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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.

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.

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.



'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 defense 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.

AT LAST, MYSURU CITY CORPORATION SWINGS INTO ACTION

Footpath encroachments removed on Irwin Road

MYSURU

The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), Zone-6, on Tuesday carried out a special drive to remove encroachments from footpaths that were obstructing pedestrian movement in the city.

As a preparatory measure, a widespread public awareness campaign was conducted on July 14 through public address systems, urging residents and traders not to encroach upon footpaths and to voluntarily remove any obstructions.

As per the scheduled programme, the enforcement drive was undertaken on both sides of Irwin Road, from Ayurvedic Circle to the Suburban Bus Stand, falling under the jurisdiction of MCC Zone-6.

The operation was conducted with the support of the Police Department and officials of the Mysuru City Corporation. Temporary sheds, goods displayed for sale, and other structures encroaching upon the pedestrian pathways were



removed during the drive. The civic body said such enforcement operations will

continue in the coming days with the objective of ensuring safe, smooth, and obstruct-

Pics by Hampa Nagaraju tion-free movement for pedestrians across the city.

Ashada prasada distribution atop Chamundi Hill

MCC issued strict waste management rules

MYSURU

The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has issued a set of stringent waste management guidelines for organisations, trusts, donors and individuals distributing prasada, food, buttermilk and drinking water to devotees at Chamundi Hill during the Ashada festivities, warning that violators will face fines and legal action.

With lakhs of devotees expected to visit the hill during the Ashada Fridays, the civic body has expressed concern over the accumulation of food waste, disposable plates, paper cups, plastic bottles and packaging materials at distribution points.

In a press release here on Tuesday, MCC Commissioner M.K. Savita directed all organisers to compulsorily establish proper waste management systems wherever



prasada is distributed. Separate colour-coded bins must be placed for wet and dry waste. Leftover food, leaf plates and other biodegradable waste should be collected separately, while paper cups, bottles, cartons and other recyclable materials should be disposed of in dry waste bins.

The Commissioner has strictly prohibited the dump-

ing of waste on roads, footpaths, forest areas, hill slopes and drains. Organisers have also been instructed to deploy adequate volunteers and sanitation workers to keep the distribution venues clean before, during and after the programmes. The collected waste must be handed over to Mysuru City Corporation vehicles immediately after the event.

The use of banned single-use plastic items, including plastic plates, cups, glasses, spoons, carry bags and thermocol products, has been completely prohibited. Organisers have been advised to use only eco-friendly alternatives such as banana leaves, areca leaf plates, paper and other recyclable materials.

The civic body has also instructed organisers to provide adequate drinking water facilities, ensure orderly crowd

management and install clear signage encouraging devotees to segregate waste. They have been advised to prepare and distribute prasada in quantities that minimise food wastage.

MCC officials will conduct continuous inspections at Chamundi Hill and all prasada distribution centres during the Ashada celebrations. Any organisation found violating the waste management norms, using banned plastic or failing to maintain cleanliness will face penalties and legal action under the relevant rules.

Appealing for public cooperation, Commissioner M.K. Savita urged organisations, volunteers, traders and devotees to join hands with the MCC in making the "Swachh Chamundi Hill – Plastic-Free Ashada Month" campaign a success while preserving the sanctity of the annual religious observances.

ASHADA FRIDAYS STARTING FROM JULY 17

DC Reddy visits Chamundi Hills; reviews arrangements for devotees

MYSURU

Ahead of the beginning of the auspicious Ashada Friday from July 17 and the Chamundeshwari Vardhanti celebrations, the District Administration has made comprehensive arrangements to ensure smooth darshan for lakhs of devotees visiting Chamundi Hill.

Charing a preparatory meeting at Chamundi Hills here on Tuesday, Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshminanth Reddy said the four Ashada Fridays will fall on July 17, 24, 31 and August 7, while Chamundeshwari Vardhanti will be observed on August 4.

KSRTC Bus Services from 6.30 a.m.

Special KSRTC buses will operate on all four Ashada Fridays as well as on the following Saturdays and Sundays. The buses will be operated from Lalitha Mahal Helipad and the KSRTC City Bus Stand from 6.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. Devotees opting to climb the hill on foot will be permitted to begin their trek only after 5 a.m. Authorities

have appealed to the public not to gather before the designated time.

