy cases recorded over the past five years.

According to the data, out of 53,595 registered pregnancies, only 35,424 births and 2,055 abortions were accounted for. The unexplained status of the remaining 16,116 cases has ignited fears regarding the integrity of the local health department's tracking systems. The committee's findings suggest a disturbing possibility of illegal sex-determination tests and fe-

male foeticide, citing instances where registration documents were allegedly destroyed and abortion pills were misused.

The report also highlights deep-seated social issues complicating maternal care, most notably the high prevalence of child marriage, with 33.2% of women in the district marrying before the age of 18. This trend is believed to contribute to higher rates of child pregnancies and infant mortality, further exacerbated by a lack of cooperation from families in cases involving unmarried women. In response to these findings, District Health Officer Mahesh Biradar has dismissed the allegations of foul play. He maintained that the district's abortion rate of 2.7% is significantly lower than the state average of 4.6%, attributing the terminations to medical necessities rather than illegal activities.

BLO Imam Hussain achieves full voter list computerization

CHITRADURGA

Kalkunte polling station BLO K.H. Imam Hussain achieved 100% progress in computerization of census forms during the special comprehensive revision of voter lists. He was honored at Chitradurga Municipal Hall for completing the important work successfully within the given time.

Dr. K.J. Kantaraj, Electoral Registrar and Sub-Divisional Officer of Chitradurga Assembly Constituency, felicitated Imam Hussain and appreciated his dedicated efforts. He said voter list revision

is a responsible task and Imam Hussain's achievement has set an example for others. The special revision process aims to maintain accurate and updated voter records. Tehsildar B.M. Govindaraj, City Council Mayor Lakshmi, Taluk Health Officer Dr. Girish, BRC Sampath Kumar and other officials attended the program. Authorities praised the commitment shown by the BLO and highlighted the importance of timely completion of election-related duties for a transparent democratic process.

BIDAR

The Karnataka Dalit Sangharsh Samiti (DSS), founded by Prof. B. Krishnappa, has formally demanded the cancellation of the current beneficiary list for the 2024-25 Matsyashraya Yojana in Aurad taluk. The organization alleges that the selection process was compromised by malpractice, resulting in households being allotted to individuals who are not professional fishermen.

A delegation led by District Coordinator Dhanraj Mustapur submitted a petition to the

District Collector, calling for an immediate investigation into the allocation process overseen by the Assistant Director of the Fisheries Department in Santpur, Aurad. According to the DSS, several ineligible individuals secured spots on the list by obtaining fraudulent documentation from local Gram Panchayats.

"We demand that the list be legally reviewed and cancelled," the petition stated. The organization is urging the administration to prepare a new, transparent list that strictly adheres to eligibility rules, ensuring that benefits



reach genuine, professional fishermen who are the intended recipients of the housing scheme.

In addition to cancelling the

current list, the DSS has called for accountability within the Fisheries Department. The group has requested the immediate transfer of

long-serving department staff and urged the government to initiate legal action against the taluk-level officials responsible for the alleged irregularities. The delegation, which included former Gram Panchayat Vice President Mallikarjun Biradar and District Coordinator Vijayakumar Aihole, emphasized that these systemic lapses undermine public trust in government welfare initiatives. The District Collector's office has acknowledged the submission of the appeal, and further scrutiny of the beneficiary selection process is expected.

QUICK READ

Jewar airport sees passenger surge within a month of ops

Greater Noida
The Noida International Airport, which kick-started its commercial operations a month ago, is registering a slow but steady rise in the number of fliers opting for the airport, being pitched as a key aviation hub in the Delhi-NCR region. The operational passenger count data shows the passengers' increasing preference for the Jewar Airport for their air journeys. A notable rise in passenger numbers has been recorded in July as compared to June, signalling the airport's growing acceptance. According to official data, a total of 27,841 passengers chose the airport in June. This comprised 9,342 local departures, 8,757 local arrivals, 2,398 transfer passengers, and 7,344 transit passengers.

Man arrested for attempting to rape runaway minor

Kolkata
The police have arrested a person for taking a minor girl to a rented house in South 24 Parganas district's Baruiপুর in West Bengal and trying to rape her. senior police officer of Baruiপুর Police District said the minor had run away from her home in Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district. She was lured by the accused after she met him at Sealdah station. The accused has been produced before the Baruiপুর court on Tuesday, where the police sought his custody for further interrogation in connection with the incident. The police also rescued the minor and sent her home in Barrackpore.

SC issues notice on fresh pleas challenging CBSE's 3-language policy

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued a notice to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on a fresh batch of petitions challenging the implementation of its revised three-language policy, which mandates the study of two Indian languages from Class 6 onwards, and sought its response within two weeks. A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana issued notice to the Centre, the CBSE, and the NCERT on the fresh petitions and fixed the matter for detailed hearing on July 29. No interim stay on the operation of the impugned CBSE circulars was granted at this stage. Appearing for the CBSE, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhat assured the apex court that it would file its response within two weeks.

AKHILESH YADAV ACCUSED

OP Rajbhar accuses Akhilesh Yadav of divisive politics

LUCKNOW
Uttar Pradesh Minister and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) chief Om Prakash Rajbhar on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav, accusing him of attempting to polarise voters ahead of the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. Rajbhar alleged that the SP leadership was seeking to create communal tensions for political gains, a charge that the Samajwadi Party has consistently denied in

149th Jagannath Rath Yatra to proceed under tight tech watch in Ahmedabad

Police have enhanced security with a sophisticated AI-driven surveillance system along the 14-km route; over 3,500 CCTV cameras will provide continuous monitoring, aiming to eliminate blind spots.

AHMEDABAD

Preparations for the 149th Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath in Ahmedabad have entered their final phase, with Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi conducting a comprehensive inspection of the entire 16.2-kilometre procession route ahead of the annual religious event scheduled on Ashadhi Beej. The inspection focused on reviewing security arrangements, crowd management measures and emergency response plans to ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of one of Gujarat's largest religious processions.

Sanghavi was accompanied by Director General of Police G.S. Malik, Ahmedabad Police Commissioner Anupam Singh Gahlaut and several senior police and civic officials during the inspection. The team visited key locations along the route to assess security deployment, identify sensitive areas and evaluate contingency plans for handling any emergencies that may arise during the event. Following the inspection, Sanghavi said the Rath Yatra would proceed along its traditional 16.2-kilometre route through Ahmedabad. The grand procession will feature three main chariots carrying



the idols of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra. In addition, the procession will include 18 elephants, 103 decorated trucks, 30 traditional akhadas showcasing martial arts and cultural performances, and several devotional music groups performing bhajans throughout the journey.

To ensure comprehensive security, authorities have implemented an extensive deployment strategy across the city. The entire procession route has been divided into 26 security ranges, 53 operational sectors and 1,397 security points to facilitate effective

monitoring and rapid response. More than 30,000 police personnel have been deployed for the event, making it one of the largest security operations undertaken for a religious gathering in the state. The deployment includes 10 officers of Inspector General and Deputy Inspector General rank, 42 Deputy Commissioners of Police and 88 Assistant Commissioners of Police, supported by officers and personnel from various units. Additional security reinforcement has been provided through 15 companies of the State Reserve Police Force and nine companies of the Central Armed Police Forces.

India's net direct tax kitty jumps 16.4% to Rs 6.51 lakh crore

NEW DELHI

India's net direct tax collections recorded a robust 16.4% year-on-year growth to Rs 6.51 lakh crore as of July 13 in the current financial year, driven by higher corporate tax, non-corporate tax, and securities transaction tax collections, as per a data by the Income Tax Department on Tuesday. Net corporate tax collection grew over 22 per cent to around Rs 2.40 lakh crore, while net non-corporate tax collection recorded an increase of around 12 per cent to Rs 3.85 lakh crore. Securities Transaction Tax (STT) jumped over 44 per cent to over Rs 26,000 crore, the figures showed. Gross direct tax collections increased 16.11 per cent to Rs 7.74 lakh crore during the period, while refunds issued rose 14.57 per cent to Rs 1.22 lakh crore, the data showed.

Fodder scam: Supreme Court upholds Lalu Yadav's bail

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to interfere with the Jharkhand High Court's order suspending the sentence of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief and former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav in the Deoghar fodder scam case. The apex court dismissed the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) plea seeking cancellation of Yadav's bail, while directing the Jharkhand High Court to expedite the hearing of the long-pending criminal appeals related to the case. A Bench comprising Justices M.M. Sundresh and P.B. Varale observed that nearly seven years had passed since the Jharkhand High Court suspended Yadav's sentence,

making it inappropriate for the Supreme Court to interfere at this stage. Delivering its order, the Bench said it was not inclined to disturb the High Court's decision. However, considering that the appeals have remained pending since 2018, the court requested the Jharkhand High Court to hear and dispose of them as expeditiously as possible, preferably within six months. We are not inclined to interfere in the impugned order. The appeal is of the year 2018. It will only be appropriate to request the High Court to expedite the hearing of the appeal, preferably within six months, the Bench headed by Justice Sundresh observed. Representing the CBI, Ad-

ditional Solicitor General S.V. Raju argued that the Jharkhand High Court had suspended Yadav's sentence based on an incorrect understanding that he had completed 50 per cent of the prison term awarded in the case. According to the CBI, this interpretation was legally flawed and resulted in an improper grant of relief. The CBI further contended that Yadav's earlier applications seeking suspension of sentence had been rejected on their merits. It argued that the High Court had mistakenly treated multiple sentences as running concurrently while deciding the bail application, thereby extending a benefit that should not have been available under the circumstances.

