

BJP'S 'NABIN' TEAM OUT

3 ex-CMs, 18 MPs, 10 women : BJP's power-packed team for 2029	Over 40% of the team belong to the deprived communities.	Special focus on northeast with 3 leaders - one each from Tripura, Assam and Nagaland - found space in the team.	6 members under the age of 40 .	15 members aged 40-59 .	Team formed with 2029 poll in mind.
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NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday unveiled a national team under party president Nitin Nabin, marking what could be the party's first major organisational rejig in nearly a decade.

The party brought in many new faces and some prominent leaders like former Union minister Smriti Irani as general secretary and former RSS functionary Ram Madhav as vice-presidents.

The BJP, which said it has maintained the right balance between youth and experience, retained a few veterans including former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Rajé Scindia, who was named one of its 13 vice-presidents.

Of the 65 office-bearers announced, 51 are new. Six are below 40 years, 15 are in the 40-49 years age group, and 21 are in the 50-59 years age group. The office-bearers also include 10 women and six leaders from minority communities, party sources said.

They stressed that the revamp was done keeping in mind the BJP's preparations for the assembly polls up to 2029 and the next general elections.

Goyal is national treasurer
Union Minister Piyush Goyal has been named national treasurer. Incidentally, his father Ved Prakash Goyal, who served as a Union minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, had also served as the party's national treasurer for a long time. Goyal is the only Union minister who has been brought into the party's new team.

BL Santhosh retained

The BJP has retained BL Santhosh as National General Secretary (Organisation), a key post in



the party. Shivprakash and Saudan Singh have been appointed as National Joint General Secretaries. It has also brought in ex-Tripura chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb in its team of eight national general secretaries, out of which six are new.

Vasundhara continues as V-P

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Rajé Scindia has been retained as one of the national vice-presidents. Overall the party has appointed 13 vice-presidents. They are: Vasundhara Rajé Scindia, Tirath Singh, Ram Madhav, Baijant Jay Panda, D Purandeshwari, Rekha Verma, Varashaben Narendrabhai Doshi, Bharti Pravin Pawar, Manpreet Singh Badal, Lal Singh Arya, M Nagaraja, Tariq Mansoor, and Madhuchandra Kar.

Malviya dropped as SM head

The most high-profile exit from the central structure. He was dropped as the party's so-

charge. Deepak Mhaskey has replaced him as the BJP's social media head. Mhaskey, a prominent party leader from Chhattisgarh, served as a state spokesperson for the BJP and has long overseen regional social media strategies. Reacting to the new appointments, Malviya thanked BJP's Social Media support base and wishes his successor Deepak Mhaskey 'newer digital communication milestones.ty's new team.

Hemang replaces Surya

At a time when Gen Z protests and rising youth movement voices have gained national attention across India, the BJP has made a significant organisational move by appointing Vadodara MP Hemang Joshi as the National President of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha today, replacing Lok Sabha MP Tejasi Surya. The appointment

comes as political parties are actively seeking to bridge the gap with the country's young demographic.

Next in the order is the central election committee, again under Modi's chairmanship. It includes the 12 parliamentary-board members plus Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, Union minister Bhupendra Yadav and Vanathi Srinivasan, head of the BJP Mahila Morcha.

The party also lists 11 vice-presidents; among them Vasundhara Rajé and MP Baijant Jay Panda. Then are the party's eight general secretaries as mentioned above.

At the top of the BJP sits a marg darshak mandal of four including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, senior figures LK Advani and Murlidhar Manohar Joshi, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. These four form the guiding core and represent the experience and decades of serving the party.

Following the marg darshak team is a 12-member parliamentary board, which also chaired by Modi. The board mixes senior ministers and organisational heavyweights including Nitin Nabin, Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, J.P. Nadda, former Karnataka chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa, Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal, OBC cell chief K. Laxman, Punjab's Iqbal Singh Lalpura, Haryana's Sudha Yadav, Madhya Pradesh leader Satyanarayan Jatiya, and B.L. Santhosh, who doubles as general secretary (organisation).

The newly-appointed team brings together organisational experience, energy and grassroots connect. I am confident they will give their best in strengthening our Party and focussing on public service. My best wishes to them

Narendra Modi, PM

Highlights of the rejig

TOP RETURNS AND APPOINTMENTS

Smriti Irani, who has been appointed as the National General Secretary, made a massive political comeback to the top party leadership, while Ram Madhav returns as a National Vice-President.

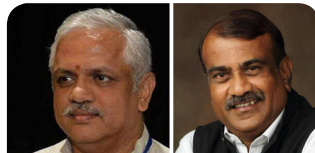
GENERAL SECRETARIES: The team features Vinod Tawde, Sunil Bansal, Biplab Kumar Deb, Smriti Irani, Satish Poonia, Gajendra Patel, Harish Dwivedi, and Sanjay Bhatia. B.L. Santhosh remains General Secretary (Organisation).

DIGITAL AND COMMUNICATIONS SHAKEUP: Deepak Mhaskey replaces Amit Malviya as the party's social media in-charge/convenor. Hemang Joshi takes over the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM).

VICE-PRESIDENTS: A total of 13 vice-presidents were named, retaining figures like Vasundhara Rajé Scindia alongside new structural additions.

STRATEGIC FOCUS: The reshuffle aims to energise the cadre, emphasise digital and tech-driven outreach, and gear up the party structure for upcoming state polls and the 2029 general elections.

K'take leaders in new team



In the BJP's new national team announced by party president Nitin Nabin, prominent Karnataka leaders have secured key organisational posts. BL Santhosh has been retained as the National General Secretary (Organisation), and Prof. M Nagaraja has been appointed as a National Vice-President.

Health Minister UT Khader on Monday launched a QR code system to report food and drug safety violations and said inspections would be expanded to hostels, educational institutions, railway canteens, flight catering services and other establishments.

Khader felicitated Food Safety and Drug Administration Commissioner Srinivas K and his team for their recent statewide inspections, saying government officers were the public face of the administration.

"When officers work honestly and efficiently, the government earns people's trust. We want to recognise their work and support them in future enforcement," he said.

Khader said the newly-launched QR code would

Cauvery row: SC directs K'taka to comply with CWMA order

The court said it would watch the progress while seeking a fresh status report. It posted the case to August 24.

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed Karnataka to comply with the Cauvery Water Management Authority's (CWMA) directions on the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

The court posted for hearing on August 24 Tamil Nadu's plea seeking directions for the release of water. It said the matter could be taken up then, allowing an updated status on the water released by Karnataka to be placed before the court. Tamil Nadu approached the Supreme Court on August 3, saying it was not receiving its allocated share of Cauvery water despite the state

facing a rain-deficient year.

The state government alleged that both the quantity recommended for release by the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee and the water actually supplied by Karnataka were well below its requirement.

Tamil Nadu said recent rainfall in the catchment areas of the KRS and Kabini reservoirs had increased the volume of water due to the state. According to the state government, the proportionate share due at Biligundlu should be 26.954 TMC. At a meeting on July 28, the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee directed Karnataka to release 3,500 cusecs of water to TN for 15 days from July 29.

Tamil Nadu, however, said the actual flow recorded at Biligundlu on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border ranged between 158 and 550 cusecs from July 29 to August 2.

The state government also cited storage levels in Karnataka's four reservoirs. As of August 3, the combined storage in the Krishna Raja Sagara, Kabini, Harangi and Hemavathy reservoirs stood at 77.537 TMC, according to a Tamil Nadu government statement.

Tamil Nadu said the available storage indicated that Karnataka could release the state's due share without difficulty.

Current case details

DIRECTIVE: Release 12,000 cusecs of water daily to Tamil Nadu for 15 days (upheld by the CWMA after a recommendation by the WCRC).

STATE POSITIONS: Tamil Nadu argued that Karnataka is under-delivering despite adequate reservoir levels, while Karnataka cited severe basin distress and asserted it is working to meet the required flows.

NEXT COURT DATE: The court adjourned the hearing to August 24, 2026, to review an updated status report on water release.

K'taka tightens food safety checks, rolls out QR code for public complaints

BENGALURU

Karnataka has announced tighter enforcement of food and drug safety regulations following a state-wide inspection drive that uncovered hygiene violations, unsafe food samples, expired products and labelling irregularities at hotels, warehouses, food outlets and other establishments.

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"When officers work honestly and efficiently, the government earns people's trust. We want to recognise their work and support them in future enforcement," he said.

Khader said the newly-launched QR code would



Scan & file complaint

be displayed outside hotels and other public places and shared on social media platforms.

"Going forward, we do not want to wait for complaints to reach us. We cannot be everywhere and inspect everything ourselves. Therefore, we have developed a QR code. Anyone with information or a complaint about food safety or drug and pharmacy-related violations can use it to report the matter to us," he said.

"This is the first such QR code initiative for food and drug safety in India. Complaints received through it will be taken seriously," Khader said. A toll-free complaint facility is also planned.

An e-certificate service for D Pharmacy students has also been launched, he added.

How it works: People can scan QR codes displayed at hotels, eateries, and medical stores to log and track complaints.

What you can report: Stale food, dirty kitchens, expired or overpriced medicines, and unhygienic practices.

Collaboration: Developed by the Department of Food Safety and Drugs Administration alongside the Centre for e-Governance.

Expansion of safety checks

New locations: Scrutiny now covers private PGs, hostels, railway canteens, wedding halls, bus stops, and flight meals.

Recent findings: Recent raids in Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Mangaluru uncovered expired stocks, rotten vegetables, and improper meat storage.

Ghost of UGC-NET returns to haunt NTA

Edu Min Pralhad Joshi cracks down on NTA, orders 'thorough' NTA audit, exam system overhaul, and seeks report amid fresh UGC-NET row.

NEW DELHI

The National Testing Agency (NTA) is undertaking a major overhaul of its examination system following a series of recent controversies and operational lapses.

More than 50 staff members have been removed from the agency, while recruitment has been initiated for 10 professional leadership positions as part of efforts to strengthen its examination infrastructure.

The developments were announced by the Education Ministry on Monday after Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi reviewed the steps being taken by the NTA to reform its examination processes.

Over 50 NTA staff removed

During a meeting with the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education, NTA Director General and other senior officials, Joshi was briefed about the corrective measures being implemented by the testing agency. "The minister was apprised about the steps taken

by the NTA in the wake of recent issues, particularly with reference to reforming the overall system. He was apprised that more than 50 staff have been removed from the NTA," the Education Ministry said. The ministry also said that the agency is bringing in new professionals to strengthen crucial areas of its functioning.

10 key leadership positions up for recruitment

The NTA has advertised 10 new professional leadership positions as part of the restructuring exercise. These include posts such as Chief Technology Officer, Chief Finance Officer, Chief Information Security Officer, General Manager for Test Security and General Manager for Research and Development and Psychometrics. "Ten new professional leadership positions, including chief technology officer, chief finance officer, CISO, GM (test security) and GM (R and D and psychometrics), have been advertised and are being onboarded," the ministry said. The agency is also bringing domain experts from the private sector to work in specialised areas, including cybersecurity, psychometrics and

question-paper design. **Confidential exam ops to get complete overhaul**

The Centre has also directed the NTA to strengthen its confidential examination operations. Joshi has asked the agency to ensure strict adherence to established examination protocols. The ministry said a complete overhaul of the confidential operations architecture is being undertaken on a "war footing". This includes changes involving secluded rooms, air-gapped systems and protocols for depositing electronic devices. These measures are aimed at tightening the handling of sensitive examination material and reducing vulnerabilities across the examination process.

NTA full audit ordered

Along with the structural changes, the NTA has been directed to conduct a comprehensive audit of all its examination processes. The agency will have to submit a report detailing the corrective measures taken after the audit. The exercise is expected to examine the systems and procedures

followed at different stages of conducting examinations and identify areas requiring further improvement.

UGC-NET re-test ordered for 3 subjects

The latest overhaul comes a day after the NTA announced a re-test for three papers of the UGC-NET June 2026 examination. The affected subjects are English, Commerce and Sociology. The English and Commerce papers will be conducted on September 9, while the Sociology paper will be held on September 10. The decision followed complaints and the identification of multiple errors in the three question papers. Reports on the review have also highlighted issues including factual, language and translation errors and repeated questions.

When was UGC-NET held?

The NTA conducted the UGC-NET June 2026 examination between June 22 and June 30 across 87 subjects. The test is conducted for candidates seeking Junior Research Fellowship, eligibility for Assistant Professor posts and admission to PhD programmes. While only three subjects have been ordered for a re-test, the latest review and restructuring exercise covers the NTA's broader examination system.

Kin of 3 victims get Rs 15L compensation each

HANUR FOREST SHOOTOUT

CHAMARAJANAGAR

The families of the three men who died in the shootout at Mariyamangala near Shagya in the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary area of Hanur taluk on Independence Day received Rs 15 lakh compensation each.

Forest officials allegedly opened fire on a group of people near Marimangala Beat, close to Shagya, killing three persons from Thomiya Palya.

Tahsildar Chaitra visited Thomiya Palya on Monday morning and handed over Rs 5 lakh each to the families on behalf of the taluk administration. Hanur MLA MR Manjunath also gave Rs 10 lakh each to the families. On Sunday, Manjunath met the family members and offered his condolences.

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Tahsildar Chait

Quick Read



Bengaluru Traffic Police book 663 cases

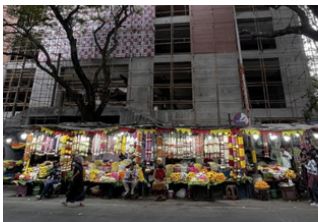
CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Bengaluru Traffic Police registered 517 cases for drunk driving and 146 cas- es for over-speeding dur- ing a week-long special drive conducted across the city from August 10 to 16. Traffic personnel from all 53 traffic police sta- tions participated in the drive. Police checked 35,175 different types of vehicles for drunken driv- ing violations. The over-speeding drive re- sulted in 146 cases, with fines amounting to ₹1.48 lakh collected. Police said the drive was aimed at curbing drunken driving and over-speeding and improving road safety in Bengaluru. The special en- forcement drive will con- tinue across the city, offi- cials said.

Three family members rescued from stalled lift

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Three members of a family trapped inside a stalled lift at an apartment in JP Na- gar 8th Phase were safely rescued by Talaghattapura police. The incident oc- curred around 5.02 p.m. following a technical mal- function. One of those trapped alerted the Nam- ma-112 emergency help- line. The information was immediately relayed to ASI Prakash L. and PC Sanjeev Kumar M.D., who were on Hoysala-158 duty. Police reached the spot within minutes and coordinated with apartment main- tenance staff to open the lift safely and rescue all three persons.

BDA readies Malleswaram market, shops to be handed to GBA

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The long-delayed Malleswaram flower market redevelopment is nearing completion, with the BDA preparing to hand over 192 shops to the GBA. The Bangalore Develop- ment Authority (BDA) has finalised the selection of a private concessionaire to operate and maintain the rede- veloped Malleswaram market and is ready to hand over the ground-floor shops meant for flower vendors to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). The old flower market on Sampige Road was demol- ished in 2014 for redevelopment, displacing 192 vendors who had permits and docu- ments for their shops. Many have since been forced to conduct business on foot-



paths, waiting for the project to be completed. A senior BDA official said the G+5 structure, with lower and upper basements, is ready. The ground floor has 192 shops, which will be al- lotted to genuine vendors identified by the GBA. “We have written to the GBA asking them to allot these shops to vendors they have identified as genuine. It will be done soon,” the offi- cial said. The project faced several delays, including difficulties

Varadenahalli Handpost and Hospet Circle before reaching Magadi. Fares from Magadi Road Toll Gate will start at ₹15 for Kamakshipalya and go up to ₹50 for Hospet Circle. BMTC currently operates 33 scheduled services to Magadi, making around 190 trips daily. The corporation said the additional service was introduced to cater to the growing number of commut- ers travelling between Benga- luru and Magadi. The new service is part of BMTC’s ongoing expansion of limited-stop Vegadootha services connecting Bengalu- ru with surrounding towns and suburban areas. The corporation currently operates 143 Vegadootha ser- vices across 14 routes.

Forest encounter: Ashoka urges House to order impartial probe

R. Ashoka demanded an impartial probe into three deaths, questioning the Forest Department’s version of the encounter.

Ashoka's demands

- Impartial probe into the deaths
- Clarification on the fourth injured person
- Investigation into close-range firing
- Explanation for deployment of only 3 staff
- Dismissal of Minister B. Nagendra

“Why were they killed in an en- counter when the govern- ment itself has said they had no previous fore- st offence cases?”
-R Ashoka, Leader of Opposition



include the individual’s state- ment. “If the three deceased had criminal backgrounds, their names should have figured in the rowdy sheets. Why were they killed in an encounter

when the government itself has said they had no previous forest offence cases?” Ashoka asked. He alleged that the forest staff fired from close range and questioned why they did

Ashoka seeks Minister's dismissal

Ashoka also demanded the dis- missal of Minister B. Nagendra, referring to the earlier Valmiki Devel- opment Corporation controversy. He said Nagendra’s resignation had previously been obtained during Siddaramaiah’s tenure as Chief Minister. Ashoka alleged that finan- cial irregularities had been estab- lished and warned that the House would not be allowed to function as long as Nagendra remained in the Cabinet, reiterating his demand for the minister’s immediate dismissal.