No footwear stand

The DC clarified that no footwear stand will be available on Chamundi Hill. Instead, footwear counters have been arranged at Lalitha Mahal Helipad and the KSRTC City Bus Stand, and devotees have been requested to make use of these facilities. Dignitaries and VIPs eligible for protocol-based darshan will be allowed entry only between 5.30 a.m. and 10 a.m. After 10 a.m., the entry of all VIP vehicles to Chamundi Hill will be prohibited.

Private Vehicles Banned

The entry of private vehicles to Chamundi Hill will be completely prohibited on Ashada Fridays and on Chamundeshwari Vardhanti. Only vehicles carrying valid duty passes will be allowed. A dedicated Control Room will be established to monitor general darshan and the ₹2,000 special darshan queues and to ensure orderly movement of devotees.

The Control Room will be

managed by a three-member team comprising officials from the Mysuru City Police, KSRTC City Division, and the Chamundeshwari Hill Temple Development Authority. Officials have been instructed to prevent overcrowding, ensure that only valid ticket holders enter the ₹2,000 special darshan queue, and display information boards indicating the estimated waiting time for darshan.

Basic Amenities

Reddy directed officials to provide adequate mobile toilets, drinking water facilities, and waste bins at required locations. Nodal officers will be appointed to continuously monitor drinking water arrangements for devotees waiting in queues.

The meeting was attended by Mysuru City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Yakesh Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Police Harsha Priyavardhan, DCP Sundar Raj, Chamundeshwari Hill Development Authority Secretary Roopa, and other senior officials.



MONSOON LOSES STEAM

Inflows to KRS, Kabini dip sharply as catchments turn dry

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM MYSURU

The southwest monsoon appears to have taken a brief breather over the catchment areas of Karnataka's two major reservoirs—Kabini and Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS)—leading to a sharp decline in water inflows and slowing the pace of storage accumulation.

The Kabini reservoir, which had witnessed encouraging inflows following heavy rains in neighbouring Kerala's Wayanad district last week, is once again looking towards the skies. The inflow has dropped dramatically to 2,550 cusecs on Tuesday morning from 9,880 cusecs recorded a day earlier, indicating that rainfall activity over the catchment has weakened considerably.

As of 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Kabini reservoir stood at 2,270.42 feet against its full reservoir level of 2,284 feet. The reservoir is currently storing 11.88 TMC of water as against its total capacity of 19.52 TMC, while the live storage stands at just 2.07 TMC. With only 400 cusecs being released downstream and no withdrawals through either the Left or Right Bank Canals, water managers are clearly conserving every possible drop in anticipation of the next spell of rain.

The situation at the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) reservoir mirrors Kabini's story. The



inflow into the reservoir has reduced to 3,685 cusecs, a steep fall from nearly 14,000 cusecs witnessed during the recent monsoon surge. The decline is being attributed to subdued rainfall across the Cauvery catchment areas in Kodagu district, the lifeline for KRS.

The reservoir level at KRS stood at 92.54 feet against its maximum level of 124.80 feet. It presently holds 17.509 TMC of water compared to its full storage capacity of 49.452 TMC, with a live storage of 9.130 TMC. The total outflow, including water released for irrigation canals and drinking water supply, was maintained at 623 cusecs.

The sudden dip in inflows has momentarily slowed the

optimism generated by last week's widespread rains. For Kabini, the fortunes of the reservoir remain closely tied to rainfall in Wayanad, while KRS depends heavily on sustained showers in Kodagu. Weather experts point out that the southwest monsoon often advances in pulses, with active and weak phases alternating through the season.

Reservoir officials and farmers alike are therefore keeping a close watch on the skies. It is still too early to conclude that the monsoon has weakened permanently, and a fresh spell of widespread rainfall over the catchment areas could once again transform the storage scenario in both reservoirs over the coming days.

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM MYSURU

Just when Mysureans thought the southwest monsoon had finally settled into its familiar rhythm, the weather has sprung an unwelcome surprise.

The pleasant chill that had wrapped the city only a few days ago has disappeared almost overnight, giving way to warm, humid conditions more reminiscent of the peak of summer than the holy month of Ashada.

Barely a week ago, the city wore an entirely different look. Thick, dark clouds hovered over the skyline from dawn to dusk, occasionally opening up to drizzle for a few refreshing minutes. Day temperatures remained pleasantly low, while cool breezes and overcast skies created an atmosphere that perfectly matched the traditional mood of Ashada. Residents reached for light sweaters in the evenings, and the early mornings carried a gentle mist that has long been synonymous with Mysuru's monsoon charm.

