

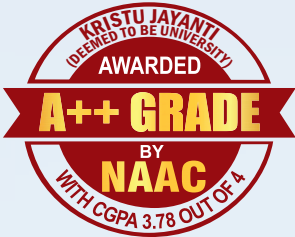


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QUICK READ

Voters raise concerns over missing booth details

CH NEWS, Bengaluru
Voters in Bengaluru have raised concerns over missing polling booth details in the digitised 2002 electoral rolls under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. Voter activist Mani Nisarga said at least 50 polling booths in the Mahadevapura Assembly constituency are absent from the records. The issue has caused confusion among residents trying to verify old electoral information. Authorities are expected to examine discrepancies, ensure accurate voter records ahead of future electoral processes.

Auto driver dies in BMTC e-bus collision

CH NEWS, Bengaluru
An auto-rickshaw driver died after a BMTC electric bus allegedly rammed his vehicle near K R Circle in Bengaluru. The incident occurred around 3:15 pm when the e-bus, travelling from Majestic to Chandapura, reportedly hit the rear of the auto-rickshaw. The impact threw the auto onto a nearby car, causing severe injuries to the driver.

BMRCL said revised penalties will improve enforcement efficiency, aligning with Jan Vishwas Act reforms to simplify laws and compliance.

BMRCL revises Metro penalties under the Jan Vishwas Act

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has implemented revised penalty provisions for metro-related offences following amendments introduced under the Jan Vishwas Act. The changes replace imprisonment provisions for certain offences with higher monetary penalties. The amended law has decriminalised several minor offences and introduced increased fines to promote compliance while reducing criminal proceedings for regulatory violations. BMRCL has updated its penalty structure in line with the revised legal framework. The revised penalties are aimed at improving passenger discipline, ensuring smoother metro operations, and encouraging responsible behaviour among commuters. Offences covered under the new provisions will now attract financial penalties instead of imprisonment in cases where the law permits such changes.



“The Bengaluru Metro network, which serves thousands of passengers daily, has regulations governing activities such as unauthorised travel, damage to property, and other violations affecting safety and operations. The revised penalty framework is expected to strengthen adherence to these rules.”

—BMRCL

BMRCL officials said the updated system will help streamline enforcement procedures and make the process more efficient. The move is part of wider reforms under the Jan Vishwas Act aimed at simplifying laws, reducing compliance burdens, and promoting

ease of doing business. Authorities have urged passengers to follow metro guidelines and avoid activities that could disrupt services or inconvenience fellow commuters. BMRCL has also highlighted the importance of public cooperation in maintaining safety and efficiency across the metro system. The implementation of higher monetary penalties marks a shift towards administrative enforcement rather than criminal action for certain offences, aligning metro regulations with the broader objectives of legal reforms introduced through the Jan Vishwas Act.

B’luru East launches stray dog adoption drive

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru East City Corporation’s “Adopt Me – Second Innings” stray dog adoption campaign received an enthusiastic response from citizens, with the initiative aimed at providing permanent homes to rescued, abandoned, and accident-injured Indian dogs while promoting responsible pet ownership. Inaugurating the programme, Bengaluru

East City Corporation Commissioner D.S. Ramesh said every rescued dog deserves a second chance at life. He appealed to citizens to adopt stray dogs, stating that animal adoption reflects compassion, humanity, and social responsibility. More than 17 animal rescuers participated in the event, bringing over 40 rescued dogs for adoption. The dogs included five animals that had sur-

vived cruelty, along with several disabled and specially-abled dogs requiring additional care. All rescued animals had undergone veterinary treatment, rehabilitation, and necessary support before being presented for adoption. Four Indian dogs were adopted on the spot during the programme, while adoption procedures for four more dogs were nearing completion. Officials said these dogs would be handed over to

their new families after completing required formalities. Despite heavy rainfall affecting attendance, the campaign received strong public interest. Commissioner Ramesh announced that the adoption drive would continue throughout the week through a virtual adoption initiative, allowing interested citizens to access details of rescued dogs online and complete adoption procedures.

VERIFICATION PROCESS UNDERWAY

Karnataka mandates homestay registration

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Tourism Department has directed all eligible homestay owners operating in the state to complete official registration without delay. Tourism Department Commissioner Dr. V. Ram Prasath Manohar said registration is mandatory for every homestay and urged owners who have not yet applied to register through the department at the earliest. The state government has introduced the “Karnataka Homestay Registration Guidelines–2025” to regulate and



“According to the department, around 400 applications have completed document verification, and site inspections are currently underway. Each application is being examined by a team comprising officials from the Tourism Department, Police Department, Deputy Commissioner’s office, and district-level local administration bodies.”

—Dr. V. Ram Prasath Manohar, Tourism Department Commissioner

strengthen the homestay sector. The initiative has received a positive response, with more than 500 homestay owners already submitting applications for official registration. The verification process focuses on key parameters such

as infrastructure, safety measures, cleanliness standards, and operational requirements. Homestays that fail to meet the minimum standards prescribed under the guidelines will not receive registration approval. Such operators can rectify de-

ficiencies and submit fresh applications. The department stated that registration certificates will be issued within 45 days after completion of all inspections and approval by the concerned authorities. The certificate will remain valid for five years and must be renewed thereafter. Officials said the mandatory registration system will provide official recognition to genuine homestays, improve tourist confidence, and help the government maintain an accurate database of accommodation facilities across Karnataka.

Seized vehicles pile up in Bengaluru police

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Police yards across Bengaluru are filling up with seized, abandoned and accident-damaged vehicles left to rust for years. Police officials said the issue has worsened due to prolonged court proceedings, owners not reclaiming vehicles and delays in coordination between departments for disposal. The accumulation has created space constraints and maintenance challenges.

Tourism Minister K.J. George said the strong response from homestay operators reflects growing awareness about the importance of registration. He added that completing the process would strengthen Karnataka’s tourism sector by ensuring reliable and safe accommodation options for visitors. The Tourism Department said its objective is to create a network of quality and secure homestays by recognising only those facilities that meet prescribed standards, thereby promoting responsible and sustainable tourism across the state.

KPSC faces fresh questions over credibility

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), responsible for recruiting candidates for government posts, is facing renewed scrutiny over allegations of irregularities and questions about transparency in its functioning. The controversy has revived concerns over the commission’s credibility, with critics pointing out that recruitment-related disputes and allegations of malpractice have affected public confidence in the institution. Recent allegations involving KPSC Chairman Shivashankarappa S. Sahukar have intensified the debate over accountability in the recruitment system. The Karnataka Governor suspended Sahukar following allegations related to the selection process involving his family members and recommended an inquiry under Article 317(1) of the Constitution. The move came after complaints alleging misuse of office, conflict of interest, and irregularities in recruitment procedures. The latest episode has brought back memories of earlier controversies surrounding KPSC, where recruitment processes had faced allegations of manipulation and corruption.



Critics argue that repeated controversies create uncertainty among thousands of aspirants preparing for competitive examinations. Public service commissions play a crucial role in ensuring fair access to government employment. Any allegations of favouritism or procedural lapses can have a direct impact on the aspirations of candidates who depend on transparent selection systems. Experts and stakeholders have called for stronger reforms, including greater transparency in recruitment procedures, improved oversight mechanisms, and strict measures to prevent conflicts of interest. The focus, they say, should remain on restoring confidence among job aspirants and ensuring that selections are based solely on merit. The ongoing controversy has once again highlighted the need for institutional reforms in KPSC to strengthen its credibility and ensure a fair recruitment process for Karnataka’s youth.

