

City Highlights offices will remain closed on **Thursday, March 19**, on the occasion of Ugadi. Consequently, there will be no issue of the Newspaper on **Friday**.

CITY HIGHLIGHTS wishes you and your family a joyous and prosperous Ugadi

‘Won’t do any good...’: K’taka plans ban on DJs, item songs at cultural events

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government is in favour of banning disc jockeys (DJ) who play blaring music and “item songs” at cultural events and religious processions, Kannada & Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi told the Assembly on Wednesday.

The issue was raised by Labour Minister Santosh Lad who sought a ban on DJs.

“In all jayantis, DJs have become a big problem. We must discuss this. In any jayanti, our Gods won’t move forward (in a procession) without a DJ and an item song. This is shameful. DJs and item songs won’t do any good for culture,” Lad said.

Replying to this, Tangadagi said: “We will issue an order on this. A lot of problems are caused by DJs.”

He also sought cooperation from the BJP to ban DJs. “If all of them (BJP) agree, we must ban DJs,” he said.

Shimoga BJP MLA SN Channabasappa, however, was not onboard with the idea. “They may not want [DJs], but we do. You should ban Azaan as per a Supreme Court order. Will you do it?” he said. Speaker UT Khader intervened and said the Supreme Court had fixed decibel levels. “All governments must follow that,” Khader said.

Senior BJP lawmaker S Suresh Kumar backed the plan to ban DJs. “I’ve seen people with a pacemaker in their hearts suffer from the sound of DJs. I’ve seen children close their ears. Even the police are helpless. We must seriously consider the sound pollution due to DJs,” Kumar said.

The discussion on DJs emerged from Channabasappa seeking government funds to organise Sahyadri Utvasa or Malnad Utsava regularly.

ISRAEL ELIMINATES IRAN INTEL MINISTER

Khatib was killed in a strike in Tehran, a day after Israel killed top national security official Larijani & Gen. Soleimani

TEHRAN

Iran has confirmed that Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib was killed in Israeli strikes on Wednesday.

In a X post, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian condemned the “cowardly assassination” and offered his condolences. “The cowardly assassination of my dear colleagues Ismail Khatib, Ali Larijani, and Aziz Nasirzadeh, alongside some of their family members and accompanying team, has left us in deep mourning,” he wrote on X. Track the latest updates on the US-Iran war.

“I extend my condolences to the great people of Iran for the martyrdom of two cabinet members, the secretary of the

Shura, and the military and Basij commanders. I am certain their path will continue more steadfastly than before,” Pezeshkian added further.

The announcement comes hours after Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz claimed Khatib had been killed.

This follows death of defence min

Earlier today, Israel’s defence minister Israel Katz stated that Khatib was killed in targeted overnight airstrikes. This assassination from Israeli forces comes a day after the killing of Iran’s security chief



Ali Larijani.

Katz on Wednesday said the country’s military had eliminated Khatib, while adding that “significant surprises are expected throughout this day on all the fronts”. Katz also stated that he and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu have given the Israeli military standing authorisation to eliminate other senior Iranian officials in their sights without the need for prior approval.

Missiles continue to pound Mideast



Missiles and drones continued to target UAE and others parts of the Gulf on Wednesday as the US-Israeli war with Iran entered the 20th day.

Israeli warplanes struck central Beirut early Wednesday, destroying apartment buildings in one of the most intense attacks on the Lebanese capital in decades. The strikes come as the Israel–Iran conflict widens across the region.

Post Larijani’s death, Iran

retaliated by launching missiles with multiple warheads toward Israel, killing two people near Tel Aviv. Tehran said the loss of officials would not disrupt its operations, with Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi insisting the system does not rely on individuals.

Israel has increased strikes and ground operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon, while Iran’s new supreme leader Mojtaba has rejected mediation efforts to reduce tensions.

SHORTS FROM WAR FRONT

Israeli strikes in central Beirut kills 12
Iran strikes Tel Aviv with cluster warheads in retaliation; kills two
Iran issues evacuation warning near oil sites in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar
NATO head Rutte: Allies discussing ‘best way’ to reopen Strait of Hormuz
Trump says he postponed his trip to China to focus on the war and lashed out at NATO allies.
Trump issues 60-day waiver from century-old Jones Act shipping rules to lower oil costs
Iran arrests over 100 alleged ‘monarchist cells’, suspected spies, AFP reports
Iran strikes Tel Aviv with cluster warheads in retaliation; kills two
Sanctions on Venezuelan oil eased in bid to boost oil supply
Iranian missile debris damages private planes at Israeli airport

3rd assassination of Iran's top leaders in two days

The killing of Esmail Khatib marks the third assassination of Iran’s top leaders in two days. Gholamreza Soleimani, commander of the Basij, the internal paramilitary force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps was also killed in Israeli strikes on Tehran. Aziz Nasirzadeh, Iran’s defence minister, was also killed in the initial US-Israeli strikes against Tehran, along with former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Ahead of the targeted assassinations, the US State Department offered a \$10



Ali Larijani (R) Gholamreza Soleimani

million reward for any information about Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei and other senior officials. Following the killing of Larijani, Israeli PM Netanyahu in a televised statement said that Israel “did the job for free”.

White House welcomes death of Khatib

The White House said the reported killing of Esmail Khatib was positive for the United States. Trump spokesperson Karoline Leavitt described Khatib as a “known terrorist” and said his death benefits the US and its citizens who have faced threats from Iran. The remarks came after Israel Katz announced that Israel had killed Khatib in a strike. Iranian authorities have not immediately provided detailed confirmation regarding the circumstances of his death.



Indian-flagged crude oil tanker ‘Jag Laadki’ arrives at Mundra port in Gujarat on Wednesday, transiting war-hit Strait of Hormuz. It carried approximately 80,886 MT of crude oil – sourced from UAE – loaded at Fujairah Port. These maritime developments unfolded against a backdrop of escalating West Asia tensions. Earlier, two Indian-flagged LPG tankers – MT Shivalik and MT Nanda Devi – carrying approximately 92,712 MT of LPG – arrived in India on March 16 and 17 crossing the Hormuz. To safeguard its commercial interests, India continues to maintain a consistent naval presence in these waters under “Operation Sankalp.” This initiative remains dedicated to ensuring protection to vital shipping lanes and safe berthing of its vessels.

A welcome step: Centre offers 10% extra commercial LPG to states pushing PNG shift

NEW DELHI

The Centre has offered states and Union Territories an additional 10% allocation of commercial LPG if they facilitate a long-term transition to piped natural gas (PNG), a senior official said on Wednesday.

Addressing a press briefing, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary (Marketing & Oil Refinery) in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said the proposal has been communicated to states through a letter dated March 18.

Commercial LPG consumers have been facing supply crunch due to disruptions linked to the Strait of Hormuz.



Under the plan, states can earn additional LPG allocation by undertaking specific reforms and facilitation measures to accelerate the rollout of city gas distribution (CGD) networks and encourage consumers to shift from LPG to PNG.

As per the ministry’s framework, 1% of the additional allo-

cation will be given for setting up state- and district-level committees to approve CGD applications and address grievances.

Another 2% is tied to issuing orders granting deemed permissions for CGD projects, while 3% is linked to implementing a “dig and restore” policy to support pipeline laying.

The remaining 4% will be provided if states reduce annual rental or lease charges for CGD entities. “The onus is now on states and UTs to take these reforms forward, expedite approvals, and ensure PNG connections for domestic, commercial and industrial consumers,” Sharma said.

India's over 1.7 million tonnes of oil, LNG, LPG stuck in Strait of Hormuz

NEW DELHI

India’s 1.67 million tonnes of crude oil, 3.2 lakh tonnes of LPG and about 2 lakh tonnes of LNG are stuck on the 22 Indian-flagged ships stranded in the Persian Gulf, waiting to transit through the Strait of Hormuz, Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary in the Shipping Ministry, said Wednesday.

Originally, there were 28 Indian-flagged vessels in the Strait of Hormuz when the war in the Middle East

broke out following US-Israel attacks on Iran. Of these, 24 were on the west side of the strait and four on the east side. In the last week, two vessels from each side have managed to sail to safety. “All 611 seafarers on 22 vessels (on the west side of the Strait) are safe,” he said. There are now 3 vessels on the east side after one more Indian-flagged ship joined them.

Of the 22 remaining Indian-flagged vessels on the west side of the Hormuz, six are LPG carriers, one is

a LNG tanker, four are crude oil, one is transporting chemical products, three are container ships, and two are bulk carriers.

Additionally, one vessel is a dredger, another is empty with no cargo, and three are in dry dock undergoing routine maintenance. He said efforts are on to secure passage of the se vessels through the war-hit strait.

Overall, close to 500 tanker vessels remain confined to the Persian (Arabian) Gulf.

Prajwal case: ‘70 pen drives bought to share obscene videos’

BENGALURU

A fresh chargesheet filed by the Karnataka police’s Special Investigation Team (SIT) has claimed that the accused persons had procured around 70 pen drives to spread obscene videos related to convicted former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The SIT submitted a 13,712-page chargesheet to a court in Hassan last month following the completion of the investigation and named 39 people as the accused in the case. DH has reviewed the details.

Some of the key accused named in the chargesheet include Karthik N, 33, the former car driver of Prajwal, Harish S N, 33, his auditor, and Devaraje Gowda G, a local BJP leader. Naveen Kumar N R, alias Naveen Gowda, was named as the accused number one.



During the probe, the SIT examined 277 witnesses along with forensic analysis of pen drives

During the course of the probe, the SIT examined 277 witnesses along with forensic analysis of pen drives and gathered other pieces of technical evidence. Many other accused were either linked with local bodies of the Congress or BJP, the chargesheet claimed.

Fresh jolt for Assam Cong as MP joins BJP

DISPUR

In a major setback for the Congress in Assam ahead of the Assembly polls, its sitting MP Pradyut Bordoloi, who resigned from the party on Tuesday, formally joined the BJP in the presence of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and state BJP president Dilip Saikia

Bordoloi, a two-time Lok Sabha member from Nagaon and a former state cabinet minister, cited internal sidelining and repeated disrespect from party leaders as reasons for ending his decades-long association with the Congress. “Today, I have abandoned one of the most important principles of my life, and

I am not happy with it... However, I made this decision because I was being insulted on many issues by anyone who approached me from within the Congress party, especially in the Assam Congress,” he told reporters.

His exit follows that of former Assam Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah.

DGCA FLOATS NEW RULES

Big relief for flyers as Centre caps seat selection fees

NEW DELHI

Airlines will have to keep a minimum of 60% of its seats on any flights free of extra charges for availing facilities to ensure free access and flyers travelling on the same PNR should be seated together, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has told domestic operators.

The Ministry’s directions, aimed at further strengthening passenger convenience, transparency and uniformity of practices across airlines, have been conveyed to the airlines

through the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), stated an official.

With airlines charging extra for choosing seats and other facilities, the new directions have mandated that a minimum 60% of seats on any flight be allocated free of charge to ensure fair access. Passengers travelling on the same PNR to be seated together, preferably in adjacent seats, it said.

Minimum free seats: Airlines often charge extra for preferred seats (like window, aisle, or front rows). Under the new



rule, minimum 60% of seats on any flight will be allocated free of charge to ensure fair access to all passengers.

Same PNR to be seated together: Passengers travelling on the same PNR will be seated

together, preferably in adjacent seats. This will avoid families being split up, especially those travelling with children or elderly passengers.

Carriage sports and musical instruments: Airlines must allow passengers to carry sports equipment and musical instruments in a clear and passenger-friendly way, while following safety rules.

Adherence to rules: Airlines should follow strict adherence to the passenger rights framework, particularly in cases of delays, cancellations and de-

nied boarding.

Passenger entitlement-related communication in regional languages: With many people facing difficulties due to most communication being in English, the new rules mandate clear communication of passenger entitlements in regional languages to ensure wider accessibility and awareness.

Display of rights: There should be a prominent display of passenger rights across airline websites, mobile applications, booking platforms and airport counters.

QUICK READ



Drugs are being sold to women inmates in jails: Officials

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
After DGP Prisons Alok Kumar's visit to jails, it was believed that illegal activities had been curbed. However, there is a possibility that the drugs are still hidden inside the prison's barracks. Drug tests conducted on women prisoners have yielded shocking results. Officials were shocked to find that some of the female prisoners had tested positive for drugs. The question now arises as to how the drugs reached the women's barracks. It is possible that not only male prisoners but also female prisoners have consumed drugs. In addition, around 20 inmates have refused to give urine samples. Fearing that the drug test report would be positive, he was reluctant to give urine and got into an argument with the jail authorities. Currently, the authorities are trying hard to convince these prisoners to get them tested.

Fire breaks out at Yelahanka cow shelter

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A fire broke out at a cow shelter near Yelahanka. A fire broke out at Sri Krishna Goshala Ashram in Hosur Rock. The fire broke out in a hay shed in a cow shelter with more than 700 cows. The blaze broke out at 11 am on Wednesday and more than 30 water tankers along with four fire tenders were pressed into service. All the cows in the cow shelter have been rescued.

Jai Bangla chant: HC grants bail to Bengal woman

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
The High Court has granted conditional bail to a West Bengal woman who was arrested on charges of shouting Jai Bangla slogans during a drive to remove illegal sheds constructed on government land in Hebbagodi. A single-judge bench headed by Justice S Rachaiiah has granted the criminal bail application filed by Sarbanu Khatun (25), currently residing in Hulimangala Podu village in Anekal taluk. The traditional conditions have been imposed, including that the applicant must furnish a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh and a local surety of the same amount.

HEALTHCARE GOES HI-TECH

Drone flies 40 lab samples in 10 minutes in B'luru

A city-based healthcare firm & a logistics startup have teamed up to use to deliver diagnostic samples, bypassing B'luru's gridlocked roads & ensuring faster supply

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a pilot project, Narayana Health and Airbound used specialised drone flights to transport samples from a clinic in Chandapura to Narayana Health City in Bommasandra, significantly cutting down transit time compared to road commute. Under the pilot, running since January 2026, around 700 flights were conducted over 54 days, with each flight carrying up to 40 diagnostic samples.

The drone covered a 4km aerial route in just 10 minutes, what would typically take about an hour in peak traffic.

Apart from saving time, each of these drone flights cost about Re 1 in operational



expenses, making it a more economical option than road transport. The blended wing-body tailsitter design of the drones combined vertical takeoff with the aerodynamic efficiency of a fixed-wing flight, thereby enabling lower cost per km of delivery compared to conventional ground transport. Earlier, diagnostic

samples used to be transported on three to four road trips daily.

Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, Founder and Chairman of Narayana Health, said the model will be scaled up at its upcoming hospital in Banashankari, set to be inaugurated in the coming months.

While DGCA approval was

obtained for the test flights, for operating services from Banashankari to Bommasandra, a formal approval is still awaited.

Naman Pushp, founder and CEO of the logistics startup said the pilot recorded zero failures so far. Conventional logistics is primed for change. Our ambition is to build a new layer of infrastructure for commercial freight, he further added.

Commenting on the upcoming medical facility, Dr Shetty said, this will be the first hospital in India to go completely paperless and smart. Only those directly involved in patient care will be on-site, while all other services will be handled remotely.

Apartments await KAOMA-2025, political timing clouds bill's future

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The city's apartment residents are intensifying their demand for the long-pending Karnataka Apartment Ownership and Management Act (KAOMA-2025), as uncertainty continues over when the legislation will finally be tabled.

With the legislature session in progress and MLAs turning the spotlight on the challenges faced by the tech capital, members of the Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF) hoped the proposed legislation would not be put on the back burner once again.

The residents said the urgency stemmed from persistent gaps in the existing Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act-1972, which they argue fails to address key issues such as redevelopment norms, dispute resolution mechanisms, and the powers and responsibilities of apartment associations.

The absence of a comprehensive and updated legal framework has made governance within apart-

ment complexes difficult, often leading to conflicts and lack of accountability, they pointed out.

According to BAF, the city has over 1,700 apartments and 3.5 lakh apartment residents, though the federation itself represents only a section of this population.

BAF President Satish Mallya said, the delay in passing the KAOMA-2025 Act is leaving citizens struggling to manage their apartments, resolve disputes, and protect their ownership rights without a clear legal framework.

Kiran Hebbar, Treasurer of BAF, said repeated delays in tabling the bill have made governance within apartment communities increasingly difficult.

When certain provisions are enforced while others are overlooked, it creates uncertainty.

A timely, clear, and uniform implementation of the Act is essential for transparency and smooth functioning, he said.

Offer of free notebooks for schoolchildren under review: Min

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The initiative of distributing free notebooks for the government school students from the 2026-27 academic year, announced by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a state-level Teachers' Day celebration last year, is under review, according to Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa.

The Chief Minister had announced that notebooks will be distributed free of cost along with textbooks. Later, the same announcement was



made by the state's school education minister at various public events.

However, with no mention of the freebie in the state budget or in the call for intent for books for the next academic year, where schools had to give the number of books required, it was evident that free



LPG crunch threatens to stall over 3K MSMEs

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The spectre of complete shutdown looms over Peenya Industrial Area, one of the largest industrial hubs in the country, with disruptions in gas supply threatening over 3,000 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with slowdown or shutdown of operations.

The situation is worsening by the day, triggering fears of production losses, delayed orders, and wage stress on workers.

Many units report that supply has dropped sharply, affecting daily operations and forcing production cuts. Nearly 3,500 industries in the Peenya region are dependent on LPG, which is a primary source of production activity. Fuel costs account for 15-30 percent of production expenses. We are already facing fiscal-end pressures and the upcoming festival season, and such disruptions will severely affect output, manpower, and the local economy, R Shivakumar, former President of Peenya Industries Association (PIA), told.

He added that gas agencies have cited supply constraints and are distributing cylinders based on availability. We request the government to intervene, handhold the MSME sector, and ensure a proper dispatch schedule from manufacturers. Without timely supply, industries may be forced to halt operations and could face penalties for delayed deliveries, he said.

Peenya, spread over nearly 50 sqkm, is one of Asia's largest industrial clusters, employing close to 13 lakh workers. The cluster generates an annual turnover of about Rs 35,000 crore and contributes nearly Rs 8,500 crore worth of exports, making it a critical pillar of Kar-

Industries dependent on LPG for critical processes such as welding, heat treatment, metal casting, and food processing have been grappling with irregular supply over the past 10 days.

'Prolonged disruption will hit sector hard'

PIA president DP Danna said prolonged disruption could lead to reduced industrial output, supply chain bottlenecks in engineering and automobile components, increased manufacturing costs, and potential job losses across the MSME ecosystem.

nataka's manufacturing ecosystem.

Industry representatives point to global factors exacerbating the crisis. India imports 65-66 percent of its LPG, over 90% of it from war-ravaged West Asia. The shortage is already disrupting furnace-based operations, gas cutting, and moisture-removal processes across sectors such as foundries, fabrication units, powder coating, and pharmaceuticals.

For micro enterprises operating on thin margins, rising fuel costs and supply uncertainty are adding to working capital stress.

Despite the gravity of the situation, industry leaders say no formal meeting has yet been convened by the industries department to address the crisis or discuss mitigation measures.

BREATHING SPELL

Hail pelts B'luru, IMD forecasts more storms

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Unseasonal rain accompanied by hailstorms swept across several parts of North Bengaluru, bringing much-needed relief from scorching heat but also disrupting daily life.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) scientists issued a forecast of thunderstorms at isolated places in districts along with strong, gusty winds at a speed of 30-40 kmph till the weekend.

CS Patil, Scientist at IMD, Bengaluru, attributed the hailstorm to multiple factors. There is a north-south trough extending over interiors of Karnataka besides discontinuity of winds. This apart, all districts have reported scorching heat over the past few



days, resulting in intense hailstorms at isolated places of North and South-interior Karnataka districts.

In Bengaluru, parts of Sanjaynagar and Hebbal saw hailstorms in the evening. Sanjaynagar resident Madukar Raj told, I have seen hailstorms in the city before, but these were big ice cubes. We had hailstorms for close to 10 minutes

and then good rain. I ran out just to see the cubes. It was nice to watch, though people travelling should take care.

Light-to-moderate showers lashed parts of RT Nagar, Hebbal, Nagawara and Kammanahalli at night.

IMD officials said, there's possibility of intense thunderstorms between Doddaballapur and Chikkaballapur

areas, including Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) as well. Despite the thunder-showers, IMD officials said maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to hover around 33 degree C and 21 degree C, respectively in Bengaluru. Greater Bengaluru Authority issued a rain advisory following forecast of light-to-moderate showers across the city.