Muslim clerics demand transparent probe into Waqf Board 'irregularities'

LUCKNOW

Amid the ongoing controversy surrounding allegations of theft of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, several prominent Muslim clerics in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday demanded a comprehensive and transparent investigation into alleged financial irregularities and property mismanagement involving the state's Sunni and Shia Waqf Boards. The demand follows a letter written by All India Muslim Jamaat President Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi Bareilly to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, seeking a detailed inquiry into what he described as alleged scams involving both the Sunni and Shia Waqf Boards. In his communication, Maulana Bareilly alleged that serious irregularities had taken place during the tenure of

the Samajwadi Party government in the state. He claimed that if an impartial investigation were conducted, it could uncover financial misconduct on a much larger scale than currently alleged in other recent controversies. However, these allegations have not been independently verified, and no official findings have yet been released. Supporting the demand for an inquiry, President of the Shia Markazi Chand Committee, Maulana Syed Saif Abbas Naqvi, said concerns regarding the functioning of the Waqf Boards have existed for several years and require immediate attention. We have consistently demanded that the government conduct an investigation into the Waqf Board because several matters concerning its functioning are not satisfactory, he said.

Naqvi alleged that illegal encroachments on Waqf properties had become a persistent issue and claimed that certain Waqf lands were also under government possession. He emphasized that a transparent investigation was necessary to determine the facts and ensure accountability. He further stated that individuals found responsible for any wrongdoing should face strict legal action. At the same time, he urged the government to restore properties that legally belong to the Waqf Board if they are found to have been wrongly occupied or retained by government agencies. Expressing dissatisfaction with the pace of official action, Naqvi said that despite repeated claims regarding irregularities, a comprehensive investigation had yet to be initiated.

Search op launched in J&K's Rajouri after villagers claim seeing 2 terrorists

JAMMU

Joint security forces launched a search operation in the Thanamandi area of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Tuesday after local villagers claimed to have seen two terrorists. Officials said a massive search operation was launched across some villages in the Thanamandi area after CCTV footage purportedly captured the movement of two suspected terrorists. The suspected terrorists were caught on CCTV crossing a road late on Sunday night, prompting the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the local police, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and the Army to launch a co-ordinated search operation in the area, the officials said. Acting on the footage, the search parties fanned out across Bhanghai, Hasplote, Karyote, Kopra top, and adjoining forested villages to trace the two individuals, the officials said. The search operation is now underway in



the area, although so far there has been 'no contact' (Exchange of gunfire) with the terrorists. The operation is part of a prolonged anti-terror hunt, codenamed Operation Sheruwal, which began in May 2026 and targeted suspected terrorist hideouts and infiltration routes across dense forest regions in the Manjakote and

Sunderbani sectors. Terrorism in the Rajouri district has been heavily shaped by its proximity to the Line of Control (LoC). The region experienced its most intense phase of militancy in the late 1990s and early 2000s, characterised by targeted massacres designed to displace local communities.

33 IPS officers transferred; Natarajan new intel chief

KOLKATA

A major reshuffle took place in the state police administration on Tuesday, with the Suwendu Adhikari government transferring 33 IPS officers and appointing a new state intelligence chief. The most notable of them is the transfer of IPS officer Supratim Sarkar. He has been transferred from the post of ADG, Criminal Investigation Department (CID), i.e., the state's intelligence chief, to the relatively less responsible post of ADG, Telecommunications. Natarajan Ramesh Babu has been made the state's new intelligence chief. He has been the Director General of Correctional Services until now. The notification of the latest police reshuffle was issued from the state secretariat, Nabanna, on Tuesday afternoon. It may be noted that the Election Commission had removed Supratim Sarkar from the post of Kolkata Police Commissioner after the announcement of the 2026 Assembly elections in March. He was made ADG of CID. Later, he was also given the responsibility of a police observer in

another state and was deputed to serve in five Assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu. Meanwhile, among the transferred IPS officers is K. Jayaraman. He has been transferred from ADG, North Bengal Region, to the post of Director, Directorate of Economic Offences. Jayaraman, known as an honest officer, has been posted as the Director of Economic Offences to investigate financial corruption during the Trinamool Congress era. IPS officer Vishal Garg has been transferred from the post of ADG, Western Zone, to the post of ADG, Intelligence Bureau (IB). Skilled officer Praveen Kumar Tripathi, who was the IG of the Special Task Force (STF), has been transferred to the less important Home Guard division, where he has become the IG. Meanwhile, Tripurari Atharv has been removed from the post of Bidhannagar Police Commissioner. He has been made the ADG, Traffic and Road Safety. IPS officer Rathod Amitkumar Bharat has become the new Commissioner of Police of Bidhannagar.

similar political exchanges. Speaking to IANS, Rajbhar claimed that Akhilesh Yadav wanted communal unrest to return to the state in an attempt to consolidate Muslim votes. He alleged that riots and prolonged curfews had become a recurring feature during the previous SP government and accused the former Chief Minister of attempting to revive that political environment. Referring to the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots, Rajbhar alleged that widespread violence during the SP gov-

ernment's tenure had caused immense hardship to ordinary citizens. He claimed that Akhilesh Yadav was uncomfortable with the present law and order situation and alleged that the opposition leader was trying to derive political advantage by raising issues capable of creating social divisions. Rajbhar further alleged that Muslims were currently living peacefully in the state and claimed that the SP was un-

happy because incidents of communal violence were not taking place under the present government. These remarks come amid increasing political exchanges between the ruling National Democratic Alliance partners and the opposition ahead of the state elections. Earlier in the day, the SBSP chief also posted a strongly worded message on the social



media platform X, criticising the Samajwadi Party's tenure in government and accusing it of allowing violence and intimidation against Dalits and backward communities. In his post, Rajbhar referred to the period following the 2012 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, when the Samajwadi Party secured a majority in the state. He alleged that soon after the election victory, supporters of the SP engaged in acts of violence against Dalit families in certain parts of the state.

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Regd Office: 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherpu - Thrivaprav Road, Thrivaprav, Thrissur, Kerala 680567
Phone No: 0487-3520594.

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd., having our registered office at 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherpu - Thrivaprav Road, Thrivaprav, Thrissur, Kerala 680567 and branches at various places in India (hereinafter referred to as "MAHOFIN") is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and a Financial Institution within the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (m) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Act) read with Notification No. S.O. 3466 (E) dated 18th December, 2015 issued by the Govt. of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, inter alia carrying on business of advancing loans for construction and / or purchase of dwelling units and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from MAHOFIN and whereas MAHOFIN being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name Of the Borrower / Co-Borrower/Len/Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	No. Date	Date Of Notice Sent & Outstanding Amount
1	Mahalakshmi Makaravalli Puttappa V. Vishwakshi Vallamma Makaravalli, Ganapathi Kenchappa Murdur. /MHL0260033437/ Hubli	Residential Gramthana Property Bearing Vpc No.27/1, Property No.151700202200400029, Total Measuring 394.55Sq. Mtr And Building Measuring 113.78Sq. Mtr., Situated At Matthilathi Village, Wrihal, Chikkankeshinur Gram Panchayat, Tal: Hanagali & Dist: Haveri, Karnataka, Pin: 581104, East Property of Vishnappa Makaravalli, West-Panchayat Road, South-Panchayat Road, North-Rs No.58	12-05-2026	03-06-2026 & Rs.701306/-

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower, MAHOFIN shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder. You are hereby notified that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by MAHOFIN at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act. Take note that in terms of S-13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner.
Date: 14th July 2026 | Place: KARNATAKA
Sd/-: Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd

QUICK READ

Conspiracy case: NIA chargesheets 6th accused**New Delhi**

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed its third charge-sheet in a major conspiracy case, naming Chandan Kumar as the sixth accused in the revival of the banned CPI (Maoist) outfit's activities in the Magadh zone of Jharkhand and the systematic extortion of funds from contractors to procure arms and ammunition. The chargesheet was submitted before the NIA Special Court in Ranchi, Jharkhand, in connection with a case, which the anti-terror agency had registered suo motu in December 2021. Chandan Kumar, arrested by the NIA from Mumbai in January 2026, is described as a key figure in the operation.

AAP should apologise to people of Delhi: BJP**New Delhi**

BJP MP Praveen Khandelwal on Tuesday said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) should apologise to the people of the national capital after a court convicted former AAP Councillor Tahir Hussain in the 2020 Delhi riots case involving the murder of Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer Ankit Sharma. Reacting to the verdict, Khandelwal alleged that the violence had been pre-planned and accused the AAP of supporting those involved. This clearly shows that the riots were pre-planned and were supported by the Aam Aadmi Party. The party did not take any action against its MLA. Now that the truth has come to light, the Aam Aadmi Party should apologise to the people of Delhi. Those found guilty should receive the punishment prescribed under the law, Khandelwal said.

Giribala Singh, son to remain in judicial custody till July 28**BHOPAL**

A Bhopal district court on Tuesday extended the judicial custody of former district judge Giribala Singh and her son Samarth Singh till July 28 in the Twisha Sharma death case after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) informed the court that the two accused had not cooperated during their voice samples.

The hearing was conducted through video conferencing amid heavy security at the court premises.

The CBI sought extension of the judicial custody, informing the court that both accused had

failed to cooperate during the voice sample collection carried out on July 6.

Counsel for Twisha Sharma's family, Advocate Ankur Pandey, said Samarth Singh refused to provide his voice sample, while Giribala Singh initially gave one sample but later declined to continue the process.

The CBI informed the court that both accused did not cooperate during the voice sample collection and sought extension of their judicial custody. Accepting the agency's submission, the court extended their custody till July 28, Pandey told reporters after the hearing.

CONGRESS SHOULD CLARIFY ITS STAND ON UCC: MP CM

'The Oppn views sensitive issues such as UCC and Bhojshala dispute through the lens of vote-bank politics rather than constitutional or public interest'

BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Tuesday called upon the Congress to clearly state its position on the proposed Uniform Civil Code (UCC), a day after the state government's high-level committee submitted its final report on the issue.

The Chief Minister alleged that the Opposition party viewed sensitive issues such as the UCC and the Bhojshala dispute through the lens of vote-bank politics rather than constitutional or public interest.

Speaking to reporters at the Madhya Pradesh Assembly premises, Yadav said the sub-

mission of the committee's report marked an important milestone in the state's efforts to examine the feasibility of implementing a Uniform Civil Code.

He maintained that the extensive consultation process undertaken by the panel reflected the views of people from different religious and social backgrounds.

The committee has submitted the Uniform Civil Code report to me. Now the Congress should also make its stand clear on this issue. Whether it is the UCC or the Bhojshala issue, the Congress looks at every matter only from the perspective of Hindu-Muslim politics



and vote-bank politics, Yadav said.