Karnataka HC allows borrower compensation rights

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that a person driving a borrowed vehicle and involved in an accident can be entitled to compensation benefits available to the vehicle owner under applicable insurance provisions. The judgment came in connection with a road accident case that occurred in Bengaluru on February 5, 2015. The court examined whether a person who was not the registered owner of the vehicle but was using it with permission could claim compensation under the insurance policy. The High Court observed that a person who borrows and uses a vehicle with the owner’s consent cannot automatically be denied benefits available to the owner. The ruling provides clarity on the rights of individuals involved in accidents while operating vehicles belonging to others. The decision is significant for motor accident compensation cases, where questions often arise regarding the eligi-

Court rules on borrowed vehicle claims
The Karnataka High Court ruled that individuals driving borrowed vehicles with the owner’s consent are eligible for insurance compensation benefits after an accident. Arising from a 2015 Bengaluru case, the significant ruling strengthens legal protection for drivers using vehicles belonging to friends or family.



The ruling clarifies motor accident compensation rights, ensuring lawful borrowed vehicle users receive protection based on accident circumstances, consent, and insurance provisions.

bility of drivers, owners, and other parties involved in vehicle-related incidents. The court’s observation re-

inforces the principle that compensation claims should be considered based on the circumstances of the accident, the relationship between the vehicle owner and user, and the terms of the insurance coverage. The ruling is expected to have implications for future motor accident claims involving borrowed vehicles, offering greater protection to individuals who lawfully use vehicles owned by family members, friends, or others. Legal experts noted that such cases require careful examination of facts, including whether the vehicle was used with permission and whether the claimant falls within the scope of the insurance policy.

Heat, rain shortage hits Karnataka vegetable crops



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Poor rainfall and high temperatures across several parts of Karnataka have affected vegetable farming during the current kharif season, creating challenges for farmers and delaying crop sowing activities. The sowing of major crops such as onion, chilli, and tomato has remained significantly below the expected levels. Sowing of onion has reached only around 29.5 per cent, while chilli and tomato have recorded 19.7 per cent and 36.5 per cent completion respectively, against the expected 60 per cent progress by July. The delayed monsoon and heat stress have impacted cultivation plans in several farming regions.

Vegetable growers are facing difficulties due to inadequate moisture availability and unfavourable weather conditions. Farmers depend heavily on timely rains during the kharif season, and delays can affect seed germination, crop growth, and overall productivity. Karnataka’s vegetable-growing regions have previously faced production challenges due to extreme weather fluctuations. The agriculture sector is also closely monitoring water availability as farmers balance irrigation needs with limited resources. Weather advisories for Karnataka have indicated varying rainfall conditions across regions, with some areas expected to receive rain while others may continue to experience below-normal conditions.

Work as ‘Team Karnataka’ to defeat drought: CM

K’taka calls emergency Cabinet meet as drought deepens; CM orders drought preparedness on a war footing and warns against negligence and fake claims.

BENGALURU

With Karnataka reeling under a severe monsoon deficit, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday directed all deputy commissioners and Zilla Panchayat chief executive officers to gear up for possible drought conditions and ensure relief measures are implemented on a war footing.

Chairing a marathon video conference with district officials from Vidhana Soudha, the CM said district administrations and zilla panchayats must function as a single ‘Team Karnataka’ to tackle the emerging crisis.

He assured officials that there would be no shortage of funds for drought relief and instructed them to keep people informed about government initiatives, particularly those related to drinking water supply.

Shivakumar asked officials to prepare district-specific drought management plans in coordination with Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry departments and submit regular reports to the Revenue Department and the Chief Secretary.

He also directed deputy commissioners to provide weekly updates on reservoir water levels and establish fodder banks wherever required.

The CM said a Central drought assessment team would visit Karnataka soon and asked officials to keep all relevant information ready.

He also directed immediate em-



District administrations must work as one team and manage the drought on a war footing. There will be no shortage of funds for relief measures.

— DK Shivakumar, CM

ployment generation under the VB-G RAM G scheme to prevent distress migration from drought-hit districts.

Ensure sufficient water, fodder for livestock: DyCM

Deputy Chief Minister, who also handles Revenue portfolio, Dr G Parameshwara stressed the need to ensure uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water and adequate fodder for livestock. He noted that groundwater levels have depleted in nearly 88 taluks and called for reservoir water to be prioritised for drinking purposes.

‘Monitor implementation of guarantee schemes’

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh instructed officials to closely monitor the implementation of the state's five guarantee schemes and regularly publicise success stories through the Department of Information and Public Relations.

She also directed education officials to address teacher shortages in government schools.

‘No farmer should suffer’

Stressing that protecting farmers and ensuring drinking water remained the government's top priorities, the Chief Minister warned that negligence and bogus claims in relief works and reliance on paperwork instead of field verification would invite strict action. “No farmer should suffer because of your apathy. Any slacking or negligence will not be tolerated,” he said. Shivakumar said around 60% rainfall deficiency had been recorded and 178 taluks were facing rainfall deficit. He directed DCs and ZP CEOs to remain in constant touch with farmers and advise them on agricultural activities based on rainfall and water available in reservoirs.

Key directives & crisis response

Prepare comprehensive drought management plans in view of nearly 60% rainfall deficit.

All remaining water in the state's major reservoirs be strictly reserved for drinking purposes, rather than being released for agriculture.

Quickly drill emergency borewells as a rising number of villages are depending on tanker water supply.

Submit regular reports to the state government and keep all records ready for the upcoming visit of the Central drought assessment team.

Conduct Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls strictly in accordance with EC guidelines.

Agricultural relief

Officials have been directed to ground-truth damage to newly-sown crops and ensure adequate fodder for livestock, besides opening fodder banks wherever necessary. Farmers are being advised against cultivating water-intensive crops like maize and sugarcane.

Migration prevention

In response to farmers migrating in search of employment from dry districts like Ballari, Raichur, and Kalaburagi, officials have been ordered to aggressively generate employment under local employment schemes, especially VB-G RAM G.

Parliament gears up for stormy monsoon session

NEW DELHI

Parliament is gearing up for another stormy session from Monday with the Opposition sharpening its arsenal on Ram temple donation theft, defections, students’ protests on CBSE-NEET, E20, FCRA and citizenship even as the Modi government kept its rivals guessing about its plans on the contentious delimitation bill at an all-party meeting here.

The Session will start on a confrontation note with students supported by the Opposition will march to Parliament seeking resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over CBSE-NEET fiasco, two days after activist Wangchuk was forcibly removed from Jantar Mantar when his strike entered 21st day.

The Opposition laid bare their agenda at an all-party meeting, which saw high drama at the beginning over the participation of a rebel group of Trinamool Congress MPs with a brief walkout by anti-BJP parties, as they insisted on discussions on issues like donation theft at Ram Mandir, education sector issues, E20 and defections engineered by the ruling party among others.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who chaired the meeting, appealed for cooperation from all parties in the smooth functioning of Parliament, as the government listed out the eight legislative agenda it wants to pursue during the Session.