The disaster management team urged residents to avoid travelling during heavy spells of rain, stay away from electric poles and trees due to safety risks, and avoid water-logged underpasses. Citizens can reach out through GBA helpline (1533) or WhatsApp number (94806 85700) in case of emergencies.

Notorious thief Pulsar Babu arrested

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Sadashivanagar police have arrested a notorious thief who was involved in a series of thefts at wedding houses.

The arrested accused, Babu alias 'Pulsar Babu', a native of Channarayana, was caught red-handed by the police when he was caught stealing from a wedding at Palace Grounds.

The arrest of the Khatarnak thief has led to several cases of robbery of valuables, including gold ornaments, mobile phones, targeting young children in wedding homes.

Pulsar Babu had targeted big wedding choultries. When the attention of the wedding guests was distracted, especially the young



children, he used to steal. He used to steal gold ornaments and mobile phones from his children.

He also stole cameras, laptops and bikes from the wedding house.

The accused, Pulsar Babu, was involved in 19 theft cases. He used to steal for the sake of luxury and fun, and had repeatedly committed thefts and went to jail. How-

ever, during the Corona pandemic, around 2000 people who were in minor cases were released. Pulsar Babu came out of jail and continued his theft activities.

He used to melt the stolen gold ornaments and get the Tirupati lockets and rings made as per his wishes. He used the stolen money to buy cars and roam around and have fun.

A total of 2 cars, 132 grams of gold jewellery, 7 mobiles, 1 camera, 2 lenses, 2 laptops, Rs 1.20 lakh in cash and four bikes worth Rs 42.38 lakh were seized from the accused.

With the arrest of Pulsar Babu, a total of 8 cases of theft have been registered in Sadashivanagar, Varthur, Jalahalli, Hennur and Bagalunte police stations.

QUICK READ



Boy Falls into Canal; Search Operation On

Raichur

A tragic incident was reported in Lingasugur taluk after a nine-year-old boy, Ramesh Javalagera, fell into the Narayanpur Right Bank Canal near Rodalbanda–Javoor on Wednesday morning. The child had reportedly gone near the canal to wash his hands and feet when he accidentally slipped into the water. Fire brigade personnel rushed to the spot and launched a search operation, which continued till late evening. Ramesh had recently come to his maternal village following his father's death. The incident left villagers shocked, as many gathered at the site and assisted officials in the search efforts.

Sudden Rain and Winds Disrupt Life in Vijayapura

Vijayapura

A sudden spell of heavy rain with strong winds disrupted normal life in Vijayapura on Tuesday evening. The rain began around 7 pm, following a warm and dry day, catching residents by surprise. People rushed for shelter as traffic slowed due to poor visibility and slippery roads. Shopkeepers and vendors quickly secured their goods, while water-logging in some low-lying areas caused minor traffic issues. Though the rain brought relief from heat, it created inconvenience during peak hours. No major damage was reported.

Free Coaching Applications Open for Minority Students

Vijayapura

The Department of Minorities Welfare has invited online applications for free coaching programmes for minority students in Vijayapura district for the academic year 2026–27. The scheme is open to students from Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, and Parsi communities. Selected candidates will get two years of integrated coaching along with PUC education to prepare for exams like NEET, JEE, KCET, CLAT, CA Foundation, ICAR, and CUET. Eligible students can apply through the department's official website before March 31. Officials said the programme aims to help students achieve better academic results and secure professional course admissions.

Ensure Adequate Drinking Water Supply in Rural Areas: ZP Official

Officials urged to ensure uninterrupted rural water supply, update Sujalam App data, and prevent shortages during summer

VIJAYAPURA

Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Prakash Waddar has directed officials to ensure the uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water to rural areas in Vijayapura district.

He was speaking after inaugurating a one-day district-level workshop on the Sujalam App, organized under the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department at the Zilla Panchayat hall.

Waddar emphasized that officials, contractors, and Gram Panchayat-level staff must work in coordination to effectively implement water supply schemes. He noted that initiatives such as Jal Jeevan Mission and Jaladhare are ambitious programmes of



the Central and State governments aimed at providing drinking water to every household.

“Water is an essential part of human life, and officials must work sincerely to ensure that rural residents receive adequate drinking water without any disruption,” he said. He instructed authorities to familiarize themselves with the Sujalam App and regularly

update necessary data to ensure efficient implementation and monitoring of water supply projects. He also stressed the need to prevent any technical or supply-related issues.

Chief Planning Officer C.B. Kumbar highlighted that the Sujalam Bharat App, a key digital initiative under Jal Jeevan Mission, helps in real-time monitoring and digitization of rural water supply systems. The

app assigns a unique “Sujal Gaon ID” to each water scheme, enabling tracking of water sources, pipelines, and quality parameters.

He added that the app enhances transparency, accountability, and efficiency, while also allowing citizens to access water quality information and provide feedback, thereby strengthening community participation. With the onset of summer, Waddar instructed officials to take precautionary measures to avoid water shortages in villages and ensure that all drinking water units are repaired within a week. Officials, engineers, contractors, and staff of the department from across the district were present at the workshop.

Students faced inconvenience during exams; parents blamed negligence, citing outdated records, and demanded accountability and accurate information

SSLC Students Face Confusion over Wrong Exam Centre Address

YADGIR

A major lapse by the Education Department led to confusion and distress among SSLC students and their parents in Yadgir on Wednesday, the first day of the SSLC examinations held across the state. The issue arose due to an error in printing the name and address of an examination centre on hall tickets. Students allotted to Sabah High School were directed to an exam centre on Ganj Road, as mentioned in their hall tickets. However, the school had shifted to a new location near Lumbini Garden nearly a year ago.

Unaware of the change, several students and parents initially reached the old ad-

dress, only to find that the centre was no longer functioning there. This led to panic and confusion, with many seen rushing between Ganj Road and the Lumbini Garden area in search of the correct examination centre.

The situation caused significant inconvenience, especially as students were already under pressure on an important examination day. Parents expressed anger over the negligence, stating that such mistakes could have affected students' performance.

Sources indicated that despite the school relocating months ago, the Education Department failed to update its official records. As a result, the outdated address was printed on hall tickets, leading



to the mix-up. Although no student reportedly missed the examination due to the confusion, the incident exposed serious lapses in coordination and communication by the authorities.

Students and parents have urged the department to take immediate corrective mea-

sures and ensure accurate information in official documents. They also demanded accountability to prevent such errors from recurring during future examinations. Officials are expected to review the issue and implement stricter verification processes for exam-related details.

Bagalkot By-Election: CM Invites Meti Family for Talks amid Ticket Speculation

BAGALKOT

Political developments around the upcoming by-election in Bagalkot have intensified, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inviting the family members of late leader H.Y. Meti to Bengaluru for discussions over candidate selection. The move comes shortly after Mahadevi Meti, daughter of the late leader, indicated her intention to contest the by-election and confirmed that she would file her nomination on March 20. The development has sparked speculation over the congress party's final choice of candidate from the influential Meti family.

According to sources, the Chief Minister extended an invitation to all four children of H.Y. Meti in an apparent effort to build consensus within the family and avoid internal differences ahead of the election. Speaking to media, Umesh Meti, stated that he, along with his siblings Malikarjun, Bayakka, and Mahadevi, would travel to Bengaluru to meet the Chief Minis-

ter. He said that the family remains united and would support whichever member is given the party ticket.

“Our family will stand together. Whoever receives the ticket, we will jointly seek the blessings of the people,” he said, adding that internal conflict would go against the wishes of the electorate, who continue to hold strong respect and affection for their father. The by-election has gained significance in the region, with major political parties closely watching the developments. The ruling party is expected to finalize its candidate soon, keeping in mind both electoral prospects and internal unity. Political observers believe the outcome of the meeting in Bengaluru could play a crucial role in shaping the party's strategy and influencing the electoral contest in the constituency.

Lightning Strike Burns Coconut Tree in Raichur; No Casualties Reported

RAICHUR

A coconut tree was completely burnt after being struck by lightning in Haljadaladinni village of Arakera taluk in Raichur district.

The incident occurred around 7:30 pm on farmland belonging to Sharif Saab, a resident of the area. According to local sources, a sudden lightning strike amid thundercloud activity hit the coconut tree just before the onset of rain, instantly setting its branches, leaves, and coconuts on fire. Eyewitnesses reported that flames quickly engulfed the tree, creating a frightening

scene. However, the intensity of the fire reduced shortly after rainfall began.

At the time of the incident, oxen were tied near the tree, and five to six people were present in a nearby farmhouse. Fortunately, no injuries or casualties were reported. Locals who witnessed the captured the dramatic moment on their mobile phones, expressing shock at the sudden blaze triggered by the lightning strike. Authorities have advised farmers and residents to remain cautious during thunderstorms and avoid staying near tall trees or open fields during lightning activity.

Hailstorm and Heavy Rain Lash Bidar; Crop Loss Reported Across 51 Hectares

BIDAR

A severe hailstorm accompanied by heavy rain lashed parts of Bidar district on Tuesday night, bringing temporary relief from the scorching heat but also causing damage to crops and disrupting normal life.

Rainfall was reported across several taluks, including Bidar, Basavakalyan, Humnabad, and Chitgoppa. In many areas, the downpour lasted for about half an hour and was accompanied by intense hail, creating unusual weather conditions. In Bidar city, hailstones continued to fall for nearly 30 minutes, leading to waterlogging in some areas and slowing down vehicular movement. Commuters faced difficulties due to reduced visibility and slippery roads.

While residents welcomed the sudden drop in temperature after days of intense heat, the hailstorm caused signifi-



cant damage to standing crops in rural areas. According to preliminary reports, crop loss has been recorded across approximately 51 hectares in the district.

Joint Director of Horticulture (Zilla Panchayat), Vishwanath Zille, stated that field are currently conducting surveys to assess the extent of the damage. Initial findings indicate that mango crops have been the worst affected, with losses reported on around 15 hectares due to fruit fall caused by the impact of hailstones.

Other crops such as onion, tomato, and papaya have also suffered damage. In onion and papaya, quality deterioration has been observed, raising concerns among farmers about market value and yield. Officials said the assessment process is ongoing, and a detailed report on crop losses is expected to be finalized by late afternoon. Authorities have assured farmers that necessary steps will be taken after the final evaluation, while urging them to remain cautious during sudden weather changes.

Unregulated Roadside Tattoo Stalls Raise Health Concerns near Central Bus Stand

VIJAYAPURA

The growing number of roadside tattoo artists operating near the Central Bus Stand in Vijayapura has raised serious public health concerns, prompting calls for action from the Health Department and civic authorities.

Over the past few years, tattoos have become increasingly popular among youngsters as a form of fashion and personal expression. Taking advantage of this trend, several tattoo artists have set up temporary stalls along busy streets around the bus stand, offering instant tattoos at low prices. Many of these artists reportedly travel from northern states such as Rajasthan and the Jaipur region and operate small makeshift setups on pavements.

While these stalls attract many customers due to their affordability and convenience, health experts warn that such unregulated tattooing practices may pose significant health

risks if proper hygiene standards are not followed. Tattooing involves piercing the skin with needles to inject ink, making it a procedure that requires strict sterilization and medical safety precautions. However, roadside tattoo setups often lack proper sanitation facilities, regulated equipment and hygienic working conditions.

Medical experts caution that the use of reused or unsterilized needles, contaminated ink or poorly maintained equipment can lead to serious health issues. These include skin infections, allergic reactions, inflammation and in severe cases the transmission of blood-borne diseases through contaminated instruments. Health experts say safe tattooing requires the use of new disposable needles for each customer, sterilized equipment, high-quality inks and strict hygiene practices. The tattoo artist should wear gloves, disinfect the skin before and after the procedure

and provide proper aftercare instructions.

Despite some roadside artists claiming that they follow these precautions and use fresh needles, verifying safety standards at temporary roadside stalls remains difficult. Public health advocates are urging the District Health Department and municipal authorities to conduct inspections of roadside tattoo stalls and ensure that safety and hygiene standards are strictly followed. If necessary, unlicensed tattoo operations should be regulated or removed to prevent potential health hazards. Citizens have also appealed to authorities to create awareness among youngsters about the risks of getting tattoos from unregulated vendors. While tattoos remain a popular form of art and identity, experts stress that public safety cannot be compromised. Strict monitoring and action by health authorities is considered essential to prevent possible health complications in the community.

PROTEST DEMANDS PEACE

Protest in Sindhanur Demands End to War on Iran

RAICHUR

Members of various progressive organisations staged a protest in Sindhanur on Wednesday, urging an immediate halt to the ongoing conflict involving Iran.

The demonstration was organized under the banner of a federation of progressive groups, who also submitted a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister of India, calling for diplomatic intervention to stop the war.

Speaking on the occasion, protestors condemned the at-



tacks on Iran, describing them as inhumane and against the principles of

global peace. They urged the Government of India to exert pressure at the international

level to bring an end to the conflict and promote peaceful resolution. The protestors

also raised concerns over the potential impact of the conflict on essential commodi-

ties in India. They demanded that the government ensure adequate availability of LPG gas, diesel, and petrol across the country to prevent shortages and price hikes.

Emphasizing India's foreign policy stance, the speakers called upon the Centre to maintain an independent approach without yielding to pressure from any particular nation.

They stressed the need for India to continue its trade relations with other countries based on mutual cooperation and national interest. Several

leaders of progressive organisations, including D.H. Poojar, Chandrashekhhar Gorabal, Hussain Saab, Basavaraj Badarli, S. Devendragouda, Kasim Saab Carpenter, Bhashumiya, Chittibabu Budivala Camp, Krishnamurthy Dhumati, Hanumanthappa Hanchinal, Ganganna Hosalli, Amaresh Nayak, and Shivappa Subhan Saab, participated in the protest. The demonstration concluded with a call for global peace and responsible international action to prevent further escalation of conflict.

QUICK READ

Young driver dies in tragic tractor accident

HAVERI

A 26-year-old driver died in a tragic accident in Haveri after getting stuck between a tractor and a brick-loaded trailer. The deceased, Devaraj Lamani, was a resident of Guttala Tanda. He had arrived at Marola village carrying around 2,500 bricks when the incident occurred. While operating the vehicle, he reportedly got trapped near the tractor engine and died on the spot. Police from Guttala station visited the scene and began an investigation. A case has been registered, and further inquiry is underway.

Vadikere Temple Brahmarathotsava begins on March 30

CHITRADURGA

Vadikere's historic Sri Kalabhairaveshwara Temple will host the grand Sri Kalabhairaveshwaraswamy Jatra Mahotsav from March 27 to April 1. Devotees eagerly await the Kalyanotsava and Brahmarathotsavam celebrations of the revered deity. Festivities begin March 27 with Kankanadharana at 8 p.m., followed by a fire festival on March 28 and a small chariot procession on March 29. The main Brahmarathotsava will take place on March 30 from 4:30 p.m., preceded by the Flower Palanquin Festival at 3:30 p.m., featuring folk art troupes. The temple executive officer, KV Veerabhadrapa, urged devotees to participate and maintain temple cleanliness.

Meeting planned ahead of leaders' birth anniversaries

CHITRADURGA

A preliminary meeting has been scheduled on March 23 at 3 p.m. in Chitradurga district to plan celebrations for upcoming birth anniversaries of national leaders. The event will mark the 119th birth anniversary of Jagjivan Ram on April 5 and the 135th birth anniversary of B. R. Ambedkar on April 14. District Collector T. Venkatesh will chair the meeting. Officials have invited public representatives, organization heads, and citizens to attend.

Railway staff returns lost bag with gold, cash

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Railway staff and police earned praise after returning a vanity bag containing gold and cash to its owner. Rupa L., a resident of Tarikere, forgot her bag in the second coach of the Talaguppa-Mysore Express while traveling from Shimoga to Tarikere. The bag held 118 grams of gold jewelry and ₹20,000 in cash. Upon learning about the loss at Tarikere station, the staff

Charge sheet filed against 39 in Prajwal Revanna video case

The case, under IT Act and IPC, was investigated by SIT, examining 52 people, charging 39 eventually

SHIVAMOGGA

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) has filed a detailed charge sheet against 39 people in connection with the circulation of explicit videos linked to alleged sexual abuse by former MP Prajwal Revanna. The case has drawn wide public attention due to the serious nature of the allegations.

According to police, the accused allegedly bought around 70 pendrives to spread obscene content. Investigators found that one accused, Harish, purchased these devices using a UPI payment. Officials collected transaction details as part of the probe.

The case began after Poornachandra Tejaswi M.G., who



worked as an election agent for Revanna during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, filed a complaint on April 23, 2024. He claimed that morphed photos and videos were being circulated through pendrives and WhatsApp to influence

voters.

Police initially registered the case under the Information Technology Act, 2008, along with sections of the Indian Penal Code. Later, the State Government handed the investigation to the SIT,

which examined the role of 52 individuals before naming 39 in the charge sheet.

Key accused include Naveen Gowda, Karthik, a former driver of Revanna, advocate Devaraje Gowda, and Harish Gowda. The charge sheet reportedly runs over 13,700 pages.

Poornachandra expressed disappointment, saying some influential names were left out. He urged police to identify the main mastermind behind the operation.

Earlier, in August 2025, a special court in Bengaluru convicted Revanna in one sexual abuse case and sentenced him to life imprisonment, along with fines imposed by the court.



MP seeks expansion of underpasses in Davanagere

DAVANAGERE

Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun has submitted a petition to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari seeking expansion of key underpasses in Davanagere to ease traffic and improve safety.

During a meeting held in New Delhi, the MP requested widening of the Light Vehicle Underpass near SS Hospital and the Vehicle Underpass at Bada Cross as per national highway guidelines. She pointed out that the existing structures are too narrow to handle the growing number of vehicles.

According to the petition, both locations witness heavy daily traffic. Bada Cross is a busy junction, while the SS Hospital area is an important healthcare hub with a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation depot nearby. Due to limited space, traffic congestion has become a regular problem. The MP also highlighted safety concerns, stating that narrow underpasses are causing delays for ambulances and public transport, which can affect emergency services. She stressed the

The petition notes heavy traffic at Bada Cross and SS Hospital, highlighting congestion, narrow underpasses delaying ambulances, and urgent infrastructure upgrades needed for future demands

need to upgrade infrastructure considering future traffic demands. In her proposal, Dr. Mallikarjun suggested constructing larger underpasses with better planning. Key recommendations include separate lanes for pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles, safe ramp systems, and the development of proper slip roads.

Officials believe that such improvements will help reduce congestion and ensure smoother movement of vehicles in the city. The demand has gained importance as Davanagere continues to grow, with increasing traffic putting pressure on existing road infrastructure. Authorities are expected to review the proposal and take necessary action based on feasibility and guidelines.

Devegowda reflected on his political journey, gratitude for public support, and disappointment at former allies now opposing him

GTD says he will stay loyal to JDS

MYSURU

Chamundeshwari MLA G. T. Devegowda has said he will continue in the Janata Dal (Secular) (JDS) and contest from the party in the next election, putting an end to speculation about his future.

Speaking at Jayapura village in his constituency, he clearly stated that there is no question of leaving the party. At the same time, he made an emotional appeal to voters, saying he would follow their wishes if he is denied a party ticket. "I am in JDS and will remain here. If the ticket is not given, I will act based on what the people decide," he said. He also added that he would still submit his application for the ticket and contin-



ue to seek the support of the public. Devegowda spoke about his long political journey and said the love of the people has always supported him. He expressed disappointment that some individuals he once helped are now opposing him. He said such challenges are not new and have been part of his political life for years. Recently, there were reports of his absence from party meetings, which had raised

questions about his relationship with party leaders. Some party members had also hinted at moving forward without him.

Despite this, his latest statement and emotional appeal have drawn attention in the constituency. Political observers say his remarks may influence party decisions and voter opinion in the coming days as election preparations slowly begin in the region.

Savita Samaj seeks full loan waiver support

GADAG

The Gadag District Savita Samaj has urged the state government to extend loan relief similar to that given to minority development corporation borrowers. Krishna Hadapa, president of the district Savita Samaj, said millions of barber families who have faced financial hardship since the COVID-19 pandemic should be treated as a "special case" and granted full loan waivers. In a press statement, Hadapa referred to Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwar's willingness to help des-



tute debtors. He requested that the same humanitarian approach be applied to the Savita Samaj, whose members have lost their businesses and livelihoods during the pandemic. He highlighted that

loans taken from the Devaraja Arasu Backward Classes Development Corporation remain a heavy burden for poor families. Hadapa also suggested that small entrepreneurs with loans up to ₹10

lakh should be supported with a 50% subsidy, as announced in the state budget. The Savita Samaj plans to submit an appeal letter to the Chief Minister through the Gadag District Collector in the coming days. Krishna Hadapa warned that if the government does not respond to these requests, the community members are prepared to organize a statewide protest. "This is a fair demand, and our families need immediate relief to become debt-free," he said, emphasizing the urgent need for support to revive livelihoods in the district.