CAG flags ₹103.77 cr potential revenue loss at Nagasandra

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The CAG has flagged poten- tial revenue loss of ₹103.77 crore for BMRL from a Na- gasandra property lease. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), in its performance audit of the implementation of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Namma Met- ro, said Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMR- CL) did not adequately safe- guard its financial interests while fixing the development premium for 14 acres of land near Nagasandra Metro sta- tion. According to the audit, a consultant initially assessed the development premium at ₹320 crore in March 2015. However, the estimate was subsequently revised and the minimum premium was fixed at ₹240 crore. The property was eventually leased for ₹251.01 crore, along with an annual charge of ₹2.51 crore and a five per cent escalation



from December 2023. The CAG said the prop- erty’s potential value, based on the prevailing guidance value and applicable valuation criteria, could have been ₹354.78 crore. It consequ- ently calculated potential revenue foregone at ₹103.77 crore. The audit also raised con- cerns over BMRL’s wider efforts to generate non-fare revenue through property development. For Phase 2, BM- RCL had projected ₹21,282 crore from property develop- ment on 55 hectares between 2016-17 and 2041-42. How- ever, the land had not been acquired as of March 2023. BMRCL had also devel- oped 2.46 lakh sq ft of com-

“BMRCL did not adequately safeguard its financial interests while determin- ing the premium for the property.”
-CAG report

CAG audit findings	
₹103.77 crore	Potential revenue foregone at Naga- sandra
₹38.53 crore	Potential lease revenue lost from vacant space
₹21,282 crore	Projected Phase 2 property-devel- opment income
2.23 lakh sq ft	Commercial space lying vacant
₹40,000 crore	Approximate Phase 1 and Phase 2 investment

mercial space at metro sta- tions, of which only 0.23 lakh sq ft was being utilised. The remaining 2.23 lakh sq ft re- mained vacant, resulting in an estimated ₹38.53 crore loss in potential lease revenue during 2019-22.

Flat owner arrested for allegedly molesting student

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Ashoknagar police have ar- rested a flat owner for al- legedly molesting a 20-year- old college student at his property in Langford Town.

According to the police, the victim is pursuing an An- imation and Digital Media course at a reputed college and had recently moved into the flat. She was staying alone on the second floor. A senior police officer said the accused, identified as Ka- malesh Kumar, visited the flat at around 6.25 p.m. to inspect pending repair works. After completing the in- spection, he allegedly approached the student on the pretext of looking at the mehendi on her hand. The ac- cused al- legedly held her hand, pulled her towards him and hugged her. When the student resisted his advances, Kumar allegedly grabbed her and molested her. He also al- legedly told her that he liked her and wanted to be around her. Shocked by the alleged in- cident, the student ap- proached Ashoknagar police and lodged a complaint. The police registered an FIR based on her complaint and subsequently arrested Kumar. Police officials said further investigation is underway to establish the circumstances surrounding the incident and gather additional evidence. The statement of the victim and other relevant details are being examined as part of the investigation. The arrest followed the complaint and registration of the FIR, with police continu- ing their probe into the alle- gations.



JD(S) leader arrested for assaulting traffic constable

A JD(S) leader was arrested after allegedly assaulting a traffic constable during a traffic stop in Bengaluru.



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A JD(S) leader was arrested after allegedly assaulting a traf- fic constable who stopped his car while managing traffic in Hulimavu. Karnataka JD(S) general se- cretary Manjunath alias Gottigere Manja was arrested by Ben- galuru police after allegedly assaulting traffic constable Arun M. Badagowdar while he was on duty in Hulimavu on Sunday. According to police, the con- stable signalled Manjunath’s car to stop while regulating traffic. The leader allegedly became angry, got out of the vehicle, grabbed the constable by his collar and kicked him. A video purportedly showing the incident was circulated widely on social media, triggering public outrage. Police said the video could not be independ- tly verified, but acted on the com- plaint filed by the constable. Hulimavu police registered a case and traced Manjunath to a local hotel, where he was ar- rested on Sunday night. He was later produced before a court.

Assault case

- Accused:** Manjunath alias Gottigere Manja
- Position:** JD(S) Karnataka general secretary
- Location:** Hulimavu
- Victim:** Traffic constable Arun M. Badagowdar
- Allegation:** Collar-grabbing and kicking
- Action:** Arrested and produced before court

ANOTHER ROAD-RAGE CASE

In a separate road-rage case, KR Puram police booked a law stu- dent and others for allegedly abusing and confronting traffic police personnel. The case fol- lowed an altercation that re- portedly obstructed traffic. Police booked Hemanth Reddy, Rahul, Harshith Reddy, Radhakrishna Reddy and others under various charges, including assault and voluntarily causing hurt. Notices were issued to the accused, direct- ing them to appear for question- ing as part of the investigation.



BDA fixes ₹89,700 rent for Hebbal tunnel land

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The BDA has fixed ₹89,700 per acre monthly rent for tem- porary use of KVAFSU land for Hebbal short tunnel con- struction. The Bangalore Develop- ment Authority (BDA) has rejected the Public Works De- partment (PWD) rate for leas- ing land for the Hebbal short tunnel, terming it too high, but has fixed a rent that is twice the average rate paid by contractors working on BM- RCL and K-RIDE projects. The BDA examined four agreements entered into by contractors of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Lim- ited and K-RIDE with private landowners. The rents in these agreements ranged from ₹37,800 to ₹55,725 per acre per month, with an average of ₹44,850. The authority subsequently fixed ₹89,700 per acre per month for temporary use of land belonging to the Karnata- ka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU). The BDA’s letter to KVAFSU, dated August 10, said adopting the PWD Schedule of Rates would re-

sult in substantially higher lease rent and impose an un- due financial burden on the project. However, the letter did not explain why the average rate from the four agreements was doubled. A BDA official said the authority was attempting to strike a balance between the higher PWD rate and rents paid in other infrastructure projects. The proposed lease is be- tween two State-run institu- tions, unlike the four agree- ments used as benchmarks, which involved private land- owners. The lease is yet to be executed. The temporary land re- quirement adds to the con- struction-related expenditure of the tunnel project, which has already faced questions over its cost. The Finance De- partment had earlier described the project as an expensive quick-fix and questioned whether a surface road could provide similar relief at lower cost. The project also continues to face concerns over whether it will ease congestion or merely shift traffic to other junctions.

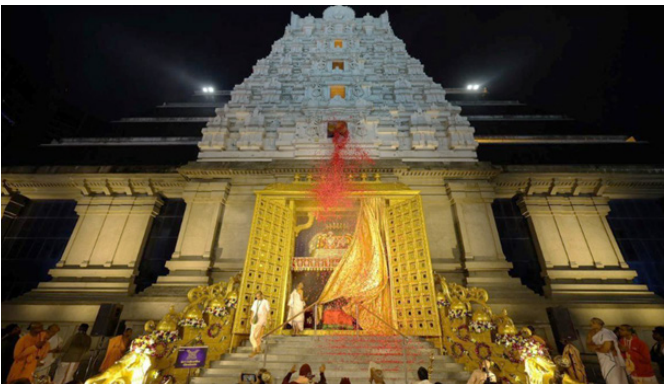
BMTC adds 62 daily trips on Magadi route

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
BMTC has introduced a new limited-stop express service on the Magadi route, adding 62 daily trips for commuters. The Bengaluru Metropol- itan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has introduced a new limited-stop Vegadootha Vistara bus service between Magadi Road Toll Gate and Magadi, in response to strong commuter demand. The service, which began on Sunday, will operate 10 buses making 62 trips every day at an interval of around 25 minutes. The fare for the full journey has been fixed at ₹55. The buses will halt at Ka- makshipalya, Summanahalli, Sunkadakatte, Gollarahatti, Honaganahalli, Tavarekere,

Supreme Court to consider fresh Bench in ISKCON case

BENGALURU

The Supreme Court on Mon- day agreed to consider set- ting up a fresh Bench to hear ISKCON Mumbai’s review petition in the long-running dispute over control of Ben- galuru’s iconic Hare Krishna temple and educational com- plex. The matter relates to the Supreme Court’s May 16, 2025, judgment, which ruled that the temple belongs to ISKCON Bengaluru, over- turning a 2011 Karnataka High Court verdict that had favoured ISKCON Mumbai. Appearing before a Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joy- malya Bagchi and V. Moha- na, counsel for ISKCON Mumbai said the review pe- tition had remained pending



after earlier being listed be- fore different benches headed by Justices M.M. Sundresh and Dipankar Datta. Responding to the request, Chief Justice Surya Kant said, “We will consider this.” The review petition had reached a procedural dead- lock after a split verdict de- livered in November 2025 by

Justices J.K. Maheshwari and Augustine George Masih. Justice Maheshwari held that ISKCON Mumbai had made out a case for an open-court hearing of the review plea, while Justice Masih ruled that there was no apparent error in the original judgment warranting reconsideration. The split verdict required

ISKCON legal battle	
Key point	Details
Temple	ISKCON Hare Krishna Temple, B’luru
Current owner (2025 SC ruling)	ISKCON Bengaluru
Review petitioner	ISKCON Mumbai
Issue now	Fresh Bench for review plea
Original SC verdict	May 16, 2025

“We will consider this.”
-Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India

the matter to be placed be- fore the Chief Justice for fur- ther directions. The legal battle dates back to ISKCON Bengaluru’s ap- peal against the Karnataka High Court’s May 23, 2011, judgment, which had re- versed a 2009 Bengaluru trial court ruling recognising ISK- CON Bengaluru’s ownership

and granting it a permanent injunction against ISKCON Mumbai. At the heart of the dispute are two societies with similar names but separate legal identities. ISKCON Bengaluru main- tains it has independently managed the temple for de- cades, while ISKCON Mum- bai claims the Bengaluru or- ganisation functions as its branch.

Quick Read

Young man dies after falling from boat into sea while fishing

CH NEWS, UDUPI
Sanjeeva (33) of Belligeri village in Bhadravati died after falling into the sea from a boat while fishing. He worked on a boat named Rajatha at Malpe Port and had gone out to sea with other fishermen for night fishing on August 10. It is alleged that on August 14, while he was hauling up his net, the boat was suddenly shaken by a strong wave, causing Sanjeeva to slip and fall into the water and go missing. A search was later conducted and the body was found. A case has been registered at Malpe Police Station in this regard.

Nagara Panchami celebrations

CH NEWS, UDUPI
The Nagara Panchami festival was celebrated with enthusiasm across the district on Monday. Since morning, people went to Nagarkatte and Nagabanas to offer offerings to the Naga idols. The priests anointed the Naga idols with the coconut water and milk offered by the devotees. The Naga idols were decorated with turmeric and saffron and flowers. Special pujas were also held at various Subrahmanya temples in the district



Attempt to cheat devotees by making fake video of Kukke Subramanya, warning from temple

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

There have been allegations that the famous Nagakshetra Kukke Sri Subrahmanya Temple, a famous temple in the holy mythology, has been misusing the occasion of Nagara Panchami to cheat devotees. The temple management has filed a complaint with the police station against a fake video circulating on social media. In a video being circulated on the occasion of Nagara Panchami, the message is

15 GPs get centralised waste management facility

The initiative builds on solid-resource management experiments undertaken by Kadoor and Nadoor villages since 2018.

CH NEWS, UDUPI

A mini Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Kadoor in Brahmarav taluk is emerging as a model for decentralised yet systematic Solid-Waste Management (SWM), with dry waste from 15 gram panchayats being brought to the facility since the past three months for scientific sorting and processing. Developed under the Swachh Bharat Mission with the guidance of Udupi zilla panchayat, the facility at Moodubettu in Nadoor is equipped with machinery worth over Rs 40 lakh. It has a processing capacity of five tonnes a day and currently handles around three tonnes. Public participation, involvement of elected representatives and support from officials have helped expand the model to neighbouring gram panchayats. Waste from Kadoor, Heggunge, Avarse, Neelavar and Vaddarse has already been cleared and processed, while

ZP CEO Prateek Bayal said ensuring the sustainable operation of MRF units was a priority. Plans were being prepared to provide modern facilities for refuse-derived fuel management at the Kadoor and Yellur units, he said. Facility supervisor Mamatha said trained personnel were working at the unit and efforts would be made to increase the daily volume of waste sorted and baled.

work involving the remaining panchayats is under way. The facility has also created employment for more than 20 local residents. An evening shift, starting at 5.30pm, has been introduced to increase its operational capacity. More than 50 categories of waste, including plastic, cardboard, iron and different types of bottles, are sorted and processed at the unit.

The machinery-enabled sorting and baling system reduces the time and space required for handling waste and

prepares recyclable material for sale. Brahmarav taluk panchayat assistant director Mahesh K said officials and representatives from several districts and states had visited the facility to study its functioning. New experiments in waste management are also being undertaken, he said. The facility is supervised by the Swachhabandhu Waste Management Cooperative Society, while the Durga Sanjeevini Women's Federation of Kadoor manages its operations. Women's group members are directly involved in waste processing, making community participation a key component of the initiative. The MRF requires up to Rs 3.5 lakh a month to operate. Each of the 15 gram panchayats has been asked to contribute Rs 20,000 a month towards its maintenance. During the initial phase, the sale of recovered material generated upto Rs 1.5 lakh, offering a potential revenue stream for the facility.

Beat forester's curiosity leads to discovery of new crab species

UDUPI

A routine forest patrol turned into a scientific discovery when beat forester K Ajmeer spotted a freshwater crab with unusual colour and movement in the Kollur range of Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary last year. His curiosity led to the identification and scientific description of a new species, Ghatiana Karnataka, which he co-authored with Santanu Mitra of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in a research paper published recently in Species. Its colour and movement caught my attention and prompted me to find out more about it, Ajmeer told. He contacted Mitra, who also suspected that it could be an undocumented species. After permission was obtained from the Principal Chief Conservator Of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden through the Range Forest Officer and Deputy Conservator of Forests, specimens were collected for a detailed taxonomic study. The research involved collecting both male and female specimens and documenting their physical characteristics, coloura-



The crab is associated with highly moist evergreen and semi-evergreen forest habitats.

tion and habitat. The genus Ghatiana now comprises 15 known species, all endemic to the Western Ghats. The discovery of Ghatiana Karnataka brings the number of species recorded in Karnataka to eight.

The male of the newly described species has a predominantly dark-purple body, with a distinctive light-pink on the front of its carapace. Females have a grey-violet front and a dark grey-brown rear. Specimens have been found in crevices between boulders, water-filled holes in laterite rocks and moist tree cavities. The region is fed by

Kundapur Deputy Conservator of Forests P Ruthren said, the discovery highlights how much of the region's biodiversity remains undocumented. "There is still so much in our biodiversity waiting to be uncovered. We are custodians of a rich natural heritage. The department will always support staff members who show an interest in research and biodiversity, he said.

perennial river systems, including the Souparnika, Mavinakuru and Jakkal rivers, helping maintain humid conditions and water-filled natural cavities even during drier months. Ajmeer said during the monsoon, they may be seen moving across laterite rocks, while in the dry season they retreat into moist tree hollows and rock cavities. Ajmeer, initially hoped the species would be named after the region in which it was discovered. Mitra, however, suggested naming it after Karnataka in recognition of the state's rich biodiversity.

No direct KSRTC buses to Kollur, women devotees miss Shakti benefit

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

KSRTC's Mangaluru division runs buses on several routes across DK and Udupi districts, the absence of direct connectivity to pilgrimage centre forces passengers to rely largely on private buses or change buses en route. Consequently, many women are unable to avail the free travel under the state government's Shakti scheme. While

frequent private buses are plying on Mangaluru-Udupi-Kollur route, Kerala has been operating a bus from Kottarakkara, Kollam district to the temple daily. An average of 6,000 to 7,000 from across Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and other states visit the temple every day. During peak season, the footfall crosses 12,000. Many devotees, especially women demand that the state needs to

introduce KSRTC buses to all pilgrim centres.

Nisha Kumari, a housewife, told that the state government should consider introducing at least one KSRTC bus each from Mangaluru and Udupi towards Kollur daily. Since it is a historic temple, the government should have introduced KSRTC buses so that it would benefit devotees, especially women, she said.

Senior Divisional Controller of KSRTC, Rajesh Shetty, said that a state-run bus has been operating on Byndoor - Kollur - Bengaluru route.

Historically, the Kollur route has belonged to the private sector. Between Mangalore-Udupi and Mangaluru-Kundapur, private buses have always been more predominant, he said, adding that he will look into the demand.

Chairman of District guarantee schemes implementation committee, Bharath Mundodi, told that the lack of KSRTC buses to Kollur was raised during the recent state committee meeting. He said that a meeting will be held soon. Discussions in this regard are ongoing, but the primary issue is the shortage of buses with the KSRTC. Procurement of extra buses has started just now. New buses are being distributed across all divisions in the state. We have a meeting scheduled on August 18, to review how many buses our division has received and determine how to operate them, he added.