Cops invoke section 163, bar CJP's ‘Chalo Sansad’ march Security has been tightened across the New Delhi ahead of the Monsoon Session and the Cockroach Janta Party’s proposed “Chalo Sansad” march on Monday, with Delhi police enforcing prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNSS.



Key govt bills and agendas

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS:

Among the bills the govt has listed for consideration and passing in the monsoon session are some contentious ones, including the FCRA Amendment Bill and the Vikshit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill. Other bills include making obstruction and insult of the national song Vande Mataram a criminal offence and bills to replace ordinances to increase the strength of Supreme Court judges and grant capital tax exemption to FIs for investing in government bonds. Pushing renewed bills on the Women's Reservation and Delimitation, which could redraw electoral constituencies.

CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSALS:

Proposed legislation regarding the removal of the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, and ministers while in judicial custody.

NATIONAL SECURITY: Debates over recent incidents and counter-terror operations

Issues raised by Opposition

EDUCATION AND INTEGRITY: Aggressively targeting the government over the NEET-UG examination paper leak and demanding accountability.

CORRUPTION: Pointing to alleged financial irregularities regarding donations at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

ECONOMIC PRESSURES: Pushing for debates on soaring inflation, unemployment, and rising costs of living

Timeline and political dynamics

SESSION DATES: The session runs from July 20 to August 13, 2026.

STREET PROTESTS: External agitations, including demonstrations near Parliament by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), are coinciding with the session, adding to the pressure on leaders.

COMBATIVE ATMOSPHERE:

Tensions were evident before the session even began, as opposition parties staged a symbolic walkout from the customary all-party meeting convened by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju.

The Majority mark

After the speaker's ruling, NDA numbers in Lok Sabha have surged, although they still fall short of the two-thirds majority, which is currently 360 MPs in a house of 540, with three seats vacant. The NDA is short of a few seats for a two-thirds majority in the Rajya Sabha, and some abstentions could help pass the Constitution Amendment Bill in the upper house. Passing a Constitution Amendment Bill requires a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.



‘War criminal’: Mamdani plots to arrest Bibi at NY UN Summit

NEW YORK

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani said he is still in talks over arresting Benjamin Netanyahu when the Israeli prime minister visits New York for the upcoming UN summit, prompting a swift response from Netanyahu's camp.

“I believe that Prime Minister Netanyahu belongs in The Hague. He's a war criminal who has been charged by the International Criminal Court. That is an opinion that is held by many, purely because of what his actions have wrought over these last many years,” Mamdani told media.

Mamdani had earlier pledged to arrest Netanyahu during his campaign for mayor. He said he is not sure if he has the power to order the arrest of a foreign leader and that he is consulting the city's legal advisers regarding the issue. “Whatever the law allows me to do in New York City, that's what we will do,” said Mamdani.

His comments triggered a sharp response from Israel. “Instead of focusing on his responsibilities as mayor and confronting the rising wave of antisemitism in his city, he has chosen to incite hostility and generate headlines by attacking the State of Israel,” Danny Danon, Israel's ambassador to the UN, wrote on X.

Cong party restructuring in K’taka from Monday: Hariprasad

BENGALURU

Congress' organisational restructuring exercise in Karnataka will begin on Monday as part of the Bharat Jodo initiative, said party's state chief BK Hariprasad.

He dismissed speculation over his possible induction into the Karnataka Cabinet, while asserting that Cabinet formation is the sole prerogative of the chief minister. He added that he would visit New Delhi only to convey his views to the party leadership.

"AICC General Secretary

KC Venugopal will arrive on July 24 to inaugurate the drive. The Congress has launched a nationwide organisational restructuring campaign. Karnataka is the only remaining southern state where it is yet to begin," he told reporters on Sunday.

He said about 170 observers, including 40 from the AICC and around 120 from the KPCC, would spend at least seven days in every district, visit all blocks and submit recommendations on whether existing DCC presidents should

continue or be replaced.

The party high command would take the final decision based on their reports, he said, describing it as the first comprehensive organisational exercise since the Congress Working Committee resolution adopted at Belagavi.

On changes in the KPCC office-bearers, Hariprasad said a new committee will be constituted following the resignation of the previous president and that the existing vice-presidents and general secretaries will



FIFA WORLD CUP FINAL

When states suffer from soccer fever!

BENGALURU

The passion for football reached a new high on Sunday as several state governments declared a holiday on Monday for all educational institutions, allowing students to stay up and watch the FIFA World Cup final between Spain and the defending champions Argentina without worrying about attending classes the next morning.

The holiday covers schools under the General Education Department as well as colleges, universities and professional institutions under the Higher Education Department.

The move comes amidst high anticipation from football enthusiasts with leaders of various states encouraging the football final fever.

KARNATAKA

The Karnataka government granted special permissions to restaurants in Bengaluru to remain open late night. CM Shivakumar appealed to the fans to enjoy the match in a peaceful manner.

DELHI

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta de-



students to watch the FIFA World Cup final. The officials said the decision was taken after considering requests from students who are football enthusiasts and wished to watch the final late on Sunday night.

KARNATAKA

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DELHI

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta de-

clared that restaurants, cafes and other eligible establishments across the capital can remain open till 4 am this weekend, allowing fans to fully enjoy the final match of the FIFA World Cup 2026.

MANIPUR

The Manipur government also announced a holiday for all educational institutions in the state. An order issued by the education department said, “The Governor has directed that all schools affiliated to the Board of Secondary Education, Council of Higher Secondary

Education, CBSE or any other board, along with all government, aided and unaided colleges, higher education institutions and universities, will remain closed on July 20.”

ASSAM

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that restaurants in the state capital will be allowed to remain open till 3.30 am on select days, including the final, to enable football fans to watch the matches.

MEGHALAYA

Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma declared that, observing the enthusiasm of fans, a holiday for all educational institutions in the state on Monday will be in place.

MIZORAM

Mizoram has also announced a full holiday on July 20 for all schools, colleges and other educational institutions, while government offices will function only from the afternoon, to enable people to watch the final.

Shah to table Vande Mataram Protection Bill

New Delhi: The Centre is set to introduce a Bill in the Rajya Sabha on Monday to make any obstruction to or insult of the national song Vande Mataram a criminal offence.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will introduce the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, on the first day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

The proposed legislation seeks to amend the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, which currently

criminalises desecration of or disrespect towards the national flag, the Constitution and the national anthem, prescribing a punishment of up to three years' imprisonment.

The amendment aims to extend the same statutory protection to Vande Mataram as is currently available to the national anthem, Jana Gana Mana.

Under the Bill, any act that obstructs the singing of Vande Mataram or insults the national song in any form would become a punishable offence.

Middle East on edge as US-Iran trade blows

Dubai: The US carried out its eighth consecutive night of strikes on Iran on Sunday, aiming to punish Tehran after American deaths in Jordan.

Iran army said it struck two US bases in Kuwait with drones, hitting an ammunition depot at Camp Udairi and Patriot radar systems at Ali Al Salem Air Base.

Bahrain's military said it "confronted, intercepted, and destroyed a number of treacherous Iranian aerial attacks."

In Jordan, sirens sounded as Israeli and Jordanian forces intercepted an Iranian missile heading towards the port city of Aqaba.

