

Kushner meets Netanyahu to push Trump Gaza plan

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ECMS approves Rs 7,877 cr investments



P12

Theegala, Bhatia, Aaron Rai advance as Scheffler wins



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.

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



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' of the 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 Tejasvi Surya. The appointment

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

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.

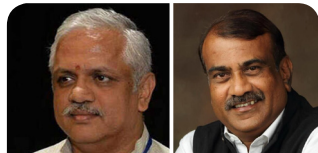
GENERAL SECRETARIES: The team features Vinod Tawde, Sunil Bansal, Bipal Kumar Deb, Smriti Irani, Satish Poonia, Gajendra Patel, Harish Dwivedi, and Sanjay Bhatia. B.L. Santosh remains General Secretary (Organisation).

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.

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

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.

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.

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



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.

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.

tween 158 and 550 cusecs from July 29 to August 2.

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BJP's structure

At the top of the BJP sits a marg darshak mandal of four including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, senior figures LK Advani and Murlu 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).

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 Panda. Then are the party's eight general secretaries as mentioned above.

NTA SET FOR MAJOR RESET!

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.

7 killed, several hurt in Bihar temple stampede

Lakhisarai: Seven people were killed and around 10 others injured in a stampede at the Ashok Dham temple in Bihar's Lakhisarai as a large number of devotees gathered to offer prayers on the third Monday of Sawan. Most of those killed were women, police said.

Providing details on the cause of the tragedy, Lakhisarai District Magistrate (DM) Shailendra Kumar said, "The crowd swelled in an unprecedented manner. Around 6.30-

6.45 am, two trains arrived here, which also added to the crowd. Arrangements were made as we had anticipated the crowd."

He said physical pressure of the gathering led to the mishap. "We then came to know that the barricading broke on one side due to the crowd, and people fell on each other. We rushed 10-15 people here immediately," he added.

The injured have been shifted to local medical facilities for treatment.

8 killed in hotel blaze in Bengal's Tarapith

Tarapith (WB): Eight people died in a fire at a hotel in West Bengal's Birbhum district early on Monday, following which police detained one person for alleged lapses in the maintenance of the establishment's fire-fighting system, officials said.

Of the 43 people who were in the hotel in the temple town of Tarapith when the fire broke out, one was undergoing treatment at a hospital, and 34 have been discharged after preliminary examination, they said. The fire erupted around 4.30 am on the ground floor of the four-storey hotel, when most of the guests were asleep. Many of them were devotees who had come to offer prayers on the last Monday of the holy month of Shrawan.

Several guests were trapped on the upper floors as thick smoke spread through the building. Fire tenders were rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control.

SIR Exercise: Enumeration of 27.99 Lakh voters completed in Mysuru Dist

5.57 Lakh Electors Flagged Under ASDDO Category

MYSURU

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Mysuru district has reached a crucial stage, with enumeration forms for all 27,99,693 electors in the district having been printed and distributed, achieving 100 per cent completion.

According to the Daily Press Release issued by the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru, on Monday evening, the house-to-house enumeration process was conducted from June 30 to August 17, 2026. The digitisation of enumeration forms was also carried out during the same period.

Of the total 27,99,693 Enumeration Forms (EFs) distributed, 22,42,509 forms have been digitised, accounting for 80.10 per cent of the

total. The remaining forms are in various stages of processing.

5.57 Lakh Electors Under ASDDO Category

The digitisation data has identified 5,57,184 electors under the ASDDO category, constituting 19.90 per cent of the total electorate. Of these, 1,34,325 electors (4.80%) have been categorised as untraceable or absent. As many as 2,47,099 electors (8.83%) have been identified as permanently shifted. The data also shows that 1,14,157 electors (4.08%) are deceased, while 43,903 electors (1.57%) have already been enrolled elsewhere. Another 17,700 electors (0.63%) fall under the 'Others' category.

The figures assume significance as the SIR exercise



seeks to identify and verify names of deceased, shifted, duplicate and untraceable

electors, thereby helping ensure greater accuracy in the electoral rolls.

Nanjangud, Narasimharaja among key figures

The district-wise report covers all 11 Assembly constituencies—Periyapatna, Krishnarajanagar, Hunsur, Heggadadevankote, Nanjangud, Chamundeshwari, Krishnaraja, Chamaraja, Narasimharaja, Varuna and T. Narasipur.

Narasimharaja Assembly constituency recorded the highest number of electors under the ASDDO category at 99,416, followed by Chamaraja with 85,854, Krishnaraja with 86,757, and Chamundeshwari with 75,846.

In Chamundeshwari constituency, enumeration forms were distributed to 3,57,327

electors, of which 2,91,481 forms have been digitised.

Verification Next Major Step

With 100 per cent distribution of enumeration forms completed, verification and further processing of the digitised data and ASDDO-category electors will be the next crucial phase.

The exercise is aimed at ensuring that no genuine voter is left out of the electoral roll while ineligible, duplicate, deceased or shifted entries are identified and removed after due verification.

Overall, the SIR exercise in Mysuru has entered a significant phase, with the electoral authorities processing data relating to nearly 28 lakh electors to prepare a more accurate and updated electoral roll.

ID Celebrated at Mysore Home for the Homeless and Home for Aged

MYSURU

The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic spirit and enthusiasm at Mysore Home for the Homeless and Old Age Home on Saturday.

The National Flag was hoisted by Amanulla Khan, Founder & President of Victory Charitable Trust and Secretary of the Mysore District Chemist & Druggist Welfare Association (MDCDWA), who was the Chief Guest of the programme. Ibrahim Sait, Vice President of Mysore Home for the Homeless, welcomed the gathering and expressed his gratitude to the guests and inmates for their participation in the Independence Day celebration.

Addressing the gathering, Khan highlighted the significance of Independence Day and paid tribute to the freedom fighters whose sacrifices secured the nation's freedom. He also appreciated the inmates of the home and encouraged them to remain positive and live a peaceful, happy and dignified life.

The celebration was attended by the inmates, staff and members associated with the home. The programme reflected the spirit of patriotism, compassion and social responsibility.



MDCDWA celebrates ID with Inmates of Navjeevan Niketan Home for Destitute

MYSURU

The Mysore District Chemist & Druggist Welfare Association (MDCDWA) celebrated Independence Day with the inmates of Navjeevan Niketan Home for Destitute in Mysuru, spreading a message of compassion, social responsibility and freedom from addiction.

The national flag was hoisted by M. Khalid Ahmed Khan, Deputy Drugs Controller, Food Safety & Drug Administration (F/S), Mysuru. Association President Kumar



Swamy, Secretary Amanulla Khan, and other office bearers and members were present on the occasion.

Welcoming the gathering, Kumar Swamy highlighted the importance of celebrating

Independence Day not merely as a commemoration of India's freedom, but also as an opportunity to serve society and support those in need.

In his address, the Chief Guest, Khalid Ahmed Khan,

emphasized that true independence is not only freedom from foreign or external rule, but also freedom from drug addiction and other harmful habits. He stressed the importance of creating awareness about drug abuse and working collectively towards building a healthier and drug-free society.

The celebration was also marked by interaction with the inmates of Navjeevan Niketan Home, reflecting the Association's commitment to social welfare and community service.

Perfect Pass Football Academy crowned double national champions

MYSURU

Perfect Pass Football Academy, Mysuru, emerged as the double national champions at the Independence Day Cup 2026, a national-level football championship organised by Titans Football Club.

U-10: National Champions

The Perfect Pass U-10 team dominated the tournament, registering three wins in the league stage. It defeated VFC 3-1, Chikkamagaluru Football Club 3-0 and ARC 4-3 to top its group and qualify for the semi-finals. In the final, Perfect Pass defeated VFC 6-3. Manvik scored three goals, while Jeeva Arun scored two and Bhavin one.

In another decisive match, Perfect Pass registered a 5-1 victory over Titans Football Club. Jeeva Arun scored twice, while Manvik, Maurya M. Aras and Mohammed Umar Khan scored one each.

The U-10 team was led by captain Jeeva Arun and vice-captain Maurya M. Aras. Other team members



were Bhavin, Manvik, Shriskanda, Mokshith, Mohammed Umar Khan and Rishan Singh. Tilak G. and Giridhar were the support players.

U-12: National Champions

The U-12 team also displayed excellent fighting spirit and consistency. In the league stage, Perfect Pass defeated United Football Club 3-0, with Bhavin scoring twice and Vachan R scoring once.

It then defeated Real Madrid Football Club 3-0, with goals from M.D. Yusuf, Leeshaan Devayya and Vachan R.

In the final, Perfect Pass defeated Titans Football Club 2-0. Vachan R and Bhavin scored one goal each.

The U-12 team was led by captain Vachan R, with Vishnu Nandan serving as vice-captain and goalkeeper. Team members included Harshajith, Adam, Bhavin, R.M. Kumar, Chirayu, Leeshaan Devayya, Mohammed Yusuf and Sharav Singh.

Both teams impressed throughout the championship with excellent teamwork, sporting spirit, tactical discipline and composure under pressure.