Vandalism, apathy leave Kadri Park public toilets in pathetic state

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Visitors to the popular Kadri Park are facing severe inconvenience due to the deplorable condition of its public washrooms. Plagued by poor hygiene, rampant vandalism, and a complete lack of accessible facilities for specially-abled individuals, the toilets have become a major point of concern for regular park-goers and families. Caretakers from the horticulture department, who are tasked with the park's daily upkeep, have

expressed immense frustration over the situation. According to the staff, the premises are frequently misused by miscreants during late-night hours. These individuals allegedly utilise the washrooms for alcohol consumption and routinely vandalise the sanitary fittings, breaking pipes, doors, and fixtures. This constant destruction of public property makes it nearly impossible for the maintenance staff to ensure basic cleanliness, leaving the facilities in an entirely unus-

able condition for morning walkers and daytime tourists. The absence of barrier-free infrastructure further compounds the crisis, rendering the facilities entirely inaccessible to physically-challenged individuals. Despite caretakers claiming to have made multiple escalations to the Kadri park development committee regarding these nocturnal disruptions and hygiene threats, no concrete security measures have been deployed to protect the park's sanctity.

HUSBAND TELLS POLICE ABOUT WIFE'S SUICIDE, POLICE PROTECT WOMAN

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

A husband called ERV-122 of the police station and said that his wife was committing suicide and asked to save her. The police rescued the woman who was committing suicide. The police came like a friend and stopped the woman from committing suicide.

A man from Chitradurga called ERV-122 and said that his wife had gone to Kodli in Shimoga taluk to commit suicide, and was falling into the river at the confluence of Tunga and Bhadra rivers. Please

save her, he said on the phone. Based on this information, the police went to Kodli and saw a woman standing near the confluence. When they inquired, they said that she had come from Chitradurga.

Immediately, CPC Ashok Kumar, who was on ERV duty, and driver APC Amresh Naik approached the river, identified the woman who was attempting suicide, and saved her life.

The District SP congratulated the District Police ERSS personnel for their punctuality and dedication.

On the other hand, a wife, fed up with a husband-wife fight, attempted to commit suicide by jumping into the Varada river near Chandragutti with her daughter. Hearing the daughter's screams as the mother pushed her daughter, Sahil, Sonu, and Yasin Chikkamakoppa, who were fishing there, rescued the mother and daughter.

Sahil, Sonu, and Yasin were felicitated by the Shivamogga District Police and Soraba Police Station, praising the timely actions of the public who saved the lives of the two.

Dismissal of Minister B Nagendra, indenfinite dharna

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

The BJP on Monday held an indefinite dharna at the district administration premises on the call of the state BJP President, demanding the dismissal of Minister B Nagendra, who is accused of defamation.

On this occasion, BJP district President NK Jagadish said that earlier, when Siddaramaiah was the Chief Minister, it is said that Rs 187 crore was misappropriated in the Mahharshi Valmiki Development Corporation on the verbal orders of the same B Nagendra, of which Nagendra used Rs 88 crore for his own personal use.



Nagendra himself had also resigned along with the suspension of three officials in connection with this case. However, Nagendra, who swallowed the grant, has been appointed as a Minister again in the DK Shivakumar cabinet. He questioned what moral responsibility he has taken on. He has already been to jail

and the case is under investigation in the court and the ED. However, what is the reason for making him a Minister again. Chandrashekhar, an official of the State Valmiki Development Corporation, had written in his death note before committing suicide that Rs 187 crores earmarked for the Scheduled Tribes were trans-

ferred to different accounts by the officials on the verbal orders of Minister B Nagendra. He expressed his sadness that the family of the deceased has not yet received the compensation due to the government.

Did B Nagendra blackmail the Congress high command by saying that he would bring the details of the Valmiki scam to light if he was not given a Ministerial berth. He questioned whether Nagendra, who is facing tainted charges, was given a ministerial berth out of fear of that and alleged that the Congress high command gave Nagendra a ministerial berth to cover up this serious case.

Man swims offshore for 3 hours, Eshwar Malpe team rescues

CH NEWS, UDUPI

In a dramatic rescue operation, social worker and sea rescuer Eshwar Malpe entered the Arabian Sea and safely brought ashore a 38-year-old man who had been swimming offshore for nearly three hours on Sunday.

The rescued man was identified as Yathish (38), a resident of Kaadipatta and a former lifeguard at Padubidri Blue Flag Beach.

According to locals, Yathish had attempted similar acts once or twice in the



past, when residents intervened and brought him safely back to shore.

On Sunday afternoon, Yathish entered the Arabian Sea as coastal residents

watched. Fishermen who arrived by boat from Kaup made repeated attempts for more than half an hour to pull him into the boat, but were unsuccessful.

After being alerted to the situation, Sadashiva of Padubidri contacted MLA Yashpal Suvarna, who immediately reached out to Eshwar Malpe and requested him to undertake the rescue.

Eshwar arrived at Padubidri beach and entered the sea. He swam approximately three nautical miles towards Yathish and persuaded him to return through a calm and reassuring conversation.

Eshwar then swam back alongside Yathish, bringing him safely ashore at around 3.15 pm. Local swimmers and Blue Flag Beach life-

guards Prajwal, Sushanth and Badal assisted in the rescue operation.

Following the rescue, Ashok Salyan, President of the Kadipatt Mogaveera Sabha, thanked Eshwar Malpe on behalf of the village.

Coastal Security Police and Home Guards also visited the spot. Locals expressed concern over the absence of a speedboat for emergency rescue operations with the Coastal Security Police.

Yathish was subsequently shifted to Dr AV Baliga Hospital for further treatment.

Tourist rescued after falling into 60-foot trench in Kodachadri hills

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

A tourist who had come for a trek at the world-famous Kodachadri hill in Hosanagar taluk lost his way and fell into a 60-foot deep ditch, injuring himself. The tourist miraculously escaped death thanks to the timely intervention of a local jeep driver.

Pradeep, a native of Kumta in Uttara Kannada district, was an injured tourist who had come to Kodachadri with his family for a trip. He was walking to Shankaracharya's Sarvajna Peetha when he suddenly felt dizzy and lost control and fell into a ditch.

As soon as they came to know about the incident, the local jeep drivers immediately sprang into action, lowering a rope into the ditch and safely lifting Pradeep. They then brought the injured man to the bottom of the hill in their jeep. The family members were left in a state of panic as there was no first aid kit available at the spot to provide initial treatment to the injured man.

Quick Read

Belagavi woman dies after snakebite while collecting

BELAGAVI
A woman died after a poisonous snake bit her while she was collecting garbage in a field in Rai-bag town on Monday. The deceased was identified as Satyavva Shivananda Shinge, 43, a resident of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Nagar in Rai-bag. The snake reportedly bit her while she worked in the field. Family members and locals rushed her to a hospital after she became ill. However, she died on the way. The incident occurred within Raibag police station limits. The death has caused concern locally, highlighting the need for caution while working in fields where snakes may be present.

Power outage tomorrow

MYSURU
Power supply will be disrupted on August 19 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in areas coming under the V.V. Mohalla Sub-Division due to underground cable work on the 11 KV SLV power line. Areas affected: Devaraja Road, V.V. Mohalla 2nd and 3rd Main Roads, Valmiki Road, V.V. Pu-ram Police Station area, Vontikoppalu and surrounding areas, said the Executive Engineer of the Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC), V.V. Mohalla Division, in a press release here

Padubidri PHC upgrade urged for better emergency care

PADUBIDRI
The All Organizations' Federation submitted a petition to Medical Officer Dr. Rajeshwari Kini on Monday, seeking the immediate upgrade of Padubidri Primary Health Centre into a Community Health Centre. The federation said the move is necessary to protect the health of thousands of people living in Padubidri and nearby areas. The petition called for better medical and emergency treatment facilities at the centre. Federation members said Padubidri's growing population, increasing traffic on National Highway 66 and frequent road accidents have created a greater need for a stronger government healthcare facility in the area. The federation demanded the appointment of an adequate number of doctors, nurses and other medical staff after the proposed upgrade. It also sought improved infrastructure and round-the-clock emergency medical services. Members said stronger local healthcare facilities would help residents receive timely treatment, particularly during accidents and other emergencies.

MYSURU
True equality can be achieved only when oppressed Dalit and backward communities become self-reliant through education, social progress and economic independence, Urban Development Minister and Mysuru District In-charge Minister Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah said.
He was speaking after inaugurating a programme organised by the Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation, where free tailoring machines and training certificates were distributed to unemployed

KRS reservoir sees sharp drop in water inflow

KRS is releasing nearly 1.8 times its inflow, and continued releases could lower reservoir levels unless rainfall and catchment inflows improve

MYSURU

The Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) reservoir in Srirangapatna Taluk of Mandya district, is witnessing a sharp decline in water inflow, raising concerns over the availability of water in the Cauvery basin in the days ahead.

The latest data released on August 17 shows that the inflow into KRS stands at just 7,747 cusecs, while the outflow is significantly higher at 13,600 cusecs.

The Kabini reservoir, which has a maximum storage level of 2,284 feet, recorded a water level of 2,280.02 feet on Monday. The figures indicate that the reservoir is currently releasing 5,853 cusecs more water than it is receiving, putting pressure on the available storage.

Inflow Almost Half of Outflow

The situation is particularly noteworthy as the KRS is releasing nearly 1.8 times the quantity of water it is receiving. With inflows remaining subdued, continued releases could gradually bring down the reservoir level if fresh



KRS at a glance	
■ Maximum level:	2,284 ft
■ Current level:	2,280.02 ft
■ Current level:	2,280.02 ft
■ Outflow:	13,600cusecs
■ Outflow exceeds inflow by:	5,853 cusecs

rainfall and catchment inflows do not improve. The latest figures also highlight the contrasting water situation in other major reservoirs. Harangi recorded an inflow of 2,928 cusecs against an outflow of 2,387 cusecs, while Kabini received 7,747 cusecs and released 13,600 cusecs.

Rain Holds the Key
The weak inflow into KRS has brought the focus back on

rainfall in the Cauvery catchment areas.

A sustained spell of rain is crucial to replenish the reservoir and maintain adequate storage for drinking water, irrigation and downstream requirements.

With the KRS already releasing considerably more water than the inflow it is receiving, any further fall in inflow could put the reservoir under additional pressure.

Water managers will therefore be closely watching rainfall and catchment inflows over the coming days.

The present figures underline the need for careful water management and judicious releases, particularly when the monsoon season still has a considerable distance to run.

Raghumurthy directs officials to speed tribal welfare projects

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Scheduled Tribes Welfare Minister T. Raghumurthy directed department officials to speed up the implementation of welfare projects and ensure that no scheme faces unnecessary delays.

On his first day in office, he held a review meeting with senior officials at Vidhana Soudha on Monday and sought detailed information about ongoing programmes.

Raghumurthy asked officials to prepare a comprehensive report covering all projects already taken up by the department. He wanted officials to clearly state the stage of each project, identify pending work and explain the steps needed to complete them. He said regular monitoring would be necessary to ensure deadlines are followed.

The minister stressed that schemes under the Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department directly affect the development and welfare of vulnerable communities. Therefore, he said officials should identify pending programmes immediately and

The minister said tribal welfare schemes directly affect vulnerable communities, urging officials to complete pending programmes promptly with speed and coordination

complete them within the prescribed time. He instructed the department to maintain speed and coordination while implementing welfare measures. Raghumurthy said tribal welfare programmes cover several important areas, including education, housing, economic empowerment and infrastructure development. Effective coordination among departments and timely execution, he said, are essential for ensuring that benefits reach intended communities without unnecessary delays. The minister also directed officials to maintain clear records and provide accurate updates on the progress of projects. He said officers should take responsibility for resolving pending issues and ensure that implementation remains focused on the needs of tribal communities.

Haveri temple dedication to include free health camp

CH NEWS, HAVERI

A four-day religious and cultural programme will be held at the newly built Chaudeshwari Temple near Basaveshwar Nagar C Block Railway Gate in Haveri from August 18 to 21.

The temple has been built by Sri Swami Vivekananda Seva Samiti. Committee honorary chairman Sanjeevakumar Neeralagi announced the programme at a press conference.

The celebrations will begin on August 18 with a grand procession carrying the idol, accompanied by musical instruments and a Poorna Kumbha. The idol will enter the temple during the Godhuli Lagna at 6.30 p.m., followed by special rituals. On August 19, the Indian Red Cross will conduct a blood donation camp, followed by Dha-nyadhivasa and Shaivagni Pratishthapana Homa in the evening. A free health check-up camp will be held on August 20 by Shataveereshwar Ayurveda Hospital of Sindagi. Later that evening, rituals connected with the idol will be performed. On August 21, special abhishekam, idol Prana Pratishthapana and Maha Mangalarati will be conducted.

Narendra seeks impartial probe into forest firing

CH NEWS, CHAMARAJANAGAR

Former Hanur MLA R. Narendra visited the families of three people who died in firing by Forest Department personnel at Mariyamangala village in Hanur taluk and expressed his condolences.

He met the bereaved families, shared their grief and offered support during their difficult time.

Narendra said the deaths had caused deep pain to the families and the wider community. He urged the government to provide justice to the victims and order an impartial investigation into the incident. He also appealed to authorities to ensure that such incidents do not happen again.

Karnataka considers higher egg prices for school meals

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka government is considering increasing the amount paid for eggs supplied to students under the midday hot meal scheme in government and aided schools.

School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa said a meeting with the Finance Department would be held soon to examine the issue and take a suitable decision based on current market prices.

The minister was responding to a supplementary question raised by Congress member Ramoji Gowda in the Legislative Council on Monday. Bangarappa said the government gives priority to children's health and preventing

malnutrition and would consider measures to meet the rising cost of eggs.

Gowda said the School Education Department currently provides ₹6 per egg for each student. However, market prices have remained above ₹8 for about a year, creating difficulties for schools. He also said that from the ₹6 released by the government, only ₹5 reaches schools for purchasing eggs. According to Gowda, the shortfall has placed an additional financial burden on teachers and school monitoring committees.

In some cases, they have reportedly been using their own money to ensure that students continue receiving eggs as part of the meal programme.

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dents do not happen again.

He said a peaceful relationship should be maintained between forest officials and people living in forest areas. The government and concerned departments should take preventive measures and make proper arrangements to protect innocent residents. He also demanded suitable compensation, security and continued assistance for the affected families. Narendra assured the families that he would continue to stand with them during their difficult period. He prayed for the departed souls and wished the families strength to overcome their loss. Meanwhile, Kusumraj and Narendra Rajugowda, sons of Chamara-

janagar District In-charge Minister Puttarangasetty, along with Narendra Rajugowda's family members, provided ₹2 lakh each to the families of the three deceased persons as personal assistance. Kusumraj expressed his condolences and prayed for peace for the departed souls. He also wished the bereaved families courage to face the tragedy.

District Youth Congress president Yogendra, former Gram Panchayat president John, former Taluk Panchayat member Javed, Society Basavaraju, Chetan Dorairaju, Tarikh, Chamul director Kumar, Mallar, Vincent, Dairy President Gnana Prakash and others were present.

SRINIVASA MANE PROMISES FASTER HOUSING PROJECTS ACROSS KARNATAKA

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Hanagal MLA Srinivasa Mane, who was recently appointed president of the Karnataka Housing Board, met Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Monday and expressed gratitude for being given the important responsibility. Mane said he would work honestly and ensure that the board's programmes serve the housing needs of people across the state.

Mane said the Karnataka Housing Board has a direct responsibility towards poor, middle-class and common families who dream of owning a home.

He stressed the need to provide quality houses at affordable prices and promised to take effective steps to make housing accessible to eligible beneficiaries.

He said the board's activities would be accelerated and projects would be implemented in a transparent and people-friendly manner.

Mane also emphasised the need to ensure that deserving families receive housing benefits without unnecessary delays.

He said the board would focus on improving the delivery of services and completing projects efficiently.

The appointment gives Mane an additional responsibility at the state level after his continued work as Hana-

gal MLA.

He said his experience of working closely with people in the constituency would help him understand the housing concerns faced by families and guide the board to-



wards practical solutions. During the meeting, Shivakumar congratulated Mane and offered guidance on effectively managing the Housing Board's activities. Mane said he would uphold the trust placed in him and work with commitment to realise the housing dreams of ordinary people.

He added that transparency, speed and accountability would remain key priorities during his tenure.

The new responsibility has increased expectations that the Housing Board will strengthen its housing programmes and deliver greater benefits to families seeking affordable homes across Karnataka.

BJP holds overnight dharna; demands Nagendra's resignation

MYSURU

The Mysuru city and rural units of the BJP held an overnight protest near CAVA College Road, close to the Deputy Commissioner's office in Siddhartha Nagar, on Monday.

The protesters demanded the resignation of Minister B. Nagendra over allegations linked to the Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation case. Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, City BJP President L. Nagendra, Rural Unit President Subbanna, former

MP Pratap Simha and other party leaders took part in the protest.

BJP workers raised slogans against the Congress government and demanded that Nagendra be removed from the Cabinet. Speaking at the protest, L. Nagendra alleged that ₹189 crore belonging to the Valmiki Development Corporation had been misused and transferred to banks in Andhra Pradesh, gold shops and wine stores.

He also alleged that the money was used during the Lok Sabha elections in Andhra Pradesh.

EQUALITY THROUGH EMPOWERMENT‘Educational and economic self-reliance must for true social equality’

women from the Scheduled Caste Bhovi community.