That picture has changed dramatically over the last three days.

The mercury has begun climbing steadily, particularly during the nights. Night temperatures have now touched nearly 27 degrees Celsius, making evenings unusually warm and uncomfortable. Instead of cool winds flowing through the city after sunset, people are once again switching on fans late into the night to escape the sticky humidity.

ASHADA WITHOUT THE CHILL

Rising temperatures leave Mysureans sweating

Daytime conditions have become equally trying. The sun has made frequent appearances between scattered clouds, pushing temperatures upward and forcing people to seek shade. The familiar sight of sweat-soaked commuters, which had vanished briefly with the arrival of the monsoon, has returned to Mysuru's streets. Markets, bus stands and commercial areas are once again witnessing the discomfort of sultry weather.

Perhaps the biggest disappointment is the absence of the unmistakable Ashada atmosphere that generations of Mysureans have cherished. Traditionally, the month is known for its cool breeze, in-

termittent rain showers, mist-covered mornings and cloudy skies that linger through the day. This year, however, nature seems to have rewritten the script. The comforting chill has given way to warmth, leaving many wondering whether the monsoon has lost its momentum.

Weather observers believe the present conditions could persist for a few more days unless the southwest monsoon regains strength over Karnataka. The current spell of reduced rainfall activity has allowed temperatures to rise once again, reminding citizens how quickly the weather can change during the monsoon season.

The sudden shift has also revived concerns over the India Meteorological Department's prediction of a below-normal monsoon this year. While it is far too early to draw conclusions, many residents are anxiously watching the skies, hoping for the return of widespread rains that would restore the city's trademark cool weather.

For now, Mysuru finds itself caught between two seasons—officially in the heart of the monsoon, yet feeling the warmth of summer. As anxious eyes remain fixed on gathering clouds, citizens can only hope that the rain gods have not forgotten the City of Palaces.





ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಹಿರಿಯ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಮುಖಂಡರು ಎ.ಪಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. ಮಾಜಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಜನಪ್ರಿಯ ನಾಯಕರಾದ

ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸವರಾಜುರವರಿಗೆ

ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ರಾಂತಿವೀರ ಸಂಗೊಳ್ಳಿ ರಾಯಣ್ಣ ಯುವ ಫರ್ಜನ್ ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ನಗರ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾದ

ಚ. ಚೇತನ್‌ಶರ್ಮಾರವರಿಗೆ

ಹುಟ್ಟುಹಬ್ಬದ ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು

ದಿನಾಂಕ : 15-07-2026ನೇ ಬುಧವಾರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ಗಂಟೆ

ಸ್ಥಳ : ಕ್ರಾಂತಿವೀರ ಸಂಗೊಳ್ಳಿ ರಾಯಣ್ಣ ಸರ್ಕಲ್, ಕುರುಬರಹಳ್ಳಿ

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ಸ್ಥಳ : ಶ್ರೀ ಶನೇಶ್ವರ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದ ಪಕ್ಕ ಬಂದೀಪಾಳ್ಯ, ನಂಜನಗೂಡು-ಊಟಿ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆ ಮೈಸೂರು

ಶುಭಕೋರುವವರು : ಬಸವರಾಜು ಸ್ನೇಹ ಬಳಗ ಬಂದೀಪಾಳ್ಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಅಜಯ್‌ರಾಜ್ ಬಿ. ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಯೂತ್ ಲೀಡರ್

ದಡದಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮಹದೇವ್ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಮುಖಂಡರು

SPECIAL TEAMS TO TEST PRASADA

Meals served to lakhs of devotees during Ashada festival

MYSURU

With lakhs of devotees expected to throng the famous Chamundi Hill during the Ashada festivities, the Food Safety and Drug Administration Department has drawn up an elaborate food safety plan by deploying special inspection teams to monitor the quality of prasad and food served to pilgrims throughout the festival.

The initiative aims to ensure that devotees receive safe and hygienic food during the Sri Chamundeshwari Jathra Mahotsava and the Goddess' Vardhanti celebrations. The exercise has also been undertaken as part of the district administration's public health measures and protocol arrangements for the visit of dignitaries and VIPs.