Kuwait said one of its power and desalination plants was attacked for a second consecutive day, sparking a fire. Around 90% of Kuwait's drinking water comes from desalination, putting daily life at risk.

QUICK READ

Karnataka tops with 15,395 MBBS seats

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

Karnataka has emerged as the country's leading medical education hub with a total of 15,395 MBBS seats, according to the latest seat matrix released by the National Medical Commission (NMC). This year, government medical colleges added 150 seats, taking the total capacity to 4,400, while private colleges increased seats by 1,150 to reach 10,995. New approvals were granted to institutions including Alvas Institute of Medical Sciences and Chettinad Institute of Medical Education, along with additional seats for several existing colleges. 6 government medical colleges, including those in Karwar, Yadgir, Koppal, Haveri, Kodagu and Shivamogga, have sought further seat increases.

Hariprasad seeks probe into exam paper leaks

Hariprasad said Rahul Gandhi's "Chhatron Ki Goonj" campaign would expand across Karnataka to support students and restore exam confidence.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Congress president B.K. Hariprasad on Sunday accused the BJP-led Central government of damaging the credibility of India's education system through repeated examination paper leaks and demanded a Supreme Court-monitored investigation into all such cases. Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Hariprasad said Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's "Chhatron Ki Goonj" campaign would be expanded across Karnataka to address students' concerns and rebuild confidence in the examination system.

"That the future of nearly 23 lakh NEET aspirants had been affected due to paper leak incidents and said students across the country were facing uncertainty and anxiety. Hariprasad stated that the Congress would continue raising the issue in Karnataka and Parliament until the Centre provided answers."



—B.K. Hariprasad,
Karnataka Congress president

The Congress leader claimed that 152 question paper leak incidents had occurred between

2014 and 2026 and alleged that these incidents had weakened students' trust in recruitment and admission examinations. He demanded an independent national inquiry headed by a retired Supreme Court judge, without political interference, to investigate all cases and punish those responsible. Hariprasad also criticised Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and sought his resignation, questioning the government's response to students' concerns. He demanded that the Centre present details in Parliament on steps taken to restore confidence in the education system.

Referring to Rahul Gandhi's student outreach programme launched in Kota, Rajasthan, after a series of student suicides, Hariprasad said the campaign aimed to address academic pressure and examination-related concerns. He added that Rahul Gandhi had been invited to Karnataka to interact with students. The Congress leader also criticised the BJP over alleged irregularities related to temple donations in Ayodhya, questioning the government's response to corruption allegations. He said accountability was necessary in both education and public institutions.

Waste plant odour issue continues unresolved

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Residents living near a waste processing plant in Bengaluru continue to face foul odour problems as authorities are yet to submit pending reports required to address the long-standing issue. Despite repeated complaints from nearby communities, the situation at the waste facility remains a concern, with residents alleging that the persistent stench has affected their daily lives and created discomfort. Officials have been working on assessments and remedial measures, but the delay in submitting reports has raised questions over the pace of action. Local residents have urged civic authorities to take immediate steps to control the smell, improve waste management practices, and ensure that the plant follows environmental safety standards. They have

also sought transparency regarding inspections, findings, and corrective measures planned by the authorities. Waste management facilities in urban areas require effective processing systems, regular monitoring, and scientific disposal methods to prevent environmental and public health concerns. Civic experts have often highlighted the need for better compliance, accountability, and timely action in handling solid waste. Residents said that continued delays in resolving the odour issue have increased frustration among people living around the facility. They demanded that authorities complete pending evaluations and implement permanent solutions instead of temporary measures. The civic administration is expected to review the matter and take further steps based on technical reports and inspections.

CM warns DCs against fake borewell records

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has warned district commissioners that they will be held responsible if fake records are created for borewells during drought management efforts in the state. During a virtual meeting with district commissioners and Zilla Panchayat chief executive officers on Sunday, the Chief Minister directed officials to strictly monitor drought relief measures and ensure transparency in implementation. He instructed authorities to properly verify the need before permitting new borewells. The Chief Minister directed all district commissioners to visit villages personally, assess ground realities, and submit detailed drought situation reports within a week. A comprehensive report on the state's drought situation must be submitted to the Centre within 15 days, he said. He instructed nodal officers at taluk and hobli levels to effectively



CM Shivakumar directed officials to monitor drought relief, ensure transparency, and verify needs before approving new borewells.

manage drought conditions. District administrations were told to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply, with priority given to human consumption. The government will provide an additional ₹1 crore for each Assembly constituency to strengthen drinking water arrangements, Shivakumar said. Officials were asked to take proactive steps to prevent water shortages. The Chief Minister also di-

rected authorities to monitor reservoir levels, guide farmers on suitable crops, maintain uninterrupted power supply, and ensure availability of fodder and drinking water for livestock. He stressed that officials must provide accurate information to central drought assessment teams and ensure that there are no irregularities in crop insurance schemes. Shivakumar said district commissioners have been given full authority to handle drought

"Must avoid creating false records and ensure that details of every work carried out under drought relief programmes are displayed at project sites. He also warned against generating new bills for old works."

—Shivakumar, Chief Minister

Shivakumar Orders Water Security Measures

Chief Minister Shivakumar directed officials to strengthen drinking water arrangements and proactively manage looming shortages. The state administration has been ordered to monitor reservoir levels, guide agricultural crop choices, secure power supplies, and accurately brief central drought teams while preventing insurance irregularities. management, with ₹329.60 crore available under district disaster management funds.

GBA property division rules require 45% land



GBA proposes strict layout development rules

- Large property division requires surrendering land.
- Owners lose forty-five percent to infrastructure.
- Landowners worry over inherited property partitions.
- Exemptions considered for already existing buildings

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Families seeking to divide large properties within the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits may have to surrender 45 per cent of their land to the government under the proposed new regulations. The Karnataka government has introduced draft amendments to the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, bringing revised zoning regulations under the "GBA Planning Area (Amendment) Rules-2026." According to the proposed rules, properties exceeding 2,000 square metres will be subject to layout development norms during division. Under the new provisions, owners of larger properties can use only 55 per cent of the total land for residential purposes. The remaining 45 per cent must be reserved for roads, parks, open spaces, and civic amenities, which will be transferred to the government or

GBA's proposed property division rules require 45% land surrender for larger plots, reserving space for civic infrastructure and layouts.

local authorities. Properties up to 2,000 square metres with A-Khata or E-Khata documents can be divided without these additional conditions. However, larger properties will have to comply with the zoning regulations under Chapter 6 of the Revised Master Plan-2015. Several landowners have raised concerns that the new rules could affect families wanting to divide inherited

properties. They argued that even those who do not intend to develop layouts may lose a significant portion of their land during partition. Officials from the GBA planning department said the amendment aims to control unplanned urban growth and prevent the creation of illegal layouts without adequate roads, open spaces, and civic infrastructure. They explained that when large plots are divided without proper planning, it leads to infrastructure challenges, including drainage and flooding issues in Bengaluru's outskirts. Officials also clarified that if buildings already exist on larger properties, exemptions may be considered during the final notification process. They added that the proposed restrictions would mainly apply to converted lands and large developed properties, while agricultural land without conversion would not face similar restrictions.