Yathindra said the Bhovi community and other oppressed groups had received opportunities in government work even during the rule of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar. He said members of the community contributed to major works, including construction of the KRS reservoir. The caste system had denied many labourers and Dalits education, power and wealth for generations, he said. Reservation and special laws were introduced through the Constitution to address this historical injustice.

He said the Siddaramaiah government had made it mandatory to set aside 24.10 per cent of the State budget for SC and ST communities according to their population. Reservation was also provided for SC and ST communities in government contracts for works costing up to ₹1 crore. However, Yathindra said welfare schemes and reservation alone were not enough. Women and young people should explore self-employment, small textile businesses, dairy farming and other entrepreneurial activities to achieve financial independence.

Chamaraja MLA K. Harish Gowda said Siddaramaiah had established development corporations to understand community needs and ensure welfare benefits reached eligible people. He said loans and training were being arranged for Bhovi community members in Mysuru and Chamaraj constituencies to help them operate two-wheelers, cars and autorickshaws.

MLC Dr. D. Thimmaiah urged parents to provide quality education to both daughters and sons and encouraged children to aim for careers such as IAS and IPS officers. Around 150 women received

tailoring machines worth ₹15,000 each.

Bhovi Development Corporation Chairman Ramappa M. said the corporation was implementing six welfare schemes in addition to the five major guarantees of the Congress government. Other officials and community leaders, including N.

Rangaswamy, U. Chandranayak, Muniswamy, Sitaram, Jayakumar, Nagaraju and Basavaraju, attended the programme. The speakers urged beneficiaries to use training and government support effectively and build secure, independent livelihoods.



Quick Read

Newlywed's body found in well

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
A 21-year-old newlywed was found dead in a well at Mahadevapura in Challakere taluk on Sunday evening, sparking a murder investigation. The deceased, Sumalatha, was a resident of Karipalayanhatti. Police have registered murder charges against Gajendra of Gundayanahatti and others in connection with her death. According to the complaint, Sumalatha left her home on August 13 and went with Gajendra. The two had married for love. Her body was later recovered from a well in Mahadevapura. The incident falls under Nayakanahatti police station limits. Police are investigating the circumstances of her death and examining allegations to establish what happened.

GNRF launches tree plantation drive in Hunsur

CH NEWS, HUNSUR
GNRF, the welfare wing of Dawat-e-Islami India, organised a tree plantation programme at Berlins School in Hunsur. Saplings were distributed among students, who were also trained in planting and caring for trees. The programme highlighted the importance of trees and their role in protecting the environment. Members of Dawat-e-Islami Hunsur City Mushavarat attended the event. The school administration appreciated the campaign and praised its environmental focus. The principal thanked Dawat-e-Islami for the initiative, calling it a positive effort for society. The programme encouraged students to care for nature and contribute to a greener future for everyone.

Jagalur to host state kannada karaoke contest

JAGALUR
A state-level Kannada karaoke singing competition will be held at Gurubhavan in Jagalur town on August 22. Gaana Lahari Cultural Arts Forum and Voice of Jagalur are jointly organizing the event in memory of legendary singers S. Janaki and S. P. Balasubrahmanyan. The organizers said the programme aims to encourage singers and provide them a platform to display their talent. The competition will begin at 10 am on Saturday. Two senior observers will judge participants on voice quality, rhythm and musical performance. The first prize is Rs. 20,000, the second prize is Rs. 15,000 and the third prize is Rs. 10,000, with trophies for the winners. All participants will receive certificates, medals and lunch. Singers from different districts can take part in the contest.

Magadi farmers seek more time for crop insurance

CH NEWS, MAGADI
Bamul Director H.N. Ashok has urged the central government to extend the deadline for ragi crop insurance registration until August 30.

Speaking at a press conference at the Bamul office on Monday, he said irregular rainfall and dry spells had delayed sowing in Magadi taluk, leaving many farmers without insurance cover. He said extending the deadline would help protect farmers from possible losses caused by drought or excessive rainfall.

Officials told to ensure hassle-free ration distribution

Chikkalingaiah directed officials to assist beneficiaries facing joint-account issues by converting accounts into separate accounts for smoother access to benefits

CH NEWS, MANDYA

District Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authority Chairman Chikkalingaiah has directed officials to install detailed Annabhagya scheme information banners in all fair price shops.

He said beneficiaries should receive clear information about their entitlements and urged officials to ensure ration distribution without inconvenience.

Officials said 73,50,911 beneficiaries are covered under Annabhagya in the district. The government has ordered August and September 2026 NFSA ration to be distributed together during August. Therefore, separate Annabhagya rice distribution will not take place in August. Ration will be distributed from 6 am to 10 am and 4 pm to 8 pm after supplies reach shops. Under Grihalakshmi, 4,66,273 beneficiaries were registered by May 2026. Of



these, 4,36,268 eligible women received ₹87,25,36,000 through 32 instalments. Chikkalingaiah asked officials to help beneficiaries facing problems because of joint bank accounts by converting them into separate accounts. Officials also reported 12,943 beneficiary deaths and urged ASHA and Anganwadi workers to promptly share such information. Under Shakti, 22,93,21,991 women passengers received free travel in Mandya district until July 2026, generating ₹642,55,06,039 in transport

revenue. Under Yuvanidhi, 10,526 candidates registered by June, while 9,645 beneficiaries received ₹28,23,46,500 through 94,921 instalments. Chikkalingaiah called for wider awareness programmes in schools and colleges. Under Grihajyothi, 5,05,893 consumers had registered by June, with 5,03,153 receiving benefits. Officials said door-to-door data collection was 75% complete. Vice-Chairman K. Hanumanthaiayya, Rajendra Prasad, Shivanna, Zilla Panchayat Planning Officer Dhanush and

At a glance
■ Annabhagya banners mandated across all fair-price shops
■ 73.5 lakh beneficiaries covered under Annabhagya scheme
■ ₹87.25 crore credited through Grihalakshmi installments
■ 12,943 Grihalakshmi beneficiaries reported deceased so-far
■ Shakti scheme enabled 22.93 crore women journeys
■ Grihajyothi survey reaches 75% districtwide completion rate

other officials attended the meeting. The chairman stressed that timely information and proper implementation should remain the priority so eligible families receive benefits without delays.

Magadi Cooperative Society expands services with technology

CH NEWS, MAGADI

The Taluk Veerashaiva Cooperative Society has expanded its services after renovating its building and introducing new digital facilities.

Sri Shivasiddheshwara Swamiji, junior Peethadhyas of Siddaganga Mutt, Tumakuru, inaugurated the facilities and said cooperative institutions play an important role in improving the economic condition of common people, farmers and small traders.

Speaking at the event, the Swamiji said the society has served people for 21 years and deserves praise for

adopting modern technology.

He said such institutions should focus not only on profit but also on providing transparent,

dependable services. Basavaraj Swamiji of Jadvedvara Math said the society also contributes to social welfare by helping poor people and students and supporting cow protection.

Society president SCBS Shivarudraiah said the organization began with 1,565 members and now has 2,900 members. It has recorded a turnover of Rs. 2.5 crore and has remained profitable with public support. Vice president H.R. Shivaprasad said

the society has been developed on the lines of nationalized banks and has introduced several new facilities for members.

He said loan facilities now include vehicle,

mortgage and gold loans, along with fixed deposits, recurring deposits and savings accounts, with facilities available up to Rs. 5 lakh.

Members who have existing hand loans can also seek other loans according to rules. Several directors, officials, religious leaders and community representatives attended the program and welcomed the society's continued growth and modernization.

BJP begins protest seeking Nagendra's resignation

KOLAR

The BJP has launched an indefinite protest outside the Kolar Deputy Commissioner's office near Tamaka, demanding the resignation of Minister B. Nagendra over allegations linked to the Valmiki development corporation scam.

Party leaders said the protest would continue until the government responds to their demand and takes action. The demonstration was led by BJP district president Om Shakti Chalapati, with former minister Varthar Prakash and former MLA Manjunath Gowda among those participating. Protesters raised slogans against the Congress government and demanded that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah accept Nagendra's resignation immediately. BJP leaders also criticised Minister Zameer Ahmed and Congress leader Sonia Gandhi over separate political issues. They alleged that the government had failed to act firmly against those responsible

BJP leaders criticised Zameer Ahmed and Sonia Gandhi, alleging government inaction over irregularities, and said their protest highlighted failures in accountability, governance, and responsibility

ble for the alleged irregularities. The protesters said their demonstration was intended to draw public attention to what they described as failures in accountability and governance. Speaking at the protest, former minister Varthar Prakash referred to statements made by Siddaramaiah regarding the alleged scam. He claimed the then Chief Minister had acknowledged irregularities involving ₹87 crore and questioned why Nagendra was again given ministerial responsibility. Prakash argued that allegations of serious financial wrongdoing should be examined thoroughly before such appointments are made.



As part of the 80th Independence Day celebrations, Sri B. Anand, Managing Director hoisted the National Flag at the Head Office of Karnataka State Marketing Communication and Advertising Ltd. Officers and Staff were present on the occasion.

CH PHOTO

Crocodile threat grows along Tungabhadra riverbanks

CH NEWS, Malingaraya Pujar

Despite drought in Gadag district, the Tungabhadra River is flowing strongly after rains in the Western Ghats.

The full river has brought relief to farmers, but it has also raised fears among villages along its banks. Residents are worried after a large crocodile and its young one were seen near homes in Mundargi taluk, turning a peaceful riverbank into a place of concern for local families and farmers alike today.

On Sunday morning, farmer Duragappa Swagi of Vithalapur opened his backyard door and was shocked to find a mother crocodile with its calf nearby. The noise and shouting drove the adult crocodile back toward the river, while villagers caught the calf. This close encounter has left residents asking what might have happened if the reptiles had remained hidden and children or cattle had entered the backyard without warning or protection.

Local residents say crocodiles have become increasingly common along the Tungabhadra, especially when food is scarce or during nesting periods. They reportedly move through bushes and

fields and sometimes enter village backyards, cattle sheds and sugarcane fields. Villages such as Vithalapur, Sheengtalur and Korlahalli are particularly worried. Farmers fear entering their fields, while women and girls feel unsafe going to the riverbank to wash clothes or collect water each day.

Residents also question the current response of the Forest Department. When a crocodile is reported, officials generally arrive, rescue it and release it into the river again. While such action may remove an immediate danger, it does not solve the larger problem of repeated movement into nearby settlements. People want a long term plan instead of repeated rescue and release operations after each sighting reported.

Residents and farmers are calling for stronger preventive measures before a serious accident occurs. They want iron nets or barriers near homes and farmland, warning boards at known crocodile areas, and a dedicated rescue team able to respond quickly. The Tungabhadra should remain a source of water and livelihood, not a constant danger. A clear safety plan can help people live beside the river without fear safely.

Hunsur Youth Urged To Lead Farmers' Movement

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Karnataka State Farmers' Association president Badagalapura Nagendra urged the youth of Hunsur to take a leading role in the farmers' movement.

Speaking after inaugurating the association's village branch at Rangayyanakoppalu, he praised young people for becoming active in public issues. He said students had shown courage by protesting against the alleged NEET scam on moral grounds.

Nagendra warned farmers against losing their agricultural land and urged them to protect every inch of their property. He said land grabbing remained a serious concern and called for unity among farmers.



P. SUNIL KUMAR, EDITOR
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

FIGHT VIOLENCE, NOT THE VOICE OF DISSENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Independence Day address from the Red Fort included a strong warning against what he called “dimaagi Naxals” people who, according to him, continue to promote a Maoist mindset even after armed Naxalism has been largely weakened.

Modi said decades of Naxalism had destroyed the future of many young people and claimed the lives of more than 3,500 police and security personnel. He credited his government’s approach after 2014 with reducing the influence of armed Naxal groups in the country.

However, his statement that people with a Maoist mindset had entered the “corridors of power,” served on government committees and influenced policies has raised important questions. Who should be called a “dimaagi Naxal,” and what fair and objective standard will be used to identify such a person?

There is a clear difference between supporting armed rebellion and peacefully criticising the government. Unless the term is properly defined, it could be used to target activists, academics, students, journalists and intellectuals who express opposing views.

The Prime Minister’s call to “identify and isolate” such elements also requires careful explanation. In a constitutional democracy, anyone promoting or assisting violence must be investigated and prosecuted through evidence, law and judicial process. However, political disagreement alone cannot be treated as extremism.

Congress and Left leaders accused the government of using another political label to discredit dissent. P. Chidambaram warned against treating dissent as something illegitimate, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju later clarified that Modi was not referring to Opposition leaders and defended the government’s concern about Maoist ideology.

India must remain firm against terrorism, armed rebellion and every attempt to promote violence. At the same time, it must protect the democratic right of citizens to question those in power. The correct principle is simple: isolate violence, not disagreement; punish criminal activity through law, but never silence peaceful dissent through political labels.

RUNNING DREAMS

Every monumental journey begins with a single, purposeful stride. For Phil Knight, that initial step was driven by a bold vision: to design athletic footwear created for runners, by runners. Guided by a deep passion for track and field, Knight sought to revolutionize how athletes experienced the sport. Under the expert mentorship of Bill Bowerman on Oregon’s ground, that dream rapidly took shape. What began as a modest enterprise importing and selling Japan’s Onitsuka Tiger shoes ultimately planted the seed for an athletic empire: Nike.

The path from a small regional distributor to an international leader was fraught with challenges. Knight and his early team weathered severe trials and financial tribulations, forging ahead through sheer grit, relentless perseverance, and an unshakable belief in their mission.

Their burning love for running served as a guiding light through the darkest moments of uncertainty, proving that authentic dedication to the sport could conquer immense hurdles.



Today, the iconic Swoosh stands as a universal symbol of human achievement and greatness. It flies high across the globe as an enduring testament to Knight’s original running dreams and Bowerman’s pioneering legacy. Beyond commercial success, Nike’s journey remains a powerful reminder that when visionary passion meets unyielding endurance, a simple idea can leave an indelible mark on history.

- DEEPIKA PRIYA K.

THE CITY’S FACE IS CHANGING. WILL CITIZENS SEE A CLEAN-UP IN PUBLIC SERVICES TOO?

There is something encouraging happening in Bengaluru.

Since the beginning of this new phase of governance, there is a noticeable shift in the city’s civic atmosphere. Roads, walkways, public spaces and basic civic standards are receiving renewed attention. After years of frustration, that change deserves recognition. For too long, Bengaluru’s citizens have lived with bad roads, garbage, neglected public spaces, delayed services and the daily sense that ordinary things required extraordinary effort. People complained, adapted and found workarounds.

Gradually, disappointment became an expectation. That is why visible improvement matters. When a citizen begins to look cared for, citizens begin to feel that they are being heard. Better roads and cleaner public spaces are not merely cosmetic. They signal whether a city takes its people seriously. But Bengaluru’s renewal cannot stop with what is visible. There is another city beneath the physical one: the city of offices, institutions, procedures, applications and decisions through which citizens encounter the State. That city needs renewal too. For an ordinary citizen, government is not an abstraction.

It is the office they enter when they have a problem they cannot solve alone a property matter, a municipal issue, a police complaint, the document that needs correction, a delayed service or a decision that needs to be understood. The reasonable expectation is simple: there is a process, and the institution will help the citizen navigate it. Yet too often, the opposite happens. One desk sends the citizen to another. One department directs them elsewhere. A document not mentioned initially suddenly becomes essential. The responsible officer is unclear. The next step is uncertain. Another visit becomes necessary. The citizen may not be refused service. Something more subtle is happening: the institution is making the citizen navigate the institu-



tion.

That distinction matters. A well-functioning public institution should not require an ordinary person to understand its internal hierarchy simply to obtain a service. Citizens should not need to know which officer holds a file, which department is responsible or whom to approach to make something move. When formal processes become sufficiently difficult, another question begins to emerge: “Who do I know?” That is precisely the question a healthy public system should make unnecessary. The legitimate process should be the easiest process. A citizen should know where to go, what is required, who is responsible and how long a matter should reasonably take. Decisions should be understandable. When something goes wrong, there should be a visible and credible route for review. These are not extravagant expectations.

They are the foundations of public trust. This is not an argument against government employees. Many public servants work under considerable pressure and carry responsibilities citizens rarely see. The deeper question is whether institutions are designed to allow good people to do good work consistently. Clear processes help honest officials. Transparent procedures reduce unnecessary discretion. Trackable applications create accountability. Reasoned decisions reduce uncertainty. Accessible grievance mechanisms give citizens a lawful path when something goes wrong. Predictable systems also reduce the space in which influence, intermediaries and informal arrangements become necessary.

That is institutional cleanliness. We have rightly begun asking whether Bengaluru’s streets are clean enough, whether its walkways are usable and whether its public spaces are maintained. We should ask an equally important question, are the institutions through which citizens experience their city working with the same clarity and discipline? Government cannot always give people the outcome they want. An application may not meet the law. A complaint may not be substantiated. A request may fall outside an authority’s jurisdiction. But even when the answer is no, the citizen deserves to know the reason, under-



PRADIVYA NAMBIAR

stand the process and be shown the lawful next step.

That is institutional maturity. It is also democratic dignity. Patel’s words, spoken at the birth of independent India, were directed at a generation of public servants being asked to build a new relationship between administration and the people. Nearly eight decades later,

the principle remains relevant: Public institutions do not exist above citizens.