According to the department, food safety inspections will be conducted every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from July 17 to August 9, besides August 4, when the Vardhanti Mahotsava of Goddess Chamundeshwari will be celebrated.

Officials have been instructed to visit every venue

where prasad and meals are distributed at Chamundi Hill and the Jayachamarajendra Grounds (Chittevana) in the Lalitha Mahal premises. Food samples will be collected from these locations for laboratory analysis to verify their quality and safety.

To ensure comprehensive monitoring, food safety officers have been divided into two dedicated teams, each headed by two nodal officers.

Team One will oversee Chamundi Hill and surrounding prasad distribution centres. The team comprises nodal officer Kishore B.C. (Mysuru Taluk) along with Sandeep M. (Nanjangud Taluk), Sowmya K.R. (K.R. Nagar Taluk) and Manjunath (Hunsur Taluk).

Team Two has been entrusted with monitoring food dis-

tribution at the Jayachamarajendra Grounds (Chittevana) in the Lalitha Mahal premises. The team includes nodal officers Girish S.R. and Rajesh C., both from the Mysuru City Corporation limits, along with Balasubramanya A. (Periyapatna Taluk).

All officers have been directed to submit a detailed inspection report to the District Designated Officer and the department's office by 5 p.m. on every day of duty.

The Food Safety and Drug Administration Department said the intensified surveillance is aimed at ensuring that every devotee visiting the hill shrine during the auspicious Ashada season receives clean, wholesome and safe food, making the annual pilgrimage both spiritually fulfilling and health-conscious.

”Discipline, hard work and integrity must to ensure success in competitive exams”

MYSURU

Candidates can succeed in even the toughest competitive examinations if they cultivate discipline, hard work and integrity in their lives, Mysuru District Superintendent of Police Mallikarjun Baladandi.

Speaking after inaugurating the third free mock test in a series organised by the City Central Library at People's Park here on Tuesday, he said competitive examinations are now conducted with a high degree of transparency and that merit alone determines selection. The aspirants not to be misled by rumours or shortcuts and instead place their faith in sincere self-effort.

Sharing his own journey,



Baladandi recalled that he had joined government service as a Range Forest Officer (RFO) and, despite the demanding nature of the job, continued preparing for the Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS) examination

with determination.

City Central Library Deputy Director B. Manjunath said that, for the first time in the history of the Public Library Department, free coaching and mock tests are being organised for competitive ex-

amination aspirants.

The programme has been launched to help candidates preparing for the upcoming Civil Police Constable recruitment examination. The initiative, which began on July 7, has already completed two mock tests, and the department plans to conduct a total of eight mock examinations.

More than 150 candidates participated enthusiastically in the third mock test held on Monday, he said.

Hundreds of young men and women in Mysuru preparing for various competitive examinations are making use of the free mock test series to improve their preparation and boost their confidence.

NIETBI hosts innovation, collaboration meet on AI-enabled precision Agriculture



MYSURU

The National Institute of Engineering Technology Business Incubator (NIETBI), supported by the Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, Government of Karnataka, successfully organized an Innovation & Collaboration Meet on AI-Enabled Precision Agriculture, bringing together global

experts, entrepreneurs, faculty members, startup founders, and progressive farmers from Mysuru and Kodagu.

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Hari Sarma, Founder of Big Data In A Box (BDiB), USA, Professor of Practice at Iowa State University, and former General Motors executive.

He showcased AI-driven precision farming solutions and BDiB's innovative Digital Twin technology, which enables real-time farm monitoring and data-driven decision-making to improve productivity and sustainability.

The visiting delegation, comprising Guruprasad Balasubramanian and Gopakumar Viswanathan of dy/dx Labs, shared emerging trends in AI, automation, and digital technologies for modern agriculture. The discus-

sions were enriched by contributions from Prof. Shamsunder, Head of NIE CREST, on renewable energy and sustainable farming, and Dr. Mallikarjunaswamy, one of the world's top 2% scientists, offered valuable recommendations.

A key outcome of the meeting was the decision by NIETBI, BDiB, and dy/dx Labs to initiate a strategic collaboration through a proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to jointly promote research, startup incubation, technology validation, skill development, and AI-driven precision agriculture.

Speaking on the occasion, Amjad Husain, CEO, NIETBI, said that the collaboration marks an important step towards creating a world-class Agritech innovation ecosystem in Karnataka by connecting global expertise with local entrepreneurship, benefiting farmers, startups, students, and researchers.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Amjad Husain, reaffirming NIETBI's commitment to fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology-led sustainable development through national and international collaborations.

