

No forcible land acquisition: CM

Shivakumar said the govt will form a panel to review the Bidadi township project and claimed that the protests were part of a conspiracy to mislead farmers.

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday assured farmers that their land would not be forcibly acquired for the proposed GBIT project near Bidadi in Bengaluru South district.

He added that those unwilling to part with their land were free to continue farming.

Asserting that the government would not compel any farmer to surrender land for the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township project, he said a committee would be formed to review it, and further decisions would be based on its recommendations.

'This is not my dream project'

"This is not my dream project. It was your [BJP and JD(S)] project. You wrote its preface and took the first steps. Nobody will be forced. Those who want to give land to the government may do so. This is not a private business deal. It is a government project," Shivakumar told reporters while sharing developments regarding the project.

'We must hear farmers' hardships, opinions...'

When asked why a committee was needed, the CM said, "We must hear the farmers' hardships, opinions and emotions. We must also examine the legal issues. Many CMs in the past made decisions in haste and later suffered the consequences. I don't want that to happen. We need discussions with knowledgeable people before making decisions."

Despite opposition from sec-



Don't make sacrifices for someone's political interests. Share your views before the committee that will be formed.

—DK Shivakumar, Chief Minister

tions of farmers and villagers, a final notification was issued last month for the acquisition of 499 acres across three villages in Ramanagara and Harohalli taluks for the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township project, projected as India's "first AI-powered integrated township".

'Govt project will continue'

Noting that some people had already voluntarily given their land for the project, the CM said, "The government project will continue. Why should I stop it? They have already received compensation. Notifications have been issued. They accepted the money willingly."

"At one stage, Kumaranna (HD Kumaraswamy) had promised Rs 25 lakh per acre, but when compensation reached Rs 2.5 crore, many happily accepted it. Once compensation has been accepted, that land becomes government land. Then the government will decide

'Those who wish to retain their land may do so'

"Those who wish to retain their land may do so. I will constitute a small committee. Within one or two months, it may comprise legislators, officials or even retired judges. I will discuss this in the Cabinet and take a decision. Let the committee submit its report. I am in no hurry. This project is not for my personal benefit," he said. Alleging that conspiracies were being hatched against him by those unable to digest the fact that he had become the CM, Shivakumar said farmers should not suffer. "Until the report comes, I will wait. Then we will see what the farmers say. I will leave the decision to the farmers because the relationship is between me and the farmers. If someone voluntarily wants to give land because they need the money, we will accept it. Those who don't want to give it need not. We will not force anyone," he added.

What's GBIT Project?

The Greater Bengaluru Innovation and Tech City (GBIT) is a ₹18,000-crore, 9,000-acre smart township near Bidadi (30 km from Bengaluru). Designed to decongest the city, it features a "work-walk-live-play" model. It includes 2,000 acres for AI industries and 950 acres of green space. The project is currently facing severe farmer protests over land acquisition.

what to do with it," he said.

Appealing to farmers to end their protest and focus on their livelihood, Shivakumar said, "Don't make sacrifices for someone's political interests. Share your views before the committee that will be formed."



Tamil Nadu plans 20,000 EV charging stations by 2031

P11

P12

Tried hitting too hard in T20s, timing worked in ODIs: Axar Patel



Dharmasthala case: SIT files 7005-page final report

MANGALURU

Nearly a year after the government had set up Special Investigation Team (SIT) to unearth the truth in former sanitation worker's sensational allegations in Dharmasthala mass burial case, SIT SP CA Simon on Wednesday submitted its final report before a court in Belthangady.

The final report, comprising 7,005 pages compiled into 12 volumes, was submitted before Additional Civil Judge Shashank Nagendra Bhat at around 3 pm, bringing to a close an extensive probe that has attracted significant public attention in Karnataka.

It includes statements from 255 witnesses, forensic science laboratory reports, and other supporting documents gathered during the investigation. The SIT also submitted a 4TB hard disk containing video-recorded statements of witnesses.

Materials seized during the investigation, including skeletal remains, bones, mobile phones, and other items sent for forensic examination, were produced before the court after completion of testing. SIT Superintendent of Police C.A. Simon, Inspector Kusumadhara, Inspector Manjunath, and other members of the investigating team were present during the submission of the report. C.N. Chinnayya, considered a key figure and popularly referred to as the mask man in the case and one of the accused named in the proceedings, also appeared before the court along with his wife.

Earlier, on November 20, 2025, the SIT had filed a



Key details and events

ALLEGATIONS: CN Chinnayya, a former temple sanitation worker, claimed to have buried hundreds of women and minors in Dharmasthala, Karnataka. He alleged influential figures forced him to dispose of the bodies to cover up violent crimes.

INVESTIGATION: The Karnataka government formed an SIT led by IPS officer Pronab Mohanty. Authorities excavated multiple sites indicated by Chinnayya, such as Bangalagude. They recovered only minimal skeletal remains, which proved to belong to a single male.

LEGAL OUTCOME: The SIT concluded that the mass burial claims were false and orchestrated as part of a larger conspiracy. Authorities arrested Chinnayya for perjury (giving false testimony under oath) and identified several activists allegedly behind the fabricated campaign.

The case that unmasked the whistleblower

A whistleblower claimed he buried hundreds of murder and sexual assault victims between 1995 and 2014. Following excavations and probe, the SIT found no evidence of mass burials and concluded the allegations were fabricated.

3,923-page perjury report under Section 215 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against C.N. Chinnayya, Mahesh Shetty Timarodi, Girish Mattannavar, Jayanth T. Vittal Gowda, and Sujatha Bhat. However, the Belthangady court declined to accept the perjury report and directed the SIT to submit a comprehensive final report instead.

The report submitted on Wednesday includes the earlier 3,923-page perjury report

along with an additional 3,082 pages, taking the total volume of the investigation records to 7,005 pages.

The controversy surfaced after an individual, identified as CN Chinnayya, claimed that he had been forced to participate in the disposal and burial of bodies at various locations in Dharmasthala. His allegations triggered widespread public debate and led the Karnataka government to constitute a SIT to probe the matter.

SIR gets extension in K'taka, will now knock on doors till Aug 8

BENGALURU

The schedule for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in four states, including Karnataka, has been revised with publication of the draft and final voter lists delayed by 10-12 days from the original schedule.

The rescheduling is due to the slow pace of the enumeration phase where

voters are not submitting their enumeration forms promptly.

Besides Karnataka, the other states that saw a change in schedule are Telangana, Punjab and Delhi. On Tuesday, the EC had rescheduled the SIR calendar for Andhra Pradesh and Haryana, taking the total number of states that saw revised schedules to six in SIR's third phase.

REVISED SCHEDULE

Doorstep visits by BLOS: July 30 to Aug 8
Rationalization/Re-arrangement of polling stations: August 8
Draft publication: August 17
Period for filling claim & objections: Aug 17 to Sept 16
Notice phase/disposal of claims/objections: Aug 17 to Oct 15
Final voter list publication: Oct 19

PM: India-UK CETA will boost farmers, MSMEs

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday welcomed the operationalisation of the India-United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), calling it a significant milestone in bilateral relations.

He said the pact would deepen economic ties between the two countries and convert their shared vision into concrete opportunities for citizens.

He said the CETA would provide fresh momentum to farmers, entrepreneurs and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), while enabling several key sectors to gain greater access to the UK market.

"This is a significant moment in the India-United Kingdom partnership! With the coming into force of the CETA on Social Security, our economic linkages are going to get even deeper," he said.

Need Ram Sevak not CEO: Seers as over 1K applicants vie for post

LUCKNOW

Amid the ongoing process to select a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to look after the administration and financial management of the Ram Temple Trust, several prominent Ayodhya based seers voiced their strong opposition to the appointment of CEO saying that the Temple should be managed by a 'dharmaacharya' and not an 'administrator'.

The Ram Temple Trust had,

a few days back, issued a notification inviting applications for the post of CEO. "We don't need a CEO....we want a das (servant)...we want someone who is from the Ramanandi Sect, a sage, a person who knows about religion," Jagadguru Sateeshacharya said.

As per reports, over one thousand applications have already been received by the Trust and the number is likely to rise as the last date of submission of application is July 18.



Proud to leave UK in better shape: Keir

LONDON

Keir Starmer ended his final Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) session on Wednesday with an emotional farewell at the lower house of the UK Parliament.

Starmer said that he was leaving UK "in a better place than he found it", and received standing ovation from the government benches as he ended his speech. Starmer had resigned last month as Andy Burnham, the former mayor of Greater Manchester, is on course to take charge as the new British prime minister next week.

"I'm proud to leave this country in a better shape than I found it; I am proud of everything that we have achieved," Starmer told MPs in the House of Commons.

Every PM knows when they take up the torch that the day will come when they have to pass it on. That day has come for me. This is the end of my political journey. —Keir Starmer, Ougling PM

Bengalureans, need a cylinder sans LPG connection? Order on Instamart

BENGALURU

Buying an LPG cylinder without an existing domestic gas connection is set to become easier for customers in Bengaluru, with Instamart partnering with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to launch on-demand cylinder delivery through its quick commerce platform.

The service, which the companies claim is India's first on-demand LPG cylinder delivery facility on a quick commerce platform, will initially be available in Bengaluru.

Customers will be able to order HPCL's newly-launched 10-kg HP Navya composite LPG cylinder as well as a 5-kg metal LPG cylinder directly through Instamart.

The partnership also marks the debut of HP Navya on the quick commerce platform, according to an official release issued by the companies.



No existing LPG connection needed for first purchase

One of the key features of the new service is that customers do not need an existing domestic LPG connection to purchase a cylinder. A first-time purchase through Instamart will be fulfilled as a new cylinder purchase. For subsequent orders, customers

can request a refill by returning their empty HPCL cylinder at the time of delivery.

This opens the service to a wider group of users, including students, working professionals, tenants and smaller households who may not already have a conventional domestic LPG connection.

First-time customers will,

however, need to complete identity verification. Proof-of-delivery documentation has also been included in the process, the official release said.

What is HP Navya, the new 10-kg LPG cylinder?

At the centre of the launch is HPCL's new HP Navya, a 10-kg composite LPG cylinder

GAS CYLINDER DELIVERY IN 10 MINUTES?

LAUNCH OF PILOT SERVICE: Bengaluru residents can now order HPCL LPG cylinders through Instamart, starting with a pilot in Subramanyapura from July 15.

PRODUCTS AVAILABLE: HPCL Navya 5 kg, 10 kg LPG Cylinders

NO LPG CONNECTION NEEDED: Consumers without a domestic LPG connection can purchase HPCL's 10 kg composite or 5 kg metal cylinders via the platform.

VERIFICATION PROCESS: First-time customers must complete identity verification before delivery, with orders fulfilled through HPCL's authorised distributor network.

CONVENIENCE AND ACCESSIBILITY: The service targets students, professionals, and smaller households by offering on-demand refills with empty cylinder returns.

PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS: HPCL leverages Instamart's quick commerce network to provide fast, digitally enabled LPG deliveries while maintaining safety standards.

designed as a lighter alternative to conventional cylinders.

According to the company, the cylinder is lighter and corrosion-resistant and comes with enhanced safety features. Its translucent body allows users to visually monitor the level of gas remaining inside.

The compact cylinder has

been designed for apartments, small families, students and working professionals. It can also be used as a secondary LPG cylinder by households looking for an additional cooking gas option.

The 5-kg metal LPG cylinder will also be available for customers to order through the platform.

QUICK READ



Passenger caught stealing bus conductor's bag

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A woman was caught red-handed stealing a BMTC bus conductor's money bag. Pretending to be an ordinary passenger, she slyly hid the cash bag when the conductor was distracted. The alert conductor grew suspicious of her behavior, but the woman acted hysterically and tried to escape, claiming her husband was sick. However, responding female police officers searched her belongings and discovered the stolen money inside her bag. She was quickly arrested. This viral incident has prompted local police to warn daily commuters to stay highly vigilant against rising pickpocketing attempts by female thieves in crowded public buses.

R. Ashoka questions accountability in deadly stadium stampede

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Opposition Leader R. Ashoka fiercely attacked the state government after it cleared top police officers of wrongdoing in the Chinnaswamy Stadium stampede. The tragic incident claimed eleven lives, sparking public outrage. Ashoka asked who should be blamed if the authorities are completely innocent. He argued that the government is shielding officials who brought family members onto the stage instead of managing the crowd. Demanding real justice for the victims, Ashoka boldly promised that if his party returns to power, they will immediately hand over the entire investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation for an independent probe.

Reddy explains absence from Bengaluru lawmakers' meeting

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Minister Ramalinga Reddy has cleared the air about missing a recent meeting of Bengaluru lawmakers. Reddy explained that only those facing specific problems attended the discussion. Since he had absolutely no issues to address, he decided to stay away. Some believed he skipped it because he was unhappy about missing out on the city's development portfolio. However, Reddy laughed off these claims as old news. He argued that if he were actually upset, he would not have come to the state assembly building today. Finally, he refused to talk about any upcoming cabinet or portfolio changes in the near future.

Hit me, not my hardworking officials: CM DK Shivakumar

DK Shivakumar urged critics to target him instead of officials amid tensions over the Bidadi township project.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar made an emotional plea, asking critics to target him instead of government officials following a tense clash over a controversial township project in Bidadi.

Addressing a press conference, a visibly shaken Shivakumar defended his staff against politically motivated attacks. He stated that he would gladly take the blame, or even be hit with a broom, rather than see his officers ha-



arrassed by opposition parties who are misleading local farmers.

Shivakumar firmly clarified that the Bidadi suburban township is not his personal dream project. He revealed that the initiative actually started in

2006 under Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, who was the Chief Minister at the time. Shivakumar accused his rivals of hypocrisy, pointing out that previous governments had locked private lands into red zones and handled massive developer deals.

Reassuring the public, the Chief Minister stressed that as a farmer's son, he understands their struggles deeply. He promised that the current government will never snatch land by force. Instead, land acquisition will remain entirely volun-

tary, allowing farmers to hand over their property only if they are satisfied with the compensation.

Responding to Kumaraswamy's recent taunts that he would soon end up in prison, Shivakumar remained unfazed. He remarked that jail is nothing new to him and dismissed the comments as political jealousy from rivals who cannot accept his leadership. To resolve the ongoing dispute, the government will form a special cabinet committee to review the township project.

Ramalinga Reddy prioritizes drinking water needs over releases

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Water Resources Minister Ramalinga Reddy announced that the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee has ordered the prioritizing of drinking water supplies. Speaking at the Vidhana Soudha, Reddy addressed the growing tensions following the latest high-level committee meeting held in New Delhi. He emphasized that the state's current priority remains protecting the immediate daily water needs of its own citizens.

During the video conference meeting, legal and technical advisors representing Karnataka clearly explained the state's difficult hydrological situation to the panel. Although neighboring Tamil Nadu strongly demanded an immediate re-

lease of river water, the regulatory board ultimately directed that available resources must be reserved for drinking purposes. Reddy firmly stated that Karnataka will not release extra water to Tamil Nadu right away, clarifying that no such official order has been issued by the panel.

The minister firmly dismissed political accusations claiming the state government was secretly giving away resources. He noted that the exact quantity of outflow is always transparently recorded at the Biligundlu gauging station for anyone to verify.

Currently, only three TMC of water has flowed to the neighboring state. Reddy explained that Karnataka simply does not possess enough excess water reserves to satisfy any further

external demands at this time. The water crisis has also raised serious concerns among local agricultural communities.

When questioned about providing immediate relief to struggling farmers in Mandya, the minister reiterated that the committee's current mandate strictly focuses on securing drinking water first.

However, he reassured the farming community that their livelihood concerns are not being ignored.

Reddy stated that he plans to discuss the agricultural water situation directly with Chief Minister DK Shivakumar very soon.

Since the Chief Minister is scheduled to visit New Delhi this weekend, Reddy mentioned he would follow up on the phone to find a solution.

Patil urges CM to bypass water bureaucracy

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Former Minister and MLA Shivanand Patil has urged Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to immediately release water from the Alamatti Dam. In a matter of life and death, he stated that thousands of villagers and livestock in Vijayapura and Bagalkote districts are currently facing a severe drinking water crisis.

In a formal letter written directly to the Chief Minister, the senior leader highlighted the ground reality of the situation. He urged the government to bypass bureaucratic delays, such as waiting for the Irrigation Advisory Committee to hold its regular meeting. Patil argued that the critical situation demands instant action to save lives, rather than slow discussions.

MLA Shivanand Patil urged Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to immediately release Alamatti Dam water, resolving a severe drinking water crisis in Vijayapura and Bagalkote.



Addressing concerns about future water safety, Patil assured that the reservoir currently holds 70 TMC feet of usable water. It needs only 35 TMC feet more to fill up completely. Since the monsoon season is far from over, he expressed strong confidence that the dam will easily fill up soon. He reminded authorities that history shows the dam often fills up even during later months. Patil criticized irrigation department officials for being too cautious. Currently, engineers are delay-

ing the water release, waiting for another 10 to 15 TMC feet to gather. The MLA warned that this stubborn stance is creating massive public anger against the state government. He noted that every year, hundreds of TMC of excess water are ultimately wasted into the sea once the dam overflows. Therefore, keeping the gates closed now while local people suffer makes no sense.

Praising the Chief Minister's reputation for taking swift, public-friendly decisions, Patil asked him to intervene immediately. He stated that the thirsty residents and dying cattle of the twin districts cannot afford to wait any longer. He concluded that the government must act on humanity rather than rigid technical rules. Opening the canals now will resolve the painful water scarcity and bring immediate relief to the struggling farmers.

Hebbal police bust ring after Nigerian kingpin's dare

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Hebbal police have successfully dismantled an arrogant interstate drug trafficking ring that openly mocked law enforcement capabilities on social media.

Following a major drug bust where eight local operatives were jailed, a powerful drug kingpin based in Nigeria textually challenged local handlers to continue their illegal operations, daring the Karnataka police to stop them. Accepting the challenge, the Hebbal police launched a highly sophisticated counter-operation. The police discovered that the smuggling network was cleverly moving synthetic substances by hiding them inside every-

day edible food packets to avoid canine and border security checks. Acting swiftly on precise intelligence, the department formed five dedicated special teams and executed simultaneous raids across Delhi and Bengaluru. The massive operation resulted in the arrest of four major peddlers. The arrested individuals include Solomon Tchukyu, a Nigerian national tracked down in Delhi, Rakangmi Taniros from Manipur who managed the city's logistics, and two local distributors named Mohan Kumar and Johnson. Officers seized over seventeen kilograms of high-grade MDMA crystal drugs, estimated to be worth a staggering thirty-four crore rupees in the international market.

Kenneth confesses to triple murder, clears Shwetha

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a dramatic twist, Kenneth, the prime accused in the K.R. Puram triple murder case, has fully confessed to his crimes. Ahead of a scheduled police brain mapping test, he admitted to single-handedly killing

Shwetha's father, mother, and sister. Previously, Shwetha claimed she killed her mother, while her dying father accused both of them of the stabbings. However, intensified investigation pushed Kenneth to clear Shwetha of any involvement.