They exist among them. Bengaluru has become one of India’s great cities because

people from across the country have come here to study, work, build businesses, raise families and create something better. A city that has given so much opportunity to so many deserves institutions that inspire the same confidence.

Its physical renewal is visible. Its institutional renewal will be felt when a citizen is not passed from desk to desk without direction; when a person does not need a connection to understand a process; when an application can be tracked, a decision understood and a grievance heard; and when asking for help does not make an ordinary citizen feel small.

A cleaner road is progress. A better walkway is progress. But when an ordinary citizen can approach the State with confidence, understand the process, receive a fair hearing and trust that responsibility will not disappear behind another desk that is progress of a different order. Bengaluru has begun to renew the city we can see. Now is the time to renew the city we experience.

“It will be your bounden duty to treat the common men in India as your own... and amongst them.”
— Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, 1947

FROM SELF-RELIANCE TO A DEVELOPED INDIA: THE FLIGHT OF FREEDOM

August 15 is a glorious day in India’s national life the day when, after a long night of subjugation, the sun of freedom finally rose over our land. In 2026, we are celebrating the 80th anniversary of India’s Independence. This is not merely an occasion to recall the glory of our past; it is also a moment for introspection to ask ourselves how much of the dream for which countless freedom fighters sacrificed everything has been fulfilled, and what kind of India we wish to build by 2047, when the nation celebrates the centenary of Independence. If 1947 gave us political freedom, the goal of 2047 is to make India economically, socially, technologically, strategically and morally self-reliant and developed.

The true meaning of freedom extends far beyond liberation from foreign rule. Freedom becomes meaningful only when every citizen is free from fear, deprivation, illiteracy, unemployment, discrimination and unequal access to opportunities. It becomes meaningful when people understand not only their rights but also their duties; when democracy is not merely a process of winning elections and forming governments, but an instrument of public welfare; when service becomes the spirit of politics, integrity the foundation of public life, and compassion the defining quality of society. The first generation after Independence liberated India from foreign domination; it is the responsibility of the present generation to liberate the nation from dependence, backwardness and a sense of self-doubt.

Over the past few years, an important transformation has be-

come visible in India’s journey. From the ramparts of the Red Fort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly given the nation the message of self-reliance, innovation and youth power. In his 2025 Independence Day address, he particularly called upon young scientists, engineers, talented youth and researchers, asking why India could not develop its own jet engines for fighter aircraft. He urged Indian talent to advance through its own capabilities in areas ranging from semiconductors and space technology to biotechnology and defence. He also emphasized the need to give young people the freedom and opportunities to pursue their ideas and connect their innovations with nation-building. This transformation is not confined to speeches. Today, talent emerging from small cities, towns and villages is creating new identities for India in startups, space, sports, science, digital technology and manufacturing. The Prime Minister has also highlighted from the Red Fort that India’s youth have helped the country emerge as one of the world’s leading startup ecosystems, with young people from smaller cities and rural areas creating new technological possibilities.

A self-reliant India is the outcome of this changing mindset. Self-reliance does not mean isolating ourselves from the world; it means standing alongside the world with confidence and competing on the strength of our own capabilities. India no longer wants to remain merely a vast market dependent on imports; it is increasingly becoming a nation that manufactures, innovates and exports to the world. Its capabilities in mobile phones, electronics, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, defence equipment, space technology and digital services have grown significantly.



LALIT GARGG

Non-petroleum exports have reached new milestones, while India’s global competitiveness in services has continued to strengthen.

The most compelling picture of self-reliance can perhaps be seen in the defence sector. India was once counted among the world’s major arms importers, but today both indigenous defence production and defence exports have grown remarkably. In financial year 2025–26, India’s defence exports reached a record ₹38,424 crore, an increase of 62.66 per cent over the previous year’s ₹23,622 crore. This transformation demonstrates that India is not merely moving towards meeting its own security requirements; it is also acquiring the capability to supply defence equipment to other nations. Even more significantly, India has exported ammunition, weapons, sub-systems, systems and critical components to nearly 80 countries. Defence exports, which stood at only ₹686 crore in 2013–14, rose to ₹23,622 crore in 2024–25, an increase of nearly 34 times in a decade. This is a powerful testimony to India’s journey from ‘Make in India’ to ‘Make for the World.’

Yet the real test of a self-reliant India lies not merely in economics and technology. We must build an India that is self-reliant as well as self-disciplined, powerful as well as compassionate, and modern while remaining rooted in its cultural and ethical foundations. Mahatma Gandhi, Lord Mahavira and Lord Buddha taught us that the ultimate purpose of development is human dignity and social harmony. If technology advances while humanity declines, if prosperity increases while com-

passion diminishes, and if the demand for rights grows while the sense of duty disappears, our freedom will remain incomplete. Even today, we face challenges such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, corruption, social tensions, violence, environmental degradation and the digital divide. Therefore, Independence Day is not merely a celebration of achievements; it is also a solemn occasion to recognize our shortcomings and resolve to overcome them. We must develop a civic culture rooted in truth, integrity, tolerance, discipline, mutual respect and an unwavering commitment to national interest. A democracy is strengthened not merely by Parliament or government, but by the character of its citizens. India needs not only a strong Parliament, but also a strong society and responsible citizens.

India today is one of the most important centres of the world’s youthful energy. The goal of a developed India by 2047 is, fundamentally, the goal of its youth, because the young people of today will lead India in 2047. Through initiatives such as ‘Viksit Bharat@2047 – Voice of Youth,’ young Indians have been invited to become not merely beneficiaries of the future, but agents of transformation. This is why the focus of the 2026 Independence Day campaign must also be on connecting young people with the creation of a strong, self-reliant, innovative and future-ready India. The government’s ‘MY Bharat’ initiative has also given special importance to youth participation. As India moves towards 2047, we should not expect young people merely to seek jobs; we must enable them to become job creators, problem-solvers, innovators and leaders of society. Education must move beyond degrees towards skills, skills towards employment, and employment towards entrepreneurship. The young person in a village should be able to see opportunities in space technology; a girl from a small town should be able to earn global recognition in science and technology; a farmer’s son should be able to become

an agri-tech entrepreneur; and a young person from an ordinary family should be able to build a startup that creates employment for thousands. This is the picture of the new India.

In the first struggle for Independence, young Indians sacrificed their lives to make the country free. In the struggle to build the India of 2047, the youth must make knowledge, innovation, character, hard work and patriotism their weapons. If the generation of 1947 asked, “How can we make India free?” The generation of today must ask, “How can we make India a developed, capable, peaceful and ethically leading nation of the world?” The true meaning of freedom lies in answering this question. We must build an India where the brilliance of development is accompanied by the light of humanity; where scientific progress advances hand in hand with values; where a strong economy is matched by a harmonious society; where India is not dependent on any other nation for its security, while at the same time playing a meaningful role in promoting peace across the world.

When the Tricolour unfurls from the ramparts of the Red Fort today, we should not merely say that India is free. We should also resolve to make that freedom more meaningful, more responsible and more beneficial to every citizen. The vision of a developed India by 2047 is not the dream of any government alone; it must become the collective resolve of 1.4 billion Indians. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also repeatedly connected the vision of 2047 with the dreams and aspirations of citizens, emphasizing that the building of a developed India will require the participation of every Indian. From the Amrit Kaal of Independence to the 80th milestone of freedom, India has travelled a long and remarkable journey. The next destination is not merely to become an economic power, but to build an India enriched with trust, wisdom, science, values and strength. Our freedom fighters entrusted us with an independent India. It is now our responsibility to hand over to the coming generations an India of which they can be truly proud. This is the new dimension of freedom. This is India’s resolve as it marches towards 2047. And this is the truest tribute we can offer to the Tri-colour.

Quick Read

Black panther kills dog inside resort premises
DANDELI
A black panther entered a resort in Hasan Mal village of Dandeli taluk early Monday and killed a German Shepherd, causing concern among residents. The animal attacked the dog, owned by resort proprietor Abdul Karim Khatib, at around 4 am while it was sleeping inside the resort premises. The dog died at the spot following the attack. The incident was captured on the resort's CCTV camera. Wild animals are frequently seen in the Hasan Mal area near the Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve. However, the panther entering a resort close to homes has worried villagers. Forest officials inspected the area and villagers sought immediate safety measures.

Kushtagi invites applications for temporary guest teacher
KUSHTAGI
The Maulana Azad Model School in Kush-tagi has invited applications for a temporary English guest teacher for 2026-27. Eligible candidates with a degree or master's degree in English and a B. Ed qualification can apply. Applications must be submitted by August 25, directly at the school in Kushtagi. The selected teacher will be appointed temporarily on an honorarium basis for the academic year. Interested applicants can contact the school principal at 9900617290 for further information. The recruitment aims to fill the vacant post and support English teaching during the academic year. Applicants are advised to submit their forms before the deadline.

Kodava Academy opens 17th Book Depository in Madikeri

MADIKERI
The Karnataka Kodava Sahitya Academy has launched its 17th Kodava Book Depository at Sri Shantamall Swamiji Educational Institution in Arneri Kalancheri to promote reading and preserve Kodava literature and culture. Academy president Ajnikanda C. Mahesh Nachaiah said children should understand the region's traditions and values while receiving formal education. Nachaiah said Kodagu has maintained a strong tradition of brotherhood, harmony and equality despite the changes brought during British rule. He said the academy plans to establish Kodava book collections in educational institutions, private homes, associations and societies. Such libraries, he added, can help keep folk literature alive and

Kudligi may soon be declared drought affected: Parameshwara

Parameshwara said the assessment is being conducted according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare's 2020 Manual for Drought Management

BENGALURU
The Karnataka government has begun steps to declare Kudligi taluk in Vijayanagar district as drought affected because of inadequate rainfall, Deputy Chief Minister and Revenue Minister G. Parameshwara said in the Assembly on Monday. He was replying to a question raised by MLA N.T. Srinivas during Question Hour.Parameshwara said the assessment is being carried out according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare's Manual for Drought Management 2020. Officials are examining rainfall shortages, sowing progress, vegetation conditions through satellite data, soil moisture and water availability. Field inspections are also being conducted through



a mobile application before a decision is taken according to the prescribed rules. He said priority has been given to drought relief works under the VBG Ram Ji scheme to prevent farmers and daily wage workers from migrating to cities in search of employment. The works focus on conserving water, improving groundwater recharge and increasing soil moisture. Activities include desilting lakes and ponds, building farm pits, check dams, nala bunds, recharge

AT A GLANCE

- Kudligi being considered for drought-hit taluk declaration
- Drought assessment follows transparent, evidence-based government guidelines
- 38,126 workers employed across Vijayanagar district
- Kudligi provided employment to 6,555 wage laborers
- 29 ongoing works generated 21,943 man-days
- Water conservation works prioritized to prevent migration

pits, field bunds and contour

trenches.The Deputy Chief Minister said these measures are intended to strengthen drought resistance and protect livelihoods while helping children continue their education without interruption. Officials have been instructed to create employment opportunities locally and reduce migration caused by rainfall shortages.In Vijayanagar district, 38,126 wage workers had received employment under the scheme by August 13. In Kudligi taluk, 6,555 workers had been provided work. At present, 29 works are underway in the taluk, generating 21,943 person-days of employment. The government said continued monitoring and relief activities would support affected families while the drought assessment progresses.

Vice President Nagaraj vows to strengthen BJP across Karnataka

HUBBALLI
Rajya Sabha member Prof. M. Nagaraj, newly appointed BJP national vice president, said the party's main target is the 2028 Karnataka Assembly election. He said the result would be a major challenge and expressed confidence that the BJP would return to power in the state. Nagaraj made the remarks while speaking to reporters in Hubballi.Nagaraj said he was happy and surprised by the new responsibility, adding that he viewed the appointment as recognition for the backward classes of Karnataka. He thanked BJP national president Nitin Nabin, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and national leaders B.L. Santhosh and Pralhad Joshi for their support.

Nagaraj outlined plans to strengthen the BJP under B.Y. Vijayendra and B.S. Yediyurappa, uniting workers, expanding grassroots support, and reaching every section of society

He said the party would work hard to strengthen its organisation across Karnataka and prepare for the next Assembly election. According to him, many voters were ready to support the BJP, but the party could not form the government in the previous election for various reasons. He said those shortcomings would be addressed.Nagaraj also set a broader organisational goal of building the party under the guidance of state BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra and senior leader B.S. Yediyurappa.

Health officials urge timely breastfeeding after delivery

CHITRADURGA
Breast milk given soon after birth is like nectar for newborns and acts as their first vaccine, helping build immunity, District Health Education Officer Krishna Nayak said. He was speaking at a World Breastfeeding Week programme held recently at the Kandaya Girinagar Anganwadi Centre in Chitradurga. Nayak said mothers should begin breastfeeding within one hour of delivery. Breast milk provides essential nutrients needed for a baby's growth and development during the first six months. He said breastfeeding also supports infant survival and strengthens the emotional bond between mothers and children. Medical Officer Dr. Akshata said World Breastfeeding Week has been observed internationally from August 1 to

7 since 1991. She said breastfeeding can help reduce infant deaths and may also lower mothers' risk of certain diseases, including breast cancer. Area Health Education Officer B. Janaki said this year's programme focused on strengthening breastfeeding practices for a healthy and sustainable future. Janaki advised mothers to give babies only breast milk for the first six months. After that, complementary foods should be introduced while breastfeeding continues for up to two years. Senior Health Inspector Srinivas advised breastfeeding mothers to follow a balanced diet containing green leafy vegetables and other nutritious foods. He also stressed the importance of washing hands before feeding. ICMR Coordinator Vanitha explained the importance of Kangaroo Mother Care for low birth-weight babies.

Tumakuru node to become industrial manufacturing hub: M.B. Patil

BENGALURU
The Karnataka government is working to develop Tumakuru as a major industrial manufacturing hub after Bengaluru, Industries Minister M.B. Patil said on Monday. He said 1,736 acres have been allocated for the Tumakuru node, which is expected to attract investments of around ₹7,000 crore and create more than 88,000 jobs. Patil made the statement while participating virtually in the third supervisory authority meeting of the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. He said the Tumakuru node of the Bengaluru-Chennai Industrial Corridor has achieved 30% physical progress and 20% financial progress. The minister said 300 acres have been allotted for a Japan Industrial Township and 200

Highlights

- Tumakuru node allocated 1,736 acres for development
- ₹7,000 crore investment expected across industrial projects
- Development projected to create over 88,000 jobs
- Japan Industrial Township receives 300 acres allocation
- MSMEs allocated 200 acres within Tumakuru node
- Tumakuru node reaches 30% physical project progress

acres for micro, small and medium enterprises. Jindal Aluminium, a major investor, has received 151 acres, while another 41 acres have been reserved for institutional purposes. Land acquisition is

progressing smoothly, and the project is expected to be completed by 2027. The node will focus on food and beverages, textiles and apparel, electronics, chemicals, general engineering and logistics. Patil also assured that Karnataka would provide full cooperation for projects approved under the PM MITRA Industrial Park in Kalaburagi and the Bhavya scheme.The central initiative covers 11 industrial corridors and 20 smart cities across 13 states. Four smart city projects have been completed, while 16 are progressing. The overall ₹50,759 crore programme has an investment potential of ₹5.35 lakh crore and aims to create 14 lakh jobs. The Bhavya initiative is expected to develop 100 industrial parks across 49,120 acres. The meeting was attended by senior officials, including Karnataka Industries Department Principal Secretary Selvakumar and KIADB CEO Govinda Reddy.

Delayed state subsidies push khadi units into crisis

HUBBALLI
A total of 176 khadi manufacturing institutions across Karnataka are facing financial difficulties as state government subsidies and incentives worth around ₹150 crore remain pending. Major khadi centres in Hubballi-Dharwad, Bagalkot and Bengaluru are also struggling to maintain production and daily operations because of the delayed payments. Khadi institutions depend heavily on Market Development Assistance and incentives provided by the central and state governments. Together, these subsidies account for 25 percent of production-related support, with the state government expected to provide 15 percent. Representatives said the central share has been released regularly, while the state portion has faced delays for nearly five years.

Rail works bring changes to several train services

HUBBALLI
South Western Railway has announced changes to several train services because of line and power blocks for installing RCC boxes at Level Crossing Gate No. 48 between Mallasandra and Gubbi. The changes include cancellations, partial cancellations, route diversions, rescheduling and temporary traffic controls.Chikkamagaluru-Yeshwantpur Express, Yeshwantpur-Chikkamagaluru Express, KSR Bengaluru-Mysuru Wodeyar Express and Bengaluru-Tumakuru MEMU services will be cancelled on August 19 and 26. Yelahanka-Arsikere MEMU services will also be cancelled on August 19, 22 and 26. Some trains will terminate or originate at Arsikere instead of Bengaluru.