Canal breach causes heavy water loss in Koppal

KOPPAL

A major breach in the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal led to a large loss of water late Tuesday night, raising concerns among officials and farmers in the region. The incident occurred between Basapur and Bandiharlapur villages in Koppal taluk, near the 13th-mile stretch of the canal. According to officials, the canal was carrying water



released to fill tanks in Koppal and Raichur districts to meet drinking water needs during the summer. Sources from the Irrigation Department said that seepage had been noticed

earlier at the same spot. The area was reportedly weakened due to rodent burrows, which damaged the canal structure. Though sandbags were placed to control the leakage, the canal bund eventually collapsed, causing water to flow into nearby agricultural fields.

Officials stated that water release into the canal had resumed recently after being stopped for crest gate installation work at the reservoir.

SUBRAHMANYA

Strong opposition has emerged in Subrahmanya against the proposed Kukke Subrahmanya Temple Development Authority, with local residents preparing for an organized protest. The issue has created tension among villagers, business owners, and community leaders.

A meeting was held at Kumaradhara Sabha under the Subrahmanya Gram Panchayat, where many people gathered to express their concerns. Participants included traders, house owners, and representatives of local groups, all of whom opposed the plan.

M. Pawan said a new authority is not needed as several development projects worth crores are already in progress under the master plan committee. He felt that adding another authority could create confusion and delay ongoing work.

Shivaram Rai suggested

that protests should begin immediately, even before the authority's rules are framed, to draw the government's attention. The gathering decided to intensify their struggle within a month and raise their voice strongly. Many residents fear that if the authority is formed, it may be led by top officials like ministers or IAS officers. They worry this could make it harder for locals to share their problems. There are also concerns about stricter rules for daily activities, including building construction and licenses.

Another public meeting is planned on March 19 to decide the next steps. Locals believe the protest may grow stronger in the coming days.

Meanwhile, temple authorities at Kukke Subrahmanya Temple clarified that food distribution for devotees continues as usual. Some small changes were made to save gas, but services remain uninterrupted for all visitors.

BELAGAVI GETS NEW MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

BELAGAVI

Preeti Kamakar from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been elected as the new Mayor of Belagavi, while Hanumanta Kongali was chosen as the Deputy Mayor. This time, both posts have gone to Kannadiga leaders, making it a special moment for the city.

The election was held at the council hall of the Belagavi Municipal Corporation. For the mayor's post, Preeti Kamakar contested against Khursida Dadapeer Mulla, an independent candidate supported by Congress. Out of 65 members, 59 were present for voting. Preeti Kamakar secured 39 votes, while her opponent received 29 votes. She

won the election by a margin of 10 votes, officials confirmed. The mayor's post was reserved for a general category woman this term. For the Deputy Mayor post, Hanumanta Kongali contested against Congress member Modinasab Matawale. Kongali received 39 votes, while his opponent got 20 votes, winning by a margin of 19 votes.

This election is significant because, in the past three terms, one post usually went to a Marathi leader and the other to a Kannadiga. This time, both positions have been given to Kannadigas.

After the results were announced, BJP members celebrated by raising slogans and showing support.

DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING

Disaster drill in Gadag draws huge attention

GADAG

A disaster management demonstration held in Gadag created strong awareness among people about how to act during emergencies. The event took place at K.H. Patil Institute of Medical Sciences and attracted students, staff, and the public in large numbers.

The main highlight was a live rescue demonstration by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team led by Kamlesh Singh. A mock situation of a building



collapse was created inside the hospital campus, where rescue teams showed how to save people trapped under debris.

The team explained each

step clearly, including locating survivors using special devices, safely removing them, and giving immediate medical help. They stressed that quick action and team-

work are very important in saving lives during disasters.

Officials also guided the public on safety steps. People were advised not to panic during such incidents, move to safe places, and inform emergency services quickly. They were told to avoid crowding near accident sites and to help in an organized way. Basic first aid methods were also explained.

A trained rescue dog impressed everyone by identifying trapped victims using its strong sense of smell. Its quick response showed the

important role animals play in rescue missions.

District Collector C.N. Sri-dhara said disasters can happen anytime, but proper preparation can reduce loss of life and damage. He stressed that public cooperation is very important.

Experts also suggested keeping emergency kits at home with items like a torch, medicines, water, and contact numbers. The program gave practical knowledge and boosted confidence among participants to face real-life disasters effectively.

QUICK READ

Head Constable Dies After Sudden Heart Attack

KOLAR

A head constable died after suffering a heart attack in Kolar. The deceased, Venkataramanappa, aged 50, was a resident of Seesandra village in Kolar taluk. He was serving at the Origam Police Station under KGF district police. According to reports, he had been following medication and a diet plan to lose weight. He suffered a heart attack at home early in the morning and passed away while being taken to the hospital. Police officials and locals expressed grief over his sudden death.

Inactive cooperative societies face closure

CHITRADURGA

Authorities have begun action to close several inactive cooperative societies in Chitradurga district under existing laws and rules. Officials said these societies have not been functioning for a long time. Members and the public can submit objections within seven days to the Deputy Registrar's office in the city. Societies listed for closure include poultry, handloom, and sheep production groups in Chitradurga and Hiriyur taluks. Officials stated this step aims to improve accountability and ensure only active societies continue to operate for public benefit and local development in the district.

Light rain brings relief across Chitradurga district

CHITRADURGA

Chitradurga district received light rainfall on Tuesday, with an average of 3.2 mm recorded across the region. Chitradurga district saw varied rainfall in different taluks. Challakere recorded the highest at 7 mm, while Chitradurga taluk got 1.6 mm. Hiriyur and Hosadurga received 2.7 mm and 1.7 mm respectively, while Molakalmuru reported 3.2 mm. Rainfall differed across hobbis, with some areas like Parashurampur and Talaku receiving over 8 mm.

Kudur KPS School distributes almond milk to students

MAGADI

In a special gesture to support students appearing for the SSLC exams, Kudur town's Karnataka Public School (KPS) distributed almond milk to all examinees on Wednesday. The initiative aimed to boost students' confidence and ensure their health during the crucial exam period.

The program was organized in collaboration with Bamul Vice President K.E.B. Rajanna and the

SSIT College prepares for grand Kalotsava festival

TUMAKURU

Sri Siddhartha Institute of Technology (SSIT) College is all set to host its cultural festival, Kalotsava 2026, one of the biggest events on campus. The festival was officially launched when Vice-Chancellor Dr. K.B. Lingegowda released the Kalotsava 2026 logo at the college premises.

Dr. Lingegowda called Kalotsava the brand of SSIT College and praised the students for their enthusiasm and creativity. He encouraged everyone to participate actively and showcase their talents during the festival.

Principal Dr. Mahantesh M. highlighted that the event would feature a wide range of competitions, including unity and culture team challenges, dance, music, fashion shows, and other exciting

talent displays. He urged students to make the most of this opportunity to demonstrate their skills and creativity.

During the launch, the Kalotsava 2026 poster was unveiled, and trophies for winners of various competitions were presented. Students from both teams gave a preview of their performances, capturing the attention of attendees with energetic dance and music displays. Preparations are in full swing for the grand celebration, which will take place on March 27 and 28, 2026. Academic Dean Dr. Renukalata, Dr. Pradeep, Head of the Engineering Department, other professors, and all heads of departments were present to support the event. Students are eagerly looking forward to two days of fun, talent, and cultural celebration that promises to be both lively and memorable.

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District banks urged to meet RBI targets

Under PMFAAE and PMSGAABY, Rs. 20.53 crore and Rs. 9.05 crore were sanctioned



UDUPI

RBI Assistant General Manager Nisha Thakur directed district bank officials to prioritize achieving targets set by the Reserve Bank of India during the District Lead Bank Progress Review Meeting held at Dr. V.S. Acharya Hall, Zilla Panchayat, Rajatadri, Manipal.

She noted that banking penetration in the district is limited and urged officials to expand business, organize awareness programs about loan and subsidy facilities, and improve the credit-deposit (CD) ratio, which has increased from 48.47% to 49.54% this year. She stressed that banks should continue active participation in central government schemes, citing Rs. 6.59 crore disbursed to 165 beneficiaries under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Scheme, and Rs. 36.65 crore in loans to 4,028 beneficiaries under the PM Vishwakarma scheme. Officials were instructed to reduce rejected applications and prioritize subsidy distribution.



Chitradurga Red Cross wins global excellence honor

CHITRADURGA

The Indian Red Cross Chitradurga District Branch has received major recognition for its humanitarian service and blood donation efforts. The organization was honored with the National Social Impact Award and the international World Record of Excellence title. The award was presented during the Sensation 2 Blood Donation Award Ceremony held at Gandhi Bhavan in Bengaluru. Branch Vice Chairman Arun Kumar, Secretary Mazhar Ullah, and Director S V Gurumurthy accepted the award on behalf of the team. Several dignitaries attended the event and appreciated the branch work in saving lives and helping people in need. The recognition highlights the dedication of volunteers and staff who have worked tirelessly for the community. The branch continues to promote blood donation and social service activities. Members expressed happiness and said the honor will inspire them to serve society with more commitment and compassion in the coming days for better public health and awareness efforts.

tion.

Under the PMFAAE and PMSGAABY schemes, Rs. 20.53 crore and Rs. 9.05 crore have been sanctioned to beneficiaries respectively. Thakur highlighted the need to increase support for education and encouraged banks to conduct awareness camps in schools and colleges.

Canara Bank Regional Manager Tadinada Srinag Purnanand shared that the district has 439 bank branches with total business of Rs. 67,840 crores, marking 9.96% growth over last year. Loans provided have grown 11.58% to Rs. 22,475 crore. So far, 92.91% of the annual credit plan target of Rs. 15,514.16 crore has been achieved, with high performance in sectors like agriculture, MSAA, education, and housing. Officials were urged to aim for 100% achievement of all targets. The meeting was attended by Zilla Panchayat Planning Director Vijay Kumar, SCDCC Bank AGM Rajesh Shetty, Rudset Director Dr. Bommai, and other district-level officials and bank heads.

Vishwakarma Samaj seeking reservation benefits

RAMANAGARA

Thousands of members of the Vishwakarma community are planning a padayatra from Bidar to Bengaluru within the next three months, demanding special reservation and greater recognition from the government. State president of the All Karnataka Vishwakarma Mahasabha and former MLC K. P. Nanjundi announced the plan while speaking to reporters in Ramanagara. He said the march aims to draw attention to the long-pending demands of the

community. Nanjundi stated that the Vishwakarma Samaj, with a population of over 40 lakh in Karnataka, depends on traditional occupations such as gold and silver work, carpentry, iron work, bronze work, and sculpture.

Despite their contributions, he said the community remains socially and economically backward. He expressed concern that the government survey reportedly reduced the community's population count to around 8 lakh, which has affected their political representation and opportunities.

Nanjundi said he has been fighting for the rights of the community for over 25 years but has not seen adequate progress in education, employment, or social justice. He stressed the need to promote the community's culture and improve access to education for children. He also demanded the establishment of a Vishwakarma Development Corporation, recognition of Vishwakarma Jayanti, and support for community-related studies and welfare programs.