HC cancels corrupt Hosahalli land acquisition

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has cancelled a corrupt land acquisition process meant for a housing cooperative society in Hosahalli, ruling that fraud invalidates the entire legal process. The division bench of Justice D.K. Singh and Justice T.M. Nadaf ordered the Chief Secretary to conduct a thorough departmental inquiry against guilty officials who submitted false information.

Additionally, the court scrapped a heavy fine of 1.5 lakh rupees previously imposed on the struggling landowner, V. Srinivasiah.

The long dispute began in 1988, when officials tried to acquire ten acres of private land. Although government records claimed the land was handed over to the society, no houses were ever built. Affected farmers never received any compensation and are still actively cultivating their ancestral

fields.

A special probe committee exposed massive cheating within the housing group. Investigators discovered that out of nearly two thousand listed members, only fifty were actual soldiers, while the rest were wealthy outsiders. The society had illegally collected large sums from innocent buyers for these non-existent plots.

Rejecting arguments that the case was too old to be reopened, the High Court de-

clared that systemic fraud cannot be protected. The judges strongly condemned the double standards of land officers who misled the judiciary with false claims.

This crucial ruling brings great justice to local farming families who have spent several decades bravely fighting powerful land grabbers to protect their only source of livelihood, marking a major victory for truth and the rule of law in the state of Karnataka.

Bengaluru breaks 112-year-old July heat record

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A weakening southwest monsoon has triggered an unprecedented heatwave across Karnataka, forcing the state's capital to break a massive 112-year-old weather record. Recently, the garden city recorded a maximum temperature of 33.6 degrees Celsius. Weather officials confirmed this is the highest temperature Bengaluru has ever experienced during the month of July since 1914. The city's previous historical July highs peaked at 33.3 degrees Celsius, recorded way back in 1914 and 1926.

Typically, Bengaluru enjoys

pleasant monsoon weather in July with an average maximum temperature of 28.3 degrees Celsius. However, a lack of regular rainfall has pushed the mercury more than five degrees above normal seasonal levels.

This unexpected warming trend is affecting the entire state, with most districts reporting daily temperatures climbing three to four degrees higher than usual.

The Indian Meteorological Department explained that dry weather conditions will likely persist for a few more days, particularly across northern regions.

Khader warns 108 service over emergency delays

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

To revolutionize emergency medical care, the Karnataka Health Department has introduced an innovative rule for the 108 emergency ambulance service. Henceforth, if an ambulance fails to reach a patient within fifteen minutes of a call, a stiff penalty of ₹5,000 will be slapped on the operating agency or driver.

The strict directive was issued by Health Minister U.T. Khader, who emphasized that any form of public negligence during medical emergencies will face zero tolerance. This rule applies to all districts across the state,

ensuring urban traffic congestion can no longer be used as an excuse for delayed response times. The health department clarified that assigned service agencies will be held completely accountable for keeping their drivers punctual. To seamlessly implement this rule, the state government is overhauling its existing medical infrastructure.

Officials have been ordered to permanently retire the slow, aging vehicles that frequently break down on roads. The state has already initiated the procurement process to deploy brand-new, modern ambulances equipped with advanced life-saving technology.

BENGALURU'S HANGING HAZARD

Flyover barrier sparks collapse fear

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A severely damaged safety barrier on the busy Tumakuru Road flyover near the Sandal Soap Factory has triggered widespread fear among local motorists and pedestrians. Despite the visible hazard, civic authorities have failed to take immediate repair action, leaving citizens completely vulnerable.

The iron reinforcement bars of the barrier have detached completely, causing the heavy structure to lean dangerously over the main road. This particular route serves as a major



connection between Yeshwantpur and Rajajinagar, handling thousands of vehicles daily. Locals are terrified that the cracked concrete and loose metal parts could collapse onto the traffic passing below at any

moment. Frustrated daily commuters expressed deep anger over the extreme negligence of the Bangalore West Municipal Corporation. One local motorist, Sambayya, lamented that common citizens must travel in

constant fear of falling debris. Another driver, Chandrashekar, criticized the authorities for delaying essential restoration work while waiting for a disaster to happen. Bengaluru residents, already troubled by dangerous potholes, now face this terrifying overhead threat daily.

Residents have urgently demanded that the municipal corporation remove the unstable barrier immediately and construct a sturdy new one before a fatal accident occurs. Pedestrians who walk beneath the flyover are also urging officials to install temporary safety nets.

A sudden rise in Covid cases in neighboring Andhra Pradesh has sparked fresh health concerns in Karnataka, where thirty-two new infections were reported in just ten days. This unexpected spike has triggered anxiety among local residents.

According to official data, Karnataka recorded only fourteen positive cases during the entire month of June. However, the situation shifted in July. Out of nearly two hundred suspected patients tested, thirty-two tested positive, showing a quick rise in active cas-

es. State Health Commissioner Gurudutt Hegde addressed these growing public fears directly.

He clarified that the recent deaths reported in Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, are currently just suspected cases, and Karnataka authorities are actively communicating with neighboring health officials to gather accurate data.

Hegde reassured the public that the situation in Karnataka is fully under control and urged people not to panic. Most of the newly detected cases are asymptomatic. These infections were primarily discovered during routine medi-

cal screenings that hospitals

conduct before patients under-

go surgeries.

Health officials have strongly urged anxious citizens to avoid spreading fake news and unverified rumors on social media platforms. The state's dedicated public health department is closely monitoring the daily data and warmly advises everyone to maintain basic hygiene practices.

For now, leading medical experts state there is absolutely no need for worry as the state has more than adequate medical infrastructure ready to handle any sudden healthcare emergency.

₹50 lakh special grant released for temple development works

MLC CHANNARAJ HATTIHOHI ANNOUNCED A ₹50 LAKH STATE GRANT FOR MUTAGA'S MARAGAI MANDIR TO BOOST RURAL TEMPLE DEVELOPMENT

BELAGAVI

Priority is being given to the preservation and development of temples in the Belagavi Rural Assembly constituency, said Legislative Council member Channaraj Hattiholi during a temple renovation programme at Maragai Mandir in Mutaga village.

Addressing the gathering, Hattiholi said that former minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar has been extending financial support and continuously working towards speeding up development activities related to temples in the region.

He announced that the state government will release a special grant of ₹50 lakh for the comprehensive development and improvement of ba-



sic facilities at Maragai Mandir. The funds will be utilised for renovation works and strengthening infrastructure at the temple, he said.

Hattiholi stated that priority is being given to providing essential facilities such as roads, drinking water, community halls and temple de-

velopment projects in every village of the constituency. He added that efforts are being made to ensure overall rural development through improved infrastructure.

During the renovation programme, MLC Channaraj Hattiholi and Congress youth leader Mrunal Hebbalkar

handed over a cheque to the members of the temple renovation committee.

The leaders highlighted the importance of preserving religious and cultural centres while improving facilities for devotees and local communities. They said development initiatives would continue across villages to enhance public amenities and support community needs.

The temple renovation programme witnessed the participation of local representatives, committee members and villagers. The announcement of the special grant was welcomed by residents, who expressed hope that the funds would help complete the renovation works and improve facilities at the temple.

QUICK READ



Bike rider killed in lorry collision

Murdeshwar

A bike rider died after a lorry collided with his two-wheeler near Murdeshwar in Uttara Kannada district. The accident occurred amid concerns over alleged unscientific designs in the ongoing four-laning work of the national highway. The impact of the collision left the rider severely injured, and he succumbed to his injuries. Local residents have raised concerns over road safety issues linked to the highway construction. Authorities are expected to investigate the accident and take necessary measures to prevent similar incidents. The identity of the deceased and further details regarding the incident are awaited.

Burglary reported in Jagalur as silver items stolen

Jagalur

Silver articles worth around Rs 1.45 lakh were stolen after burglars broke into a locked house at Meka Suryanarayana Layout in Jagalur during the early hours of July 13. The house owner Shardamma (65) had gone to Venkateshapura Thanda after locking her home. A neighbour alerted her about the suspected theft around 2:30 am. Police found that the front interlock lock was broken and thieves had entered the house. The stolen items included silver vessels, lamps and kumkum bowls weighing around 950 grams. A case has been registered at Jagalur police station.

Farmer couple dies after electric shock in Belagavi field

Belagavi

A farmer couple died after suffering an electric shock while working in their agricultural field near Naganur village in Mudalagi taluk of Belagavi district. The deceased were identified as Muttappa Shrishaila Mugolkhod (42) and his wife Rajashree Mugolkhod (36). The couple reportedly died on the spot after coming into contact with electricity while engaged in farm work. Mudalagi police visited the spot and conducted an inspection. A case has been registered at the Mudalagi police station. The tragic incident left family members and relatives mourning the sudden loss of the couple.

Monsoon water crisis sparks protest in Karwar

KARWAR

Despite heavy monsoon rainfall, residents of Kadwad village in Karwar taluk of Uttara Kannada district are facing a severe drinking water shortage, prompting hundreds of villagers to stage a protest outside the Taluk Panchayat office and submit a memorandum demanding immediate action.

The residents of Halekote area accused authorities of failing to ensure regular water supply from the Keravadi Multi-Village Drinking Water Scheme. They alleged that for the past two to three months, water has been supplied only once every 15 to 30 days, leaving more than 250 families struggling even for basic daily needs.

Villagers claimed that whenever they approached officials about the issue, they were given the repeated explanation that the pipeline was damaged. However, they alleged that authorities were avoiding responsibility instead of using modern methods such as GPS-based tracking to identify and repair pipeline faults.



Residents also expressed anger over the fact that officials supplied water only after learning about the planned protest. They questioned why regular supply was not maintained earlier and accused the administration of neglecting their concerns. The shortage has severely affected women and elderly residents, who are reportedly forced to walk long distances to collect water from wells despite continuous rainfall. Those unable to fetch water are depending on costly tanker supplies, adding to their difficulties.

Former Gram Panchayat president Anandu Ram Naik alleged that there were serious irregularities in the execution of the Keravadi drinking water project. He claimed that newly constructed tanks meant to supply water to higher areas were not functioning properly. He warned

Over 250 families affected by irregular water supply

Keravadi scheme pipeline damage blamed for disruption

Women and elderly struggle fetching water during monsoon

Women and elderly struggle fetching water during monsoon

that authorities must ensure water supply at least once every two to three days or villagers would launch a major protest in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office.

Former Panchayat member Kishore Kadwadkar highlighted that hilly areas, including Christian Wada, Bhoiwada and Janata Colony, where many economically weaker families live, are facing the worst impact.

Taluk Panchayat EO Veeranagowda said the disruption occurred due to a damaged pipeline and assured that engineers had been instructed to inspect the issue. He said corrective measures would be taken within two days to restore water supply.

2 arrested in ₹43.40 lakh fraud case

BAGALKOT

Police have arrested two persons in connection with an alleged ₹43.40 lakh fraud case involving women in the district. A case has been registered against nine individuals after complaints from members of women's groups. The accused allegedly collected money through a women's self-help organisation by promising financial benefits. According to complaints, several groups were formed and regular deposits were collected from members. However, the women claimed they did not receive the promised returns or repayment after completing the agreed investment period.



proached police seeking action against those responsible for the alleged financial irregularities. Police are examining financial records, transactions and documents related to the organisation and accused persons. Officials are also investigating the role of other accused named in the complaint. The incident has raised concerns about financial

schemes and the need for awareness before investing money. Authorities advised people to verify the credibility and legal status of organisations offering financial benefits. Police said the investigation is ongoing and action will be taken based on evidence collected during the inquiry. More updates will follow after the investigation.

CPCB orders closure of Kalyani Steels over violations

KOPPAL

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has directed the Koppal district administration to shut down Kalyani Steels Limited located at Gigeri in Koppal taluk for allegedly violating environmental regulations.

Following the CPCB order, Deputy Commissioner Suresh Itnal instructed officials to disconnect the electricity supply to the factory, resulting in the suspension of its operations.

The company was accused of functioning in violation of environmental norms, with local residents reportedly raising concerns over the impact of pollution on their livelihood. After reviewing the matter, the CPCB issued directions to close the industrial unit.

On July 3, CPCB Chairman Aman Deep Garg and Member Secretary Bharat Kumar Sharma issued an order directing the closure of Kalyani Steels Limited. Subsequently, HESCOM officials visited the plant on July 14 and disconnected the power connection, following which the factory operations were halted.



CPCB Orders Closure of Kalyani Steels in Koppal Over Environmental Violations, Power Supply Cut, Factory Operations Halted Following Regulatory Action and Compliance Issues

Deputy Commissioner Suresh Itnal said the CPCB had instructed the administration to disconnect power supply to the company for violations under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act.

He further stated that one of the major issues was the company's failure to implement the required Online Continuous Monitoring System (OCMS). Although the

“Based on the CPCB directions, I instructed HESCOM officials to disconnect the electricity connection. Once the power supply is cut, the factory operations automatically come to a halt”

—Suresh Itnal, Deputy Commissioner

company later informed officials through email that the system had been installed, the action could not be withdrawn until fresh instructions were received from the CPCB.

The closure order highlights the strict enforcement of environmental compliance measures by regulatory authorities and signals increased monitoring of industrial units to prevent pollution-related violations.

Davanagere protest seeks NEET cancellation, CET revival as MLA Samarth Shamanur joins students demanding fair admission opportunities

Davanagere protest demands NEET cancellation, CET revival

DAVANAGERE

A protest demanding the cancellation of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and the reintroduction of the previous Common Entrance Test (CET) system was held in Davanagere, with MLA Samarth Shamanur participating in the rally.

The protest march was organised by the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), district Congress organisations and students from various colleges to highlight concerns over students' future, equal access to education and a fair admission system.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Samarth Shamanur urged the central government to scrap the national-level NEET examination and restore the earlier CET system, stating that it would better serve the interests of Karnataka students.

The protesters alleged that NEET has created difficulties for students from rural areas and middle-class families, affecting equal opportunities in medical education. They argued that the CET system is



more suitable as it aligns with Karnataka's education structure, syllabus and the needs of local students.

During the protest, NSUI office-bearers, district Congress leaders, college students and party workers took part in the rally and raised slogans supporting students' demands.

The protesters maintained that restoring the old CET system would reduce pressure on students and provide a more balanced opportunity for candidates across different regions and socio-economic backgrounds.

The demonstration began from Jaidev Circle in the city and witnessed active participation from students and po-

The participants said that students' careers should not be compromised and urged the government to take immediate steps to ensure a fair admission process. They demanded that the state's concerns regarding entrance examinations be considered while framing education policies.

litical representatives. Organisers said similar campaigns would continue until their demands are addressed by the authorities.

Students recover after falling ill due to midday meal

MUDHOL

Twenty-one students of a government primary school in Mugalkhod village of Mudhol taluk recovered after falling ill due to the midday meal they consumed.

Tahsildar Dr. Chikkappa Nayak said all students are stable and discharged from hospitals. Three students received treatment at Bagalkot

District Hospital, while eighteen others were treated at Mudhol Taluk Hospital. Officials inspected the school and reviewed the incident after the health complaints.

The investigation into the incident has been completed and the report will be submitted to authorities, said the Tahsildar. Officials collected details from school

staff and assured action based on findings. Health and education departments will review food safety measures to prevent such issues in future. Authorities emphasized hygiene and quality standards while preparing and serving midday meals. The recovery of all students brought relief to parents and school authorities and community.

BUS FACILITY SHORTAGE

Students block buses over transport issues near Hanumasagar

HANUMASAGAR

Students staged a protest by blocking bus services at Kyadiguppa village near Hanumasagar, demanding adequate transport facilities during college hours.

More than 200 students from the village travel daily to colleges in Kushtagi and Ilkal. They alleged that buses do not arrive at convenient timings, making it difficult for them to reach educational institutions on time. They also complained that even when buses arrive, they are overcrowded and there is no space

for students to board.

The students said that several buses travelling on the national highway connecting Kushtagi and Ilkal pass through the village route but do not stop, forcing them to wait along the highway for transportation. Despite submitting requests to the concerned authorities earlier, no action was taken, they claimed.

Expressing frustration over the issue, students stopped three buses belonging to the Kushtagi depot and staged a sit-in protest by sitting on the buses and in



front of them. They demanded immediate intervention from transport officials to resolve the problem.

Police constables Vijay S. Lingadal and Parashuram ar-

rived at the spot after receiving information about the protest and requested the students to clear

Depot Manager Shivashankar Gowda Patil stated that authorities will examine the possibility of arranging an additional bus during college timings. He added that steps would also be considered to halt buses running on the national highway, benefiting students with better transportation facilities.

—Shivashankar Gowda Patil, Depot Manager

the buses. However, the students refused to withdraw their agitation until the depot manager personally visited the location.

Later, the police assured the students that they would be taken to meet the depot manager in a bus and that their con-

cerns would be discussed. Following the assurance, the students ended their protest and boarded the bus reluctantly.

The students urged the transport department to introduce additional services during college hours and ensure that buses stop at Kyadiguppa village to prevent further inconvenience for commuters.

They also appealed to authorities to consider the difficulties faced by rural students who depend entirely on public transport for their daily education commute.

QUICK READ

Health check-up camp held for Udupi prisoners

UDUPI

A health check-up camp was conducted at Udupi District Jail for 145 prisoners as part of International Day against Drug Abuse activities. The District Health and Family Welfare Department and District Hospital team conducted tests for TB, X-ray, ICTC, hepatitis, blood pressure, diabetes and other health issues. Superintendent Vijayakumar D. Chavan encouraged inmates and staff to participate actively. Doctors completed examinations and drug tests, with all results negative. Officials requested declaring the jail tobacco-free and promoted awareness about health and drug prevention among prisoners. The medical team provided necessary treatment.

ZP CEO orders quick completion of water projects

MANGALURU

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Narwade Vinayak Karbhari instructed officials to identify pending works in drinking water projects and complete them within the given deadline. He was speaking at the District Water and Sanitation Mission meeting held at Dakshina Kannada Zilla Panchayat. The CEO reviewed projects including Jal Jeevan Mission, Har Ghar Jal, PVTG JJM and other water supply works. He directed officials to speed up water purification unit construction and remove obstacles immediately. He also stressed avoiding delays and ensuring uninterrupted drinking water supply in rural areas. Various department officers attended the meeting.

Satish Jarakiholi reviews Agumbe Ghat road development

Jarakiholi stated that earlier tenders for Agumbe tunnel design preparation received no response from interested organizations

UDUPI

Public Works Department Minister Satish Jarakiholi inspected Agumbe Ghat road and directed officials to prepare a comprehensive development plan for the important route connecting coastal, hilly and semi-hilly regions of Karnataka.

During the visit, the minister reviewed possible improvements and discussed road widening, protective walls and safety measures with officials. He said the road needs scientific improvements to ensure smooth travel for vehicles and reduce problems caused by heavy rainfall and landslides during monsoon season. The team also examined sections near the ghat where widening works are required.