KARNATAKA FLAGS 23 LAKH SUSPICIOUS PENSION BENEFICIARIES

BENGALURU
The Karnataka Revenue Department has identified 23.14 lakh suspicious beneficiaries receiving pensions under various social security schemes in the state. Notices have been issued to 18,06,032 beneficiaries, asking them to submit documents proving their eligibility. The government said the exercise aims to ensure genuine beneficiaries continue receiving support. The state provides pensions and assistance to senior citizens, widows, persons with disabilities, vulnerable women, Endosulfan victims, acid attack survivors, former Devadasis and families affected by farmer suicides. The annual family income limit for these schemes has also been raised to ₹32,000 for

both rural and urban applicants under the revised rules. Officials compared social security beneficiary records with family information available through the e-Governance Department. Based on the comparison, suspicious cases were identified for verification. The Revenue Department plans to conduct physical verification through village administrative officers using a mobile application. Officials will collect documents such as income certificates, UDID cards and age proof before deciding whether pensions should continue. By August 13, officials had verified 22.87 lakh suspicious beneficiaries. Around 2.84 lakh people were reportedly unavailable at their addresses, while 14.73 lakh had not submitted documents. Another

48,154 beneficiaries were found without income certificates. About 13.20 lakh cases have been acted upon by tehsildars, while pension payments for 10.14 lakh beneficiaries have been suspended. Officials said 2.69 lakh beneficiaries who established their eligibility have already received pensions from March 2026. Meanwhile, pension payments to about 51,789 beneficiaries have been cancelled after verification. The department said the process is intended to remove ineligible cases while restoring benefits to those who meet the prescribed conditions. Authorities urged genuine beneficiaries to submit the required documents promptly to avoid disruption of their financial assistance.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST ADDICTION

Koppal MP calls for nationwide addiction-free revolution

KOPPAL
India needs a large-scale addiction-free revolution to protect its youth and strengthen society, Koppal MP K. Rajashekar Basavaraj Hitnal said. He was speaking as chief guest at the Temperance Award ceremony held in Hatti village. The programme was organised jointly by the Karnataka State Liquor Control Board, Information and Public Relations Department and district administration. Hitnal said India had achieved food and milk

SWAMIJI PRAISES HATTI VILLAGERS FOR REJECTING ALCOHOL
Koppal Sri Gavisiddeshwara Mutt's Sri Abhinava Gavisiddeshwara Swamiji said society can change positively when people leave addictions and choose a responsible life. Speaking at a ceremony in Hatti village on Sunday, he praised villagers for making the village alcohol-free. He said parents must become role models because children learn more from actions than advice. He stressed that lasting recovery requires personal awareness, not pressure or promises made at religious places. He suggested investing the 1 lakh award in a fixed deposit and using its interest to support top SSLC students. Guru Mahant Sri praised Hatti women for leading the campaign successfully. However, many young people are now wasting their energy on alcohol, gutka and

ganja. He called for a strong campaign to help youngsters avoid addictions and contribute positively to the country's development. He said political differences should be set aside to build villages free from addiction. While governments can provide roads, drinking water and other facilities, creating an alcohol-free village requires strong community commitment. He praised Hatti villagers for working together and said about 10 villages in the Koppal Lok Sabha constituency have already become alcohol-free.During the pro-

gramme, Hatti village women were honoured with the Temperance Award. Liquor sale-free awards were also presented to villages including Tala Kanakapura, Kamanur, Hanumanahalli, Lebageri, Binnal, Chikkenakoppa, Madnal, Nagaral, Bodur Tanda and Hirebannigol. The book 'Pananirodha Chaluvali', written by Prof. K. Puttarangappa, was released. Several religious leaders, officials, public representatives and villagers attended the event. Cultural performances included the Naad Geeta and Gandhiji's favourite bhajans.

Sewage contamination threatens drinking water in Hunsur

HUNSUR
Residents of Arasu Nagar Street in V.P. Bore have raised concerns over polluted drinking water caused by overflowing sewage. Toilet waste from a damaged pit was reportedly flowing in front of houses and mixing with the drinking water supply. Residents said the contamination had created a foul smell and posed a serious public health concern.Dasams, along with local residents, submitted a petition to Hunsur Municipal Commissioner Manasa, seeking immediate repairs and a safe water supply. The residents urged the

municipality to address the problem quickly and prevent sewage from entering the drinking water lines.Responding to the complaint, Commissioner Manasa called drinking water engineer Shivakumar to the spot and directed him to repair the damaged system immediately. She also instructed officials to provide clean drinking water to residents and issued a notice to local waterman Sandeep, warning that action would be taken if the problem was not properly handled. Dasams State Organization Coordinator Ningraj Mal-ladi, D. Nagalakshmi and several residents were present.



Quick Read

UP police probe fake airport video

NOIDA
Uttar Pradesh Police have launched a probe into a fake video showing water-logging at Noida International Airport after heavy rainfall. A case was registered against a Facebook account named 'Sach Bolo' following a complaint from airport management. Officials said the video was misleading and could harm the airport's reputation. Police are examining its source, authenticity and circulation. Digital evidence will be checked. The investigation will determine whether the video was deliberately created or shared to mislead people.



US man hospitalised after Odisha food binge

BHUBANESWAR
An American filmmaker was hospitalised at a hospital in Odisha after vomiting following a meal with locals. Mike said it was his fifth day in India when he needed attention. He said he had been vomiting every 15 minutes for 12 hours. He clarified that it was not food poisoning, but overindulgence after enjoying the food too much. Mike said the treatment cost him nothing, unlike the thousands of dollars he expected to pay in the US.

Assam will reward ₹1 Lakh to 1,000 progressive farmers



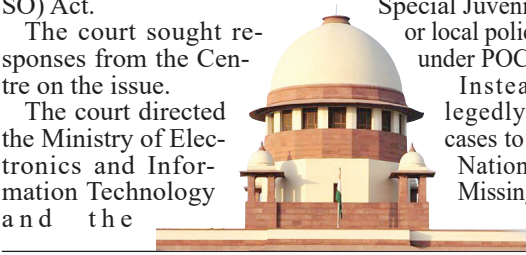
GUWAHATI

The Assam government will honour 1,000 progressive and educated farmers with a cash award of Rs 1 lakh each this year under the announced Chief Minister's Agriculture Excellence Award, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday.
Sarma said the initiative aims to encourage educated young people to view agriculture as a modern and viable career. Awardees will also be introduced to government schemes related to farming. The government plans to recognise 10,000 farmers through the programme over the next five years. The scheme will promote modern farming methods, agricultural research and higher productivity.
The Chief Minister also announced plans to create a Youth Welfare Department. The proposed department will bring pro-

SC flags social media POCSO lapses

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday raised concerns over alleged lapses by social media platforms in reporting child sexual abuse material under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.
The court sought responses from the Centre on the issue.
The court directed the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the



TVK Government marks 100 days of governance

Tamil Nadu govt marked its first 100 days by highlighting welfare schemes, investment commitments, women's safety measures and employment

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay-led government has described its first 100 days in office as a period of major transformation, with the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) calling it "Governance for Generations."
The government released an official video and a series of infographics highlighting its work during the initial months in office. The report focused on fulfilling election promises, improving governance and promoting long-term development across the state.
The government highlight-



"Saving Tamil Nadu from corruption today is equal to achieving freedom and independence."
- C. Joseph Vijay, CM

BIG Highlights

- ₹1.02 lakh crore investment commitments
- 717 TASMAL outlets closed
- 200 unit's free power
- 100 days of governance

Among the welfare measures highlighted were the Vettri Housing Scheme, agri-

ed its zero-tolerance approach to corruption, the specialised "Singapenn" task force for women's safety and a state-wide anti-drug campaign. It also claimed major economic progress, including investment commitments worth ₹1.02 lakh crore through the Vettri Tamil Nadu Investment Conclave.

MAMATA CALLS CJP VOLUNTEER AFTER FATHER'S DEATH

KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee spoke to Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) volunteer Shaik Abdul Hafeez on Monday after his father died following an alleged attack at their home in West Bengal's Bankura district. Banerjee expressed sympathy and assured the family of her support, according to TMC sources.
The CJP said Hafeez, 25, had visited Karisunda West Para Primary School on August 13 as part of its "School Thik Karo" campaign. The campaign aims to highlight problems and shortages in government school infrastructure. Later

that evening, armed men allegedly entered his house and asked him to record an apology video.
According to the CJP, the attackers wanted Hafeez to say that he had raised concerns about the school at another person's direction. When he refused, the assailants allegedly attacked him and his father, Janab Mafik, using sticks, rods and a crowbar.
Mafik was taken to Burdwan Medical College and Hospital, where he died on Saturday night, two days after the alleged assault.
Police arrested eight people on Sunday in connection with the incident. The BJP denied having any organisa-

tional involvement in the alleged attack. The incident has since led to a political confrontation in the state, with the CJP demanding action against those responsible.
A TMC delegation also visited the family in Bankura.
Bankura district joint convener Sukhen Bid said the party would stand with the family and support them in seeking justice. Banerjee's phone call further highlighted the political attention surrounding the case as the investigation continues. Authorities are expected to continue investigating circumstances surrounding the alleged assault and death.

SC keeps Ayodhya probe separate

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday rejected a plea seeking to link its monitoring of an investigation into alleged misuse of donations received by the Ram temple in Ayodhya with the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri land dispute.
A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said the Special Investigation Team (SIT), formed to investigate the alleged misappropriation of trust funds, is accountable directly to the Supreme Court. The SIT will submit its status report to the court. The court said suggestions from petitioners and other public-spirited individuals to make the investigation more transparent.

Lucknow students protest teacher shortage



LUCKNOW

Girls at a government-run residential school in Lucknow staged their second protest in four days on Monday, demanding more teachers and regular classes. Despite heavy rain, students gathered at the Dubagga-Kanpur Bypass and Balaganj intersections with posters and banners. Some formed a human chain, disrupting traffic during the morning rush hour. Police and senior officials reached the spot and persuaded the students to end the protest before taking them back to the school.
The students of Jai Prakash Narayan Sarvodaya Vidyalaya said a shortage of teachers was affecting their studies, especially with board examinations approaching. They said the school had many science students but only one chemistry teacher, with no teachers for physics and biology. Students also claimed that online classes were being affected because of the shortage.

A student, Anamika, said students had limited time for extracurricular activities because the school functioned from 8 am to 4 pm and assembly sessions lasted nearly two hours. The students also demanded action against the warden and the appointment of additional teachers. They warned of another protest if their concerns were not addressed.
Social Welfare Department Director Sanjeev Singh said officials had discussed the students' concerns and were working to resolve them through dialogue. Senior officials from the education, social welfare and police departments also held discussions with students on the school campus.
The issue of teacher appointments is linked to a hearing before the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court. Officials said further action would depend on the court proceedings. Similar student protests over education and infrastructure have also taken place in other Uttar Pradesh districts.

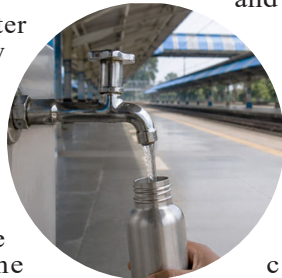
Railway plans water safety drive at 20,000 sites

NEW DELHI

The Railways has announced a major programme to improve drinking water quality at around 20,000 locations across its network after a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) found E. coli bacteria in water samples from several railway stations. The move aims to provide safer drinking water to passengers.
Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw reviewed the issue during a meeting at Rail Bhavan and directed officials to take immediate corrective steps. Under the new plan, a "Tank to Tap" filtration and monitoring system will be installed at locations including water coolers.
The Railways will also replace old water tanks and conduct regular testing at both water sources and outlet points. Storage tanks will be cleaned and maintained regularly.
A centralised monitoring system will track water quality and help fix responsibility when standards are not met.
The CAG report on passenger amenities and sanitation found E. coli in

"This is a top priority area and will be monitored directly at the Board level."
- Railway Minister

drinking water samples collected from eight of 49 railway stations inspected.
The affected locations included stations in Mumbai, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand.
The report also found gaps in regular inspections and testing for residual chlorine, bacteria and chemical parameters.
The Railway Board will directly monitor the implementation of the new measures. Water quality and progress reports will also be released periodically to improve transparency.
The CAG has advised Indian Railways to follow prescribed testing procedures and conduct comprehensive checks under the Uniform Drinking Water Quality Protocol.
The Railways' latest plan is intended to strengthen monitoring and improve passenger safety across stations.



GUJARAT PLANS AI NETWORK FOR 80,000 CCTV CAMERAS

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat Police plans to connect more than 80,000 CCTV cameras across the state through a single surveillance network using artificial intelligence-based tools. The plan is part of the Gujarat Police Innovation Challenge 2026; a nationwide hackathon focused on improving policing and public safety through technology.
The challenge will bring together students, startups, technology companies, developers and researchers to create solutions for practical policing needs. Police said the main challenge is bringing



Key Features

- AI-based CCTV analysis
- Automatic number plate recognition
- Vehicle tracking
- Watchlist matching
- Multi-camera searches

together CCTV systems that use different vendors, technologies, video management platforms and network structures. A unified system would help officers access surveillance information more quickly.
The competition will test AI tools that can analyse live CCTV footage and identify suspicious people, vehicles and unusual activities. Participants will also work on automatic number plate recognition, vehicle tracking, watchlist matching and searches across several cameras. Police said testing solutions with live feeds and real-world situations will be an important part of the challenge.

Congress backs Jharkhand students' protest demand

RANCHI

The Congress on Monday supported the ongoing student agitation in Jharkhand and called for quick action on their demands and major reforms in the examination system. K. Raju, the party's Jharkhand in-charge, said students peacefully raising concerns should not face force or violence.

Raju said Rahul Gandhi had repeatedly raised issues involving students, education and examination paper leaks. He said Gandhi also spoke to a Jharkhand student leader and assured support. A Congress delegation met Chief Minister Hemant Soren and urged him to resolve the students' concerns.
Following the meeting, Soren formed a four-member

Cabinet committee to discuss the students' grievances. Congress also said Gandhi had written to Soren, asking him to personally meet the protesting students and work towards a solution.
Minister Deepika Pandey Singh said the government had already held two rounds of talks with students, with another scheduled for Monday.

CJP PLANS SCHOOL VISITS, RAJASTHAN RESPONDS

Rajasthan restricts outsiders' entry into Govt schools

JAIPUR

The Rajasthan government has introduced new restrictions on visitors entering government schools, following an announcement by Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) co-convener Ashutosh Ranka that he would visit districts to inspect schools. The government said the measures are intended to protect students' privacy and safety.
Ranka said requests had come from Jaipur, Ajmer, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Dholpur, Bharatpur, Kota, Barmer and Hanumangarh. He said



he planned to visit these places under CJP's "School Thik Karo" campaign, which highlights damaged school buildings and seeks action from authorities.
The Secondary Education Department later issued a

circular restricting the entry of unauthorised outsiders into government schools. It said visitors must receive prior permission from the principal or head of the institution and must record their details in the visitor

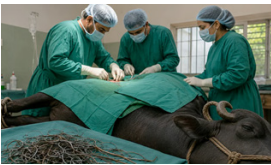
register. Authorised officials are exempt.
The circular also limits access to classrooms, laboratories, libraries, hostels, playgrounds and other areas where students are present. Visitors must be accompanied by the principal, a teacher or an authorised school official.
Photography, videography, interviews, audio recording and live streaming involving students, teachers or school activities require written permission from the principal and must have a lawful purpose.
Officials said the rules

were based on privacy protections and child-safety guidelines issued by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. Schools have also been directed to prevent the misuse or improper sharing of students' photographs and personal information.
If anyone enters without permission, refuses to leave or disrupts school activities, the principal must inform police and education authorities. The new directions aim to balance public concerns about school conditions with protecting children.

Quick Read

600 students leave school after rumours

Amravati
Around 600 girls left a tribal residential school in Doma village after rumours spread that some students were possessed after crying and laughing uncontrollably. The school houses about 810 boys and girls. Officials said stress and anxiety may have caused the behaviour and ruled out supernatural activity. Members of the Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmulan Samiti counselled students and urged parents to view the incident scientifically. Amravati MP Balwant Wankhade also asked students to return to classes.



Buffalo treated after 18 wires found in stomach

UNA
A team of veterinarians in Himachal Pradesh's Una district successfully treated a buffalo after finding 18 pieces of metal wire in its stomach. The animal had stopped eating for nearly 10 days, raising concerns about its health. Veterinarians performed a complex surgery to remove the metal wires from its stomach. The successful operation helped save the buffalo after the unusual objects were discovered during treatment. The incident highlights the dangers of animals accidentally consuming metal waste and other harmful materials.

Telangana Man Allegedly Killed Over Property Dispute

SIDDIPET
A government employee was allegedly killed by his wife following a dispute over retirement benefits and property in Telangana's Siddipet district. The victim, Venkatesham, worked as a Commercial Tax Officer in Asifabad and was due to retire this month. His wife, Rajamani, an Auxiliary Nurse Midwife, allegedly had frequent arguments with him over financial matters. Police suspect disagreements over retirement benefits and property may have led to the incident. Investigators are examining evidence and questioning relatives to determine the circumstances. Police said the investigation is ongoing and the exact motive will be established after the inquiry.

INDIA BOOSTS SURVEILLANCE

India leases two Sea Guardian drones

NEW DELHI

India has signed a Rs 1,943-crore agreement with US-based General Atomics Aeronautical Systems to lease two MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones for the Indian Navy. The contract, announced by the Defence Ministry, will remain in force for 30 months and is aimed at strengthening India's surveillance capabilities across the Indian Ocean Region.