Annual health checks vital for everyone: D.T. Srinivas

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Legislative Council member D.T. Srinivas advised citizens to undergo comprehensive health check-ups at least once every year, stating that regular medical examinations can help detect diseases early and ensure timely treatment. Speaking after inaugurating a free health check-up and medical treatment camp at Kaveri Nagar, organised by KPCC General Secretary Nalurahalli T. Nagesh in association with C.V. Raman General Hospital, Srinivas stressed the importance of preventive healthcare. "Everyone should undergo a health check-up once a year. By identifying health issues at an early stage and receiving necessary treatment, people can lead a healthier and more peaceful life," Srinivas said. The camp provided medical consultations for various health conditions, including

heart-related ailments, bone and joint problems, eye, ear, nose and throat disorders, women's health issues, and paediatric concerns. Specialist doctors conducted examinations and offered medical guidance to the participants. Free spectacles and medicines were distributed to patients during the programme. The organisers also highlighted the importance of regular screenings, particularly for individuals who may ignore early symptoms or delay medical consultations. The initiative aimed to create awareness among residents about preventive healthcare practices and encourage people to take proactive steps towards maintaining good health. Doctors participating in the camp advised citizens to adopt healthy lifestyles, un-

dergo routine check-ups, and seek medical attention whenever necessary. Young volunteers also contributed to the programme by participating in a blood donation drive, supporting the broader objective of promoting community health and social responsibility. The event was attended by Bengaluru East District Congress unit president Mohan Babu, Hoodi Block Congress president Mayank Babu, Youth Congress vice-president Brijesh Yadav, and other community representatives. Organisers stated that such health camps help bring medical services closer to people and encourage greater awareness about disease prevention. They urged residents to make regular health examinations a part of their annual routine for better long-term well-being.



IAS officer gets three key postings

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka IAS officer A.B. Basavaraju has been given two additional responsibilities by the state government. Currently serving as Commissioner of Textiles and Director of Handlooms and Textiles, Basavaraju has been appointed as the Managing Director of Karnataka State Skill Development Corporation. He has also been assigned the post of Managing Director of Karnataka State Vocational Training and Skill Development Corporation. Meanwhile, Karnataka Bhavan Resident Commissioner in New Delhi, Sameer Shukla, has been given concurrent charge as Secretary of the Rural Development Department of the Karnataka government.

SJU launches M.Sc. Cybersecurity, AI programme

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

St. Joseph's University, Bengaluru, launched its new postgraduate programme — Master of Science in Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence (M.Sc. CS & AI) — highlighting the growing importance of emerging technologies in today's digital world. The inauguration ceremony was held at Xavier Hall, PG Block, with Mr. Sailesh A. J. Menezes, Vice President and Regional HR Leader — India, Asia Pacific and Japan at Hewlett Packard Enterprise, as the chief guest. A Josephite alum-

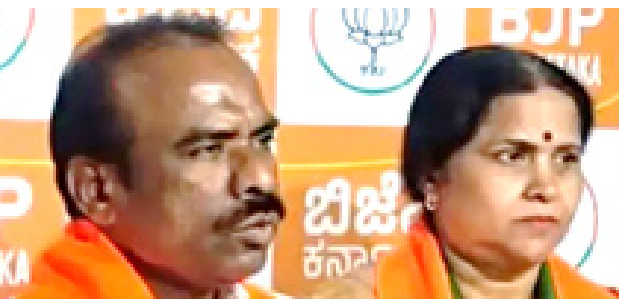
nus, Menezes has held senior HR leadership roles at IBM, Wipro Technologies, and HPE. The event began with a prayer song followed by the lighting of the lamp by dignitaries, including Fr. Denzil Lobo SJ, Director of the School of Information Technology; Dr. A.M. Bojamma, Dean, School of IT; Dr. B.G. Prasanthi, Associate Dean and Head, Department of Computer Science; Dr. Nithya, PG Coordinator; and Dr. Mrinmoyee Bhattacharya, Programme Coordinator of M.Sc. CS & AI. Fr. Denzil Lobo highlighted the transformative potential of

Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) and Artificial Superintelligence (ASI), stressing the need for ethical AI development, transparency, and data security. He said AI should be viewed as a strategic approach rather than merely a software tool and encouraged students to remain curious, experiment, innovate, and make ethical choices. Mr. Sailesh Menezes described AI as a powerful force for good while cautioning about possible misuse. He emphasised the importance of adaptability, curiosity, and continuous learning to remain relevant in a rapidly changing technological landscape.

TOWNSHIP PROJECT CRITICIZED

BJP supports JD(S) padayatra against Bidadi project B'luru

The BJP and JD(S) have joined hands in opposing the proposed Bidadi Integrated Township project, with leaders from both parties expressing support for a joint campaign against the land acquisition process. BJP Legislative Council Chief Opposition Whip N. Ravikumar said the party had no objection to the three-day mega padayatra planned by JD(S) from July 30 to August 1. He said the objectives and concerns raised by both BJP and JD(S) were similar and indicated that the two parties would work together on the



issue. Speaking at a press conference at Jagannath Bhavan, the BJP state office in Malleshwaram, Ravikumar said BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra would hold discussions with

JD(S) leaders and announce a consensus decision soon. He questioned the government's assurance that farmers would not face forced land acquisition, alleging that the issuance of a second notification

"The Congress-led Karnataka government over its approach towards the Bidadi Integrated Township project. He alleged that the government was adopting contradictory positions on land acquisition and claimed that farmers were being affected by the proposed development plans."

—Ravikumar,
BJP Legislative Council Chief Opposition Whip

for acquiring land had created confusion among farmers. The BJP leader said fertile agricultural lands used for commercial and horticultural crops should not be acquired for urban expansion. He de-

scribed the move as harmful to farming communities and urged the government to reconsider the project. Ravikumar also demanded that the state government immediately withdraw what he termed an anti-farmer scheme and release the first phase of drought relief assistance. The Bidadi township project has become a major political issue, with opposition parties raising concerns over its impact on farmers and agricultural land. The BJP and JD(S) are expected to intensify their campaign through public outreach programmes and protests.

Karnataka reviews drought preparedness measures

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Urban Development Minister Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah participated in a state-level video conference held at Vidhana Soudha to review drought preparedness and mitigation measures across Karnataka. The meeting was chaired by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara and attended by Deputy Commissioners and Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Panchayats from across the

State. During the meeting, the government issued several directions to strengthen drought management and ensure effective implementation of relief measures. An additional grant of ₹1 crore was announced for addressing drinking water shortages in rural taluks facing scarcity. To prevent irregularities in borewell-related works, officials were instructed to make video recording of all newly drilled borewells mandatory. Chief Executive Officers would be held responsible in cases of fraudulent claims or violations.

QUICK READ

Unique Kanganakota village fair prays for good monsoon

CH NEWS, BIDAR

Residents of Kanganakota village joyfully celebrated their traditional "Butti Jatre" to pray for abundant rainfall this season. Setting aside all caste differences, local farming families united beautifully to perform special rituals and prayers at the historic Siddheshwar temple.

Following the prayers, the entire community shared a massive festive meal, promoting strong social harmony. The lively celebration featured exciting traditional sports like Kabaddi and Kho-Kho for women, alongside a captivating men's Kolata dance performance. Numerous village leaders, elders, and enthusiastic children participated wholeheartedly to keep their precious cultural heritage alive.

