

NC sticks to statehood stir plan

P7



JDV Exposes Israeli Influence Campaign

P9



UDAN support extended to five years for airlines

P11



Messi leads Argentina into World Cup final

P10



CABINET ASPIRANTS FACE LONGER WAIT IN K'TAKA

Despite CM, ex-CM, KPCC chief landing in Delhi, expansion talks put off by a week as Cong chief Kharge travels to B'loru due to personal reasons.

NEW DELHI

The much-awaited discussion on expanding the DK Shivakumar-led Congress government in Karnataka has been postponed to next week due to the unavailability of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge.

Though Chief Minister Shivakumar, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and Karnataka Congress President BK Hariprasad held a preliminary meeting with Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi here on Thursday, a final decision on the expansion was deferred.

"The meeting decided to hold one more round of discussions next week to take a decision on the expansion," Hariprasad told reporters after the meeting.

Kharge was expected to attend the high-level meeting but could not as he had to rush to Bengaluru. The next round of talks will be scheduled once his availability is confirmed, Hariprasad added.

Earlier in the day, Shi-



RaGa: Will have detailed discussion with Kharge

Congress top brass Rahul Gandhi, who held preliminary talks with CM Shivakumar and ex-CM Siddaramaiah, said he will have detailed discussions with Kharge and call the two leaders to Delhi again if wider consultations are needed.

vakumar and Siddaramaiah held separate discussions with Congress General Secretary (in-charge) KC Venugopal and Karnataka Congress in-charge General Secretary Randeep Surjewala. The deliberations come amid intense lobbying by several ministerial aspirants.

The Karnataka Council of Ministers has a sanctioned strength of 34, including the Chief Minister. At present, the council has only 14 members,

leaving 20 berths vacant.

According to sources, the Congress party is planning to fill around 15 vacancies in this round of expansion and keep five posts vacant until the completion of Greater Bengaluru Authority and other local body elections, including gram panchayat, taluk panchayat, and zilla panchayat polls.

With many aspirants and limited berths available, Chief Minister Shivakumar faces the challenging task of balancing

Hariprasad factor

Former CM Siddaramaiah is said to be pitching for Hariprasad's inclusion in the Cabinet, arguing that it would establish better coordination between the party and government, and strengthen the Congress party's OBC vote bank. The 72-year-old OBC leader is a member of the state's upper house, and kicked up a storm, last month, when he said those who wanted power could go with Shivakumar and those who wanted the party could join him. As per sources, Shivakumar and Hariprasad are not best of friends, but Siddaramaiah and Hariprasad have patched up. The Siddaramaiah camp, sources say, believes Hariprasad's induction into the Cabinet will strengthen the former CM's hand and may help keep the CM in check.

caste and regional equations while minimising discontent among those left out.

India bars seafarers from Hormuz voyages after ship attacks

Decision comes as 2 seafarers killed and 3 more feared dead due to Iranian attacks on vessels transiting Hormuz over the past 3 days.

NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA) on Thursday directed ship owners, managers and recruitment and placement agencies to restrain from deploying Indian sailors on vessels travelling through the Strait of Hormuz until further orders as the West Asia war rages.

The DGMA, in an advisory, said authorities of vessels operating in Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and adjoining waters will maintain a heightened level of security vigilance.

Further, they are directed to monitor navigational warnings, security advisories and updates issued by competent authorities, while also implementing all applicable ship security measures, in accordance with International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) code.

"Ship owners, ship manag-



7 of 16 seafarers killed in Hormuz were Indians

Indian Seafarers comprise the majority of casualties from the ongoing US-Iran war in West Asia. Seven of the 16 seafarers killed in the Hormuz ship attacks, which is almost 44%, were Indian nationals.

ers and Recruitment and Placement Service Licence (RPSL) companies are directed to avoid deploying Indian seafarers on vessels undertaking voyages involving passage through the Strait of Hormuz until further order," the advisory said.

This advisory follows the attacks on multiple vessels in the Strait of Hormuz this week. On two of the ships, 30 Indian seafarers were among a combined crew of 46. One Indian seafarer lost his life while another sustained injuries aboard MT Al Bahiyah. On MT Mombasa, nine Indian nationals were injured.

PM to inaugurate 4 Amrit Bharat stations in Karnataka today

Bengaluru: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate four railway stations redeveloped under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) in Karnataka on Friday, marking another milestone in Indian Railways' station modernisation programme.

The four stations—Alnavar (₹17.2 crore), Badami (₹15.10 crore), Bantawal (₹26.18 crore) and Koppal (₹21.14 crore)—have been upgraded with modern passenger amenities and improved infrastructure.

The inauguration is part of a nationwide programme in which the PM will dedicate 75 redeveloped railway stations to the nation. Earlier, foundation stones had been laid for the redevelopment of over 1,000 railway stations across the country. In Karnataka, five stations—Gadag, Dharwad, Gokak Road, Munirabad and Bagalkot—were inaugurated in May 2025.

As per the SWR, the redevelopment reflects



India's first hydrogen train to debut today

CHANDIGARH:

India's first hydrogen-powered train, to be flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Haryana's Jind railway station on Friday, is equipped with multi-layer safety systems capable of detecting hydrogen leaks, heat, flames and smoke. The train will run between the Jind and Sonapat railway stations.

Indian Railways' commitment to creating modern, safe and passenger-friendly railway infrastructure across the country.

One dead in Puri Rath Yatra crush, scores injured

Puri: One person died due to suffocation and scores of others were hospitalised after a stampede-like situation occurred during the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath here on Thursday.

Odisha Police reported that a devotee who fainted was promptly attended to and taken for medical treatment amid the large gathering. Over lakhs of devotees flocked to Puri to participate in the world-famous annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath and his two siblings in Puri.

Don't introduce third language in Class 9 in CBSE: SC to Centre

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday voiced concern over the introduction of a third language in Class 9 under the Central Bureau of Secondary Education (CBSE) curriculum, observing it would increase the stress level of students and suggesting it be introduced in Class 5 or Class 6 so that students can cope with it.

Judicial Observations on Language Policy

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan orally asked the Centre to not introduce a

third language from Class 9 level.

"Union of India please don't have a third language from Class 9 level. It would unnecessarily increase the stress level of students," Justice Nagarathna told the counsel, appearing for the Centre.

"If you want to introduce a new language, then please do it at Class 5 or Class 6 level but not at Class 9 level. Class nine is full of stress, it starts from Class 8 onwards," she said.

The Justice also asked her to convey the

feeling of the court to the government.

Context of the remarks

The remarks were made during the hearing of the Tamil Nadu government's plea against a Madras high court directive to facilitate the establishment of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in every district of the State. The Tamil Nadu government has consistently opposed the setting up of JNVs, over concerns with regard to the three-language policy curriculum followed by the schools.

SACRED HILLS GLOW

Chamundi Hill gears up for sea of devotees as Ashada Fridays begin

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM, CH NEWS

The sacred Chamundi Hills has transformed into a vibrant spectacle of devotion and dazzling lights as elaborate preparations have been completed for the commencement of the auspicious Ashada Fridays, beginning today.

The famous Sri Chamundeshwari Temple, the presiding deity of the erstwhile Mysuru royal family, is wearing a festive look with its majestic gopuram illuminated in colourful lights, creating a breathtaking sight visible from afar.

The temple premises and sanctum have been tastefully adorned with an array of fresh, fragrant flowers, lending a divine ambience to one of Karnataka's most revered shrines. Special rituals and pujas will commence in the early hours of Friday, with priests performing elaborate religious ceremonies seeking the blessings of Goddess Chamundeshwari.

Thousands of devotees from Mysuru and different



parts of Karnataka are expected to throng the hill shrine throughout the day to offer prayers and seek the Goddess' blessings during the holy Ashada month. The district administration, police, Mysuru City Corporation and temple authorities have made elaborate arrangements for crowd management, traffic regulation, drinking water, medical aid, sanitation and security to ensure a smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage.

The spiritually charged atmosphere, illuminated temple, devotional chants and steady stream of devotees promise to make the first Ashada Friday a grand celebration of faith, tradition and the enduring cultural heritage of Mysuru.



KEY FESTIVAL DETAILS

ASHADA FRIDAY DATES: July 17, 24, 31, and August 7.

CHAMUNDESHWARI VARDHANTI: August 4.

Travel and traffic rules

NO PRIVATE VEHICLES: Private vehicles are banned on the hill. This rule applies to all Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the Ashada period.

SHUTTLE BUSES: Devotees must park their vehicles at the Shashiranjana Grounds and take special KSRTC shuttle buses to the temple from 6:30 am to 8:30 pm.

FOOT PILGRIMS: Devotees climbing the 1,000 steps are allowed to start their climb only after 5 am.

FACILITIES: Pilgrims using the steps will receive free milk and biscuits.

Darshan and crowd rules

VIP ACCESS: VIPs covered under protocol can only have darshan between 5:30 am and 10 am. After 10 am, VIP vehicles are prohibited.

SPECIAL TICKETS: The Rs 2,000 special darshan ticket is available. Intermediary Rs 300 tickets have been cancelled to reduce long wait times.



Shri. D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Bengaluru City Corporations
• North • South • East • West • Central



Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

B TO A KHATA AT JUST



Hon'ble Minister for Greater Bengaluru Development
Shri. Krishna Byre Gowda is discussing with senior officials of the Urban Development Department.



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KSOU targets 80,000 admissions for July 2026 session

MYSURU

The Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) has set a target of enrolling 80,000 students in undergraduate, post-graduate, online, and diploma programmes during the July 2026–27 admission cycle, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jnana Prakash said on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference here, he said admissions for the July session commenced on June 22, and nearly 10,000 students have enrolled so far. The last date for admission is September 15. The university expects to admit 50,000 students to UGC-approved programmes and another 30,000 to online courses. The KSOU currently offers 65 UGC-approved courses, 10 online courses, 75 academic programmes, and 30 postgraduate programmes. The university has also introduced a B.Ed programme from the current academic year, with 500 seats available. Admissions are being accepted at all regional centres and through the university's official admission portal.



Lateral entry facility

Students pursuing regular courses at conventional colleges but unable to continue their studies can opt for lateral (direct) admission into the second or third year of eligible programmes at KSOU, he said.

The Vice-Chancellor clarified that there has been no increase in admission fees this year. A full fee waiver will be provided to students from minority communities, transgender candidates, visually impaired students, and children who lost their parents during the COVID-19 pandemic. A 10 per cent concession in tuition fees will be available for women holding Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards, ex-servicemen, auto-rickshaw and cab drivers, and employees of

State transport corporations.

Prof Jnana Prakash said the KSOU offers a wide range of academic support services, including study centres, mobile applications, the KSOU Drishyavahini YouTube channel, a dedicated skill development division, a publication wing, educational radio services, a 50-day residential coaching programme for competitive examinations, an e-library, 70 examination centres across Karnataka, banking facilities, hostels, and other student amenities.

Dual Degree Option

In line with UGC regulations, students can pursue a full-time degree while simultaneously enrolling in another programme through distance education, he added.

Vanamahotsava: Rotary Mysuru plants saplings at Hootagalli School

MYSURU

Rotary Mysuru Metro celebrated Vanamahotsava by organising a tree plantation programme at the Government Higher Primary School in Hootagalli in Mysuru, reaffirming its commitment to environmental conservation and community service.

The programme witnessed the participation of Rotary Mysuru Metro members, teachers, students and invited guests. As part of the initiative, several fruit-bearing saplings were planted on the school premises. To ensure their protection and healthy growth, the club also provided metal tree guards. The event was inaugurated by the Club President Satyendra Kashyap.

Members of the school's Eco Club pledged to nurture and maintain the saplings, re-



inforcing the importance of environmental stewardship among students.

Vanamahotsava, which literally means "Festival of Forests", was launched in 1950 by K. M. Munshi, the then Union Minister for Agriculture and Food. Observed during the first week of July every year, the movement seeks to promote environmen-

tal awareness and encourage tree plantation to create a greener future.

The programme concluded with breakfast arranged by Rotary Mysuru Metro for all participants. The event reflected Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self," by combining environmental responsibility with community involvement.

CBR SERVICES LAUNCHED

Assistive devices distributed to 40 persons with disabilities in Mysuru

MYSURU

Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) services were launched and assistive devices were distributed to 40 persons with disabilities under "Project Samarth", a CSR initiative of Nayara Energy Limited implemented by the Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM), at the Doctors' Hall in the District Health and Family Welfare Officer's office premises on Thursday.

The programme was inaugurated by Bhimappa K. Lali, Deputy Secretary (Development) and Project Director (P), Mysuru Zilla Panchayat. Speaking on the occasion, he lauded SVYM for identifying the most vulnerable sections of society and implementing sustainable programmes aimed at their empowerment. Similar community-based development initiatives should be extended to other disadvantaged groups as well and appreciated the organisation's commitment to social service.

As part of the event, food products and other items manufactured under the "Vishesh" brand by federations of self-help groups of persons with disabilities were unveiled, highlighting the entrepreneurial abilities of the beneficiaries.

Chief guest Raghavendra K.S., District Disabled Welfare Officer, said SVYM's efforts were bringing hope and confidence to the lives of



persons with disabilities. Every individual has the right to live with dignity and self-reliance. The society must support persons with disabilities and help integrate them into the social mainstream.

Nilova Ghosh, CSR Lead of Nayara Energy Limited, distributed assistive devices tailored to the needs of 40 beneficiaries. The equipment is expected to improve mobility, enhance independence in daily activities and contribute to a better quality of life.

Presiding over the function, Savita Sulagodu, Chief Executive Officer of SVYM, outlined the objectives of Project Samarth and the organisation's initiatives for the holistic empowerment of persons with disabilities. She stressed that persons with disabilities possess unique talents and capabilities and should be provided opportunities for skill development, self-employment and eco-

nomics independence. She cited several success stories of beneficiaries who had transformed their lives through the programme.

Representatives of federations of self-help groups for persons with disabilities, including Mahadevaswamy, Nagaraju, Chamanayaka and Krishnagowda, along with beneficiaries from various taluks of Mysuru district, attended the programme.

Project Samarth aims to provide comprehensive support in healthcare, rehabilitation, education, livelihood, social empowerment and community-based services, enabling persons with disabilities to lead dignified, independent and inclusive lives. Organisers said the initiative marks an important step towards strengthening rehabilitation services and promoting the holistic development of persons with disabilities in Mysuru district.

Souharda co-operative training and interaction meet in Mysuru

MYSURU

A contact meeting and thematic training programme for Souharda Cooperative Societies from Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagar and Kodagu districts was held here on Thursday.

The programme was inaugurated by G. Nanjangowda, Chairman of Sanyukta Souharda Cooperative. Manjunath S.K., Director, presided.

Among those present were H.V. Rajeev, Education and Advisory Committee Member and former Chairman of Sanyukta Souharda Cooperative; B. Mahadevaswamy, Professional Director; S.R. Narayan Rao, President of the Mysuru, Mandya and Kodagu District Souharda Cooperatives Federation; Gururaj B.T., President of the Mandya District Souharda Cooperatives Federation; Veerabhadraswamy, Chief Promoter of



the Chamarajanagar District Souharda Cooperatives Federation; and corporate trainer Jagadish Ram. The introductory address was delivered by Regional Officer Guruprasad Bangera.

Following the inauguration, Chairman G. Nanjangowda addressed the gathering and held an interactive session with representatives of the Souharda Cooperative Societies. Participants raised several questions relating to the functioning and development of cooperative institutions, which were answered by the

Chairman.

As part of the training programme, corporate trainer Jagadish Ram delivered a session on "Business Development Planning for Strengthening Cooperative Institutions," highlighting strategies to improve operational efficiency, sustainability and growth of cooperative societies.

A total of 206 representatives from 112 Souharda Cooperative Societies across Mysuru, Mandya, Kodagu and Chamarajanagar districts participated in the programme.

Applications invited for entrepreneurship awareness camp

MYSURU

The Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, in association with the Karnataka Entrepreneurship Development Centre (CEDOK/CIDAC) and the District Industries Centre, Mysuru, has invited applications from aspiring entrepreneurs for a one-day Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp to be held on July 24.

The programme is intended for individuals who wish to establish their own enterprises. Participants will be provided with information on entrepreneurial motivation, government schemes, financial assistance and loan facilities offered by banks and financial institutions, selection of suitable business projects, and other industrial-related topics. They will also be briefed about the Entrepreneurship Development Training programmes to be conducted subsequently.

Applicants must be 18 years of age or above and should have passed at least the 10th standard. The last date for submitting applications is July 23.