The Navy already operates two Sea Guardian drones, which were leased several years ago. The latest agreement will add two more remotely piloted aircraft to the fleet. The MQ-9B is a high-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aircraft designed to remain airborne for long periods while collecting information over large

Annamalai criticises Tamil Nadu political discourse

NEW DELHI

Former BJP leader K Annamalai criticised the political discourse in Tamil Nadu, saying some politicians continued to follow old practices of personal attacks and dragging women and families into political arguments.

Speaking at the India Today Group's Tamil Nadu Roundtable, Annamalai said some political leaders had failed to understand that voters were seeking change.

He said politicians should recognise the shift in public expectations instead of continuing with what he described as abusive political methods.

Although Annamalai did not name anyone, his remarks appeared to refer to the controversy involving Tamil



Annamalai urges Tamil Nadu politicians to respect changing voter expectations and avoid personal attacks involving women and families.

Nadu Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin. His comments had been widely interpreted as a reference to Chief Minister Vijay and his friendship with actor Trisha. Udhayanidhi had made the

AT A GLANCE

- Annamalai criticises personal attacks
- Women and families dragged into politics
- Udhayanidhi remarks spark controversy
- Vijay's TVK faces political labels
- Voters seek change, Annamalai says

remarks while criticising the Vijay-led TVK government over its handling of the Cauvery water dispute.

The comments triggered a political controversy, following which Udhayanidhi was detained by Tamil Nadu Police for a day.

Annamalai also spoke

Bengal BJP unveils 100-day report

KOLKATA

The West Bengal unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will distribute a 41-page book highlighting the work of the state's new government during its first 100 days in office. Party workers will begin distributing copies door-to-door from Tuesday, as the government completes the milestone.

The distribution plan was finalised at a training camp held in New Town, on the outskirts of Kolkata, on Monday. The BJP said the publication will present the government's early efforts in administration, investment, welfare and public safety.

The move is intended to inform people about the work carried out since the party came to power after the Assembly elections.

Titled "West Bengal Government's Resolution and 100 Days of Success", the book will highlight investment progress, beneficiaries of welfare schemes and administrative reforms. It will also cover initiatives related to women's safety and financial empowerment. According to a state cabinet member, the publication will compare promises made in the party's election manifesto with steps taken during the first 100 days.

The government has identi-

fied reducing corruption and political interference in administration as key priorities. It has also focused on encouraging industrial development and improving governance. BJP leaders said the first 100 days would not be marked by any official celebration.

Instead, the party plans to treat the first year in office as the bigger test of its performance. The cabinet member said people would then be able to assess whether the government's policies and administrative changes had delivered meaningful results. The book is expected to serve as an early account of the government's priorities and achievements for citizens.

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Prashant Kishor takes oath as MLA

PATNA

Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor on Monday took oath as the MLA of Bankipur at the Bihar Legislative Assembly. He took the oath in the presence of Assembly Speaker Prem Kumar and described becoming a member of the House as a great honour.

Speaking to reporters, Kishor said the position carried a major responsibility. He recalled several prominent leaders who had represented the Assembly, including Srikrishna Singh, Anugrah Narayan Singh, Kedar Pandey, Karpoori Thakur, Lalu Prasad, Nitish Kumar, Ram Vilas Paswan and Sushil Kumar Modi. He said he would try to meet the expectations of the people. Kishor defeated BJP candidate Neeraj Kumar Sinha by around 20,000 votes in the Bankipur bypoll held on July 30. The election was required after BJP national president Nitin Nabin vacated the constituency following his nomination to the Rajya Sabha. The result ended the BJP's nearly three-decade hold over the seat.

SC seeks menstrual health bench to hear school toilet PIL

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed a PIL on inadequate sanitation facilities for girls in schools to be listed before the bench that recognised menstrual health as a fundamental right.

The plea seeks functional, separate toilets, running water, cleanliness, menstrual hygiene facilities, sanitary waste disposal and accessibility for children with special needs across government, aided and private schools nationwide.

BJP reshuffles national leadership team

NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national president Nitin Nabin announced a major reshuffle of the party's national office-bearers on Monday, seven months after taking charge as the party's 12th national president. The new leadership team includes several senior and experienced leaders, with 12 women also receiving important organisational responsibilities.

Former Union minister Smriti Irani has been appointed as one of the BJP's eight national general secretaries. Senior leader Ram Madhav, who earlier served as a national general secretary, has returned to the central organisation as a party vice president. Former Tripura chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb has also been appointed national general secretary.

Union minister Piyush Goyal has been named the party's treasurer, returning to a position he previously held between 2010 and 2014. Anil Baluni will continue as the BJP's media in charge. The newly announced team follows the party's social representation strategy, with leaders from different castes, tribes and communities included in key positions across the organisation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the newly appointed office-bearers and those given fresh responsibilities. In a post on X, Modi said the new team brings together organisational experience, energy and a strong connection with people at the grassroots level. He expressed confidence that the leaders would work towards strengthening the BJP and focusing on public service.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- 12 women appointed
- Smriti Irani gets key role
- Ram Madhav returns
- Piyush Goyal named treasurer
- BJP expands social representation

The reshuffle is expected to strengthen the party's national organisation under Nabin's leadership.

With experienced leaders returning to key posts and wider social representation in the team, the BJP aims to improve its organisational reach and prepare its leadership structure for future political and electoral challenges.

5 ARMY PERSONNEL MISSING IN ARUNACHAL FLOOD

ARUNACHAL

Five Army personnel remained missing on Monday after a flash flood swept through an Army camp in Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang Valley district. A multi-agency search operation continued for the third day to trace the missing

personnel.

The flash flood struck Pasu Pani, around 25 km beyond Mipi Circle, at about 4.30 pm on Friday after a major stream suddenly swelled and flooded the surrounding area.

According to officials, seven Army personnel were caught in the floodwaters after two shel-

ters of the 5th Grenadiers at the Pasu Pani Army Camp were washed away. Two personnel were rescued, while five others remained missing.

The missing personnel have been identified as Havaladar Upendar and Army personnel Kundan, Vinod, Aditya and Samunda.

Joshi orders NTA overhaul after exam lapses

NEW DELHI

Education Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday directed the National Testing Agency (NTA) to conduct a thorough audit of its examination processes and submit a report on corrective measures taken after several lapses in exams this year.

Joshi held a meeting with the Higher Education Secretary, NTA Director General and other senior officials. He directed the agency to ensure strict compliance with examination protocols and overhaul its confidential operations system on a war footing. The NTA had announced a re-examination for three UGC-NET June 2026 subjects — English, Sociology and Commerce — after multiple errors were found in their question papers. The NEET-UG examination held on May 3 was also cancelled following a question paper leak and was re-conducted on June 21.

The CUET-UG examination faced further problems when 3,765 students could not appear for the test due to a technical glitch in the examination software. The ministry said the NTA would strengthen systems including secluded rooms, air-gapped systems



NTA exam process audit

- NTA ordered to audit exams
- UGC-NET re-exam announced
- NEET paper leak investigated
- 3,765 CUET students affected
- 50+ staff members terminated
- 10 new leadership posts

and device-deposit protocols.

More than 50 NTA staff members have been terminated in connection with the NEET paper leak, with legal or criminal action expected against some of them. The agency has also advertised 10 new professional leadership positions, including Chief Technology Officer, Chief Finance Officer and Chief Information Security Officer. Domain specialists from the private sector are being brought in for cyber-security, psychometrics and question-paper design.

IRCTC seizes thousands of unauthorised water bottles

NEW DELHI

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has intensified checks against unauthorised food and drinking water being sold or supplied on trains and railway premises. The enforcement drive has so far resulted in over 8,000 bottles of unauthorised packaged drinking water being seized across regions.

IRCTC has formed Quick Response Teams (QRTs) to conduct inspections in coordination with the department of

Indian Railways. The teams are checking trains and stations for packaged water, food, beverages and other products that do not meet standards. The action is aimed at stopping unauthorised sales and protecting passengers.

In the Lucknow region, officials inspected 117 trains between July 28 and August 8 and seized 5,241 bottles of unauthorised packaged drinking water. In Chandigarh, 51 trains were checked, leading to the seizure of 3,108 bottles. During surprise inspections in Ambala, officials.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Ports and Inland Water Transport Department)

Karnataka Maritime Board

office of the Chief Executive Officer, Karnataka Maritime Board, Baithkol, Karwar-581302

No.PIWT-72/ WKS-II /2021 Dated: 07.08.2026

(KMB/Tech/WKS/66/2025-PRTE (E-275392)

TENDER NOTICE (Only in E-Procurement) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, tender is invited in E-Procurement (KPPP Portal) to execute below mentioned work. To participate in E-Procurement, and for more information visit (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp>) website. For further Extension, if any refer above mentioned website, no separate paper notification will be issued.

Name of work: (1) Ro-Ro Ferry - Design, construction, supply and commissioning of Steel LCT/Vessel double ended Ro-Ro Ferry for Kankanawadi - Nadugudde in Jamkhandi Taluk of Bagalkot District. (Indent No: **IDD/2026-27/OW/ WORK_INDENT248**) Amount put to tender (Excl. GST) (in Rs.): **3,67,55,700.00**, EMD (In Rs.): **5,51,500.00 (E-Payment Only)**, Last date for Queries/ Clarification: **02.09.2026 @ 17.30 hours**, Last Date of receipt of Tender: **17.09.2026 @ 17.30 hours** For further details and general enquiries, prospective bidders may contact the undersigned office (phone No.: **08382-221035/221494** and **E-mail: piwtdev.wks@gmail.com**) during working hours.

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/349/26-27 dt. 17.08.2026 Sd/- Port Engineer Karnataka Maritime Board Karwar

ಕುರ್ಬಾನ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ಸಂಚಾರಿ ದಿವ್ಯ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಅಂಚೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ಕಾಲೇಜು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560090, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-28395098

Website : www.chikkabanavaratow.mrc.gov.in, Email: ka.chikkabanavara.tmc@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಪು.ಕಾ.ಚಿ/ಕಾ.ಬೆ/ಸಂಚರ.ಪ್ರ/03/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.08.2026

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಟೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅದ್ವಾದೇಶ 1999-2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್ 2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಟೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ **CMIDP** ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದ್ವಿ-ಲೋಕೀ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಬಡ್ಡಿಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.-ಪ್ರಕ್ಟೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ(ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ
01	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT61411	215.00	267000.00

1. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.-ಪ್ರಕ್ಟೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. 2. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **18.09.2026** ರಂದು. 3. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.-ಪ್ರಕ್ಟೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಿಳಿಯುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-

ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು

ಕುರ್ಬಾನ್, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/2179/ವೆಡಿ ಸಾಬ್/2026-27

ಸಹಿ/-

ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ

ಕುರ್ಬಾನ್, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS

State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560001. Tel : 080-22215601, Fax: 080 22215602

No: DYES/YN/YC/10/2026-27 Dated: 17.08.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

According to Karnataka Transparency in public procurement act 1999 and Rules 2000 the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports is inviting short term tender for the Procurement of Sports Kits under Yuva Chaithanya scheme for the year 2026-27.

Particulars : Procurement of Sports Kits under Yuva Chaithanya scheme for the year 2026-27. Tender Amount (INR in Lakhs) : **40.00** EMD : **Rs 80,000/-**. a) Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender Documents through E- Procurement Portal: **Dt. 31.08.2026,time 16.30Hrs.** b) Opening of Technical Bid : **Dt. 01.09.2026: time 16.30 Hrs.** c) **Opening of Financial Bid : Will be intimated through E-procurement portal**

The Tender should be submitted through E-Procurement Portal (<http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>). Bidders need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal.

Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address.

Sd/-

Deputy Director/Admin) and Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/CP/2187/Zen/2026-27 Department of Youth Empowerment and sports

Quick Read

Defence ministry signs Rs 1,943-crore drone

CH NEWS, New Delhi The Ministry of Defence on Monday announced that it has signed a contract with General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) to lease two MQ-9B Sea Guardian High-Altitude Long-Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) for the Indian Navy for 30 months. The contract, valued at approximately Rs 1,943 crore, was signed at Kartavya Bhawan-2 in New Delhi in the presence of Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisition), Department of Defence, A. Anbarasu.

India's deeptech sector draws \$11.4 billion since 2015

CH NEWS, New Delhi India's deeptech sector has attracted nearly \$11.4 billion in private equity and venture capital investments between 2015 and 2026 year-to-date, according to a report released on Monday. A report by the Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association (IVCA) said that 2025 emerged as the strongest year on record despite a broader slowdown in start-up funding. In addition, artificial intelligence (AI), generative AI, electric vehicles (EVs) and battery technologies accounted for a significant share of deployed capital, while semiconductors and space-tech emerged as the fastest-growing segments.

Fed to hold interest rates this year-end

CH NEWS, New York The Federal Reserve will keep its key interest rate unchanged next month and through year-end, according to most economists in a Reuters poll, a view they have held for the past several months. Market pricing for a September quarter point hike flipped toward a near-70% chance of a hold, after recent news of unexpected job losses in July. Lower-than-expected consumer price inflation, alongside weaker retail sales, has also reinforced the view not all is well with the world's largest economy. However, with the U.S.-Iran conflict now in its sixth month and oil prices about 25% above pre-war levels, markets are still pricing in one rate increase by end-December.

India emerges World's second-largest fish producer

NEW DELHI India is the world's second-largest fish producer, contributing 8 per cent to global output, ranks second in aquaculture production, leads in shrimp production and export, and is one of the largest producers in capture fisheries, the government said on Monday. Since 2015, the government has made cumulative investments of Rs 39,272 crore through key initiatives such as the Blue

AGRICULTURE ROADMAP PUSH

Govt to turn 'Sapt Dhara of Shakti' into action

NEW DELHI Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan will administer a pledge to officials of both ministries at the Pusa campus in New Delhi on Tuesday, as the government moves to translate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Sapt Dhara of Shakti' vision into an actionable roadmap for agriculture and rural development. According to an official statement, the programme will review departmental roadmaps, focus on expanding the 'Lakhpati Didi' initiative and examining important decisions con-

ECMS approves Rs 7,877 crore investments

India accelerates electronics component manufacturing as fresh ECMS approvals bring Rs 7,877 crore investments, expand production capacity, deepen domestic supply chains, while creating more jobs nationwide and strengthen local industry.

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has approved nearly 31 applications involving investments of Rs 7,877 crore under the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), giving a fresh push to India's efforts to build a stronger domestic electronics supply chain. MeitY Secretary S Krishnan said the latest approvals cover a wide range of components, including camera and



display modules, anode materials, enclosures, connectors, transducers, rare-earth permanent magnets, optical transceivers, speakers, microphones, relays and antennas. Other approved products include acetylene black, hermet-

India clears 31 more ECMS projects worth Rs 7,877 crore

Nearly 31 fresh ECMS applications approved.

Nearly 10,000 jobs projected.

Expected production worth Rs 82,243 crore.

Projects spread across 10 states.

Nearly 31 fresh ECMS applications approved.

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Expected production worth Rs 82,243 crore.

Projects spread across 10 states.

ic terminals, electrolyte additives, metallised films, coils, filters, capacitors and metal shielding covers. The newly approved projects are spread across 10 states and are expected to generate production worth Rs 82,243

crore while creating nearly 10,000 jobs. An enhanced investment in copper-clad laminates, which had received approval earlier, is also part of the latest round. With the approvals, the government has cleared 106 ECMS applica-

tions covering around 30 product categories across 15 states. These projects represent cumulative investments of Rs 69,548 crore, surpassing the scheme's original investment target of Rs 59,350 crore. Expected production has also

Trump-backed Crypto firm partners Chinese AI venture

BOSTON

President Donald Trump-backed World Liberty Financial is collaborating with a Hong Kong-based venture offering artificial intelligence models developed by Chinese companies the U.S. administration has flagged for national security concerns. WorldClaw, founded earlier this year, offers customers access to a suite of AI models and accepts World Liberty's crypto tokens as payment. The Trump family, through its ownership stake, earns revenue from the use of World Liberty's tokens. A review found that 43 of the 90 models available through WorldClaw's website, or nearly half, were developed by Alibaba, Baidu, Z.ai and other Chinese technology companies the Trump

administration says pose risks to national security and intellectual property. WorldClaw also offers access to dozens of models from U.S. firms such as OpenAI and Anthropic. There's nothing illegal about World Liberty's collaboration with WorldClaw or with WorldClaw's relationships with the Chinese companies. And such Chinese models, which are typically less expensive, are gaining traction globally, including among U.S. tech companies. Still, seven experts on Chinese technology, trade and government ethics said the business collaboration — and the potential profits for President Trump through World Liberty runs counter to his administration's stance towards Chinese tech companies.

RBI seeks stronger NBFC Risk controls

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has sought feedback from non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) on draft guidelines proposed for regulating revolving credit facilities, while calling for stronger compliance, internal audit and risk management systems across the sector. During a recent interaction with senior NBFC executives, the central bank emphasised the need for robust internal controls and closer monitoring of financial products experiencing rapid growth. The RBI also indicated that it is working towards bringing the regulatory framework for NBFCs closer to global



The RBI is seeking stronger oversight of NBFCs as technology-driven lending expands, urging lenders to improve risk management, compliance and consumer safeguards.