Jarakiholi explained that tenders were called earlier for preparing designs for an Agumbe tunnel, but no organizations came forward. He said tunnel con-



struction would be expensive and require detailed planning. He assured that permanent solutions would be discussed with experts and necessary development works would begin soon. The minister stated that forest and wildlife department permissions have delayed some projects. A high-level meeting with officials will be held in Bengaluru to resolve issues. He also reviewed footbridge construction in forest villages and road repair works across the district. He directed officials to complete pending works quickly for public benefit. Officials also inspected the highway connection be-

- Minister inspected Agumbe Ghat road development plans.
- Road widening and safety works will be prioritized.
- Tunnel construction requires detailed planning and approval.
- Forest department issues will be resolved through meetings.
- More footbridges and road repairs are planned.

tween Udupi and Hebri and discussed traffic issues affecting motorists, ambulance services and stu-

On Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's reported Delhi visit, the minister said he had no information about it and that the visit could be related to personal or Cabinet-related work. Regarding demands for ministerial representation from Belagavi district, Jarkiholi said several senior legislators are eligible and the party high command would decide who should be given an opportunity. He added that the party would welcome anyone selected for the position.

The minister said necessary recommendations would be sent to concerned authorities for improving road facilities and reducing congestion near Hebri Circle. He highlighted the need for safe transport facilities and timely maintenance of roads in the district.

Minister plans white topping after Dasara festival

MYSURU

Urban Development Minister and Mysuru District In-charge Minister Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah on Wednesday directed officials to complete ongoing development works within deadlines while maintaining quality standards. He chaired a district-level meeting and reviewed preparations for upcoming projects and public services. The minister instructed officials to inform citizens about white-topping works in Mysuru city. Projects yet to begin should start only after Dasara to prevent traffic problems during the festival. Dr. Yathindra said the NHAI white-topping work near Manipal Hospital Circle had created traffic congestion and asked authorities to suspend construction during Dasara celebrations. He directed the Mysuru City Corporation to finish road renovation works before the festival and ensure proper quality. He also highlighted concerns over the Mysuru-T. Narasipura Road and called

Dr. Yathindra announced limited VIP darshan during fixed hours, with no special treatment beyond the scheduled timings

for corrective measures to improve safety.

The minister reviewed arrangements at Chamundi Hill for Ashada Friday celebrations starting from July 17, where lakhs of devotees are expected. He instructed officials to provide safe and comfortable facilities for pilgrims. The administration will provide water, toilets, resting shelters and free refreshments for devotees using the traditional steps. Private vehicles will not be allowed on Ashada Fridays and Vardhanti celebrations. Devotees must park at Lalitha Mahal Grounds and use free KSRTC shuttle buses to reach the hilltop.

Dr. Yathindra announced that limited VIP darshan would be available during fixed hours but no special treatment would be given beyond the schedule.

Congress leader Basavaraju donates 75 auto-rickshaws on his birthday

MYSURU

Former Mysuru APMC President and senior Congress leader Basavaraju celebrated his birthday in a meaningful and socially responsible manner by dedicating the occasion to welfare initiatives that benefited hundreds of people from different sections of society.

Instead of a conventional celebration, Basavaraju organised a series of public service programmes that reflected his commitment to community welfare. As part of the birthday celebrations, financial assistance was extended to around 75 auto-rickshaw drivers, while women received free sarees. School

bags and notebooks were also distributed to underprivileged students to encourage their education and support families in need.

The initiatives drew appreciation from local residents, with many describing the celebrations as a thoughtful gesture that placed social responsibility above personal festivities. By reaching out to the poor, women and working-class families, Basavaraju once again demonstrated his concern for the welfare of ordinary citizens.

The programme was attended by former MLA M.K. Somashekar, Chamaraaja Assembly MLA K. Harish Gowda, Congress leaders Dadadahalli Mahadeva, Kurubarahalli

Prakash, Vinay, Basavaraju's son Chetan Sharma, party workers and a large number of supporters and well-wishers, who gathered to convey their birthday greetings.

Speaking on the occasion, several leaders lauded Basavaraju for consistently placing social service at the heart of his public life. They said his commitment to working closely with the people and extending a helping hand to the underprivileged has earned him goodwill across the constituency. The event concluded in a warm and festive atmosphere, with well-wishers celebrating not only his birthday but also his continued dedication to public service.

Final voter list to be published on October 7

KALABURAGI

The final electoral roll in Kalaburagi district will be published on October 7 as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner Iqbal Sharif said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a meeting with representatives of political parties held at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Sharif shared details about the

progress of the ongoing voter list revision process. He said the revision is being conducted as per the directions of the Election Commission of India, considering October 1, 2026, as the qualifying date. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will continue house-to-house visits until July 29 to distribute, collect and digitize enumeration forms through mobile applications. The draft voter list will be published on August 5, and objections and

claims will be accepted until September 4. After resolving the objections by October 3, the final electoral roll will be released on October 7. The Deputy Commissioner informed that the district has a total of 23,71,542 voters. So far, BLOs have distributed enumeration forms to 23,35,062 voters, achieving 98.46 percent progress. Of these, 6,86,812 completed forms have been collected and digitized.

Mysuru Bureau Chief of City Hilights, Vattam honoured with Rotary Falcon Media award

MYSURU

Shyam Sundar Vattam, a senior journalist and Mysore Bureau Chief of City Hilights, a state English daily newspaper, was presented with the prestigious 'Falcon Media Award' by the Rotary Clubs of Bengaluru 3191 in association with Press Club of Bangalore, at a function held at Hotel Royal Orchid, Bangalore on Tuesday.



He is the only journalist from Mysore to receive this year's award along with 20 others. Water Re-

sources Minister Ramalinga Reddy and a noted Kannada film producer Nagathihalli Chandrashekar presented the award. District Governor Rtn Dr Anil Gupta and Rotary International Director Rtn K.P. Nagesh, K.V. Prabhakar, Media advisor to the former CM Siddaramaiah and Press Club of Bangalore General Secretary Shivakumar Bellatatte and others were present.

Government committed to deliver better public services

KASARAGOD

The Kerala government is committed to providing better and more transparent services to the public by streamlining various revenue-related procedures, Revenue Minister A.P. Anil Kumar said.

Speaking after inaugurating the new Smart Village Office building at Chengala, the minister said the government is taking steps to make processes such as land reclassification and distribution of ownership documents faster and more efficient.

He said the demand for dividing group villages in the district is being considered by the government. However, due to the ongoing census process, implementing such administrative divisions is currently not feasible.

The minister assured that



Chengala village would be considered during the process of village restructuring. He added that improving the functioning of revenue offices and ensuring timely delivery of services remain key priorities of the government.

MLA Kallatra Vahin presided over the programme, while Kasaragod MP Rajmohan Unnithan attended as the chief guest. District Collector Arjun Pandian presented a report on the occasion.

Contractor Manaf Edeneri was also honoured during the event for his contribution. Several senior officials and public representatives, including Land Revenue Commissioner H.

Dineshan, Kasaragod Block Panchayat President Abdullah Kunhi Cherkala, Chengala Gram Panchayat President Vasantha Ajakode, former minister C.T. Ahammed Ali and other dignitaries, were present.

Erosion threatens Mangalpaday coastal areas

UPPALA

Coastal erosion has intensified across several areas under Mangalpaday Gram Panchayat, creating serious concern among residents as waves continue to eat away at the shoreline and threaten homes, roads and public facilities.

The affected areas include Musodi, Manimunda, Hanuman Nagar, Aila Shivajinagar, Peringadi and Kudupu, where residents have reported increasing damage due to strong sea currents. Many houses located close to the coast are now facing danger as the sea continues to advance towards residential areas.

In Aila Shivajinagar, locals are particularly worried as the crematorium shed and a nearby road are under threat of being washed away into the sea.

DEVOTEES TO GET PRIORITY

Rs 300 special darshan ticket scrapped: Dr Yatindra

MYSURU

The district administration of Mysuru and the Chamundeshwari Temple Authority have completed extensive preparations for the special Ashada month celebrations at the renowned Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hill, with the comfort and convenience of devotees being accorded the highest priority, said Mysuru District In-charge and Urban Development Minister Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah.

Speaking on Wednesday after reviewing



the preparations, he said the government is determined to ensure that lakhs of devotees expected during the Ashada

Fridays have a smooth, safe and spiritually fulfilling darshan without inconvenience.

To streamline crowd management, exclusive timings have been earmarked for VIPs and those carrying recommendation letters. VIP darshan will be permitted only between 5.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m., while visitors with recommendation letters will also be accommodated during the same time through a separate queue. Only the vehicles of legislators, ministers and judges will be allowed to proceed to the hilltop. All others, including

those carrying recommendation letters, must park their vehicles at the Lalitha Mahal Grounds and travel to the temple in free shuttle buses arranged by the administration.

Special darshan ticket withdrawn

Aimed at reducing congestion, the temple authorities have decided to discontinue the ₹300 special darshan ticket during this year's Ashada festivities. Explaining the decision, Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah said that holders of the ₹300 ticket and devotees in the regular

Dharma Darshan queue were eventually merging into a common line, leading to confusion and long waiting periods for everyone. "Those who purchased the special ticket were spending almost the same amount of time in the queue as general devotees. Since the facility was not providing any meaningful advantage, we have decided to discontinue it this year," he said.

Enhanced Pilgrim facilities The administration has also strengthened facilities for devotees climbing the sacred hill through the traditional

steps. Three designated service points have been created along the route, each equipped with drinking water and well-maintained toilet facilities. Temporary arrangements have been made for this year's festivities, while the long-pending demand for permanent toilets along the steps will be examined and addressed at the earliest.

All devotees making the climb on foot will be provided free badam milk and biscuits as a gesture of hospitality and to help them cope with the strenuous ascent.

The minister also directed

officials to maintain the highest standards of cleanliness in and around the temple premises, ensuring that devotees can offer prayers to Goddess Chamundeshwari in a clean, orderly and peaceful environment.



"We have made every possible arrangement to ensure devotees enjoy a comfortable and memorable pilgrimage during the Ashada celebrations"

- Minister Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah

QUICK READ

Chitradurga Faces Water Supply Disruption For Three Days

CHITRADURGA

Drinking water supply in Chitradurga city will be affected from July 17 to 19 due to maintenance work near the Kallavva-nagathihalli power plant under the Shantisagar Water Supply Project. The work will be carried out near Hirekanda-vada, Vaddara Palya, and nearby areas. The Municipal Corporation has requested residents to use available water from tube wells and clean drinking water units during this period. Citizens have been advised to use water carefully and cooperate with the authorities. Officials said the temporary disruption is necessary to complete maintenance work and improve the water supply system.

Motorized vehicles to support women with disabilities

CHITRADURGA

The Department of Empowerment of Disabled and Senior Citizens will distribute motorized two-wheelers with retrofitting facilities to women with disabilities on July 16. The programme will be held at 11 am at the Zilla Panchayat Hall in Chitradurga under the MLA Local Area Development Grant for 2025-26. Karnataka Legislative Council MLA K.S. Naveen will preside over the event. MLA Y.M. Satish will inaugurate the programme, while MLA D.S. Arun will distribute the vehicles. Officials and guests will attend the event to support the initiative aimed at improving mobility and independence among women with disabilities.



Skill development essential for youth success says Gayatri

CHITRADURGA

Zilla Panchayat Chief Planning Officer C.S. Gayatri said continuous skill development is essential for success in changing situations and careers. She made the statement during the World Youth Skills Day program held at Rudset Institute in the city on Wednesday. Gayatri said youths should learn new things creatively along with daily activities because skills have no age or time limit. Working with modern technology helps people improve abilities and prepare for future job opportunities. She advised youth to become graduates with practical skills and confidence for technology-based careers.

Freed bonded labourers to get housing priority first

Prabhu stressed preventing child marriages and POCSO cases through awareness programmes across schools, colleges, villages, and public spaces

CHIKKABALLAPURA

District Magistrate G. Prabhu instructed officials to provide sites and housing facilities to freed slaves on priority. He directed various departments to work together for the overall development of weaker sections of society. During the District Awareness and Monitoring Committee meeting held at the District Magistrate's office on Wednesday, Prabhu said accurate details of landless and homeless Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families should be collected from all taluks. The information must be submitted to the Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department within a week, based on which eligible families should receive housing and site benefits. He also instructed offi-



cials to conduct regular Dalit grievance meetings at the taluk level to address community issues quickly. Departments were asked to improve basic facilities in rural areas, identify cremation land for villages, and ensure speedy completion of investigations and legal processes in atrocity cases. Prabhu emphasized the need to prevent child marriages and POCSO cases through awareness programmes in schools, colleges, villages,

and public places. He also directed officials to improve safety in residential schools and hostels by installing CCTV cameras and maintaining proper student records. The District Magistrate further instructed authorities to complete hostel, school, and other Social Welfare Department construction works within the given time. He stressed regular monitoring of quality and progress to provide better facilities to the

public.

The meeting concluded with discussions on welfare, safety, and development measures for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communi-

- Freed slaves will receive housing and site facilities on priority.
- Officials must identify landless and homeless SC and ST families.
- Regular grievance meetings will help solve community problems.
- Safety measures in hostels and schools must be strengthened.
- Welfare construction projects should be completed on time.

MLA appoints new Congress office bearers

HANAGAL

MLA Srinivas Mane distributed appointment letters to newly selected office bearers of the District Congress Committee at the tourist temple in Hanagal. District Vice President Khwaja Mohiddin Annigeri, General Secretaries Parashuram Madiwalara, Ganganna Patti, Suresh Musuri, Rajkumar Shirapanti and others received their appointment letters during the program. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Srinivas Mane said the Congress party has always worked to unite people from different communities and treat everyone equally.

quality vegetarian palav, buttermilk and safe drinking water for all attendees.

- Over 30,000 people expected to attend the convention.
- KSRTC will deploy 600 buses for public transportation.
- Fleet includes 470 regular and 130 additional buses.
- Transport services will commence from 6 a.m. onwards.

Ambulances, ICU-equipped medical centres and fire engines will ensure emergencies, while stalls showcase government welfare schemes awareness

Grand preparations underway for Chief Minister's Malur visit

KOLAR

Deputy Commissioner Dr. M. R. Ravi has directed officials from all departments to work together to ensure the successful conduct of Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar's visit to Malur on July 18. The Chief Minister is scheduled to lay foundation stones for several development projects, inaugurate completed works and distribute benefits to eligible beneficiaries during the event.

The Deputy Commissioner issued the instructions after

inspecting the venue at Chokkandahalli village and chairing a preparatory meeting with officials. He said the Chief Minister should be welcomed with traditional honours, including a garland, shawl, Mysore Peta and dry fruits. The Kannada and Culture Department has been asked to arrange 10 folk art teams, including Dollu Kunita performers, along with patriotic and welcome songs to add cultural significance to the programme.

The Food Committee has been instructed to provide

AWARENESS DRIVE FOCUSES ON MOTHER AND BABY HEALTH

KOPPAL

The World Population Day and National Snake Bite Control Awareness program was held at Kookanappally Anganwadi Center on Wednesday under the joint guidance of district administration, Zilla Panchayat, and health department officials.

Field Health Education Officer Gangamma K. said the program aimed to create awareness among eligible couples about family welfare methods and the importance of maintaining a gap between marriage and childbirth after the age of 18. She explained that a three year gap between children helps protect the health of mothers and babies while preventing unwanted pregnancies.

She said temporary methods like injections, Chhaya tablets, Copper-T and condoms can help families maintain proper birth spacing. Permanent



methods for men and women are also available free of cost after having children. Senior Health Inspector L.V. Sajjan spoke about snake bite prevention and said awareness can reduce deaths caused by poisonous snake bites. He advised people to keep surroundings clean, avoid bushes near homes and fields, use torches at night, and wear shoes in snake prone areas. If bitten, victims should reach government hospitals quickly for proper treatment without panic or unsafe remedies. Officials advised citizens to avoid cutting

wounds or applying harmful substances after snake bites and stressed immediate medical care.

Health workers, ASHA staff and local residents participated in the awareness program held at Kookanappally. The organizers said family planning and safety awareness are important for healthier communities. They urged people to follow preventive measures and share knowledge with others to protect lives and build safer future through awareness and responsible actions across the entire society.

HPV vaccine awareness to prevent cancer: Dr. Mahesh

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Health officials have highlighted the importance of HPV vaccination as a life-saving measure to prevent cervical cancer and other diseases caused by Human Papillomavirus infection. The vaccine awareness programme aims to educate people about cancer prevention and encourage eligible girls and women to get vaccinated.

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Mahesh Kumar said that vaccination at the right age provides better protection. Girls between 14 and 15 years are considered most suitable for receiving the HPV vaccine. He added that the vaccine gives maximum benefits when taken before the beginning of sexual activity.

The HPV vaccine helps the body develop antibodies against the virus, reducing the chances of infection in the future. Health experts stated that the vaccine is safe, effective, and plays an important role in reducing cervical cancer cases. It also helps lower the need for costly treatments and reduces the burden of cancer on society.

Officials explained that awareness among parents, children, and young women is necessary to increase vaccination numbers. They encouraged people to follow medical advice and under-

HPV vaccination builds immunity, prevents infections, reduces cervical cancer risks, lowers treatment burdens, and requires greater awareness among parents and children through health campaigns

stand the importance of preventing diseases before they occur. The health department continues efforts to spread information about HPV vaccination through public awareness programmes.

According to Dr. Mahesh Kumar, there are 13,119 children below 14 years in the district. So far, 6,886 children have received the HPV vaccine, while 6,233 children are still waiting for vaccination. He urged families to support vaccination efforts and help create a healthier future.

HPV vaccination, along with proper awareness and timely action, can play a major role in reducing cancer risks and protecting future generations.

"Out of 13,119 children below 14 years in the district, 6,886 have received the HPV vaccine, while 6,233 are awaiting vaccination." - District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Mahesh Kumar

Central bank promotes KYC updates through awareness

CHIKKABALLAPURA

The Central Bank of India organized a customer awareness meeting on KYC renewal at its Jangamkote branch in Shidlaghatta taluk. The programme explained the importance of keeping customer records updated to ensure safe banking services and uninterrupted access to government benefits. Branch officials urged account holders to complete the process without delay.

Zone Head Satish Babu P. said every customer should update Aadhaar, PAN, address proof and registered mobile number to keep bank accounts active. He explained that incomplete KYC details could lead to restrictions on accounts in the future. He appealed to customers to visit the branch or use available digital facilities to complete the renewal process at the earliest.

Hundreds of customers from Sugatur, Byrasandra,

Jangamkote, J. Venkatapur, Mittenahalli, J. Kurubarahalli and K.G. Chikkaballa attended the meeting. Bank officer Mallareddy and other staff members were present. Officials encouraged customers to stay alert, follow banking guidelines and complete KYC updates promptly for secure and hassle-free banking services always.