Flag hoisting and tree planting mark ID celebration

MYSURU

As part of the 80th Independence Day celebrations, the Golden City Trust, Mysuru, and the Vijayanagar Citizens' Forum jointly organised a flag-hoisting ceremony and Vanamahotsava programme at a park in Vijayanagar, Mysuru.

The programme was conducted in a traditional manner, with the national flag being hoisted and saplings planted as part of the Vanamahotsava initiative. The organisers highlighted the importance of environmental conservation and encouraging citizens to take responsibility for maintaining green spaces in the city.

Dr. M.C. Rakesh Raje Urs, Physician at Sigma Hospital,

Mysuru, and Dr. Akshatha P. Deshpande were among the chief guests. Golden City Trust president Advocate Pavithra, Trust vice-president Dr. P. Shanthe Raj Urs, Vijayanagar senior citizens, former panchayat president Varadaraju, retired LIC Development Officer S.B. Siddaraju Urs, Anand, Daivada, Postal Department official Prashanth, Jyothi, Lakshmi and Saraswathi, along with Mysuru City Corporation staff, were present.

Golden City Trust members, advocate Gudumarahalli Rajanna, Sreeshailla, president of the Senior Citizens' Association, Mysuru, and representatives of the Edward Senior Citizens' Association also participated.

Felicitations to booth-level SIR BLOs marks 80th ID celebrations in Bannimantap Extn

MYSURU

Residents, Shop Keepers of MCC Ward No.17 and 8, Bannimantap Extension, C-Layout, KSRTC Block, Hanumantha Nagar, Mysuru jointly celebrated 80 th year Independence Day 2026 at 9:00 am at Sri Veeranjaneeya Swamy Temple circle junction to Moulana Mufti Basheer Ahmed Main Road, C-Layout.

Layout in Mysuru

The National Tricolor Flag was jointly hoisted. Paid homage to freedom fighters. Sweets were distributed. All the members meaningfully displayed holding their hands together and raising them upwards as a symbol of unity, brotherhood and solidarity. Then Booth Level Officers of N.R. Assembly constituency MCC Ward No.17 and 8,

Part No.28 BLO Renuka, Saraswathi.R., Sheeba Kousar, Part No.29 Imran Khalid, Dyanal Rink and others, who worked tirelessly since past two months, were felicitated. They appreciated their dedicated service.

Mohd. Mumtaz Ahmed, General Secretary, Bannimantap Welfare Association (R), Mysuru, Naseer Ahmed, Social Worker, MCC Ward No.17, Nasir Khan, Yousuf Jidda, Mirza Jamsheed Baig Ashrafi, Ex-Spokesperson, DCC Minority Department, Samiulla, Accountant, KSRTC, Sathyanarayana, priest at Sri Veeranjaneeya Swamy Temple, Temple, Trust Secretary Suresh, Trustee Shankar, Krishnappa, Balakrishna, social worker Kousar Pasha, Salman Khan, Riyaz, Mubarak and others were present.



CIPET Mysuru to celebrate foundation Day on Aug 19

MYSURU

The Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET), Centre for Skill and Technical Training, Mysuru, is proudly celebrating its Foundation Day on August 19, 2026.

CIPET is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India, functioning under the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals. The institute plays a significant role in developing skilled human resources required for the polymer, petrochemical and plastics industries across the country. As part of the Foundation Day celebrations, an Industry-Institute Interaction Meet is being organized with the objective of further strengthening collaboration between industries and the institute. An Alumni Meet, Parents' Meet, and various cultural and entertainment programmes by students have also been planned as part of the celebrations. The CIPET Centre at Mysuru, Karnataka, was established in 1991 with the support of the State Government. Over the years, the institute has been providing quality education and technical training in the fields of Plastics Technology and Tooling. CIPET, apart from developing skilled professionals to meet the requirements of industries, plays an important role in providing technical training, skill development

and industry-oriented learning opportunities, thereby helping young people secure better employment opportunities.

Recognized as one of the leading skill development institutions in the country, CIPET Mysuru has trained more than 5,000 unemployed youth through short-term, employment-oriented skill development programmes sponsored by state government departments. Through these programmes, the institute provides economically weaker youth with industry-relevant skills, connects them with employment opportunities in reputed industries, and contributes towards their self-reliance and economic empowerment.

ment schemes and development initiatives. "Let us work as role models in contributing to this vision," he added.

In-charge General Manager (Technical) H.K. Jayashankar said the day was an occasion to remember the leaders who sacrificed their lives for the country. While selfishness had increased today, freedom fighters of earlier generations had dedicated their lives to society and the nation. As a result, India had grown into a strong nation and made remarkable progress in technology and education, competing globally with countries across sectors, including software. He called upon everyone to work towards strengthening the Union along with the development of the home, land, water and language.

Mysuru Athletics Club honours state-level junior athletics medal winners

MYSURU

The Mysuru Athletics Club felicitated promising young athletes who excelled at the Karnataka State-Level Junior Athletics Championships held at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, at a function held in Mysuru on Monday.

K. Yukthi, competing in the Under-16 Long Jump, won the gold medal and set a new state-level championship record.

M.A. Varsha secured the silver medal in the Under-18 400-metre race, while Ishana Paikesa won silver in the Under-18 Heptathlon. B. Akshara B. bagged the bronze medal in the Under-16 Long



Jump. The achievers were felicitated by senior journalist Amshi Prasannakumar at a simple ceremony held at the University of Mysore Oval Grounds.

Mysuru Athletics Club

President Chain Singh Purohit, secretary M. Yogendra, organising secretary and athletics coach G.R. Prabhakar, Satyajith, Ravish and the parents of the athletes were present.

Independence Day celebrated at Mysuru Milk Union

MYSURU

The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at the premises of the Mysuru District Milk Producers' Cooperative Societies' Union (MYMUL) at Alana-halli here on Saturday.

The celebrations commenced with the hoisting of the national flag by Managing Director K.N. Suresh Naik.

Speaking on the occasion, Naik said that even after 80 years of independence, true freedom could be experienced only by fulfilling the ideals of the Constitution and by performing one's duties with honesty and dedication. "You work under my instructions, I work under the instructions of the Board of Directors, and the Board functions according



to the government's directions. However, real freedom lies in upholding constitutional values and sincerely serving the institution in which we work," he said.

The MD said that India had attained independence due to the sacrifices and contributions of several great leaders and that the Milk Union had a responsibility to work independently for the welfare of society. Around 1.20 lakh milk producers and their families, 115 milk distribution

lorries, 60 milk tanker owners and drivers, dairy secretaries and employees, together involving nearly 20 lakh people, depend on the Union for their livelihood. Hence, ensuring quality food for consumers was a responsibility of everyone, he said.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed India by 2047, he said the goal could not be achieved overnight and would require the collective efforts of people, along with govern-

ment schemes and development initiatives. "Let us work as role models in contributing to this vision," he added.

In-charge General Manager (Technical) H.K. Jayashankar said the day was an occasion to remember the leaders who sacrificed their lives for the country. While selfishness had increased today, freedom fighters of earlier generations had dedicated their lives to society and the nation. As a result, India had grown into a strong nation and made remarkable progress in technology and education, competing globally with countries across sectors, including software. He called upon everyone to work towards strengthening the Union along with the development of the home, land, water and language.

Training for para-legal volunteers begins in Mysuru

MYSURU

The Para-Legal Volunteer (PLV) scheme is being actively implemented in the district to create legal awareness among the general public and ensure free legal assistance reaches even the last person in society. Volunteers should make the best use of the training, said first additional district and sessions judge Sandhya Rao P.

Speaking after inaugurating a two-day refresher training programme for selected Para-Legal Volunteers of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and Taluk Legal Services Committees at the Abdul Nazir Sab Hall, Zilla Panchayat, on Monday. The programme was jointly organised by the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority, Judiciary, Advocates' Association, Department of Prosecution and Government Litigation, Police Department, Department of Women and Child Development, Mysuru, and Out Law India Foundation, Bengaluru.



The Para-Legal Volunteer scheme was introduced by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in 2009. The volunteers were created to bridge the gap between the common people and legal services institutions and to take justice to people's doorsteps. They are not lawyers, but serve as intermediaries who possess basic legal knowledge and work for the welfare of society, she said.

The role of Para-Legal Volunteers is to connect people who are unable to approach

courts with Lok Adalats, mediation centres and the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA).

The service, which began under the NALSA 2009 scheme, acts as an important bridge between legal services institutions and the public. Volunteers will create awareness among poor people, women, children, labourers and members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes about their constitutional rights and various government welfare schemes.

They will assist eligible beneficiaries in applying for free legal aid and inform them about the benefits of Lok Adalats and mediation centres. Volunteers should identify cases involving domestic violence, child marriage, child labour and dowry harassment and provide information to the District Legal Services Authority. They should also assist victims in accessing shelter, pensions, Aadhaar and employment guarantee schemes, she added.