He said members of all religious communities had actively participated in the consultation process and expressed their opinions on the proposed legislation. According to him, the broad-based public engagement demonstrated that the issue had been discussed openly and

transparently.

It is a positive development that people from all religions expressed their views openly and clearly on the Uniform Civil Code. However, the Congress has still not made its position clear, he added.

Yadav's remarks came a day after the high-level committee entrusted with studying the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code submitted its final report to the state government.

The committee had been constituted by the Madhya Pradesh government to examine the constitutional, legal and administrative feasibility of introducing a common civil code applicable within the state.

Tenures of MOSPI secy Garg, CBDT chief Agrawal extended**NEW DELHI**

The government has extended the tenure of Statistics and Programme Implementation Secretary Saurabh Garg by another year and the term of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Ravi Agrawal by six months and promoted two IPS officers as Joint Directors in the CBI in a string of decisions covering various posts at the Centre.

Garg, a 1991-batch Indian Administrative Service (retired) officer of the Odisha cadre, will continue to serve on a contract basis till July 31, 2027. His current term expires at the end of this month. In addition to heading the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Garg will continue as Secretary of the National Statistical Commission, the order issued by the Ministry of Personnel states.

The order issued to implement the decision of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) also extends by six months the tenure of Agrawal as CBDT Chairman on a contract basis till December 31 this year. He is an Indian Revenue Service officer of the 1988 batch.

The government has promoted two DIGs of the CBI to the rank of Joint Directors. Atul Kumar Thakur, IPS (AGMUT:2008), currently serving as DIG in CBI, has been appointed as Joint Director, CBI, with an overall tenure approved up to November 24, 2028 or until further orders.

SC seeks CBSE reply on 3-language policy petitions

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notices to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the Central government and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) on a fresh batch of petitions challenging the implementation of the revised three-language policy in CBSE-affiliated schools. The apex court directed the respondents to file their replies within two weeks and scheduled the matter for a detailed hearing on July 29.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joydip Bagchi and V. Mohan heard the petitions, which question the legality and constitutional validity of the revised language policy introduced through the CBSE's curriculum framework and subsequent circulars.

During the hearing, the

Supreme Court sought responses from CBSE and Centre on petitions challenging the revised three-language policy implementation nationwide

Bench did not grant any interim stay on the operation of the impugned CBSE circulars. However, the court took note of the submissions made by the parties and sought responses from all concerned authorities before proceeding further.

Appearing on behalf of the CBSE, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati assured the court that the board would submit its response within the two-week period specified by the Bench.

The petitions challenge the CBSE's Secondary School Curriculum for Classes IX and X for the academic session 2026-27, along with circulars issued on April 9 and May 4.

BJP welcomes verdict, slams Sonia, Rahul, Kejriwal for appeasement politics**NEW DELHI**

The BJP on Tuesday welcomed a Delhi court's verdict convicting former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain for the murder of IB officer Ankit Sharma during the 2020 city riots, demanding an apology from Arvind Kejriwal for trying to shield his party colleague and slamming the Congress for pursuing politics of appeasement.

BJP National Spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said that when the conspiracy of these riots was being hatched, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's statement was: Yeh Ladai Aar-Paar Ki Ladai Hai. Ghar Se Niklo, Aar-Paar Ki Ladai Lado.

He said the trial court's ver-

dict had exposed the petty and deplorable politics practised by Kejriwal and Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, who represent a vulture-like political culture.

Bhatia said Kejriwal provided political patronage to Tahir Hussain and Congress leadership created an inflammatory atmosphere during the riots while pursuing politics of appeasement. He said that AAP leader Amanatullah Khan had stated that the sentence awarded by the court, based on evidence, material proof, and witness testimonies, was unfortunate.

Amanatullah Khan claimed that Tahir Hussain had been punished due to his religion and that injustice had been done to him, said Bhatia.

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ನಂ2 ಕಬ್ಬಡಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಲೋಕ. ಪೂರಕ ಕಬ್ಬಡಗ್, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪುತ್ರ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080-22220227 Website: www.kpwd.gov.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 06/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.07.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ2 ಕಬ್ಬಡಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ-2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-1, & ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-2ರ ನಿಯಮಗಳಂತೆ ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 01 ರಿಂದ 10 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ವಾಷಿಕ್ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತುರ್ತು ದುರಸ್ತಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>) ಖರೀದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸ್‌ಗೆ ಬೆರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇಎಂಡಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಿಂದ ಫೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.07.2026 ರಿಂದ 18.07.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.07.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.07.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಕ್ಕೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>) ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸ್ಥಳ:- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು.
ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಇ/ಉನಿ-ಸಿ.ಪಿ/1624/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department,
Special Division, Hunsur
(Through <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)
IFT No:09/2026-27 Date: 13.07.2026

Tender Notification

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka the under signed has invited itemised tender for 3-Works and 1 Service related to Hunsur Special Division as per terms and conditions of "Standard tender documents" from the eligible registered contractors under PWD through KPP Portal. Maximum amount put to tender Rs.96.27 lakhs and Minimum amount put to tender Rs.39.13 lakhs, Maximum EMD amount of Rs.1,92,600/- and Minimum EMD amount of Rs.76,270/- . Tender documents is downloaded from the <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> website for SI no 1 from Dt: 13.07.2026 and for SI no 2 to 4 from Dt: 15.07.2026 Last date for submission of filled tender documents for SI no 1 is Dt: 27.07.2026 and for SI no 2 to 4 is Dt: 29.07.2026 upto 16.00 Hours. Period for completion of works (including monsoon): Maximum 18-Months and Minimum 2-months. For more details visit the undersigned during office working hours .

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

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

DIPR/DDMYS/444/KSMCA/296/2026-27

Zilla Panchayat, Bengaluru South Dist.
RURAL DRINKING WATER AND
SANITATION DIVISION RAMANAGARA

No: EE/RDWS&SD/RMG/TND-03/AE-1/JJM/728/2026-27 Date: 14.07.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Rural Water Supply And Sanitation Division Ramanagara is inviting on behalf of Governor of Karnataka State under Double cover bid system as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000- Standard Bid Document KW-1, KW-2 & KW-3 for water supply works under JJM through e-procurement from Registered Contractors as per the schedule given below.

1) Max Amount Put To Tender: **Rs.51.49 Lakhs EMD: Rs.1,02,980/-** . 2) Min Amount Put To Tender: **Rs.9.01 Lakhs EMD: Rs.22,525/-** . 3) Period of Contract: **06 Months.** 4) Last Date for submission of Tender: **30.07.2026 Upto 5.30 P.M.** 5) Opening of Technical Bid of the Tender: **01.08.2026 at 11.00 A.M.** onwards. 6) Opening of Financial Bid of the Tender: **03.08.2026 at 11.00 A.M.** onwards

For further particulars/details may avail from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days and may visit the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/>

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
RDW&S Divison, Ramanagara.

DIPR/BSDI/177/SA/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works
Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.

No. EE/PWD/HSN/JE-4/2026-27 DATED: 14.07.2026.

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 23/2026-27, Dated: 14.07.2026

Tenders are invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KW-1 and KW-4 from the eligible registered Contractors of Karnataka PWD through E-procurement for 02 Works of Hassan division. In these tenders, 01 tender is reserved for SC Contractors. The minimum Amount put to tender is Rs.9.11 lakhs and maximum Amount put to tender is Rs.158.70 lakhs. Last date of Receipt of tender for works is 31.07.2026 till 4.00 P.M. For more details visit <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Hassan Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಇ/ಉನಿ-ಸಿ.ಪಿ/325/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

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

No. BDA/EM/TEN/392/2026-27 Date: 14.07.2026

SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

The Executive Engineer, East Division, Bangalore Development Authority, (BDA) Bengaluru, on behalf of the Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru, invites tenders through KPP portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from eligible tenderers with Class-I license issued by PWD Department, GoK for **Preparation of DPR Report for Construction of Tunnel from Kanteerava Studio Underpass to BEL Circle via Goraguntepalya Junction with Connection loops.** EMD: **Rs. 5.00 Lakhs.** Period of completion: **60 days.** Last date of bid submission: **27.07.2026 up to 17.00 hrs.** **Technical bid opening: 24.07.2026 at 11.30 hrs.** For further details, please log on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> or call e-Procurement help desk on 080-46010000/68948777 and E-procurement Cell Contact No. 080-22230960, 080-22234115. Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Executive Engineer, East Division, BDA, Bengaluru

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.02, VC Division, Maddur-571428. Mandya Dist Ph:08231-200282

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO-04/2026-27
Dated : 09.07.2026

This office's Short term tender Notification No.04/2026-27, Dated: 09.07.2026 for a 9 No. of Works (Minimum Amount put to tender Cost Rs.77.75 lakhs & Max. Amount put to tender Cost Rs.397.15 lakhs) tender is invited from eligible contractors from KPWD. Tender queries and clarification as per e-portal, E.M.D should be paid through E-payment. Last date of submission of tenders through on-line : As per e-Portal, Date of opening of tender As per e-portal. For additional Information log on to <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> and contact on official Land-line number 08231-200282 during office hours

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Ltd, No.02, VC Division, Maddur.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಓಡಿಎ-ಹಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/174/2026-27

Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department

Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Admin Block, NH-75 Road, Near Café Coffee Day, Narsapura-563133, Kolar taluk & District. E-Mail: eemidklr@rediffmail.com, eemigwdkolar@gmail.com, Landline No: 08152-200049

No:EE/MI/Kol/TA/AE-2/Tender Notification/869/2026-27 Dtd: 08.07.2026

Short term tender notification no: 08/2026-27/ Dtd: 08.07.2026

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Kolar has invited tenders for eligible bidders through KPP-Procurement for the work in two cover system for the 01 number of work. The tender procedure as per Rule of KPPP Act and standard tender document KW-4 shall be followed for amount of Rs. 300.00 Lakhs. Scheduled EMD amount to be submitted through KPP-Portal and tender processing fees as per KPP-Portal procedure. Downloading tender documents through KPP-Portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in starts from **Date:09.07.2026 04:30 PM**. Last date of uploading tender documents upto **Date: 20.07.2026 04:30 PM**. **Pre bid meeting Date:13.07.2026 @11:30 AM at Office of the Executive Engineer MI & GWD division, Kolar.** Opening of technical bid **Date: 21.07.2026 @ 04:30 PM onwards**. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to make any changes in above details in future if needed. For more details can be obtained from the office of the under signed on all working days during office hours and also through **website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without giving any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Kolar

DIPR/KOLAR/RO:171/KSMCA/2026-27

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

QUICK READ



Families claim bodies of Bangkok pub fire victims

BANGKOK
Grieving relatives of the victims of a huge Bangkok bar fire claimed their bodies Tuesday as the death toll rose to 30, even as others held out hope that missing loved ones were alive. Flames tore through the Rong Beer Na Lat Phrao bar and restaurant in the Thai capital late on Sunday evening during a live music performance, sending people fleeing, several with their clothing ablaze. 27 people were declared dead in the early hours of Monday, with another succumbing to their injuries later that day. By Tuesday morning, Bangkok's Chatuchak district office put the death toll at 30, with 75 people injured -- 24 in critical condition.