BHIO holds a free women's oncology clinic, HPV vaccination today

MYSURU

Bharath Hospital and Institute of Oncology (BHIO) will organise a Free Women's Oncology Clinic along with a Free HPV Vaccination Drive at its Day Care Clinic in Kuvenpunagar on July 15.

The programme will provide free specialist consulta-

tions, cancer risk assessment, screening guidance and counselling for women. Those experiencing suspicious symptoms, having a family history of cancer, or seeking expert advice on breast, cervical and ovarian cancers can avail themselves of the facility. Oncology specialists will also provide

treatment guidance and refer patients for further diagnostic investigations wherever required.

Highlighting the importance of preventive care, Dr. Chaitra Katakol, Senior Radiation Oncologist at BHIO, said, early diagnosis significantly improves cancer outcomes, while HPV vaccina-

tion is a proven preventive measure against cervical cancer. Many women delay seeking medical attention due to fear or lack of awareness. Through this initiative,

they hope to encourage women to undergo timely screening, understand their risk factors and take advantage of preventive healthcare.



DOCTORS ARE LIVING GODS Stationery distributed to Govt school students on Doctors' Day

MYSURU

Describing doctors as "living gods" for their selfless service to society and their tireless efforts in safeguarding the health of thousands, social worker Vijayalakshmi Iyengar said that the medical profession remains one of the noblest callings.

Speaking after distributing stationery kits to students of the Government Higher Primary School at Jayanagar, an initiative organised by the KMPK Trust as part of the Doctors' Day celebrations here on Tuesday, she said their services are unforgettable and noted that modern lifestyles have subjected people to increasing levels of stress, making the role of medical professionals even more significant.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rekha Arun said that Doctors' Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Bharat

Ratna Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, whose life and service continue to inspire every doctor in the country. Dr. Roy also served as the second Chief Minister of West Bengal and played a pivotal role in the advancement of the medical profession.

She emphasised that good health is the foundation for achieving success in life, adding that one can accomplish and earn anything only if blessed with good health. "That is why our sages proclaimed that 'Health is Wealth,'" she said.

Among those present on the occasion were Dr. Rekha Arun, social worker Vijayalakshmi Iyengar, K.R. Bank President Basavaraj Basappa, S.N. Rajesh, singer Gururaj, KMPK Trust Vice-President Rakesh, Headmaster Shivakumar, Assistant Teacher Sujanamurthy, LKG and UKG teachers Asharani and Chaitra, besides several others.

“My Bharat portal registration drive launched to unlock new opportunities”

MYSURU

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, has launched the My Bharat Portal to create new opportunities for the country's youth. Through this portal, young people aged between 15 and 29 years can access employment opportunities, skill development programmes and internships free of cost, said Additional Deputy Commissioner R. Aishwarya.

Presiding over the My Bharat Emergency Registration Campaign held at the Deputy Commissioner's Office here on Tuesday, she said the portal offers opportunities for internships in various government departments, enabling students to gain practical experience in government offices and industries while pursuing their education. Special programmes will also be organised to provide professional training and enhance the employability skills of students.

The Government of India plans to organise national-level camps for youth free of cost. The Centre has set a target of registering five crore youth across the country on the My Bharat Portal, with each district assigned a target



of enrolling one lakh youth, she said.

Aishwarya urged the Education Department, NSS units and colleges to encourage students to register on the portal. Every department has been instructed to appoint a nodal officer and nominate a student representative as a nodal ambassador to ensure the success of the registration drive.

She said awareness among youth will also be created through the Viksit Bharat Padyatra. The initiative aims to educate young people about the lives of freedom fighters and the significance of important national days. Awareness programmes on the harmful effects of drug abuse will be organised through college students, youth organisations and other youth groups.

A national camp will be organised for 250 students selected from different states across the country to promote cultural exchange and nation-

al integration. One such programme has also been planned in Mysuru. In addition, skill development training will be provided to rural youth to encourage self-employment, she said.

Programmes will be organised in coordination with various government departments to educate young people about the benefits of Central and State Government welfare schemes. Registered youth clubs will be provided platforms to showcase the talents of promising sportspersons. The primary objective is to ensure that students directly benefit from government schemes and the facilities available to them, she added.