Fast Track Special Court and District and Sessions Judge Anand P. Hogade, Senior Civil Judge and Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority Nagaraj Siddappa Ankasaddodi, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer S. Yakesh Kumar, Additional Superintendent of Police Mallik C., Advocates' Association President S. Lokesh, Legal Officer of the Prosecution Department B.E. Yogeshwar, District Child Protection Officer Asha, Out Law Foundation trainer Shama D. and others were present.

KRS WATER INFLOW FALLS SHARPLY

Outflow nearly doubles inflow

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 rainfall and catchment in-



KRS at a glance	
Maximum level:	2,284 ft
Current level:	2,280.02 ft
Inflow:	7,747 cusecs
Outflow:	13,600 cusecs
Outflow exceeds inflow by:	5,853 cusecs

flows 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.

BJP holds overnight dharna; demands Nagendra's resignation



MYSURU

The Mysuru city and rural units of the BJP staged an overnight protest near the CAVA College Road adjacent to the Deputy Commissioner's office at Siddhartha Nagar in Mysuru on Monday, demanding the resignation of Minister B. Nagendra, who is facing allegations of involvement in the alleged Valmiki ST Development Corporation scam.

The protest was led by Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, City BJP President L. Nagendra, BJP Rural Unit President Subbanna, former MP Pratap Simha and others.

During the protest, BJP workers raised slogans against the Congress government and demanded that Minister B. Nagendra resign immediately. The protesters also shouted slogans condemning the "corrupt Congress government."

Speaking on the occasion, City BJP President L. Nagendra alleged that B. Nagendra, who was a minister in Siddaramaiah's cabinet, had misappropriated ₹189 crore from the Valmiki Development Corporation and transferred the money to banks in Andhra Pradesh, gold shops and wine stores, allegedly using it for the Lok Sabha elections in Andhra Pradesh. The then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had admitted that not ₹180 crore,

"Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah has been given a ministerial position on the basis of his father's influence and caste quota. He has also been made the in-charge minister of Mysuru. Roads in Mysuru are full of potholes and no development works are taking place. Therefore, he should focus on the upcoming Dasara and the development of the district. Do not become overbearing like Minister Priyank Karge in Kalaburagi."

—Pratap Simha, Former MP

but only ₹89 crore had been misappropriated. Following the BJP's agitation, B. Nagendra had resigned and was subsequently jailed, he claimed.

Nagendra said that B. Nagendra, who was released from jail on bail, had now been inducted into the cabinet headed by D.K. Shivakumar. "Under no circumstances should B. Nagendra be given a ministerial position. He must be kept out of the cabinet. We will continue our struggle both inside and outside the Assembly until B. Nagendra resigns. Justice must once again be ensured for the SC and ST communities that have suffered injustice," he said.

He questioned the reasons behind Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar inducting B. Nagendra into the cabinet. "We do not know what pressure the Chief Minister is succumbing to. Is there pressure

from the high command, or is someone threatening the Chief Minister? The reasons for taking B. Nagendra into the cabinet must be made clear. Several senior Congress leaders are shedding tears as they have been denied ministerial berths. Tanveer Sait of Mysuru is an extremely honest leader. Instead of giving the post to such leaders, the Chief Minister has chosen to give a ministerial berth to a person who has been proved to be a thief," he alleged.

He said the BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra and Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka were leading the fight inside the Assembly, while BJP leaders would continue the agitation outside the House.

Former MP Pratap Simha said B. Nagendra had been inducted into the cabinet despite having resigned and gone to jail in connection with allegations that funds from the Valmiki Development Corporation were looted and misused during the Ballari and Raichur Lok Sabha elections. The case was still pending before the court, he said. He warned that the indefinite overnight protest would continue until B. Nagendra resigned.

BJP district president Subbanna, former MLA Harshavardhan, former Mayor Shivakumar, party leader B.H. Manjunath and others were present.

Educational and economic self-reliance must for true social equality: Dr. Yathindra

MYSURU

True equality in society can be achieved only when oppressed Dalit and backward communities attain educational, social and economic self-reliance, said Urban Development Minister and Mysuru District In-charge Minister Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah.

He was speaking after inaugurating a programme organised by the Karnataka Bhoi Development Corporation here on Sunday, where free tailoring machines and training certificates were distributed to unemployed women belonging to the Scheduled Caste Bhoi community.

Dr. Yathindra said that even during the reign of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, oppressed communities, including the Bhoi community, were identified and provided opportunities in various government works, including the construction of the KRS reservoir. This process eventually paved the way for their inclusion among the Scheduled Castes. The caste system, which determines a person's occupation and social status by birth, is a major social evil. As a result, labourers and Dalits were deprived of education, power and wealth for centuries. To address this historical injustice, reservation and special laws have been introduced through the Constitution.

During the tenure of the Siddaramaiah government,



legislation was enacted making it mandatory to allocate 24.10 per cent of the State budget for the SC/ST communities in proportion to their population. Reservation has also been provided to SC/ST communities in government contracts for works costing up to ₹1 crore.

"Reservation and government welfare schemes alone are not sufficient. Women and youth must focus on self-employment, small-scale textile businesses, dairy farming and entrepreneurship and become economically self-reliant," he said.

Chamaraja Assembly MLA K. Harish Gowda said former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. He said Siddaramaiah was the only leader who established the corporation with the objective of understanding the needs of different communities and ensuring that welfare benefits reached everyone. Ar-

rangements were being made to provide loans and training to members of the Bhoi community in Mysuru and Chamraj constituencies to enable them to operate two-wheelers, cars and autorickshaws. Free tool kits and centring materials were also being provided to masons and contractors. At the programme, tailoring machines worth ₹15,000 each were distributed to around 150 eligible women beneficiaries.

MLC Dr. D. Thimmaiah said stone-cutting was an extremely difficult occupation and praised the contribution of every worker who, despite facing hardships, contributes to society and nation-building. Parents must provide quality education to both their daughters and sons and encouraged every child in the community to dream of becoming an IAS or IPS officer and work hard to realise that ambition. They must also make effective

use of government employment and training opportunities and lead self-reliant lives.

Karnataka Bhoi Development Corporation Chairman Ramappa M. said that, in addition to the five major guarantee schemes introduced by the Congress government, the Bhoi Development Corporation was implementing six major welfare schemes, taking the total number of guarantees available to the community to 11.

Karnataka Zoo Authority Chairman N. Rangaswamy, Karnataka Bhoi Development Corporation Managing Director U. Chandranayak, CADA Chairman Muniswamy, former Karnataka Bhoimi Corporation Chairman Sitaram, Bhoi Corporation district president Jayakumar, former president Nagaraju, former Valmiki Development Corporation Chairman Basavaraju and others were present.

ENCOURAGING TALENTED STUDENTS HELPS IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN SOCIETY

MYSURU

Urban Development and Mysuru District-In-Charge Minister Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah said that identifying and honouring talented students from the Vishwakarma community and those who have excelled in various fields is a commendable initiative.

He was speaking after inaugurating a talent felicitation programme organised by the Vishwakarma Jagruthi Vedike here, he said it was important to recognise the talent and achievements of students and encourage them, thereby boosting their self-confidence.

Recognising and honouring talented students and achievers before society will inspire more young people to pursue the path of achievement. Such meaningful programmes will provide greater impetus to the educational, cultural and so-



cial development of the Vishwakarma community.

Dr. Kumaraswamy Swamiji of the Sri Murari Swamy Punyakshetra, Karnataka

State Vishwakarma Communities Development Corporation Chairman P. Sujanyamurthy, N. Nandkumar, film actress Bhavya, along with

several leaders and dignitaries of the Vishwakarma community, students and achievers were present at the programme.

POWER OUTAGE TOMORROW

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. Puram 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.

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 Development 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-

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.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Opposition Leader R. Ashoka demanded an impartial probe into the deaths of three locals in a forest encounter in Chamarajanagar.

Speaking in the House, Ashoka alleged that the three locals were killed by Forest Department personnel in what he termed a “murder committed by the govern- ment”. He said the three had no criminal background and questioned why they were shot at close range.

Ashoka also raised ques- tions about a fourth person who was injured in the incident and admitted to a hospi- tal in Mysuru. He claimed the person had subsequently dis- appeared and said the govern- ment’s explanation did not

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, re- ferring 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.

not target the legs if the firing was in self-defence. He also questioned why only three personnel were sent to appreh- end suspected thieves de- spite the availability of a large- er Forest Department force.

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 cri- teria, 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 devel- opment. 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.

BMRL 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 secretary 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 Karn- ataka 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 in- stitutions, 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 Metropoli- tan 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,

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 Benga- luru with surrounding towns and suburban areas.

The corporation currently operates 143 Vegadootha ser- vices across 14 routes.

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

TEMPLE REVIEW PLEA

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

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 Yuvaniidhi, 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.

INDIA'S GIG ECONOMY: FREEDOM OR A NEW KIND OF EXPLOITATION?