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD CIN: U65232KL2019C03917			Regd Office: 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherpuru - Thriprayar Road, Thriprayar, Thrissur, Kerala 680567 Phone No.: 0487-3250204, Website: www.manappuramhomefin.com		
DEMAND NOTICE					
Whereas the Authorized Office of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd., having our registered offices at 8/596 A, Padmaprabha Building, Near Sreerama Swami Temple, Cherpuru - Thriprayar Road, Thriprayar, Thrissur, Kerala 680567 and branches at various places in India (hereinafter referred to as "MAHOFIN") is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and a Financial Institution within the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (92A) sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Credit Reconstruction and Debt Enforcement Act, 1992 and has herewith referred to as the Act; and whereas the Borrower/Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned card obtained loan from MAHOFIN and whereas MAHOFIN being the secured creditor under the SARFESI Act, 1992 is entitled to call upon the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers to pay the amount due to it in accordance with the terms and conditions of the loan agreement entered into between them and MAHOFIN and whereas the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers and the secured properties in their possession are as follows:					
S. No.	Name Of The Borrower/Co-Borrower/Len Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	No. of Documents	Date Of Notice Sent	Outstanding Amount
1	Jagadeesh Shivnagapada Parutagoudar, Basamma Shivnagapada Parutagoudar, Shashikant Mallikarjunagouda Patil, /NHLA002603503/ Hubli	All That Part And Parcel of Property Bearing Na Residential Property Bearing Gram Panchayat Property No. 605, Measuring East-West: 7 Mtrs, North-South: 12Mtrs, Along With Residential Structure Bearing E-Property No. 150100401700471448 of Nagur Village, Within The Limits of Gram Panchayat Nagur, Dist: Bagalkot, Karnataka.Pin:587118. East-Basamma Shivnagapada Parutagoudar, West-Passage, South-Road, North-Road	12-01-2026	Rs.513650/-	
2	Ravi Kumar R. Ramachandra T. Sulochana S. /NHLA003001620/ Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The House Bearing Katha No. 50/56 And E-Katha No. 152500703501700062, Measuring East To West: 57.14 Mtrs, North To South: 10.5 Mtrs, Situated At Hiyli Dore Village, Bukapattana Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka, Pin: 572137. East-Property of Thimmahalli, West-Road, South-Property of Jayamma, North-House of Thimmahalli	12-01-2026	Rs.369011/-	
3	Saritha H. Hanumanth C. /NHLA003000964/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 1427/H B 20, P.D. No. 152100303200120160, Situated At Thalagavadi Grama, Thalagavadi Gramapanchayat, Malavalli Block, Mandya (D), Admeasuring: 198.07 Sq Mts., Karnataka, Pin: 571430. East-Property of Kalgowda Kulichchova, West-Road, South-Road, North-Property of Kalgowda Kulichchova	14-01-2026	Rs.91-2026 & Rs.347412/-	
4	Gowamma, Mahadevaswethy, /NHLA009004763/ Vikekananda Circle	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No. 85/1, P.D. No. 152200022161020013, Situated At Baguru Grama, Kudlupura Gramapanchayat, Nanjangud Block, Mysore (D), Admeasuring: 198.07 Sq Mts Of Site 198.06 Sq Mts of Building, Karnataka, Pin: 571118. East-Road, West-Property of Basavashetty, South-House of Rangaswamy, North-House of Prema	16-01-2026	Rs.91-2026 & Rs.427992/-	
5	Muthujany Chandrayya Kulakarni, Vishweshwaryya C Kulakarni, Chandrayya Veerasanyaya Kularni, Varjashchi Chandrayya Kulakarni, /NHLA008002947/ Belgauva	Residential Property Bearing Swattn No. 150400305100102430 Gram Panchayat No. 1935 Total Measuring 160.54 Sq Mtrs Towards East-West: 16.4592 Mtrs. Towards North-South: 9.7536 Mtrs, Situated At Hirebagewadi Tal & Dist: Belgavi, Karnataka, Pin: 591109. East-Property of Mahantesh Gundoli, West-Government Road, South-Property of Abdul Khadir Maniyar, North-Property of Grama Panchayat	16-01-2026	Rs.428019/-	
6	Drakshinai R. Mahadevaswamy S, Puttaswamy R. /NHLA009004473/ Vikekananda Circle	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Kagalavadi Gramapanchayathi Property No. 346 And As Per Form No. 9 And 11 A Unique No. 150800103500400423 Situated At Rechambali Block, Gramapanchayathi Taluk, Within The Jurisdiction of Kagalavadi Gramapanchayathi, Karnataka, Pin: 571111. East-West: 19.82 Mtrs And North To South: 10.36 Mtrs, East-Site of Mahadevaswamy S of Madiah, West-Site of Jadeswamy Son of Dasegowda, South-Road, North-House of Puttaswamy Son of Rachiah	16-01-2026	Rs.91-2026 & Rs.368758/-	
7	Kamalavasa Basavanni Danadavur, Kamlesh Basappa Danadavur, Anjali Kamlesh Danadavur, /NHLA009004473/ Vikekananda Circle	Residential Property Bearing Gp: 404, 17X60=1020 Sq Fts, Situated At Panagutti, Within The Local Limits of Gram Panchayat Dharanatti (Rangadoli) And Within The Local Jurisdiction of Sub-Registrar Belagavi Tal & Dist: Belgavi, Karnataka, Pin: 591243. East-Property of Mahadevaswamy S of Madiah, West-Site of Jadeswamy Son of Dasegowda, South-Road, North-House of Puttaswamy Son of Rachiah	16-01-2026	Rs.299467/-	
8	Ayub Khan, B B Jan, Tabir Khan, /NHLA009004196/ Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Building Bearing Grama Panchayathi Katha No. 331/4 And E-Katha No. 152500502701320081 Measuring East To West: 25.2984 Mtrs And North To South: 15.24 Mtrs Is Situated At Byavla Village, Puravara Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka, Pin: 572175. East-Land Belongs To Nanjundappa And Site Belongs To Gouse Khan, West-Site Belongs To Udegowda, South-Land Belongs To Gouse Khan, West-Site Belongs To Gouse Khan	16-01-2026	Rs.91-2026 & Rs.833365/-	
9	Mohammed Zaid N, Fahima Begum, Nazim Sharif, Mohammed Faraz, /NHLA009004149/ Vikekananda Circle	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No. 810/164, P.D. No. 152200703302702072, Situated At Garageshwari Grama, Garageshwari Gramapanchayathi, T. Narasipura Block & Mysore (D), Admeasuring: 107.30 Sq Mts Of Site 103.12 Sq Mts of Building, Karnataka, Pin: 571110. East-House of Vajeer Jan, West-House of Jakeer Hussain, South-Road, North-House of Pathania Bi	16-01-2026	Rs.91-2026 & Rs.612120/-	
10	Bishtappa Nagappa Kolkar, Bharati Bishtappa Kolkar, Sushila Nagappa Kolkar, /NHLA009004196/ Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of G. P. No. 160/K2, Total Measuring: 1620 Sq Fts, Towards East-West: 75 Fts, Towards North-South: 21.6 Ft, Situated At Hireanpalli, Within The Limits of Gram Panchayat Gandigowda, Sro Khanapur, Tal: Khanapur, Dist: Belgavi, Karnataka, Pin: 591115. East-Property of Mahadevaswamy S of Madiah, West-Site of Jadeswamy Son of Dasegowda, South-Road, North-Property of Mahadevaswamy S of Madiah	16-01-2026	Rs.91-2026 & Rs.522228/-	
11	Shridhar Maruti Kervad, Maruti Siddappa Kervad, Laxmi Tukaram Metri, /NHLA009004536/ Belgauva	All That Piece And Parcel of GP: 608/A, Swattn No. 150400203200200871 Total Measuring: 119.210000 Sq Mtrs. That Is Towards East: West 4.50 4.85 Mtrs And Towards North-South 25.50 Mtrs, Situated At Balur Within The Limits of Gram Panchayat Balur And Within The Jurisdiction of Sro Kuttur, Tal: Kuttur & Dist: Belgavi, Karnataka, Pin: 591115. East-Property of Durgavayya Gadaganavadi, West-Property of Mahadevaswamy S of Madiah, West-Site of Jadeswamy Son of Dasegowda, South-Road, North-Property of Mahadevaswamy S of Madiah	16-01-2026	Rs.91-2026 & Rs.511300/-	
12	Nagamallamma C, Mahateswamy HK, Kendaganappa N. /NHLA009002260/ Vikekananda Circle	All That Piece & Parcel of The Property Bearing Hongalli Village Bagari Gramapanchayathi Property No. 615 As Per Form No. 118 Unique No. 150800200901120261 Situated At Hongalli Village Bagari Gramapanchayathi Gundlupet Taluk, Channarayana District, Total Measuring 201.99 Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 571111. East-Land of Kendaganappa, West-Land of Kendaganappa, South-Land of Kendaganappa	16-01-2026	Rs.91-2026 & Rs.346410/-	
13	Ramu N, Narayanappa R, Adilakshammamma, /NHLA009004147/ Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Building Bearing Grama Panchayathi Katha No. 24/34 And E-Katha No. 152500501000100200 Measuring East To West: 18.75 Mtrs And North To South: 16.15 15.40 Mtrs Situated At Agalur Village, I. halli Hobli Madhugiri Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka, Pin: 572124. East-House Belongs To Lakshammamma, West-House Belongs To Venkateshappa, South-Road, North-Road	16-01-2026	Rs.91-2026 & Rs.539239/-	
14	Shree Rangamma H, Bhaskar K H, Hanumanthappa K, /NHLA009002266/ Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The House Bearing Katha No. 119/108/108 And E-Katha No. 152500701200420048 Measuring East To West: 9.144 Meters And North To South: 12.192 Meters, Situated At Kalvarahalli Village, Gowdage Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur Dist., Karnataka, Pin: 572139. East-Vacant Site of Kengappa, West-Vacant Site of Sannabhatthiah, South-Vacant Site of Narasimappa, North-Road	16-01-2026	Rs.91-2026 & Rs.338078/-	
15	Shilpa S, Shivara M, Chandramma M, Suresh M, /NHLA0091001066/ Hassan	All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing No. 151600201500900040, Gram Panchayathi Katha No. 54 And The Property Situated At Mylanahalli Village, Puralahalli Gram Panchayathi, Arasikere Block And Hassan District An Measuring: East To West: 9.144 Meters And North To South: 9.144 Meters, Totaly Measuring 83.1 Square Meters And Constructed Plinth Area 83.1 Square Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 573130. East-Property of Mahadevaswamy S of Madiah, West-Property of Mahadevaswamy S of Madiah	17-01-2026	Rs.91-2026 & Rs.468234/-	
16	Radha, Akshay A M, /NHLA0091001066/ Hassan	All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing No. 19-128-221, Ward No. 12, Sac No. 338/1325/A, And Property Situated At Edigara Colony Arasikere Taluk Hassan District Measuring East To West: 3.810008 Meters And North To South: 9.144018 Meters, Totaly Measuring 34.836625 Square Meters And Constructed Plinth Area 34.836625 Square Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 573103. East-House Property of Sri. Pakayaru, West-House Property of Sri. Anjanamma, South-Vacant Site, North-Road	17-01-2026	Rs.91-2026 & Rs.314230/-	
17	Devaraj Nandanyappa Lamani, Ratnabai Nandanyappa Lamani, Deepa Devaraj Lamani, /NHLA0144051254/ Shikaripura	All That Piece And Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There on Being Bearing Site/Katha/Property No. 181, E-Property No. 151700402001001004, Measuring East-West 19.09 Mtr X North-South 8.18 Mtr, Total: 156.90000 Sq Meter, Including 101.000000 Sq Meter, House, Situated At Nagavanda Village, Nagavanda Village Panchayathi, Rathnalli Taluk, Haveti District, Karnataka, Pin: 581210. East-Property of Halesh Naik Ramanak Lamani, West-Property of Chandra Naik Gadigaya Naik Lamani, South-Panchayathi Road, North-Property of Jagadeesh Shivnagapada Parutagoudar	19-01-2026	Rs.20-01-2026 & Rs.327898/-	
18	A K Haleshappa, Renukamma, Hanumantha A K, Aishwarya Suresh Harjan, /NHLA0144049861/ Shikaripura	All That Piece And Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There on Being Bearing Site/Katha/Property No. 151, E-Property No. 151200503601002400, Measuring Total 70.024302 Sq Meter, Including 107.024302 Sq Meter, House, Situated At Madanahalli Village, Basavanahalli Village Panchayathi, Nyamathi Taluk, Davangere District, Karnataka, Pin: 577223. East-Village Panchayathi Road, West-Property of Haleshappa, South-Property of Haleshappa	19-01-2026	Rs.20-01-2026 & Rs.554984/-	
19	Hannantappa Basappa Kamathar, Geeta Hannantappa Kamathar, Bhimappa Mahadevappa Gudli, /NHLA004025000050010756/ Hubli	Residential Ashraya Yojana Property Bearing Site No. 13 In Block No. 366/5 Measuring 20 X 30 Ft Total 600 Sq Ft, Situated At Gokul Village, Tq: Hubli Dist: Dhavard, Karnataka, Pin: 580030. East-Plot No. 12, West-Road, North-Plot No. 56	20-01-2026	Rs.20-01-2026 & Rs.613286/-	
20	Ramesh GM, Mauneshwarachar J M, Minakshamma M, /NHLA00402002498/ Davangere	All That Piece And Parcel In Respect of The Site No. 42, Current Door No. 691/3, Katha No. 3060, Measuring 20 X 30 Fts I.e 600 Sq Fts, Situated At Durgambhika Badavane, Nittevilu, Davangere, Karnataka, Pin: 577004. East-Site No. 43, West-Site No. 41, South-Road, North-Site No. 33	20-01-2026	Rs.20-01-2026 & Rs.746717/-	
21	Guddappa Takrapappa Goudageri, Ningappa T Goudageri, Thakrapappa Kubappa Goudageri, Sheelavva Takrapappa Goudageri, Shashikata Goudappa Goudageri, /NHLA0040202819/ Davangere	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No. 800/8, E Swattnu No. 151700502500100168, Measuring 12.20 X 9.15 Mts Le 1.13 Sq Sq Mts, Situated At Venkateshappa, Haveri District, Karnataka, Pin: 581210. East-Property of Halesh Naik Ramanak Lamani, West-Property of Chandra Naik Gadigaya Naik Lamani, South-Panchayathi Road, North-Property of Jagadeesh Shivnagapada Parutagoudar	20-01-2026	Rs.20-01-2026 & Rs.700962/-	
22	Ramesh S, Sheela BM, Kamalamma E, /NHLA00402002967/ Davangere	All That Piece And Parcel of Village Panchayathi Property No. 241, Eswattnu No. 151000201900200288, Measuring E-W 15.24 Meter, N-S 6.70 Meter = 102.19 Sq Mtrs, Situated At K. Balakatte Village, Chitradurga Taluk & District, Karnataka, Pin: 577541. East-Vacant Site of Veerappa, West-Road, South-Vacant Site of Rathnamma Devarajappa, North-House of Chowdamma Rudrappa	20-01-2026	Rs.20-01-2026 & Rs.540888/-	
23	Nilava Ningappa Sannabudihali, Revanappa Ningappa Sannabudihali, Ningappa Nilappa Sannabudihali, /NHLA0040303809/ Davangere	All That Piece And Parcel of Village Panchayathi Property Old No. 502/B No. 5002/2, E Swattnu No. 151700502500200834, Measuring 14.50 X 6.10 Meter = 88.45Sq. Mtrs, Wherein House Constructed Measuring 88.45 Sq Mtrs, Situated At Asundi Village, Within The Limits of Village Panchayathi Asundi, Bannur Block, Davangere District, Karnataka, Pin: 581115. East-Property of Beeraappa Khichadi, West-Road In Same Property, South-Property of Chowdappa Neelappa Sannabudihali, North-Property of Sannabudappa Neelappa Sannabudihali	20-01-2026	Rs.20-01-2026 & Rs.519914/-	
24	Sujatha S, Govinda Raju V, Venkatarama V, Poova V, /NHLA005100300017/ Shikaripura	All That Piece And Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Property No. 20, E-Property No. 15240050100300017, Measuring East-West: 18.288 Meter X North: 12.192 Meter, Total: 222.96 Sq Meter, Including 59.82 Sq Meter, House, Situated At Bialkappa Village, B, Beeranahalli Gram Panchayathi, Shivamogga Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka, Pin: 577227. East-Road, West-Conservancy Road, South-Property of Girsitha, North-Property of Bv Srinvasa	19-01-2026	Rs.20-01-2026 & Rs.447448/-	
25	Renukamma M, Mudol Goneppa, /NHLA00510010256/ Davangere	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No 253/7, E Swattnu No. 1512004003002021143 Measuring 8.10 X 7.50 Mts I.e 60.75 Sq Mtrs, Situated At Arasikere Village, Arasikere Gram Panchayathi, Davangere District, Karnataka, Pin: 583125. East-Vacant Property Of Applicant, West-Vacant Property Of Applicant, South-Road, North-Property of Sangappa Basavarajappa	20-01-2026	Rs.20-01-2026 & Rs.468684/-	
26	Ramesha Naik K, Githa Bal B, Venkatesh Naik V, /NHLA0051002496/ Davangere	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No 91, E Swattnu No. 151500402000101701, Measuring 10.05 X12.30 Mts I.C. 123.62 Sq Mtrs, Situated At Madigere Village, Madigere Gram Panchayathi, Harapanahalli Taluk, Vijayanagara Dist., Karnataka, Pin: 583131. East-CC Road, West-House of Pandya Nanik, South-House of Sannabhatthiah, North-House of Puryanaka	20-01-2026	Rs.20-01-2026 & Rs.266007/-	
27	Nanjundhi Somappa Paschappur, Yamanavasa Somappa Pasachappur, Somappa Bhimappa Paschappur, Nagaraj Somappa Paschappur, Sannagundappa Koliar, /NHLA006003960/ Hubli	Residential 11B Property Bearing Gp No. 396, Property No. 15100200800280777, Measuring East To West: 7.62 Mtr And North To South: 7.62 Mtr, Total Measuring 58.06 Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 58.06 Sq Mtr Situated At Achaur Village Within Bilerur Gram Panchayat, Tq: & Dist: Bagalkot, Karnataka, Pin: 587111. East-Property of Ameena Ibrahim Soudagar, West-Road, South-Road, North-Road	20-01-2026	Rs.20-01-2026 & Rs.829037/-	
28	Chandrapa Kabballi, Chowdamma Kabballi, Panduranga Kabballi, /NHLA00480044831/ Davangere	All That Piece And Parcel of Village Panchayathi Property No. 1431/, E-Swattnu No. 151200401600120261, Measuring 10.3632 X 8.382 Meter = 86.86 Sq Mtrs, Wherein House Constructed Measuring 86.86 Sq Mtrs, Situated At Kadabagere Village, Harapanahalli Taluk, Vijayanagara District, Karnataka, Pin: 583125. East-Sandu & House of Bangera Renukamma, West-Farm of Mudukappa, South-Vacant Land of Chandrapa Kabballi & Kana of Talavara Talavara, North-CC Road	19-01-2026	Rs.20-01-2026 & Rs.614615/-	
29	Geethamma, Madhukumar, Rashmi R, /NHLA00480044831/ Davangere	All That Piece And Parcel of Village Panchayathi Property No. 749, E-Swattnu No. 151200600700220284, Measuring 7.2948 X 12.192 Meter = 88.62 Sq Mtrs, Situated At Asandup Village, Jagalur Taluk, Within The Limits of Village Panchayathi, Asandup Village, Davangere District, Karnataka, Pin: 577513. East-House of Renukamma V/O Chandrapa, West-Land Belongs To Sahukara, South-House of Shekarappa, North-Panchayathi Road	19-01-2026	Rs.20-01-2026 & Rs.313689/-	
30	Shivananda Basavanti Sunakumpi, Shanta Basavanna Sunakumpi, Basavant Basappa Sunakumpi, /NHLA0090056350/ Belgauva	All That Piece And Parcel of Property of Bearing Gp No 65/2, Swattn No. 1504003030020221714 Total Measuring: 22.299730 Sq Mtrs. That Is Towards East-West: 2.4386 Mtrs, And Towards North-South 9.144 Mtrs Situated At Marthal Within The Limits of Gram Panchayathi Marthal And Within The Jurisdiction of Sro Belagavi, Tal: & Dist: Belgavi, Karnataka, Pin: 591103. East-Property of Shri. Yallappa Yargowadi, West-Property of Smt. Savnika Honnappa Navar, South-Property of Sunakumpi, North-Gramapanchayathi Road	19-01-2026	Rs.20-01-2026 & Rs.201933/-	
31	Prakash Nooli, Sunita Prakash Nooli, Shashikant Bastwadi, /NHLA0090056350/ Belgauva	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Property Bearing Gp No. 1516A, Swattn No. 150400605000101662 Total Measuring 98.72 Sq. Mtrs, Towards East-West: 5.06 Mtrs Towards North-South 19.51 Mtr, Situated At Hebbal, Tal: Hukkuri & Dist: Belgavi, Karnataka, Pin: 591221. East-Site Belongs To Smt. Savnika Honnappa Navar, South-Property of Sunakumpi, North-Gramapanchayathi Road	20-01-2026	Rs.20-01-2026 & Rs.237553/-	
32	Kishappa, Sunitha, Manjunath, /NHLA007030792/ Koppal	Residential 11B Property Bearing Gp No 276, Property No. 152001002300120104, Measuring East To West: 6.4008 Mtr And North To South: 15.5448 Mtr, Total Measuring: 99.50 Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 99.50 Sq Mtr Situated At Ingaldali Village Within Musalgar Gram Panchayat, Tq: Kanakagiri & Dist: Koppal, Karnataka, Pin: 584119. East-Property of Shivanappa, West-Property of Amaresh, South-Property of Property, North-Road	21-01-2026	Rs.20-01-2026 & Rs.835355/-	
33	Putta Thayamma M, Siddaraju M, /NHLA0034021356/ Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing No.77/7, P.D. No.152200101605000097, Situated At Padukote Village, Padukotekal Grama Panchayathi, Heggadavanekalu Taluk, Mysuru District, Measuring East To West: 15.24 Meters And North To South: 15.24 Meters, Totaly 232.25 Square Meters, Karnataka, Pin: 571189. East-Property of Halesh Naik Ramanak Lamani, West-House Belongs To Lakshmi Chinnikka, West-House Belongs To Lakshmi Chinn			

QUICK READ

Power supply disruption scheduled on March 22**Chitradurga**

Electricity supply will be affected on March 22 along the 66/11 KV HD Pura, Godabanal, Chitrahalli, Arasanakaghatta, and Chikkajazur routes between Chitradurga and Amritpur railway station. The outage is expected from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Villages including HDPura, Thalya Kavalu, Upparigenahalli, Budipura, Nalikalatte, Teklavatti, Chamundeshwari, Doddapur, Chikkandavadi, and many more will experience power variations during this period. The Bescom executive engineer requested residents to co-operate and plan their activities accordingly. Authorities assured that maintenance work is aimed at improving the reliability of electricity supply in the affected areas.

Manjunath urges students to write exams confidently**Hunsur**

Former MLA H.P. Manjunath has encouraged students of Hunsur taluk appearing for the SSLC exams to stay confident and trust their hard work. Speaking to reporters, he said honest efforts always bring results and wished all students good luck. He reminded them that the SSLC exam is the first step toward higher education and a bright future. "Face this test with confidence and aim for a successful life. Your dedication will shape your tomorrow," Manjunath added, inspiring students to give their best.

MLA LAUNCHES HEALTH CENTER FOR AURAD VILLAGE

After Gudali Puja, Dr. Beldale stressed rural healthcare, urging timely, quality construction and regular monitoring for the new center

BIDAR

Dr. Shailendra Beldale, MLA of Bidar South, laid the foundation for a new Health and Wellness Center in Aurad (S) village, aiming to provide quality healthcare to the local population. The center, with an estimated cost of Rs. 65 lakh, will serve as a key facility for primary treatment and emergency health services in the area.

Speaking after performing the traditional Gudali Puja, Dr. Beldale highlighted the importance of well-equipped hospitals in rural areas and said the new center would be a significant step toward improving healthcare and over-



all rural development.

He instructed contractors to ensure timely and high-quality construction and asked officials to monitor the project regularly to complete it on schedule.

Aurad S Gram Panchayat President Venkata Reddy and local leaders including Raja Reddy Shabada, Sangram Shetakara, Suryakanta Shedam, Narasimha Reddy, Hema Thukka Reddy, Na-

gashetty Chatanalli, Jagannath Chatanalli, Paramesh Reddy, Veera Shedam, Santosh Jagadale, Shivakumar Shedam, Siddharudha, Nagashetty Sajjanashetty, Suryakanta Hooagara, Ashok Gupta, Maruti Naganakera, Shivaraj, Nayeema Saudagar, Prabhu, Sabiramaityya, Ishamiya, and Chamana Saudagar were present for the event.

The MLA's media coordinator, assistant Nagesh Sidda, facilitated the program. The new health center is expected to bring significant improvement in medical services for villagers and serve as a model for similar initiatives in rural areas of the constituency.

MLA urges relief for distressed tobacco farmers

HUNSUR

G. D. Harish Gowda has urged the State government to take immediate steps to support tobacco growers facing severe losses due to a sharp fall in prices. He raised the issue during the Assembly session, highlighting the financial distress of farmers in several regions.

He said nearly 50,000 farmer families depend on tobacco cultivation in areas like Hunsur, Periyapatna, H.D. Kote, K.R. Nagar, and Arakalagudu. Despite producing good quality crops, farmers are struggling as market prices have dropped significantly in recent months.

According to him, tobacco prices fell from ₹278 per kg in January to ₹262 in February and further to ₹243 in March. Meanwhile, the cost of production remains around ₹185 per kg, leaving farmers with heavy losses.

He also pointed to a recent incident where a farmer from Hunsur allegedly attempted suicide due to financial stress, calling it a serious warning sign. He urged the government to provide a support price for tobacco and include the crop under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to ensure insurance coverage.

Harish Gowda said that al-



Harish Gowda criticized the State for excluding tobacco from support prices and insurance, urged independent action, and suggested ₹25-₹35 per kg compensation, citing Andhra Pradesh 2015

though the Centre announces support prices for several crops, tobacco is not included. He demanded that the State government take independent action instead of waiting for central decisions.

Referring to a similar situation in Andhra Pradesh in 2015, he suggested providing compensation of ₹25 to ₹35 per kg to farmers. He criticized the State for not implementing the crop insurance scheme for tobacco, saying it is unfair to farmers and urged immediate corrective action.

After receiving the honour, Ananthu thanked CM Siddaramaiah, recalling his humble background, early election struggles, and political journey

Mining community felicitates newly appointed State President

HUNSUR

Former mayor Ananthu, who has been appointed as the first president of the State Mining Corporation, was honored by members of the mining community at a function held in a private hotel in Mysuru.

Speaking after receiving the honour, Ananthu shared his journey from humble beginnings. He said he belongs to a small and backward community and expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for supporting him throughout his political ca-

reer. He recalled that he was earlier made Mayor of Mysuru and has now been given a larger responsibility.

He also spoke about his early election struggles, saying he won twice without money. During his third attempt, he received financial help of ₹25,000 from Siddaramaiah, which helped him secure victory. He noted that winning elections without money has become very difficult today.

Ananthu stressed that the mining community remains backward in education, economy, and politics. He prom-



ised to work hard for its development by gaining the trust and support of the people.

Retired DDPI Basavaraju praised Ananthu for his simple nature and dedication to public service. Other speakers said

his appointment reflects efforts to empower smaller communities. Leaders and members of mining associations from Mysuru, Mandya, and nearby regions attended the event and extended their support.

Farmers urged to balance agriculture and family

SAKLESHPUR

Farmers in Sakleshpur were encouraged to adopt balanced farming and maintain strong family values during a meeting organised by the Kasaba Hobli Growers Association.

Senior progressive farmer Y. C. Rudrappa shared an emotional message, urging farmers not to depend only on commercial crops like coffee. He suggested that every farmer should also grow food crops on at least a small portion of their land to ensure stability and self-sufficiency.

He said a truly happy family is one that has a cow, an elderly member, and a child going to school, highlighting the importance of traditional values along with modern life. His words created a positive impact among the farmers present.

Rudrappa also stressed the importance of personal health. He explained that just as individuals must

take their own medicine, they must also be strong enough to face life's challenges independently.

The meeting included discussions on sustainable farming methods, modern lifestyle changes, and the need to maintain harmony within families. Farmers also raised concerns about issues like wild elephant attacks and challenges related to financial laws.

Leaders announced that a delegation from growers' groups will visit New Delhi to present these concerns to the Central Government.

Information was also shared about upcoming training on pepper and honey cultivation, along with updates on agricultural products and techniques. The event saw participation from several farmers and association members, who said the meeting gave them new ideas and motivation to improve both farming practices and family life.

DISTRICT TO LAUNCH 'CLEAN KALYANIS' DRIVE ON MARCH 23

CHIKKABALLAPUR

From March 23, Chikkaballapur district will begin a three-month 'Cleanliness of Ancient Kalyanis' movement to preserve local water sources. District Panchayat Chief Executive Dr. Y. Naveen Bhatt emphasized that water is essential for all life and conserving lakes, rakes, and kalyanis is vital in this plain region.

The program aims to clean over 180 kalyanis across all Gram Panchayats before the rainy season starts in June. Volunteers, including public representatives, students, NSS and NCC groups, youth organizations, and local communities, will participate in

Shramdan activities to maintain hygiene and conserve water sources.