WORLD SNAKE DAY

Conservation crusader Snake Shyam felicitated

MYSURU

Appealing to people to shed their irrational fear of snakes, internationally acclaimed reptile rescuer Snake Shyam said that countless snakes are being killed unnecessarily because of misconceptions, while only a few species are actually venomous.

Speaking after being felicitated during the World Snake Day celebrations organised by KMPK Charitable Trust and the Parisara Snehhii Team near the RTO office in Mysuru on Thursday, in recognition of his remarkable feat of rescuing and conserving more than 98,000 snakes, Snake Shyam urged the public to actively support the Forest Department in protecting wildlife and conserving the environment.

He explained that species such as the Indian Cobra and the King Cobra are venomous, whereas snakes like the Rat Snake, Checkered Keelback (water snake) and Green Vine Snake are non-venomous. Although some snakes are mildly venomous, he cautioned that anyone bitten by a snake, including a rat snake, should immediately seek medical attention. "There is no need for unnecessary fear of snakes. In many snakebite cases, people succumb to panic and even suffer cardiac arrest due to fear rather than the bite itself. The vic-



tim should be reassured, kept calm and rushed to the nearest hospital without delay," he said.

Snake Shyam also revealed that a representation had earlier been submitted to former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, urging the government to establish dedicated snakebite treatment units in hospitals. A proposal would be implemented at the earliest to ensure timely treatment for snakebite victims.

Speaking on the occasion, Lingaraju, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries, lauded Snake Shyam's unwavering commitment to wildlife conservation. He recalled that even during the difficult days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Snake Shyam continued rescuing snakes from residential areas without hesitation.

Describing him as an internationally recognised reptile expert and recipient of the Kannada Rajyotsava

Award, Lingaraju said Snake Shyam's achievement of rescuing over 98,000 snakes is unparalleled. He also praised his efforts in promoting environmental conservation alongside establishing a spiritual centre.

Lingaraju urged the State Government to include lessons on Snake Shyam's life, environmental commitment and wildlife conservation efforts in school textbooks so that children develop respect for reptiles and become environmentally conscious from an early age.

Among those present were former Mysuru Zoo Authority Chairman Shivakumar; K.R. Bank President Basavaraj Basappa; G. Raghavendra; KMPK Trust President Vikram Iyengar; S.N. Rajesh; Sandesh; Pramod Gowda; Vanish; H.P. Chetan; Nandakumar; Sandesh; Supreeth; Mahan Shreyas, and several others.

“BJP looted Ram Temple funds, misused religion for politics”

MYSURU

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) Labour Wing State President K. Puttaswamy Gowda accused the BJP of exploiting religion for political gains and alleged that funds and gold collected in the name of Lord Ram at the Ayodhya temple had been misappropriated, leaving temples "empty."

Speaking after inaugurating the annual executive committee meeting of the Mysuru District Congress Labour Wing in the city on Thursday, Puttaswamy Gowda said Hinduism was not merely a religion but a way of life. Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had facilitated the opening of Ram temple doors across the country for public worship. However, the BJP and the



RSS were now using Lord Ram's name to collect public money for political purposes.

Referring to the BJP's nationwide Rath Yatra, he remarked that while the party had once claimed to "liberate" Lord Ram, it had now "brought the deity onto the streets."

The Congress had suffered politically because it had failed to effectively communicate the achievements of its governments over the past 70 years.

To address this, special training programmes would

be organised for district presidents across the state.

Former Labour Commissioner Vasanth Kumar Ittanagi said nearly 40 per cent of India's 1.48 billion population—around 600 million people—belong to the labour force. Of these, about 94 per cent work in the unorganised sector, while only six per cent are employed in the organised sector.

He said Congress governments had enacted landmark labour welfare legislations such as the Employees' Provident Fund Act, the Employ-

ees' State Insurance (ESI) Act providing free medical care, the Maternity Benefit Act, and laws protecting plantation and transport workers, thereby ensuring financial security for labourers. He also noted that labour identity cards valid across the country had been introduced.

Mysuru District Congress President Dr. B.J. Vijay Kumar directed every block president to meet labour officers in their respective taluks and submit reports on workers' issues. He warned that office-bearers who failed to discharge their responsibilities would be suspended immediately. Those unable to work effectively should resign with dignity, he said, instructing all leaders to tour their taluks and submit reports within three days.

₹2 CRORE WORKS LAUNCHED IN KR CONSTITUENCY

MYSURU

Krishnaraja MLA T.S. Srivatsa performed the groundbreaking ceremony for development works worth ₹2 crore in Navodaya Layout, located in Ward No. 63 of the KR Assembly Constituency in Mysuru on Thursday.

The works are being taken up under the 2025–26 Pragati Colony Scheme to improve civic infrastructure in the locality.

Former Mysuru City Corporation member Sharadamma, Eshwar Devaraj Gowda, Venkatesh, Harsha, Akshay, Pradeep Kumar, Kishore, the MLA's personal assistant Aditya, residents of the colony, local leaders, and KRDL officials Archana and Hussain, along with others, were present on the occasion.



Jagannath Ratha Yatra begins in Mysuru amid devotional fervor

MYSURU

The spiritual grandeur of the annual Jagannath Ratha Yatra unfolded in Mysuru on Thursday, with hundreds of devotees gathering to witness the majestic procession of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Sudarshana.

The colourful chariot procession, organised by the Puri Jagannath Cultural and Welfare Trust, marked the beginning of an eight-day religious celebration steeped in faith, tradition and devotion.

The Ratha Yatra commenced from the Mysore Jagannath Temple at Vidyaranya-puram Main Road and proceeded through the city amid the chanting of "Jai Jagannath" and the rhythmic beats of traditional drums. Devotees, young and old, enthusiastically pulled the beautifully decorated chariot, considering it a sacred privilege believed to bestow divine blessings.

The procession has been halted at the Central Library Park in Vidyaranya-puram via



Chamundipuram Circle, where special rituals, bhajans and cultural programmes will be conducted over the next eight days. The return Bahuda Yatra is scheduled for July 24,

when the deities will be ceremoniously taken back to the temple.

According to the organisers, the festival follows the sacred traditions of the

world-famous Puri Jagannath Ratha Yatra in Odisha. The event symbolises the annual journey of Lord Jagannath to bless devotees beyond the temple precincts, reinforcing the message of equality, universal brotherhood and devotion.

Several religious programmes have been lined up during the festival, including Gundicha Yatra, Hera Panchami, Sandhya Darshan, Subanese, Adhara Pana and Niladri Bijje. The annual temple celebrations will conclude on September 4, coinciding with Sri Krishna Janmashtami, featuring special pujas, yajnas, Gita recitation and other religious ceremonies.

The organisers have invited devotees from Mysuru and neighbouring districts to participate in the remaining events and seek the blessings of Lord Jagannath. The festival is expected to draw a large number of devotees throughout the week, transforming the temple surroundings into a vibrant centre of spirituality, music and cultural celebration.

No compromise on food safety and quality: DC

Notices served on 49 vendors for poor hygiene and sanitation

MYSURU

Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy has directed officials to ensure strict enforcement of food safety standards across Mysuru district, stating that there should be no compromise on the quality and safety of food served to the public.

Chairing the District-Level Advisory Committee meeting under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, here on Thursday, he instructed food safety officials to conduct surprise inspections at hotels, restaurants and roadside fast-food outlets to check hygiene and food quality.

Emphasising that ensuring safe and quality food is a shared responsibility, the Deputy Commissioner said inspections should not be limited to roadside eateries, as even some five-star hotels have been found lacking in cleanliness. He also expressed concern over the use of chemicals for artificial ripening of fruits and synthetic colours in food preparation.

Reddy directed officials to conduct surprise inspections at such establishments, collect food samples and send them for laboratory analysis. The first-time violators should be fined, but repeated violations



should invite stringent action, including closure of hotels and food establishments. The officials must collect fresh food samples from across Mysuru city and district for laboratory testing.



Pic for representation purpose

Dr. Ravindra, Designated Officer for Mysuru City, said action had been taken against traders selling artificially coloured green peas at the APMC market, and fines had been imposed. Raids had been conducted against a network involved in the sale of adulterated edible oil.

He appealed to the public to report cases of food adulteration through the Food Safety Connect mobile application. Dr. Ravindra said inspections have already been carried out in several major localities, including Dattagalli, Chamaraja Mohalla, Siddhartha Nagar, Ramakrishnanagar, Lalitha Mahal Road, Lashkar Mohalla, Sayyaji Rao Road, Nelson Mandela Road, Ashoka Road, Nazarbada, Pulakeshi Road, JLB Road, Ram Vilas Road, NS Road, Gandhi Square, Harsha Road, Gokulam, V.V. Mohalla and Kuve-m-punagar.

During these inspections, 113 roadside food vendors were checked, and notices were issued to 49 vendors for poor hygiene and sanitation. Additional Superintendent of Police C. Mallik, Mysuru District Designated Officer Dr. Kantharaju and officials from various departments were present at the meeting.

CIVIC CRACKDOWN Srirampura TP penalises illegal construction debris dumpers

MYSURU

In a pre-dawn enforcement drive aimed at keeping the town clean and healthy, the Srirampura Town Panchayat caught two individuals illegally dumping construction and demolition waste on the outskirts of the town and imposed penalties on them.



Despite the Town Panchayat's sustained efforts to maintain cleanliness, beautification and public health, some individuals have been clandestinely dumping construction debris in the Kuppaluru Layout and Lingambudhi Palya Layout areas, spoiling the town's appearance and posing environmental and health hazards.

Acting on complaints and increased surveillance, Town Panchayat officials intercepted two vehicles—KA-13 C-9706 and KL-01 AM-1354—during the early hours while they were allegedly disposing of construction waste at unauthorised locations.

A fine of Rs. 500 each

was imposed on the offenders, and a total penalty of Rs. 1,000 was collected. The violators were also issued a stern warning against repeating the offence.

Srirampura Town Panchayat Chief Officer Sridhar said the civic body has intensified monitoring of vulnerable areas and warned that strict action would continue against anyone found dumping construction waste illegally. He appealed to residents, builders and transport operators to dispose of construction debris only at authorised locations and cooperate in preserving the town's cleanliness, beauty and public health.

Proposed Kambala during Dasara-2026

Joint protest planned in Mysuru tomorrow

MYSURU

A joint protest meeting against the proposed inclusion of Kambala, the traditional buffalo race, in the upcoming Mysuru Dasara celebrations will be held on Saturday, July 18, at 10 a.m. near the VTU Office on the Outer Ring Road at Sathagalli.

The protest is being jointly organised by the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, Dalit Sangharsha Samiti, Parisarakaagi Naavu (For the Environment), and several Kannada and progressive organisations.

The organisers said the protest aims to safeguard the unique identity, heritage, grandeur, and traditions of the world-famous Mysuru Dasara. They also urged the State Government to respond to the distress of farmers affected by inadequate rainfall instead of introducing controversial events into the festival.

Several prominent personalities are expected to participate in the protest, including former MLA and State President of Parisarakaagi Naavu A.T. Ramaswamy, Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha State President

Badagalapura Nagendra, retired Major General and environmental activist Sudhir Vombatkere, heritage expert Prof. N.S. Rangaraju, Dalit Sangharsha Samiti leader Bettiah Kote, Kannada Kriya Samiti leader M.G. Sadanandayya, Bhoomi Thayi Horata Samiti leader K.S. Nanjundegowda, Dr. Ramakrishna of Belaval Foundation, K. Gokul Govardhan representing Team Mysuru, environmental activist Bhanu Mohan, Prof. Kalachannegowda of PANA, Prof. B.V. Shyamala, Prof. M.R. Janardhan, Nabijan, Mansoor Ahmed, and progressive leader Ugranarasimhagowda, among others.



Reclaim Mysuru's Footpaths, Ex-MP Simha urges MCC Chief



MYSURU

Former Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Commissioner M.K. Savita on Thursday and submitted a memorandum urging the civic body to clear encroachments from footpaths in several key locations across the city while ensuring suitable alternative arrangements for those affected. The memorandum sought immediate removal of encroachments on pedestrian

pathways stretching from K.R. Circle to Sayyaji Rao Road, around Gandhi Square, in front of the Big Clock Tower (Dodda Gadiyara) and beside the Town Hall, citing the inconvenience caused to pedestrians and the need to restore public spaces.

At the same time, Simha appealed to the Corporation to adopt a humane approach by providing appropriate alternative arrangements for vendors and others displaced during the eviction drive.

The delegation included former MCC Corporator Girish Prasad, Shailendra, Shriramanna, BJP Chamaraja Assembly Constituency President Dinesh Gowda, M.N. Prakash, Srinivas, and other BJP leaders. They urged the Commissioner to take prompt action to ensure Mysuru's footpaths are safe, accessible, and free from encroachments while protecting the livelihoods of those affected through proper rehabilitation.

MCC cracks down on footpath encroachments JCBs roll across Mysuru City



MYSURU

The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has intensified its drive against footpath encroachments across the city, clearing pedestrian pathways at several locations to improve public safety and ease movement.

As part of the latest operation, civic officials removed encroachments from the footpaths around Ballal

Circle in Zone Office-2. The clearance drive was also carried out near Kalamandir on Thursday, where footpaths had been occupied by petty traders and makeshift structures.

The earthmovers were pressed into service to remove illegal structures and dismantle several hoardings erected on pedestrian walkways. Petty shops and temporary stalls that had en-

croached upon footpaths at various locations were also cleared, restoring space for pedestrians.

The Corporation has launched similar anti-encroachment operations in different parts of the city, with officials stating that the campaign will continue until public footpaths are made accessible and obstruction-free.

According to civic author-

ities, the drive has been initiated in all the eight MCC zones. However, the operation is yet to begin in the Central Business District (CBD), where footpath encroachments are considered the most severe due to heavy commercial activity and high pedestrian traffic.

The civic body is expected to extend the campaign to the CBD in the coming days, targeting illegal occu-

pations that have forced pedestrians onto busy roads, posing safety risks.

The intensified enforcement comes amid growing public demand for reclaiming footpaths for pedestrians and ensuring that walkways remain free from encroachments while balancing the livelihood concerns of street vendors through appropriate measures wherever feasible.



Ex-Mayor Sandesh urges Govt to drop Kambala event, uphold Dasara tradition

MYSURU

Former Mysuru Mayor Sandesh Swamy has urged Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to preserve the traditional and historical character of the world-famous Mysuru Dasara festival by refraining from introducing new and controversial sporting events, including Kambala, into the celebrations.

In a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister, Sandesh said Mysuru Dasara is not merely a festival but a symbol of Karnataka's rich culture, heritage, history, and royal legacy. The festival has a history spanning over 600 years, dating back to the Vijayanagara Empire, and was later elevated to a grand royal celebration by the Wadiyar dynasty. The tradition gained greater prominence after Raja Wadiyar captured Srirangapatna in 1610 and established Mysuru as the centre of the royal Dasara festivities.



He said the Mysuru royal family had nurtured Kannada culture by promoting art, literature, music, Yakshagana, folk traditions, and communal harmony, transforming Dasara into a globally recognised cultural festival. Events such as the Jamboo Savari, Palace Illumination, cultural programmes, Yuva Dasara, Mahila Dasara, and Makkala Dasara have become the festival's unique identity.

The former mayor said that any decision to introduce new or controversial events into such a historic festival should be taken with utmost caution. Referring to reports about including Kambala in the Dasara celebrations, he said the proposal has already sparked debate, with both support and opposition emerging from various sections of society.

The animal welfare organisations have raised objections to sports involving animals, and warned that including such events could trigger legal disputes, protests, and controversies, thereby diverting attention from the true spirit and purpose of Mysuru Dasara.

Draft KAOM Bill proposes changes to redefine apartment living

Draft legislation seeks stronger ownership rights, transparent redevelopment and greater protection for apartment residents statewide.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The draft Karnataka Apartment Ownership and Management (KAOM) Bill, 2025, seeks to establish a uniform legal framework for apartment communities by addressing long-standing issues relating to ownership, redevelopment, financial transparency and residents' rights. The proposed legislation introduces several safeguards aimed at protecting apartment owners while bringing greater accountability to promoters and developers.

One of the most significant provisions is the recognition of every apartment owner's undivided and proportionate right over the project land and common areas. These rights will remain inseparable from the apartment and automatically transfer to future owners. However, the bill makes it clear that such rights do not amount to exclusive ownership over any specific part of the land or common facilities.