Unpaid salaries: Workers of Ebola treatment center strike

RWAMPARA
Dozens of people working at an Ebola virus treatment center in northeast Congo went on strike Monday over unpaid salaries and bonuses, posing a new challenge for the fastest-growing Ebola outbreak ever recorded on the continent. Congo since May has been battling the outbreak of a type of Ebola with no approved treatment or vaccine. Last week, the Congolese health minister, Roger Kamba, said the virus had spread to two more provinces. The striking staff at Rwampara General Hospital in Ituri province, the epicenter of the outbreak, includes epidemiologists, case investigators, drivers and gravediggers who say they have not been paid by Congolese authorities.

Trump reduces size of two national monuments in Utah

RWAMPARA
President Donald Trump on Monday sharply reduced the size of two national monuments in Utah, undoing protections established by his Democratic predecessors on public lands that are sacred among many Native Americans. Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments in southern Utah have ancient cliff dwellings, petroglyphs and scenic canyons, as well as coal and uranium deposits that state officials want made available for development. Trump, a Republican, issued proclamations under the Antiquities Act to reduce their size by about 90% each. He took similar actions during his first term, but those were reversed by President Joe Biden, a Democrat.

FORMER MEMBER EXPOSED

China fires senior leader Ma Xingrui over corruption

BEIJING
China has expelled former Politburo member Ma Xingrui from the ruling Communist Party following an extensive corruption investigation, marking another significant development in President Xi Jinping's ongoing anti-corruption campaign. Ma is the third serving member of China's elite decision-making leadership to be removed since 2025, highlighting the continued intensity of Beijing's efforts to root out misconduct within the country's highest political

Deadly Bangkok pub fire raises serious safety regulation questions

A devastating overnight fire at a crowded Bangkok pub killed 30 and left 75 others hurt, including 24 people who remain in critical condition dozens, raising doubts about scrutiny of safety enforcement

BANGKOK

A tragic fire at a popular pub in northern Bangkok has claimed at least 30 lives and left 75 others injured, including 24 people who remain in critical condition. The incident, which unfolded just before midnight on Sunday, has triggered renewed concerns over fire safety standards and the enforcement of regulations across Thailand's hospitality sector. According to authorities, the fire broke out at approximately 11:57 p.m. local time.



Investigators believe the blaze was most likely caused by an electrical short circuit in a ceiling-mounted air conditioning unit. Within moments,

the fire spread rapidly through the building, leaving many patrons trapped inside as thick smoke and intense flames engulfed the venue.

Video footage shared on social media and verified captured the terrifying sequence of events. The recording initially showed heavy smoke pouring from the front entrance of the establishment before an enormous horizontal burst of flames suddenly erupted through the doorway and onto the street. The dramatic images were accompanied by the desperate screams of people attempting to escape the rapidly spreading fire. One survivor, 41-year-old Usa Tadsree, recalled the

frightening moments before the disaster intensified. Standing outside the pub for a cigarette, Usa noticed the lights inside flickering before seeing smoke emerge from the entrance. Driven by concern, Usa initially attempted to return inside to rescue friends but was forced to retreat because of the overwhelming heat. I wanted to go back in to get my friends but there was intense heat coming out, so I had to run out, Usa said while recounting the horrifying experience.

There can't be security guarantees for Ukraine: Russia

MOSCOW

The Kremlin said on Tuesday that there could be no security guarantees for Ukraine without Russia's involvement, responding to a statement by German Chancellor Friedrich Merz that Moscow should play no part in shaping such arrangements. Merz said the issue - central to attempts to end the 4-1/2 year war - should be decided by Ukraine and its partners, not by Russia. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the comment illustrated the dead-end position taken by European governments over the conflict. It is impossible to formulate security guarantees without Russia's participation; if the Europeans are truly convinced of this stance and insist upon it, Peskov told reporters.

Israel sets fresh terms as Lebanon talks resume in Rome

BEIRUT

Lebanon and Israel resumed indirect negotiations in Rome on Tuesday as both sides sought to advance the implementation of a United States-brokered framework aimed at ending months of conflict along their shared border. While the talks have generated cautious optimism, officials involved in the discussions acknowledged that expectations for an immediate breakthrough remain limited due to deep political and security disagreements. The negotiations are taking place at the United States Embassy in the Italian capital and are scheduled to continue through Wednesday. Lebanese officials said the choice of Rome as the venue would make it easier for delegations from both countries to remain in close contact with their respective governments while discussing sensitive security and political issues. The latest diplomatic effort follows months of renewed hostilities between Israel and



Lebanon and Israel restarted negotiations in Rome seeking progress on withdrawal, security, and ceasefire despite persistent regional tensions

the Iran-backed Hezbollah movement. Fighting intensified after both sides returned to open conflict on March 2 amid broader regional tensions. Since then, the United States has led diplomatic initiatives intended to secure a ceasefire and establish conditions for lasting stability in southern Lebanon. Beirut hopes the discussions will pave the way for a gradual Israeli military withdrawal from southern Lebanon under the framework ne-

gotiated by Washington. However, significant differences remain over the sequence of security measures and the future role of Hezbollah, making rapid progress unlikely. Israel currently maintains military forces inside what it describes as a security buffer zone extending roughly 10 kilometres into Lebanese territory along the international border. Israeli authorities argue that the deployment is necessary to protect communities in northern Israel from cross-border attacks launched by Hezbollah fighters. A previous meeting in Washington on June 26 resulted in a proposed agreement calling for an end to hostilities, the disarmament of militant groups, the deployment of Lebanese armed forces across southern Lebanon, and the phased withdrawal of Israeli troops. The framework was viewed as a potential roadmap for restoring stability, but implementation has stalled amid continued violence and political disagreements.

A relentless European heatwave intensified wildfire risks as firefighters struggled to contain devastating forest blazes across multiple countries

Europe heatwave fuels wildfires as France battles massive blaze

PARIS

A severe heatwave sweeping across Western Europe has intensified wildfire risks, with French firefighters battling a massive forest blaze south of Paris that entered its third consecutive day on Tuesday. The rapidly spreading fire, coupled with soaring temperatures across much of the continent, has raised fresh concerns about the growing impact of extreme weather and climate change on Europe's environment and public safety. Firefighting aircraft repeatedly skimmed the waters of the River Seine to collect water before dropping it over the burning forests near Fontainebleau, one of France's most historic woodland areas. Emergency crews worked through the night in an effort to contain the flames, but authorities acknowledged that the fire remained uncontrolled. French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said the principal wildfire in the Fontaine-

bleau forest, along with another nearby blaze that erupted on Monday afternoon, had already scorched approximately 1,300 hectares, or more than 3,200 acres, of land. The historic forest is home to the renowned Palace of Fontainebleau and is one of the country's most visited natural and cultural landmarks. Authorities have arrested at least two individuals suspected of starting the Fontainebleau fire. Nationwide, French police have detained 59 people this wildfire season on suspicion of deliberately igniting fires, highlighting growing concerns over both natural and human-caused disasters during periods of extreme heat. Meanwhile, the latest heatwave continued to expand across Europe. France, Britain, Spain, and Italy have all experienced exceptionally high temperatures, with Italian authorities warning that temperatures in Sardinia could climb to 44 degrees Celsius later this



week. Such conditions have placed emergency services on high alert as dry vegetation and strong winds create ideal conditions for rapidly spreading wildfires. According to the Climate Monitor, the average maximum temperature across Western Europe reached 29.4 degrees Celsius on Tuesday, approximately 6.3 degrees above the long-term seasonal average recorded between 1961 and 1990. The most significant temperature departures were observed in Belgium and France, where daily highs exceeded historical averages by as much as 9.4 and 9.1 degrees Celsius, respectively.

COUNTRIES TIGHTEN TRAVEL RULES AS EBOLA RISK RISES

WASHINGTON

The World Health Organization on May 17 declared an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and said there was a high risk it could spread to neighbouring countries. The decision has prompted governments to step up travel-related containment measures. Here is a list of screening steps and travel restrictions announced by different countries and measures by airlines. The U.S. on July 13 said it was blocking American citizens in the DRC from returning to the United States on commercial flights, placing recent travellers on a do-not-board list until they have spent at least 21 days in a third country. Washington has also



banned non-citizens who had travelled to the DRC, Uganda or South Sudan from entering the country. The Canadian government said on May 26 that residents from the DRC, Uganda and South Sudan would be banned from entering Canada for 90 days starting May 27. The Jordanian government on May 19 suspended the entry of travellers arriving from the DRC and Uganda, according to the Jordanian state agency.

Bahrain said on May 19 it was suspending for 30 days the entry of foreign travellers arriving from South Sudan, the DRC and Uganda. India has launched screening and surveillance measures at airports and other entry points, issued advisories on precautions, and urged citizens to avoid non-essential travel to the DRC, Uganda and South Sudan.