Key Focus Areas

Draft rules for revolving credit facilities

Stronger internal controls and audits

Early identification of emerging risks

Better grievance redressal

Compliance with digital lending rules

Adherence to the Digital Personal Data Protection Act

could provide useful insights for framing regulations in emerging areas. The role of self-regulatory organisations (SROs) was also discussed. The RBI clarified that SROs should not function as parallel regulators but should act as the industry's first line of defence by encouraging

compliance and helping address emerging risks. NBFCs were further asked to strengthen customer grievance redressal mechanisms and ensure complaints are resolved effectively within prescribed timelines. The regulator also stressed full compliance with its digital lending framework and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act. The emphasis comes as NBFCs increasingly use digital platforms and technology for customer acquisition, underwriting and servicing, making stronger safeguards increasingly important for maintaining consumer protection and financial stability. Sanjay Malhotra: The RBI stressed that new products and business models must be assessed for risks early, before vulnerabilities accumulate across NBFC operations.

Bangladesh sees foreign investor exodus

NEW DELHI

Foreign investors continued to pull money out of Bangladesh's stock market during FY26, with policy uncertainty, weak corporate earnings, banking-sector stress and currency risks weighing on investor confidence, according to a new report. The Daily Star, citing Bangladesh Bank data, reported that net foreign portfolio outflows rose to \$223 million in FY26 from \$138 million a year earlier. Foreign portfolio investment has remained negative since FY21, with the latest figures indicating that the pace of withdrawals is increasing. Market insiders attributed part of the investor concern to regulatory interventions, particularly the repeated use of floor prices in the stock market. The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission first introduced floor prices in 2020 to contain a pandemic-era sell-off. The restrictions were subse-



Foreign Investor Concerns

FY26 foreign portfolio outflows: \$223 million

FY25 outflows: \$138 million

Foreign investment has remained negative since FY21.

Floor-price interventions hurt investor confidence.

Banking-sector stress and currency risks remain concerns.

MSCI regular index reviews expected to resume in November 2026

quently lifted in phases before being reimposed on 169 companies in 2023. The restriction was removed from all but 35 companies in the following year. After the Awami League government fell in August 2024, floor prices were lifted from all but two companies. The remaining restrictions were removed in June this year after the BNP government took office in February. Despite improvements in Bangladesh's broader macro-economic fundamentals, experts said restoring foreign investor confidence will take time. Kazi Monirul Islam, CEO of Shanta Asset Management, said investors tend to remember policy decisions that have previously affected their investments. Meanwhile, Saiful Islam, president of the DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh, said MSCI had paused regular index reviews of Bangladesh following the floor-price measures.

World Bank warns Pakistan over diverting funds meant for flood-hit poor

NEW DELHI

Expressing serious displeasure, the World Bank has warned the Pakistan government that redirecting funds from a multi-billion-rupee resilient housing programme for the flood-affected population in Balochistan to infrastructure projects would further aggravate poverty in the state, according to a report in the Pakistani media. After meetings with the Federal Minister for Planning, the Chief Minister of Balochistan and others following the capping of housing support at 62,966 first-tranche beneficiaries as of June 22, 2026, and subsidy support to 97,000, the World Bank's Country Director, Boloromaa Amgaabazar, expressed concern over the decision as well as the handling of issues pertaining to fraud and corruption, the report in Dawn newspaper stated. Based on the socio-economic profile of the eligible household, the risk is not simply that households remain without housing assis-



tance; rather, it is that existing vulnerabilities become mutually reinforcing and deepen over time, the World Bank said in detailed communication to the Federal and Balochistan governments. In this case, 84 per cent of eligible beneficiaries are ultra-poor and vulnerable, with 28 per cent earning less than \$30 and another 26 per cent earning between \$31 and \$70 per month, while 39 per cent are tenants, 37 per cent are daily-wage labourers, and 8 per cent are small farmers. These groups typically have limited savings, weak access to formal credit, few productive assets and

low capacity to absorb shocks, the World Bank has pointed out. Amgaabazar wrote to the Federal Secretaries for Economic Affairs and Planning, as well as the Secretary of Balochistan, that the capping and redirection of housing support was leaving 119,049 verified and eligible households without identified financing support. Its public disclosure before the finalisation of a jointly agreed communication strategy with the bank had also created risks, as households that had completed verification and signed the project undertakings might continue to expect housing assistance.

US railroad Union Pacific turned charges meant to cover fuel cost

LOS ANGELES

U.S. railroad Union Pacific collected \$91.1 million more in fuel surcharges than it paid for fuel during the second quarter, far outpacing rivals, according to a company filing with the Surface Transportation Board and first reported by Reuters. Those excess surcharges boosted Union Pacific's profit, underlining criticism from some shippers that surcharges meant to recoup rising petroleum costs due to the U.S. and Israeli war on Iran are sometimes excessive. Railroads are the only U.S. transportation companies that report both fuel costs and fuel surcharge revenue to regulators, offering rare insight into how surcharges can improve company profits.



Union Pacific said its year-over-year percentage fuel surcharge increase is in line with the industry. STB filings showed that only Norfolk Southern and CSX also had surpluses, of \$3.6 million and \$8.4 million, respectively, during the second quarter. Ultimately, fuel surcharges are a component of the overall cost we negotiate with customers and something they take into consideration when choosing Union Pacific and the service we provide,

Union Pacific said in a statement. Last month, Union Pacific said fuel surcharges added earnings of 14 cents per share in the second quarter. Based on shares outstanding, that works out to \$83.2 million in profit. Union Pacific is seeking regulatory approval for an \$85 billion acquisition of Norfolk Southern to create the first railroad operator spanning the continental United States. The Stop the Rail Merger Coalition, which includes six state attorneys general, rival railroads, labor unions and agricultural and chemical industry groups, says creating a railroad with 50% market share of domestic rail freight would reduce competition and boost shipping costs that consumers ultimately pay.

India twice lead China, Settle for 2-2 draw

Zhang Ying equalized at 1-1, converting a controversial stroke awarded after going down during a challenge

NEW DELHI

India twice took the lead but were held to a 2-2 draw by China in their opening match of the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup in Amsterdam on Monday. The Indian team made a bright start but could not hold on to its advantage as China fought back on both occasions.

India began with attacking intent and broke the deadlock early in the contest. The advantage, however, lasted only until the closing stages of the first quarter, when China earned a penalty stroke. Zhang Ying converted the opportunity to make it 1-1. The Chinese player appeared to have won the stroke after going down during a challenge, adding controversy to the equaliser.

India regained the lead after the break through another well-worked attacking move. The team looked composed and created opportunities to extend its advantage, but China remained persistent and continued to put pressure on the Indian defence.

China eventually found another equaliser in the final quarter, ensuring the points were shared. India had chances to regain control late in the match but could not find the decisive goal, leaving both sides with a point from their opening fixture.

The draw gives India a useful start to a demanding World Cup campaign, although the team will be disappointed after twice being ahead. Defensive discipline and greater efficiency in front of goal will be important as India prepares for its next pool match.



INDIA/CHINA WOMEN'S HOCKEY WORLD CUP OPENER
• India and China shared the points after a hard-fought draw in their opening fixture of the World Cup campaign.
• India twice took the lead—starting with an early attacking breakthrough and regaining the advantage after the break—only for China to fight back both times.
• Zhang Ying converted a controversial penalty stroke just before the end of the first quarter after going down during a challenge.
• China struck again late in the match to level the score and avoid defeat.
• The draw provides a useful start to a demanding group stage, but the team will likely feel disappointed after letting the lead slip twice.
• Key areas for improvement ahead of the next pool match include defensive discipline and greater efficiency in front of goal.
• China showed strong character by mounting successful comebacks on two separate occasions to secure a valuable opening point.

The tournament features the best women's hockey teams from around the world, with India competing against strong opposition in the group stage. The Indian side will be looking to build momentum from the performance while addressing the areas that allowed China to come back twice.

For China, the result represented a valuable comeback after falling behind on two occasions. Zhang's penalty-stroke conversion provided the first response, while

the late equaliser ensured China avoided defeat. India will now shift focus to its next match, where it will aim to convert its attacking opportunities into goals and secure its first victory of the World Cup. The team showed enough quality to maintain its advantage more effectively in the upcoming games.

The 2-2 result leaves India with one point and plenty to build on as the tournament progresses.

T20 cricket eyes Africa as next global frontier

BENGALURU

T20 cricket is rapidly expanding the global reach of the sport, with Africa emerging as one of the biggest untapped markets for the shortest format. The growth of franchise leagues, led by the Indian Premier League (IPL), has demonstrated how T20 cricket can attract new audiences, players and commercial opportunities beyond traditional cricketing nations. Before the IPL began in 2008, the idea of establishing a major professional cricket league across East African nations would have appeared highly ambitious. However, the IPL's international influence has transformed perceptions of what is possible in cricket. Its success has inspired similar competitions in several countries and created a global ecosystem for T20 talent.

Africa offers considerable potential because of its large young population, growing sporting audiences and existing interest in cricket in countries such as South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Namibia and Zimbabwe. A well-structured T20 competition involving teams from East African nations could help introduce the sport to new communities while providing local players with opportunities to develop alongside international stars. The success of franchise cricket has also created a pathway for players from emerging cricket nations. African cricketers have increasingly featured in international T20 leagues, gaining exposure to high-level coaching, modern training methods and professional competition.



PV Sindhu eyes sixth World Championships Medal

NEW DELHI

India's badminton star PV Sindhu is aiming to add another historic chapter to her remarkable career as the BWF World Championships return to the country after 17 years. The five-time world medallist begins her campaign in New Delhi with her sights firmly set on a record sixth medal at the prestigious tournament.

Sindhu has already established herself as one of the most successful players in World Championships history. She has won five medals, including two silver and one gold, and remains one of India's biggest hopes at the tournament. The 31-year-old will now look to produce another strong run on home soil.

The return of the World Championships to India adds extra significance to the occasion. The tournament is being held at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium from August 17 to 23, bringing the global badminton showcase back to the country for the first time since 2009.

Sindhu enters the competition with considerable experience of major events but faces a demanding field featuring many of the world's leading players. Her ability to manage the physical demands of a long tournament and maintain consistency through successive rounds will be crucial to her medal ambitions.

The Indian star has endured an evolving phase in her career, but her hunger for success remains undiminished. Playing in front of a home crowd could provide an additional boost as she attempts to extend her extraordinary record at the World Championships.

Sindhu is scheduled to open her campaign against Ireland's Sophia Noble. A victory would take her a step closer to another deep run and keep alive her hopes of becoming the first player to win six World Championships medals.

India will also have several other contenders in action during the tournament. Ayush Shetty faces defending champion and top seed Shi Yu Qi of China, while women's doubles pair Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand begin their campaign against Spain's Paula Lopez and Lucia Rodriguez. With the World Championships finally back in India, Sindhu has another opportunity to add to her legacy. Her target is clear: another medal, another memorable campaign and a place in badminton history.

Mbappe scores as real madrid beat Schalke

MADRID

Real Madrid concluded their pre-season preparations with a victory over Schalke, with Kylian Mbappe finding the net and new signing Diamonde making his debut for the Spanish giants.

Mbappe once again provided a glimpse of his attacking threat as Real Madrid completed their final friendly ahead of the new competitive campaign. The French forward was among the key players involved as Madrid secured a positive result before turning their attention to the start of the season.

The match also offered supporters an opportunity to see Diamonde in a Real Madrid shirt for the first time. The new arrival was introduced as part of manager Xabi Alonso's preparations and will now look to settle into the squad as the club enters the competitive phase of the season.

Real Madrid used the friendly to assess their squad and sharpen their tactical approach ahead of the new campaign. Alonso has been working to build a balanced side featuring established stars and new additions, with the final pre-season outing providing valuable match practice.

Mbappe remains one of the central figures in Madrid's plans after making a significant impact since joining the club. His goalscoring ability will be crucial as Real Madrid prepare for a demanding season across domestic and European competitions. The victory over Schalke also gave the Madrid squad an opportunity to build confidence before competitive fixtures begin.



RONIN FC 3 brings global MMA to Bengaluru

BENGALURU

Bengaluru hosted a major international combat sports event on Independence Day as RONIN FC 3 – The Legacy Awakens brought together 146 athletes from India, Nepal, Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium.

Organised by Sinhoi Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd. in association with the All India Mixed Martial Arts Federation (AIMMAF), the third edition featured 13 MMA bouts, including six preliminary contests and seven professional fights. A capacity crowd witnessed athletes from India compete alongside fighters from international MMA markets, highlighting

Bengaluru's growing profile as a destination for combat sports.

Adding a strong Indian identity to the event was a 45-minute Kalaripayattu showcase by Agastham Kalari. The performance was integrated into the main programme and highlighted the movement, discipline and heritage of the traditional martial art. Organisers said the showcase reflected the event's aim of connecting India's martial traditions with the global growth of mixed martial arts.

The build-up began on August 14 with India's first fight-week face-off at The Quad by BLR at Kempegowda International Airport's Terminal 1. The session featured official weigh-ins and head-to-head encounters, offering media and guests a preview of the matchups.

The August 15 fight card produced several notable performances. Nepal's Shusmita defeated Shalu Sharma, while Ashish Rawat overcame Manoj Ramjali. Dipanjali of Kolkata defeated Kerala's

Lija, and Mumbai's Rohit beat Delhi's Pankaj Mehra.

RONIN FC Co-Founder and Promoter Arun Kumar Krishnan said staging the event on Independence Day carried special significance. He said the promotion aimed to give Indian athletes a platform to compete with international fighters and build a lasting legacy for MMA in the country.

The event was broadcast in partnership with Locker Room, with campaign metrics indicating a reach of more than 5.7 million. SCAR supported the event as apparel partner, while Aster Hospitals provided medical services, CSR Global supported travel and The Quad by BLR served as venue partner.

RONIN FC is an AIMMAF-sanctioned MMA promotion established by Sinhoi Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd. The latest edition expanded its international participation and combined professional MMA competition with a showcase of India's martial arts heritage.

Cardinals rookie Jeremiyah Love sidelined with ankle sprain

PHOENIX

Arizona Cardinals rookie running back Jeremiyah Love is expected to miss the remainder of the NFL preseason after suffering a high ankle sprain, according to a report by ESPN. The Cardinals are hopeful the third overall pick in April's draft will recover in time for their regular-season opener against the Los Angeles Chargers on September 13.

Love suffered the injury during the second quarter of

Arizona's preseason game against the Las Vegas Raiders on Friday. Before leaving the contest, the 21-year-old carried the ball 11 times for 58 yards.

Cardinals coach Mike LaFleur initially indicated after the game that Love was not expected to miss an extended period. However, his assessment changed the following day, when he told reporters that the rookie would be sidelined from practice during the week.

Love did not feature in Ari-

zona's preseason opener against the Carolina Panthers in the Hall of Fame game. His performance against the Raiders had been his first preseason appearance with the Cardinals and provided a glimpse of the expectations surrounding the highly rated running back.

The former Notre Dame standout finished third in Heisman Trophy voting last season after rushing for 1,372 yards and 18 touchdowns. During his college career, Love recorded 2,882 rushing

yards, 594 receiving yards and 42 total touchdowns in 41 games for the Fighting Irish.

The injury comes at an unfortunate time for Arizona, with other running backs also dealing with fitness issues. James Conner is recovering from a foot problem, while Trey Benson is managing a knee injury.

With several options in the backfield unavailable, the Cardinals moved quickly to strengthen their running-back group.

Bengaluru to host FIBA Women's Basketball league Asia

In 2024, Chengdu, China, hosted the inaugural Asian club-based competition, launching a new platform for elite regional women's basketball

BENGALURU

Bengaluru is set to host the FIBA Women's Basketball League Asia in India, bringing the continent's leading women's club basketball competition to the city for the first time. The tournament will mark an important milestone for Indian basketball and further strengthen Bengaluru's reputation as a major sporting destination.

The FIBA Women's Basketball League Asia is organised by FIBA Asia and features leading clubs from across the continent. The inaugural edition of the Asian club-based competition was held in Chengdu, China, in 2024, establishing a new platform for elite women's basketball in the region.

Hosting the competition in Bengaluru is expected to provide Indian players and basketball fans with an opportunity to experience high-level international club basketball on home soil. The event could



also help increase the visibility of women's basketball in the country and encourage greater participation at the grassroots level.

Bengaluru has a strong basketball culture and a history of hosting major sporting events. The city's established sporting infrastructure, enthusiastic fan base and growing international profile make it a suitable venue for a tournament involving some of Asia's top clubs.

The arrival of the FIBA competition also comes at a time when women's basketball is gaining greater attention globally. International leagues and club tournaments are creating more professional opportunities for female players, while improving competition standards and expanding the

sport's commercial appeal.

For Indian basketball, the tournament offers an opportunity to showcase the country's growing capabilities as both a participant and host. Local players will also benefit from exposure to international athletes and coaching systems, potentially contributing to the development of the domestic game. The Bengaluru event is expected to attract basketball supporters from across the city and provide a platform for promoting the sport among young athletes. With FIBA Asia continuing to expand its women's club competitions, hosting the league represents another step towards making Bengaluru and India important destinations on the Asian basketball calendar.