The draft also strengthens transparency in property transactions. Before transferring



Key highlights

The draft KAOM Bill grants apartment owners proportionate land rights, mandates disclosure of mortgages, protects buyers from past developer liabilities, requires 75% owner consent for redevelopment, guarantees compensation for dissenting owners, and mandates financial safeguards, redevelopment disclosures, and clear project timelines to protect residents' interests.

apartments, promoters must disclose all mortgages, charges and encumbrances on the project land. No apartment can be conveyed unless the necessary release or no-objection certificate has been obtained from the mortgagee wherever required. Once transferred after such clearance, an apartment cannot be affected by mortgages previously created by the promoter, although such liabilities may continue over unsold units.

The legislation permits individual apartment owners to mortgage their own apartments along with their proportionate land rights. However, apartment owners' associations will not be allowed to mortgage property on behalf of residents.

It also prohibits promoters from creating fresh mortgages or encumbrances on the entire project land after apartments have been transferred, rendering such claims invalid for already transferred units.

The bill lays down a detailed framework for redevelopment of ageing apartment complexes. Any redevelopment proposal must secure the written consent of at least 75 per cent of apartment owners. Once approved, the decision becomes binding on all owners. Residents unwilling to participate will be entitled to compensation amounting to at least twice the market value of their apartment, in addition to the value of their proportionate share in the land

and common areas. To safeguard residents during redevelopment, the proposal mandates that redevelopment agencies provide financial security through bank guarantees or escrow arrangements. If work is delayed or abandoned, the apartment association will have the authority to terminate the agreement, invoke the financial safeguards and appoint another agency to complete the project.

The draft also requires redevelopment proposals to clearly disclose the utilisation of development rights or Floor Area Ratio (FAR), the rights of existing owners in the redeveloped project, financial arrangements, rehabilitation plans and project completion timelines.

Visitors ignore park rules, harass guards and disrupt Cubbon Park's peaceful environment for everyone.

Rule violations in Cubbon Park leave walkers, staff frustrated

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Cubbon Park, one of Bengaluru's most popular green spaces, is witnessing a rise in rule violations, with visitors ignoring regulations, harassing security personnel and creating inconvenience for regular walkers and senior citizens.

The Horticulture Department has put in place several rules to protect the park's greenery and maintain order. Information boards across the park prohibit activities such as climbing trees, littering and disturbing public peace. However, officials and regular visitors say many people continue to flout these rules with little regard for the park's environment or other visitors.

One of the recurring problems is people climbing trees despite repeated warnings from security guards. According to park staff, some visitors not only refuse to come down but also argue with and verbally abuse security personnel when asked to follow the rules. Guards often find themselves unable to enforce regulations for fear of confrontation.



Call for bigger signboards

"There are signs across the park, but many visitors ignore them.

Authorities should install larger and more visible boards at more locations so people clearly understand the rules. Respecting public spaces is everyone's responsibility," said Bhargavi, a regular walker at Cubbon Park.

tion.

Regular walkers also complain about the behaviour of some couples in secluded parts of the park. While many visitors conduct themselves responsibly, a few engage in

inappropriate behaviour in public, making senior citizens and families uncomfortable during their morning and evening walks.

Another growing concern is littering. Although dustbins have been placed at several locations, plastic bottles, food wrappers and other waste are often discarded on lawns and pathways. Visitors say the careless disposal of garbage diminishes the beauty of the park and creates unnecessary work for maintenance staff.

Parkgoers believe everyone has a responsibility to preserve Cubbon Park, which serves as a recreational space for people of all age groups. They urge visitors to respect the rules, cooperate with security guards and ensure the park remains clean and welcoming.

Horticulture Department officials said awareness is the first step, but repeated violations will invite penalties.

"We warn the public a couple of times to follow the rules. If they don't listen, we will impose fines," said Kusuma, an officer with the Horticulture Department.

QUICK READ

Employment fraud accused arrested by HAL Police

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The HAL Police in the Whitefield division have arrested the prime accused in an alleged employment fraud in which job seekers were duped through fake recruitment advertisements promising attractive jobs. The accused, identified as Pawan Gopal, is alleged to have collected money from applicants on the pretext of securing employment. Police said several victims were lured into paying various amounts after being assured of jobs that never materialised. Investigators suspect the fraud was carried out by a larger network. A detailed probe is under way under the supervision of Whitefield DCP Saidullah to identify other accused and trace additional victims.

Youth dies after head gets trapped in hotel lift

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 22-year-old man died after his head became trapped in the door of a goods lift at a hotel in the Jayanagar police station limits. The deceased, Rajesh, was a native of Dharwad. The incident occurred around 8.30 a.m. at Dakshina Uphar Hotel, which has been temporarily closed following the accident. Rajesh, who reportedly planned to start his own hotel, had joined the establishment to learn hotel operations. Police said the mishap occurred while he leaned into the lift.

Spare our homes, residents urge BDA over proposed PRR-NICE link road

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Nearly 1,000 families fear losing their homes and residential sites to a proposed 3-km link road connecting the upcoming Bengaluru Business Corridor (Peripheral Ring Road-1) with NICE Road at Madavara. Residents allege the additional connector is being pursued despite strong public opposition and have urged the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to withdraw the land acquisition notification.

The proposed NICE-Tumakuru Road PRR-1 Integration is an additional connector between PRR-1 and NICE Road, which already intersects Tumakuru Road at Madanayakanahalli. While land for PRR-1 was notified in 2007, the land required for this integration stretch was notified only in 2022. The final acquisition notification was issued in June 2026, over two months after the BDA floated tenders for the first package of PRR-1 in March.

Residents from Banashankari Enclave, Brindavana Layout, Shiveteja Nagar, RC Layout, Anjanadri Layout and nearby localities have intensi-



Nearly 1,000 families fear displacement as proposed connector threatens homes and lifelong savings.

fied their protest. Around 200 residents recently submitted representations at the BDA headquarters, urging the authority to reconsider the project and spare established residential neighbourhoods.

BDA Commissioner P. Manivannan said the authority would place the matter before the next BDA Board meeting, likely to be held within a month. "We have not yet awarded the work.

We will consider the issue

At a glance

- Families affected: Nearly 1,000
- Proposed link road: 3 km
- PRR-1 land notified: 2007
- Link road land notified: 2022
- Final notification issued: June 2026
- Residents who petitioned BDA: Around 200
- Areas likely to be affected: Banashankari Enclave, Brindavana Layout, Shiveteja Nagar, RC Layout and Anjanadri Layout
- Residents' demand: Drop the link road and spare their homes

before passing the award and maintain status quo until then," he said, adding that the Board would take a final decision after examining residents' concerns.

Residents argue that the proposed integration is unnecessary as a similar connector between NICE Road and PRR-1 near Hosur Road was dropped following public objections. "If that integration could be removed after protests, why can't this one also

be reconsidered? Thousands of families will be affected," said resident D.J. Sathish.

Apart from displacement, residents have questioned the compensation proposed by the BDA, claiming it is far below prevailing market rates.

"I bought a 30x40 site for Rs 35 lakh in 2021 after years of savings. Under the current compensation proposal, I will receive only about Rs 10 lakh. That amount is not enough to buy even a small site anywhere in Bengaluru," said Hemanth, one of the affected landowners. Residents say many families have invested their lifetime savings in these properties and have already built homes or are in the process of constructing them.

They contend that the acquisition would not only uproot families but also severely impact their financial security.

With the BDA assuring that no award will be passed until the Board reviews the issue, residents hope the authority will reconsider the alignment and explore alternatives that minimise displacement while preserving the objectives of the Bengaluru Business Corridor project.

Student-led study flags air pollution, radon hotspots in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A summer research project led by two high school students has identified potential environmental health concerns in Bengaluru, finding elevated levels of fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5) and high radon concentrations in some poorly ventilated basements.

The study was conducted by Bengaluru native Sriram Subramanian, a student at Langley High School in the United States, along with Akshaya Krishnan as part of an environmental health initiative examining the link between air quality, radon exposure and lung cancer risk.

The researchers measured radon levels at residential and commercial buildings across the city. While most sites recorded concentrations below the World Health Organization's reference level of 100 Bq/m³, one residential building with an unventilated basement registered 507.64 Bq/m³, more than five times the recommended limit.

"Radon is colourless, odourless and heavier than air, allowing it to accumulate in enclosed underground spaces. Proper ventilation and radon mitigation measures during construction can significantly

reduce exposure," Sriram said.

The team also monitored PM2.5 levels during peak traffic hours. Although Bengaluru's reported average PM2.5 concentration is generally between 30 and 40 µg/m³, the students' field measurements frequently exceeded 70 µg/m³. This is above both the WHO's 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³ and India's National Ambient Air Quality Standard of 60 µg/m³.

According to the researchers, environmental factors such as air pollution, second-hand smoke and radon exposure are increasingly recognised as contributors to lung cancer, particularly among non-smokers.

"Our goal was to understand whether overlooked environmental exposures could contribute to future health risks. As Bengaluru expands with more underground parking and basement construction, monitoring radon levels alongside air pollution becomes increasingly important," Sriram said.

The students hope to expand their research with larger datasets to better understand the long-term health impacts of air pollution and radon exposure in Bengaluru and support evidence-based public health measures.



City Corporation intensifies drive against abandoned vehicles

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru West City Corporation has stepped up its drive to remove abandoned vehicles and clear footpath encroachments to improve public safety and ensure smooth movement of pedestrians.

The action follows directions from Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna

Byre Gowda and Bengaluru West City Corporation Commissioner Dr K.V. Rajendra. The drive is being carried out jointly by the Corporation and the Traffic Police.

As part of the campaign, officials posted notices and wheel-clamped 22 abandoned vehicles, including 21 four-wheelers and one three-wheeler. Of these, 10 vehicles were identi-

fied in Mahalakshimpura division, five in Malleshwaram division and seven, including the three-wheeler, in Rajajinagar division.

Simultaneously, the Corporation continued its footpath encroachment clearance drive, covering 3.08 km in Rajarajeshwarinagar and Kengeri divisions. Officials removed 40 petty shops, 14 pushcarts, one AC

sheet projection, two steps and ramps, 20 advertising pillars and boards, besides clearing 8.5 tonnes of construction debris. The encroachment removal was carried out along the Koolinagar Bridge-Nandini Layout Bus Stop stretch in Rajarajeshwarinagar and on BDA 100 Feet Road, BGS Back Gate-Mailasandra and Hosahalli Main Road in Kengeri.

COMMENDABLE SOCIAL SERVICE

Volunteers transform garbage blackspot into clean public space

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 200-metre stretch of Bannerghatta Road near the Jayanagar Fire Station at Dairy Circle, once strewn with garbage and avoided by pedestrians because of the foul smell, has been transformed into a clean and vibrant public space through the combined efforts of civic workers and volunteers.

The month-long clean-up was undertaken by the Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) and Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML). A team comprising 20 pourakarmikas, four mar-



shals, a marshal supervisor, a Junior Health Inspector and a Deputy General Manager cleared years of accumulated waste from the stretch.

Officials said the site contained large quantities of

mixed waste, including animal waste and construction debris, making the operation particularly challenging. The area had also become a chronic spot for public urination, worsening sanitation conditions.

"We removed construction debris using earthmovers. Pourakarmikas then cleared leachate-soaked waste stuck to the ground with hand tools. The entire stretch was washed using water supplied by the nearby fire station," said B.R. Nataraj, Deputy General Manager, BSWML.

Following the clean-up, around 50 volunteers from Youth for Parivarthan (YFP) took up a beautification drive by painting colourful murals, portraits and awareness messages on the compound wall and repainting the footpath kerbs.

The artwork features personalities including Sir M. Visvesvaraya, Bhagat Singh, Dr. Rajkumar and Vishnuvardhan, along with Mandala art and messages promoting cleanliness.

"Our volunteers, aged between 14 and 63 years, came from different parts of Bengaluru to participate," said YFP founder Amith Amarnath, an advocate. According to Amarnath, Youth for Parivarthan has cleaned and beautified more than 400 locations across Bengaluru over the past 12 years with the support of over 10,000 volunteers.



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru North City Corporation has launched a weekly Phone-In Programme to enable citizens to directly communicate their civic grievances to Commissioner Pommalla Sunil Kumar. The initiative aims to improve service delivery by addressing public complaints promptly.

This week's Phone-In Programme will be held today from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Residents can raise issues related to road potholes and repairs, streetlight maintenance, door-to-door garbage collection and disposal, removal of hazardous trees and branches, mosquito control, stray dog management, park maintenance, unauthorised banners and posters, encroachments on footpaths, e-Khata-related concerns and other civic issues.

According to the corpora-

tion, all complaints received during the programme will be registered on the Sahaaya 2.0 portal and immediately forwarded to the concerned departmental officers for action. Citizens will receive an SMS containing details of their complaint registration and the officer assigned to address the issue.

Residents can contact the control room through the mobile and WhatsApp number 948068 5705 or landline numbers 080-22975936 and 080-23636671 during the programme.

Apart from the weekly Phone-In Programme, citizens can also register complaints at any time through the Sahaaya 2.0 mobile application. Officials said the initiative is intended to strengthen communication between the civic body and the public while ensuring faster resolution of civic problems.

SIR progress reaches 61% in Chitradurga district

Deputy Commissioner urged protecting eligible voters' names, correcting errors, and improving registration in low-progress Chitradurga city wards

CHITRADURGA

Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh on Thursday said that 61.03% of census forms collected during the Special Comprehensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls have been computerized in the district. The process is progressing well with cooperation from voters, officials and political parties.

During a meeting with political party representatives at the District Collector's office, he said forms were distributed to 14,40,534 voters and 8,79,154 forms were computerized after voters returned them to Booth Level Officers. Verification work identified details of 5,407 deceased voters, 4,821 permanent migrants, 1,842 duplicate entries and 116 voters who were absent from their residences. He requested political parties to cooperate in preparing an accurate voter list without con-



fusion.

The Deputy Commissioner said all responsible persons should ensure that eligible voters are not removed from the list and mistakes are corrected. He noted that voter registration progress was lower in some wards of Chitradurga city compared to other areas. Party agents were asked to support BLOs during house visits to collect correct information. Awareness campaigns through municipal vehicles have already been started to educate citizens.

The revision schedule has also been extended. BLO house visits will continue until August 8 instead of July 29. Polling station realignment and rationalization will also be completed by August 8. The draft voter list will be published on August 17, and objections can be submitted until September 16. Notices will be issued by October 15, while the final voter list will be released on October 19.

Congress district general secretary D.N. Mailarappa said voter data collection was

Key Electoral Roll Updates

14.4 lakh voter forms distributed for revision process

8.79 lakh forms computerized after voter submissions

Officials identify deceased, migrant, duplicate and absent voters

Political parties urged cooperation for accurate voter lists

BLO verification visits extended until August 8 deadline

Final voter list scheduled for release on October 19

progressing well but urban areas required more attention. He suggested weekend visits as many residents are unavailable during working days. He also requested awareness programmes like cycle rallies, marathons and student cam-

Disabled rally spreads SIR voter awareness message

Dr. Akash said Election Commission's SIR schedule updates voter records, with awareness programmes across districts, taluks and gram panchayats encouraging participation

CHITRADURGA

A bike rally organized by the District Sweep Committee to create awareness about the Special Comprehensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll was held in Chitradurga on Thursday. The rally, led by disabled persons, attracted public attention and highlighted the importance of accurate voter lists.

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. S. Akash inaugurated the rally at Onake Obavva Circle. The rally passed through important routes including Madakari Nayak Circle, Ambedkar Circle, Pravasi Mandir, Gandhi Circle and Sangolli Rayanna Circle before concluding at the Zilla Panchayat office premises.



"Every eligible voter should be included in the voter list while ensuring that ineligible names are prevented from being added."
- Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. S. Akash

Dr. Akash said the Election Commission has announced the SIR schedule to update voter records. He explained that awareness programmes are being conducted at district, taluk and gram panchayat levels to inform citizens about the revision process and encourage participation.

He urged eligible voters to complete census forms and submit them to Booth Level Officers along with required documents within the given period. He said every eligible voter should be included

while preventing the entry of ineligible names into the voter list. Participants raised slogans supporting a transparent voter system and carried placards highlighting the need for public cooperation.

Officials advised citizens to use voter help centres and contact the helpline numbers 1950 and 180042551950 for more information. Zilla Panchayat Chief Planning Officer C.S. Gayathri, Women and Child Development Department Deputy Director Vijayakumar, District Disabled Welfare Officer J. Vaishali and other officials participated in the programme. The organizers said public involvement in SIR is essential for maintaining a strong and reliable democracy through an accurate electoral process.