NAME CHANGE

I MASARATH JABEEN A.A aged 69 years w/o Sayeed Ahmed S residing at 1549/1 muslim block Hunsur town Hunsur taluk571105 Mysore district, Karnataka have changed my name from **MUSARATH JABEEN A A** to **MASARATH JABEEN A A**,vide affidavit dated13.07.2026 before notary VEERESH RAO BOBADE, Hunsur.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, THANKAM alias YASODA W/o LATE K. V. MADHAVAN, R/o 439/D, 2nd Cross, 43 Main, 1st Phase, Sub hash Bhavan, Ideal Homes Township, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560098, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **THANKAM YASODA**.

NAME CHANGE

Lokesh G S/o Gangaiah, Kitnamangala Kunigal Taluk.i resident of Tumkur district, residing at House No. 49, Near Vinayaka Temple, Hoysalanagar, Sunkadakatte, Bangalore, have changed the name of our daughter in the birth certificate, Aadhar card, school records and other records as **Hasitha K.L. to Hemitha Gowda K.L.** I and my wife have certified in the presence of a Notary Public in Bangalore that in all future records of my daughter, I will use the name of my daughter as **Hemitha Gowda K.L.** Signature/- Lokesh G. Surekha H S

NAME CHANGE

I, **MOHAMED SHAFI ULLA**, aged 36 years, S/o. Mohammed Zabiulla, Residing at No. 1822, Nizam Mohalla, Hunsur, Mysore -571105, Karnataka, have changed my name to **MOHAMMED SHAFI ULLA**, vide affidavit dated: 14.07.2026 before notary **MAHESH PRASAD .D.**, Mysore Dist.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Veena B R W/o Subramanya Kumar S**, R/o No 444 3rd Block HMT Layout Bangalore North Vidyaranyapura Bengaluru Karnataka - 560097, have changed my name to **Veena**.

New FIFA rules and technology spark debate over controversial WC decisions

Technology & rule changes reshape WC with contentious decisions dominating tournament headlines worldwide

ATLANTA

The FIFA World Cup 2026 has witnessed several controversial decisions influenced by new rules and advanced technology, with video reviews and connected-ball systems playing decisive roles in some of the tournament's biggest matches.

The latest flashpoint came during Argentina's quarterfinal victory over Switzerland when Swiss striker Breel Embolo was sent off after intervention from the Video Assistant Referee (VAR).

Initially, referee Joao Pinheiro booked Argentina's Leandro Paredes, but a review showed Embolo had simulated the foul. The referee overturned the decision, issued Embolo a second yellow card



and reduced Switzerland to 10 men.

The intervention was made possible under FIFA's "mistaken identity" rule, which allows VAR to step in when the wrong player or team is penalised, resulting in a yellow or red card. Switzerland coach Murat Yakin criticised the decision, saying the rule

had "destroyed" his team's game after Argentina went on to win 3-1 in extra time.

Germany also fell victim to a controversial interpretation of the laws during their Round of 32 defeat to Paraguay.

Jonathan Tah's apparent winning goal was ruled out after VAR detected a foul on

goalkeeper Orlando Gill by Waldemar Anton. FIFA's refereeing department has instructed officials to penalise players who block opponents without making a genuine attempt to play the ball, particularly during attacks involving goalkeepers.

Another major talking point has been FIFA's connected-ball technology. The specially designed match ball contains sensors that record movement and contact 500 times per second, helping officials make precise offside and touch decisions.

The technology proved decisive in Croatia's defeat to Portugal after an almost imperceptible touch by Igor Mantanovic was detected before Josko Gvardiol's late equaliser, resulting in the goal

being disallowed. Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic said such decisions were taking "the joy out of football."

Egypt also voiced strong objections after a goal against Argentina was ruled out because VAR identified an earlier foul during the attacking move. FIFA defended the decision, explaining there is no time or distance limit for reviewing incidents that directly lead to goals.

Norway also questioned decisions in their quarterfinal loss to England, including a disallowed goal and a claim that the ball had struck an overhead camera cable. FIFA maintained that sensor data showed no contact, reinforcing its confidence in the tournament's new technologies despite continuing criticism.

Paulo Dybala extends Roma stay with new contract until 2027

ROME

Argentina international Paulo Dybala has committed his future to AS Roma by signing a new contract that will keep him at the Serie A club until June 2027, ending speculation over his future after an injury-hit campaign.

The 32-year-old forward, who joined Roma from Juventus in 2022, has become one of the club's most influential players and remains central to its ambitions both domestically and in European competition.

Roma confirmed the contract extension, rewarding Dybala for his consistent contributions since arriving in the Italian capital. Over four seasons with the Giallorossi, the Argentine has made 139 appearances in all competitions and scored 45 goals, establishing himself as a fan favourite. Dybala made an immediate impact during his

debut season, playing a key role in Roma's run to the UEFA Europa League final. His creativity, vision and eye for goal have made him one of Serie A's standout attacking players despite recurring injury setbacks.

Last season proved challenging for the former Juventus star after he suffered a serious knee injury that required surgery in March. The setback kept him sidelined for nearly four months and fuelled speculation about whether Roma would extend his stay beyond his existing contract. Despite those concerns, the club has reaffirmed its faith in the experienced forward by handing him a new two-year deal. The contract extension comes at a positive time for Roma, who finished third in Serie A last season to secure qualification for the UEFA Champions League for the first time since the 2018-19 campaign.

Argentina-England rivalry transcends football with history, politics and WC legacy

EAST RUTHERFORD

Argentina and England will renew one of international football's fiercest rivalries when they meet in the FIFA World Cup 2026 semifinals, a contest shaped as much by history and politics as by events on the pitch.

Unlike many football rivalries built on geography or regional competition, the animosity between the two nations stretches across continents and has been forged through decades of sporting drama, colonial history and national identity.

The rivalry first gained prominence during the 1966 World Cup quarterfinal, when Argentina captain Antonio Rattin was controversially sent off in a heated contest. England went on to win the tournament, but tensions between the two sides continued to simmer.

Two decades later came the defining chapter. At the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, Diego

Maradona scored two of football's most famous goals against England in the quarterfinals.

The first, the infamous "Hand of God", symbolised street-smart cunning, while the second, later christened the "Goal of the Century", showcased extraordinary individual brilliance as Maradona dribbled past half the England team before scoring.

The match carried added significance as it came only four years after the Falklands War between Argentina and Britain. For many Argentinians, victory over England represented far more than sporting success, becoming a symbol of national pride and resilience.

Football has long played a central role in Argentina's national identity. Introduced by



Historic football rivalry blends politics, identity and unforgettable World Cup moments across generations worldwide.

the British during the late 19th century, the game evolved into a uniquely Argentine expression built around creativity, flair and improvisation.

Historians often describe the country's football philosophy through the concept of the pibe—the street footballer whose intelligence, skill and unpredictability embody the nation's sporting character.

Maradona became the ultimate symbol of that tradition,

while Lionel Messi has carried its legacy into the modern era. Although Messi's football education largely came in Spain, he remains the standard-bearer for Argentine excellence.

England, meanwhile, continue their pursuit of a first World Cup title since 1966, while Argentina are aiming to become back-to-back world champions.

Interestingly, Messi has never faced England in a competitive international fixture, adding another compelling storyline to the semifinal.

Norway striker faces online abuse after crucial miss in heartbreaking WC defeat

Sorloth subjected to online abuse after Norway's WC quarterfinal defeat

MIAMI

Norway striker Alexander Sorloth has become the target of severe online abuse following his country's dramatic FIFA World Cup quarterfinal exit to England, prompting coach Stale Solbakken to condemn the behaviour and urge players to stay away from social media.

The abuse began after Sorloth chose to shoot instead of passing to an unmarked Erling Haaland during a crucial second-half counter-attack with Norway leading 1-0. England defender John Stones blocked the effort, and England equalised shortly afterwards before going on to secure a 2-1 victory after extra time.

The missed opportunity quickly became the focus of criticism online, with Sor-

loth's partner, Lena Selnes, sharing screenshots on Instagram that revealed a stream of abusive messages. Some of the posts reportedly included disturbing comments encouraging the 30-year-old striker to take his own life.

Norway coach Solbakken described the abuse as tragic and senseless, expressing concern over the increasing hostility athletes face on social media.

"It is tragic. That is the world we live in," Solbakken said. "I tell the boys to stay away from social media, especially on days like this. There is nothing more to say about it other than it is completely devoid of sense on every possible level."

Sorloth later explained the reasoning behind his decision during the decisive attacking



move. The Atletico Madrid forward said his first instinct had been to pass to Haaland, but believed England defender John Stones had successfully closed the passing lane, leaving him with little option but to attempt a shot.

"The only thing I wanted to do in that situation was to pass to Erling," Sorloth said. "But it felt like the pass wasn't there, so I went to shoot."

Norway had enjoyed an impressive World Cup campaign before falling agonisingly short of a semifinal berth. Despite taking the lead against England, the Scandinavian side could not withstand the late fightback from the 1966 world champions.

The incident has once again highlighted the growing problem of online abuse directed at professional athletes following high-profile matches.

Slaven Bilic returns as Croatia coach after Dalic's WC exit

ZAGREB

Former Croatia international Slaven Bilic has been reappointed as head coach of the national football team, replacing Zlatko Dalic, who resigned following Croatia's early exit from the FIFA World Cup 2026.

The Croatian Football Federation (HNS) confirmed Bilic's appointment, stating that the 57-year-old was unanimously chosen to take charge as the country begins preparations for its next international cycle.

Dalic stepped down last week after Croatia's disappointing 2-1 defeat to Portugal ended their World Cup campaign before the knockout stages. His departure brought an end to one of the most successful coaching tenures in Croatian football history.

During his eight-year spell in charge, Dalic guided Croatia to the 2018 FIFA World Cup final in Russia, where they finished runners-up to France. He also led the team to the semifinals of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and the Round of 16 at UEFA Euro 2020, establishing Croatia as one of Europe's most consistent international sides.

Bilic is no stranger to the

role, having previously managed Croatia between 2006 and 2012. During his first spell, he oversaw 65 matches, recording 42 wins, 15 draws and only eight defeats, giving him a higher winning percentage than Dalic.