It's 11 p.m. in Gurugram, and Ramesh is on his seventh delivery of a shift he started ten hours ago. He isn't sure how many hours he's actually clocked, because the app doesn't tell him. It tells him where to go, how long he has to get there, and how much he'll be paid a number that shifts, unexplained, from one order to the next. Ramesh calls this freedom. He also calls it a trap. Both things, it turns out, are true.

This is the paradox sitting at the heart of India's gig economy, a workforce that barely existed a decade ago and is now barreling toward 23.5 million workers by 2029-30, according to NITI Aayog's landmark 2022 report up from 7.7 million in 2020-21. That's a tripling of the gig workforce inside a single decade, and it will soon account for over 4% of India's total livelihoods. Somewhere in that growth curve is a genuine story of opportunity. Somewhere in it is also a story the platforms would rather not tell.

The Freedom Pitch

Talk to a gig platform's PR deck and you'll hear the same words: flexibility, autonomy, low entry barriers, be-your-own-boss. And there's real substance to this. A college student in Bengaluru can drive for two hours between lectures. A woman managing a household can pick up freelance design work on her own schedule. For millions without formal degrees or urban networks, an app is often the only door that opens without asking who your father is or where you studied a genuinely disruptive force in a country where employment has long run on connections.

The NITI Aayog report itself acknowledges this dual character, describing gig work as a legitimate and expanding category of livelihood, with over 20% of jobs in the space now classified as high-skilled and another 47% as medium-skilled. This isn't only about delivery riders. It includes freelance consultants, content creators, and



platform-based professionals building careers with no office address at all.

The Algorithm is the Boss

But scratch beneath the flexibility narrative and you find something colder: an employer that isn't a person at all. India's Economic Survey 2025-26 stated it without euphemism; platform algorithms now control work allocation, performance monitoring, wage-setting, and supply-demand matching for roughly 12 million gig workers, most of whom have no idea how the system decides what they ear. The survey went further, flagging "algorithmic bias and burnout" as legitimate occupational hazards, not abstractions.

This is the part that complicates the freedom story. A worker can, in theory, log off whenever they want. In practice, opaque incentive structures, surge-pricing games, and rating systems that can deactivate a worker's account without appeal create a form of control that's arguably more total than a human supervisor's; because it can't be negotiated with, and it never has to explain itself. Nearly 40% of India's gig workers earn less than ₹15,000 a month, a figure that sits uncomfortably beside the "entrepreneur" language platforms prefer.

What the Law Now Says and Doesn't

For the first time, Indian law has caught up enough to name this workforce. The Code on Social Security, 2020, formally defines "gig worker" and "platform worker" under Sections 2(35) and 2(61), and mandates a Social Security Fund financed by aggregator contributions of 1-2% of annual turnover, capped at 5% of what's paid to workers. Karnataka led the states by passing its own Platform-Based Gig Workers Bill in 2025, introducing a welfare fee of 1-5% on transactions and a dedicated Welfare Board. Telangana, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Bihar have since followed with similar frameworks.

Yet the fine print reveals the limits of this recognition. The Code explicitly states gig and platform workers remain "outside a traditional employer-employee relationship"; meaning no EPF, no gratuity, no termination safeguards, no notice period. One analysis bluntly notes there is still no statutory grievance redressal mechanism against abrupt account deactivation. Worse, a 90-day continuous engagement threshold with a single aggregator (or 120 days across platforms) to even qualify for benefits excludes exactly the workers most likely to need them those juggling multiple apps just to

make ends meet.

Two Truths, One Worker

The honest answer to whether India's gig economy represents freedom or exploitation is that it's both, distributed unevenly across the same body of workers. It is freedom for the worker who chooses gig work as a bridge, a side income, or a deliberate lifestyle choice. It is exploitation for the worker who has no other option, who logs sixty hours a week under an algorithm's invisible thumb, and who discovers that "flexibility" was always a euphemism for risk transferred downward; from company to contractor, from institution to individual.

The Social Security Code is a real, if partial, acknowledgment that this workforce cannot be wished into invisibility. But recognition on paper and dignity in practice are different things.

Until the 90-day loophole closes, until algorithms are made answerable, and until "gig worker" stops being legal shorthand for "worker with fewer rights," Ramesh's shift will keep looking like freedom from the outside and something considerably less like it from the seat of his scooter.

- ADITYA VARMA
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

THE AI JOB DISPLACEMENT QUESTION; SHOULD INDIA REGULATE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE?

There is a particular kind of silence that falls over a WeWork floor in Bengaluru these days. Fewer recruiters on calls. Fewer fresh laptops unboxed for batch hires. The hum hasn't disappeared, but it has changed pitch and anyone who has spent a decade covering India's tech economy can hear the difference.

The numbers make the unease concrete. Active tech job openings in India fell to their lowest level in 28 months this June, with roughly 93,000 live vacancies down 17% from a year earlier, according to Bengaluru-based recruitment consultancy Xpheno. Infosys and Wipro have trimmed staffing by 5-6% from 2023 levels, with similar patterns at TCS and Tech Mahindra. Meanwhile, AI hiring itself rose 16% year-on-year even as overall IT recruitment declined 3%, per Naukri's JobSpeak report. The industry isn't shrinking uniformly; it's reshaping itself around a smaller, more skilled core, and leaving a lot of people standing outside the new perimeter.

This is the paradox India now has to sit with. The same sector that built the country's middle class over three decades is the one AI is hollowing out first.

A Sector Built on the Work That AI Does Best

The uncomfortable truth is that Indian IT's greatest strength its ability to do routine, well-defined, repeatable work at scale is precisely what generative AI is good at replicating. Entry-level roles like software testers, support engineers and junior developers have already declined by an estimated 20-25%, according to a 2025 EY analysis, with some industry leaders warning that up to 50% of entry-level white-collar roles in coding, testing and support could be disrupted.

Global brokerage Bernstein put it starkly in an open letter to the Prime Minister earlier this year: India's 10-15 million-strong IT and BPO workforce; "the backbone of the aspirational middle class" sits directly in generative AI's crosshairs, and manufacturing isn't scaling fast enough to absorb the slack. The Financial Times has called it a test of whether an industry employing 6 million people and contributing roughly 7% of GDP can pivot to higher-value work before the old outsourcing model runs out of road.

But it isn't a uniformly grim picture. A rigorous ICRIER study surveying 651 IT firms across ten Indian cities between November 2025 and January 2026 found no evidence of apocalyptic job losses instead, a modest, entry-level-concentrated moderation in hiring, alongside genuine productivity gains and continued net employment growth in the sector overall. NITI Aayog's own roadmap acknowledges the tension directly: while AI could displace jobs in tech services by 2031, strategic skilling could create up to 4 million new AI-economy jobs in the next five years. Infosys estimates go further in both directions; generative AI could displace 92 million jobs like front-end development and testing globally, while creating some 170 million new ones in data annotation, AI engineering and AI leadership.

So which story is true? Probably both, at different speeds, for different people; which is exactly why the regulation question won't wait for consensus.

What "Regulating" Actually Means Here



India has already made its choice, at least for now and it's a light touch. In November 2025, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology released the India AI Governance Guidelines, built on seven principles it calls "sutras," including "Innovation over Restraint". The government has explicitly ruled out a standalone AI law, telling Parliament in December 2024 that it favours a "voluntary, self-regulatory approach," with industry body NASSCOM developing non-binding guidelines instead. Sectoral regulators the RBI for finance, SEBI for markets will handle AI within their own domains rather than a single overarching authority governing AI's effect on employment. Contrast that with the EU's risk-based AI Act, which classifies and restricts AI systems by the harm they could cause, including to labour markets. India has deliberately avoided that path, betting that flexibility and speed of adoption matter more than upfront restriction. The government isn't being reckless the IndiaAI Mission has committed roughly ₹10,372 crore (about \$1.25 billion) toward compute infrastructure, skilling and a proposed AI Safety Institute. But note what none of that spending does: it doesn't regulate displacement itself. It regulates safety, data, and deepfakes. The employment question is being addressed through skilling missions, not through labour policy or corporate accountability mechanisms.

The Real Choice Isn't Yes or No

The honest framing isn't "regulate AI" versus "don't regulate AI"; it's whether India builds transition infrastructure before the disruption peaks or after. A National AI Talent Mission, AI literacy embedded from school onward, a reskilling engine for the millions of technology and customer-experience professionals whose roles are being redefined; NITI Aayog has already sketched this out. What's missing is urgency and teeth: timelines, funding accountability, and some mechanism for tracking whether displaced entry-level workers are actually landing in the "4 million new jobs" the optimistic scenario promises, rather than falling out of the workforce entirely.

Bernstein's letter asked Modi's government to fund domestic foundation models, build compute capacity, and push global AI companies to list and share value within India; arguing that innovation-first policy only works if the gains circulate back into the domestic labour market. That's the crux. India doesn't need to choose between growth and protection. It needs to decide, quickly, whether its light-touch bet is a strategy or a hope.

- SHARON FAUSTINA J
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

SHOULD PERSONAL BRANDING BE TAUGHT AS A LIFE SKILL IN INDIAN COLLEGES?