District Youth Officer of My Bharat Akhil P., Deputy Director of Income and Commerce Saihad Nazeer Ahmed, Lead Bank Chief Manager Krishnamurthy, APO and APEO Officer M.S. Vijayakumar, and other officials were present.

Morning walk turns into obstacle course at Cheluvamba Park

MYSURU

What should have been a peaceful morning walk at the historic Cheluvamba Park has turned into a daily safety challenge for hundreds of visitors, particularly senior citizens.

Regular walkers have voiced strong concern after a huge pile of rusted metal fencing, mixed with dry foliage, was dumped right in the middle of the park's main walking track. The sharp scrap has blocked a major stretch of the pathway, forcing walkers to step off the track and carefully negotiate around dangerous metal edges.

"It is shocking that such a hazardous pile has been



left on a pathway used every day by elderly citizens and children. One misstep could result in a serious injury," said C. Abhinandan, a senior citizen and regular walker at the park.

Cheluvamba Park, one of Mysuru's treasured heritage green spaces, attracts hundreds of fitness enthusiasts every morning.

Walkers say the civic authorities should have cleared the scrap immediately instead of leaving it on the track.

Residents have urged the Mysuru City Corporation to remove the hazardous debris without delay and ensure that public parks remain safe, clean and accessible for all.

Mysuru Bar Association meets CM DK Shivakumar; seeks ₹10 Crore extra grant



MYSURU

The Mysuru Bar Association has appealed to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to sanction an additional grant of ₹10 crore for the upgradation of the association, modernization of its library, creation of digital facilities, and improvement of basic infrastructure.

A delegation of the association met the Chief Minister at his office in Bengaluru and submitted a memorandum requesting financial assistance. The delegation said the Chief Minister's concern for the welfare of the legal fraternity had been a source of encouragement and assured him of the association's continued support.

The association expressed gratitude to the State Government for already sanctioning ₹10 crore for the construction of an independent Bar Association building, the work on which is currently in progress.

Association President S. Lokesh said that with the new building underway, there is now an urgent need to modernize the library, introduce digital facilities, and strengthen infrastructure to elevate the association's standards. He

requested the Chief Minister to sanction an additional ₹10 crore from the Chief Minister's Special Grant for these purposes.

Responding positively, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar assured the delegation that the proposal had been accepted in principle and that steps would be taken to release the funds at the earliest.

During the meeting, the delegation also drew the Chief Minister's attention to the possibility of the Bengaluru Advocates' Association filing an appeal regarding the jurisdiction of civil courts. The Chief Minister said the State Government had already presented its stand effectively, which had been upheld by the High Court. He further assured the delegation that if the matter reaches the Supreme Court, the Government would appoint competent senior advocates to defend its case and ensure justice.

Bar Association General Secretary A.G. Sudheer, Senior Committee Member G.S. Shivaswamy, senior advocates H. Aravind, Suresh Paduvahalli, Venkatesh Dasanakoppalu and others were present during the meeting.



SIR form assistance camp Organised in the city

MYSURU

The Apoorna Sneha Balaga organised a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) Form Assistance Camp at Ward No. 55 in Chamundipuram under the Krishnaraja Assembly constituency to guide citizens on the voter enrolment process.

During the camp, volunteers explained the procedure for filling up the Enumeration Form, the documents and information required, and the Election Commission's ongoing Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls. Members of the organisation assisted members of the public in completing the forms and created awareness about the importance of exercising their democratic rights.

Speaking on the occasion, former Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Corporator Jagadish said that the SIR process should be carried out with utmost responsibility. He stressed that the inclusion of new voters, deletion of names, correction of entries, and change of address should all be undertaken transparently and accurately in accordance with the Election Commission's guidelines.

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.

The lawyers said several cases have already been registered against people opposing the project and assured farmers that they would continue to provide legal support. They appealed for a peaceful resolution while stating that the protest would continue within the limits of the law.

Meanwhile, local MLA H. C. Balakrishna criticised former Chief Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy over the issue and alleged political involvement behind the protest. He said the dispute has become more intense due to statements from political leaders.

The Bidadi township project has created a tense situation between supporters and opponents. As legal proceedings continue and political arguments increase, farmers and local residents remain concerned about the future of the proposed development project. Authorities are expected to handle the issue carefully to maintain peace in the region.

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



MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LTD.

HOME FINANCE LTD.