His greatest achievement with the national side came at the 2008 European Championship, where Croatia reached the quarterfinals before suffering a dramatic penalty shootout defeat to Turkey.

As a player, Bilic earned 44 international caps and represented Croatia with distinction. At club level, he enjoyed successful spells with Hajduk Split before moving to England, where he played for West Ham United and Everton during the mid-1990s.

Bilic has also built an extensive coaching résumé, managing several clubs across Europe and Asia, including West Ham United, West Bromwich Albion and Watford in England. His most recent managerial assignment was with Saudi Arabian club Al-Fateh during the 2023-24 season.

The Croatian federation will now look to Bilic's experience and familiarity with the national setup to guide the country's rebuilding process.



Manchester United sign Brazilian midfielder Andrey Santos from Chelsea

Manchester United bolster midfield by signing Brazilian international Andrey Santos from Chelsea permanently.



Manchester United have strengthened their midfield by signing Brazilian international Andrey Santos from Chelsea on a five-year contract, with the 22-year-old arriving as the replacement for veteran midfielder Casemiro.

The move comes just weeks after Casemiro departed Old

Trafford following the expiry of his contract, ending a successful spell with the Premier League club. United hope Santos can add energy, creativity and defensive stability as they rebuild their midfield ahead of the new season.

Santos joins after an impressive campaign with Chelsea, where he made 43 ap-

pearances across all competitions and also featured as a substitute during the club's FIFA Club World Cup triumph last year. His performances earned praise for his composure in possession, ball-winning ability and maturity despite his young age.

Speaking after completing the transfer, Santos described the move as a dream come true and said he was eager to begin the next chapter of his career at one of football's biggest clubs.

"Everything about Manchester United is special. It is an incredible feeling to join a club that some of my biggest idols have represented," Santos said in a club statement.

Andy Reid voted NFL's top head coach for fourth straight preseason

NEW YORK

Kansas City Chiefs head coach Andy Reid has been voted the NFL's top head coach for the fourth consecutive preseason in an annual survey, reaffirming his status as one of the league's most respected coaches despite the Chiefs enduring a disappointing 2025 campaign.

A panel of eight pro football writers ranked the league's top five coaches heading into the 2026 season. Reid secured five first-place votes and one second-place vote to finish at the top of the list, while Los Angeles Rams coach Sean McVay placed second after receiving the remaining three first-place votes.

Seattle Seahawks head coach Mike Macdonald, who guided his team to the Super

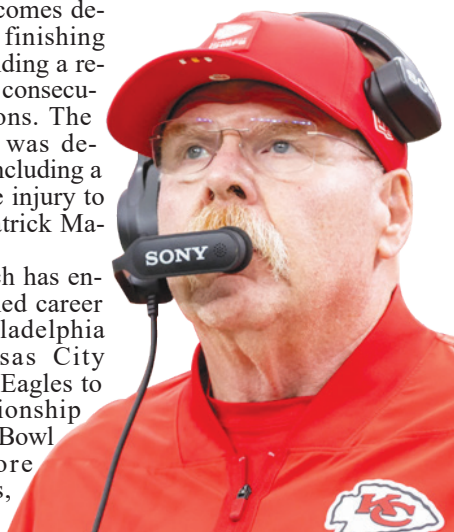
Bowl title last season, finished third. San Francisco 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan was ranked fourth, while Denver Broncos coach Sean Payton completed the top five.

Reid's selection comes despite Kansas City finishing 6-11 last season, ending a remarkable run of 12 consecutive winning seasons. The Chiefs' campaign was derailed by injuries, including a season-ending knee injury to star quarterback Patrick Mahomes in Week 15.

The veteran coach has enjoyed a distinguished career with both the Philadelphia Eagles and Kansas City Chiefs. He led the Eagles to five NFC Championship Games and a Super Bowl appearance before joining the Chiefs, where he has deliv-

ered three Super Bowl titles, nine straight AFC West crowns and five Super Bowl appearances in six seasons.

Reid is fourth on the NFL's all-time coaching wins list with 307 victories.



Barcelona agree deal to sign Borussia Dortmund forward Karim Adeyemi

BARCELONA

Barcelona president Joan Laporta has confirmed that the Spanish champions have reached an agreement to sign Borussia Dortmund forward Karim Adeyemi, adding another exciting attacking option to the club's squad ahead of the new season.

Although the transfer has not yet been officially announced, Laporta revealed that the deal was effectively complete while speaking to reporters after arriving in Dallas to attend the FIFA World Cup.

"We're very excited about Adeyemi. We've liked him for a while. He's dangerous and fast," Laporta said, expressing confidence that the Germany international will strengthen Barcelona's frontline.

The club president did not disclose the financial details of the transfer or provide in-

formation regarding the length of the player's contract. Borussia Dortmund also stopped short of confirming the move but acknowledged that the 24-year-old missed the club's preseason fitness tests because he was involved in transfer discussions.

Adeyemi joined Dortmund after establishing himself as one of Germany's brightest young forwards and has earned recognition for his pace, dribbling ability and versatility across the attacking positions. However, he endured an inconsistent campaign last season, struggling to maintain regular form despite showing flashes of his immense talent.

The forward also attracted attention after publicly expressing frustration when substituted during a Bundesliga match, highlighting a season that proved challenging both on and off the pitch.

QUICK READ

Subaru recalls over half million US cars

WASHINGTON

Subaru is recalling more than 541,000 vehicles in the United States due to a labelling error. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced that these cars were manufactured with an incorrect Gross Axle Weight Rating on their certification labels. While this issue involves a documentation mistake rather than a mechanical failure, accurate weight ratings are crucial for vehicle safety and proper loading. The automaker is now working to address the error to ensure all vehicles meet federal compliance standards. Concerned owners should contact their local Subaru dealers to verify if their specific vehicle is part of this recall.

BMW recalls thousands over engine fire risk

WASHINGTON

German automaker BMW is recalling over 29,000 vehicles across the United States due to a serious fire hazard. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a faulty engine starter relay can corrode over time, potentially causing overheating and dangerous short circuits. The recall specifically impacts several luxury models, including the 530e xDrive and various iPerformance vehicles. To ensure driver safety, BMW dealerships will replace the engine starter units for all affected customers completely free of charge. Owners are urged to contact their local dealers promptly to resolve this critical safety issue and prevent accidents.

India's wholesale inflation hits double digits soon

NEW DELHI

India's wholesale inflation climbed to 9.87 percent in June, up from 9.68 percent in May. New government data shows rising costs across various sectors, impacting the overall Wholesale Price Index. While fuel and power inflation slowed down slightly to 27.41 percent, prices for primary articles and mineral oils surged. Meanwhile, food inflation remained steady at 6.14 percent. The government also updated its measurement methods, using a new base year of 2022-23 to better track producer prices. As living costs rise, officials are closely watching these trends to understand the broader impact on the national economy.

Singapore Court denies Byju Raveendran jail relief

Byju Raveendran faces immediate imprisonment in Singapore after the High Court rejected his plea to pause a sentence.

SINGAPORE

The legal troubles for Byju Raveendran have deepened significantly. The Singapore High Court has officially rejected the embattled edtech founder's plea to pause a six-month jail sentence. This ruling means that Raveendran now faces immediate imprisonment if he enters the city-state, marking a major blow to his ongoing efforts to resolve his complex international legal battles. The prison term stems from a contempt



of court ruling issued back in May. The court previously found that Raveendran failed to comply with specific orders regarding the disclosure of his personal assets. Additionally, he was directed to pay \$90,000 in legal costs and pro-

vide documents regarding his ownership of Beeaar Investco Pte. Byju Raveendran continues to maintain his innocence. His legal representative, J. Michael McNutt, stated that his client denies intentionally violating any court mandates. The defence team insists that they will keep fighting for every available legal remedy to challenge the decision. This specific case was initiated by a subsidiary of the Qatar Investment Authority, following disputes over investments made during the company's

restructuring phase. While Raveendran found some success in a separate U.S. court case last December, where a \$1 billion judgment was reversed, his situation in Singapore remains precarious. As creditors and investors continue their global push for accountability, Raveendran faces an increasingly difficult path. For now, he remains effectively barred from Singapore unless he is prepared to serve his time, leaving his future and the remnants of his company's legacy in serious doubt.

Google launched new AI initiatives in India, focusing on education, healthcare, and developer support to strengthen the local ecosystem.

‘GOOGLE ECOSYSTEM’ GENERATES BILLIONS FOR INDIA

BENGALURU

Google has launched a major push to strengthen India's artificial intelligence landscape. During the Google I/O Connect India 2026 summit held in Bengaluru, the tech giant introduced several new AI-focused programs designed to support local developers, startups, enterprises, and educational institutions.

The company showcased significant growth, noting that its Android ecosystem and Play Store generated an impressive ₹5.3 lakh crore for the Indian economy in 2025. Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar praised Google, highlighting its vital

role in revolutionizing digital services and internet access across the nation.

Among the standout announcements, Google DeepMind unveiled a free 56-hour AI Research Foundations curriculum. Created in partnership with NASSCOM and the Indian Institute of Science, this training aims to help learners master the development of large language models. Furthermore, Google introduced "ATL Saathi," a Gemini-powered virtual assistant designed to aid teachers under the Atal Innovation Mission, starting with a pilot program in 100 schools.

In the healthcare sector, Google is collaborating with

AIIMS Delhi. Researchers are utilizing the company's MedGemma open-source models to build specialized tools for public health, which will eventually be shared with the broader developer community.

Additionally, Google announced that its Gemini Live assistant now supports 25 Indian languages and dialects, including Sanskrit, Bhojpuri, and Maithili. By focusing on both infrastructure and accessible education, Google aims to provide the essential guardrails and tools needed for Indian innovators to thrive safely in the rapidly advancing global era of artificial intelligence.

Exporters gain duty-free access to UK

NEW DELHI

A historic chapter in bilateral economic relations begins as the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) officially enters into force on July 15, 2026. Signed in July 2025, this landmark deal marks a significant milestone, aiming to deepen the strategic partnership between the two nations and boost trade to a target of \$100 billion by 2030. Under the new framework, Indian exporters will gain zero-duty access to nearly 99% of tariff lines in the UK market. This provides a massive competitive edge for labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather, footwear, and processed foods, which previously faced duties ranging from 4% to 16%. Other key beneficiaries include engineering goods, marine products, and gems and jewellery.