Key scheduled locations include Manchanabale Gundlugurki, Bagepally Gulur Gangamma Temple, Chintamani Kagati Kalyani, Gauribidanur Vadadahosahalli Ramaligeswar, Gudibande Ellodu Hill Kalyani, Shidlaghatta Doddathekahalli, Manchenahalli near Jarabandahalli Crematorium, and Chelur Chakavelu Digawa Payalavarappali, with cleaning starting at 7 am at each site. The initiative aims to increase ground-water, promote environmental awareness, and secure water for future generations.

Free coaching offered for minority students

Vijayapura: The Minorities Welfare Department has announced free coaching for 2026-27 for Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, and Parsi students with PUC education. Courses cover pre-NEET, JEE, K-CET, ICAR, CA-Foundation, CLAT, and CUET exams for two years. Applications are invited online, with the last date available on the official portal. Students can also contact Taluk Extension Officers, District Minority Information Centers, and principals of Morarji Desai and government minority schools in Vijayapura, Muddebihal, Indi, Hubli, and Sindagi for details. The program aims to help minority students prepare effectively and improve their chances of success.

NAME CHANGE

I, SABEEHA SULTANA, W/o. Sadulla T A, aged 56 years, residing at No. 29, First Floor, 3rd Cross, 22nd Main, Vinayaka Nagara (Near Munneswara Temple) JP Nagar 5th Phase, Bengaluru-560078, declare that **SABEEHA SULTANA** and **AYESHA SIDDIQA**, Both the names are belongs to one and the same person i.e., myself only. And continue my name in future **SABEEHA SULTANA**, vide affidavit dated: 12.03.2026 before notary V. RAJASHEKHARA, Bengaluru.

Deva Dasimaiya Jayanti celebration on March 23

VIJAYAPURA

Deva Dasimaiya Jayanti will be celebrated on March 23 at 10 am in the district collector's office hall. The event is organized by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and the Department of Kannada and Culture.

The program will be inaugurated by Minister MB Patil, in charge of Big and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development, while City MLA Basanagowda Patil Yatnala will preside.

Chief guests include Ministers

Shivananda Patil, Ravikumar N, and other prominent MLAs and MPs such as Ramesh Jagajinagi, Sudha Murthy, Prakash B. Hukkeri, and Appaji CS. Leaders from various boards, corporations, and development authorities will also attend. The celebration will feature a special lecture by Mr. Santhoshkumar S. Bande and a musical performance by Ms. Ashwini Hiremath.

The event aims to honor the legacy of Deva Dasimaiya, promote Kannada culture, and bring the community together for a day of remembrance, learning, and cultural appreciation.

NAME CHANGE

I, ARBIN TAJ MOHAMMED YOUSUFF, W/o Mohamed Yousuff Mohiddin, resident of No. 30, 3rd Cross, Arokiyamma Layout, Venkateshpuram, Bangalore-560045, have changed my name to ARBIN TAJ, vide affidavit dated: 17.03.2026, before Notary CHANDRA SHEKAR.M, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOULA BASHEER MANSOOR AHMED, S/o Basheer Ahmed resident of No: 19, 2nd Main Road, Shampura Main Road, K G Halli, Bangalore-560045, have changed my name to MANSOOR AHMED, vide affidavit dated: 18.03.2026, before Notary C SHARADA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHRIDEVI SHAMSUNDAR KULKARNI D/o late SHESHACHAR BURLI, W/o late SHAMSUNDAR KULKARNI, R/o No 1215, 11th Main Nagpura, Near Bachpan School, West Of Chord Road, 2nd Stage, Mahalakshmiipuram Layout, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560086, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHRIDEVI BURLI.

FORM NO. INC-26

(Pursuant to rule 30 the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014)
Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for change of registered office of the company
Before the Central Government South - Western Region, Bangalore
In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of **SER INDUSTRIES LIMITED** (CIN: L60231KA1963PLC004604) having its registered office at Chikkakuntanahalli Villagebidadi Hobli Ramnagar Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka, India, 562109, Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on 20th February, 2026 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from the jurisdiction of the Registrar of Companies, Bangalore to the jurisdiction of the Registrar of Companies, Pune, within the State of Maharashtra.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the **MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in)** by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post to his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director (South - Western Region) at the address 'E' Wing, 2nd Floor, Kendriya Sadana, Kormangala, Bangalore-560034, Karnataka within twenty one days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:
Chikkakuntanahalli Villagebidadi Hobli Ramnagar Taluk, Bangalore, Bangalore, Karnataka, India, 562109
For and on behalf of the Applicant
Date: 18/03/2026
Place: Bangalore
SUNIL KUMAR SHAHI
MANAGING DIRECTOR

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SARASWATI RAMESH W/o P A RAMESH, R/o 671/20, 11th Cross, 7th Block West Jayanagar, B Sk II Stage, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560070, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PALASAMUDRAM RAMESHSARASWATHI.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client Sri. Prabhuraj, D. Ambli, son of Durundandaiah Ambli, residing at: No. 34, Archana Enclave, ISRO layout, near Ganapati Temple, Prashanthi Nagar, Bengaluru- 560078, has lost his original registered deed of Agreement of Sale i.e., original registered Agreement of Sale without possession dated: 28-11-2019, registered in the office of Sub-registrar, Ramnagara in Book No. 1 as document No. RMN-1-08768/2019-20, stored in CD No. RMND613, registered on 28-11-2019 executed from Smt. Jayalakshma mma wife of K. Devaraju in favour of my client Sri. Prabhuraj, D. Ambli son of Durundandaiah Ambli, with respect to the agricultural properties bearing Survey No. 72/2/block20, measuring 1 acre 20 guntas, and Survey No. 402/2, measuring 39 guntas, totally measuring 2 acre 19 guntas, both are situated at Hosuru Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramnagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District (earlier Ramnagara District).
He lost the above mentioned original deed near Archakarahalalli, Ijoor, Ramnagara Town. A complaint is lodged in Karnataka State Police through online on 18-03-2026 under vide Lost Report No. 2114795/2026. The Jurisdictional Police station is Ijoor Police Station, Ramnagara. Finders may return the same to the above said Police station or contact at the below address within 07 days from this publication.
Contact Advocate Office address:
Signed/- Mr. Nagachandra, R. Advocate, No. 59/A, Chiranjeevinilaya, Jalamangala road, Hanumanthanagara, Ramnagara Town-562159, Mobile No: 8884900848, 9886827848.

NAME CHANGE

I, ANEEFA PAYADATH, S/o. Ali, Resident of Kunjila Village Kakkabbe Post, Madikeri Taluk, Kodagu -571214, Karnataka, camped at Bengaluru, have changed my name to HANIF PAYADATH ALI, vide affidavit dated: 18.03.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, TONY, S/o Shukur, resident of No:46, 10th E Cross, Munishwara Nagar, Near Ashrafiya Masjid, Shampura Main Road, R T Nagar Post, Bangalore - 560032. Have changed my name to MOHAMMED TAHIR, vide affidavit dated: 18.03.2026, before Notary C SHARADA, Bengaluru.

MYSORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MYSORE

(Government of Karnataka-Autonomous Institute)
Irwin Road, Mysore-570001, Telephone No:- +91-0821-2520512 (Off) 2520803 (Fax), Email:- mmcrimysore@yahoo.com, website: www.mmcri.karnataka.gov.in

No.MMC&RC/Tender/04/2025-26 Date:17.03.2026

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Invitation of Short Term Re-Tender to run the Canteen at the Campus of MMC & RI and Service Tender for KR Hospital in Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysore

The Short term Re-Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 to run the Canteen at the Campus of MMC & RI and Service Tender for KR Hospital in Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysore. The Tender documents may bid download from E-procurement **website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D will be rejected

Sl No	Tender / Short term Re-Tender	Commence date of tender submission	Last date of tender submission	Tender Amount (Rs.Lakh)
1	Sup/Viva/287/2024-25 Canteen in MMC&RI Campus	18.03.2026	01.04.2026	31.90
2	Sup/Viva/271/2024-25 Service Tender for K R Hospital	18.03.2026	01.04.2026	280.00

If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.

Sd/- Director and Dean
Mysore Medical College & Research Institute, Mysore

DIPR/MYSORE/Shirdi Sai/1856/2025-26

(CH) CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad
contact: 080-41209042

Oppn slams Fadnavis govt over acid attack on girl

Raut accused the govt of failing to control rising crimes against women and paying more attention to target political opponents

MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut and Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar on Wednesday strongly criticised Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis following an acid attack on an 11-year-old girl in Ahilyanagar district.

Both leaders raised concerns over the state's law and order situation and demanded accountability from the government.

Raut said that if Fadnavis had any conscience, he should resign from the Home Department. He accused the government of failing to control rising crimes against women and alleged that more attention was being given to targeting political opponents than ensuring proper governance. He also questioned official statements and claims that women and girls are safe in the state.

Wadettiwar brought up the issue in the Assembly through an adjournment motion, calling the incident deeply disturbing. He questioned whether criminals still feared the police and pointed out that the victim from Sangamner was in critical condition. He also asked why the accused had not yet been arrested.



Further, Wadettiwar alleged a collapse of law and order and criticised the local police for negligence and corruption. He said such failures by authorities give confidence to criminals and result in serious crimes.

Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar described the matter as serious and directed the government to take immediate action and present a detailed report in the House.

Raut also alleged that opposition MLAs and MPs were being denied funds, claiming that public money was being used unfairly for political purposes.

Palam fire tragedy claims 9 lives, injures 3

Continued from page 1

A devastating fire in Delhi's Palam area killed nine family members and injured three others on Wednesday, officials said. In a desperate attempt to escape, a man and his one-and-a-half-year-old daughter jumped from the third floor after a rescue ladder failed to reach them.

The child suffered fractures in both legs, while her father sustained head injuries. Both were admitted to Safdarjung Hospital for treatment.

The fire broke out in a five-storey building near Ram Chowk Market, which housed a cloth and cosmetic showroom on the lower floors and the residence of owner Rajender Kashyap's family above. Thick smoke quickly filled the building, leaving residents trapped.



Eyewitnesses said a ladder was placed only up to the second floor, forcing those on higher floors to take extreme steps. During the chaos, the child slipped from her father's grip and fell, while he later jumped and hit a parked vehicle below. Another family member escaped by jumping to a neighbouring house but suffered burn injuries.

Neighbours tried to rescue the trapped family by breaking windows and walls. They alleged that there were no safety nets and that the initial fire tender failed, causing delays. Another fire engine reportedly arrived after nearly 50 minutes.

Around 30 fire tenders and 11 ambulances were deployed, along with teams from police, BSES, Air Force police and NDRF. The fire has now been brought under control, and the area has been sealed. A forensic team will investigate the cause of the blaze.

ED attaches properties worth Rs 20.59 cr in dairy fraud

BHOPAL

The Enforcement Directorate ED in Bhopal has attached 11 immovable properties worth Rs 20.59 crore in connection with a major dairy fraud case involving M/s Jayshri Gayatri Food Products Pvt Ltd and its Managing Director, Kishan Modi.

The action was taken under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, following an ongoing investigation into the production and export of adulterated dairy products.

Officials said the company, which sells products under the brand Milk Magic, allegedly replaced milk fat with palm oil and harmful chemicals. These products were sold in India and exported abroad.

To secure export approvals, the firm is accused of submitting fake laboratory reports to the Export Inspection Agency in Indore. Later checks confirmed that many reports were forged and never issued by the laboratories.

Centre pushes PNG adoption, asks states for quick approvals

Continued from page 1

The Centre has also urged states to expedite approvals for CGD pipeline laying, mandate clearance of new applications within 24 hours, waive road restoration and other local charges, relax working hours and seasons for project execution, and appoint nodal officers to ensure faster implementation.

Commercial LPG users, particularly in urban areas, have been encouraged to switch to PNG, with CGD companies offering multiple application channels and incentives for new connections. The push comes amid continued



concerns over LPG availability, even as supply conditions have improved in recent days.

Sharma said about 93% of LPG bookings are now being made online, while home delivery has increased significantly to around 81%, up from 53% earlier.

The official said domestic LPG production from refineries has been ramped up by around 40%, and there are adequate crude oil inventories.

There has been no "dry-out" reported at retail outlets or LPG distributorships, she added.

Nemom contest heats up ahead of Kerala polls

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Nemom constituency in Kerala is witnessing an intense political battle ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections, with the BJP aiming to regain lost ground. State BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar has already declared his candidacy and is confident of victory.

The BJP is encouraged by its recent success in local body polls, especially in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation. Chandrasekhar secured over 45 per cent votes in Nemom during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, boosting the party's hopes.

However, sitting MLA V Sivankutty of the CPI(M) remains confident of retaining the seat. He dismissed BJP's claims and accused the Congress of indirect support to the party in the past. Sivankutty highlighted development works carried out by the Left government and expects voter support again.

The constituency has seen shifting voting trends over the years. BJP's vote share dropped after its 2016 win by O Rajagopal, while both Left and Congress improved their positions. In 2021, Sivankutty defeated BJP's Kummanam Rajasekharan by over 4,000 votes.

KARNATAKA SLUM DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1 Division, Mysuru,
Near Highway Circle, Java Factory Road, Mysuru-570001.
Ph.: 0821-2332325, E-mail: kscb_mys@yahoo.in

No: KSDB/EE/Mys-Div-1/IFT-06/AE/2025-26

Date: 18.03.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-3) call-2
(Two Cover System) (E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

On behalf of the Commissioner, KSDB, Bengaluru, The Executive Engineer, No. 1 Division, Mysore invites tender from eligible Tenderers for Providing UGD, External Water Supply water proofing, STP & under Ground water storage tank to 65 G & G + 1 Houses constructed under PMAY-HFA Scheme at Pourakarmikara colony, Sakleshpura town in Sakleshpura Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency in Hassan District, Call-2. Tender notification, schedule, specification are available in the website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

1	Date & Time for Pre Bid Meeting	25.03.2026 at 11.00 hours
2	Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications	27.03.2026 Up to 16.00 hours
3	Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders	30.03.2026 Up to 16.00 hours
4	Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid	01.04.2026 at 11.00 hours
5	Date & Time for Opening Financial Bid	04.04.2026 at 11.00 hours

Sd/- Executive Engineer

KSDB, No.1 Division, Mysore

DIPR/CP/6333/SSC/2025-26

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Notification No: KHB/CE/AEF/Suryanagar Phase-2/Highrise Apartment/KHB/2025-26/SE0365 Dated: 17.03.2026

Karnataka Housing Board has invited tender through KPP Portal for Appointment of Architectural Engineering Firm (AEF) for the work of Construction of Residential apartment in Site no. 3584/A & 269/B at Suryanagar Phase-2, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.

Last date for submission of bid is on **02.04.2026 upto 4.00 PM**

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer,

Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6343/AKAR/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Mysore – 570023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No.18/ 2025-26(Call-2) DATED: 02-03-2026

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Mysore invites Re-tender (Call-2) in co-ordination with e-procurement portal platform, Bangalore. Tender format as per **KW-4** through e-procurement under the Head of Account **2024-25- 5054 Rain Damage** for Nanjangud Taluk. Date of application submission for tender document and submission of filled tender through online **Date: 11.03.2026 to 18.03.2026 upto 16.00 hours, Pre Bid Meeting Date 12.03.2026 16.00 Hours.** The date of opening of technical bid of the tender **Date: 20.03.2026 after 17.00 hours.** After the approval of Technical bid the Financial Bid will be opened. Tender Form Fee: As per e-procurement Details as belows.

Sl.No.1 Name of work: Construction of CC drain and asphalt road toChandikeshwar temple road of Tagadur village which comes between the road from Tagadur village to Ahalya village and Construction of CC drain and C.C road within thevillage limits of Alaganchi, Kira gunda, Biligere, Haropur, Bilugali, Hadinarumole, Immavu hundi, K.S.Hundi, Bidargudu and Ahalya in Nanjangud Taluk Mysuru District. **Estimate Cost (Rs.in Lakhs): 455.00 Approximate Value of work (Rs. in lakhs): 382.08 Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs): 5,75,500.00 Contractor Eligibility:** Class – II & above

For more details visit website: <http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in> or contact the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Mysore (Ph: 0821-2560853) during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PRED Division, Mysore

AE Phone No. 9901040070

DIPR/DDMYS/1837/KSMCA/1039/2025-26

ಬೆಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ				
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ				
ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲಾವಧಿ ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 17/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.02.2026 ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲಾವಧಿ ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಮುಂದೂಡಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 17(1)/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.03.2026				
ಸ್ವಾಂಡರ್ ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ- III & IV ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಬೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.				
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಏಟಂವಾರು ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (Double Cover System) ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ 2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ CMIDP ಲೆಕ್ಕಕೋಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದರ್ಜೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಬೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ. (1) E-procurement ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್-ಬಿ ಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಧರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.03.2026 ರ 16.30 ರವರೆಗೆ (2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.03.2026 ರಂದು 16.35 ನಂತರ (3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.03.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ನಂತರ (ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಲ್ಲಿ) (4) ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ (ಬಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾವುದಿಲ್ಲ): e- Procurement ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ				
ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ
1	Improvements to road from Dibburahalli-Shidlaghatta main road to Tatahalli village Shidlaghatta taluk. Chikkaballapur district (VR 261) (RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25318)	168.09	252135.00	9 ತಿಂಗಳು
2	Improvements to road from fromT. Gollahalli-KY Road Via Tuluvvanur chainage 0.00 Km to 3.40 Km Chintamani Taluk Chikkaballapur District. (RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25150)	169.13	253695.00	9 ತಿಂಗಳು
3	Improvements to road from Pendlivarahalli cross to Kambarahalli Doddagummanahalli road to the border. Shidlaghatta taluk. Chikkaballapur District. (RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25320)	117.63	200000.00	6 ತಿಂಗಳು
4	Improvements to road from From Muduganakunte Cross via Jakkenahalli to Kadaburu village in Gowribidanur Taluk Chikkaballapur District (RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25322)	168.19	252285.00	9 ತಿಂಗಳು
5	Improvements to road from Kadabur village to Saragondli village in Gowribidanur Taluk Chikkaballapur District (RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25323)	99.80	199600.00	6 ತಿಂಗಳು
6	Improvements to road from NH 234 road via Bhaktarahalli village to Colonyin Gowribidanur Taluk Chikkaballapur District (RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25324)	125.14	200000.00	6 ತಿಂಗಳು
7	Improvements to road from Huduguru village to Virupasandra Lakshmpir road via fishermen's houses in Gowribidanur Taluk Chikkaballapur District (RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25326)	100.51	200000.00	6 ತಿಂಗಳು
Total		948.49		
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QUICK READ



Pune to introduce 3 letter vehicle series soon

PUNE

Pune is set to introduce three-letter vehicle registration numbers as the existing 'MH-12' series nears its limit. Officials from the Regional Transport Office said the current two-letter combinations have almost been exhausted due to the rapid rise in vehicles. A proposal has been sent to the National Informatics Centre for approval. With over 43 lakh vehicles registered, the new format like 'MH-12 AAA 0001' will soon be introduced to continue registrations smoothly in the city.

Acid attack on minor girl sparks protests



AHILYANAGAR

An acid attack on a 13-year-old girl in Vadgaonpan village of Sangamner taluk has triggered protests in Maharashtra's Ahilyanagar district. The incident occurred when the student was returning home from school. She suffered facial burns and is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Loni. Police have registered a case and launched a search for the absconding accused. Locals staged a "rasta roko" protest demanding swift action. Authorities assured financial aid and strict steps to arrest the attacker soon.

Maha acts against absent docs, moots reforms

MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government has taken strict action against absentee doctors in state hospitals, terminating 58 medical officers. Public Health Minister Prakash Abitkar said notices were issued to 710 doctors, with 442 facing disciplinary action. To improve accountability, biometric and GPS-based attendance systems will be introduced. The government has also expanded treatment coverage under key health schemes and directed hospitals not to charge extra fees. Measures to tackle rising cancer cases, including vaccination drives and screening programmes, are also being planned.

IRAN'S RESILIENCE SURPRISED EVERYONE: EX-DIPLOMAT

Iran's preparedness and decentralised system have helped it withstand pressure from the US and Israel, raising concerns for global stability and India's energy security.

NEW DELHI

Former diplomat Dilip Sinha has said the ongoing conflict involving Iran could develop into a long war of attrition, as it continues despite pressure from the United States and Israel.

Speaking on the situation, Sinha observed that Iran has surprised many by sustaining the conflict for so long. He said the country had made strong preparations over the years, including building and safely storing missiles and drones in locations that are difficult to access. He also pointed out that even after the killing of key leaders such as Ali Larijani, Iran's governance and decision-making systems remain active. According to him, decentralised decision-making has ensured that operations continue smoothly without major disruption.