There is a particular kind of silence that falls over a placement cell in November. It's not the silence of preparation; it's the silence of realisation. Somewhere between semester six and the final year, a large number of Indian students discover that their degree, the one thing they were told would open doors, opens rather fewer of them than promised. The numbers back up the unease: only 42.6% of Indian graduates were considered employable by industry standards last year, a figure that has actually declined from 44.3% the year before, according to the Mercer-Mettl India Graduate Skills Index. The report is blunt about why not a shortage of technical knowledge, but a shortage of everything that sits around it: communication, articulation, the ability to make a stranger understand your value in under thirty seconds.

That thirty-second problem has a name now. It's called personal branding. And the uncomfortable question worth asking is why Indian colleges, which will spend four years teaching thermodynamics or cost accounting in exhaustive detail, spend almost no structured time teaching a student how to tell the world who they

are.

The Employability Gap Nobody's Fixing

Walk into any engineering or commerce college in India and you'll find bright, technically sound students who freeze the moment a recruiter asks, "Tell me about yourself." This isn't a confidence problem in the way we usually imagine it; it's a framing problem. The India Skills Report 2025 found that barely 54.81% of graduates meet industry employability standards, and the COO of WACE India put it plainly: the deficit isn't technical competence, it's "communication gaps, low adaptability, and limited workplace readiness". Students know their subjects. They cannot narrate themselves.

Personal branding, stripped of its LinkedIn-guru gloss, is precisely that narration skill; the discipline of identifying what you're good at, what you stand for, and communicating it consistently enough that opportunity finds you instead of the other way around. A few institutions have already quietly figured this out. NM College in Mumbai and Bennett University now run dedicated Personal Branding papers within their BMS and management programmes, covering everything from brand positioning to digital



tal footprint audits. Globally, Harvard Business School Online, the University of Virginia, and Emory University all treat this as serious enough to build full modules around. The template exists. It just hasn't scaled.

Why This Generation Needs It More Than the Last

Here's what makes 2026 a strange time to be ignoring this. LinkedIn's own research shows a 104% year-on-year jump in Indians adding "Founder" to their profiles the highest growth

of any market globally; with 75% of Gen Z entrepreneurs already juggling multiple income streams instead of one linear job. Separately, 83% of Indian Gen Z now identify as content creators in some form, according to a YouTube India-SmithGeiger Group study, most of them from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities where the smartphone has quietly become the new career counselor.

Put those two facts together and the picture is unmistak-

able; today's college student isn't heading into one job for thirty years. They're heading into a portfolio career; a bit of freelancing, a bit of founding, a bit of consulting, stitched together by whatever reputation they've built online. In that world, personal branding isn't vanity. It's infrastructure. It is, quite literally, becoming the CV. And the government seems to sense the shift too Budget 2026 allocated ₹250 crore to set up Content Creator Labs across 15,000 schools and 500 col-

leges, an official acknowledgment that storytelling and digital presence deserve institutional backing, not just informal YouTube tutorials.

What Teaching It Well Would Actually Look Like

The danger, of course, is turning this into another buzzword elective where students memorise "the four pillars of brand positioning" for an exam and forget it by placement season. Soft-skills research on Indian campuses already warns against this trap; the recommendation isn't a bolt-on lecture series but embedding practice from year one: recording yourself explaining a project, debating in small groups, getting real feedback on how you present ideas, not just what they are.

A genuinely useful personal branding curriculum in an Indian college wouldn't be a marketing class in disguise. It would ask a first-year engineering student to articulate, on camera, what problem they actually want to solve. It would ask a commerce student to write and defend an opinion publicly, the way LinkedIn's own creator economy now rewards individual voices with roughly seven times the organ-

ic reach of a faceless institutional page. It would treat self-awareness, written and spoken clarity, and consistency of message as skills to be graded and refined, the same way we grade an essay or a lab report.

The Real Stakes

Skeptics will say colleges shouldn't be in the business of manufacturing influencers, and they're right; that's not the goal, and conflating personal branding with virality would defeat the purpose entirely. The actual goal is quieter: giving a 20-year-old from a small town in Bihar the same fluency in self-presentation that a student from a Delhi private school picks up by osmosis, through family, exposure, and English-medium confidence. That gap in who knows how to be seen, rather than who deserves to be, is one Indian education has ignored for too long.

Teaching personal branding as a life skill won't fix India's employability crisis on its own. But it might finally give millions of capable, invisible graduates the one thing their degrees never did a voice loud enough to be heard above the noise.

- SHELDON MAGNOL ROBINSON
CH NEWS, BENGALURU

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 - Dhawad, 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 ADDICTIONKoppal 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. self-reliance through the Green and White Revolutions after Independence.

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 Malaladi, 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-



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.



"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-

cultural loan waivers for marginal farmers and the closure of 717 TASMAL liquor outlets. Other initiatives include skill training for youth, breakfast schemes for schoolchildren, housing for poor families and 200 units of free electricity.

Assembly Speaker J C D Prabhakar praised the government’s welfare measures and described the first 100 days as a major milestone in Tamil Nadu’s history. He said the administration had focused on women’s safety, social welfare, employment and transparent governance, while laying the foundation for the state’s future development.

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 convenor 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-convenor 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.



	Government of Karnataka DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPLOYMENT 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 Chaitanya scheme for the year 2026-27. Particulars : Procurement of Sports Kits under Yuva Chaitanya 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/Adminin and Tender Inviting Authority Department of Youth Empowerment and sports		
DIPR/CP/2187/Zen/2026-27		

Quick Read

B'desh reports 1,667 violence cases against women

Dhaka
More than 1,660 women and children in Bangladesh faced various forms of violence between January and July this year, according to Bangladesh Mohila Parishad. The rights organisation reported 1,667 cases, including 83 girls and 258 women killed and 292 women and girls raped. Speaking at a human chain in Dhaka, Mohila Parishad leaders expressed concern over rising violence against women and children. President Fauzia Moslem said the actual figures could be higher, as the data was based on reports from only 14 newspapers. General Secretary Maleka Banu said women and children remain vulnerable to rape, murder, torture and other abuses. The organisation urged authorities to strengthen law enforcement, ensure justice and launch wider social efforts to prevent violence. Speakers also called for greater respect for women's rights and stronger action against discriminatory social attitudes.

Australia researchers predict new quantum matter

Melbourne
Australian researchers have predicted a new form of quantum matter that could challenge existing ideas about ultracold particles. The study found that mixtures of bosons and fermions could form stable, self-bound "quantum droplets" under suitable conditions. Researchers from Monash University and Heidelberg University said such droplets were previously considered unlikely in strongly interacting systems. The findings, published in Physical Review Letters, provide a new framework for studying complex quantum interactions. Lead author Sam Foster said the particles could balance each other to create stable droplets. The team said existing ultracold atom experiments could potentially produce them, making experimental confirmation a realistic next step.

US reservoirs hit record lows amid crisis

Los Angeles
Lake Mead and Lake Powell, the two largest reservoirs on the Colorado River, have reached record-low levels, raising concerns over water supplies, agriculture and hydropower across the US Southwest. Lake Powell fell to 3,519.91 feet, slightly below its previous record set in 2023. Lake Mead dropped to 1,039.85 feet, below its 2022 record. Experts warned that the Colorado River basin is entering uncharted territory after prolonged drought reduced system storage to about 34 per cent of capacity.

Taiwan warns of China's AI-driven poll interference

TAIPEI
Taiwan has warned that China could increasingly use artificial intelligence to interfere in elections and influence public opinion, as Taipei raises concerns over the growing use of advanced technology in operations and influence information. Taiwanese officials said AI tools could allow foreign actors to produce convincing fake videos, audio recordings, images and written content on a large scale. Such material could be used to spread false information, impersonate political figures or manipulate

Kushner meets Netanyahu to push Trump Gaza plan

KUSHNER HAS BECOME A PIVOTAL FIGURE IN WASHINGTON'S DIPLOMATIC PUSH TO ADVANCE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

JERUSALEM

A US delegation led by Jared Kushner met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as Washington stepped up efforts to revive its Gaza peace roadmap following discussions with Hamas. The latest diplomatic push seeks to bridge differences over a possible framework for ending the conflict and establishing a new political arrangement in Gaza. The talks come after US-backed contacts with Hamas and other regional interlocutors. Kushner has emerged as a key figure in Washington's efforts to advance negotiations, with the administration seeking a pathway that could address security concerns while creating conditions for a longer-term political transition in Gaza. The latest initiative faces major challenges. Netanyahu has previously rejected elements of proposals involving Hamas disarmament and Gaza's future administration, while Hamas has sought assurances over an Israeli military withdrawal and an end to attacks. The disagreements have made it difficult to trans-



US-led Gaza negotiation plan in nutshell

- US-backed contacts involving key figures like Kushner and a US delegation visiting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are aiming to advance negotiations on Gaza's security and a long-term political transition.
- Former Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan has acted as a crucial intermediary between Hamas and US representatives, discussing sensitive topics such as Hamas' weapons, future administration, and transitional leadership figures.
- A breakthrough depends entirely on resolving deep-seated disagreements.
 - o Hamas' weapons/disarmament
 - o Israeli military presence
 - o Future administration of Gaza
 - o Guarantees for a sustained cessation of hostilities

late diplomatic contacts into a comprehensive agreement. Former Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan has also played a role in the

recent diplomatic efforts, acting as an intermediary between Hamas and US representatives. He has been involved in discussions con-

Trump seeks cuts to US-South Korea military drills

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has instructed the Pentagon to significantly reduce joint military exercises with South Korea, reviving his earlier objections to the drills over their cost and what he considers their provocative nature. The move comes as the annual Ulchi Freedom Shield exercises began on Monday. Trump has also cited South Korea's reluctance to support US actions against Iran and pointed to his relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The decision echoes Trump's approach during his first presidency, when he suspended major US-South Korean exercises following his 2018 summit with Kim. The exercises are scheduled to run from August 17 to 27 and involve around 18,000



South Korean troops. Military officials had said the drills would incorporate training designed to counter emerging threats, including drone attacks, GPS disruption and cyber warfare. The changes reflect lessons from recent conflicts, particularly the war in Ukraine and the evolving capabilities of North Korea. The drills remain an important part of maintaining the readiness of US and South Korean forces on the Korean Peninsula. South Korean officials have indicated that the exercises will continue despite Washington's decision to scale back their scope.