QUICK READ

Karwar Polytechnic invites applications for guest lecturers

KARWAR

Government Polytechnic, Karwar, has invited online applications from eligible candidates for guest lecturer posts for the current academic year. The appointments will be made through online counselling based on teaching workload under the Technical Education Department. Interested candidates must submit their applications before July 21. Applicants can get more details through the Department of College and Technical Education website or by contacting the Government Polytechnic office. The Principal informed that candidates can also reach the institution through the provided phone numbers for further clarification regarding eligibility, application process, and other details related to the guest lecturer recruitment.

Free health camp to provide expert care in Mandya



MANDYA

A free special health check-up camp will be held on July 18 at Sri Vidyaganapati Educational Institution in Kot-tatti village of Mandya taluk. The camp is jointly organised by Taluk Administration, Taluk Panchayat, Adichunchanagiri Hospital, Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences, Kidwai Institute, Health Department, and Indian Red Cross Society. Expert doctors will provide medical examinations and guidance to the public from 9 am onwards. Several dignitaries, including Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and state ministers, will attend the programme. Officials and medical experts urged residents to participate and benefit from the free healthcare service.

MLA HEARD VILLAGE GRIEVANCES ON BASIC SERVICES, DIRECTED OFFICIALS TO RESOLVE ISSUES PROMPTLY AND IMPROVE PUBLIC FACILITIES

MLA Beldale reviews public problems during village visit



Key highlights of Dr. Beldale's village visit

- Development projects inspected with focus on quality standards
- Officials instructed timely completion of ongoing infrastructure works
- MLA reviews voter list revision and registrations
- Transparency stressed during electoral roll corrections and updates
- Government schemes promoted for eligible rural beneficiaries

BIDAR

Bidar South MLA and BJP State Secretary Dr. Shailendra Beldale conducted a public relations tour in Changelera, Nirna and Marakunda villages of Chittaguppa taluk to directly hear people's problems and speed up development activities. He interacted with villagers, received complaints and assured timely action through concerned departments.

During the village visits, residents submitted complaints related to drinking water, roads, drainage, electricity, school buildings, healthcare, agriculture and irrigation facilities. The MLA listened to every issue carefully and held discussions with officials on the spot. He instructed the departments concerned to take immediate steps for resolving public grievances and ensure that

people receive better services.

Dr. Beldale also inspected ongoing development projects, including road works, drainage construction, drinking water systems and public buildings. He directed contractors and officials to maintain high quality standards and complete all projects within the scheduled time. He said public money should be used responsibly and every development work should benefit citizens without delays.

As part of the visit, the MLA reviewed the progress of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list. He instructed officials and party workers to ensure that no eligible voter's name is missing from the electoral roll. He said new voter registrations, corrections and updates related to displaced and deceased voters should be

completed according to rules with complete transparency.

The MLA informed villagers about various welfare schemes of state and central governments and urged officials to ensure benefits reach all eligible beneficiaries. He said development programmes are being monitored continuously to provide equal growth opportunities in every village. Priority is given to roads, drinking water, education, health, agriculture, irrigation and infrastructure development. Villagers welcomed Dr. Beldale during his visit and appreciated his direct interaction and quick response to their concerns. They hoped pending issues would be resolved faster through coordination between officials and public representatives for better services and improved facilities across rural areas with timely support.

Green day celebration teaches kids healthy habits

SRINIVASAPUR

Karnataka Maulana Azad Public School on Chintamani Road in Srinivasapur celebrated Green Day-Vegetables Day with enthusiasm for LKG and UKG students on Thursday. The programme aimed to create awareness among children about healthy food habits and environmental protection.

Students dressed in green clothes participated actively by displaying different green vegetables, leafy plants and leaves. The school campus was decorated with green-themed arrangements, creating an attractive environment that highlighted the importance of nature, nutrition and a healthy lifestyle.

Headmistress Arun explained the importance of including green vegetables in children's daily meals. She said vegetables provide essential vitamins, minerals and fibre that help improve immunity, support growth and maintain overall health. She encouraged parents to develop healthy eating habits among



children from an early age.

UKG teacher Shaziya introduced students to various green vegetables and explained their nutritional benefits and uses. Through interactive activities, children identified vegetables and learned about their importance in an enjoyable way. Students also presented songs, fancy dress activities and creative performances promoting healthy living and environmental care.

The celebration helped young learners understand the value of nutritious food and protecting nature. The programme was conducted with support from Asif Pasha, Shabana Taj, Bibi Hajira, Nagamani, Shaziya and Samreen Taj. Teachers and students together made the event meaningful by spreading messages about health, cleanliness and sustainable living.

Minor girl assault case registered under POCSO act

SHIDLAGHATTA

A shocking case of sexual assault on a 13-year-old girl has come to light in a village under the Y. Hunasenahalli Gram Panchayat limits of Shidlaghatta taluk. The Shidlaghatta Rural Police have arrested a 25-year-old youth from the same village and registered a case against him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The victim, a Class 8 student, had been suffering from stomach pain for several days. Concerned about her health,

her family admitted her to Chintamani Public Hospital for treatment. During a detailed medical examination, doctors found that the girl was pregnant. As hospital records confirmed that she was a minor, the medical staff immediately informed the Shidlaghatta Rural Police, as required under mandatory reporting rules.

Based on the hospital's information, the police registered a case and launched an investigation. During the preliminary inquiry, police found the alleged involvement of a 25-year-old youth from the same village.

Officials urged better use of welfare grants

KARWAR

Deputy Commissioner K. Lakshmi Priya has urged Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities in the district to make proper use of government grants provided under various welfare schemes. She said the funds should help eligible people improve their economic conditions.

She was speaking at the District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting held at the District Commissioner's office on Thursday. The Deputy Commissioner advised beneficiaries of Nomadic and Semi-No-



madic Corporation schemes to utilize opportunities under Self-Employment, Entrepreneurship, Swavalambi Sarathi and Ganga Kalyan programmes.

She directed Social Welfare Department officials to process applications related to these schemes quickly and ensure that approved financial assistance reaches beneficiaries without delay. She also instructed officials to conduct regular vigilance meetings at

sub-divisional levels and solve the issues faced by Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities.

Committee members suggested forming a fact-finding team to review development works carried out using community funds. They also requested awareness campaigns about pension schemes, recognition of RD-number-based caste certificates for upcoming Gram Panchayat elections and immediate action against encroachment of community cemetery lands.

The meeting discussed the need to protect the rights and welfare of disadvantaged communities through effec-

tive implementation of government programmes. Officials were asked to maintain transparency and ensure that benefits reach deserving people. Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Dileesh Shashi, Additional District Collector Sajid Mulla, Deputy Divisional Officer Shalam Hussain, Additional Superintendent of Police Krishnamurthy, Urban Development Cell Project Director Zaheer Abbas, District Social Welfare Officer Umesh and officials from various departments attended the meeting. The administration assured that necessary steps would be taken to address community concerns.

CAREER AWARENESS MISSION

Dr Ullagaddi launches student career guidance handbook

DHARWAD

Additional Commissioner Dr. Ishwar Ullagaddi released a Career Guidance Manual prepared by the Zilla Panchayat Dharwad, Deputy Director (Development) office and District Education and Training Institute (DIET) under the Comprehensive Education Karnataka Scheme. The manual aims to help students make better career decisions through proper guidance and information about various opportunities.

Speaking at the release programme held at the Addition-



al Commissioner's office on Thursday, Dr. Ullagaddi said timely guidance and correct decisions are important in shaping students' futures. He stated that students can achieve success when they

select careers based on their interests, abilities and goals. He said the manual would serve as a useful guide for students planning their educational and professional journeys.

"Parents and teachers play a crucial role in guiding students. They should recognize children's interests and abilities rather than imposing personal expectations. Timely guidance can boost confidence and help students build successful careers."

— Additional Commissioner, Dr. Ishwar Ullagaddi

Dr. Ullagaddi said many students and parents currently face confusion while selecting careers. He pointed out that fields like medicine and engineering often receive more attention, while several other

sectors also provide excellent opportunities. He encouraged students to explore areas including science, commerce, arts, agriculture, information technology, skill development and entrepreneurship according to their talents and interests.

The manual has been prepared around four important factors: interest, ability, opportunity and success. It provides information to help students understand their strengths, explore career options, learn about higher education opportunities and prepare plans to achieve their goals. Dr. Ullagaddi said the handbook

would act as a helpful resource for students seeking direction about careers, competitive examinations and employment opportunities.

The programme was attended by Deputy Director Girish Padaki, Deputy Director (Development) and DIET Principal Basavaraj Nalathwada, DIET officials, lecturers and education department representatives. Officials expressed hope that the career guidance manual would support students in making informed choices and encourage them to explore wider opportunities for a brighter future.

Parameshwara reveals major sports development roadmap

Dr. Parameshwara announced Kanteerava Stadium redevelopment with international facilities under PPP model, costing an estimated ₹5,000 crore

BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara said the Youth Empowerment and Sports Department has achieved major progress in the last three years through improved infrastructure, athlete support programmes and new initiatives. He said the government is working to strengthen sports culture and provide better opportunities for young people across the state.

Addressing the media in Bengaluru, Dr. Parameshwara announced that Kanteerava Stadium will be redeveloped with international-level facilities under the Public Private Partnership model at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,000 crore. He said cabinet approval will be taken soon. The state will also organize its first International Youth Festival during December, January or February, bringing together youth from different countries for cultural and sports exchanges.

The Deputy Chief Minister said 65 percent of Karnataka's population is below 35 years and special programmes are being introduced to guide youth towards productive activities. Athletes participating in national-level events will



DCM's message to youth

The Deputy Chief Minister urged youth to avoid drugs and alcohol and focus on sports and creative activities for a better future. He said youth associations will be formed in every Gram Panchayat with 100 to 150 members from all communities without discrimination or political influence. Each association will receive an annual grant of Rs. 10 lakh to promote sports, culture, history and literature among young people. The Sports Department will manage the initiative and strengthen sports culture across the state. The Deputy Chief Minister said the government aims to make youth self-reliant and encourage positive growth.

develop government properties near important religious centres.

receive 15 percent attendance exemption, while international participants will receive 25 percent exemption. The government has also approved 2 percent reservation for sportspersons in 72,000 government posts. Additional incentives of Rs. 5 lakh will be provided to athletes representing India in major international competitions.

He said 50 sports coaches will soon be appointed to improve training facilities. Pending Ekalavya, Sports Patron and Lifetime Achievement Awards will be presented on August 29, National Sports Day. A velodrome project will begin in Mysuru on 17 acres of land to promote cycling. Around 115 sports students have also received medical

and engineering seats through sports quota.

Dr. Parameshwara also spoke about drought management and said 157 taluks in Karnataka are facing rainfall shortages. District officials have been provided Rs. 5 crore each to arrange drinking water through tankers in affected areas. He said requests have been made to the Centre for NDRF assistance to manage the situation.

The minister announced steps to improve Muzrai Department administration covering nearly 39,000 temples. CCTV cameras and centralized monitoring systems will be introduced to prevent misuse of temple funds. He said master plans will be prepared to protect temple assets and

Ministers discuss Mamdapur Lake land acquisition issue

BENGALURU

Water Resources Minister Ramalinga Reddy directed officials to place the proposal for acquiring submerged land near Mamdapur Lake before the Cabinet. The decision was taken after farmers requested compensation and relief for land affected by rising water levels in Babaleswar constituency of Vijayapura district.

A meeting was held at Vidhana Soudha on Thursday, where Ministers Ramalinga Reddy and M.B. Patil discussed the issue with officials from the Small Irrigation Department and Krishna Bhagya Jal Nigam. The ministers said acquiring the affected land would prevent losses and difficulties faced by farmers in the submerged area.

Minister M.B. Patil, who represents the constituency, said Mamdapur Lake was built during the Adil Shahi period in the 16th century. The lake, spread across about 1,200 acres, supports around 15 villages and receives water from the Krishna Upper River Project. Due to water storage, 178 acres belonging to 42 farmers become submerged,



making cultivation difficult. Patil said farmers had been requesting Krishna Bhagya Jal Nigam to acquire the affected land. The estimated cost of the acquisition is around Rs 42 crore, and the meeting was held to seek approval for re-leasing funds. He said the move would provide relief to farmers who depend on the land for their livelihood.

Additional Chief Secretary of Water Resources Department Gaurav Gupta, Krishna Bhagya Jal Nigam General Manager B.M. Kulkarni, Minor Irrigation Department Secretary B.K. Pavitra and other officials attended the meeting. Authorities said the proposal would be discussed

M.B. Patil said historic Mamdapur Lake supports villages but submerges 178 acres of 42 farmers' land, affecting cultivation due to water storage

"This move will provide relief to farmers who depend on the land for their livelihood."
—M. B. Patil, Minister for Large & Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development

at the Cabinet level and necessary steps would be taken after the decision.

QUICK READ



Free bladder checkup camp at District Hospital

Chitradurga

A free bladder checkup camp will be held at Chitradurga District Hospital on July 18 in association with S.S. Narayana Health Hospital, Davangere. The camp will take place in Room No. 15 from 10 am to 1 pm. Urologist Dr. U.S. Karthik will examine patients and provide medical advice. People suffering from kidney stones, frequent urination, prostate issues, urinary infections, burning sensation, blood in urine, infertility problems, or other bladder-related conditions can use this facility. District Hospital authorities encouraged citizens to attend the camp and benefit from the free medical service.



SIR awareness drive conducted through street play

Mangaluru

The Election Commission of India and Dakshina Kannada District Administration conducted a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) awareness campaign with a street play to educate voters. SWEEP Coordinator Sumangala Nayak urged citizens to participate in SIR and ensure that no eligible voter is left out. Artists from Balaga Karavali Janapada Kala Vedike and Yakshagana performer Girish Navada presented a street play explaining the importance of voter verification. Citizens were advised to sign and return BLO-provided forms or complete them online. The programme also informed people about the voter helpline number 1950 for assistance and information.

Deputy Commissioner inspected neem, uddu, groundnut, maize and cotton crops across Dundoor Cross, Harlapura, Kotumuchagi and nearby villages

CROP REVIEW BEGINS AS RAIN SHORTAGE HITS GADAG

GADAG

Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar inspected agricultural fields across Gadag and Rona taluks on Thursday to review crop conditions amid a rainfall shortage during the 2026-27 monsoon season. He said farmers need not panic and assured that officials are monitoring the situation closely.

The Deputy Commissioner visited Dundoor Cross, Gangimadi-Hirehandigol Road, Harlapura and Kotumuchagi villages in Gadag taluk and examined neem, uddu, groundnut, maize and cotton crops. Later, he visited Naregal village in Rona taluk, where maize, sorghum and groundnut crops were affected due to insufficient rainfall.

Sridhar interacted with farmers and collected details about crop growth, water availability, rainfall conditions and difficulties faced by cultivators. He instructed Agriculture Department officials to regularly monitor fields, record crop damage and provide technical guidance to farmers. He also directed Agriculture, Revenue and Horticulture departments to work together and take quick action against pests, diseases and weather-related issues.

Joint Director of Agriculture Chetana Patil said the district received only 82.50 mm rainfall from June 1 to July 16 against the normal 121.4 mm, resulting in a 32.04 percent rain deficit. The



KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REVIEW

- Deputy Commissioner visits villages to assess agricultural conditions
- Farmers' issues discussed during field-level interactions and visits
- Crop growth and soil moisture conditions reviewed carefully
- Officials instructed continuous monitoring amid changing weather conditions
- Departments urged coordination for timely farmer support services
- Technical guidance and quick responses assured for farmers' needs

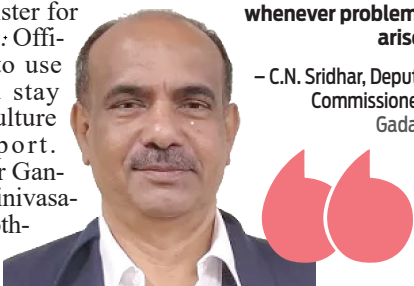
district has a sowing target of 3,13,719 hectares, with 2,57,401 hectares completed so far.

The Deputy Commissioner informed farmers that crop insurance registration under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is open until July 22, 2026. Farmers with eligible loans can register for name and cotton crops. Officials urged farmers to use the opportunity and stay connected with agriculture officers for support. Sub-Divisional Officer Gangappa M. Tahsildar Srinivasamurthy Kulkarni and other officials attended the field visit.

Agriculture Department officials should regularly visit fields and monitor crop conditions to prevent difficulties for farmers.