Sinha explained that Iran's approach involves spreading both its military resources and leadership responsibilities, which has helped it continue the conflict for an

extended period.

Referring to India's concerns, he mentioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent discussions with the UAE leadership about the Strait of Hormuz. He noted that the narrow route remains sensitive and difficult to protect, affecting the flow of oil supplies.

He stressed that India should reduce its dependence on Gulf oil and diversify its supply sources. He also suggested increasing focus on self-reliance in energy and critical minerals.

On regional tensions, Sinha criticised Pakistan over reports of an airstrike in Afghanistan, calling the situation serious and urging consistent global standards in dealing with counter-terror operations.



Indian oil tanker reaches Mundra Port amid West Asia tensions

MUNDRA

An Indian-flagged oil tanker reached Mundra port safely, strengthening crude supply despite rising tensions in West Asia region.

The Indian-flagged crude oil tanker Jag Laadki has arrived at Adani Ports in Mundra, Gujarat, carrying around 80,886 metric tonnes of crude oil. The shipment was sourced from the United Arab Emirates and loaded at Fujairah Port.

The vessel is a larger, measuring over 274 metres in length,

with a beam of about 50 metres. It has a deadweight capacity of over 164,000 tonnes, making it suitable for transporting large volumes of crude oil.

Officials said the arrival highlights the important role played by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone in handling major energy imports.

These shipments are crucial for refineries to ensure steady fuel production and support India's growing energy needs.

The development comes at a time when tensions remain high in West Asia, affecting key shipping routes. Despite these challenges, India has continued to ensure safe maritime operations.

Earlier, two Indian LPG carriers, MT Shivalik and MT Nanda Devi, success-

fully crossed the Strait of Hormuz and reached India with over 92,000 metric tonnes of LPG.

To protect shipping routes, India has maintained a naval presence under Operation Sankalp. This mission aims to ensure the safety of vessels and secure important trade lanes.

The Directorate General of Shipping is closely monitoring the situation in coordination with stakeholders and Indian missions abroad.

The government is also working with ports and shipping companies to avoid disruptions.

Authorities have advised ports to offer relief measures, including reduced charges where needed, to support smooth maritime trade during this period.



BJP leaders claim more Cong exits likely soon

NEW DELHI

After Assam MP Pradyut Bordoloi quit the Congress and joined the BJP, BJP leader Nishikant Dubey on Wednesday said more leaders could leave the party soon. He even suggested that Gaurav Gogoi might step down in the future.

Speaking outside Parliament, Dubey questioned the strength of the Congress, saying the party appeared inactive and weak during recent proceedings. He claimed that Congress members neither participated in debates nor protested effectively, raising concerns about the party's current condition.

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla also criticised the Congress, alleging internal divisions and lack of leadership. He said several leaders have lost confidence in Rahul Gandhi, pointing to recent resignations as a sign of growing dissatisfaction.

Senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi echoed similar views, stating that the Congress leadership has failed to manage internal issues and retain trust among members.

India building a strong energy ecosystem with focus on sustainability: PM

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India is building a strong energy ecosystem while ensuring sustainability for future needs.

He highlighted an article by Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, urging people to understand the country's evolving energy policies aimed at achieving a developed India.

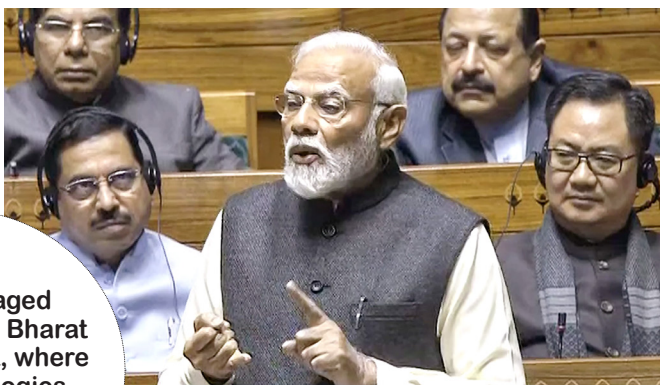
Khattar noted that India's power sector has seen major progress over the past decade, including electrification of households and a sharp reduction in power shortages. He said energy shortage has dropped from 4.2 per cent in 2013-14 to just 0.03 per cent in 2025-26.

The minister added that a

record 52.53 gigawatts of power capacity was added in 2025-26 alone, the highest ever in a single year. This growth has strengthened both power generation and transmission across the country.

Electricity generation has also increased significantly, rising from over 1,020 billion units in 2014 to around 1,830 billion units in 2025. Per capita electricity consumption has gone up from 957 kWh to 1,460 kWh during the same period, show-

The PM encouraged participation in Bharat Energy Summit, where future technologies, innovation, and energy goals will be discussed.



ing improved access and economic growth.

Khattar said these developments have ensured reliable power supply for homes, farms, and industries. He added that India is now the

third-largest producer and consumer of electricity globally.

The Prime Minister also encouraged participation in the Bharat Energy Summit, where future technologies, innovation, and energy goals will be discussed.

CONGRESS SLAMS RS 1K EPF PENSION

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday criticised the government after a Parliamentary panel called for a review of the Rs 1,000 minimum monthly pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the current pension amount is too low and has not changed despite rising inflation. He alleged that several social security schemes have weakened over the past years, affecting vulnerable sections, especially the elderly.

Ramesh said the small pension fails to meet basic needs as prices of essential goods and healthcare have increased sharply. He described the amount as inadequate for ensuring a dignified life for retired workers.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development also noted that the Rs 1,000 pension has remained unchanged for a long time. It recommended an urgent and detailed review to raise the amount to a more real-

istic level. The committee said many pensioners have submitted requests for increasing the minimum pension, highlighting financial difficulties faced by economically weaker groups.

The demand gains importance as pensioners have been seeking an increase to Rs 7,500 per month. Recently, several beneficiaries staged a protest at Janar Mantar, urging the government to revise the pension amount. The Labour Ministry informed the panel



that the government is already providing financial support to the scheme, including contributions for current members and budgetary assistance to maintain the minimum pension.

However, the committee maintained that the present pension is not sufficient to meet even basic living expenses in the current economic situation.

It urged the government to take immediate steps to review and increase the pension, ensuring better financial security and dignity for millions of retired workers across the country.

UNANIMOUS CHOICE

BJP MLA Jamatia elected Tripura Assembly Speaker

AGARTALA

Senior BJP leader Ram Pada Jamatia was elected unopposed as the Speaker of the Tripura Assembly on Wednesday, as he was the only candidate to file nomination papers.

The post fell vacant after the death of former Speaker Biswa Bandhu Sen in December last year. Acting Speaker Ram Prasad Paul officially announced Jamatia's election in the House.

Following the announcement, Chief Minister Manik Saha, Leader of Opposition Jitendra Chaudhury, and other senior leaders escorted him to



the Speaker's chair.

Jamatia has earlier served as a minister, handling portfolios such as Tribal Welfare and Industry. He is a two-time MLA from the Bagma constituency and joined the BJP in

2017 after retiring from the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation. Before that, he also worked at the Tripura Jute Mill.

With this appointment, he becomes the second tribal

leader to serve as Speaker of the Tripura Assembly since the state attained full statehood, following Sudhanwa Debbarma.

Meanwhile, the Budget session of the Assembly is currently in progress. Governor Indrasena Reddy Nallu addressed the House at the start of the session. Finance Minister Pranajit Singha Roy later presented a budget of Rs 34,212 crore for the financial year 2026-27.

The session will continue until March 25, during which several important bills, including proposals for new universities, are being discussed.

SC slams lawyers' violence, grants bail to staff

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India has strongly criticised violence by lawyers in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh, and ordered bail for toll plaza employees.

A Bench led by Justice Vikram Nath said members of the Bar had created fear, denying the accused fair legal representation. The court observed that those expected to uphold justice had instead engaged in unlawful acts.

The case involved toll workers employed by M/s Skylark

Infra Engineering Pvt Ltd at Gotona Bara Toll Plaza.

They were arrested after a dispute with a lawyer over toll payment in January and remained in custody for over two months.

The accused claimed they were arrested without proper information and later faced threats from local lawyers.

The court noted that a resolution had been passed urging lawyers not to represent them. When one advocate filed a bail plea, his office was reportedly vandalised.

Calling the situation seri-

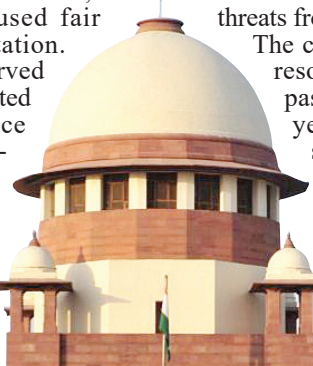
ous, the court said such actions had damaged the dignity of the legal profession. It added that unity among lawyers cannot justify violence or lawlessness.

The court directed that the employees be released on bail and held that denial of bail violated their right to personal liberty under Article 21.

To ensure a fair trial, the case has been transferred to Tis Hazari Courts in New Delhi.

The court also asked the Uttar Pradesh police to provide protection to the accused after their release.

It further directed the Bar Council of India to take appropriate action against those involved.



QUICK READ

Funeral held for fallen Iranian IRIS Dena sailors

Tehran

A funeral procession was held today for sailors lost when the Iranian naval frigate IRIS Dena sank after being hit by a U.S. submarine's torpedo off Sri Lanka in early March. The ceremony took place at the Imamzadeh Saleh shrine, as Iran mourns the deaths of dozens of crew members in the attack. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian condemned the strike as an "inhumane crime" and honoured the sailors' memory. Many bodies were recovered and repatriated, while survivors were saved by rescue teams. The incident has further heightened tensions in the ongoing wider Middle East conflict.

Around 1,600 Indians fly home from Qatar

Qatar

About 1,600 Indian nationals returned to India on five Qatar Airways flights, the Indian Embassy in Qatar confirmed. Two flights landed in Delhi, while one each reached Mumbai, Kochi, and Thiruvananthapuram. Qatar Airways is operating limited, non-scheduled services due to airspace restrictions, with plans to fly to nine Indian destinations starting March 19. The embassy is also issuing temporary transit visas for travel via Saudi Arabia and providing 24/7 consular support. Community groups have assisted stranded Indians, including fishermen, with essential supplies. Passengers are advised to follow updated flight schedules and embassy guidance for safe travel.

Germany urges diplomacy to end Gulf conflict

Munich

German Ambassador to India Philipp Ackermann said Germany wants the ongoing Gulf war to end quickly and called for diplomatic solutions. He emphasized that peaceful talks are the best way forward, as the conflict affects global stability. German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius added that Germany will not join military operations but supports efforts to ensure safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz. European nations have expressed scepticism over U.S. proposals for a naval coalition in the region. Officials stressed diplomacy over military action, highlighting the importance of collaboration to prevent further disruption of global oil shipments.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	1			3	6		2	8
6		9	5				1	
	7			9	1		6	3
9		5	2			8		
	8		6				9	2
4		3	1	8		7		
2		8			5		1	9
	5		9	1		2		
1		7			2		4	5

Fill a 9x9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3x3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

3	1	9	5	4	6	2	7	8
6	7	5	2	1	8	3	9	4
8	4	2	9	3	7	1	6	5
8	5	3	1	9	4	7	2	6
7	9	4	6	8	2	5	1	3
1	2	6	7	5	3	4	8	9
2	3	8	4	7	9	6	5	1
5	4	7	8	6	1	9	3	2
9	6	1	3	2	5	8	4	7

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle



Israel strikes 80 sites across Lebanon to stop Hezbollah

Israel launched major strikes in southern Lebanon, targeting Hezbollah sites and leadership to prevent attacks and dismantle terror networks.

TEL AVIV

The Israeli military launched a massive operation in southern Lebanon, destroying more than eighty sites linked to the group Hezbollah. Officials described the mission as a “forward defense” effort. The goal is to stop Hezbollah from rebuilding its military strength near the border, ensuring that they cannot launch future attacks against Israeli families. During the precise raids, soldiers also removed two operatives who had been hiding in the area. This intense wave of strikes followed a series of rocket attacks fired into Israeli towns. In response, the military targeted Hezbollah’s headquarters and weapons storage buildings. Many of these sites were located in crowded neighborhoods, leading to evacuations in the city of Tyre. Overnight, the mission expanded to Beirut, where the military hit financial hubs used to fund fighters and pay for operations. By cutting off this money, Israel hopes to weaken the group’s ability to stay organized. In a separate move, the military reported the death of a top Hamas commander, Yahya Abu-Labda. He was responsible for smuggling the materials used to build rockets, including equipment used in past major attacks. Israeli leaders emphasized that these combined efforts are necessary to dismantle terror networks and protect their national security. As the situation remains very tense, the military has vowed to continue its mission until the border is safe.



Middle East tensions escalate after Israel targets Iran’s intelligence chief, amid multiple high-profile strikes, leadership losses, and accusations, raising fears of broader regional conflict.

Tensions in the Middle East reached a breaking point after a reported Israeli attempt to assassinate Iran’s intelligence chief Ismail Khataib. While news agencies in both Israel and Iran confirmed the strike occurred, it remains unclear if Khataib survived the attack. This bold move is the latest in a series of high-profile hits that have shaken the Iranian government. Just days earlier, Ali Larijani, a very senior advisor and close ally to Iran’s top leadership, was killed in a separate strike during this nineteen-day conflict. The violence has also claimed the life of Brigadier General Gholamreza Soleimani, who led Iran’s internal security forces for six years. Iranian state media blamed the “American-Zionist enemy” for his death, marking him as a key military figure lost in the fighting. Despite these heavy blows to the country’s leadership, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi insists that their political system remains strong. He argued that the nation’s foundations are resilient enough to survive the loss of individual leaders, pointing out that the government stayed stable even after the death of their Supreme Leader in February. Araghchi shifted the blame for the escalating war onto the United States, claiming Washington started the conflict and must answer for the lives lost. As both nations trade threats, the entire region is on high alert for what might happen next. With military moves increasing on both sides, the world is watching closely, fearing that these targeted attacks could lead to an even larger and more dangerous international struggle.

Iran demands UN action against major strikes

NEW YORK

Iran is calling on the United Nations to take a firm stand against Israel and the United States. In a formal letter sent to the Security Council, Iran’s representative, Amir Saeid Iravani, accused both nations of breaking international laws. He urged the global community to launch an investigation into recent military strikes that have caused widespread destruction. According to Iranian officials, the violence has turned deadly for many, claiming the lives of over 1,300 civilians, including women and children, in just the last few weeks. The report paints a grim picture of the damage on the ground. Thousands of homes, schools, and medical clinics have reportedly been destroyed, leaving communities in ruins. Iran also criticized neighboring countries for allowing their land to be used as a base for these attacks. Iravani argued that these actions are “brazen violations” of human rights and national sovereignty. He warned that if the world does not act quickly to hold the aggressors accountable, the entire region could fall into even deeper instability. While calling for peace through the UN, Iran also defended its own military actions. The envoy stated that using missiles and drones against specific targets is a legal act of self-defense. They believe these strikes are a necessary response to protect their people from ongoing threats. As the conflict intensifies, both sides continue to blame each other for the escalating violence. Iran’s message to the UN is clear: the international community must step in now to stop the fighting and uphold the rules that protect global peace.



Iran claims strong leadership amid top losses

TEHRAN

Iran’s Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, sent a defiant message, insisting that the nation’s government remains rock-solid. His comments follow the high-profile killing of Ali Larijani, a top security official and close ally to the country’s highest leaders. Larijani is one of the most senior figures lost since this intense conflict began nearly three weeks ago. Despite this blow, Araghchi told reporters that Iran does not depend on any single person to function and that its political and social institutions are built to survive such losses. The violence has also claimed the life of Brigadier General Gholamreza Soleimani, the head of Iran’s internal security forces. State media described his death as a targeted strike by "American-Zionist" enemies. Soleimani had led thousands of troops for six years and was a central figure in the country’s military plans. Araghchi pointed out that the government has already moved quickly to fill these empty seats, ensuring that the country stays under control. He noted that the system even remained stable after the death of their Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, earlier this year. In a sharp warning, the Foreign Minister blamed the United States for starting the war. He stated that Washington must be held accountable for every life lost and every dollar spent during this crisis. By placing the blame on foreign powers, Iran is signaling that it will not back down. As the conflict continues to escalate, Tehran is focused on showing the world that its leadership is resilient and ready to face any challenge, no matter how many officials are targeted.



Saudi forces stop missile attack on Riyadh

RIYADH

Saudi Arabian defense forces successfully blocked a dangerous aerial attack over the capital city. Military officials confirmed they intercepted a ballistic missile and several drones that were specifically aiming for the city’s diplomatic district. While falling debris landed near a local air base, authorities are relieved to report that no one was injured and no buildings were damaged. This bold strike is part of a larger wave of violence currently shaking the Middle East, as tensions between international powers and regional groups continue to climb. The Ministry of Defense explained that these attacks are a direct result of ongoing conflicts involving the United States, Israel, and Iran. As retaliatory strikes spread across the Gulf, security concerns are reaching a breaking point. The instability has already caused major chaos for global travel and trade, with airports in Dubai and Doha forced to close their doors repeatedly. These closures have made it difficult for families to travel and have even delayed the delivery of life-saving medical supplies to those in need. In a move to restore peace, Saudi Arabia is now calling for an emergency meeting with foreign ministers from across the Arab and Islamic world. Leaders from Egypt, Iraq, and the Emirates are gathering in Riyadh to build a plan that stops the crisis from getting worse. The Saudi government remains on high alert, ready to protect its citizens and its cities from further harm. By working together with neighboring nations, they hope to create a shield of safety and find a diplomatic way out of this volatile situation.



Chopper crashes while landing in Eastern Nepal, 1 hurt

KATHMANDU

A helicopter carrying five passengers and a deceased body crashed in a remote part of Eastern Nepal. The aircraft, operated by Air Dynasty, was attempting to land on farmland in the Khotang District when the accident occurred around 11:51 AM. Despite the frightening impact, officials confirmed that there were no fatalities. One passenger sustained injuries, while the pilot and the other travelers managed to escape the wreckage safely. Local authorities quickly moved to secure the area and provide medical help. Chief District Officer Rekha Kandel reported that the injured person was rescued by a second helicopter sent by the company. Preliminary reports suggest that the crash may have been caused by sudden strong winds or thick dust kicked up during the landing process. However, a full investigation is currently underway to find the exact cause of the mechanical failure or pilot error. In many mountainous parts of Nepal, helicopters are a lifeline because roads are difficult to build and travel is slow. While these flights are usually safe, this incident highlights how dangerous the weather can be in high-altitude regions. Heavy winds and shifting clouds can make landing a massive challenge for even the most experienced pilots. Aviation experts are expected to conduct a safety review to prevent similar accidents in the future. For now, the community is relieved that everyone survived the crash, and the injured passenger is receiving the necessary care.



‘EXTREME HYPOCRISY’

Activists blast China’s stance on Anti-Muslim hate

WASHINGTON, DC

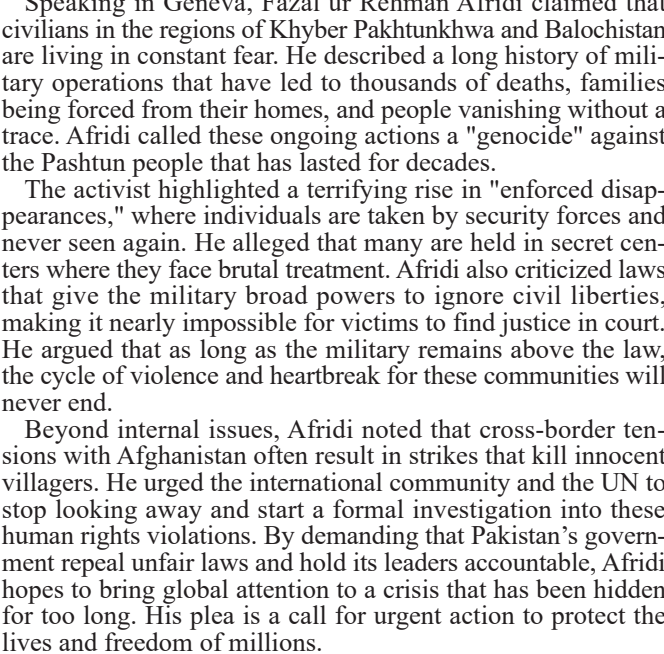
Uyghur human rights activists are calling out the Chinese government for what they describe as ‘extreme hypocrisy’. The backlash began after China’s mission to the United Nations posted a message supporting the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. In the post, Beijing claimed to oppose religious discrimination and pledged to work closely with Islamic nations. However, activists argue that these words hide a dark reality of state-sponsored persecution against the Uyghur Muslim minority in the Xinjiang region. Rushan Abbas, a prominent advocate, pointed to the destruction of thousands of mosques and the detention of millions of people in “training centers” as proof of China’s true policies. She shared the heartbreaking story of her own sister, who has been imprisoned for over seven years, simply because of her family’s activism. Other leaders, like Salih Hudayar, labeled the government’s message a “calculated attempt” to trick the international community. They argue that while China speaks of religious harmony at the UN, it is actually working to erase Islamic culture and identity back home. Human rights groups are now urging the world to look past the official statements and hold Beijing accountable. They claim that banning children from mosques and criminalizing daily prayers are clear signs of a war on Islam. As the debate grows on social media, international observers are being asked to recognize the gap between China’s diplomatic words and its actions on the ground. The activists insist that true progress against Islamophobia cannot happen until all Muslims, including the Uyghurs, are allowed to practice their faith without fear.