US scales back joint drills

Trump's decision to reduce upcoming US-South Korean military exercises, citing Seoul's stance on Iran and ties with Kim, threatens alliance credibility and raises readiness concerns as North Korea advances its nuclear capabilities.

North Korea has repeatedly condemned the annual exercises, describing them as preparations for war. Pyongyang has warned that increased military cooperation between the United States and South Korea could prompt stronger measures to reinforce its nuclear deterrent.

NEPAL CONFERS HONORARY GENERAL RANK ON INDIAN ARMY CHIEF

KATHMANDU

Indian Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth was conferred the honorary rank of General of the Nepali Army by Nepal President Ram Chandra Paudel at a special investiture ceremony in Kathmandu on Monday. The honour reflects the longstanding and close military ties between India and Nepal. The conferment is part of a unique tradition shared by the Indian and Nepali armies.

Since 1950, the two countries have followed the practice of awarding the honorary rank of General to each other's Army chiefs, highlighting their historic defence relationship and military cooperation. General Seth is on an official visit to Nepal from August 17 to 19. During his visit, he received a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the Nepali Army Headquarters and laid a wreath at the Army Pavilion in Tundikhel. He is also scheduled to hold discussions with Nepali Army Chief General Ashok Raj

Sigdel on matters of mutual interest and defence cooperation. The visit is aimed at further strengthening military-to-military ties between the two neighbouring countries. India and Nepal maintain close defence cooperation through joint exercises, training programmes, professional exchanges and other institutional engagements. General Seth is also scheduled to interact with student officers of Nepal's Army Command and Staff Course and meet senior Nepali dignitaries.

IMPERSONATING POLITICAL FIGURES

formation, social media campaigns and other influence operations to weaken public confidence in Taiwan's democratic institutions. China rejects such accusations and maintains that Taiwan is part of its territory. Officials have increasingly focused on the potential impact of generative AI, which can make fabricated content more realistic and easier to distribute. Compared with earlier forms of online misinformation, AI-generated material can be produced rapidly and tailored to specific audiences, making it harder for users to distinguish genuine informa-

tion from manipulated content. Taiwan has been strengthening measures to counter foreign interference, including monitoring suspicious online activity, improving coordination between government agencies and promoting public awareness about manipulated information. Authorities have also encouraged citizens to verify politically sensitive material before sharing it online. The issue has become more significant as political campaigns around the world face growing challenges from deepfakes and AI-generated propaganda.

Over 2L lose power as Hurricane Lala weakens

HONOLULU

More than 200,000 homes and businesses in Hawaii were without electricity after Hurricane Lala battered the islands with strong winds and torrential rain before weakening into a tropical storm. The storm caused widespread flooding, damage to homes and infrastructure and downed trees and power lines. Lala passed south of Hawaii's Big Island without making landfall but still brought severe weather across the state. At least 100 homes were reported damaged, while some properties were swept away by floodwaters. Authorities also reported extensive road and bridge damage, making access to some areas difficult. Power outages were widespread, particularly on Oahu and the Big Island. More than 220,000 customers on Oahu had initially lost electricity, although the number later declined. Utility crews faced difficulties restoring services because fallen trees, flooded roads and other storm damage obstructed repair work. The storm also produced dangerous rainfall and

100 homes suffered damage, and floodwaters swept away several other properties entirely

winds across the islands. Some areas recorded exceptionally heavy rain, while wind gusts exceeded 100 mph at higher elevations. Emergency authorities opened shelters and urged residents to remain indoors as flooding, landslides and hazardous conditions continued. Lala was moving westward after weakening from a hurricane, but officials warned that its effects could continue even as the system moved away. A tropical storm warning remained in effect for parts of Hawaii, including Kauai, while earlier warnings for Maui and Oahu had been discontinued as conditions improved. The storm's impact was significant despite avoiding a direct landfall. Authorities continued assessing damage and working to restore electricity and reopen affected roads. Residents were advised to remain cautious until flooding and other storm-related hazards subsided.

31 Chinese nationals caught entering S. Korea illegally

SEOUL

South Korean authorities have apprehended 31 Chinese nationals who allegedly entered the country illegally through the western coastal area of Taean over the past eight years, the South Korean Coast Guard said on Monday.

According to Coast Guard officials, the 31 Chinese nationals were caught in waters off Taean County or on nearby beaches between September 2019 and May 2026. Taean is located more than 100 kilometres southwest of Seoul and has emerged as a route for several illegal entry attempts

by Chinese nationals. In September 2019, three Chinese nationals were caught after reaching a beach in Taean aboard a rubber boat. In another incident last year, eight Chinese nationals were apprehended after arriving in the county on a 4.3-metre-long boat.

NAME CHANGE
CL.MISS.NO: 419 /2026
BETWEEN: 1. NARSAMMA W/O LATE NAGARAJU age about 45 years Riat Nagaiahna palya village, oridagere, Hobli,Tumkur Taluk & dts 2. APPI RAJU S/o Late NAGARAJU Aged about 37 years Riat Chikkabelavangala village, Doddaballapur Hobli Doddaballapura Taluk bangalore rural dis 3. SHANTH KUMAR N. S/o Late NAGARAJU Aged about 37 years, Riat Nagaiahna palya village, oridagere,Hobli,Tumkur Taluk & dts 4.SHASHIKALA, N. D/o Late NAGARAJU Aged about 34 years, Residing at No.07 1st cross near shanimahatma temple jakkur layout Bangalore PETITIONERS AND The Tahasildar,Taluk Office, Doddaballapura Taluk, Birth and Death Registrar, DODDABALLAPURA TOWN RESPONDENT.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the petitioner has filled the above petition under section 13(3) & 14 of registration of birth & Death act 1969 for seeking the Death certificate of the my father, petitioner by name late Nagaraju S/o late plague Marah who Died on 18/07/1924 at Akkatamanahalli village Doddabalevangala Hobli Doddaballapura Taluk Bangalore Rural dts. In this regard it is here by notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an Advocate duly authorised before the above said court on 17.09.2026 in default this matter will be heard and dispose of an expiry order.
Given under my Hand and seal of the court on the 14th day of August 2026
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer Pr Civil Judge & JMFC
Doddaballapura
Advocate: Riyazuddin, Opp of court road Rojipura Doddaballapura

NAME CHANGE
CL.MISS.NO: 419 /2026
BETWEEN: 1. NARSAMMA W/O LATE NAGARAJU age about 45 years Riat Nagaiahna palya village, oridagere, Hobli,Tumkur Taluk & dts 2. APPI RAJU S/o Late NAGARAJU Aged about 37 years Riat Chikkabelavangala village, Doddaballapur, Bengaluru Rural District-561203, hereby declare that Tondabavi Mastan Sab Abdul Shukoor, T. M. Abdul Shukoor, and the name appearing in my Passport are one and the same person. I further declare that T. M. Ibrahim Sab and Sri. Mahammad Ibrahim are one and the same person and both refer to my father. This declaration is made for all legal and official purposes. Vide affidavit dated: 17.08.2026 before notary V. RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C. AT DODDABALLAPURA CL.MISS.NO: 419 /2026
BETWEEN: 1. NARSAMMA W/O LATE NAGARAJU age about 45 years Riat Nagaiahna palya village, oridagere, Hobli,Tumkur Taluk & dts 2. APPI RAJU S/o Late NAGARAJU Aged about 37 years Riat Chikkabelavangala village, Doddaballapur Hobli Doddaballapura Taluk bangalore rural dis 3. SHANTH KUMAR N. S/o Late NAGARAJU Aged about 37 years, Riat Nagaiahna palya village, oridagere,Hobli,Tumkur Taluk & dts 4.SHASHIKALA, N. D/o Late NAGARAJU Aged about 34 years, Residing at No.07 1st cross near shanimahatma temple jakkur layout Bangalore PETITIONERS AND The Tahasildar,Taluk Office, Doddaballapura Taluk, Birth and Death Registrar, DODDABALLAPURA TOWN RESPONDENT.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the petitioner has filled the above petition under section 13(3) & 14 of registration of birth & Death act 1969 for seeking the Death certificate of the My Sister, petitioner by name late Nagaiahna W/o late Nagaraju who Died on 15/03/1989 at Akkatamanahalli village Doddabalevangala Hobli Doddaballapura Taluk Bangalore Rural dts. In this regard it is here by notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an Advocate duly authorised before the above said court on 17.09.2026 in default this matter will be heard and dispose of an expiry order.
Given under my Hand and seal of the court on the 14th day of August 2026
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministerial Officer Pr Civil Judge & JMFC
Doddaballapura
Advocate: Riyazuddin, Opp of court road Rojipura Doddaballapura