Senior Manager Sridhar J.T. said customers can update KYC from home through Aadhaar OTP verification and PAN validation without visiting the branch. He advised people to replace outdated photographs linked with Aadhaar and renew KYC at least once every ten years. He warned that failure to complete the process could freeze accounts and make withdrawals difficult even if money remains available.

Saints' legacy inspires devotion across North Karnataka

HAVERI

The Sharan tradition of Karnataka has been enriched by many great saints who spread knowledge, devotion and spiritual values among people. The birth anniversaries of Lingaykya Jagadguru Sri Naighanti Siddhabasava Murugharajendra Mahaswami and Mahatapasawi Sri Murughendra Shivayogi were celebrated at Sri Hosamath by Basavakendra with special programs. Basava of the new Math, Shantali A Mahaswamiji said these saints were known for their wisdom, yoga and inspiring speeches that guided devotees towards a meaningful life. He added that their contributions remained a shining example of service, faith and humanity. The event remembered the spiritual achievements of Siddalingeshwara, Shanmakh Shivayogi, Muraghendra Shivayogi and other respected figures of North Karnataka. Officials and speakers high-

lighted their simple lives, dedication and teachings that continue to inspire society. Kannada and Culture Department Assistant Director Veeraiah Hiremath recalled the miracles and ideals of Murughendra Shivayogi and said such visionaries should be remembered for future generations. Retired teacher Rudramma Nelavigi urged people to follow the values of great ascetics. A palanquin procession carrying portraits of the saints was held during the celebration. Several dignitaries were honored, while devotees recited vachanas and shared spiritual messages. The program concluded with gratitude and prayers, remembering the saints whose teachings continue to guide people. Their timeless wisdom inspires communities to embrace compassion, unity and devotion while preserving the rich heritage of the Sharan movement for generations with renewed hope and respect.

Collector receives petition over damaged religious idols

GADAG

Hindu organization leader Raju Khanappa submitted a petition to the District Collector demanding action against people accused of damaging idols of gods and saints in Gadag district. He said repeated attacks on heritage symbols have raised concerns among citizens and urged authorities to improve security at temples and historic places. Raju criticized the police department and district administration for not taking strong action despite earlier incidents of idol damage. He



mentioned that the rare Saraswati idol at the historic Trikuteshwar temple was attacked several times and called for better protection of ancient monuments. He also

pointed out that guards from the Archaeological Department were not always available at the site, leading to security concerns.

He further highlighted dam-

age to statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Somashekaraiah Huchaiiah Ganachari at a government school in Harti village. The statues were damaged by miscreants, causing anger among local people. He said such incidents harm the cultural heritage that should be preserved for future generations.

Khanappa demanded strict action against those responsible and asked officials to protect ancient temples, sculptures, and important historical sites. Additional District Collector Dr. K.R. Durgesh received the appeal and assured

that it would be forwarded to the government for necessary action. Several organization members were present during the submission.

The Hindu leader said protecting historical treasures is important for maintaining India's rich culture and traditions.

He requested continuous monitoring and stronger security measures so that valuable monuments and statues remain safe. The district authorities are expected to review the matter and take suitable steps to prevent such incidents in the future.

QUICK READ

Koppal imposes restrictions during departmental exams**KOPPAL**

The Special Intensive Revision of Voter Lists-2026 is progressing in Koppal district, with 7,22,239 census forms digitized till July 15. District Election Officer Dr. Suresh B. Itnal said the process started on June 30 and has continued successfully across the district. Koppal has 11,90,214 voters in five assembly constituencies, and booth level officers have already distributed printed census forms to all voters. Officials are working to complete the revision process accurately and ensure updated voter records. The district administration urged citizens to cooperate with officials during the ongoing verification and digitization work.

Koppal digitizes over seven lakh voter forms**KOPPAL**

The Special Intensive Revision of Voter Lists-2026 is progressing in Koppal district, with 7,22,239 census forms digitized till July 15. District Election Officer Dr. Suresh B. Itnal said the process started on June 30 and has continued successfully across the district. Koppal has 11,90,214 voters in five assembly constituencies, and booth level officers have already distributed printed census forms to all voters. Officials are working to complete the revision process accurately and ensure updated voter records. The district administration urged citizens to cooperate with officials during the ongoing verification and digitization work.

Pure soul helps build peaceful life says Yogini**Yelaburga**

Brahmakumari Ishwari University Koppal convenor Br. Ku. Yogini Akka said keeping the soul pure is important to maintain a healthy mind and peaceful life. She was speaking at a special lecture program held at Ishwari University in the city on Wednesday. She advised people to spend their lives with happiness, peace and kindness by avoiding worries and negative thoughts. She said developing good qualities, gaining knowledge and following positive values can help humans become better individuals. Yogini Akka encouraged people to remain strong during difficult situations, avoid reacting to insults and always choose the path of goodness. Principal Mangalesh Janadri, remembering Eshwarappa Shettar, said a person's good deeds and service continue to live in people's memories even after death.

MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale reviews villages & public issues

MLA received villagers' and party members' support, assuring their concerns would be addressed through coordination with concerned departments

BIDAR

MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale visited several villages in Bidar South constituency on Wednesday to hear public concerns and provide quick solutions. Along with party leaders and workers, he interacted with residents and reviewed the progress of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list. He guided officials, party members and villagers to complete the process properly and ensure eligible citizens are included. The MLA visited Ashtura, Gunnalli, Chitta, Nagura, Mannali, and other villages where people raised issues related to drinking water, roads, drainage, electricity, education, health, Anganwadi services, Gram Panchayat facilities, community halls and temple development. He listened to complaints carefully and discussed them with department officials for necessary action.



MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale said his priority is to create a responsive administration that understands people's problems through direct contact with villagers. He stated that the government is focused on rural development, better infrastructure and improvement of living standards of citizens. During the visit, local leaders, representatives, BJP office bearers, booth presidents and workers shared suggestions about constituency development and SIR activities.

Beldale also reviewed ongoing development works and instructed officials to complete projects on time with quality and avoid delays that could affect the public.

During the tour, Beldale conducted a village-wise review of SIR activities and emphasized the importance of accurate voter records. He instructed booth level workers

to visit homes and inform citizens about voter registration, address changes, name corrections and removal of details of deceased or shifted voters according to rules. He said every eligible citizen should get an opportunity to participate in the democratic process. He urged people to support the revision work responsibly because a complete voter list strengthens democracy and public participation. The MLA received support from villagers and party members during the tour and assured them that their concerns would be addressed through proper coordination with departments. He added that regular village visits would continue to understand public needs and improve services across the constituency. The visit concluded with a commitment to complete development work and strengthen connection between people and administration.

Eligible candidates receive skill training and subsidies for mobile canteens, promoting self-employment and local job opportunities among youth

Mobile canteen owners urged to maintain quality

MANDYA

Beneficiaries of the Mobile Canteen Subsidy Scheme have been advised to focus on quality food, cleanliness, and customer service while running their businesses. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar said that maintaining good standards will help entrepreneurs succeed and provide better food services to people.

He was speaking at a meeting held at the District Collector's Office regarding the distribution of subsidies to six beneficiaries who completed the second batch of training under the Tourism Department's 2024-25 scheme. The programme is being implemented under the SCSP and TSP schemes to support small entrepreneurs from Scheduled

Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Under this initiative, eligible candidates receive one-month skill development training and financial support to purchase mobile canteens. The government provides a subsidy of 70 percent of the unit cost or a maximum of Rs. 5 lakh for starting the business. Dr. Kumar said the scheme will help unemployed youth become self-reliant and create more local employment opportunities.

The Deputy Commissioner advised beneficiaries to obtain a Food Safety and Standards Authority of India licence before starting operations. He stressed that customers should be provided with tasty, healthy, and hygienic food. He also asked entrepreneurs to maintain discipline, behave politely, and offer better service to build public trust.

Dr. Kumar said the mobile canteen scheme will support the growth of food services in tourism areas while encouraging entrepreneurship among deserving communities. He urged beneficiaries to use the opportunity responsibly and work towards becoming successful business owners.

District Superintendent of Police Dr. V. J. Shobharani, Deputy Director of Tourism Department Raghavendra, and Fire Department Officer Raghavendra attended the meeting. Officials encouraged the beneficiaries to follow safety rules and maintain high standards while operating their mobile canteens.

Bike rally promotes electoral roll revision awareness

KARWAR

A bike awareness rally was organized in Haliyal to inform citizens about the Special Intensive Revision of the voter list. The program was held by the Haliyal Taluka Panchayat and Taluka Administrative Office under the guidance of Taluka Panchayat Executive Officer Vilasraja Prasanna, with Tahsildar Feroz Shah Somanakatte present. Prasanna said Booth Level Officers were visiting homes and distributing enumeration forms. He urged eligible voters to ensure their names were included in the revised voter list and requested public cooperation with Election Commission instructions.

The officials explained that every citizen should check voter details and correct mistakes during the revision process.



Schools and women projects receive fresh attention

MANDYA

Zilla Panchayat CEO Nandini K.R. instructed officials to complete school building and infrastructure works approved under government schemes like Chief Minister's Special Grant, PM Shri, and SDP without delay. She gave directions during a review meeting held at Mandya Zilla Panchayat regarding progress of education projects.

She asked field education officers to regularly monitor KPS school construction and basic facility works. Agencies delaying projects since 2020-21 were warned of action according to rules. Officials were also told to remove obstacles and ensure timely completion of pending works.

Nandini K.R. made student attendance through the continuous app mandatory and directed officials to register all students. Currently, only 86 percent of students are registered. She also instructed all 5,092 teachers in the district to mark daily attendance through the duty app with proper check-in and check-out records.

She also directed officials

to inspect pre-university college buildings and submit reports. Meanwhile, a new Sanjeevini Mahila Kookatu Bhavan and Solid Waste Disposal Unit were inaugurated at K. Shettyhalli Gram Panchayat limits. The project aims to provide income opportunities for women self-help groups through waste management activities.

MLA Rameshbabu Bandiside Gowda and CEO Nandini K.R. encouraged women to use government schemes, training, and financial support for entrepreneurship. They said activities like poultry farming, mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, millet products, and horticulture can help women become financially independent.

They stressed that waste management is the responsibility of every citizen. Proper waste segregation, regular collection, and public awareness can keep villages clean and healthy. Officials said successful implementation of these programmes will strengthen rural development and create better opportunities for education, employment, and self-reliance.

Masuru Gram Sabha discusses employment scheme

RATTIHALLI

A public awareness program and social audit gram sabha was conducted at Masuru village to discuss the Vikashita Bharat Guarantee for Employment and Livelihood Mission (Gramin) scheme. Taluk IEC Coordinator Kumariah Chikkamat explained that the scheme provides 125 days of guaranteed employment to every family in a financial year. He said men and women would receive equal wages for equal work. The current daily wage under the scheme is ₹382, and families completing 125 days can earn ₹47,750. He added that 318 works have been approved, including projects related to water security, rural infrastructure, livelihood development and extreme weather management.

Social Audit Manager Girish Patil said the social audit team presented details of

works completed under the previous NREGA scheme and invited villagers to share their opinions. He urged rural workers to use the facilities properly and improve their social and economic conditions. He also informed that a 60-day work break has been planned during the peak agricultural season to ensure sufficient farm labour availability.

Gram Panchayat Administrative Officer KN Hariyal, Assistant Child Development Project Officer Mamatha Jagaleppan, resource persons Devaraj, Shivashankar and Lingaraj, along with Panchayat staff and villagers, attended the meeting. The program ended with a message encouraging people to participate actively and benefit from government employment initiatives.

The initiative highlighted the value of awareness and effective use of schemes.

MLA Gowda to raise farmers land issues in assembly

HUNSUR

MLA G.D. Harish Gowda said he would raise the problems of farmers facing difficulties in repairing forest converted agricultural lands during the upcoming assembly session. He made the statement at a meeting with officials at the Forest Department office in Hunsur after complaints from farmers of Varanchi and nearby villages.

He explained that many families have cultivated these lands for decades after converting forest areas into farms. He said legal issues and lack of NOC from the Forest Department have created problems for land repairs. Farmers cannot sell, buy or share their properties



without proper documents. Gowda assured that he would discuss the matter with the government and seek solutions to protect farmers interests.

He also said a state level delegation would approach the Central Government to highlight the issue and request

necessary action. He assured farmers that they should not worry and promised support on their behalf.

The meeting was attended by DCF Seema, ACF Laxmikant, RFO Santosh Hoogar, JDS Taluk President Surendra and other officials and farmers. The discussions focused

on finding a legal solution while protecting the rights of farming families who depend on these lands for their livelihood. Authorities said further steps would be taken after reviewing the issue. The efforts aim to bring relief soon.

Deputy Conservator of Forests Kirubanath said notified forest areas cannot be altered legally. He added that the department had not taken legal action against farmers. Tahsildar J. Manjunath said officials would study the concerns and submit a detailed report to the district SIT committee formed by the government.

STUDENT UNITY CALL

Students urged to fight for education rights

BYADGI

Students should fight against anti-student policies through united movements instead of taking extreme steps, said SFI District President Basavaraja S. He was speaking at the inauguration of the fourth conference of Bharat Vidyarthi Federation (SFI) Byadgi students held at Kannada Sahitya Parishad Bhavan.

Basavaraja said a series of student suicides after the NEET question paper leak was deeply concerning. He stressed that suicides are not a solution and urged students to



understand politics and raise their voices against injustice. He also criticized the government's education policies and demanded action on issues affecting students.

Sahitya Parishad President

B.M. Jagapura said SFI has been working as a progressive student organization by raising educational concerns. He opposed the closure of Kannada government schools and urged the government to pro-

vide grants and improve facilities. He also demanded filling vacant teaching posts to improve the quality of education.

The conference started with a procession from Government Pre-University College through the main roads of the city. Students raised slogans supporting educational rights and student welfare. District leaders Arun Kumar Nagawat and Raghu Angadi delivered introductory speeches during the event.

Chaitra Koravara and Sugandha were present on the stage, while Varsha Patil de-

livered the lecture. Several students, including Panchakshari Kotihal, Shilpa Patil, Nikhil N, Renuka, Sahana and others, participated in the conference. The organizers said the event aimed to unite students and encourage them to work towards a better education system and a brighter future.



""Suicides are not a solution. Students should understand politics and raise their voices against injustice." - SFI District President Basavaraja S



Health officials promote safe family planning practices

GADAG

A World Population Day 2026 celebration was held at the Government Pre-University College in Gadag under the joint guidance of district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Health and Family Welfare Department officials on Wednesday. District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. S.S. Neelgund said healthy timing of pregnancy and proper gap between children help improve the health of mothers and babies while preventing unwanted pregnancies. He advised people to use health department services and main-

tain at least three years gap between births. He also said girls should marry after 18, and boys after 21.

District Health Education Officer Roopen Chavan said the program aimed to create awareness about population control and social challenges like unemployment, food shortage and education issues. Mahesh Jakkanavar, in-charge principal, said students should spread awareness about population effects. Officials explained that World Population Day is observed every year to encourage responsible family planning and protect mother and child health.

QUICK READ

SC rejects PIL against NEET-UG 2026 retest

New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the National Testing Agency's (NTA) decision to cancel the original NEET-UG 2026 examination and conduct a nationwide retest, observing that the issue no longer survived since the fresh examination had already been conducted. A Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe told the counsel appearing for the petitioner that the matter had become infructuous as the re-examination had already taken place. When the petitioner's counsel submitted that the plea also sought institutional and structural reforms within the NTA.

Noida sewer death: Action against contractor

Noida

Alarmed over the death of a sanitation worker during sewer cleaning in Sector-93 (B), the Noida Authority has initiated action against the Junior Engineer (JE) as well as the contractor. Officials said that steps are being taken to register a criminal case against the contractor and disciplinary action against the officials involved. The tragic incident took place on July 14, during sewer line cleaning at the T-point near Sector-93B and Gejha village. The deceased worker, identified as Shiva, went inside to clear the sewerage but died due to toxic gases inside. As the contractor and officials bypassed the stipulated guidelines in sewerage cleaning, the Authority is understood to have terminated the services of the Junior Engineer (JE) and initiated process to blacklist the contractor.

AP defends Ramayapatnam Port's operation

Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh government said on Wednesday that it has initiated a transparent bidding process for Ramayapatnam Port aimed at attracting international players and defended its decision on its operation and maintenance under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. Amid strong criticism of the coalition government by the YSR Congress Party for its decision to hand over the operation and maintenance of the port to private players, the government defended its stand. The government, in a release, claimed that a transparent bidding process has been initiated, with clearly defined payment mechanisms for the government, including revenue share with minimum guaranteed revenue, equity share, upfront payment, and specified capacity augmentation obligations.

Shah to attend Ahmedabad Jagannath Rath Yatra rituals

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will offer prayers before Ahmedabad's historic Jagannath Rath Yatra begins on Thursday morning

AHMEDABAD

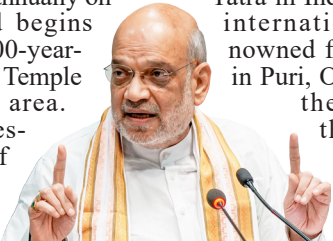
Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will participate in the traditional Mangala Aarti at the Shri Jagannath Temple in Ahmedabad's Jamalpur area, ahead of the commencement of the city's 149th Jagannath Rath Yatra. Officials confirmed the programme, stating that the Union Minister will offer prayers before the annual religious procession begins.

According to the official schedule, Shah will attend the Mangala Aarti at 3:15 a.m. on July 16 at the historic Shri Jagannath Temple. The temple serves as the starting point of the city's annual Rath Yatra, one of Gujarat's most significant religious events, which attracts lakhs of devotees from across the state and other parts of the country every year.

The Ahmedabad Jagannath Rath Yatra is held annually on Ashadhi Bij and begins from the nearly 400-year-old Shri Jagannath Temple in the Jamalpur area. During the procession, the idols of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra are placed on elaborately decorated chariots and taken along the traditional route through different parts of the city before returning to the temple later in the day.

The Rath Yatra in Ahmedabad is regarded as the second-largest Jagannath Rath Yatra in India, after the internationally renowned festival held in Puri, Odisha. Over the decades, the procession has become one of Gujarat's most prominent religious and cultural events, drawing participation from devotees, saints, community leaders, and public representatives.

Amit Shah has consistently attended the Mangala Aarti before the Rath Yatra in previous years, continuing a long-standing tradition of offering prayers before the ceremonial departure of the chariots. His participation is considered an important part of the festivities, reflecting the significance of the annual event in Gujarat's cultural and religious landscape.



Delhi HC issues notice on plea to bar former UPSC aspirants

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the Centre on a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking safeguards against the alleged misuse of the scribe facility in the Civil Services Examination by candidates with disabilities.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia sought responses from the UPSC, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and posted the matter for further hearing on September 16.