Activist urges UN to end military abuses

GENEVA

A prominent human rights activist has brought a chilling message to the United Nations, accusing Pakistan’s military of deep-rooted violence against its own people. Speaking in Geneva, Fazal ur Rehman Afridi claimed that civilians in the regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan are living in constant fear. He described a long history of military operations that have led to thousands of deaths, families being forced from their homes, and people vanishing without a trace. Afridi called these ongoing actions a "genocide" against the Pashtun people that has lasted for decades. The activist highlighted a terrifying rise in "enforced disappearances," where individuals are taken by security forces and never seen again. He alleged that many are held in secret centers where they face brutal treatment. Afridi also criticized laws that give the military broad powers to ignore civil liberties, making it nearly impossible for victims to find justice in court. He argued that as long as the military remains above the law, the cycle of violence and heartbreak for these communities will never end. Beyond internal issues, Afridi noted that cross-border tensions with Afghanistan often result in strikes that kill innocent villagers. He urged the international community and the UN to stop looking away and start a formal investigation into these human rights violations. By demanding that Pakistan’s government repeal unfair laws and hold its leaders accountable, Afridi hopes to bring global attention to a crisis that has been hidden for too long. His plea is a call for urgent action to protect the lives and freedom of millions.



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Guardiola Under Pressure After Madrid Knockout, Hints at Uncertain Future

City boss faces questions after another Champions League exit to Madrid

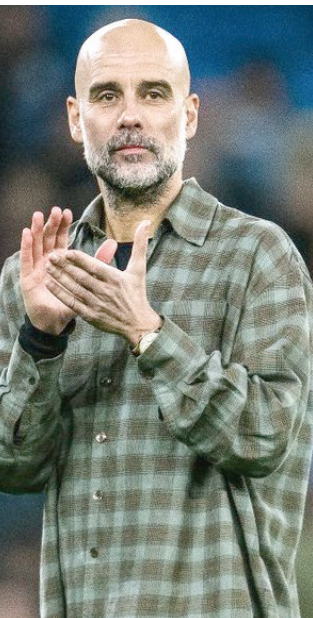
MANCHESTER

Pep Guardiola admitted that “everybody wants to fire me” after Manchester City suffered yet another painful UEFA Champions League exit at the hands of Real Madrid, intensifying speculation over his future at the club. City’s 2-1 defeat at the Etihad Stadium sealed a 5-1 aggregate loss in the round-of-16 tie, marking the fourth time in five years that Madrid have eliminated the English champions from Europe’s premier competition. Despite dominating English football in recent seasons, Guardiola’s side has struggled

to consistently overcome the Spanish giants on the continental stage. Speaking after the match, Guardiola struck a reflective tone when addressing questions about his position. “Everybody wants to fire me. One day I will come out here and say ‘bye, bye guys,’” he said, adding to the uncertainty surrounding his tenure, with just one year remaining on his contract. The Spaniard, who has been in charge of City since 2016, is already in his longest managerial stint, having previously coached Barcelona and Bayern Munich without seeing out such an extended

period. While he suggested that “the future will be bright,” he stopped short of confirming whether he would remain beyond the current campaign. Real Madrid once again proved to be City’s biggest obstacle in Europe. Even with injury concerns affecting key players, the 15-time champions showcased their pedigree to dismantle Guardiola’s side. Their consistent dominance over City in knockout stages has become a defining narrative of recent Champions League seasons. Guardiola, a three-time Champions League winner—

twice with Barcelona—acknowledged the high expectations surrounding his record. “I should win six Champions Leagues,” he remarked sarcastically, reflecting on the scrutiny he faces despite reaching multiple semifinals and finals. Madrid’s latest triumph also highlighted the impact of their emerging leadership, with coach Alvaro Arbeloa guiding the team to notable victories over top managers in successive rounds. As speculation grows, Guardiola’s future remains uncertain, but his commitment to City’s long-term success appears intact—for now.



Delay in National Sports Awards Raises Concerns Over Ministry’s Functioning

CHENNAI

A prolonged delay in announcing the National Sports Awards has left athletes anxious and raised serious questions about the functioning of the Union Sports Ministry, with the final approval of shortlisted names still pending months after the selection process concluded. The prestigious awards, including the Arjuna Award and the Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna, are traditionally presented on August 29 to mark National Sports Day, commemorating hockey legend Dhyan Chand’s birth anniversary. However, this year’s delay has stretched well beyond precedent, with no official announcement even after the selection committee submitted its recommendations on December 24. Athletes whose names are believed to be on the shortlist have been left in a state of uncertainty, repeatedly question-

ing whether they have made the final cut and when the awards will be announced. Around 24 names were reportedly forwarded for the Arjuna Awards, along with one recommendation for the Khel Ratna, but the file is yet to receive ministerial approval. The delay is unprecedented in the history of the awards and has added to existing concerns over transparency and consistency in the selection process. Coaches’ awards, including the Dronacharya Award and Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar, are also pending, further compounding the uncertainty. While past delays were often attributed to major sporting events such as the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, and Asian Games, the current holdup is harder to justify, especially following a relatively less congested sporting calendar in 2025. The situation has also reignited debate over the number of awardees.



Consistency Key for Veer, Ramit Ahead of Crucial Season: Coach Palmer

CHENNAI

Consistency will be the defining factor for Indian squash players Veer Chotrani and Ramit Tandon as they gear up for a demanding season, according to their coach David Palmer. The duo will look to build momentum at the JSW Indian Open in Mumbai, a PSA Copper-level event beginning Wednesday, as they prepare for a year packed with high-stakes competitions, including the World Championships and the Asian Games. Palmer, a former World No. 1 and two-time world champion, emphasised that while both players possess the ability to challenge top-ranked opponents, maintaining consistency remains their biggest hurdle. “They have shown they can beat top-20 players and push top-10 players, but doing it regularly is the key,” he said. While Tandon is aiming to bounce back from a disappointing season, Chotrani heads into the tournament with confidence after an impressive performance against Joel Makin at the New Zealand Open, where he stretched the World No. 5 to five games. The coming months are particularly significant, with



Olympic qualification criteria now in place. Rankings will play a crucial role, and a strong showing at the Asian Games could secure a direct berth. Palmer believes both players have a realistic chance but stressed the importance of sustained performance and fitness. The coach, however, will miss the Mumbai event due to travel constraints. Despite his absence, his structured training approach continues to guide the players. Known for his emphasis on physical conditioning, Palmer has built his philosophy on lessons learned

from his former coaches Joe Shaw and Sean Moxham. He explained that modern squash demands a balance of fitness, technique, and mental strength, with increasing competition depth making it tougher to break into the top 20. Palmer also highlighted the need to adapt training schedules this year, especially with a tight window leading up to the Asian Games. As the season unfolds, both Chotrani and Tandon will aim to translate potential into consistent results, keeping their Olympic ambitions firmly in sight.



CAF overturns final result after chaotic scenes, Senegal to challenge ruling

Senegal Stripped of AFCON Title, Morocco Crowned Champions After Appeal

PARIS

African football was rocked by controversy as Senegal national football team were stripped of their Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) title, with Morocco national football team officially declared champions following a ruling by the Confederation of African Football. The dramatic decision comes two months after a chaotic final in Rabat on January 18, where Senegal had originally secured a 1-0 victory in extra time thanks to a goal from Pape Gueye. However, CAF’s Appeals Committee ruled that Senegal forfeited the match due to their players walking off the pitch in protest during stoppage time. The incident occurred when a late penalty was awarded to Morocco, sparking protests

from Senegal players who left the field for nearly 20 minutes before eventually returning. Though Morocco missed the penalty—taken by Brahim Diaz—and Senegal went on to win, CAF deemed the walk-off a violation of competition rules. Citing Articles 82 and 84 of AFCON regulations, CAF stated that any team refusing to continue play without referee approval forfeits the match and is recorded as losing 3-0. As a result, Morocco have been awarded the title. The Royal Moroccan Football Federation welcomed the decision, clarifying that their appeal was not against Senegal’s performance but aimed at ensuring adherence to tournament regulations. Senegal’s football federation has strongly condemned the ruling, calling it “unjust,

unprecedented and unacceptable,” and confirmed plans to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. The final had already been marred by disorder, including attempted pitch invasions by fans and prolonged disruptions following the penalty decision by referee Jean-Jacques Ndala. Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy had saved the controversial spot-kick before the match proceeded to extra time. FIFA president Gianni Infantino had earlier criticised the “unacceptable scenes,” stressing the importance of discipline and respect for the game. The decision has sparked widespread debate, raising serious questions about governance, fairness, and the future handling of disciplinary issues in African football.

KONERU HUMPHY Raises Safety Concerns Over Candidates Tournament in Cyprus

NEW DELHI

Indian chess grandmaster Koneru Humpy has voiced strong concerns over participating in the upcoming Candidates tournament in Cyprus, citing serious safety risks amid escalating tensions in West Asia. Humpy questioned the decision of organisers to proceed with a premier event in a region she believes is increasingly unstable. Her remarks come in the backdrop of recent drone strikes and heightened military activity in the Mediterranean, raising fears that Cyprus could be drawn deeper into the conflict. “I am not sure if I will play. It depends on the situation,” Humpy said, expressing apprehension about travelling under current conditions. She pointed to ongoing hostilities involving Hezbollah and regional powers, as well as the presence of warships and reports of aerial threats, as key factors behind her hesitation. The former world rapid champion stressed that elite tournaments demand a peaceful and secure environment, something she feels is lacking at the proposed venue. “You should be able to play in a



calm atmosphere, not surrounded by bomb or missile sirens. That is not the stage for a world-class tournament,” she remarked. While acknowledging that the event might proceed without incident, Humpy argued that even a minimal level of risk is unacceptable when players’ safety is involved. She questioned why organisers opted for Cyprus despite early signs of instability in the region. Taking to social media, Humpy clarified that her stance was not driven by personal concerns alone but by a broader principle.



PSG, Real Madrid and Arsenal Storm Into Champions League Quarter-finals

PARIS

Holders Paris Saint-Germain, record champions Real Madrid and Premier League leaders Arsenal powered into the UEFA Champions League quarter-finals, while Sporting CP produced a stunning comeback to end Bodo/Glimt’s fairytale run. PSG delivered a commanding performance in London, thrashing Chelsea 3-0 to complete a dominant 8-2 aggregate victory. Georgian star Khvicha Kvaratskhelia continued his fine form by opening the scoring early, setting the tone for a one-sided contest. Goals from Bradley Barcola and Senny Mayulu sealed PSG’s emphatic progression as they look to defend their maiden European crown. Meanwhile, Real Madrid once again proved their dominance in Europe by eliminating Manchester City with a 5-1 aggregate win. Brazilian forward Vinicius Junior played a key role, converting a penalty and adding a late goal to underline Madrid’s superiority. Despite a goal from Erling Haaland, City were unable to overturn the

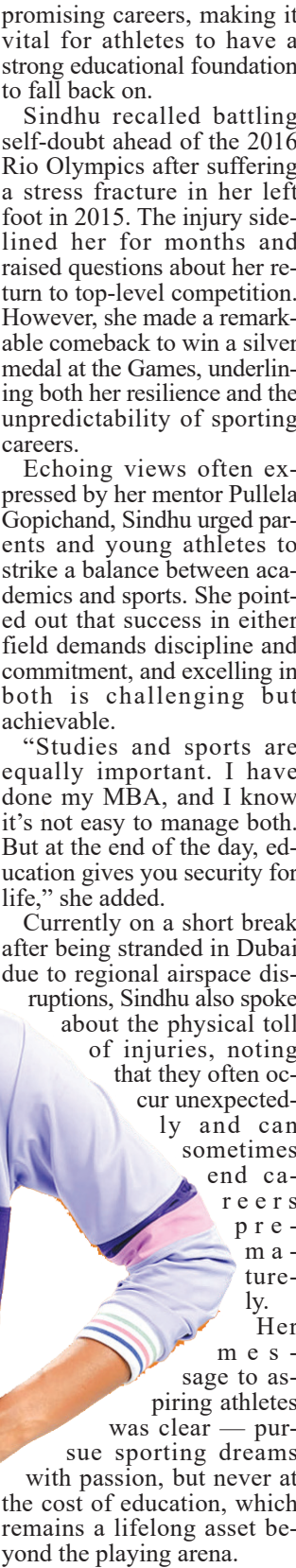
European giants dominate as knockout drama sends top clubs into last eight

deficit, continuing their struggles against the Spanish giants. Arsenal kept their dream season alive with a solid 2-0 win over Bayer Leverkusen at the Emirates Stadium, sealing a 3-1 aggregate triumph. Eberechi Eze broke the deadlock with a stunning long-range strike before Declan Rice added a composed second to confirm progression. Manager Mikel Arteta praised his team’s control and attacking intent. In Lisbon, Sporting staged one of the most remarkable comebacks of the competition, overturning a 3-0 first-leg deficit to defeat Bodo/Glimt 5-0 after extra time. Goals from Goncalo Inacio, Pedro Goncalves and a crucial penalty by Luis Suarez forced extra time, before Maxi Araujo and Rafael Nel completed the turnaround. Sporting’s victory marks their first quarter-final appearance since 1983, while Bodo/Glimt’s memorable European journey comes to an end.

Education Crucial as Sporting Careers Are Short: PV Sindhu

GURUGRAM

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu has emphasised the importance of education for young athletes, cautioning that relying solely on sports careers can be risky due to their uncertain and limited span. Sindhu highlighted that while sporting success requires dedication and hard work, academic grounding is equally essential for long-term stability. “You can’t play sport all your life. At some point, you have to retire, and that’s the reality. Education stays with you forever,” she said. The former world champion, who has balanced academics alongside an illustrious badminton career, shared insights from her own journey. She revealed how injuries and setbacks abruptly disrupted even the most promising careers, making it vital for athletes to have a strong educational foundation to fall back on. Sindhu recalled battling self-doubt ahead of the 2016 Rio Olympics after suffering a stress fracture in her left foot in 2015. The injury sidelined her for months and raised questions about her return to top-level competition. However, she made a remarkable comeback to win a silver medal at the Games, underlining both her resilience and the unpredictability of sporting careers. Echoing views often expressed by her mentor Pullela Gopichand, Sindhu urged parents and young athletes to strike a balance between academics and sports. She pointed out that success in either field demands discipline and commitment, and excelling in both is challenging but achievable. “Studies and sports are equally important. I have done my MBA, and I know it’s not easy to manage both. But at the end of the day, education gives you security for life,” she added. Currently on a short break after being stranded in Dubai due to regional airspace disruptions, Sindhu also spoke about the physical toll of injuries, noting that they often occur unexpectedly and can sometimes end careers prematurely. Her message to aspiring athletes was clear — pursue sporting dreams with passion, but never at the cost of education, which remains a lifelong asset beyond the playing arena.



QUICK READ

Fuel crisis deepens as Pakistan faces shortages amid Iran war

Karachi
Pakistan is facing a severe fuel crisis after oil supply disruptions linked to Middle East tensions. Citizens are waiting for hours at petrol stations, while prices have risen sharply in recent weeks. The government is considering steps like shorter workweeks and online classes to save fuel. Limited reserves and heavy dependence on imports have worsened the situation. Efforts to reroute supplies are costly and slow. Experts urge declaring an energy emergency and investing in renewable sources to avoid future crises. They also stress building strategic reserves and improving planning to handle sudden supply shocks better ahead.

Tanker with UAE oil reaches Mundra boosting energy supply

Bhuj
The Indian-flagged tanker 'Jag Laadki' arrived safely at Mundra Port in Gujarat carrying about 80,886 metric tonnes of crude oil from the United Arab Emirates. The vessel was loaded at Fujairah and docked after proper coordination by port authorities. Officials said the cargo will support refinery operations and strengthen India's energy supply during global uncertainties. Earlier, LPG carriers 'Shivalik' and 'Nanda Devi' also reached Gujarat ports through the sensitive Strait of Hormuz. Authorities assured that India has enough energy resources, and unloading at Mundra will follow strict safety and environmental rules set by officials.

Tankers reroute from China to India amid spike in Russian oil purchases

New Delhi
India has increased its purchase of Russian oil, leading several tankers to change routes from China to Indian ports. One tanker, Aqua Titan, is now heading to New Mangalore after altering its course mid-journey. This shift follows temporary approval from the United States for higher imports. Indian refiners bought nearly 30 million barrels in a week to manage supply issues caused by Middle East tensions. At least seven ships have diverted recently. Another tanker, Zouzou N., is also heading to Sikka. Experts warn rising demand could push global oil prices higher in coming weeks ahead.

India leads the way toward greener power

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlights India's energy transformation, showcasing reliable power, sustainability progress, and growing global leadership in electricity production.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently shared a bright vision for the nation's future. He highlighted how India is building a strong energy system that protects the environment while meeting the growing needs of its people. The Prime Minister praised a new report by Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, which explains how local energy policies are turning the dream of a developed India into a reality. The transformation over the last ten years has been truly incredible. In the past, many areas struggled with frequent blackouts, but power shortages have now almost disappeared. The government has



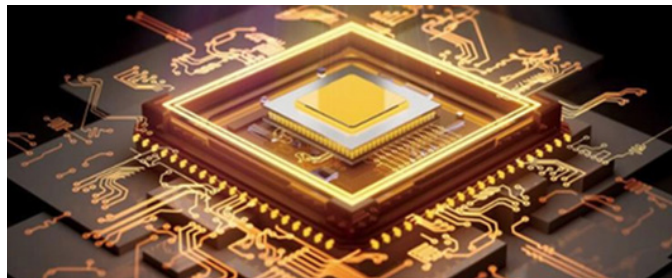
worked hard to ensure that every home, farm, and factory has the electricity it needs to thrive. Statistics show that the country's energy gap dropped from over four percent a decade ago to nearly zero this year. This progress makes India the third-largest producer and consumer of electricity across the entire globe.

Recent records show that India added more power capacity this year than ever before. This massive boost helps support a growing economy where the average person now uses much more electricity than they did in 2014. To showcase these wins, the Bharat Energy Summit will begin tomorrow at Yashobhoomi. This event will run until March 22, focusing on new technology and smart innovations. By inviting everyone to learn about these changes, the government hopes to inspire a cleaner, more reliable future for the next generation. India is no longer just watching the world change; it is leading the charge toward a sustainable tomorrow.

India becomes global leader in chip design: Report

NEW DELHI

India is rapidly transforming into a vital hub for the global semiconductor industry. While other nations focus on massive factories, India's true power comes from its brilliant engineers. A new report reveals that the country now holds nearly 20% of the world's chip design workforce. This massive pool of talent is shifting how the entire world builds the technology found in our phones and computers. For a long time, places like Taiwan and South Korea led the market with advanced manufacturing. Now, global tech giants like Intel and NVIDIA are flocking to India to open major research centers. These companies rely on local experts to design and test complex systems. Although building high-end factories takes time, India is moving fast by focusing on



assembly and testing first. A great example is the massive new facility being built in Gujarat by Micron Technology. The government is also playing a huge role through the India Semiconductor Mission. They are providing financial help to startups and offering the tools needed to invent new chips. This support has built immense confidence among international partners. In fact, a major partnership between Tata and a Taiwanese firm will soon bring an eleven-billion-dollar factory to life. By blending human talent with smart gov-

India is emerging as a semiconductor hub, leveraging its vast chip design talent, attracting global tech giants, and boosting innovation through strategic investments and government support.

ernment policies, India is no longer just a participant in the tech world. It is becoming a leader that ensures the global supply chain stays strong and innovative for years to come.