Cleanliness drive revamps Hunsur school premises

A comprehensive cleanliness drive was organized by the Humanitarian Relief Society on Bazaar Road in Hunsur to clean two local schools.

HUNSUR

A comprehensive cleanliness drive was successfully organized today on Bazaar Road in Hunsur city to clean the premises of the Karnataka Maulana Azad English Medium Public School and the Government Urdu Higher Primary School. The essential environmental initiative was spearheaded by the local Humanitarian Relief Society.

Youth leader Captain Rafiuddin stated that a dedicated team, led efficiently by trainers Usman and Shoaib, actively removed a massive amount of garbage accumulated around the school campus. To ensure the collected waste did not pile



up again, the municipal corporation quickly provided a specialized disposal vehicle to clear the site.

Recalling the timeless Islamic teaching that "cleanliness is half of faith," the organizing society stressed that maintaining a hygienic environment

remains the moral responsibility of every citizen. However, the volunteers expressed grave concern over the fact that these prominent educational institutions had been neglected and left in unsanitary conditions for such a long duration.

The Humanitarian Relief So-

ciety has strongly urged local authorities and the concerned education departments to shoulder their public responsibilities. They demanded that the administration prioritize urban sanitation to ensure schools remain clean, hygienic, and perfectly safe for young students.

According to reports, several key community figures participated in the drive, including the taluk Jamaat-e-Islami Hind President Mustafa. Dedicated youth members Azhar Uddin, Shahbas Sultan, M.D. Umar, Mohan Khan, Intiaz, and M. Sain, along with municipal vehicle driver Kartik, worked tirelessly to make the event a success.

Horata samiti demands Kalaburagi drought relief declaration

KALABURAGI

In light of monsoon crops failures caused by severe rainfall deficits across the region, Sundar D. Sagar, District President of the Madiga Dandora Horata Samiti, has urgently demanded that Kalaburagi be officially declared a drought-affected district. He urged the state government to immediately distribute a compensation package of ₹50,000 per acre to distressed farmers.

Issuing a comprehensive press statement, Sagar highlighted that thousands of local farming families have faced extreme adversity due to an extended dry spell lasting the past two and a half months. Sown crops are rapidly drying up in the fields, plunging the entire district into a severe drought crisis. Furthermore, drinking water scarcity has intensified throughout rural areas, causing significant suffering for both residents and livestock.

Farmers who sowed crucial monsoon crops, including sunflower, neem, togari (pigeon pea), and uddu (black gram), were expecting a bountiful harvest. However, their hopes have been completely dashed by the weather. Trapped in a cycle of mounting debts, farmers are experiencing severe psychological and financial distress, leading to an alarming rise in agrarian suicides.

Sagar strongly urged the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, and senior officials from the Agriculture Department to conduct immediate ground inspections to review the reality of the crisis. He demanded the immediate launch of drought relief works to provide immediate employment for small farmers and agricultural laborers.

Additionally, he called for the implementation of dedicated pensions for elderly farmers and dependent workers aged above 60 to prevent widespread rural poverty.

Kalyana Karnataka Committee elects new office bearers

KOPPAL

The Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Struggle Committee has officially elected its new district office bearers during a high-level meeting held at the Koppal city tourist center. State President Chamaras Patil presided over the meeting and urged the newly appointed leaders to make sincere efforts to address regional issues and secure justice for local communities.

During the session, Chandrashekar Kavalur was unanimously elected as the honorary president of the Koppal district unit, while Santosh Deshpande was chosen as the district president. Additionally, Manjunath Gondaba and Hulagappa Katimani took charge as working presidents.

The committee also appointed Savitri Muzumadar and Mahadevappa S. as vice presidents, Basavaraj G. Sankanagoudar as general secretary, Manjunath Angadi as treasurer, and Anand Halligudi alongside Somanagoud Hognal as organizing secretaries.

Patil informed the members that the remaining taluk and



The Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Struggle Committee elected its new Koppal district office bearers to drive regional development and upcoming mega protests.

district posts would be filled in the coming days. The central committee is currently touring seven districts within the Kalyana Karnataka region to accelerate the organization's growth.

To strengthen their ongoing movement, the committee has scheduled a comprehensive study camp in Tavaragere on August 8 and 9.

Furthermore, a massive "Kalaburagi Chalo" protest has been planned for September 17, which aims to mobilize over 10,000 people to demand regional development.

Prominent progressive thinkers and activists, including B. Basavaraj, John Wesley, Ramesh Thuppada, and Shivakumar Kukanur, attended the meeting to show solidarity.

Padmamma elected as Taggikuppe Gram Panchayat President

MAGADI

Padmamma has been elected unopposed as the new president of the Taggikuppe Gram Panchayat in Magadi Taluk. The special election, was organized to fill the presidential post vacated by the resignation of former president Tejaswini Chikkaraju. Since no other candidate filed nomination papers, Returning Officer Renukesh officially declared Padmamma elected.

Following the announcement, enthusiastic supporters and local leaders celebrated the victory by bursting crackers and distributing sweets outside the office.

Assuming her new role, Padmamma expressed deep gratitude to the 16 panchayat members who supported her candidacy.



Padmamma has been elected unopposed as the new president of Taggikuppe Gram Panchayat in Magadi, promising to prioritize village development and local public welfare.

She promised to work sincerely for the comprehensive development of the village without compromising the trust reposed in her.

The new president acknowledged the guidance of MLA H.C. Balakrishna, Block Congress President K.

Krishnamurthy, and Davalagiri Chandranna. She announced that high priority would be given to installing streetlights, improving the drinking water supply, and maintaining cleanliness. She assured residents that public grievances would be resolved

immediately and legal documentation processed without administrative delays.

Block Congress President K. Krishnamurthy noted that the unanimous selection was made to uphold social justice under the guidance of MLA Balakrishna.

He praised the members for putting political differences aside to focus entirely on local development.

The transition event was attended by Vice President Ramsingh, members Kamalamma, Narayanappa, Ramesh, and Rajanna.

Panchayat Development Officer S.R. Narasimha Murthy, Secretary Linga Murthy, and community leaders like Mukunda and Bharat were also present to congratulate the new president.

Navalgund voters urged to protect constitutional franchise

NAVALGUND

During an awareness meet organized at the Sadhana Mahila Santhvana Kendra near Gram Chavadi, prominent social advocate Isabella Xavier emphasized the need to safeguard the local electorate's democratic rights, stating that no eligible voter's name should be deleted during the ongoing special summary revision process. She urged grassroots watchdog workers to maintain absolute vigilance to prevent administrative errors on the voter rolls.

Xavier noted that a fully inclusive and accurate electoral roll is fundamental to fighting effectively for the overall socio-economic development of Karnataka. The meeting, convened by the Voters' Special Revision List Awareness Campaign Kavalu Samiti, focused heavily on educating commu-



nity members about the technicalities of the ongoing revision drive.

Adding to the call for action, vigilance committee leader Ishaka Tamatgara emphasized that voting is a powerful constitutional shield. He instructed volunteers to ensure that residents fill out and submit their registration, correction, and inclusion applications in a systematic, orderly manner. Tamatgara also appealed to all participants to act as ambassadors of the campaign and ac-

tively spread awareness within their respective neighborhoods to maximize local turnout.