Veteran singer Anuradha Paudwal says her comments were taken out of context amid controversy over recent podcast remarks

Anuradha Paudwal responds to remarks on Vishwaguru debate

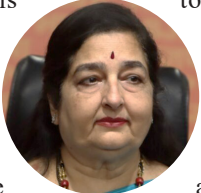
MUMBAI

National Award-winning singer Anuradha Paudwal has responded to the controversy surrounding her recent remarks on the Ram Mandir and India's Vishwaguru narrative, saying that her comments have been taken out of context and sensationalized. In a statement shared, the veteran playback singer urged people not to encourage the circulation of edited clips that, according to her, misrepresented the tone and intent of her conversation.

Addressing her followers, Paudwal expressed gratitude for the love and respect she has received throughout her career while reiterating her respect for the country and its leadership. She said every citizen has the right to express personal views respectfully and emphasized that constructive discussion is an essential part of a democratic society.

In her social media post, Paudwal stated that she believes education is fundamental for the country's growth and progress. She added that she would always support that principle and maintained that respectful expression of opinions should be protected. The singer also made it clear that she strongly objected to conversations being presented out of context for sensational purposes. She said she did not endorse videos that selectively used portions of her remarks and appealed to people not to promote such content.

Paudwal stressed that her statement should not be viewed as a clarification but rather as an objection to the misuse of her comments. The controversy stems from her recent appearance on journalist Shubhankar Mishra's podcast, where she spoke about India's aspiration to become a Vishwaguru, or global leader.



Calcutta HC refuses plea from Mamata's Trinamool faction over rally venue

KOLKATA

A single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday rejected the plea from the Mamata Banerjee-led faction of the Trinamool Congress to hold the Martyrs' Day rally on July 21 at the traditional venue in front of the CESC House near Esplanade in Central Kolkata.

A petition filed by the Mamata Banerjee-led faction seeking permission to organise the rally at the traditional venue came up for hearing at the single-judge bench of Justice Sougata Bhattacharya this morning.

After the first round of hearing earlier in the day, the bench asked the state government to clarify its stand in the matter by the second half. As the state government suggested an alternative venue for the event, the second round of hearings in the matter started.

Finally, Justice Bhattacharya's bench permitted the Mamata Banerjee-led faction to conduct the rally on July 21 in front of Birla Planetarium, also in central Kolkata.

The bench, at the same time, imposed several restrictions on the rally at the alternative venue.

The first condition is to limit the number of participants in the rally, which the court clearly said should not exceed 2,500. At the same time, the gathering will be restricted to one of the two lanes in front of Birla Planetarium, keeping the other lane free for vehicular movement.

Justice Bhattacharya's bench also fixed the rally timing and duration from noon to 3 p.m.

The state government counsel initially argued and pleaded with the court to restrict the number of participants to 500, considering that there were a number of schools and hospitals near the Birla Planetarium.

The petitioner's counsel and four-time Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha member, Kalyan Banerjee, accused the state government of picking issues and excuses to deny permission for the rally.

He also requested the court to allow a maximum number of participants at 5,000.

BKTC treasurer transferred amid Badrinath temple embezzlement row

CHAMOLI

Shri Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee's (BKTC) Chief Executive Officer Sohan Singh Rangad on Wednesday said that the temple body's treasurer has been transferred amid alleged irregularities in the management of donations at the Badrinath Temple in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district.

An investigation team had given us a report regarding certain things that were kept in the double-lock, specifically materials made of silver. There was a discrepancy between that material and the entry in the register — the amount recorded in the register was less, while the actual material found at the site was more. So, it is quite possible that this was a human error, especially because the quantity of the material was larger. Had it been less than what was recorded, I would have said that some of it had been taken out, he said.

However, Rangad said that since the metals and ornaments recovered from the holy site were more than the entry made in the register, it may have been overwritten.

Supreme Court questions Patna High Court ruling on attempt to rape

PATNA

The Supreme Court expressed serious concern over a recent Patna High Court ruling that held that attempting to remove a woman's sarwar and allegedly molesting her by touching her inappropriately did not amount to an attempt to rape.

A Bench comprising Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi, and Justice V. Mohan heard the matter and indicated that it would issue a detailed order addressing the observations made by the Patna High Court.

The issue surfaced during the hearing of a suo motu case initiated by the Supreme Court following a controversial judgment of the Allahabad High Court.

In that matter, the apex court had already directed the National Judicial Academy to

frame guidelines aimed at improving judicial sensitivity while dealing with cases involving sexual offences.

During the proceedings, Senior Advocate Shobha Gupta brought the Patna High Court's order to the Bench's attention.

She argued that despite the Supreme Court having set aside the Allahabad High Court's controversial ruling, the Patna High Court had made similar observations in a case involving comparable facts.

Describing the development as unfortunate, Gupta said such orders continued to emerge even after the Supreme Court had clearly laid down its position.

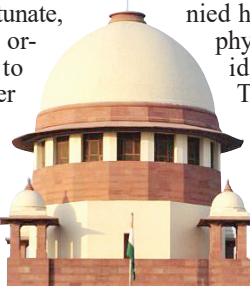
Senior Ad-

vocate H.S. Phoolka also supported the submission. Responding to the concerns, Justice Surya Kant observed that such rulings often stem from inadequate legal research and insufficient study of the law.

He stated that the Supreme Court would make detailed observations on the Patna High Court's decision in its forthcoming order.

The Patna High Court case originated from Banka district's Amarpur police station area.

According to the prosecution, the victim had accompanied her father to a photography studio owned by a man identified as Himanshu. The complaint alleges that the accused asked the victim's father to wait outside before taking the young woman into a room and locking the door.



HC seeks Bengal DGP's report on number of cases

KOLKATA

A single-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court sought a detailed report from the office of the Director General of West Bengal Police on the number of cases and FIRs registered against the Trinamool Congress general secretary and the party's Lok Sabha member, Abhishek Banerjee, in different police stations in the state.

The counsel for Abhishek Banerjee approached the High Court's single-judge bench of Justice Sougata Bhattacharya, seeking clarity on the exact number of cases and FIRs registered against him at different police stations. After a preliminary hearing on the matter in the afternoon, Justice Bhattacharya sought a detailed report from the office of the DGP.

While submitting the petition

seeking clarity on the exact number of cases and FIRs registered against him, the counsel for Abhishek Banerjee also argued that since his client was a political person, so many cases had been filed against him out of sheer vendetta.

We are aware that, so far, a total of eight FIRs have been registered against my client.

However, I am not aware of the total number of cases going on against him. So, we want clarity in the matter. After the detailed police report, we will place our next line of arguments in the matter, submitted Banerjee's counsel to the court.

In his counterargument, the state government counsel said there was no question of political vendetta since all the cases against the Diamond Harbour MP were based on specific complaints registered against him.

Cabinet approves Rs 14,447 crore new 6-lane elevated corridor along Ganga

NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the development of a link corridor between National Highway-19 (NH-19) and the Varanasi Ring Road with riverbank connectivity along the River Ganga for the decongestion of Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi city at a total capital cost of Rs 14,447.64 crore, which will include a civil construction cost of Rs 6,037.85 crore and a land acquisition cost of Rs 541.11 crore under NH(O).

The 46.039 km project, comprising a six-lane elevated main carriageway, an iconic cable-stayed bridge, an extra-dosed foot-over-bridge-cum-major bridge.



Jammu and Kashmir's ruling National Conference remains committed to demanding restoration of statehood through its planned Delhi protest

ence president Dr. Farooq Abdullah instructed party leaders to proceed with a previously planned programme in Jammu on July 12.

Omar Abdullah said that if the party had not cancelled its earlier political programme under those circumstances, there was no reason to withdraw or postpone the planned protest in New Delhi.

He also confirmed that party legislators and leaders have been instructed to leave for the national capital on July 19, a day before the scheduled demonstration. According to the Chief Minister, preparations will continue irrespective of whether formal permission for the protest is granted by the authorities.

We know how to remain patient.

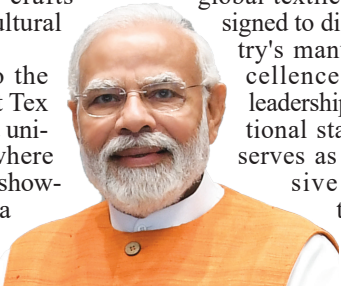
We will wait, but we will also keep our alternate plan ready, Abdullah said, indicating that the party was prepared to explore other options if permission for the gathering at Jantar Mantar was denied.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the significance of Bharat Tex 2026, describing it as a major platform that brings together India's complete textile value chain under one roof while reflecting the country's Vision 2030 roadmap for the textile sector. The Prime Minister said the event showcases India's manufacturing capabilities, rich textile traditions, and expanding presence in the global textile industry. Sharing an article on social media written by Union Minister of State for Textiles Pabitra Margherita, Prime Minister Modi underlined the importance of Bharat Tex as a symbol of India's growing leadership in textiles and apparel. The event is being held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from July 14 to July 17, bringing together industry leaders, manufacturers, buyers, exporters, designers, and policymakers from India and abroad.

In his article, Margherita described India's textile heritage as a reflection of the country's extraordinary cultural and geographical diversity. He referred to products such as the delicate Kashmiri Pashmina, the distinctive Assam Muga silk, the colourful Rajasthani Bandhani, and the elegant Kanjeevaram silk, stating that these traditions together represent a living map of India's craftsmanship and cultural identity.

According to the minister, Bharat Tex 2026 provides a unified platform where this diversity is showcased before a global audience. He said the exhibition demonstrates not only India's traditional strengths but also its growing capabilities in modern textile manufacturing and innovation.

Margherita described Bharat Tex as India's flagship global textile trade fair, designed to display the country's manufacturing excellence and creative leadership on an international stage. The event serves as a comprehensive marketplace that hosts domestic manufacturers.



QUICK READ

Govt invites bids for giga-scale ACC battery manufacturing

New Delhi
The government on Wednesday invited bids to pick up beneficiaries for establishing giga-scale Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) manufacturing facilities with a cumulative capacity of 10 GWh in India. The capacity is earmarked for Grid-Scale Stationary Storage (GSSS) applications under the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for ACC Battery Storage. Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) said it has released the Request for Proposal (RFP) for inviting bids through a global tender. The bidding process will be conducted online through a transparent two-stage Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) mechanism on the Central Public Procurement (CPP) Portal.

India registers rise in employment in June

New Delhi
Both the overall Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in the country registered an increase in June over the same month of the previous year, reflecting a year-on-year increase in employment, the data released by the Ministry of Statistics on Wednesday showed. On a year-on-year basis, the urban unemployment rate (UR) declined from 7.1 per cent in June, 2025 to 6.6 per cent in June, 2026, a reduction of 0.5 percentage points. The overall UR and rural UR remained broadly stable over the same period, according to the official statement.

Jayant Patil clarifies late night meeting with Maha CM Fadnavis

MUMBAI
Intense political speculation erupted in Maharashtra following a late-night meeting at 'Varsha', the official residence of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. The meeting involved NCP(SP) leader and MLA Jayant Patil with the CM. However, on Wednesday Patil dismissed all speculation and clarified the actual context of the meeting.
Patil explained that his visit was strictly related to a constituency-specific administrative issue regarding a demolition threat. I sought an appointment with the Chief Minister regarding a local issue in my constituency. I requested some of the CM's time, Patil stated.
He further clarified the sequence of events at the CM's residence. He said that he arrived at 'Varsha' but had to wait in the hall as the Chief Minister was tied up with prior engagements.



KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA UNDERTAKING)

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀಲಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ ನಂ-2 ವಾಲ್ಮಡಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಿದ್ಧಾಪುರ-576229 ಕುಂದಾಪುರ (ತಾ), ಉಡುಪಿ (ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ), ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

ಕಛೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: ಕಾಂ/ಕನೀನಿ/ವಾಜಯೋವಿ-2/ಮಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/01/2026-27/428 ದಿ:13/07/2026

ಅಲಾವಧಿ ಮರು-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ) (ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಸಿಸ್ಟಂ)

ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ವಾಲ್ಮಡಿ ನೀಲಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಡಿ, Heightening/Modification of Towers of 220KV Varahi Kemar Line-3 along with 110KV line between location No.112-114 as per the request of Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited (KNNL) for the construction of Overhead aqueduct structure near Shriooru village, coming under TLM section Hiriyadka of TL & SS Division, Karkala, Udipi District ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು Super Grade Electrical ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ:

- ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.
- ಟೆಂಡರಿಂಗ್ಗು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.150.66ಲಕ್ಷ (ಪಿ.ಎಸ್.ಪಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಪಾಸ್‌ದಿ)
- ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.2.26ಲಕ್ಷ
- ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಮೇಲೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ದಿ.13/07/2026
- ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪೆಚ್ಚನ್ನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ/ಸಮಾಚಾರ (queries if any) ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿ:20/07/2026ರ ಸಮಯ 5.00ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿ, ನಂ.2 ವಾಜಯೋವಿ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಲಿಖಿತ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಮುದ್ರಾ/ಅಂಚೆ ಮೂಲಕ/ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.
- ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತಾದ ಪೂರ್ವಾಭಾಷಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿ:20/07/2026ರಂದು ಸಮಯ 11.00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿ, ನಂ.2 ವಾಜಯೋವಿ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯಲಿರುವುದು.
- ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಮೇಲೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:24/07/2026ರಂದು ಸಮಯ 5.00ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
- ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ:27/07/2026ರ ಸಮಯ ಪೂರ್ವಾಭಾಷಿ 11.00ಘಂಟೆ
- ಪೆಚ್ಚನ್ನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ <http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ಅಥವಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿ, ನಂ-2 ವಾಲ್ಮಡಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.
- ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ, ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡು ಅಥವಾ ಇತರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, <http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ಮೇಲ್ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀಲಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
ನಂ. 2, ವಾಲ್ಮಡಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಸಿದ್ಧಾಪುರ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

Puri completes final preparations for grand Jagannath Rath Yatra

Puri readies for the annual Rath Yatra as millions of devotees gather for the sacred nine-day chariot festival

PURI
The holy city of Puri in Odisha has completed the final phase of preparations for the world-renowned Jagannath Rath Yatra, one of India's largest and most significant religious festivals. The grand annual event will commence on Thursday, July 16, when Lord Jagannath, his elder brother Lord Balabhadra, and sister Devi Subhadra will begin their traditional nine-day journey from the 12th-century Jagannath Temple to the Gundicha Temple.
As part of the final preparations, the three majestic chariots of the deities were ceremonially moved on Wednesday from the traditional construction site, known as the Ratha Khala, to a position near the Lion's Gate of the Jagannath Temple. The ritual marks an important milestone before the commencement of the annual procession and



signals that all arrangements for the festival are nearly complete.
Lakhs of devotees from across India and abroad have already arrived in Puri to witness the centuries-old tradition. During the procession, worshippers will pull the three elaborately decorated wooden chariots—Nandighosh for Lord Jagannath, Taladhawaja for Lord Balabhadra, and Darpadalan for Devi Subhadra—over a distance of approximately three kilometres to the Gundicha Temple amid devotional chants and religious celebrations.
According to Hindu beliefs, the Gundicha Temple is regarded as the birthplace of the Chaturddha Murti, comprising Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra, and Sudarshan. The annual journey symbolizes the deities' visit to their birthplace and is considered one of the

most sacred occasions in the Jagannath tradition.
The Odisha government has made extensive arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the festival.
Multiple departments, including the district administration, police, health services, transport authorities, and emergency response teams, have coordinated efforts to manage the expected influx of pilgrims and maintain law and order throughout the celebrations.
Chief Administrator of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), Arabinda Kumar Padhee, said all preparations for the Rath Yatra have entered their final stage. He expressed confidence that the elaborate planning undertaken by the temple administration and government agencies would ensure the successful and peaceful conduct of the event.

UP minister seeks SIT probe into temple donation claims

LUCKNOW
A political dispute over alleged irregularities involving donations at Ayodhya's Ram Temple intensified on Wednesday after Uttar Pradesh Minister Dharampal Singh questioned how Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav first became aware of the allegations. The minister called for a Special Investigation Team (SIT) inquiry not only into the alleged embezzlement but also into the source of the information cited by the opposition leader.
The controversy began after Akhilesh Yadav, on June 7, became one of the first senior political leaders to publicly raise allegations regarding the alleged misuse of donations made by devotees at the Ram Temple. In a post on social media, he demanded a judicial investigation into the matter and called for transparency in handling temple funds.
Political confrontation intensifies as Uttar Pradesh leaders clash over allegations involving donations at Ayodhya's Ram Temple
The issue resurfaced after Yadav accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Uttar Pradesh of attempting to divert public attention from the allegations. In a strongly worded post, he claimed that the ruling party was engaging in childish antics instead of addressing concerns related to the alleged misuse of donations.
Yadav alleged that the controversy surrounding temple offerings had exposed what he described as serious shortcomings within the BJP. He accused the party of attempting to shift public focus away from the allegations and asserted that such actions were increasing public dissatisfaction with the ruling party.

J&K L-G reviews facilities at Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu

JAMMU
Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday reviewed facilities for Amarnath Yatra pilgrims at the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu city.
L-G Sinha visited the Yatri Niwas and reviewed the facilities and services in place for the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. The Lieutenant Governor interacted with officials from the J&K Police, the Army, other security forces, the Shrine Board and Civil Administration, and took stock of the measures underway to facilitate the comfortable stay of the pilgrims.

He commended their hard work and urged them to treat every Yatri as a divine guest. With the holy pilgrimage already crossing the three lakh mark in just 12 days, ensuring a smooth and hassle-free experience for pilgrims is our top priority, the Lieutenant Governor said.
He stressed flawless registration, comfortable lodging, and smooth travel arrangements for all devotees of Baba Barfani. He also emphasised showcasing Jammu and directed officials to organise sightseeing tours to Jammu Division's key spiritual and tourism spots, while actively

promoting local handicraft and handloom products.
It is our goal that whenever Baba Amarnath pilgrims return home, they should carry a piece of Jammu with them in the form of beautiful local handmade products and unforgettable memories. Together, we resolve to make this year's Yatra truly historic, the Lieutenant Governor said.
The Lieutenant Governor also reviewed the deployment of Food Safety Officers at community kitchens, facilities at reception and lodgement centres, on-spot registrations of pilgrims, transportation and security arrangements.

Government clears 2 railway tracking projects to improve connectivity, freight movement, and regional development across eastern India

Cabinet approves railway expansion projects worth Rs 3,907 crore

NEW DELHI
The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved two multi-tracking railway projects with a total investment of Rs 3,907 crore. The projects will cover four districts across Odisha and Jharkhand and are expected to expand the Indian Railways network by approximately 145 kilometres, strengthening transport infrastructure and improving operational efficiency.
According to an official Cabinet communiqué, the projects are aimed at increasing rail line capacity to facilitate smoother passenger and freight movement while reducing congestion on busy railway routes. The additional tracks are expected to significantly improve mobility, enhance service reliability, and support the growing transportation requirements of eastern India.
The government said the projects will directly benefit nearly 1,526 villages with a combined population of around 14 lakh people. Improved railway connectivity is expected to boost economic activity in these areas by making transportation faster and more efficient for passengers, businesses, and industries.
The proposed railway expansion will also improve access to several important tourist destinations in the region.