Trump's energy policies stall green investments

WASHINGTON

The Trump administration's recent shift in energy policy has triggered a significant economic downturn for the renewable sector. A new report reveals that federal actions aimed at scaling back support for clean energy have led to the cancellation or delay of \$83 billion in project investments.

According to the analysis, 223 major manufacturing and clean energy initiatives have stalled during President Trump's second term. These disruptions have jeopardized approximately 111,765 potential jobs. The coalition attributes this decline directly to the administration's signature tax and spending legislation, which repealed many of the clean energy incentives established during the Biden era.

President Trump has consistently argued that renewable sources, such as wind and solar, are unreliable and overly reliant on government subsidies. However, labour leaders argue that the administration's regulatory rollbacks go beyond just funding.

E20 Fuel Strategy to Reduce Import Dependency: CSIR Prez

NEW DELHI

As global energy markets face uncertainty, India's push for E20 fuel - a blend of 20 percent ethanol with gasoline, is gaining strong support from leading experts. Dr. Raghunath Anant Mashelkar, a renowned scientist and former head of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), emphasized that ethanol is a proven, viable solution to help India achieve energy self-reliance. Dr. Mashelkar pointed to Brazil's successful track record as a model for the world. Brazil has powered its transportation sector with ethanol

for decades, proving that the technology is reliable and efficient. By following this path, India can significantly cut its heavy reliance on imported crude oil, which currently makes the nation vulnerable to global supply chain disruptions and political instability in energy-producing regions.

"We need self-reliance. We should produce our own fuels," Dr. Mashelkar noted, highlighting that domestic production is the most effective way to protect the country from volatile international markets. However, the expert also cautioned that while ethanol is a vital piece of the puzzle,

it should not be the only one. He advocated for a diverse approach to clean energy. India should simultaneously invest in multiple alternatives, including methanol, compressed biogas, and biomass-based green hydrogen. A key part of his vision involves utilizing India's abundant natural resources. Dr. Mashelkar highlighted that biomass, which effectively stores solar energy, should become a primary feedstock for the nation's fuel production. He suggested that farmers could grow energy crops like Napier grass on degraded or semi-degraded land.

Key government officials receive tenure extensions

NEW DELHI

The Indian government has announced several significant personnel updates, focusing on leadership continuity within key ministries. In a series of high-level decisions, officials have received extensions to their current tenures to maintain stability across important administrative departments.

Saurabh Garg, the Secretary for the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, will remain in his role for an additional year. A retired 1991-batch IAS officer, his contract now runs until July 31, 2027. He will also continue leading the National Statistical Commission. Similarly, the government has extended the tenure of CBDT Chairman Ravi Agrawal. The 1988-batch IRS officer will serve on a contract basis for six more months, keeping him in his position until December 31, 2026.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) also saw major promotions as the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet elevated two Deputy

The Indian government has extended key tenures for officials like Saurabh Garg and Ravi Agrawal, while promoting new leadership within the CBI to ensure stability.

Inspector Generals to the rank of Joint Directors. Atul Kumar Thakur and Pankaj Kumar Singh, both 2008-batch IPS officers, were promoted to these key investigative roles, with tenures spanning through late 2028.

Additional updates include the appointment of Rahul Kumar as Officer on Special Duty to the Minister of State for Rural Development. Meanwhile, other officials, such as Krishna Kumar Tiwari and Sanap Bajirao Ramnath, received extensions on their ongoing central deputations. These strategic moves reflect the government's aim to balance experienced leadership with fresh promotions, ensuring that vital administrative functions continue running smoothly as the nation navigates its various ongoing developmental and fiscal responsibilities.

Adani Electricity reduces power distribution losses

MUMBAI

Adani Electricity has achieved a major victory in its ongoing battle against illegal power usage. The company announced that it has successfully lowered its Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses to 4.46 percent for the fiscal year 2025-26, down from 4.7 percent the previous year. This improvement ranks the company among the best-performing power distributors in India.

The effort is more than just about numbers, it is about fairness. When people steal electricity, it creates an unfair financial burden on honest customers who pay their bills on time. By stopping this theft, the company can keep electricity costs stable and fair for everyone.

To achieve these results, the company's vigilance teams launched an aggressive campaign. During the last year, they conducted over 36,000 raids across their network. These operations were strategically timed, with a 40 percent increase in inspections held during holidays, early mornings, and late evenings to catch offenders off guard.

The crackdown led to the discovery of 5,897 cases of

power theft. Authorities seized nearly 80 tons of illegal wires used to bypass meters. In total, the stolen electricity was valued at approximately Rs 43.39 crore. Notable cases included large-scale theft at industrial sites in Malad and Goregaon, where illegal direct connections were feeding heavy molding machinery.

Stealing power is a serious crime. Under the Electricity Act of 2003, it is a non-bailable offense that can result in heavy fines and up to three years in prison. Adani Electricity is working closely with the police to ensure that responsible face these consequences.

A company spokesperson emphasized that power theft often happens in crowded areas, which puts dangerous stress on transformers and cables. By stopping these illegal connections, the company is not only protecting its revenue but also making the local power grid safer and more reliable for every law-abiding citizen.

The company plans to intensify these efforts further to ensure that honest customers continue to receive high-quality service at competitive rates.

Poultry industry targets steady FY27 growth

NEW DELHI

India's poultry sector is heading for a bright year ahead. Recent reports indicate that the industry is projected to see revenues climb by approximately 6 to 7 percent during the fiscal year 2027. Along with this growth, profit margins are expected to improve by 50 to 100 basis points compared to the previous year.

The industry found stability throughout FY26, driven by strong production levels and resilient demand from retail stores, food-service businesses, and institutional buyers. As a global leader in egg and poultry meat production, India continues to benefit from shifting dietary habits, increasing urbanization, and greater affordability. Consumers

are increasingly prioritizing protein-rich diets, which keeps demand steadily climbing.

Organized players, who currently control roughly 60 to 65 percent of the market, are leading the charge. These companies have significantly boosted profitability through better pricing discipline, integrated operations, and smarter feed procurement. Notably, a

dip in maize prices during the last fiscal year provided much-needed relief to integrated producers, helping them maintain healthier margins.

Looking ahead, the sector is investing in automation, precision nutrition, and advanced breeding practices to enhance productivity. Furthermore, the expansion of cold-chain infrastructure and quick-service

restaurants is opening new avenues for growth in processed poultry. With India producing over 149 billion eggs annually, the nation remains a cornerstone of the global poultry market, well-positioned to maintain its healthy momentum through the coming fiscal year while meeting rising domestic and international demand.

DATA'S NEW FRONTIER

India's Data Center market to hit \$22 billion

NEW DELHI



The sector has already secured over \$126 billion in investment commitments. However, experts warn that this rapid expansion

faces a significant hurdle: a widening skills gap. To meet the growing demand, industry leaders and policymakers must collab-

orate closely to ensure the workforce is prepared for the technical challenges ahead.

As artificial intelligence begins to drive roughly 30 percent of total data center workloads, the nature of employment is shifting. Demand is spiking for professionals proficient in AI infrastructure, cloud operations, and DevOps. Furthermore, the physical construction of these advanced facilities requires experts in specialized fields, including liquid cooling systems, energy optimization,

and power management.

Sachin Alug, CEO of NLB Services, emphasized that this transition is a vital nation-building opportunity. "This is not simply about filling jobs; it is about building a workforce capable of powering India's digital economy for decades to come," he noted. By bridging the current gap between education and industry needs, India stands to turn its data center infrastructure into a major engine for long-term economic growth and professional development.

India and Maldives progress on trade deal

NEW DELHI

India and the Maldives have successfully concluded the first round of negotiations for a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA). This development marks a significant step toward deepening economic ties between the two nations, which are currently celebrating 60 years of diplomatic partnership.

During these extensive talks, negotiating teams held eight technical sessions covering various policy areas. Officials reported substantial progress and broad agreement on multiple issues, signalling a strong

commitment to finalizing the framework. India's delegation was led by Ujjwal Kumar Ghosh from the Department of Commerce, while the Maldivian side was headed by Yusuf Riza.

Trade between the two neighbours has shown impressive momentum, rising by over 13 percent to reach \$771.76 million in the 2025-26 fiscal year. India currently stands as the Maldives' second-largest trading partner, and both governments view this new FTA as a vital tool to further boost investment, improve market access, and drive sustainable growth.

India script history with commanding Lord's Test triumph over England

India produce complete team effort to register landmark Women's Test victory at Lord's.

LONDON

India created history by defeating England by a massive 270 runs in the first-ever Women's Test played at the iconic Lord's, sealing one of their finest victories in the longest format with a clinical all-round performance.

Needing four wickets on the fourth morning, India wrapped up the contest by dismissing England for 186 in 62.5 overs after setting the hosts an imposing target of 457. Despite a determined half-century from Sophie Ecclestone, England never looked capable of pulling off the daunting chase.

The victory was built on outstanding performances across all departments. Smriti



Mandhana and Yastika Bhatia laid the foundation with disciplined batting, while the bowlers exploited the Lord's conditions superbly to outclass the hosts. Kranti Gaud emerged as the star with a

memorable five-wicket haul, earning a place on the famous Lord's Honours Board for her remarkable spell.

India's pacers, led by Gaud and Sayali Satghare, made excellent use of the slope and

seam movement, consistently troubling England's batters. Off-spinner Sneha Rana complemented them perfectly by maintaining relentless pressure and claiming key wickets. Deepti Sharma cleaned up the tail with two quick dismissals before Rana produced a superb delivery to remove Ecclestone and complete the famous victory.

England resumed the day on 130 for six and delayed the inevitable for over 90 minutes. Amy Jones, the hosts' top scorer with 54, was the first batter dismissed on the final morning. Ecclestone fought hard despite being dropped twice, but lacked meaningful support as India's bowlers steadily closed in on victory.