Pakistan faces growing crisis as institutions fail

NEW DELHI

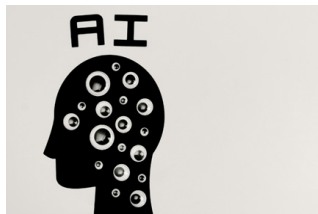
Pakistan is currently struggling with a deepening poverty crisis that goes beyond a simple lack of money. A new report describes the situation as "institutional poverty," meaning the country lacks the strong systems needed to protect jobs and help people recover from financial shocks. Government data shows that poverty has jumped from roughly twenty-two percent a few years ago to nearly twenty-nine percent. This means millions more families are finding it harder to afford basic needs as prices rise faster than their actual earnings. The situation is especially difficult in rural areas, where poverty has climbed above thirty-six percent. Even in cities, the number of people struggling has increased significantly. Experts point out that most workers are stuck in informal jobs without contracts, insurance, or any real protection. Because local government offices are weak and lack funding, they cannot provide the essential services people need. Instead of building strong factories and creating long-term jobs, the country has become too dependent on money sent from citizens living abroad and foreign aid.

Indian companies lead global digital investment, embracing Industry 4.0 technologies with strong confidence, innovation focus, and readiness for transformative business change.

‘India leads world in digital tech spending’

NEW DELHI

Indian companies are now the most eager in the world to spend money on new digital tools. A fresh report shows that seventy-one percent of firms in India are ready to invest heavily in technology. This is the highest rate found anywhere on the globe, proving that India is charging ahead in the race to modernize industries. The country now ranks among the top three nations for adopting advanced "Industry 4.0" systems. Experts from MHP and LMU Munich found that most businesses worldwide expect massive changes over the next



ten years. While many are nervous about these shifts, Indian leaders are embracing a "software-first" mindset. In fact, forty-four percent of people surveyed in India believe that software is already changing their business for the better. This is a much higher number than what was seen in European countries like Germany or Switzerland. While some regions focus

mostly on cutting costs, Indian companies are looking at the bigger picture. They are using technology to improve the quality of their products and meet high global standards. This strategy helps them grow into new international markets faster than their competitors. Other countries, like Mexico and the United States, are also investing, but they still trail behind India's enthusiasm. By choosing to lead in digital production and smart integration, India is setting a powerful example for the rest of the world. The report confirms that the nation is not just ready for change; it is driving the digital revolution.

US fights China's grip on vital minerals

NEW DELHI

The United States is facing a tough challenge as it tries to break China's control over rare minerals. These special materials are needed to build everything from smartphones and electric cars to advanced military equipment. Currently, China produces most of these minerals and handles almost all the processing. US officials admit that this happened because America chose to send the technology abroad years ago to avoid the pollution caused by mining. To fight back, the US is in-

vesting heavily in its own processing plants and teaming up with allies like Australia. Other countries are also stepping up to help. For example, a Canadian company is opening a new plant in South Korea next week to produce tungsten. They hope this move will provide nearly half of the world's supply outside of China. By working together and building new factories, these nations aim to create a fairer market and ensure that the technology of the future is not controlled by just one country.

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Indian job market booms across multi-sectors

NEW DELHI

India's economy is growing fast, and it is creating many new jobs for people everywhere. A new report shows that the unemployment rate dropped to 4.9 percent this February. This is great news because it means hiring is no longer stuck in just a few big cities. Instead, work is opening up in factories, building sites, shops, and even on farms. This broad growth is helping families in both busy urban centers and quiet rural villages. Government projects to build better roads and bridges are a big reason for this success. Programs like "Make in India" are also encouraging global companies to build cars and electronics right here. These big factories do not just hire floor workers; they also create roles for truck drivers and parts makers. Because more international brands are choosing India as their home base, these jobs are becoming more stable and lasting throughout the whole year. Young people are finding exciting new paths in technology and startups. From online shopping to green energy, there is a huge demand for fresh talent. At the same time, more women are joining the workforce in fields like healthcare and teaching. New digital tools also allow many people to work from

Hiring rush grows as firms seek immediate joiners

Bengaluru: Nearly one in three job postings in India now seek candidates who can join immediately, showing rising urgency among employers. A report said demand for quick joiners has increased sharply since 2022, but availability remains low, creating a talent gap. Many companies prefer mid-level professionals who can start work without long training. Sectors like IT and banking face the biggest shortages, pushing firms to explore contract hiring. While metro cities lead in demand, smaller cities offer more quick joiners. Experts say fast hiring needs are driven by tight deadlines and shorter project cycles across industries today.

home or take part-time roles that were not possible before. By teaching new skills to the youth and supporting small businesses, the nation is building a future where everyone has a chance to succeed and earn a good living.

‘India becomes a global electronics export power’

NEW DELHI

India's electronics industry is reaching new heights as hardware exports surged by over thirty percent in the past year. A recent report reveals that exports hit a record thirty-eight billion dol-

lars, marking a significant rise from the previous year. This impressive growth is fueled by increasing global demand for Indian-made technology, particularly smartphones. Phone exports alone crossed twenty-four billion

dollars, making them the largest contributor to the country's electronics trade. The United States remains the leading importer of Indian smartphones, followed by the United Arab Emirates and several European countries. While North America

and Europe dominate as key markets, Indian companies are steadily expanding into emerging regions such as Africa and South America. This growth is nationwide, with Tamil Nadu leading production, followed by Karnataka and Uttar

Pradesh. Even non-traditional tech regions are joining the manufacturing wave. The "Made in India" label is gaining global recognition for quality, helping the country strengthen its position as a major electronics hub worldwide.

India mandates local parts for solar power

NEW DELHI

The Indian government is taking a massive step to ensure the country builds its own solar technology from scratch. The officials announced that key solar components, known as ingots and wafers, must be sourced from an approved list of local makers starting June 1, 2028. This new rule expands existing laws that already require solar panels and cells to be made in India. By including these "upstream" parts, the government aims to end the country's heavy reliance on expensive imports from abroad. Minister Pralhad Joshi explained that this move is all about making India self-reliant in clean energy. Currently, while India assembles many solar panels, the thin silicon wafers inside them often come from other countries. Under the new framework, any new solar project starting after the deadline must use these government-approved domestic parts. This includes everything from large government solar farms to smaller setups used by private businesses and homes. To make sure there is enough supply, the official list of approved makers will only be released once at least three independent factories are running with a large total capacity.

Indian Railways is putting everyday passengers first by making travel more affordable than ever. The government announced that it is focusing on adding more non-AC and sleeper coaches to trains across the country. To keep ticket prices low for everyone, the railway department provides a massive forty-five percent discount on every passenger's fare. This means the government spends billions of rupees each year just to ensure that travel remains a budget-friendly option for the



public. Currently, about seventy

percent of all train cars are dedicated to general and

sleeper classes. Thousands of new coaches are being built right now to meet the high demand. While keeping fares low, the railways have also become a global leader in moving goods. Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw shared that India is now the second-largest freight carrier in the world. This success in cargo helps support the costs of passenger travel. Safety and modern technology are also at the heart of these updates. Almost the entire rail network is now powered by electricity, which is better for

the environment. Engineers have laid down thousands of miles of new tracks and built many overpasses to make journeys smoother and safer. New, high-tech coaches are replacing older ones to protect passengers during their trips. From automatic signals to better training for staff, every part of the system is getting an upgrade. By combining low costs with better safety, Indian Railways is ensuring that millions of people can reach their destinations reliably and without breaking the bank.

Jayawardene Eyes ‘New Rohit’ as Mumbai Indians Gear Up for IPL 2026

Coach confident Rohit’s fitness and form will boost Mumbai Indians

MUMBAI

Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene is eager to witness a “newer version” of veteran opener Rohit Sharma in the upcoming IPL season, expressing confidence in the former India captain’s renewed fitness and commitment.

Rohit, who has not played T20 internationals since leading India to the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup title in 2024, remains a pivotal figure for Mumbai Indians. According to Jayawardene, the experienced batter has put in significant work behind the scenes and has looked sharp during the team’s preparatory camp.

Despite a relatively modest IPL 2025 campaign where he

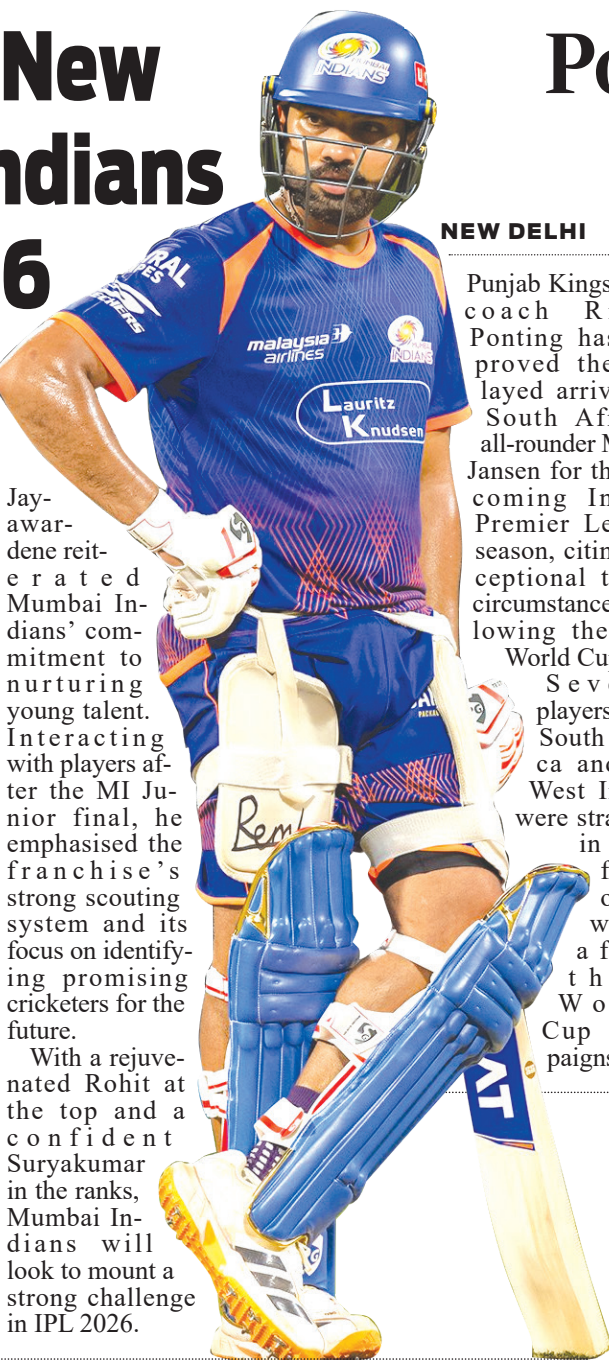
scored 418 runs in 15 matches, Rohit’s experience and leadership continue to be invaluable for the franchise. His return in top form could be crucial for Mumbai Indians as they aim to reclaim

their dominance in the league. Jayawardene also dismissed concerns over the recent form of India’s T20 World Cup-winning captain Suryakumar Yadav. Although Suryakumar managed just 242 runs during the global tournament, the coach backed his ability to bounce back strongly.

“SKY is a class player. He is not worried about his form, and neither are we. He delivered when it mattered and showed excellent leadership under pressure,” Jayawardene noted.

He further praised Suryakumar’s decision-making during challenging moments in the tournament, highlighting his composure and tactical awareness as key attributes.

Beyond the senior squad,



NEW DELHI

Punjab Kings head coach Ricky Ponting has approved the delayed arrival of South African all-rounder Marco Jansen for the upcoming Indian Premier League season, citing exceptional travel circumstances following the T20 World Cup.

Several players from South Africa and the West Indies were stranded in India for over a week after their World Cup campaigns ended, due to logistical disruptions linked to reduced operations at key transit hubs in West Asia. Airports in Dubai and Abu Dhabi were functioning below capacity, severely impacting outbound travel.

The situation drew criticism from notable figures, including West Indies head coach Daren Sammy and South African batter David Miller, who expressed frustration over the prolonged delays in leaving India. Acknowledging these challenges, Ponting has allowed Jansen additional time before joining the squad. The left-arm pacer is now scheduled to link up with Punjab Kings on March 26, while most overseas players, along with Ponting, are expected to assemble by March 21.

Afghanistan all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai will arrive on March 23 from Kabul, despite ongoing regional ten-

Ponting Backs Jansen’s Late IPL Arrival After Travel Delays

sions involving his country. Meanwhile, team captain Shreyas Iyer is likely to join the camp on March 19.

In their debut season together, Ponting and Iyer led Punjab Kings to their first IPL final since 2014, raising expectations for the upcoming campaign. Jansen, who claimed 16 wickets last season with an economy rate of 9.20, re-

mains a key asset for the side. Punjab Kings will begin their IPL 2026 campaign against Gujarat Titans on March 31 at home, followed by an away fixture against Chennai Super Kings on April 3.

Travel disruptions after T20 World Cup forced delayed departures for players



Spin duo could dominate if Eden pitch suits their strengths

Du Plessis Backs Narine, Varun as KKR’s Key Weapons at Eden

“Both are among the best T20 spinners right now. If they are not in the game due to pitch conditions, KKR lose their biggest strength,” he noted during an interaction with JioHotstar.Chakravarthy, despite India’s recent T20 World Cup triumph, had a relatively modest outing, picking up 14 wickets at an economy rate exceeding nine. However, Du Plessis remains confident in his ability to bounce back strongly in familiar IPL conditions.

KKR, led by Ajinkya Rahane this season, will begin their campaign against the Mumbai Indians on March 29 in an away fixture. The team will look to improve on last season’s disappointing performance, where they finished near the bottom of the points

table with just five wins from 14 matches.

Du Plessis also highlighted the importance of Australian all-rounder Cameron Green, who joins KKR as a high-profile signing. While praising Green’s all-round capabilities, he cautioned that the hefty price tag brings significant expectations and pressure.

Former India pacer Lakshmipathy Balaji, meanwhile, suggested a tactical adjustment, recommending Rahane bat in the top order. He proposed a strong top four featuring Finn Allen, Tim Seifert, Rahane, and Green to provide stability and firepower.

With a balanced mix of spin strength and batting depth, KKR will aim to mount a stronger title challenge this season.



Lakshmipathy Balaji Backs Rahane for No. 3 Role as KKR Eye Strong Start

MUMBAI

Former India pacer Lakshmipathy Balaji has strongly advocated for Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Ajinkya Rahane to bat at number three in



the upcoming IPL season, insisting that the experienced batter should not slot in any lower in the batting order.

With KKR set to open their campaign against the five-time champions Mumbai Indians on March 29, discussions around the ideal top-order combination have intensified. The squad boasts multiple opening options, including Finn Allen, Tim Seifert, Sunil Narine and young Angkrish Raghuvanshi, creating both flexibility and selection dilemmas.

Balaji outlined a preferred top four comprising Allen and Seifert as openers, followed by Rahane at number three and Cameron Green at number four. He emphasised that Rahane has previously excelled in the one-down role and can anchor the innings

while allowing stroke-makers around him to play freely.

“Rahane has done phenomenally well at number three. That position suits his game, and it will benefit both him and the team,” Balaji said, highlighting the need for stability in the top order.

Rahane enjoyed a productive IPL season last year, scoring 390 runs in 12 innings at a healthy strike rate, largely operating at number three. His consistency and ability to pace an innings make him a crucial figure in KKR’s batting setup.

Balaji also stressed that KKR’s top order must step up this season, particularly after the departure of key contributors from their 2024 title-winning campaign, including former skipper Shreyas Iyer and explosive opener Phil Salt.

NEW DELHI

Former South Africa captain Faf du Plessis believes Kolkata Knight Riders possess a formidable advantage in their spin attack, urging the franchise to prepare spin-friendly conditions at Eden Gardens to maximise the impact of Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy in the upcoming IPL season.

Du Plessis described the duo as “absolute cannons” in T20 cricket, emphasising that KKR’s success hinges on creating conditions that allow both spinners to dominate. According to him, Eden Gardens should be tailored to assist spin, ensuring Narine and Chakravarthy remain central to the team’s strategy throughout the tournament.

Pathan Backs Iyer to Shine Again as Punjab Kings Eye Strong Start

MUMBAI

Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan has expressed strong confidence in Punjab Kings skipper Shreyas Iyer continuing his stellar form from last season, asserting that the stylish right-hander remains a “proven cricketer” who does not need the IPL as a platform to reclaim his place in India’s T20I squad.

Punjab Kings, last season’s runners-up, will begin their IPL 2026 campaign against Gujarat Titans on March 31 at New Chandigarh. With Iyer and head coach Ricky Ponting forming a formidable leadership combination, expectations are high for another strong showing.

Iyer was instrumental in PBKS’ impressive run last season, finishing as the team’s top scorer with 604 runs in 17 innings at an average above 50 and a strike rate exceeding 175. His consistency and aggressive approach made him one of the standout performers of the tournament.

Pathan highlighted Iyer’s growth as a batter, recalling his memorable match-winning knock against the Mumbai Indians, where he displayed exceptional composure and shot-making against top-quality bowling. “He has

improved leaps and bounds,” Pathan remarked, adding that Iyer is already aware of his value to the Indian T20 setup.

The former all-rounder also believes Punjab Kings have a well-balanced squad heading into the season. The top order, featuring Prabhsimran Singh and Priyansh Arya alongside Iyer, appears settled after impressive performances last year.

The middle order, comprising emerging Indian talents like Nehal Wadhwa and Shashank Singh, along with experienced internationals such as Marcus Stoinis, provides depth and finishing power.

Pathan was particularly enthusiastic about the team’s pace attack, led by Arshdeep Singh and Marco Jansen, with strong backup options including Azmatullah Omarzai and others.

With a settled batting unit and a potent bowling lineup, Punjab Kings appear well-

equipped to mount a serious title challenge this season under Iyer’s leadership.



MILAN

Rising Formula One star Andrea Kimi Antonelli has described his breakthrough victory at the Chinese Grand Prix as just the beginning of a promising career, as the teenage sensation targets sustained success at the highest level of motorsport.

The 19-year-old Mercedes driver clinched his maiden Grand Prix win from pole position, marking a historic moment as he became the first Italian to win an F1 race since Giancarlo Fisichella two decades ago. Antonelli’s triumph also underlined his rapid rise after stepping into the seat previously held by seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton at the start of the 2025 season.



“It’s a starting point and I hope I can keep going because we’re on the right track,” Antonelli said after returning to his hometown Bologna, where he received a rousing welcome from fans

and media. “It won’t be easy, but this result gives me confidence and belief.”

Antonelli finished ahead of his Mercedes teammate George Russell, with Ferrari’s Hamilton completing the po-

dium. In doing so, he also became the youngest pole-sitter in Formula One history, further cementing his status as one of the sport’s brightest prospects.

The young Italian hinted at even bigger ambitions, including becoming the first driver from his country to win the world championship since Alberto Ascari in 1953. “There’s a bigger step ahead, which is the most difficult. But if I do everything right, we can get there,” he said.

Antonelli’s achievement has sparked excitement across Italy, drawing praise from fellow sports stars, including tennis world number one Jannik Sinner, who dedicated his Indian Wells triumph to the young driver.

Lalit Modi’s Message to Kavya Maran Sparks Debate After Abrar Ahmed Row

NEW DELHI

Fugitive former IPL chairman Lalit Modi has stirred fresh controversy with a pointed message to Sunrisers owner Kavya Maran following backlash over the signing of Pakistani cricketer Abrar Ahmed at The Hundred auction.

The Sunrisers franchise, which operates teams in multiple leagues,

acquired Abrar Ahmed for ₹190,000 (approximately ₹2.34 crore) during the inaugural men’s Hundred auction in London. The move triggered a wave of criticism on social media, with many fans questioning the decision given the longstanding absence of Pakistani players in the IPL ecosystem.

The backlash intensified to the extent that the Sunrisers Leeds’ social media account on X was temporarily suspended amid the uproar. Traditionally, Indian franchises with overseas teams have avoided

signing Pakistani players due to the political sensitivities surrounding India-Pakistan relations, particularly after the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which led to Pakistani players being excluded from the IPL after its inaugural season.

Amid the growing controversy, Modi weighed in with a cryptic yet direct remark on X, advising the franchise on handling public perception. “Investing ₹2.34 crore on a Pakistani player when fans are already on edge? I know a thing or two about managing optics and building empires.

Call me,” he wrote, without explicitly naming the individuals involved. While Modi did not mention Maran or Ahmed directly, the timing, context, and financial reference made the target of his comment evident. His intervention has further fuelled debate, given his own contentious history with Indian authorities.

Modi has been residing in the United Kingdom since 2010 after leaving India amid allegations of financial irregularities, including tax evasion and money laundering linked to IPL operations.