They must ensure timely technical advice, guidance, and departmental facilities reach farmers. Officials are responsible for monitoring agricultural activities and taking immediate corrective measures whenever problems arise.

—C.N. Sridhar, Deputy Commissioner, Gadag



THEATRE VALUES REMEMBERED

K.V. Subbanna's theatre legacy remembered in Chitradurga

CHITRADURGA

Educationist and playwright Dr. G.N. Mallikarjunappa said Neenasam K.V. Subbanna was a remarkable theatre personality who contributed greatly to literature, education and performing arts. He was speaking at a Kannada singing training workshop and lecture programme organized during the memorial celebrations of K.V. Subbanna in Chitradurga. He said Subbanna's theatre methods created awareness and helped audiences understand values

through creative expression. Mallikarjunappa explained that Subbanna used theatre as an effective communication medium and encouraged value-based learning among people. He suggested introducing Subbanna's theatre ideas to children to develop creativity and good taste. Senior journalist M.N. Yogish said theatre reflects society and Ninasam productions present social realities through meaningful performances. He added that Ninasam, founded in Heggodu, Shivamogga district, has gained national and



international recognition through theatre activities.

He highlighted Ninasam's achievements including theatre training, cultural camps, tours

and film festivals. He said Ninasam's trained artists are working across the country. The event featured talks on Subbanna's life and contribu-

Theatre reflects society, and Ninasam productions bring social realities to audiences through meaningful and thought-provoking performances.
—Senior journalist M.N. Yogish

tions. Awards were presented to journalists S. Manjunath and K.P. Omkaramurthy for their achievements in journalism.

The programme was presided over by Headmaster Ananda Talawara. Several dignitaries including Govindappa, E. Mahesh Babu and theatre art-

ists attended the event. Resource person K.P. Ganeshaiah trained students in Kannada songs including Naadageetha, Raitageetha and national songs. Students and teachers participated actively in the workshop. Organizers said the celebration helped preserve Subbanna's artistic vision and inspire future generations through theatre and culture. The initiative encouraged students to explore creativity while understanding the importance of art in society and continuing the legacy of great thinkers.

QUICK READ

3 killed during village panchayat meeting

Jaipur

A long-running dispute between two groups in Rajasthan's Bikaner district turned deadly on Thursday when a village panchayat convened to resolve the conflict erupted into violence, leaving three people dead in a knife attack. The incident took place in Surjanwali village under the Chhatargarh police station limits. According to preliminary information, members of the two rival groups had gathered before village elders in an attempt to settle their differences. However, the discussions reportedly took a violent turn, and one group allegedly launched a sudden attack with sharp-edged weapons.

SIT summons Sukhbir Badal in 2015 Behbal Kalan

CHANDIGARH

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the 2015 Behbal Kalan and Kotkapura police firing incidents has summoned former Punjab Deputy Chief Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal for questioning. He has been directed to appear before the investigation team on Monday. The summons come with less than six months left for the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections, bringing the politically sensitive sacrilege issue back to the centre of political discourse amid continuing debates over accountability in the decade-old case. Sources said that the SIT has directed Badal to appear before the investigation team on Monday, marking a significant development in the long-running probe.

NC sticks to statehood stir plan

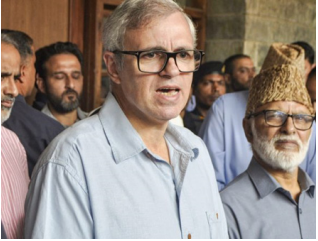
Omar Abdullah says the NC will proceed with its July 20 Delhi stir for statehood despite possible venue changes and parallel demonstrations by Kashmiri Pandits.

SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday reaffirmed that the National Conference (NC) will go ahead with its planned protest in New Delhi on July 20, demanding the restoration of statehood to the Union Territory, even if the venue or mode of demonstration undergoes changes.

Addressing reporters, Omar Abdullah said the party remains committed to raising its voice in the national capital and will not retreat from its decision despite developments surrounding the protest.

The National Conference's programme to travel to New Delhi on July 20 will go



ahead as planned. The venue and mode of the proposed protest may change, but the party will not alter its decision, he said.

The Chief Minister stressed that the demonstration would be held publicly and not behind closed doors. He added that if the party intended to conduct the programme discreetly, it could have done so in Jammu and Kashmir itself rather than travelling to Delhi.

Pointers

- NC protest on July 20 to proceed as planned.
- Venue or mode may change, not the decision.
- Omar Abdullah rules out holding a secret protest.
- Party leaders to reach Delhi on July 19.
- Kashmiri Pandit groups also plan a Jantar Mantar protest on July 20.

Responding to questions on whether announcements of other programmes on the same day were aimed at sabotaging the NC's plans, Omar Abdullah declined to speculate, saying he would not

comment on whether it was an act of diversion or disruption.

The NC leadership, including Omar Abdullah and party legislators, is scheduled to leave for New Delhi on July 19 to participate in the July 20 protest.

The development comes as Kashmiri Pandit organisations, including Panun Kashmir, have also announced a demonstration at Jantar Mantar on the same day.

They will seek a separate homeland for displaced Kashmiri Hindus in the Valley and demand accountability for the 1990 exodus.

Both protests are expected to draw significant political attention in the national capital.

Bihar launches smart classes in schools



PATNA

The Bihar government on Thursday launched the 'Smart Class' initiative in 150 government schools across Patna, marking a major step towards integrating digital technology into classroom education.

Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary inaugurated the programme at the Government Girls' Higher Secondary School in Shastri Nagar and described the initiative as an important milestone in modernising Bihar's education system.

During the event, the Chief Minister visited a smart classroom, interacted with students, and observed a live digital science lesson on the structure and functions of a cell. He also questioned students to assess their understanding of the topic.

The state government said the initiative seeks to provide students in government schools with digital learning opportunities comparable to those available in many private institutions. Under the programme, students of Classes 9 to 12 will benefit from live and interactive online classes, lectures by subject experts, digital study materials, e-notes, recorded vid-

Bihar launched Smart Classes in 150 government schools across Patna, aiming to bring quality digital education to students

eo lectures, and regular mock tests.

Officials said the use of audio-visual presentations, animations, and multimedia content will make classroom teaching more engaging while helping students understand complex concepts more effectively. Recorded lessons will also enable students to revise topics at their own pace.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister announced another education-focused initiative for meritorious students from economically weaker sections. The Bihar government will provide free coaching for JEE and NEET aspirants in 10 model schools across Patna.

The programme aims to ensure that talented students who cannot afford expensive private coaching receive quality guidance for engineering and medical entrance examinations, further strengthening the state's commitment to accessible and inclusive education.

The Court directed the SEC to announce local body poll dates within five days, expressing strong displeasure over the continued delay.

Rajasthan HC pushes poll schedule

JAIPUR

The Rajasthan High Court on Thursday directed the State Election Commission (SEC) to announce the schedule for Panchayat and Urban Local Body elections within five days, expressing strong displeasure over the continued delay in conducting the constitutionally mandated polls.

A Division Bench comprising Acting Chief Justice SP Sharma and Justice Sanjeet Purohit also instructed the state government to declare by Monday the timeline for submission of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) Commission's report and completion of the draw of lots for reservation of seats.

During the hearing, the Bench questioned State Election Commissioner Rajeshwar Singh over the delay and warned that contempt proceedings could be initiated if earlier

Key directions

- SEC to announce poll schedule within five days.
- Govt to specify OBC report timeline by Monday.
- Court warns of possible contempt proceedings.
- SEC says polls can begin within two days after reservation classification.
- High Court had earlier set July 31, 2026, as the deadline to complete the election process.

court directions were not complied with.

Defending the Commission's position, the Election Commissioner informed the court that the SEC was fully prepared to conduct the elections but was awaiting the government's reservation classification. He said the Commission could begin

the election process within two days once the reservation exercise was completed and communicated.

The court also sought an explanation from the OBC Commission over the delay in submitting its report, noting that the panel had been constituted on May 9, 2025, with a three-month mandate. The Bench observed that if the Commission was unable to complete its assignment, it should state so clearly.

The High Court had earlier directed the state government and the SEC to complete the Panchayat and Urban Local Body election process by July 31, 2026. However, the process has yet to commence.

Reiterating that timely local body elections are a constitutional obligation, the court warned that it could consider appointing an independent authority to oversee the election process if delays continue.

Zanzibar Prez to visit India from July 17-20

NEW DELHI

Zanzibar President Hussein Ali Mwinyi will be on an official visit to India from July 17-20 at the invitation of Vice President C P Radhakrishnan.

During the visit, Mwinyi and Vice President Radhakrishnan will hold talks to review the full spectrum of India-Tanzania ties and explore new avenues for future collaboration. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Jaishankar will also call on President Myinyi, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated.

For his visit to India, Hussein Ali Mwinyi will be accompanied by his wife and a high-level delegation comprising ministers and senior officials.

President Mwinyi will be the Chief Guest at the 63rd Convocation Ceremony of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras in Chennai. His visit holds special significance as the Zanzibar campus of the IIT Madras has completed two years since its establishment in October 2023.

Seers, right-wing groups slam Ansari over Lord Krishna remark

NEW DELHI

A controversy erupted after a viral video showed Maulana Jarjis Ansari claiming that Lord Krishna was a Muslim and offered namaz five times a day, with Hindu saints and right-wing groups launching a scathing attack on the Muslim cleric.

Maulana Ansari further drew the ire of the seers for reportedly reciting a verse from the Bhagavad Gita in order to support his claim.

Reacting on the cleric's remarks, Mahamandaleshwar Vishnu Das said: A Maulana has claimed that Lord Krishna was a Muslim and offered namaz. Whoever cuts off his tongue will be rewarded with Rs 10 lakh. He has hurt the re-

ligious sentiments of Lord Krishna's devotees. He does not know even a single word of Sanskrit and is misinterpreting verses from the Bhagavad Gita.

Mahant Nirmal Giri of Agra's Kailash Mahadev Temple said Maulana Ansari always makes such nonsensical statements wherever he gives speeches, especially among the Muslim community.

He (Maulana Jarjis Ansari) has created a kind of propaganda about how to attack Sanatan Dharma and keeps creating such an atmosphere. Nirmal Giri echoed, saying: The Maulana does not have any knowledge of Shrimad Bhagwat Gita and neither about Lord Krishna. Peethadheeshwar of Tapasvi Chhawani

Jagadguru Paramhans Acharya also said: The statement made by Maulana Jarjis is baseless, without evidence, inhumane, and capable of disturbing peace in the country.

Taking the criticism further, Saint Deveshacharya ji Maharaj said: The Maulana has lost his mind that is why he is making such absurd statements. He knows nothing about Lord Krishna, who is revered as 'Vande Jagadgurm'. If he had said that Lord Krishna was his ancestor or someone he admired, that could have been understood. But claiming that Lord Krishna recited the 'Kalma' and offered namaz is a very unfortunate statement. Such remarks only serve to spread unrest.

GOVT SCHOOL TEACHER SUSPENDED FOR ASKING FEMALE STUDENTS TO UNDRESS

SAWAI MADHOPUR

In a shocking incident reported from Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district, a female teacher of the Government Senior Secondary School has been suspended for allegedly asking female students of classes 9 to 11, to strip in order to conduct a search after finding some money missing from her purse.

The school is located in Li-

wali village in Bamanwas sub-division of the district. Panic spread through the village when the terrified students returned home and recounted their ordeal to their families. By Wednesday morning, a large number of outraged parents and villagers had gathered outside the school and locked the main gate, staging a massive protest.

The incident took place when a senior teacher, Saras-

wati Meena, could not find a specific amount of money in her purse. She suspected students from classes 9 to 11 and, under the guise of an investigation, forced them to undress for a search.

Upon receiving news of the commotion, the Chief Block Education Officer rushed to the spot, gathered details of the incident from the aggrieved students, and apprised higher authorities of the situation.

India's infra sector records robust growth

NEW DELHI

India recorded robust infrastructure growth across civil aviation, power, telecom, highways, railways and ports sectors, according to the quarterly update of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released on Thursday.

The quarterly update of the newly introduced PAIMANA (Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring and Analytics for Nation-building) Performance Dashboard states that the civil aviation sector registered a strong growth in FY2026-27 (up to May) as passenger traffic reached 7.1 crore and cargo handled stood at 7.3 lakh tonnes, reflecting 10.6 per cent increase over the same period of the previous year.

The sector also facilitated 10.52 lakh foreign tourist arrivals during April-May FY 2026-27, reinforcing its role in boosting trade, tourism and global connectivity, the official statement said.

In the power sector, the energy storage capacity is projected to increase significant-



ly across both major technologies, with Pumped Storage Plant (PSP) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) capacities reaching 94 GW and 80 GW, respectively, by 2035-36. The sustained growth reflects India's strategic focus on strengthening grid reliability and enabling higher renewable energy integration.

The telecommunications sector witnessed robust growth, with telecom infrastructure expanding 3.7 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to 8.55 lakh towers and 32.25 lakh Base Transceiver Stations (BTS), a 7.4 per cent increase YoY, while tele-density improved to 93.26 per

cent in FY 2025-26, reflecting deeper digital connectivity, the statement said.

In the Road Transport and Highways sector, digital tolling also strengthened, with electronic toll collection transactions rising by an impressive 39.7 per cent year-on-year to Rs 88 crore in FY 2026-27 (up to May), indicating wider adoption of cashless toll systems.

The Railways Sector has enhanced both freight efficiency and network capacity, with average freight load per wagon increasing to about 68 tonnes and the rail network expanding to over 1.37 lakh track kilometers in 2024-25.

MIRE IN FAITH

Puri Rath Yatra: Devotion triumphs over torrential rain

BHUBANESWAR

Torrential rain failed to deter lakhs of devotees as the world-famous Rath Yatra began in Odisha's holy town of Puri on Thursday, with thousands lining the Grand Road to witness the annual procession of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra.

Despite the incessant downpour, devotees carrying umbrellas filled the Bada Danda (Grand Road), chanting Jai Jagannath and Hari Bol while dancing in devotion as the divine siblings embarked on



their nine-day journey to the Gundicha Temple, believed to be their birthplace.

The festival commenced with the Pahandi Bijje ritual,

during which the deities were ceremonially escorted from the 12th-century Shree Jagannath Temple to their richly decorated chariots. The grand

procession unfolded amid the resonating sounds of traditional instruments such as the ghanta (gong), kahali (trumpet) and telingi baja, while priests chanted Vedic hymns and Odissi dancers welcomed the deities.

Although the Pahandi ritual began ahead of schedule, it concluded more than two hours later than planned owing to the elaborate ceremonies.

Following the ritual, Puri Shankaracharya Swami Nishalananda Saraswati offered prayers to the deities. Puri King Gajapati Maharaja Dib-

ya Singha Deb, regarded as the first servitor of Lord Jagannath, later performed the symbolic 'Chhera Pahanra' ritual by ceremonially sweeping the chariots with a golden broom.

Authorities made extensive arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the festival despite heavy rainfall. More than 13,000 police personnel, supported by Central Armed Police Forces, have been deployed across Puri, while the Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy remain on alert to secure the coastal region during the annual pilgrimage.

Telangana MLC's son among 3 caught consuming drugs

HYDERABAD

Son of a Member of Telangana Legislative Council and two other youth were caught for allegedly consuming drugs but the MLC denied that his son consumed drugs or he was arrested.

Bharat Raj Reddy, Abhishek and Yunith were reportedly caught during a police raid in Mangalhat area on Wednesday night. The raid was reportedly conducted following a tip-off that a group was allegedly involved in

purchase and consumption of marijuana and hash oil.

While three persons were apprehended during the raid, four others managed to escape. Police have seized 24 grams of hash oil and 22 grams of marijuana.

The trio were taken to Mangalhat Police Station, where their blood samples were collected. They were subsequently shifted to Osmania General Hospital for medical examination.

A search was on for four absconding accused; Soni, Vamsi, Manoj and Tuljia.



QUICK READ

PM Modi expresses sympathies to Qatar's Amir

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Qatar's Amir to express heartfelt sympathies following the death of former leader Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. Modi praised the late leader's strong affection for India and his support for the local Indian community. To honor his memory, India observed a national day of mourning, flying flags at half-mast across official government buildings. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju also traveled to Qatar to deliver condolences in person. Both nations pledged to build upon Sheikh Hamad's lasting legacy by continuing to deepen their friendship and strategic partnership.