The triumph underlined India's growing strength in women's Test cricket despite playing the format infrequently. It also extended India's impressive record against England, with four wins from 16 Tests compared to England's solitary victory, which came in 1995.

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar visited the Indian dressing room before play and later congratulated the players after the victory. ICC Chairman Jay Shah watched the action from the stands as India celebrated a landmark achievement at the Home of Cricket. The match also marked the farewell appearance of England veterans Tammy Beaumont and former captain Heather Knight.

Lennox's five-for powers NZ to series-levelevelling win over WI

PROVIDENCE

New Zealand bounced back strongly to defeat West Indies by five wickets in the second ODI at Providence Stadium, levelling the five-match series 1-1 with a disciplined all-round display led by left-arm spinner Jayden Lennox.

After losing the opening match by seven wickets, the visitors produced a much-improved performance, bowling out West Indies for just 138 before comfortably chasing down the target with 17.2 overs to spare.

Lennox was the architect of New Zealand's victory, returning exceptional figures of 5/19 from eight overs. The spinner consistently troubled the West Indies batters with his accuracy and variations, dismantling the middle and lower order after the hosts made a promising start.

Opener John Campbell top-scored for West Indies with a brisk 43 off 41 deliveries, hitting four boundaries and a six. Ackem Auguste and Keacy Carty contributed 18 runs each, while Amir Jangoo added 24. However, none of the batters could convert their starts into a substantial innings as wickets fell at regular intervals.

Mitchell Santner and Michael Bracewell supported Lennox effectively with two wickets apiece, while Jacob Duffy and Matthew Fisher kept the scoring in check during the early overs to ensure West Indies never built meaningful partnerships.

In reply, New Zealand ex-



Jayden Lennox shines as New Zealand level ODI series with commanding five-wicket victory

perienced a few anxious moments despite the modest target. Will Young scored a fluent 28 off 31 balls, while Henry Nicholls chipped in with 17 before both departed. West Indies briefly sensed an opening when Mark Chapman and Dean Foxcroft were dismissed without scoring.

Daryl Mitchell steadied the innings with a composed 28 before skipper Tom Latham anchored the chase with a patient 37 off 61 deliveries. Bracewell then finished the job in style with an unbeaten 24 as New Zealand reached 141/5 in 32.4 overs.

Khary Pierre was the pick of the West Indies bowlers with 2/33, while Alzarri Joseph and Gudakesh Motie claimed a wicket each.

However, the hosts' modest total left little room for error.

The victory levels the series at 1-1 ahead of the third ODI on July 16, with both sides now eyeing the crucial advantage in what promises to be a closely contested five-match series.

Karthik dismisses speculation over Andy Flower's move to England Test coaching role

LONDON

Royal Challengers Bengaluru mentor Dinesh Karthik believes Andy Flower is unlikely to leave the IPL champions for England's vacant Test coaching position, despite the former Zimbabwe captain emerging as one of the leading contenders to replace Brendon McCullum.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is searching for a new Test coach after McCullum stepped down following England's 2-1 home series defeat to New Zealand. Flower, who previously enjoyed a successful stint as England coach, has been widely tipped as a strong candidate, with former England captain Nasser Hussain also endorsing his credentials.

However, Karthik feels Flower's existing commitments with RCB and the increasingly demanding international and franchise calendar make such a move improbable.

"In all seriousness, I think he'll be a great candidate. He definitely should be one of the names considered, but I would be very surprised if he took it, considering where England are and his packed schedule," Karthik said.

Recent reports suggested the ECB could allow Flower to continue coaching RCB while also taking charge of England's Test side. Karthik, however, questioned the practicality of such an arrangement, pointing to the growing



overlap between the IPL and the international calendar.

He cited recent debates over player availability, including Jacob Bethell and Jofra Archer, as examples of how scheduling conflicts can create controversy and disrupt team preparations.

Karthik also highlighted Flower's long-term commitment to RCB, arguing that England would find it difficult to accept their head coach missing parts of an important Test season because of IPL responsibilities.

He noted that England's scheduled Test against Bangladesh next May could clash with the IPL, potentially forcing Flower to choose between franchise and international commitments at a crucial stage.

Flower guided Royal Challengers Bengaluru to their maiden IPL title earlier this year and remains central to the franchise's future plans. His tactical expertise and leadership have earned widespread praise, making him one of the most respected coaches in world cricket.

The ECB is expected to finalise McCullum's successor in the coming months.

Ryan ten Doeschate seeks India coaching exit amid personal commitments: Report

NEW DELHI

India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate has reportedly expressed his desire to step down from his role with the national men's team, citing personal reasons, though the final decision rests with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and head coach Gautam Gambhir.

According to a report, the former Netherlands all-rounder has informed the BCCI of his intention to leave after completing the ongoing ODI series against England. If his request is approved, the third and final ODI at Lord's on July 19 could mark his last assignment with the Indian team.

The report states that ten Doeschate's decision is driven by family commitments rather than dissatisfaction with the role. With his wife balancing professional responsibilities in London and their three young sons at home, he is understood to be seeking a position that allows him to spend more time with his family and reduces the extensive travel associated with international coaching.

Ten Doeschate joined India's coaching setup in 2024 after Gambhir took over as head coach. His appointment came following a successful working relationship with Gambhir during their stint together at the Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League. Since then, the former all-rounder has become a key member of the support staff, contributing to player development, strategy and match preparation.

His initial contract with the BCCI is believed to have recently concluded, prompting discussions over his future. While the board is expected to consider his request, Gambhir's opinion is likely to play a significant role in the final decision.

The Indian head coach has often praised ten Doeschate's contribution and is known to value his tactical input. Reports suggest Gambhir may attempt to persuade him to continue, although no decision has been taken yet.

The development comes at a difficult time for the Indian team, which has come under intense scrutiny following disappointing limited-overs series defeats to Ireland and England. The recent results have raised questions about the team's direction and the effectiveness of the support staff.

Neither the BCCI nor ten Doeschate has officially commented on the report, and an announcement on his future is expected after the conclusion of the England ODI series.

India eyes ODI rotation policy as World Cup preparations gather pace

NEW DELHI

The Indian team management is reportedly planning to introduce a rotation policy for senior players in the ODI format as it begins preparations for the 2027 World Cup, with the aim of building squad depth while ensuring experienced campaigners remain fresh for the marquee event.

According to a report, the management, led by head coach Gautam Gambhir, wants to periodically rest veterans such as Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to provide opportunities for younger players and test the team's bench strength ahead of next year's World Cup in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

The proposal, however, is expected to present a significant challenge as Rohit and Kohli now feature only in ODI cricket for India. With limited international appearances in the format, convincing the experienced duo to miss matches could prove difficult, especially when they also need adequate game time to maintain form and rhythm.

The report claimed that India had considered resting Rohit during the third ODI against Afghanistan last month to accommodate Yash-



asvi Jaiswal at the top of the order. Instead, captain Shubman Gill moved himself to No. 3, allowing Rohit and Jaiswal to open the innings together. Despite scoring two centuries in his last three ODIs, Jaiswal has not been included for the ongoing England series.

The management is also understood to be keen on preparing reliable backup options, including an additional wicketkeeper to support first-choice gloveman KL Rahul, while ensuring replacements are ready if injuries strike senior players before the World Cup.

A team source quoted in the report said the objective is to avoid a situation where an experienced player is unavailable and the replacement lacks sufficient international exposure.

Ahead of the opening ODI against England, Gill dismissed suggestions that India have an unsettled playing XI.

Sindhu cruises into Japan Open second round; Satwik-Chirag retire injured

TOKYO

Two-time Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu made a confident start to her Japan Open campaign by storming into the second round with a straight-game victory, while India's premier men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were forced to retire because of injury.

World No. 10 Sindhu looked in complete control throughout her opening-round clash against Malaysia's Wong Ling Ching, defeating the world No. 37 21-14, 21-11 in the BWF Super 750 tournament. The Indian ace dictated proceedings from the outset, mixing powerful smashes with delicate net play and precise drop shot to keep her opponent under constant pressure. Sindhu established an early lead in the opening game and never allowed Wong an opportunity to

stage a comeback.

She raced to an 11-6 advantage at the mid-game interval before closing out the first game with ease. The second game followed a similar pattern as Sindhu surged to an 11-3 lead before extending her dominance to comfortably seal the match in straight games.

In the men's doubles competition, however, there was disappointment for India as world No. 4 pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty retired from their opening-round contest against Denmark's Daniel Lundgaard and Mads Vestergaard after losing the first game 19-21.

Satwiksairaj's recurring shoulder injury forced the pair to withdraw, dealing another setback after they had also pulled out of last month's Indonesia Open despite ending a two-year title drought by winning the Singapore Open earlier this season.

Jaffer says India rushed Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's debut amid media hype

New Delhi: Former India batter Wasim Jaffer has criticised the Indian team management for rushing teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi into the national side, saying the decision appeared to have been influenced by intense public and media pressure rather than long-term planning.

Jaffer said the 15-year-old should have been allowed more time to develop before making his international debut. He argued that Sanju Samson, who was instrumental in India's T20 World Cup triumph, deserved a longer run despite a string of low scores.

Sooryavanshi eventually made his debut against England after Samson was dropped following three disappointing innings. However, the youngster failed to make a significant impact in the three T20Is he played and was subsequently left out of the final match of the series, with Samson returning to the playing XI.

"I think we rushed Vaibhav's inclusion.

There was a lot of media hype around him, and the public was very emotional about seeing him play. India should have continued with Sanju Samson," Jaffer said. He added that the teenager would have benefited from spending more time around the squad, learning from senior players and understanding the demands of international cricket before being handed an opportunity.

Jaffer also suggested the team management had been "carried away" by the excitement surrounding Sooryavanshi, leading to inconsistent selection decisions. According to him, if the selectors truly believed Samson was out of form, they should have backed the youngster for a longer period instead of recalling Samson after just three matches.

The former opener also questioned Samson's omission from India's upcoming tour of Zimbabwe. The selectors have not clarified whether the wicketkeeper-batter has been rested or dropped, a move Jaffer described as surprising.

He maintained that Samson deserves regular opportunities because T20Is remain the only format he currently plays for India.