The strategic awareness program saw a large turnout of local leaders, including Babajan Mulla, Usman Babarchi, Abbas Devaridu, Madrasaba Ugaragola, Dr. Abdulrazzaq Nadaf, Amanul Halabavi, Vinoda Nagaralli, Daylabi Allibai, Savita Samad Gowda, and Maulasaba Vaidya, all of whom pledged to support the voter verification drive across the taluk.

MLA Chennareddy inspects destructive agricultural fire

YADGIRI

Local lawmaker Chennareddy Patil Thunnuru traveled to Nayakkal village to inspect the extensive damage caused by a sudden agricultural fire. The destructive blaze completely wiped out precious grains, livestock fodder, and essential irrigation pipelines belonging to a local farmer named Khasimsab Horakura. The MLA met directly with the distressed family, listened to their concerns, and carefully assessed the financial loss. Prominent community leaders and revenue officials accompanied him during the field visit. Thunnuru comforted the grieving farmer and promised to lobby the government urgently for fair compensation.

Vijayapura Urban census achieves high mapping

VIJAYAPURA

Out of the 2,90,479 registered voters in the Vijayapura Urban constituency, census forms have been successfully distributed to 2,61,349 individuals, announced Voter Registration Officer Vijaya Mekkala. A significant 77.68% of the total voters covered under this demographic census have successfully completed the mandatory digital mapping process.

Mekkala stated that the administration is working at a brisk pace to digitize all applications gathered through comprehensive door-to-door physical visits as well as those submitted online. To date, a total of 1,15,338 census forms have

been completely processed and digitized into the official server database. According to the latest updates, about 2,236 tech-savvy voters utilized the designated online portal to submit their records directly.

The ongoing database reconciliation process has also confirmed the death of 1,557 voters, whose names are being systematically pruned from the rolls to ensure total transparency. Currently, the registration drive has successfully on boarded 1,548 brand-new voters into the system. The verification teams noted that 934 individuals have permanently relocated outside the constituency boundaries, while 89 entries fell under miscellaneous categories.

Bhim army names new leaders in Humanabad



MANABAD

The Bhim Army officially announced its newly elected leadership team for the local taluk unit during a special weekend meeting. Anil Doddi successfully reclaimed his position as the unit president, while Manoj Kumar Janvi and Sheikh Firdous stepped into their roles as honorary president and vice president. Additionally, the organization expanded its minority wing, appointing M.D. Baba Patel to lead as the new minority president. Senior state and regional executives attended the gathering, congratulating the fresh leaders and encouraging them to work passionately for social justice and community welfare.

Yatnal demands high command recall MLAs camped in Delhi

VIJAYAPURA

Senior leader and MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal has launched a sharp critique against the ruling Congress administration, demanding that the party's high command immediately order state ministers and MLAs currently lobbying in New Delhi to return to Karnataka.

Speaking directly to the media in Vijayapura, Yatnal criticized the state leadership's priorities, pointing out that top government figures, including the Chief Minister and several cabinet members, are camped out in the national capital seeking ministerial reshuffles and portfolios while the state reels

under a severe drought. He noted that the government has failed to take decisive action or roll out sufficient relief measures for the agricultural sector, adding that "at the very least, those who govern need to possess basic empathy and knowledge of the ground reality."

Yatnal urged the administration to mandate weekly district-level review meetings led by respective district-in-charge ministers to actively oversee relief operations. He emphasized that the state government should stop purely deflecting blame toward the Central Government and instead take immediate, concrete action to build resilience for local communities.

Devotees gather for sacred annual temple festival

NAVALGUND

Spiritual fervor gripped the town as thousands of devotees gathered to celebrate the historic 145th Jatra Ma hotsava of Sri Ajatha Nagalinga Mahaswami.

The grand religious event commenced early this morning with a sacred, traditional anointing ceremony performed at the revered holy deity's throne.

A unique feature of this special annual celebration is the beautiful idol of Lord Nagalinga, which artisans carefully craft entirely out of Madali for public viewing.

400 Families displaced as sand mafia grip twin cities

HUBBALLI

The rapidly growing twin cities of Hubballi-Dharwad are facing a severe crisis driven by an illicit sand mafia network operating out of Koppal. The illegal trade has reportedly pushed more than 400 local families who rely on traditional sand transport for their livelihoods out of the streets.

Due to intense real estate development, sand demand has surged in Hubballi-Dharwad, driving prices to premium levels. Seizing this lucrative market, well-organized racketeers transport over 50 large,



10-wheeler commercial trucks packed with sand from Koppal daily. To evade heavy state royalty fees, the smugglers secure transit permits registered for distant coastal regions such as Udupi, Mangaluru, Sullia, and Karwar. Instead of delivering to those destinations, they illegally divert and dump the loads directly

in the twin cities. The racketeers then re-use the exact same permits to reload and smuggle additional trips out of Koppal.

Prabhakar, the Secretary of the Tungabhadra Sand Sales Department, strongly condemned the operation, stating that it deprives the state treasury of lakhs of rupees in tax revenue.

He expressed deep frustration over the apparent inaction of the local Land and Mines Department and the Police Department, accusing them of turning a blind eye to the blatant violations.

This unchecked interstate loop has effectively run local, law-abiding 6-wheeler lorry owners out of business, leaving hundreds of working-class families financially devastated. The affected transport unions are demanding immediate, strict crackdowns by senior law enforcement and mining regulators to dissolve the mafia loop and protect regional livelihoods.

QUICK READ

Mohammad Shabas tops Mysore NEET exam

CH NEWS, HUNSUR
Local boy Mohammad



Shabas brought immense pride to his hometown by topping the entire Mysore district in the competitive NEET examination. A resident of Kattamalwadi village, Shabas achieved an impressive score of 645 marks. Speaking to reporters, the joyful topper credited his grand success to his own dedication and the endless sacrifices of his loving parents. Prominent community leaders and enthusiastic youth gathered to celebrate this big milestone. They honored Shabas warmly with a traditional Mysore turban, beautiful garlands, and shawls, wishing him the absolute best for his bright future medical career.

Big rewards await local state sports champions

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA
The Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports is officially inviting applications for several prestigious state awards for the 2026-27 season. Talented athletes and sports patrons can now apply online through the official Seva Sindhu website. The honors include the Ekala-vya Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, and Karnataka Krida Ratna, all featuring generous cash prizes. Deserving candidates must submit their online applications before the strict July 31 deadline. Sports officer Rajashekar Dalwadi encouraged local talent to apply quickly and mentioned that citizens can contact the department office directly for any further application details.

Minister Khader proposes strict nutrition policy

Karnataka Health Minister U.T. Khader is considering a strict ban on selling junk food in hospital canteens and around school campuses.

MANGALORE

Karnataka Health Minister U.T. Khader announced that the government is considering a strict ban on selling junk food in hospital canteens and around school campuses up to the SSLC level. The initiative aims to promote healthy eating habits, as young people are increasingly dependent on unhealthy food, leading to a rise in serious non-communicable diseases like cancer and kidney ailments.