Govt of Karnataka

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI

Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi "Jalbhavan", Rajapur Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi - 585105. Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/Ydg NGR/2026-27/325 Date 14-07-2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

1) Detail of Work : Supply, erection, electrification and commissioning of 2 No's of 345 HP or Suitable HP DeepWell Turbine Pump set with discharge of 291 LPS (1047.09 cum/hr) against 60mts head along with allied accessories, Providing and laying of RCC Columns, beam & fixing Gate at entrance of Jackwell site and Providing electrification works in Jackwell near Gurusnagi Bridge cum Barrage under Nagarothan (Municipality) Phase-3 at Yadgir city. (Lumpsum-No variation) (Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2026-27/PM/ WORK_INDENT523, 2). Amount of Estimate : Rs. 178.16 Lakhs (Excluding GST) 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Eligible Contractors. 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount : Rs.2,68,000/- 5) Period of Completion : 06 (Six) Months 6) Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the e-procurement portal 16-07-2026 after 13:00 Hours 7) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting : 23-07-2026 at 11:30 Hours 8). Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders : 30-07-2026 Up to 17:30 Hours 9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender : 01-08-2026 After 11:00 Hours 10) Addl. information : **Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Telephone : 08472-220817 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com** 11) Address of E-portal : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in DIPR/Kalaburagi/324/ Deshpande Publicity/2026-27

Sd/- Chief Engineer,
KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi

ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್. ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆ ಎದುರು, 'ಡಿ' ಕ್ವಾರ್ಟರ್, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ-561203. ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080-29562046

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DPA/TP/CLU/13/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.07.2026

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ ಕಲಂ 14 (ಎ) ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು "ಪ್ರವಸಾಯ" ವಲಯದಿಂದ "ವಸತಿ" ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯ ಜಮೀನಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಯಾವುದೇ ಅಕ್ರಮಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 15 ದಿನಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯೊಳಗೆ ಅಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಲಿಖಿತವಾಗಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಗದಿತ ಅವಧಿಯ ನಂತರ ಬರುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಅಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು	ಕಾಲಕ್ಷಿತಿ	ಹೋಬಳಿ	ಗ್ರಾಮ	ಸ. ಘ.	ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಎ-ಗು)	ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪರಿಗಣನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ	ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿರುವ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ
1	ಶ್ರೀ ಅಮಿನಾತ್ ಜಯವಂತ ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ ಬಿನ್ ಜಯವಂತ ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ	ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ	ತೂಗೂರಿ	ಮಳೇಕೋಟೆ	8/11	00-17	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ

ಪರಾ:- ಪ್ರತಿ ಕೆ.ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಸತಿ ವಿಸ್ತಾರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಕಾನೂನುಬದ್ಧವಾದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ವಿಸ್ತಾರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ನಡೆಯುವಾಗ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಕೂಲಿಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ದೊರಕುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ವಿಸ್ತಾರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಿಂದ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಯೋಜನಾಬದ್ಧವಾದ ವಿಸ್ತಾರ ರಚನೆಯಿಂದ ಉತ್ತಮ ರಸ್ತೆ, ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಜಾಗಗಳು, ಉದ್ಯಾನವನಗಳು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಉಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಅಂಶವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು "ಪ್ರವಸಾಯ" ವಲಯದಿಂದ "ವಸತಿ" ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಬ್:- ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಬಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.

I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VIP/PB/5054/2026-27/2277

Dated:15.07.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement)

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur Invites tenders from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) 2 works, As per standard bid documents KW- 4 with Different head of account costing of Maximum And Minimum amount for Rs. 200.00 Lakhs & 130.00 Lakhs, the EMD Maximum And Minimum amount of Rs. 3,00,000/- & Rs. 1,95,000.00/-. Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows 1) Pre-Bid Meeting for Contractors. Date- 24.07.2026 @ 11:00 AM. 2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date- 01.08.2026 at 4:30 PM 3) Opening of Technical Bid Date-03.08.2026 @ 11:00 AM 4) Opening of Financial Bid Date- 04.08.2026 at 04:30 PM onwards. Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "eproc.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 919240214000 & 919240214001) or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Vijayapur

ಮಾಸಾಸಂ/ಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/208/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಎಂ/2026-27

Government of Karnataka

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI

No: EE/PWD/KD/TS-1,2,4,5/Tender Notification/2026-27/1954 Date: 14.07.2026

Short Term Tender Notification

1) Name of Work : Executive Engineer PWD Division Invites tender for the Works Under 4202 Education Head 23 Works,CMIDP 06 works, KKRDB 15 works, 8443 Deposit works 02 and 2216 Maintenance 01 Works Total 47 works for the year 2025-26 and 2026-27 Works for indent No : 37455,37457,37597 (work Reserved for ST Category), 37667, 37090, 36944, 36999, 33929, 37218,37346, 37150 (work Reserved for SC Category), 36459 (work Reserved for Category-I), 36987,36986,37031,37459 (work Reserved for 2A Category),36719,36605,36807,36809,35875, 37426, 36720, 33350, 37032, 37033, 36943, 37456, 37458, 36998,37057,37386,37009,36947,37429,36822,36821,20826call-2,37517, 36463, 36505, 37423, 37416, 36761, 36731,31446/call-3, 37671. 2) Estimate cost : Min Rs. 17.15 Lakhs Max Rs.400.00 Lakhs, 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Class IV and above PWD Registered contractor. 4) EMD Amount : Min Rs 18200.00 and Max. Rs 5,10,000.00, 5) Pre-Bid Meeting : 27.07.2026 (11.00 Hrs), 6) Last date for queries : 28.07.2026 (17.30 Hrs), 7) Last date for Submission of bid : 29.07.2026 (16.00 Hrs), 8) Date of opening of Technical Bid: 30.07.2026 (16.30 Hrs), 9) Date of opening of Financial Bid : 31.07.2026 (16.30 Hrs), 10) Enquiries : Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi. 11) Note : GST Will be Paid Separately, 12) Website : <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>, 13) Bidders Should Note That : "Note: 1)Undersigned reserved the right to Cancel / Postpone/ Reject any or all the tenders at any point of time during tender process without assigning any reason."2)Changes in the tender process will not be Published in the News Papers Bidders may get Details of Changes In KPPP Portal Only."

Sd/-Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/327/KSCM&A/2026-27

QUICK READ

UK trade pact takes effect, promising tariff cuts & services boost

London
India and Britain's comprehensive trade pact took effect on Wednesday, cutting tariffs on thousands of goods and widening access for services firms and professionals in both markets. The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement gives Indian exporters immediate duty-free access to most British tariff lines, benefiting labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather, footwear, marine products, gems and jewellery, and processed foods. Britain gains wider access to one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, with phased tariff cuts and quotas for sectors such as automobiles, and openings in procurement, financial services, education, insurance and professional services.

Info. from NATO member states shows Russia attempted sabotage

VILNIUS
Information from NATO member nations, including Lithuania and Latvia, shows that Russia has made various attempts to conduct sabotage, Latvian president Edgars Rinkevics said on Wednesday. Information we are getting from Lithuanian, Latvian and other NATO states, from various agencies there, shows various attempts to do sabotage and to lower the security in our states, Rinkevics said at a press conference with his Lithuanian counterpart Gitanas Nauseda in Vilnius. Lithuania has intelligence that Russia is planning attacks on infrastructure, and the Baltic nation will tighten security around energy and transport sites as a precaution, Nauseda said in an interview published earlier on Wednesday.

EU seals deal for drone production with Ukraine

KYIV
Ukraine and the European Union have sealed a drone deal to combine Kyiv's expertise with European industrial capacity to establish joint projects and scale up production, European Commission Ursula von der Leyen said on Wednesday. We need to combine our strengths, von der Leyen said in a speech in Kyiv at a ceremony to mark the country's Statehood Day. This deal will bring together Ukrainian ingenuity and Europe's industrial scale. Ukraine has signed a series of such deals with individual countries. At last week's NATO summit in Akara, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy signed three more, saying that brought the total to nine. But Wednesday's deal is the first agreement intended to cover countries and companies across the European Union.

Zelenskiy Cabinet Reshuffle Raises Questions Over Minister

Ukraine braces for leadership changes as uncertainty surrounds Defence Minister Mykhailo Fedorov amid critical wartime reforms

KYIV

Ukraine is preparing for another major political transition as President Volodymyr Zelenskiy moves ahead with plans for a fresh cabinet reshuffle, creating uncertainty over the future of Defence Minister Mykhailo Fedorov. The 35-year-old technology specialist, who took charge of the defence portfolio only six months ago, has become a central figure in efforts to modernize Ukraine's military while the country continues to defend itself against Russia's ongoing invasion.

Fedorov has earned recognition for introducing innovative approaches aimed at making Ukraine's armed forces



es more efficient despite limited manpower and growing battlefield challenges. His leadership has focused on accelerating technological adoption, improving military coordination, and reducing bureaucratic delays that have often slowed decision-making within the defence establishment.

Maria Berlinska, a well-known volunteer and advocate for drone warfare, publicly praised Fedorov's leadership style, describing him as a thoughtful and mature leader capable of finding unconventional solutions to complex military problems. She recalled her first meeting with him after his appointment and said his strategic thinking and ability to overcome bureaucratic barriers had distinguished him in every position he has held. According to Berlinska, these qualities have played an important role in advancing reforms during a difficult period for the country.

Despite the praise from supporters, Fedorov's future remains uncertain as Zelenskiy begins his second cabinet reshuffle within a year. The

president has not confirmed whether he intends to retain the defence minister, leaving lawmakers and political observers awaiting Thursday's parliamentary vote. Under Ukraine's constitutional framework, the president nominates the defence and foreign ministers, but both appointments require parliamentary approval before taking effect.

Even if Zelenskiy nominates Fedorov again, several lawmakers have suggested that parliamentary approval cannot be taken for granted. Reports indicate that concerns exist across multiple political groups, creating uncertainty about whether he can secure sufficient support to remain in office.

EU Expands Humanitarian Support

EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union has announced an additional €20 million in humanitarian assistance to support Venezuela's recovery efforts following the devastating earthquakes that struck the country last month. The latest funding package is intended to strengthen emergency response operations, provide essential medical supplies, and enhance search-and-rescue capabilities as authorities continue to deal with the aftermath of one of the country's deadliest natural disasters in recent years.

According to the European Union, the newly announced financial assistance will help deliver urgently needed medical equipment, support healthcare services training injured survivors,

European Union announces additional humanitarian funding to strengthen emergency relief, medical assistance, and rescue operations across earthquake-affected Venezuela

and provide resources for rescue teams working in the affected regions. The funding is also expected to improve the overall humanitarian response by ensuring that emergency personnel have the equipment and logistical support necessary to reach communities still recovering from the disaster.

The latest commitment comes in addition to the €5 million emergency aid package approved by the European Union in June.

Congo forms new council in push for war crimes justice

BUNIA

Democratic Republic of Congo has formed a new advisory council that includes senior war crimes lawyers from the United States and Europe to support its push for accountability for atrocities committed in the country's conflict-ridden east.

The move comes as Congo's government pursues an increasingly ambitious campaign for international justice in connection with the fighting, a decades-old struggle involving dozens of armed groups and competition for mineral resources, in which millions are estimated to have died.

The conflict in eastern Congo is rooted in the fallout from neighbouring Rwanda's 1994 genocide. After the genocide, many perpetrators fled into eastern Congo, helping fuel cycles of violence that have persisted for decades.

Last month, Kinshasa filed

a case at the International Court of Justice accusing Rwanda of breaching international conventions on genocide, racial discrimination and torture.

At the U.N. General Assembly last year, President Felix Tshisekedi called for recognition of what he described as a silent genocide in Congo and urged the creation of an international commission of inquiry to help break a cycle of impunity.

Fighting in eastern Congo intensified last year when the AFC/M23 rebel group, which the United Nations and Western governments say is backed by Rwanda, seized large swathes of eastern Congo. Kigali denies backing the rebels.

The new advisory council, known as the Council for the Examination of Atrocities in the DRC, will advise two Congolese state institutions as they seek recognition of crimes and push for reparations for victims.

Violence in Gaza intensifies as ceasefire negotiations struggle to advance despite ongoing international mediation efforts and diplomacy

Israeli airstrike kills family amid stalled Gaza ceasefire talks

CAIRO

An Israeli airstrike killed a Palestinian man, his wife, and their six-year-old daughter in the central Gaza Strip on Wednesday, as efforts to advance a United States-brokered ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas continued to face significant obstacles. The latest attack underscores the fragile security situation in Gaza, where violence has persisted despite a ceasefire that formally ended large-scale hostilities last October.

According to Palestinian health officials, the strike hit an apartment building in Deir Al-Balah, killing Omar Abu Qassem, his wife Asma, and their young daughter Habeeba.

Medical personnel said the

couple's son survived the attack but sustained injuries and was taken for treatment. The incident has added to growing concerns about the humanitarian impact of continuing military operations across the territory.

The Israeli military stated that the strike targeted a Hamas militant but did not immediately provide further details regarding the operation or comment on the civilian casualties reported by Palestinian authorities.

In a separate incident on Wednesday, medics said another Israeli airstrike in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza City killed one person. The Israeli military did not immediately issue a statement regarding that strike.

Palestinian health officials say that more than 1,100 Pal-

estinians, the majority of them civilians, have been killed in Israeli military attacks since the October ceasefire came into effect. Hamas has generally not released detailed information regarding the number of its fighters killed during this period, making independent verification of combatant casualties difficult.

Although the ceasefire halted the large-scale fighting that had devastated Gaza, Israeli military operations have continued almost daily.

Israeli authorities maintain that these strikes target militants and infrastructure associated with Hamas and other armed groups. During the same period, four Israeli soldiers have reportedly been killed in attacks carried out by militants operating in Gaza.

Brazil's Lula gains ground on Flavio Bolsonaro

SAO PAULO

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has widened his lead over right-wing Senator Flavio Bolsonaro ahead of the country's presidential election scheduled for October, according to a new Quaest opinion poll commissioned by brokerage firm Genial. The survey indicates that Lula has increased his advantage despite recent political controversies and growing debate over Brazil's economic and diplomatic challenges.

The latest poll is the first conducted by Quaest following a series of significant political developments, including a corruption investigation involving a senior political ally of President Lula and public discussions surrounding accountability for potential new United States tariff measures affecting Brazilian

exports. Despite these issues, the survey suggests that voter support for the incumbent president has remained resilient.

In a simulated second-round runoff, Lula received 45 percent of voter support, compared with 37 percent for Senator Flavio Bolsonaro, who has emerged as the leading opposition contender.

The results represent a slight improvement for Lula compared with the previous Quaest survey conducted in June, which showed him leading Bolsonaro by 44 percent to 38 percent.

The poll also measured voter preferences in a first-round election scenario involving several candidates. According to the survey, Lula would secure 40 percent of the vote, while Flavio Bolsonaro would receive 28 percent.



BLACK SEA FIGHTING INTENSIFIES AS RUSSIA AND UKRAINE ESCALATE

ODESA

Russia and Ukraine intensified their military confrontation in the Black Sea on Wednesday, with both sides launching major attacks targeting ports, shipping routes, and strategic infrastructure. The latest escalation highlights the growing importance of maritime operations in the conflict, as each side attempts to disrupt the other's military logistics and economic lifelines.

Ukrainian authorities said a large-scale Russian drone and missile assault on the southern Odesa region entered its fifth consecutive day. According to Odesa Regional Governor Oleh Kiper, the attacks targeted civilian areas as well as industrial facilities and critical port infrastructure that play a vital role in Ukraine's wartime economy.

Officials reported that three

people were killed and at least three others were injured after a Russian missile struck a seven-storey residential building in the city of Odesa. Emergency responders were deployed to search the damaged structure and assist survivors as rescue operations continued. Ukrainian authorities condemned the attack, describing it as another strike on civilian infrastructure.

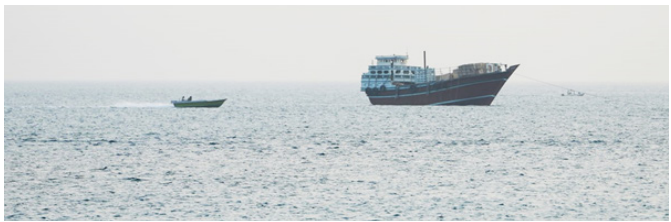
Russia has significantly increased attacks on Ukraine's deepwater Black Sea ports in recent days. Facilities in the Greater Odesa region are particularly important because they handle a substantial share of Ukraine's grain exports and other cargo, making them essential to the country's economy during the war. Continued attacks on these ports have raised concerns about the security of commercial shipping and the stability of global agricultural supply chains.

US STRIKES BOOST US intensifies Iran strikes amid escalating Gulf conflict

WASHINGTON

The United States launched a fresh wave of military strikes against Iran on Wednesday, marking another major escalation in the ongoing conflict between the two countries. The latest attacks came after Washington reimposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports, while Tehran responded by threatening to disrupt additional regional energy export routes, raising fresh concerns over global oil supplies and regional stability.

According to the U.S. military, forces under the U.S.



Central Command began the latest round of strikes at 6 a.m. Eastern Time. The operation was described as targeting military capabilities that Iran has allegedly used to attack commercial shipping in the strategically important Strait of Hormuz. Officials said the objective

was to weaken Iran's ability to threaten maritime security in one of the world's busiest energy corridors.

The U.S. military did not provide further operational details, and there were no immediate reports from Iranian media confirming the strikes or assessing damage.

However, the attacks follow an earlier military operation announced, during which U.S. forces said they struck dozens of military targets near the Strait of Hormuz and along Iran's coastline during a seven-hour campaign.

Iran responded by claiming it had launched retaliatory attacks against U.S. military targets across the region. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said its strikes targeted American military facilities in Bahrain, Kuwait, and Jordan. Independent confirmation of the

claimed attacks was not immediately available.

Tehran also issued a fresh warning regarding regional energy supplies. Iranian officials stated that if military pressure continued, the United States and its allies should prepare for the closure of additional export corridors that benefit Western economies. The threat has heightened fears of broader disruption to global energy markets, particularly as the Strait of Hormuz remains a critical route for international oil and natural gas shipments.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANJU B S S/o LATE SANJEEVA REDDY, R/o 137, 2nd Cross, Kebbehalla, Rajeevgandhi Nagar, Sunkadakatte, Near Gangotri School, Bangalore North, Viswaneedam, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560091, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as B S MANJUNATHA.