NHIT appoints highway maintenance consultants

Consultants to oversee highway maintenance, improve operational efficiency, enhance safety, adopt global best practices and strengthen management of NH assets

NEW DELHI

The National Highways Infrastructure Trust (NHIT), an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) sponsored by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), has appointed General Management Consultants (GMCs) to strengthen the operation and maintenance of National Highway assets under its portfolio.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways announced the initiative on Thursday, describing it as a significant step towards adopting global best practices in highway asset management.

The consultants will carry out systematic inspections of highway stretches through daily, weekly and monthly assessments using a combination of visual inspections and advanced equipment-based



evaluation techniques. Based on these inspections, they will identify maintenance requirements, recommend safety interventions, undertake defect rectification and propose capacity augmentation measures to improve road quality and commuter comfort.

In the first phase, consultants will oversee the operation and maintenance of 908 kilometres of National Highway assets. NHIT currently manages a total network of 2,653 kilometres and was registered with the Se-

curities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as an InvIT in October 2020.

Apart from monitoring asset conditions, the consultants will supervise procurement of specialised contractors and agencies, oversee execution of maintenance works, certify completed projects and recommend improvements in toll plaza operations and traffic management. They will also ensure timely reporting and compliance with SEBI's regulatory framework governing Infra-

In-short

- NHIT appoints General Management Consultants.
- First phase covers 908 km of highways.
- NHIT portfolio spans 2,653 km.
- Consultants to conduct regular inspections.
- Focus on safety, maintenance and traffic management.
- Initiative aligned with global best practices.
- Expected to boost innovation and employment in infrastructure.

structure Investment Trusts.

NHIT is supported by National Highways InvIT Project Managers Private Limited (NHIPML), a wholly owned subsidiary of NHAI, which serves as the Project Manager for the highway assets.

Army chief Seth reviews eastern op preparedness

KOLKATA

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Dhiraj Seth on Thursday reviewed the operational preparedness of the Tezpur-based IV Corps, also known as the Gajraj Corps, during his visit to the Eastern Command.

The review is part of his ongoing assessment of key military formations responsible for safeguarding India's eastern frontier and maintaining internal security.

Over the past two days, the Army Chief also visited the headquarters of the XXXIII Corps (Trishakti Corps) at Sukna and the III Corps (Spear Corps) at Dimapur. During his interaction with senior commanders at Tezpur, Gen Seth was briefed on the prevailing security situation, operational readiness and capability development initiatives undertaken by units and formations under the Eastern Command.

The Gajraj Corps is responsible for the security of Assam and parts of Arunachal Pradesh. It comprises the 71st Mountain Division at Missamari, the 21st Mountain Division (Red Horn Division) at Rangia and the 5th Mountain Division (Ball of Fire Division) at Rupa near Bomdila, close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The Army Chief reviewed measures adopted by the formation to ensure peace, stability and a secure environment in the region. He was also briefed on the Corps' coordination with the civil administration and Central Armed Police Forces through developmental projects, community outreach programmes and as-



The review is part of his ongoing assessment of key military formations responsible for safeguarding India's eastern frontier

istance to local authorities. Gen Seth appreciated the Corps for its contribution to maintaining internal security in Assam and Meghalaya, as well as its swift response during disaster relief and humanitarian assistance operations. He also lauded the troops for their professionalism, high morale and adoption of emerging technologies to enhance operational capability.

General Seth hails Gajraj Corps

General Dhiraj Seth commended the Gajraj Corps for maintaining high operational readiness, strengthening coordination with civil authorities and Central Armed Police Forces, and effectively using emerging technologies. He also praised the formation's role in ensuring internal security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief across Assam, Meghalaya and the eastern frontier.

APEDA facilitates 1st organic apricot shipment from Ladakh to UAE

LEH

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that the export of first shipment of 5 metric tonnes of organic apricots from Ladakh to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is yet another example of domestic food products gaining global recognition.

In a post on social media platform X, the minister said that over the past few months, thanks to the efforts of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), farmers across the country have been gaining better prices for their produce and new

access to global markets.

The export of the first shipment of 5 metric tonnes of organic apricots from Ladakh to the UAE is yet another powerful example of this, said Goyal.

This initiative will play a crucial role in giving Indian organic products international recognition, increasing farmers' incomes, and creating new opportunities for sustainable livelihoods, the minister noted.

Last week, APEDA facilitated the export of two metric tonnes (MT) of Amrapali mangoes, sourced from women-led farmer producer companies in Jharkhand's tribal areas, to Dubai.

Koel Mallick resigns from Rajya Sabha

KOLKATA

Actress-turned-politician and Trinamool leader, Rukmini Mallick, popularly known as Koel Mallick, has resigned from the Rajya Sabha, just three months after being elected to the Upper House.

She is the fourth Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha member to resign since June this year, after the results of the recently concluded West Bengal elections were declared, which marked the landslide defeat of the Trinamool Congress.

Earlier, Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, Sushmita Dev and Prakash Chik Baraik resigned from the Upper House one after another. However, all

three joined the BJP and have been nominated as BJP candidates for the bypolls scheduled later this month for the three seats vacated by them.

Now speculations are rife in the political circles of West Bengal that Mallick is probably heading for the same formula, as immediately after tendering her resignation to the Rajya Sabha chairperson and Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan, she was spotted at the residence of the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav.

It is learnt that Mallick had earlier sent her resignation letter to Radhakrishnan by email. But as per the rules, to resign from the Rajya Sabha,

an MP has to appear in person. Accordingly, she appeared in person on Thursday afternoon and submitted her resignation letter to the Rajya Sabha Chairperson.

In February this year, when the Trinamool Congress announced the names of four candidates for the Rajya Sabha, there was total surprise over the selection of candidates. Besides Mallick, the other three candidates were former Director General of West Bengal Police Rajeev Kumar, singer-turned-politician and former minister in the Narendra Modi-led Union Cabinet Babul Supriyo and the Supreme Court Senior Advocate Dr Menaka Guruswamy.

SC takes on record UP police report clearing Mishra

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday took on record a status report filed by the Uttar Pradesh Police stating that its investigation found no evidence against former Union Minister Ajay Mishra and his son Ashish Mishra in the alleged witness intimidation case linked to the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joydip Bagchi and V. Mohana was hearing a matter in which the apex court is monitoring the progress of the Lakhimpur Kheri trials.

The Uttar Pradesh Police informed the CJI Kant-led Bench that a charge sheet had been filed only against one accused, Amandeep Singh, in the witness intimidation case and that the investi-

gation did not reveal the involvement of Ashish Mishra, Ajay Mishra or others in the alleged offence.

Recording the contents of the status report, the apex court granted the complainant two weeks to file an additional affidavit in response to the findings of the state police.

Senior advocate Siddharth Dave, appearing for Ashish Mishra, submitted before the CJI Kant-led Bench: I have not been even named in the chargesheet.

The trial will wrap up in three months.

The witness intimidation proceedings stem from a complaint made by Baljinder Singh, a prosecution witness in the main Lakhimpur Kheri violence trial, who had claimed that attempts were made to dissuade him from deposing before the trial court.



'Govt to extend fin aid under UDAN for 5 years'

NEW DELHI

The government will extend financial support to airlines operating under the UDAN regional connectivity scheme from three years to five years in a phased manner to improve the viability of regional routes, Union Minister of Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu said on Thursday.

On the sidelines of a UDAN workshop, the minister told reporters that the revamped scheme, which has been extended for another 10 years — will also widen the eligibility criteria for airports to receive viability gap funding (VGF).

Earlier, an airport was classified as unserved or underserved if it had fewer than seven flights a week. We have now increased that threshold to 14 flights a week, which will allow more routes to receive viability gap funding, Naidu said.

The minister said the government is expanding airport infrastructure at a rapid pace and is now focused on improving regional connectivity through policy changes. We are creating either a new terminal or a new airport every single month. Now we have to improve connectivity, and for that we have brought changes to the existing UDAN scheme, he said.

Maruti Suzuki fights consumer court order over fuel

NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki will appeal a consumer court order directing it to replace a Grand Vitara Hybrid or refund Rs 20.5 lakh.

A Chhattisgarh customer claimed the car suffered damage from E20 fuel. However, the automaker insists the SUV was designed to handle 20% ethanol-blended petrol, as noted in the owner's manual.

Maruti Suzuki stated that fuel samples taken from the customer's car showed clear signs of contamination, which the court overlooked.

The company remains confident in its vehicle safety standards and plans to challenge.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಪಂಚಾಯತರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ

ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08382-220556 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: predkarwar@gmail.com
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ/ಪಂಚ.ಇಂ/ಕಾ/ಒಂ-1/2026-27/15 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.07.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ-15/2026-27 (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧೀನದಲ್ಲಿ, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಾದ 2025-2026 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಗೌರವಾರ್ಥ ಅನುದಾನದ ಲೆಕ್ಕಪರಿಶೋಧನೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಖರೀದಿ ಪಾಂಡಿತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾನೂನು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ Standard Tender Document-3 K.W-3 ರ ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕಾಲಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾದ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಆದೇಶಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಐಟಿಎಂಎಂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಆಡಳಿತ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಥವಾ ಪೆಡ್‌ಸೈಟ್ <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ವೋದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರಿಂಗ್ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿವೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: (ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ: ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ) (1) ಹೊಸಗ್ರಾಮ ತಾ: ಕುಕ್ಕಿಗ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತದ ದಾಸಗೋಡ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ದಾಸಗೋಡ ಪಕ್ಕವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರಭವನಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ತ್ರಿವೇದಿ ನಾಡು ಮನೆವರೆಗೆ ಕಾಂಕ್ರೀಟ್ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDRP/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT24849/CALL-2

ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 65.00 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ: ರೂ. 130000.00 ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸಮಿತ): 03 ತಿಂಗಳು.

(1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರಡ್ಡು-ಬಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು Technical Bid ನ್ನು ಪೆಡ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತುಂಬಿ ಮರುಳ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31.07.2026 ರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 16.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. (2) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ Technical Bid ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.08.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 16.31 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ. (3) ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ನಂತರದಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/281/26-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.07.2026

Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chikkamagaluru District, Chikkamagaluru.

District Urban Development Cell, Chikkamagaluru

E-Mail:- ka.chikkamagaluru.dudc@gmail.com Tel: 08262-239010
No./DUDC(1)CR/24/2022-23 Date: 14.07.2026

Tender Notice

Tender is invited through e-Procurement Portal in two cover system towards purchase and distribution of petrol driven three-wheeler(Scooters) to individual beneficiaries under Hon'ble Chief Minister's Nagarothana (Municipality) Stage-4 Scheme in the limits of Chikkamagaluru District and Interested Suppliers can submit Tenders. Last date and time for submission of Tender in e-procurement portal: 30.07.2026 up to 17.00 Hrs. Date and time of opening Technical Bid: 31.07.2026 at 17.10 Hrs. Further details can be obtained during office hours and in e-portal: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sl.No	Indent No.	Unit	Quantity
1	DMA/2026-27/IND6460 (CMC CHIKKAMAGALURU)	No.	62
2	DMA/2026-27/IND6381 (TMC KADUR)	No.	15
3	DMA/2026-27/IND6382 (TMC BIRUR)	No.	15
4	DMA/2026-27/IND6383 (TP N.R.PURA)	No.	7
5	DMA/2026-27/IND6384 (TP KODDA)	No.	7
6	DMA/2026-27/IND6385 (TP MUPPIGERE)	No.	7
7	DMA/2026-27/IND6386 (TP AJJAMPURA)	No.	7
8	DMA/2026-27/IND6369 (TP SRINGERI)	No.	4

Sd/- Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell, Chikkamagaluru.

DIPR/ckm/ksmca/26-27/15/29

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಜೈಟಿಕ್ ಪಂಚಕರ್ಮ ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವ

ಬೃಂದಾವನ ಬಡವಾಣಿ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು-570020
Email id: dmshtgkmysuru@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0821-2515588 & 2515589
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಪ್ರಕಟ/09/ಸರ/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.07.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ (ದ್ವಿಲೋಕೀಕರಣ ಪದ್ಧತಿ)

ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಜೈಟಿಕ್ ಪಂಚಕರ್ಮ ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆಯುರ್ವೇದ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿಯ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಗ್ರೂಪ್-ಸಿ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರೂಪ್-ಡಿ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನೌಕರರ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ನಿಯಮ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ AYD/2026-27/SEO221/CALL-2 ರಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೌಲ್ಯ ರೂ.99.74 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಪ್ರೀ-ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯ ನಂತರ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಆದರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪೇಪರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು/ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಜೈಟಿಕ್ ಪಂಚಕರ್ಮ ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವ
ವಾಸಾಂಶ/ಮೈಸೂರು/454/3ರಡಿ ಸಾಯ/2026-27 ಮೈಸೂರು-570020.

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Zone -2, Office for the Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, #2nd Main Nanjamba Agrahara, T.R. Mill Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-560018.

No. EE/CRP/CORRIGENDUM/TEND/08/2026-27 Date: 15-07-2026

CORRIGENDUM

Subject :- Corrigendum for Publication- Change of RFP documents.

Reference :- 1) Tender Notification No. EE/CRP/KPPP/ TEND/08/2026-27, dated: 03-07-2026

With reference to the Request for Proposal (RFP) published earlier, it is hereby notified that the RFP Documents stand revised and due to technical reason calendar of events has been revised as mention below following Corrigendum to the bidder's clarification regarding following works;

Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders and opening of Technical & Financial Bid: as published in KPP Portal

Sl.	Name of the Project
1	Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Asphalting & other necessary works on BGS Flyover (Est Cost. Rs.950.00 Lakhs). DPR Cost : Rs. 9.50 Lakhs
2	Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Completion works Viz., Electrification, Water and Sanitary Supply Lift and Other facilities for Rayapuram Referral Hospital Ward No. 154 Rayapuram (Package 7) (Est Cost. Rs.1500.00 Lakhs). DPR Cost : Rs. 15.00 Lakhs

Sl. No.	Section of Tender	Mentioned in Tender	To be read as
1	Section-1 INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (Paper Notification)	Sl. No. 1 & 2 Project work RFP documents	Sl. No. 1 & 2 Project work Revised RFP documents

All other Terms & Conditions of the original RFP documents shall remain unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division Bengaluru Central City Corporation

QUICK READ

Iran tells Houthis to close Red Sea gateway if US hits power network

DUBAI
Iran has asked Yemen's Houthi movement to stand ready to close the Red Sea oil route if the United States strikes Iranian power infrastructure, three sources said on Thursday, posing a potent new threat to global energy supplies. The idea has been discussed within the Islamic Republic's leadership, and the message has been conveyed to Iran's Houthi allies, two senior Iranian sources and a regional source familiar with the matter said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Dismissal of Ukraine's Defence Chief sparks political crisis

KYIV
Protests erupted in Ukraine on Thursday over the dismissal of Defence Minister Mykhailo Fedorov as a dispute between the reformer and Kyiv's top general spilled into the open during the president's second overhaul of his wartime cabinet in a year. Volodymyr Zelenskyy's reshuffle has fuelled public anger over his exclusion of Fedorov, a 35-year-old tech expert who has aimed to reshape Kyiv's outmanned army into a more efficient fighting force to take on Russia.

Ukraine Parliament approves energy executive Korotshy as new PM



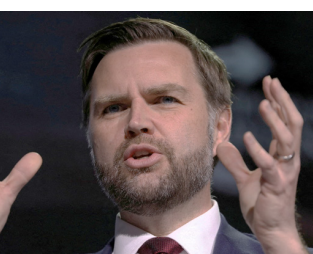
KYIV
Ukraine's parliament on Thursday voted to appoint energy executive Serhiy Korotshy as the country's new prime minister, making him the third person to hold the post since Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022. Korotshy, who most recently served as the chief executive officer of the state-owned energy company Naftogaz, secured the support of 289 lawmakers during the parliamentary vote. His appointment comes at a critical time for Ukraine as the country continues to confront the challenges of the ongoing war while seeking to strengthen its economy and deepen ties with its Western partners. Lawmakers from across the political spectrum described Korotshy as an experienced and effective manager with a strong track record in overseeing Ukraine's energy sector. His leadership at Naftogaz earned him recognition for navigating complex operational and financial challenges during wartime, a factor that contributed to his broad parliamentary backing. Addressing parliament before the vote, Korotshy outlined his government's immediate priorities, placing national defence at the forefront.