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 Yallamma 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 the voice sample collection of 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.

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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 ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 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 ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿ.

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 ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.07.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.07.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಕ್ಕೆ ತೆರೆದಿರಲಾಗುವುದು. 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/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಎ/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/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಎ/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 licence 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 NIGAMANIAMITHA
(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/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಎ/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

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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.

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.

Israeli fire kills 9 in Gaza, including a 10-year-old

CAIRO

An Israeli strike and gunfire killed at least nine Palestinians, including a 10-year-old boy, and a senior Hamas police officer, in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, Gaza health and police officials said. The deaths add to a toll of more than 1,100 Palestinians killed by Israeli attacks since an October ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect, according to health officials in the enclave. The truce halted major fighting but has failed to stop sporadic violence. Four Israeli soldiers have been killed by militants in Gaza over the same period. Medics said Muataz Abu Shaar, 10, was shot on Tuesday by Israeli gunfire in Rafah, southern Gaza. In Jabalia, in the north of the enclave, an Israeli airstrike on a post of the Hamas-

led police force killed at least seven people, including a woman, and wounded several other people, medics and police officials said. The Hamas-led interior ministry said in a statement the dead included the head of the Jabalia police force, Colonel Mohammad Marwan Salem, along with other officers. Israel has stepped up its attacks against Hamas security men and police posts, killing dozens of them since October, according to police sources. Israel wants Hamas to cede control of Gaza and disarm, and while the group said it was ready to relinquish power, it has always resisted calls to lay down arms. In Khan Younis, in the south, an Israeli airstrike killed a 36-year-old man and left three people wounded, medics said. The Israeli military said it struck a Hamas militant.

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

ranks. Ma, who also served as deputy head of the central rural work leading group, was placed under investigation in April for what Chinese authorities described as serious violations of law and discipline, the standard term used by the Communist Party to refer to corruption-related offences. His membership in China's national parliament was revoked last month, paving the way for further disciplinary and legal proceedings. The Central Commission

for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), China's top anti-corruption watchdog, announced that investigators had uncovered multiple violations involving abuse of authority and misconduct during Ma's tenure in senior government positions. According to the commission, Ma improperly assisted others in securing official appointments and employment opportunities,



using his influence to benefit associates in personnel decisions. The watchdog also alleged that Ma failed to supervise officials working under him and ignored or permitted serious violations of party discipline and national law committed by members of his staff. Authorities stated that some of these actions may constitute criminal offences, although no specific criminal charges have yet

been publicly announced. Investigators further accused Ma of accepting illegal gifts, helping relatives purchase property at prices below market value, and engaging in exchanges involving power, money, and sexual favours. The CCDI alleged that his family members exploited his political influence to obtain substantial financial benefits, describing the case as an example of large-scale family corruption. Officials did not disclose the total value of the money or property allegedly involved.

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 Vidyananyapura Bengaluru Karnataka - 560097, have changed my name to Veena.

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

CH

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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

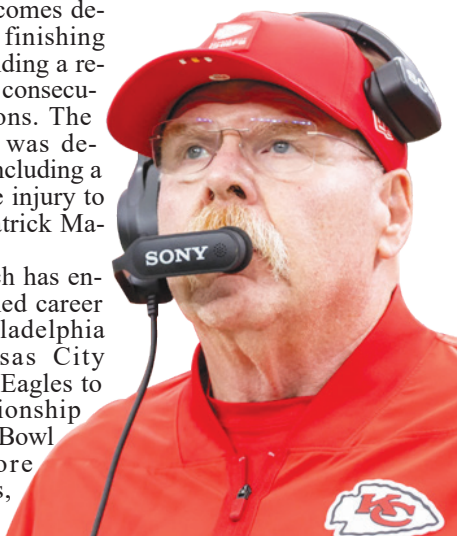
Bowl title last season, finished third. San Francisco 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan was ranked fourth, while Denver Broncos coach Sean Payton completed the top five.

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. Consum-

ers 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



India's digital landscape is undergoing a massive transformation, positioning the nation as a global powerhouse for data infrastructure. A new report reveals that the country's data center capacity is set to surge from 1.5 gigawatts to nearly 6.5 gigawatts by 2030. This explosive growth is expected to create approximately one lakh specialized engineering jobs within the same timeframe, as the market valuation pushes past \$22 billion.

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.



overlap between the IPL and the international calendar.

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

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.