IN THE COURT OF THE 2ND ADDL.CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA C.Misc.No. 300/2026

BETWEEN: Smt. Jayamma and others D/o late Gangaiiah W/o Late Siddappa Aged about 70 years, R/ at K. G. Sastripalya Village, Kanasavadi Post, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District

PETITIONERS

AND: The Tahasildar, Registrar of Births and deaths Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura

RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION
Whereas the petitioners above named has presented petition to this Hon'ble Court under Section 13(3) And 14 of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for order direct the respondent authority to get enter the date of death of petitioners by name Smt. Sakamma W/o Late. Gangaiiah, she is died on 28-02-1998. at K.G Sastri Palya Village, Kanasavadi Post, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. The Hon'ble Court has fixed the date 31.07.2026 for hearing of the petitioners and that if any person's desire to oppose the said petition or claim or interest shall appear before the Hon'ble Court in person or by pleader duly instructed at 11 AM. Failing which the said application will be heard and determined as ex parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court on 15.07.2026.

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for Petitioners: Sri. Chandrashekar.T, Advocate, CST LAW CHAMBER, #906, Dadapeer Layout, Sondaoka Bypass Road, Nelamangala Town. Ph: 910646734.

IN THE COURT OF THE 1st ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA C.Mis.No.148/2026

Petitioners: Sri.Ravikumar.B.Y S/o Late Yallappa Aged about 33 years, Rlat Baradi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and others.

VS

Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the paternal Grandmother of petitioner No.1, 3 & 4 and Younger mother of petitioner No.2 by name LATE JAYAMMA W/O LATE MUDALI(AH) who died on 10.04.2004 at Purushanahalli Village, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 31-07-2026 in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 14.07.2026.

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate, K.N.Sathish Kumar, Upg to Court Complex-4th Ward, Rajpura Doddaballapur Town.

NAME CHANGE

I, H MOHAMED YASEEN S/o D M HIDAYATH aged 36 years # 89,ward No 26,Panduranga street Chick-ballapur Town &Dist. Pin 562101 have changed my name to **H. MOHAMMED YASEEN**, vide affidavit dated 15-07-2026 before notary P.V. Ramachandradeddy, Chickballapur.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client M/S PAMN LANDMARK DEVELOPERS LLP, office No. 18 2nd Stage, Ground Floor, Gayathiripuram, Near PF Office, Mysuru-570019 intending to build Apartment in the schedule property by entering Joint Development Agreement with the respective owners 3) Mr. J.S. Magdooom small, S/o Late S.M. Jidda and 3) Mr. J.S. Khadir Moulla, S/o Late S. M. Jidda, both are R/at Door No. HIG-5 Bannimantap, C Layout, Mandi Mohalla, Mysuru [therefore, hereby called upon through this public notice, if their any objection in this regard they have to submit within 15 days from this publication. Otherwise subsequent objections does not binding to my clients.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel property as per MCC Form No. 2, vacant site Property No. 3980483678, Old Property No.138/2, situated at Sy No. 138/2 belavatha Village Kasaba Hobli, Ward No. 9, Mysuru, measuring 3338. 66 sq meter (3 guntas of Kharab) (residential conversion order No. ALN(1) CR 63/2010-11 New No. ALN(1) 121/2011-1? Ot; 05.11.2011 passed by the Deputy Commissioner Mysuru District) and bounded on East by: Property bearing Sy. No. 140, 144, West by: Road and Property bearing Sy. No. 138/2, North by property bearing Sy. No. 138/3 and South by Property bearing Sy. No. 137, 144.

C.N. MAHESH, B.A., LL.B. Advocate
"A" Law Associates KAR-1508/2005 No. 1, Behind Maramma Temple, Bajjanna Lane Chamaraaja Puraam, MYSORE-50005, Cell, 9900461244
Place: Mysore, Phone - 9845190877

Spain outclass France to storm into FIFA World Cup 2026 final

Disciplined Spain subdue France's star attack to book deserved World Cup final berth.



ARLINGTON

Spain produced a clinical display to defeat France 2-0 in the first semi-final of the FIFA World Cup 2026, booking their place in the title clash and moving within one victory of lifting their second World Cup crown.

The European champions neutralised France's star-studded attack with a disciplined defensive performance before goals from Mikel Oyarzabal and Pedro Porro sealed a memorable win at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

Spain broke the deadlock midway through the first half after referee Ivan Barton awarded a penalty when French left-back Lucas Digne brought down teenage winger Lamine Yamal inside the box. Oyarzabal calmly converted the spot-kick, registering his fifth goal of the tournament and handing France their first deficit of the World Cup.

France suffered another setback moments later when central defender William Saliba was forced off with a recurrence of a lower-back injury, disrupting Didier Deschamps' defensive plans.

Spain continued to dominate possession and created several opportunities with their trademark quick passing. France, despite boasting attacking stars such as Kylian Mbappe, Ousmane Dembele and Michael Olise, failed to register a shot on target in the opening half.

Road to the final

Spain's march to the World Cup final has been built on balance rather than brilliance alone. While teenage winger Lamine Yamal has dazzled with his creativity, the team's greatest strength has been its defensive organisation. Spain have conceded just one goal throughout the tournament, successfully containing some of the world's best attacking sides. Head coach Luis de la Fuente has blended experienced campaigners with emerging talent, creating a side capable of controlling possession while remaining ruthless in front of goal. Victory over France underlined Spain's credentials as deserving finalists and serious favourites to lift the trophy for the second time.

Deschamps attempted to revive his side by introducing Desire Doue early in the second half, but Spain doubled their advantage almost immediately.

Pedro Porro finished off a superb move involving Dani Olmo, collecting a return pass before calmly beating goalkeeper Mike Maignan to put the result beyond doubt.

France threw on Theo Hernandez and Rayan Cherki in search of a comeback, but Spain's well-organised defence held firm to preserve

HOW SPAIN REACHED THE FINAL		
Category	Spain	France
Final Score	2	0
First-half goals	1	0
Second-half goals	1	0
Scorers	Mikel Oyarzabal (Pen), Pedro Porro	-
First-half shots on target	Multiple chances	0
Key moment	Oyarzabal converts penalty	Saliba injured, forced off
Tournament goals conceded	1	5
Next match	World Cup Final	Third-place playoff

MATCH TIMELINE

- ⚽ 26' – Oyarzabal converts penalty after Digne fouls Lamine Yamal.
- ⚽ 31' – William Saliba exits injured, replaced by Maxence Lacroix.
- ⚽ 58' – Pedro Porro finishes brilliant move involving Dani Olmo.
- ⚽ FT – Spain keep another clean sheet to reach the final.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 2-0 – Spain's semi-final victory.
- 5 – World Cup goals for Mikel Oyarzabal.
- 1 – Goal conceded by Spain in the entire tournament.
- 2nd – Spain's appearance in a World Cup final.
- 16 years – Since Spain's 2010 World Cup triumph.
- 48 teams – First expanded FIFA World Cup edition.
- 14 years – Didier Deschamps' tenure as France coach comes to an end after the tournament.

another impressive clean sheet. Having conceded only one goal throughout the tournament, Spain have combined defensive solidity with attacking flair, spearheaded by teenage sensation Lamine Yamal.

The 2010 champions are now just one victory away from becoming the first winners of the expanded 48-team FIFA World Cup and matching their historic triumph under Vicente del Bosque 16 years ago.

France will contest the third-place playoff in Didier Deschamps' final tournament before stepping down as coach after 14 years in charge.

ICC approves revamped formats for ODI and T20 World Cups

DUBAI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has approved a new competition format for its marquee events, introducing significant changes to the Men's Cricket World Cup and Men's T20 World Cup in an effort to create more meaningful contests and enhance the tournament experience.

The decision was ratified by the ICC Board following recommendations from the Chief Executives' Committee, which includes representatives from both Full Member and Associate Member nations.

A key feature of the revamped structure is the introduction of a new 'Super Series' round before the traditional group stage. This will be followed by a 'Super 7' phase, where seven teams will compete for places in the semi-finals.

According to the ICC, the revised format has been designed to improve competitive balance, increase the quality of matches and provide greater opportunities for emerging cricketing nations.

The 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, to be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, will continue to feature 14 teams but will now be played under a new three-stage format culminating in the knockout rounds.

Similarly, the 2028 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, to be co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand, will retain its 20-team field while adopting a revised structure aimed at increasing the number of teams progressing to the second phase.

The new format is expected to strengthen competition by ensuring more teams remain in contention for longer periods while reducing the number of inconsequential matches.

ICC officials said the changes reflect the governing body's commitment to growing the global game and making



New tournament structure promises tougher competition, greater excitement and expanded opportunities for emerging teams.

A new era for ICC tournaments

The ICC believes the revised formats will deliver more high-quality contests while giving emerging nations a better chance to compete against established teams in the latter stages of global events. By introducing the Super Series and Super 7 phases, the governing body aims to maintain competitive intensity throughout the tournaments, reduce dead rubbers and create a more rewarding experience for players, broadcasters and fans.

ing major tournaments more engaging for players, broadcasters and fans alike. The revised system is also expected to offer greater exposure to Associate nations by expanding representation in the latter stages of the T20 World Cup.

The announcement marks one of the most significant changes to ICC event formats in recent years as world cricket prepares for a new era of global competitions with increased emphasis on competitiveness and inclusivity.

Asunta Lakra seeks NCW intervention over Hockey India harassment complaints

NEW DELHI

Former India women's hockey captain Asunta Lakra has sought the intervention of the National Commission for Women (NCW), alleging serious lapses in the handling of sexual harassment complaints within Hockey India and its affiliated bodies.

In a letter addressed to the NCW, Lakra urged the commission to conduct an independent inquiry into what she described as "institutional failure" in addressing complaints of sexual harassment, intimidation and abuse of authority.

Lakra requested the commission to examine whether there had been deliberate inaction, suppression of complaints or protection extended to individuals holding positions of authority despite allegations being brought to the attention of officials.

The controversy stems from Lakra's allegations against



Hockey India Secretary General Bholanath Singh, whom she accused of threatening and intimidating her after she raised concerns over alleged misconduct by Jharkhand coach Sudhir Gola towards women players at the Eklavya Hockey Academy in Ranchi.

Earlier, Lakra had written to the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports seeking immediate intervention. Acting on the complaint, the ministry directed Hockey India to investigate the allegations and submit a report.

In her communication to the NCW, Lakra also called for an independent inquiry into the allegations against Sudhir Gola and the manner in which complaints were handled by Hockey India and

Hockey Jharkhand officials.

She further alleged that several complainants belonged to Scheduled Tribe communities and had reported caste-based humiliation and derogatory remarks.

Lakra appealed for an investigation into the role of Hockey India and Hockey Jharkhand officials to determine whether their actions or omissions contributed to the intimidation of complainants or the failure to provide adequate protection to women athletes.

Stressing the need for accountability, she urged the NCW to ensure a safe, secure and dignified environment for female sportspersons across the country.

The case has intensified scrutiny of Hockey India's internal grievance mechanisms, with both the Sports Ministry and the NCW now expected to examine the allegations and the processes followed in addressing complaints.

Mbappe rues France's World Cup exit after Spain outclass Les Bleus



ARLINGTON

France captain Kylian Mbappe described his team's World Cup semi-final defeat to Spain as an "immense disappointment", admitting tactical and technical shortcomings ended Les Bleus' hopes of reaching a third successive FIFA World Cup final.

Mbappe, who scored eight goals during an outstanding tournament, acknowledged that France failed to execute their game plan against the European champions. "I don't think we played the match we wanted to play—tactically, technically or in terms of our over-

Spain's midfield made the difference

France captain Kylian Mbappe admitted Spain's superiority in midfield proved decisive in the semi-final. He said Les Bleus failed to execute their high-press strategy and were repeatedly outnumbered in central areas, allowing Spain to control possession and dictate the game's tempo on their way to a deserved 2-0 victory.

all performance," the Real Madrid forward said.

France had planned to press Spain high up the pitch and prevent them from dictating possession, but Mbappe admitted the strategy failed.

He pointed to Spain's midfield dominance, with Rodri, Dani Olmo and Fabian Ruiz consistently outnumbering Adrien Rabiot and Aurelien Tchouameni. "When you are outnumbered against Spain in midfield, it becomes a real problem," Mbappe said. Despite the setback, the French skipper urged his teammates to learn from the defeat and return stronger.

"We have to hold our heads high, learn from this failure and move on. Football waits for no one," he said.

French captain admits tactical shortcomings ended team's dream of another World Cup final appearance.

Belgian midfielder strengthens United's squad as club continues ambitious summer rebuilding ahead successfully.



Manchester United sign Youri Tielemans from Aston Villa

LONDON

Manchester United have completed the signing of Belgian international Youri Tielemans from Aston Villa for a reported fee of £35 million, bolstering their midfield ahead of the new Premier League season.

The 29-year-old has signed a five-year contract at Old Trafford after returning from the FIFA World Cup, where he captained Belgium to the quarter-finals before injury ruled him out of the defeat to Spain.

Tielemans becomes United's third signing of the summer transfer window following the arrivals of Brazilian midfielder Andrey Santos from Chelsea and veteran goalkeeper Karl Darlow from

Leeds United. Expressing his delight after completing the move, Tielemans described joining Manchester United as a dream come true.

"It is hard to describe just how proud I am to join Manchester United. Signing for such a special club is the culmination of years of dedication. My ambition is to help the club compete for the biggest trophies," he said.

United's Director of Football Jason Wilcox hailed the Belgian as one of the Premier League's finest midfielders in recent seasons.

"He possesses outstanding technical ability, ambition and the mentality needed to succeed at Manchester United," Wilcox said.

Tielemans joined Aston Villa on a free transfer from Leicester City in 2023 and quickly established himself as a key figure under manager Unai Emery. He helped Villa qualify for the UEFA Champions League and played an influential role in the club's UEFA Europa League triumph last season.

Sayali stuns Manika as UP Prometheans edge Ahmedabad in UTT thriller

PANAJI

Twenty-year-old Sayali Wani produced one of the biggest upsets of Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) Season 7 by defeating India's top-ranked woman paddler Manika Batra to guide UP Prometheans to a thrilling 8-7 victory over Ahmedabad APL Pipers.

With the tie evenly poised at 6-6, Sayali displayed remarkable composure to beat World No. 51 Manika, despite being ranked World No. 151, clinching the deciding match 2-1.

The victory gave UP Prometheans their maiden win over Ahmedabad in the

league at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium.

Sayali's triumph was all the more remarkable as she saved three match points in the deciding game before completing a memorable comeback. The defeat also marked Manika's third successive loss in the tournament.

Ahmedabad had looked firmly in control after winning the opening two matches. Payas Jain defeated Sudhanshu Grover 2-1 before Sofia Polcanova overcame Yangzi Liu by the same margin, giving Ahmedabad a 4-2 advantage. However, the momentum shifted dramatically in the mixed doubles.

QUICK READ

Taiwan luxury mangoes fly to European markets

TAICHUNG

Taiwan's premium, juicy mangoes are officially heading to Europe for the first time, debuting in France and Britain. Famous for their intense sweetness, varieties like the "Summer Snow" and Irwin are entering the market despite high export costs and strict European pesticide regulations. Taiwan traditionally exports its fruit to Asian neighbors like Japan. However, the government is aggressively pushing for broader global markets to counter ongoing trade bans from China. Farmers remain highly confident that European consumers will embrace the fruit, boldly calling their top-tier, luxury produce the absolute "Louis Vuitton of the mango world."

China deploys electric taxis against oil shocks

BEIJING

China is successfully shielding its economy from global oil shocks by rapidly expanding its electric taxi fleet. As the ongoing Iran war drives gasoline prices higher, more citizens are ditching their personal cars for affordable rideshares. Fares are actually dropping because millions of out-of-work drivers are flooding the market using cheap electric vehicles. Currently, half of the nation's taxis are electric, reaching nearly 100% in major cities. This massive green shift slashed China's recent gasoline use by 10%. By burning less fuel, the country is reducing its reliance on foreign oil imports during global crises.

Apple intelligence wins Chinese regulatory approval

BEIJING

China's cyberspace regulator has approved Apple's new generative AI service, "Apple Intelligence," for local iPhones. To comply with local laws and enhance user experience, Apple is partnering with Chinese tech giants Baidu and Alibaba. Alibaba confirmed its Qwen AI model will power features across Chinese iPhones, iPads, and Macs. While the official launch date remains unannounced, this regulatory milestone is a massive win for Apple. The tech giant recently saw a huge rise in Chinese phone shipments and wants to keep this momentum going by offering localized, cutting-edge AI features to its massive user base.

Intel adopts advanced tool for laptop chips

SAN FRANCISCO

Intel has started using a pricey new machine from ASML to build its newest laptop chips, called Panther Lake. This advanced tool uses special light to print microscopic circuits on silicon. While the machine is very expensive and hard to run, Intel is testing it on specific chip layers. This trial helps both firms learn how to make the system work better. Currently, Intel builds most of these chips with standard tools at its Oregon plant. This move marks a major step forward as the tech giant races to make smaller, faster computer processors for tomorrow.

Patanjali stock plunges 20% before mild recovery

Patanjali Foods shares crashed 20% to a six-year low of ₹328.20, sparking widespread panic among market investors.

MUMBAI

Investors of Patanjali Foods faced a massive shock as the company's stock prices crashed by 20 percent. This sudden drop pushed the shares down to their lowest value in over six years, creating a wave of panic across the Indian stock market.

The company's stock plunged to a worrying low of Rs 328.20 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). This marks the lowest point the company has seen since April 2020. The crash means the stock value has now split nearly in half compared to its highest peak in July last year. Even though the shares managed to recover slightly later in the afternoon, they were still trading around 16 percent lower at about Rs 345



per share.

As the market panicked, Patanjali Foods quickly stepped forward to calm the public. The company released an official statement to the stock exchanges, assuring everyone that their business is running perfectly normally. They stated that there are no hidden bad news, secret events, or financial troubles that could explain why the stock suddenly lost its value. The management emphasized that they remain fully focused on their growth plans and are running

their daily operations just like any other day.

Despite these reassuring words from the management, the numbers show that the popular consumer goods giant is facing heavy pressure. Patanjali Foods, which was earlier known as Ruchi Soya Industries, is one of India's biggest names in the edible oil and daily household products market. However, this latest market crash adds to a very tough year for the brand. Over the past month alone, the stock has dropped by nearly 19 percent. When looking at the bigger picture, the company's shares have lost a whopping 37 percent of their total value since the start of this year. Experts are watching closely to see if the brand can bounce back from this historic low.

India, Australia finalize uranium trade framework

NEW DELHI

India's ambitious push for clean and sustainable energy has received a massive boost following a landmark uranium supply agreement with Australia. The newly finalized administrative arrangement, settled during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent state visit, grants India direct access to the world's largest known reserves of uranium, successfully clearing a long-standing hurdle for the nation's expanding nuclear power sector.