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C. AT DODDABALLAPURA CL.MISS.NO: 419 /2026
BETWEEN: 1. NARSAMMA W/O LATE NAGARAJU age about 45 years Riat Nagaiahna palya village, oridagere, Hobli,Tumkur Taluk & dts 2. APPI RAJU S/o Late NAGARAJU Aged about 37 years Riat Chikkabelavangala village, Doddaballapur, Bengaluru Rural District-561203, hereby declare that Tondabavi Mastan Sab Abdul Shukoor, T. M. Abdul Shukoor, and the name appearing in my Passport are one and the same person. I further declare that T. M. Ibrahim Sab and Sri. Mahammad Ibrahim are one and the same person and both refer to my father. This declaration is made for all legal and official purposes. Vide affidavit dated: 17.08.2026 before notary V. RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru.

BEFORE THE COURT OF XXXVIII ADDITIONAL CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, AT BENGALURU C.C.No.2737/2022
INVESTMENTS LIMITED, Registered office at No.105, R.R Takt, 37, Bhooapsandra Main Road, Bengaluru-560 094. Represented by its Authorized Signatory M/s. Iswarya Rajan ... COMPLAINT
AND: M/s. SRI LAKSHMI NARASIMHA SWAMY WELDING WORKS. Having office at No.10, 3rd Cross, Nandishwara Layout, Opposite B.I.E.C. Ground, Madavara Village, Bengaluru-562 162. Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Somashekara H.S. ... ACCUSED

PUBLIC NOTICE
WHEREAS, the Complainant has filled the above complaint before the Hon'ble XXXVIII ACJM, Bengaluru, against M/s. Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Welding Works represented by Mr. Somashekara H.S. for the offence punishable under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 and the arrest warrant issued thereupon has returned and that the said accused cannot be found. AND WHEREAS, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Hon'ble XXXVIII ACJM, Bengaluru that the said accused has been absconding or concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said Warrant. Proclamation is hereby made that Mr. Somashekara H.S. is required to appear before the Hon'ble court of XXXVIII Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bengaluru to answer the said complaint on 01.09.2026. Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 07/08/2026
By order of the Court, Senior Sheristadar, XXXVIII Addl, Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Bengaluru City

NEERAJ RAJIV SHIVAM, Advocates M/s. ASTRA LAW CHAMBERS
No. 4, Pamadi Towers, 1st floor, Flat No. 11 Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560 009. Ph. + 91 99169 24411. neerajrajshivam@astralawchambers.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Bengaluru South District, Channappanna Taluk, Kasaba Hobli, Kudlur grampanchayth, Kudlur village Khaneshumari number. 3, property number: 152900101400101193, measuring East West-9.4488 meters, North South-9.4488 meters, totaling 89.28 square meters of vacant land and 58.06 square meters of Mangalore brick house and A.C. sheet house built on it, the entire property, including the My husband Bhima, dated: 24-07-2017, Channapanna Sub-Registrar's Office 1st Book Document No.: CAN-1-02489-2017-18, CD No. CAND257 has been registered as a pure donation deed. Later, I have mortgaged the said property to Equitus Small Finance on 08-08-2017, Channapanna Sub-Registrar's Office, 1st Book Document No. CAN-1-02659-2017-18, CD No. CAND258. Later, on 09-02-2023, Channapanna Sub-Registrar's Office, 1st Book Document No. CAN-1-07835-2022-23, CD No. CAND1339. The said three documents were accidentally lost while going to get a Xerox done in Channapanna on 19-06-2026. The said original documents were not found despite extensive searching. A complaint was filed with the Bangalore South District Police on 19-06-2026 regarding the loss of the said documents, and a complaint was registered as Lost Report No. 226244/2026. If anyone finds the said documents, they are requested to deliver them to the nearest police station or to the following address. CONTACT ADDRESS: Smt. Vani W/o Bhima, Kudlur Village, Malur Hobli, Channapanna Taluk, Bangalore South District. Mobile No. 9902830911



Dickwella, Dinusha lead Sri Lankan fightback

ON A TURNING PITCH, DICKWELLA AND DINUSHA SHOWED REMARKABLE COMPOSURE, REMAINING UNBEATEN THROUGH THE ENTIRE SECOND SESSION

GALLE

Niroshan Dickwella and Sonal Dinusha struck unbeaten half-centuries to stage a strong Sri Lankan fightback against India on the third day of the first Test at the Galle International Stadium on Monday. Sri Lanka reached 214 for five at tea, still trailing India by 248 runs.

Resuming at 99 for five, Sri Lanka appeared headed for a huge first-innings deficit. However, Dickwella and Dinusha displayed remarkable composure on a turning pitch and remained unbeaten through the entire second session. The pair added 124 runs for the sixth wicket, frustrating India's bowlers and preventing the visitors from tightening their grip on the contest.

Dickwella, playing his first Test in three years, was the more aggressive batter initially. He repeatedly used the sweep and reverse sweep to counter India's spinners. India also missed several opportunities. Manav Suthar's lbw appeal was overturned after a review, while another review against Dickwella off Ravindra Jadeja showed the ball would have gone over the stumps. KL Rahul then dropped a difficult edge at slip when Dickwella was on 20.

The reprieves proved costly as Dickwella completed his 23rd Test half-century and his first in four years. He reached the landmark off 68 balls with a flicked double against Jadeja.

Dinusha provided equally valuable support, combining disciplined defence with calculated attacking strokes. He brought up his second Test fifty from 93 balls by sweeping Kuldeep Yadav towards deep mid-wicket. Soon after, he hit Suthar for a six over deep mid-wicket.

India captain Shubman Gill rotated his bowling attack and briefly introduced Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna for reverse-swing spells, but the pitch offered limited assistance to the seamers.

Sri Lanka still require 48 runs to avoid the follow-on, while India remain in a commanding position after posting 462 in their first innings. Devdutt Padikkal top-scored with 167, while KL Rahul made 82. Suthar had taken two wickets for India.

KEY POINTS OF THE MATCH

Scoreboard Status: Sri Lanka reached 214 for 5 at tea, still trailing India by 248 runs.

Resilience After a Wobbly Start: Resuming at 99 for 5, Sri Lanka staged a remarkable recovery through an unbroken 124-run partnership for the sixth wicket between Dickwella and Dinusha.

Dickwella's Impressive Return: Playing his first Test in three years, Dickwella scored his 23rd Test half-century (and first in four years) off 68 balls, utilizing aggressive sweep and reverse-sweep shots against the spinners.

Dinusha's Solid Support: Dinusha brought up his second Test fifty off 93 balls, combining disciplined defense with calculated aggression, including a six off Manav Suthar.

An overturned LBW appeal against Manav Suthar.

A failed review against Dickwella off Ravindra Jadeja.

A dropped difficult slip catch by KL Rahul when Dickwella was on 20

Mondo Duplantis wins fourth European title

BIRMINGHAM

Sweden's Armand "Mondo" Duplantis secured his fourth successive European pole vault title in impressive fashion, clearing 6.15 metres to set a new championship record at the European Athletics Championships in Birmingham. Duplantis, the reigning Olympic and world champion, once again underlined his dominance in the event. The 26-year-old cleared 6.00 metres before successfully negotiating 6.10m and then 6.15m, with the latter mark establishing a new European Championships record.

Greece's Emmanouil Karalis provided the main challenge, with the two athletes the only competitors to clear six metres. Karalis was unable to match Duplantis at 6.10m, leaving the Swedish star to claim another continental crown.

The victory continued Duplantis' remarkable record at the European Championships. He first won the continental title in Berlin in 2018 and has since maintained his dominance, adding further gold medals in 2022, 2024 and now 2026.

THEEGALA, BHATIA, AARON RAI ADVANCE AS SCHEFFLER WINS

MEMPHIS

Scottie Scheffler produced a dominant display to win the FedEx St. Jude Championship by eight shots, while Indian-origin golfers Sahith Theegala, Akshay Bhatia and Aaron Rai advanced to the BMW Championship, the second event of the PGA Tour's FedEx Cup playoffs.