JDV Exposes Israeli Influence Campaign

Vice President JD Vance accused Israeli officials of attempting to derail a U.S.-brokered cease-fire agreement with Iran

JERUSALEM
U.S. Vice President JD Vance has accused certain members of the Israeli government of attempting to influence American public opinion to derail a U.S.-brokered agreement that ended the recent war with Iran, exposing growing tensions between Washington and its closest Middle East ally. Speaking during a podcast with host Joe Rogan, Vance defended the ceasefire deal reached last month, saying it was in America's strategic interest despite criticism from both U.S. and Israeli conservatives. He alleged that some Israeli officials wanted military operations against Iran to continue and had sought to shape American opinion against the

agreement. I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that there have been people within the Israeli government trying to shift us away from that policy because they want to continue the military campaign, Vance said. While maintaining that he shares good relations with several Israeli leaders, the vice president warned that foreign influence campaigns become problematic when they affect American political judgment. He added that attempts by allies and rivals alike to influence U.S. policy are common, but decisions must ultimately reflect American national interests. Vance also reiterated his earlier criticism of Israeli opposition to the Iran deal,



arguing that President Donald Trump remains Israel's strongest international ally despite disagreements over the ceasefire. Israeli officials have maintained that the agreement failed to adequately address Iran's nuclear programme and ballistic missile capabilities, leaving significant security concerns unresolved. Asked whether the United States would have entered the recent conflict with Iran

without Israeli influence, Vance responded unequivocally, saying, Yes, I do, underscoring the widening policy differences between the two allies.

Pointers

- Vance accuses Israeli officials of influencing U.S. public opinion.
- Remarks made during Joe Rogan podcast.
- Defends U.S.-brokered Iran ceasefire agreement.
- Says foreign influence should not shape American decisions.
- Israeli officials remain critical of the deal over Iran's nuclear and missile programmes.

Trump Revives Election Security Debate

CARLSLE
Donald Trump will address election security, with reports suggesting he may reference intelligence related to China's role in 2020.

January 2025, Trump has pushed for greater federal involvement in election administration and backed legislation requiring photo identification and proof of U.S. citizenship for voter registration. Democrats and voting rights groups argue such proposals could discourage eligible voters from participating. Some Republican leaders have urged Trump to shift public attention toward inflation and cost-of-living concerns instead of revisiting controversies surrounding the 2020 presidential election.

Trump Speech Content Still Unknown: Leavitt

The truth is, nobody knows yet what President Trump will ultimately say during his speech, White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said, dismissing speculation over the address. It is reported that intelligence reviewed by officials does not show China altered votes in the 2020 election, despite ongoing political debate over election security.

Fresh Israeli strikes killed five Palestinians as researchers reported the highest level of attacks since the October Gaza ceasefire

Israeli Strikes Intensify Across Gaza

CAIRO
At least five Palestinians were killed in Israeli airstrikes across the Gaza Strip on Thursday, according to Palestinian health officials, as a U.S.-based conflict monitor reported a sharp rise in Israeli military attacks despite an ongoing ceasefire. Medical officials said two people were killed in an airstrike near the Tuffah neighbourhood in northern Gaza, while another died in Israeli tank shelling in the Zeitoun suburb of Gaza City. A separate strike on a tent camp housing displaced civilians in western Gaza City killed one person and injured several others. Another airstrike targeting a vehicle in Khan Younis in southern Gaza claimed one more life. Witnesses also reported an Israeli strike on a residential

building in Deir Al-Balah in central Gaza, although casualty details were not immediately available. The Israeli military did not comment on the reported attacks. According to health authorities in Gaza, more than 1,100 Palestinians, most of them civilians, have been killed in Israeli strikes since a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect in October. While the truce halted large-scale fighting, almost daily airstrikes and military operations have continued. Israel says the strikes are aimed at preventing attacks by Hamas and other militant groups. The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data (ACLED) project reported that Israeli air and drone strikes exceeded 40 in June, the highest monthly total

since the ceasefire began. Analysts say growing domestic political pressure ahead of Israel's October legislative elections may be influencing the government's security posture as fighting continues.

Key Points

- Five Palestinians killed in strikes across Gaza.
- ACLED reports attacks reached highest monthly level since October ceasefire.
- Israel says operations target Hamas militants.
- Gaza officials report over 1,100 Palestinians killed since the ceasefire took effect.
- Political pressure ahead of Israel's October election may influence security policy, analysts say.

Russian regions report deaths, injuries

MOSCOW
Authorities in at least three Russian regions reported deaths and injuries inflicted by Ukrainian drone and rocket strikes overnight, as Kyiv's campaign against Russian energy infrastructure continues. In Yaroslavl region, 250 km (155 miles) east of Moscow and home to an oil refinery that has come under repeated attack, Governor Mikhail Yevrayev said that one man had been killed and another four injured. He said 19 drones had been downed over the region, but did not specify what had been targeted. In the Volga river region of Saratov, Russian media cited local authorities as saying there were casualties after a drone strike on the city of Engels, which hosts an airbase that has come under repeated Ukrainian attack in recent years.

Strong earthquake rattles New Zealand's South Island

TE ANAU
A magnitude 5.9 earthquake struck near the town of Te Anau in New Zealand's South Island, shaking buildings and prompting authorities to briefly issue a tsunami warning. The earthquake's epicentre was about 40 km (25 miles) north of Te Anau, which is the gateway to the tourist hotspot of Fiordland, according to New Zealand's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The agency initially assessed the quake, which struck at 9.14pm local time (0914 GMT), at magnitude 6.3 before revising it downward to 5.9. Although the tsunami alert was cancelled, NEMA said it expected coastal areas to experience strong and unusual currents and unpredictable surges at the shore.



It said people should move out of the water, off beaches, and stay away from harbours, marinas and rivers. Local resident Maylene Puyat, the duty manager at Te Anau's Fiordland Hotel, told the earth quake was a bit strong and she felt shaking for one minute. In the hotel, it's shaking, but nothing moved in the hotel, she said. Another resident told local outlet Otago Daily Times the earthquake shaking was long and loud and sounded like a train. The walls were definitely moving, they said. There were more than 18,000 felt reports to hazard monitoring system GeoNet.

Italy's Parliament backs Meloni's contested electoral reform

ROME
Italy's lower house of parliament on Thursday approved a highly contested government plan to overhaul the electoral law, a move opponents denounced as an attempt to help Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni retain power in the next election due in 2027. The proposal by the ruling right-wing coalition, comprising Meloni's Brothers of Italy, the League and Forza Italia, would introduce a fully proportional system while guaranteeing a majority to any bloc winning more than 42% of the vote. Winners surpassing that threshold would receive a bonus of 70 seats in the 400-member lower house and 35 seats in the 200-member Senate. However, their total representation would be capped at 220 and 113 seats respectively, in a bid to avoid overly large majorities. Debate over the reform exposed tensions within the alliance. On Tuesday, lawmakers rejected a government proposal to allow electors to express preference votes for candidates on party lists, partly due to coalition defections. The bill still requires Senate approval, which the government hopes to secure after the summer recess.

Under the current system, most lawmakers are elected through proportional representation, while roughly a third are chosen in first-past-the-post constituencies that analysts say tend to favour the opposition. The reform would abolish the first-past-the-post seats, including in southern Italy where the centre-left alliance led by the Democratic Party (PD).

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SATYANANDA S V S/o VIVEKANANDA REDDY M S, R/o No.64, Thimmaiah Thota, Near Chitrakoota School, Nagadevanahalli, Bangalore South, Bangalore Viswavidalaya, Bangalore, Karnataka-560056, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SATYA RAYALA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JYOTHIN W/o SATYANANDA S V, R/o 64, Nagadevanahalli, Near Timaiah Thota, Bangalore South, Bangalore Viswavidalaya, Bangalore, Karnataka-560056, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as JANVI RAYALA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHIVASALI KOTRESH S/o BASAVARAJ BANAKAR, R/o #00, Yattinahalli Grama, Gudagur Post, Taluk Ranebennur, Gudagur, Haveri, Karnataka - 581115, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KOTRESH BASAVARAJ BANAKAR.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAMAKRISHNA S/o SAMBHAMURTHY R/o 14, Sadashivapura, Sasvehalli, Honnali, Davangere, Karnataka-577224, have changed the name of my minor son MALLA alias SHAMBABU aged 17 years and he shall hereafter be known as SHAM.M.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMED ALEEM, Resident of No. 41, 3rd Floor, 4th A Cross, Opp Street of AMB Public School, Kanaka Nagar, R T Nagar Post, Bengaluru -560032, Karnataka, have changed my name to MOHAMED ALEEM, vide affidavit dated: 16.07.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, YASMEEN SULTHANA, W/o. Shakeel Ahmed Panapakam, Resident of No. 1050, Abubakar Masjid Road, Next to K K S Function Hall, Saraipalya, Dr. Shivarama Karanth Nagar Post, Bengaluru -560077, Karnataka, have changed my name to YASMEEN SULTANA, vide affidavit dated: 16.07.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHREEJA HOLEYACHI, D/o. Sunil Holeyachi, Resident of No. 40-102, Arya Hamsa Grade Apts, Sy No. 28/2, J P Nagar 8th Phase, Bengaluru -560083, Karnataka, have changed my name to SHREEJA S HOLEYACHI, vide affidavit dated: 16.07.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, SABHI SYED BABU, W/o. Syed Babu, Resident of No. 135/1, Bradshaw Street 4th Cross, Near Coles Park, Nehru Puram, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru -560051, Karnataka, have changed my name to SABIHA, vide affidavit dated: 16.07.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHABOOB KHAN ASMA BEGUM, W/o. Mahabooob Khan, Resident of No. 30/2, 8th C Main Road, New Gurupanna Palya, Shababul Masjid, Taverkere, Bengaluru -560029, Karnataka, have changed my name to ASMA BEGUM, vide affidavit dated: 16.07.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

US-BRAZIL TARIFFS

United States Imposes Fresh Tariffs on Brazil

SANTOS
The United States has imposed a 25% tariff on most imports from Brazil, marking the latest escalation in President Donald Trump's trade agenda and signalling a broader reset of U.S. trade relations with several major economies. The tariffs, announced by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), follow an investigation under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act into what



Washington describes as unfair trade practices by Brazil. The probe examined issues including digital trade policies, illegal deforestation and broader market access concerns. The move comes after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down an earlier round of global tariffs, prompting the Trump administration to adopt

“Extensive negotiations with Brazil over the past year have not resolved these issues, but we remain open to continuing negotiations.”
-Jamieson Greer, U.S. Trade Representative
a country-specific approach. Nearly 80 investigations involving countries such as India, China, Japan, South Korea and members of the European Union are currently underway, raising the possibility of

further tariffs in the coming months. U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said negotiations with Brazil over the past year had failed to resolve the identified concerns but stressed that Washington remained open to continued discussions aimed at reaching a mutually acceptable solution. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva strongly rejected the U.S. decision, calling it unjustified.

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QUICK READ

Apple launches 'Back to School' offer in India

New Delhi

Apple Inc. has introduced its 'Back to School' education offer in India, allowing students, parents and educators to receive complimentary accessories with eligible Mac and iPad purchases. The offer, available from July 16 to August 27, includes free AirPods 4 or an AirTag 4 Pack with select MacBook Air and MacBook Pro models. iPad Air and iPad Pro buyers can get an Apple Pencil Pro free. Customers can also choose discounted accessory upgrades. Eligibility can be verified through Unidays or Apple Retail Stores, with free engraving available on selected accessories.

AI becomes key factor in Western alliance strategy

New Delhi

Artificial intelligence is emerging as a major factor in shaping the Western alliance, as governments seek strategic advantage from a technology largely controlled by private companies, according to a report. Discussions at the G7 summit highlighted the growing role of AI leaders in global security debates. The report noted that countries depend on advanced technologies they may not directly develop or own, creating challenges for defence cooperation. With the US dominating frontier AI capabilities and China expanding military AI use, Western nations face the task of maintaining technological leadership while ensuring secure access.

NIELIT to establish semiconductor skill centres

New Delhi

The National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) will set up two Centres of Excellence for semiconductor skilling in Ahmedabad and Guwahati to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem. NIELIT Director General Madan Mohan Tripathi said the centres will provide training in OSAT and ATPM processes. The initiative is part of the government's India Semiconductor Mission 2.0, approved with an outlay of around Rs 1.28 lakh crore. NIELIT has partnered with Tata Electronics, Infineon and Semiconductor Complex Limited to provide specialised training and hands-on manufacturing experience. The institute is also expanding AI skill development programmes across the country.

UDAN support extended to five years for airlines

Government to extend UDAN airline financial support to five years, aiming to strengthen regional air connectivity and airport operations.

NEW DELHI

The government will extend financial support to airlines operating under the UDAN regional connectivity scheme from three years to five years in a phased manner to improve the sustainability of regional air routes, Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said on Thursday.

Speaking on the sidelines of a UDAN workshop, Naidu said the revamped scheme, which has been extended for another 10 years, will also expand the eligibility criteria for airports to receive viability gap funding (VGF).

The minister said that earlier, airports were classified as unserved or underserved if they had fewer than seven flights a week. The threshold has now been increased to 14 flights per week, allowing



more routes to become eligible for financial support.

Naidu said the government has been rapidly expanding airport infrastructure and is now focusing on strengthening regional air connectivity through policy reforms. He noted that new terminals or airports are being developed regularly across the country, and improving connectivity has become the next major priority.

UDAN Revamp Targets 100 Airports in Next Decade

- Government extends UDAN airline subsidy timeline.
- Financial support expands to five years.
- Airport eligibility threshold doubles flights weekly
- Tier-two and three hubs receive maintenance.
- Target includes hundred airports next decade.

The minister also announced operational and maintenance (O&M) support for airports in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities that are facing financial difficulties due to low passenger traffic. He said the government would provide assistance to airports unable

IMF says oil markets absorbed West Asia war shock but warns shrinking reserves and weak buffers threaten future stability.

Global oil market withstood major supply disruption

NEW DELHI

The global oil market managed to withstand the biggest supply disruption in decades following the outbreak of war in West Asia, but key safety buffers have now declined significantly, according to an IMF analysis.

The IMF said a combination of reduced demand, increased production from countries outside the Gulf region and large-scale withdrawals from oil inventories helped prevent a severe price surge after the initial shock. Despite disruptions, crude oil prices stabilised within the range of \$90 to \$100 per barrel even after the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

At the same time, oil production outside the Gulf increased by nearly 2 million barrels per day compared to 2025 levels, with major contributions from the United States, Venezuela, Guyana and Russia. The re-



IMF warns depleted safety buffers threaten stability

- Global oil market withstood massive supply disruptions.
- Price range stabilized despite major chokepoint closure
- Reduced demand shifted reliance toward alternative energies.
- Production increased from countries outside the Gulf.
- Commercial, strategic reserves offset remaining supply gaps.

maining shortage was managed by using commercial

and strategic oil reserves, including stocks held in China.

However, the IMF warned that the estimated deficit of around 4 million barrels per day during the period significantly reduced the market's ability to handle future disruptions. The Strait of Hormuz closure affected around 20 million barrels per day of crude oil and refined products, representing nearly one-fifth of global consumption. The report noted that more than 1.1 billion barrels of crude oil had failed to reach markets by the end of May, exceeding shortages seen during earlier oil crises. The IMF stressed the need to rebuild global inventories, diversify energy supply routes and reduce dependence on critical chokepoints. It also advised governments to provide temporary and targeted support to vulnerable consumers while maintaining incentives for energy efficiency.

INDUSTRIAL LEASING RISES 12% IN FIRST HALF

NEW DELHI

India's industrial and warehousing leasing sector witnessed strong growth in the first half of 2026, reaching nearly 22 million square feet across the country's top eight cities, marking a 12 per cent year-on-year increase, according to a report.

The report said that new supply exceeded demand during the period, with around 25 million square feet of industrial and warehousing space completed in H1 2026. The growth reflects continued demand from logistics, manufacturing and e-commerce sectors.

Delhi-NCR and Chennai together accounted for more than 45 per cent of total leasing activity during the first six months of the year. Mumbai, Pune and Bengaluru also recorded strong performance, each witnessing more than 2 million square feet of Grade A space absorption.

Third-party logistics (3PL) companies emerged as the largest contributors to demand, accounting for nearly 30 per cent of overall leasing. Engineering

Fintech sector raises \$2 billion in H1 2026

NEW DELHI

India's Fintech sector raised \$2 billion in the first half of 2026, marking a 42 per cent year-on-year increase and reflecting stronger investor confidence in established companies.

According to a report, Fintech funding in H1 2026 grew significantly compared to the \$1.4 billion raised during the same period last year and was 83 per cent higher than the \$1.1 billion recorded in the second half of 2025.