For years, the highly anticipated energy deal was delayed due to strict international concerns regarding nuclear safety safeguards. However, this historic breakthrough finally ensures a dependable, long-term fuel supply for India's growing fleet of monitored nuclear reactors. Experts in international nuclear energy view the partnership as a turning point, noting that the steady flow of Australian uranium will allow India to rapidly scale up its electricity generation under global safety guidelines to meet soaring commercial demand.

Beyond securing clean power, the successful summit between PM Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese significantly strengthened strategic and defense relations across the critical Indo-Pacific region. During the high-level talks, both leaders also addressed modern regional security challenges. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri shared that the two prime ministers explicitly voiced mutual concerns regarding China's recent testing of an intercontinental ballistic missile within the Pacific Ocean.

Smart reskilling sparks AI growth in India

NEW DELHI

Instead of hunting for new employees, Global Capability Centres in India are turning inwards. A new report reveals that these hubs are now retraining their current workers with similar tech backgrounds to fill crucial artificial intelligence roles.

According to reports, hiring demand is booming for mid-career professionals with four to twelve years of experience. To beat a massive 40 percent talent shortage in the AI market, companies are building internal career bridges. For example, standard backend developers are being trained to become applied AI engineers, while data scientists are successfully shifting into machine learning operations.

This smart strategy helped overall tech hiring grow by about 6 percent last quarter. AI and data analytics emerged as the absolute fastest-growing fields, making up nearly 17 percent of all new job demands. Rather than searching for rare outside experts, organizations are finding that upgrading the skills of their existing cloud, cybersecurity, and automation engineers is a much faster way to build digital strength.

IBM shares plummeted 25% after CEO Arvind Krishna admitted the company misjudged a rapid corporate shift toward AI spending.

IBM stumbles on AI shift, admits CEO

NEW YORK

IBM's stock took a painful nosedive, plunging 25 percent after chief executive Arvind Krishna admitted the company completely misjudged how fast clients are shifting their cash toward artificial intelligence.

In a surprisingly honest letter to investors, Krishna confessed that IBM "faltered" during the second quarter. The tech giant underestimated how aggressively businesses would hijack their own budgets to buy AI infrastructure, like specialized servers and memory chips. IBM expected a few minor supply chain hiccups, but the reality was far more brutal.



As customers scrambled to buy up hardware ahead of predicted price hikes, IBM's sales teams failed to adapt. Krishna noted that the sudden budget shifts, combined with global cybersecurity worries, distracted clients. This deadly mix caused several massive deals to fall through at the very last minute.

FICCI hails landmark zero-duty trade agreement

NEW DELHI

The highly anticipated Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the United Kingdom officially went live. This landmark economic pact has received overwhelming praise from top Indian industrial bodies, who believe it will open historic new pathways for both goods and services while drastically lowering export costs.

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) warmly congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on this historic achievement. FICCI Secretary General Anant Swarup stated that the new Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) marks a major milestone for Indian businesses. He emphasized that the deal will spark greater cooperation in technology, encourage innovation, and improve talent mobility, which will

ultimately make Indian industries far more competitive on the global stage.

Under the new terms of the pact, Indian exporters will enjoy zero-duty market access for nearly 99 percent of their products. This covers almost the entire total value of trade between the two nations, providing a massive boost for local manufacturers. FICCI President Anant Goenka added that this high-quality economic partnership perfectly supports the vision of a developed India, helping the nation secure deeper integration within international trade networks.

At the same time, India's premier IT industry body, Nasscom, enthusiastically welcomed the deal. Technology leaders highlighted that the agreement will unlock incredible new possibilities in digital trade, cross-border investments, and professional growth.

Tamil Nadu plans 20,000 EV charging stations by 2031

CHENNAI

In a massive push toward clean and green transportation, the Tamil Nadu government has announced an ambitious plan to set up 20,000 public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across the state by 2031. This strategic roadmap aims to make green mobility highly accessible, build a robust support network, and attract significant private investments to the state's rapidly growing EV industry.

The detailed plan was finalized during high-level meetings held in Chennai over the last two days. Top government officials and green energy experts reviewed the state's current charging facilities and discussed practical solutions to expand the network. The first evaluation meeting was led by Chief Secretary Sai Kumar to map out the current hurdles and plan smooth, widespread coverage across both cities and



Tamil Nadu aims to install 20,000 public EV charging stations by 2031 to accelerate green mobility, ease range anxiety, and attract private infrastructure investments.

villages.

Following this, a technical session was organized by the Chairman and Managing Director of the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation (TNPDC). Joined by representatives from the ITDP India and the Mentor Tamil Nadu initiatives, the team focused on building smart, policy-backed strategies to

quickly roll out these public stations.

By committing to 20,000 public stations, the government aims to erase "range anxiety" and build strong consumer confidence to switch from petrol or diesel to electric vehicles. Officials highlighted that a well-connected charging network is key to encouraging people to adopt electric cars, two-wheelers, and commercial buses.

Importantly, the government is looking to share the financial load by offering highly supportive policies that invite private businesses to build and operate these charging stations. This collaborative approach will speed up the infrastructure development without draining public funds. Ultimately, this green initiative will significantly lower vehicular emissions, clean up urban air, and position Tamil Nadu as a top-tier national leader in eco-friendly transport.

Passenger vehicle sales jump 24.1% in June

NEW DELHI

India's automobile market is accelerating rapidly as a surge in demand drove up vehicle sales in June. The newest industry data shows a spectacular rise in both passenger cars and daily-use two-wheelers, cementing a strong, sustained recovery for the country's transportation sector.

According to the latest report, local passenger vehicle dispatches from factories to dealerships jumped by 24.1 percent year-on-year. In total, manufacturers shipped 388,144 cars and utility vehicles to showrooms, compared to 312,851 units during the same period last year. Within this booming segment, utility vehicles (UVs) remained the undisputed customer favorite, with sales climbing nearly 20

percent to hit 217,228 units. Standard passenger car sales also enjoyed a healthy double-digit bump of over 15 percent, reaching 98,610 units.

The story was equally exciting for two-wheelers, showcasing strong consumer confidence in suburban and rural markets. Manufacturers shipped over 1.85 million two-wheelers in June, marking an 18.6 percent leap from the previous year. Geared scooters stole the spotlight as the fastest-growing category under two-wheelers, with sales rocketing up by 39.1 percent. Meanwhile, three-wheelers, which are vital for last-mile connectivity and local deliveries, leaped by over 26 percent. Even eco-friendly electric rickshaws witnessed a dramatic 52.4 percent growth in sales.

NITI Aayog event promotes Northeast frontier innovation

GUWAHATI

India's Northeast is rapidly turning into the nation's newest innovation hub. Government policymakers, tech leaders, and investors gathered in Assam, calling for stronger partnerships to supercharge entrepreneurship across the eight distinct frontier states.

The historic meeting, organized by NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission, brought together representatives from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. Leaders highlighted the region's immense strategic importance, positioning it as India's vital gateway to booming Southeast Asian markets.

Officials explained that the area's rich biodiversity, massive bamboo resources, traditional crafts, and unique cultural heritage give it a massive advantage. When com-



combined with modern technology, these local strengths can help drive the country's long-term economic goal of becoming a fully developed nation by 2047.

NITI Aayog member Dr. Joram Aniya reminded the audience of the Prime Minister's vision, which labels these eight unique states as "Ashta Lakshmi," or the eight forms of wealth capable of driving India's future. Mission Director Deepak Bagla added that the area's raw talent and nat-

ural resources will play a defining role in this journey.

Moving forward, the focus will be on upgrading traditional industries through smart eco-tourism and grassroots biotechnology. Experts also mapped out plans to build stronger business incubators. These facilities will mentor local startup founders, helping them transform simple creative ideas into commercial success stories that lift up community livelihoods.

INDIA'S RX INNOVATION LEAP

Indian origin pharma patents jump 4%: Report

NEW DELHI

India is rapidly transforming from a simple maker of cheap generic medicines into a global powerhouse for scientific discovery, according to a new report. Over the past decade, the number of pharmaceutical patents coming out of India has jumped more than four-fold, showing that the country is now creating its own unique medical breakthroughs.

Studies reveals that Indian-origin drug patents climbed from just 716 in 2015 to a whopping 2,995 in 2024. Indian companies are



actively running over 1,095 drug discovery programs, driven by a growing network of 2,400 biotech startups. This massive shift is backed by a surge in financial investments, with private funding into the country's drug sector doubling to \$731 million in the last fiscal year.

Experts highlight that India's growth is not just about

quantity, but true quality. Over the last ten years, Indian researchers have successfully created more than ten entirely new drug assets. This momentum is fueled by major factors, including \$5 billion in government research funds, closer ties between universities and businesses, and smarter rules that cut drug approval times from nine months down to just two to four months.

The report highlights incredible local success stories, such as BIRSA 101, which is India's first home-grown gene-editing treatment. Another break-

through is NexCAR19, an advanced cancer therapy developed in India that costs only a fraction of what patients pay for similar treatments abroad.

Industry leaders state that the next five years will be critical in deciding if India can turn these initial successes into a permanent global engine for medical discovery. By combining its famous cost-efficiency with highly skilled scientists and massive patient databases, the nation is uniquely positioned to design life-saving, affordable medicines for the entire world.

Tried hitting too hard in T20s, timing worked in ODIs: Axar Patel

BIRMINGHAM

India all-rounder Axar Patel said he consciously shifted his approach from power-hitting to timing the ball during the first ODI against England, a move that helped him produce a match-winning all-round performance after a disappointing T20I series.

Axar was named Player of the Match after claiming four wickets in 9.5 overs and scoring a composed 57 off 52 balls, guiding India to a four-wicket victory with 28 balls to spare in the chase of 259. Captain Shubman Gill struck 80, while Washington Sundar contributed 52 in a well-paced chase.

Reflecting on his performance, Axar admitted he had tried to hit the ball too hard during the T20I series, where he managed only 19 runs as India suffered a 0-4 defeat.

“It was important for me to keep believing in myself and execute my plans. During the T20Is, I was trying to hit the ball too hard and was losing my shape,” he said.

Axar explained that the ODI situation allowed him to build an innings instead of attacking from the outset.

“After the strong start, I wanted to build a partnership. I knew I had time, so I focused on timing rather than power. On this wicket, trusting the bounce was the key,” he said.

The 32-year-old also described the Edgbaston surface as challenging for new batters, saying stroke-making became easier only after spending time at the crease.

“There was bounce, swing and seam movement. You couldn’t come in and play attacking shots immediately. Once you settled in, scoring became much easier,” he observed.

Axar also highlighted the positive impact of the return of senior players Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli,

Player-of-the-match Axar credits patience, timing and partnerships for India’s winning ODI performance.

Jasprit Bumrah and KL Rahul to the ODI side.

He said their experience creates confidence within the team, with every player clearly understanding their role. “We have played together for a long time. That familiarity, unity and confidence create a relaxed atmosphere. You can see it in the way everyone enjoys themselves on the field,” Axar said.

India will look to seal the three-match series when they face England in the second ODI at Cardiff on Thursday.



CARDIFF

India will look to wrap up the three-match ODI series against England when the teams meet in the second match at Cardiff on Thursday, but concerns over captain Shubman Gill’s fitness and Rohit Sharma’s recent form continue to occupy the team management.

India took a 1-0 lead with a convincing six-wicket win in Birmingham, thanks to Gill’s fluent 80, Axar Patel’s all-round brilliance and valuable contributions from Washington Sundar. However, Gill’s injury scare overshadowed the victory after he retired hurt while batting, apparently suffering from severe cramps.

The Indian camp will hope the problem is not serious, considering Gill’s importance both as captain and opener. A similar incident during a Test against South Africa last year resulted in hospitalisation and forced him to miss the remainder of the series.

While Gill’s fitness remains under observation, Rohit Sharma’s batting continues to raise questions. Since relinquishing the captaincy, the veteran opener has adopted a more measured approach, but the change has yet to produce consistently impactful performances.

Since October 2025, Rohit has scored 563 runs in 13 ODIs at an average of 46.91, including one century and four half-centuries.

In contrast, Virat Kohli has been in outstanding form, amassing 621 runs in 10 matches at an impressive average of 77.62, with three centuries and three fifties.

India, however, will draw confidence from the successful return of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who played his first ODI since the 2023 World Cup final and looked sharp with the ball.

The resurgence of all-rounders Axar Patel and Washington Sundar has also strengthened the visitors’ balance ahead of the crucial contest. England, meanwhile, will be desperate to keep the series alive after another disappointing batting display in Birmingham.

The hosts have suffered 13 defeats in their last 19 ODIs since the start of 2025 and need a much-improved effort from their top order. The match begins at

India targets series-clinching victory despite fitness concerns and inconsistent top-order batting performances ahead.

At a Glance – India vs England, 2nd ODI

- **Match:** India vs England, 2nd ODI
- **Venue:** Cardiff
- **Date:** Thursday, July 16
- **Series:** India lead the three-match series 1-0
- **Match time:** 5.30 pm IST

India

- Shubman Gill’s fitness under watch after retiring hurt with cramps in the first ODI.
- Gill scored 80 before walking off the field.
- Rohit Sharma’s recent ODI form remains under scrutiny.
- Rohit has 563 runs in 13 ODIs since October 2025 (1 century, 4 fifties; average 46.91).
- Virat Kohli has scored 621 runs in 10 ODIs (3 centuries, 3 fifties; average 77.62).
- Jasprit Bumrah impressed on his ODI return after the 2023 World Cup final.
- Axar Patel and Washington Sundar regained form with match-winning performances in Birmingham.

England

- Need victory to keep the series alive.
- Have lost 13 of their last 19 ODIs since 2025.
- Top-order batting must improve after first ODI defeat.

First ODI Result

- India won by six wickets.
- Axar Patel named Player of the Match.
- Final ODI to be played at Lord’s on Sunday, July 19.

5.30pm IST, with the third and final ODI scheduled to be played at Lord’s on Sunday. A victory in Cardiff would hand India the series with one match to spare.

Rakshit Dahiya, Yogya Bhalla crowned champions at DGC junior golf tournament

NEW DELHI

Rakshit Dahiya and Yogya Bhalla emerged champions in the boys’ and girls’ sections respectively at the 16th edition of the Delhi Golf Club (DGC) Junior/Sub-Junior Golf Tournament, presented by Usha.

Held over three days at the Delhi Golf Club, the prestigious event attracted more than 162 young golfers aged between seven and 21 years, marking a significant increase in participation despite adverse weather conditions throughout the competition.



The tournament was played across the Lodhi and Peacock courses, with participants displaying remarkable resilience

and skill in difficult playing conditions.

Rakshit not only clinched the boys’ championship but also secured the Special A category title and won the Longest Drive award. Yogya enjoyed a similarly successful outing by lifting the girls’ championship, winning the Category A title and sharing the Longest Drive honours.

Among the other special award winners, Vir Daulat Singh, Jyoti Mandal and Vansh Tyagi received the Straightest Drive awards for their precision off the tee. A memorable moment of the tournament came on the second day when Aftab Bakshi thrilled players and spectators alike by recording a hole-in-one on the seventh hole.

Organisers said this year’s championship featured some of India’s most promising young golfers, many of whom have already begun making their presence felt on the international circuit.

Why Kuldeep’s exclusion is debated

Kuldeep Yadav is widely regarded as one of India’s premier wicket-taking spinners, particularly during the middle overs in ODI cricket. Former players believe his ability to break partnerships and unsettle batters makes him an invaluable attacking option. However, India’s current strategy under Gautam Gambhir has favoured all-rounders who strengthen the batting order while contributing with the ball.

Critics argue that although batting depth provides insurance, specialist bowlers like Kuldeep are often the difference in high-pressure matches by producing breakthroughs when the team needs them most.



Kuldeep Yadav’s omission sparks criticism

BIRMINGHAM

India’s decision to leave wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav out of the playing XI for the opening ODI against England has drawn criticism from former cricketers, who believe the team management’s preference for batting depth could hurt its chances in the long run.

Despite India’s six-wicket victory in Birmingham, former India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar questioned the exclusion of Kuldeep, arguing that taking wickets should remain the priority over extending the batting lineup.

The Indian team management opted for all-rounders Axar Patel and Washington Sundar as the spin options, with both offering depth in batting in addition to their bowling. Under head coach Gautam Gambhir, India have consistently preferred a longer batting order backed by versatile all-rounders.

Nayar said the approach was overly defensive. “You want batting depth, but not at the expense of taking wickets. You win games by picking up wickets. If your attack can’t do that, it doesn’t matter how much batting you have—you’ll struggle,” he said. Nayar praised

Jasprit Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna as genuine wicket-taking bowlers, while describing debutant Gurnoor Brar as an unknown quantity at the international level.

He added that the remaining bowling options were more suited to containing runs than attacking batters. “For me, Kuldeep Yadav gives you that X-factor in the middle overs. He is someone who can change the course of a match by taking wickets,” Nayar said.

Former India wicketkeeper-batter Parthiv Patel echoed the sentiment, calling India’s team selection a “defensive move” and agreeing that a specialist spinner like Kuldeep would have added greater attacking intent.

Kuldeep had also been left out of India’s T20I squads for the series against Ireland and England, prompting criticism from fans who expected the selectors to return to specialist bowlers following disappointing results in the shortest format.

Although India’s decision did not affect the outcome in Birmingham, where they comfortably chased down 259 to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series, the debate over balancing batting depth with wicket-taking ability is likely to continue as the teams head into the second ODI at Cardiff on Thursday.

Uncertainty looms over India’s coaching staff after England tour

Contracts nearing expiry leave India’s support staff awaiting clarity over future roles and continuity.

MUMBAI

The future of three key members of India’s men’s cricket team’s support staff remains uncertain, with their contracts due to expire after the ongoing limited-overs tour of England.

Assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate, bowling coach Morne Morkel and fielding coach T. Dilip are all awaiting clarity from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) as it reviews the team’s coaching structure ahead of next year’s ODI World Cup in South Africa.

Ten Doeschate and Morkel, who were personally chosen by head coach Gautam Gambhir when he took charge in July 2024, are understood to be undecided about extending their tenures.

Sources indicate that both coaches have expressed concerns over the demanding international schedule, which has kept them away from their families for extended periods. The hectic calendar has reportedly made it difficult to maintain a healthy work-life balance.

Apart from personal considerations, discussions have also centred on role clarity and the long-term roadmap for the support staff beyond the current cycle. The BCCI and Gambhir are believed to be assessing whether to persuade both coaches to remain with the team until the 2027 ODI World Cup. While no final



decision has been taken, the matter is expected to be resolved soon after the England tour concludes.

Fielding coach T. Dilip finds himself in a different position. The only member of Rahul Dravid’s coaching staff retained after Gambhir’s appointment, Dilip has completed his tenure and is waiting to learn whether he will receive a contract extension. The uncertainty comes at a crucial stage, with India preparing for a packed international calendar that includes major bilateral assignments and the build-up to the next ODI World Cup. The BCCI’s review committee is scheduled to meet later this month to assess the team’s recent performances and finalise plans for the next phase of preparations.