Scheffler closed with a four-under 66 at TPC Southwind to finish at 17-under 263 and claim his 21st PGA Tour title. It was his second victory of the season after winning The American Express in January. The result also extended his remarkable record of winning multiple PGA Tour titles in five consecutive seasons.

Among the Indian-origin players, Bhatia, Rai and Theegala all missed the top 60 in Memphis but remained inside the top 50 of the FedEx Cup standings. Bhatia is ranked 15th, Rai 37th and Theegala 46th. Their positions also secure starts in all \$20-million Signature Events next season.

Bhatia finished 68th after a closing 76, Rai was 63rd following a 78, while Theegala carded 71 to finish 67th.

In a dramatic rookie performance, Sahith Theegala narrowly missed qualification. After being inside the top 10 following the opening two rounds, he slipped to tied 47th after a final-round 71. He ended the season 58th in the FedEx Cup standings, with only the top 50 advancing to the BMW Championship.

Scheffler dominated the tournament after a brilliant second-round 61 created a substantial advantage. A brief scare came when a bunker shot struck a sprinkler and rolled into water, reducing his lead to one shot. He immediately responded with consecutive birdies, effectively ending the challenge.

Scheffler now has two wins, five runner-up finishes and five other top-four results from 18 starts this season. He has made 17 cuts, all resulting in top-25 finishes. His latest victory further strengthens his bid for a fifth consecutive PGA Tour Player of the Year award.

South Korea's Si Woo Kim finished second at nine-under, while Sam Burns and Alex Noren shared third at eight-under. Scheffler also extended his FedEx Cup lead to 1,447 points over Matt Fitzpatrick.

An Se Young begins World Championships with win

NEW DELHI

World No. 1 An Se Young began her BWF World Championships campaign with a comfortable 21-14, 21-13 victory over Bulgaria's Kaloyana Nalbantova in New Delhi on Monday. However, the South Korean star revealed that she is still recovering from an ankle injury and needs more time to regain full fitness.

The 23-year-old was pleased with her physical condition after the match, although she had her ankle iced and admitted there was still some pain. An said her priority was to regain her rhythm and improve further in the coming matches. She described her recovery as a "slow" process and acknowledged that her ankle remains an area of concern.

Despite the injury, An produced a controlled performance against Nalbantova and sealed the match in straight games. She praised her opponent's attacking ability and said staying calm was crucial to dealing with the Bulgarian's powerful shots. The reigning world No. 1 avoided unnecessary risks while maintaining pressure throughout the contest.

An also acknowledged the demanding nature of the



The South Korean warmly praised playing in India, recalling prior competition at the India Open

World Championships, which come during a busy period in the badminton calendar. She stressed the importance of managing her body carefully while continuing to compete at the highest level. According to An, players must give their best while also taking steps to avoid further injuries.

The South Korean also spoke warmly about playing in India. After previously competing at the India Open, she said she enjoys being in the country and believes the World Championships provide an even bigger occasion.

Away from the court, An revealed that she is working to improve her English. The world No. 1 said she studies English three times a week, concentrating mainly on speaking skills. With her opening victory secured, An will now turn her attention to the next round while continuing to manage her ankle. Her immediate goal is to recover further and maintain her title challenge in New Delhi.

Diksha Dagar slips to 11th On LET Merit list

SWITZERLAND

Indian golfer Diksha Dagar dropped one place to 11th in the Ladies European Tour (LET) Order of Merit after missing the cut at the Swiss Ladies Open this week. Diksha had earlier climbed as high as sixth in the rankings but began the tournament in 10th position.

Among the other Indian golfers, Pranavi Urs is ranked 46th after being the only Indian to make the cut in Switzerland. Avani Prashanth, who did not compete this week, is 53rd, while Aditi Ashok, who has played only six LET events this season, occupies 55th place.

Tvesa Malik is 117th, Hitaashee Bakshi 133rd and Vani Kapoor 181st.

South Africa's Alexandra Alexander continues to lead the Order of Merit with 1,899.98 points. Swiss Ladies Open winner Eleanor Givens made a significant jump to 23rd after collecting 500 points for her maiden LET victory.

Pranavi finished tied 38th after closing with an even-par 71. She had carded rounds of 70 and 69 in the opening two rounds to finish the tournament at three-under par. Her final round included four birdies and four bogeys in an inconsistent outing.

Diksha and Tvesa were unable to advance beyond the 36-hole cut. The tournament produced a dramatic finish,

with England's Givens overcoming a four-shot deficit to claim the title. She fired a five-under 66 in the final round to finish at 13-under par and edge Whitney Hillier, Alexandra Forsterling and Anna Foster by one stroke.

The victory was Givens' first on the LET after 210 starts across 15 seasons. She joined the tour in 2012 and had endured several near misses, injury setbacks and a return to Q-School last December before finally securing her breakthrough.

The LET will next travel to Ireland for the 2026 KPMG Women's Irish Open at the prestigious K Club, beginning on August 27 after a scheduled off-week.



INDIAN GOLFERS RANKING

Pranavi Urs: Ranked 46th on the Order of Merit, rounds of 70, 69, and an even-par 71 featuring four birdies and four bogeys.

Avani Prashanth: Ranked 53rd (did not compete in Switzerland).

Aditi Ashok: Ranked 55th (has played only six LET events this season).

Tvesa Malik: Ranked 117th (missed the 36-hole cut in Switzerland).

Hitaashee Bakshi: Ranked 133rd..

Vani Kapoor: Ranked 181st.

Diksha Dagar: Also missed the 36-hole cut alongside Tvesa Malik.

Hariharan-Arjun advance after Irish pair retires

NEW DELHI

India opened its campaign at the BWF World Championships on home soil with M R Arjun and Hariharan Amsakarunan advancing to the men's doubles Round of 32 after Ireland's Scott Guilda and Paul Reynolds retired from their opening-round match on Monday.

The Indian duo had controlled most of the contest at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium and won the opening game 21-16. They continued strongly in the second game, moving 6-4 ahead before an injury forced the Irish pair to stop, bringing the match to an early conclusion.

The opening game had initially been closely contested, with Guilda and Reynolds staying within reach of the Indians for much of the contest. However, Arjun and Amsakarunan remained composed during crucial rallies and converted their opportunities to establish the lead.

The second game barely progressed before the Irish players were unable to continue. The result gave India its first victory at the champion-

ships and provided Arjun and Amsakarunan with a positive start to their campaign.

The 2026 World Championships are being held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi from August 17 to 23. The prestigious tournament has returned to India after a 17-year gap, with the country last hosting the event in 2009.

The Indian pair will now await their next opponents as they attempt to advance further in the competition.

There is significant Indian interest across the opening day. Five-time world medalist PV Sindhu is scheduled to begin her women's singles campaign against Ireland's Sophia Noble. Sindhu is aiming to win an unprecedented sixth World Championships medal.

In men's singles, Ayush Shetty faces defending champion and top seed Shi Yu Qi of China. Shetty has lost all three of his previous meetings with the Chinese star.

Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will face Spain's Paula Lopez and Lucia Rodriguez in women's doubles, while Kavipriya Selvam and Simran Singh are set to meet Spain's Nikol Carulla and Carmen Maria Jimenez.

India's campaign has therefore begun with a victory, although Arjun and Amsakarunan's match ended prematurely due to the injury to their Irish opponents.



IOA hails India's dual Hockey WC Campaign

NEW DELHI

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has congratulated the Indian men's and women's hockey teams for their participation in the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, describing the presence of both teams at the global tournament as a significant achievement for Indian hockey.

The World Cups are being held in Belgium and the Netherlands from August 15 to 30. India is the only South Asian nation to have both its men's and women's teams competing in the tournament, highlighting the country's growing strength and competitiveness in international hockey.

India's men began their campaign with a 3-1 victory over Wales and are placed in Pool D alongside England, Wales and Pakistan. The team secured direct qualification after winning the Asia Cup on home soil last year. India last won the men's World Cup in 1975, when it defeated Pakistan in the final.

The Indian women's team is also in Pool D, alongside China, England and South Africa. The team qualified through the tournament's qualification route after winning silver at last year's Asia Cup. The women opened their campaign with a 2-2 draw against China.

IOA president PT Usha said competing against the world's best teams would provide valuable experience for Indian players as they prepare for major upcoming events. She expressed confidence that both teams would represent the country with pride, determination and excellence.

Wales and Pakistan. The team secured direct qualification after winning the Asia Cup on home soil last year. India last won the men's World Cup in 1975, when it defeated Pakistan in the final.

The Indian women's team is also in Pool D, alongside China, England and South Africa. The team qualified through the tournament's qualification route after winning silver at last year's Asia Cup. The women opened their campaign with a 2-2 draw against China.

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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 'Lakshpati 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.

Rs 7,877 crore investment cleared in latest round.

Projects spread across 10 states.

Expected production worth Rs 82,243 crore.

Nearly 10,000 jobs projected.

Total ECMS investment reaches Rs 69,548 crore.

Applications remain open until July 2027.

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.

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 trouble China but will need 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.



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.



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.



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.