Despite the rise in funding, the number of investment rounds declined to 106 from 186 in H1 2025, indicating that investors preferred making larger investments in fewer companies. Late-stage funding witnessed a sharp increase of 331 per cent, reaching \$1.6 billion, while seed and early-stage investments recorded a decline.

Public market activity improved, with two Fintech companies, Turtlemint and Kissht, launching initial public offerings (IPOs) during the period. This marked a recovery from zero IPOs in H1 2025, although it was lower than the five IPOs

India's fintech sector raised \$2 billion in H1 2026, with Bengaluru attracting major investments as investors favoured larger late-stage funding deals.

A 42% year-on-year increase driven by a 331% surge in late-stage funding to \$1.6 billion. While overall funding grew significantly, the number of investment rounds declined to 106, indicating investors preferred making larger bets on established, selective companies.

recorded in the second half of 2025.

Bengaluru emerged as the leading Fintech funding hub, attracting 70 per cent of total investments in H1 2026. Mumbai accounted for 17 per cent, while Gurugram received 9 percent. The report highlighted that investment trends showed increasing concentration of capital among fewer companies and cities, with Bengaluru-based firms securing several of the largest funding rounds during the period.

Newgen Software Q1 profit falls 40.9%

NEW DELHI

Newgen Software Technologies Ltd reported a sharp decline in its financial performance for the first quarter of FY27, with net profit falling 40.9 percent sequentially due to a drop in revenue and operating earnings.

According to a regulatory filing, the company's net profit declined to Rs 62.8 crore in the June quarter from Rs 106 crore in the previous quarter. Revenue also fell 21.2 per cent sequentially to Rs 357 crore, compared to Rs 453 crore in Q4 FY26.

The company's earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) declined significantly by 67.2 per cent quarter-on-quarter to Rs 46.8 crore from Rs 143 crore in the previous quarter. As a result, EBIT margin contracted by 1,840 basis points to 13.1 per cent from 31.5 per cent. Despite the quarterly decline, Newgen Software reported growth on a year-on-year basis. Revenue increased by 11 per cent compared to the same period last year, supported by strong performance across major international markets.

South Korean stocks plunge as KOSPI falls over 6%

SEOUL

South Korean shares witnessed a sharp decline on Thursday, with the benchmark KOSPI index plunging more than 6 per cent as technology stocks suffered heavy losses amid rising tensions in West Asia.

The Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) closed at 6,820.60, down 463.81 points or 6.37 per cent from the previous session. The index opened 4.45 per cent lower and touched an intraday low of 6,730.87.

The Korea Exchange activated a sell-side sidecar mechanism for 20 minutes after the benchmark index dropped more than 5 per cent in early trading, reflecting heightened market volatility.

The decline followed a strong 6.24 per cent rally on Wednesday, triggered by softer-than-expected US inflation data that reduced concerns over immediate interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve.

Investor sentiment weakened further after the Bank of Korea raised its benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points to 2.75 per cent, marking its first rate increase in three and a half years. The move was aimed at con-

trolling inflation amid uncertainty caused by escalating tensions in the Middle East.

Fresh US strikes on Iran intensified concerns over possible disruptions to energy supplies and increased market uncertainty. Analysts said investors also booked profits after recent gains in technology stocks, while ongoing concerns over the semiconductor industry added pressure.

Foreign and institutional investors sold shares worth 1.38 trillion won and 2.37 trillion won respectively, while retail investors purchased shares worth 3.66 trillion won.

Major technology companies led the decline. Samsung Electronics dropped 8.77 per cent, while chipmaker SK hynix fell 11.53 per cent. Hyundai Motor declined 2.07 per cent and POSCO Holdings slipped 0.95 per cent.

Meanwhile, shipbuilder Hanwha Ocean gained 5.73 per cent and beverage company Hitejinro rose 2.47 per cent. The Korean won strengthened slightly against the US dollar, trading at 1,480.4 won per dollar. Bond yields also declined as investors moved towards safer assets.

WIPRO MARGINS SHRINK

Wipro Q1 profit declines 4.7% amid weak outlook

MUMBAI

IT services major Wipro reported a decline in its first-quarter profit for FY27, with consolidated net profit falling 4.7 per cent sequentially to Rs 3,352 crore during the April-June quarter.

The company's profit remained almost flat compared to the same period last year, while consolidated revenue recorded a marginal increase. Gross revenue rose 1 per cent quarter-on-quarter and 10.6 per cent year-on-year to Rs 24,480 crore.

Wipro's IT services operat-



ing margin stood at 16 per cent during the quarter, declining by 1.3 percentage points from the previous quarter and 1.2 percentage points compared to the year-ago period. The company's operat-

ing cash flow increased 3.6 per cent sequentially to Rs 3,290 crore, accounting for 98 per cent of its net income during the quarter.

The company reported a voluntary attrition rate of 13.9



"Wipro shares closed at Rs 177.80 on the BSE, gaining 1.83 per cent during Thursday's trading session. However, the stock has witnessed significant declines over longer periods, falling 33.56 per cent in the last six months and 32.38 per cent over the past year. Over five years, the stock has declined 38.49 percent."

Srini Pallia, Wipro CEO

per cent on a trailing 12-month basis.

For the second quarter, Wipro has projected a challenging outlook for its IT services business, expecting revenue

Allu Arjun, Basil Joseph spark superhero project rumors

South Indian superstar Allu Arjun has ignited massive excitement among film lovers following strong hints about a potential superhero project with acclaimed Malayalam director Basil Joseph. Social media erupted after the director, famous for his hit superhero movie *Minnal Murali*, shared a cryptic photo on Instagram featuring a cap printed with the word *Icon*. He added Allu Arjun's iconic song *Ringa Ringa* in the background, sending fans into an absolute frenzy.

The mysterious social media post quickly gained traction after Allu Cinemas commented that the name carries a very special aura. Other film industry figures, including director Jatin and actors Tovino Thomas and Nelson, also reacted enthusiastically to the hint. Malayalam writers Paul Sonskaria and Arun Anirudhan further amplified the excitement by sharing the viral image on their personal pages, leading many industry insiders to believe an official announcement is imminent.

Reports suggest that veteran producer Allu Aravind plans to fund this massive action spectacle under the prestigious Geetha Arts banner. The ambitious project is expected to be a high-budget superhero story reminiscent of classical Indian legends like Shaktimaan.

Allu Arjun, who gained massive global fame with *Pushpa*, continues to pick unique subjects that appeal to audiences worldwide. While the actor is currently working with hitmaker Atlee Kumar and has projects lined up with directors like Sandeep Reddy Vanga, this fresh collaboration with Basil Joseph promises to showcase him in an exciting new avatar that fans cannot wait to see.



Viral poster boosts EXCITEMENT FOR Prabhas' movie Fauzi



Movie fans are celebrating after the makers of pan-Indian star Prabhas' upcoming high-budget movie *Fauzi* officially announced its global release date. Directed by Hanu Raghavapudi, the massive war drama will hit silver screens on December 3, 2026, across six different Indian languages. The ambitious action film is being produced on an enormous scale with a budget reported around seven hundred crore rupees.

Alongside the major release announcement, the production team dropped a striking new promotional poster featuring Prabhas in an intense avatar. The compelling image shows a shirtless, blood-soaked Prabhas holding a heavy gun while standing amidst a chaotic, battle-torn landscape. This fierce visual immediately went viral across social media platforms, sparking immense excitement among fans and significantly raising expectations for the grand theatrical release.

Actress Imanvi stars as the female lead opposite Prabhas in this historical action spectacle. The film boasts a powerful ensemble cast featuring veteran actors Anupam Kher, Jaya Prada, Mithun Chakraborty, and Chaitra J. Achar in pivotal roles. Popular music director Vishal Chandrasekhar is composing the soundtrack for the period drama.

Currently in active production, *Fauzi* is shaping up to be one of the biggest and most anticipated Indian cinematic ventures. With its grand scale and high-voltage action sequences, trade analysts predict the multilingual film will dominate box office records when it arrives in theaters later this year.



Popular film director Lokesh Kanagaraj is stepping in front of the camera as a lead hero for the upcoming crime romance movie *DC*. The highly anticipated project has officially shifted its theatrical release date to August 7, 2026. The decision comes after the film producers postponed the original worldwide premiere, which was initially planned for July 31.

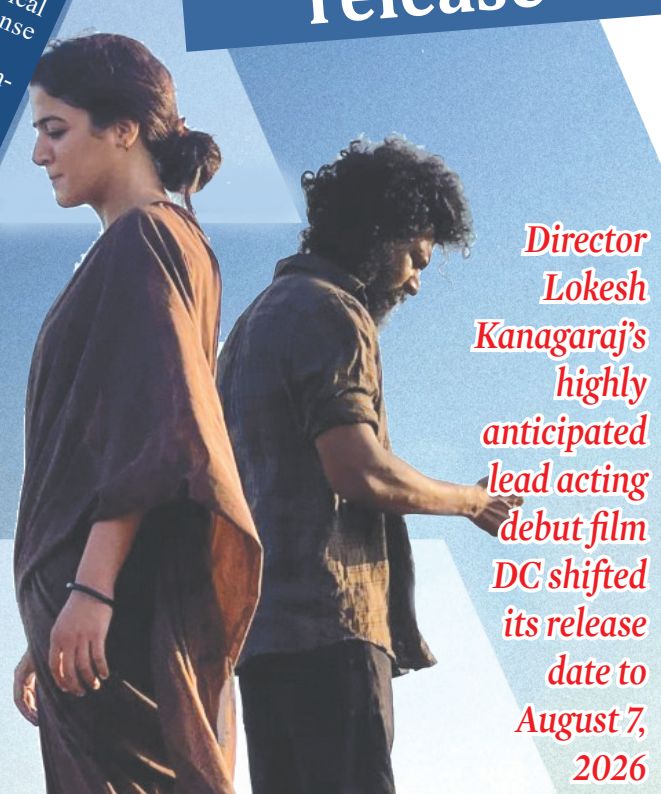
The film completed its mandatory censoring process and received an adult rating from the Central Board of Film Certification. This places the project alongside other recent major Tamil releases like Vijay's *Jana Nayagan* and *Demonte Colony 3*, which both secured identical certificates due to intense narrative elements.

Directed by talented filmmaker Arun Matheswaran, the gritty romantic thriller features actress Wamika Gabbi as the female lead alongside Lokesh Kanagaraj. Leading media production house Sun Pictures is backing the ambitious venture, while Arun Ranjan provided the additional screenplay. Popular music composer Anirudh Ravichander created the soundtrack and background score, continuing his successful collaboration with the creative team.

Film fans across the country are expressing immense curiosity to see how the famous director handles his transition into playing a full-fledged lead actor. With an adult rating confirmed and a fresh release date locked, expectations are soaring for this dark, intense cinematic experience when it hits big screens early next month.

re-scheduled for August 7 theatrical release

Director Lokesh Kanagaraj's highly anticipated lead acting debut film DC shifted its release date to August 7, 2026



TAMANNAAH BHATIA begins filming Ragini 3 in London

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia has officially begun shooting for *Ragini 3* in London. This exciting new horror film, produced by Balaji Motion Pictures and directed by Sha-shanka Ghosh, brings the famous franchise back to cinema after over a decade.

While the plot remains a secret, fans can expect the classic mix of chills and suspense that made earlier films famous. This is Tamannaah's first time leading the series as it returns to the big screen. Following recent successes in the horror genre, the team aims for a grand 2027 release. Audiences are eagerly awaiting this spooky cinematic comeback.

Chennai Love Story's interval twist shocks Kiran Abbavaram

Actor Kiran Abbavaram and co-star Sri Gouri Priya have sparked immense curiosity among movie lovers following their recent comments about their upcoming film, *Chennai Love Story*. Scheduled for a grand theatrical release on July 24, the romantic drama is directed by Ravi Namburii, with producers Sai Rajesh and SKN backing the project. Sai Rajesh also wrote the original storyline for the highly anticipated venture.

During a promotional interview, Kiran Abbavaram revealed that hearing the interval scene completely shocked him. He shared that the dramatic narrative twist was so unexpected that he did not even hesitate before agreeing to play the lead role. The actor immediately accepted the project, wondering how the gripping narrative would unfold during the second half of the story.

Leading lady Sri Gouri Priya echoed similar sentiments, explaining that the film tackles a truly unique emotional situation that has rarely been explored in Indian cinema. She recalled how the director took a brief ten minute break right after narrating the intense interval block. During those few minutes, her mind raced with numerous creative possibilities about the character arcs, making her decision to sign the movie an effortless choice. With both lead actors expressing overwhelming confidence in the narrative twist, fan expectations have skyrocketed ahead of the official release.



'Boys Never Compromise' delivers chills and laughter

There is a certain charm in films that don't pretend to be anything more than an entertaining ride, and *Boys Never Compromise* understands that well. Built around friendship, mischief and supernatural danger, the film delivers enough laughs and chills to keep audiences invested, even if it doesn't always surprise.

The story follows a gang of friends who head out on a carefree trip hoping to forget life's everyday pressures. Their holiday quickly takes an unexpected turn when strange incidents begin to disturb their fun. As fear replaces excitement, the group is forced to confront an unseen force that tests not only their courage but also the strength of their friendship.

The biggest strength of the film lies in the chemistry among the lead actors. The camaraderie feels spontaneous, making the characters easy to root for. Rather than relying on individual heroics, the narrative functions as an ensemble piece where every member contributes to the energy on screen. While a few supporting characters could have been developed further, the performances remain convincing.

Harish T. Jalgere keeps the storytelling uncomplicated, allowing the narrative to move at a comfortable pace. He focuses more on creating an entertaining theatrical experience than building an intricate horror mystery. The screenplay occasionally falls back on familiar genre conventions, but it also manages to generate tension through effective staging and



well-timed scares.

Technically, the film does a respectable job. The forest locations and isolated landscapes create the right atmosphere for the supernatural elements, while the cinematography captures both the carefree spirit of the trip and its darker transformation. The background score deserves special mention for maintaining suspense without becoming overbearing. Editing is mostly crisp, though a few sequences in the latter half could have been tighter.

Where the film falls short is in its writing. Certain twists become predictable well before they unfold, and some explanations feel underdeveloped. Horror enthusiasts looking for something innovative may find the narrative familiar. However, the film compensates with its lively pacing, entertaining interactions and enough suspense to justify the journey.

Verdict: If you're planning a movie outing with friends and want a mix of comedy, scares and youthful energy, *Boys Never Compromise* is a worthwhile choice.

Vijay's Jana Nayagan releasing worldwide on July 23



Movie fans in Chennai received a major surprise when advance ticket bookings for the upcoming political action movie *Jana Nayagan* opened in Bengaluru first. Most moviegoers expected Chennai to lead the ticket rollout for superstar Vijay's latest release, but this sudden move caught everyone off guard.

The public response in Bengaluru was instant and massive. Thousands of excited fans rushed online, making the film trend heavily on BookMyShow within hours. Reports reveal that tickets sold at an astonishing rate of over 1,600 bookings every single hour, proving the huge buzz surrounding this big cinematic project.

Directed by well-known filmmaker H. Vinodh and produced by KVN Productions, the film stars CM Vijay alongside Pooja Hegde, Mamitha Baiju, and Bobby Deol. Popular composer Anirudh Ravichander created the high-energy music.

Scheduled for a grand theatrical release on July 23, 2026, the movie will hit screens in Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi. While eager fans wait for the official trailer launch, producers confirmed that ticket bookings for Chennai will open very soon across India.

SAMANTHA PRABHU CELEBRATES PRIVATE INTIMATE BABY SHOWER

Popular actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu is embracing a joyful new chapter in her life as she prepares to welcome her first child with husband Raj Nidimoru. The celebrated star recently hosted an intimate baby shower ceremony at her home, surrounded by close family members and relatives. Pictures from the traditional gathering quickly went viral on social media platforms, with loving fans across the country flooding the couple with heartfelt blessings and warm congratulations.

Samantha looked radiant



in a traditional maroon embroidered outfit featuring subtle gold detailing, complemented by minimal jewelry and elegant natural makeup. Her husband, acclaimed

Yoga Center in Coimbatore last December and are expecting their first baby later this year.

This personal milestone comes during a remarkably successful professional phase for Samantha. Her latest action movie, *Maa Inti Bangaaram*, recently grossed over one hundred crore rupees worldwide, making history as the first female-led Telugu film to cross that massive box office milestone. The successful project was jointly produced by Samantha and Raj, and it is set to begin streaming online on July 17.