Speaking at a development committee meeting at Wenlock Hospital, the minister emphasized that controlling



Karnataka Health Minister U.T. Khader is considering a strict ban on selling junk food in hospital canteens and around school campuses.

junk food access at school and hospital levels is crucial for public health. To support this, the government will strictly enforce the Food and Safety Act. Food quality in public spaces like malls will be tested compulsorily, and the state plans to upgrade its central testing lab in Bengaluru under

a public-private partnership to ensure legally airtight inspection reports. Minister Khader also announced significant administrative reforms. To improve medical services, the government will soon amend doctor transfer rules, addressing current flaws that separate married couples or disadvantage

disabled medical officers. Additionally, state government hospitals will now issue dummy bills to discharged patients. While the treatments remain completely free, these bills will educate the public on exactly how much the government spends on their healthcare.

Finally, addressing an MRI scanning disruption caused by a shortage of helium chemicals due to the Middle East conflict, the minister directed private partner hospitals to provide scans at government rates. This ensures that vulnerable patients continue to receive affordable diagnostics without facing long operational delays.

Vijayapura DC enforces drought action plan



VIJAYAPURA

Following high-level orders from Bengaluru, District Collector Dr. Anand K. has directed local officials to deploy immediate relief measures. With delayed monsoon rains sparking an emergency, the district administration is shifting focus entirely toward protecting citizens and rural livelihoods.

Stressing that the government exists solely to serve the public, the Collector ordered that relief operations reach every hobli.

The administration is heavily prioritizing clean water supply, emergency livestock

“Every single official must act immediately to resolve public grievances. No laxity will be tolerated,”

—Dr. Anand K.

Following orders from Bengaluru, District Collector Dr. Anand K. directed local officials to deploy immediate relief measures to protect rural livelihoods amid delayed monsoon rains.

fodder management, and local job generation to stabilize rural communities.

Furthermore, agriculture officers have been instructed to fast-track crop insurance registration for worried farmers.

Kyathanahalli Ramanna unveils new literary work



HUNSUR

A distinguished gathering marked the official launch of the insightful new literary work titled “What a world it is!” written by Modur Mahesharadhya. The book release event was organized under the joint auspices of the All India Sharan Sahitya Parishad and the Rotary Club of Hunsur at the city’s local Rotary Hall.

The book was formally launched by the highly respected senior writer and veteran folklorist Kyathanahalli Ramanna. Speaking to the audience after the unveiling, Ramanna highly praised the liter-

ary creation, noting that the legacy of this work by rural talent Mahesharadhya flows as a powerful beacon of knowledge. He added that the book beautifully depicts the evolving dynamics and realities of various communities across different generations.

The cultural program was formally inaugurated by Vinay S.R., an official representing the State Bank of India. Providing a deeper academic perspective, Dr. D. Satish Chandra shared an analytical commentary regarding the core themes and values embedded within the newly published book. Taking the stage later,

author Modur Mahesharadhya expressed his profound gratitude to the organizers and the community for their immense cooperation.

The celebratory event witnessed strong participation from prominent local figures, including Rotary President Shyamanna, Secretary Louis Perera, publisher Dr. Sahitya, and teacher Maduprasad. A host of other distinguished dignitaries, including Chamaraja, alongside notable writers J. Mahadev, Kumar Honnena-halli, and Dr. Renuka Prasad, attended the venue to honor the author’s latest achievement.

MODUR

Mahesharadhya’s new book “What a world it is!” was officially launched by veteran writer Kyathanahalli Ramanna at Hunsur’s Rotary Hall.

Uttara Kannada DC orders proactive water plan

KARWAR

Uttara Kannada Deputy Commissioner K. Lakshmi Priya has strictly instructed all district officials to diligently execute the Chief Minister’s guidelines regarding drought management, which has arisen due to a significant deficit in monsoon rainfall. She delivered these directives while presiding over an official review meeting held at the District Collector’s office hall.

Addressing the critical water scarcity, the Deputy Commissioner ordered departments to formulate a robust, proactive action plan immediately to prevent drinking water shortages during the up coming summer season. Beyond environmental challenges, administrative discipline was heavily emphasized. While the Revenue and Rural Development departments recorded an 80 percent attendance rate, several other sectors have struggled to implement online logging systems effectively.



VIMTECH hosts V-Connect orientation program

TUMAKURU

The Viceroy Institute of Management and Technology (VIMTECH) successfully organized a special parents’ orientation program titled ‘V-Connect’ for its newly admitted students. The event, held at the institute’s V.G. Auditorium, witnessed enthusiastic participation from hundreds of eager parents and students looking forward to the new academic year.

Presiding over the program, Institute Secretary Shri N. B. Pradeep Kumar explained the core values of the institution, stating that discipline forms their foundation while excellence remains their ultimate goal. He emphasized that building a cordial relationship between parents and the educational institution is vital for securing a bright future for students. Kumar highlighted that in

today’s digital era, both parents and teachers share the responsibility of ensuring that students do not go astray under the influence of mobile phones and social media. During the session, families received comprehensive information regarding academic progress trackers, college rules, and future career opportunities. Principal Mrs. Humera Parveen G.R. addressed the gathering, calling upon every student to look beyond just earning a degree. She urged them to develop strong leadership qualities and strive to become positive role models for society.

The principal assured the audience that the college administration is fully committed to providing continuous cooperation and guidance for the students’ academic growth, skill enhancement, personality development, and successful career building.

Shivaramaiah elected as Marasandra Milk Association President

MAGADI

M.S. Shivaramaiah has been elected unopposed as the new president of the Marasandra Milk Producers Cooperative Association, while Narasimha Murthy secured the vice president position in the same manner. Assuming office, Shivaramaiah pledged to work sincerely for the holistic development of the dairy facility and ensure timely animal feed distribution for local cooperative members.

The newly elected president emphasized the board’s responsibility to deliver all government dairy benefits directly to eligible farmers. Highlighting a regional crisis caused by the failure of monsoon rains, Shivaramaiah pointed out that a severe drought has led to an acute shortage of green fodder for cattle. To support strug-



gling dairy farmers in distress, he urged the government to immediately increase the milk procurement price by ₹10 per liter.

TAPCMS President H.R. Shivaprasad Honnappa praised rural farmers for supplying high-quality milk, noting that dairy farming has evolved from a sideline occupation into a major economic pillar for rural households. He credited BAMUL President D.K. Suresh for driving positive institutional transformations and urged everyone to adopt new technologies to modernize the

dairy industry.

The transition ceremony was well-attended by prominent local stakeholders, including board directors M.R. Garudappa, M.G. Mahadevaya, M.V. Srinivas, I.G. Gangadharaiah, and M.G. Mastaiiah. Women directors Kallamma and Gangaragamma were also present, alongside Chief Executive Officer Harsha and Milk Tester Jagadish. The event concluded with the board directors and staff formally congratulating the new leadership team on their unopposed victories.

Koppal protesters support activist Sonam Wangchuk

KOPPAL

Local leaders and citizens gathered outside Sahitya Bhavan for a one-day hunger strike supporting climate activist Sonam Wangchuk. Protesters sent an urgent petition to the President of India, expressing deep worry over recent nationwide exam paper leaks and National Testing Agency failures. The alliance strongly condemned the police for forcibly hospitalizing Wangchuk from his peaceful protest site. Demanding the immediate resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the group called for a transparent judicial inquiry led by retired judges. They urged the government to protect Wangchuk’s health and quickly resolve the students’ demands.

noted that Ganiga Bhavans and cooperative banks are already functioning successfully in North Karnataka and promised to draft an active plan to establish similar institutions in Chitradurga. He praised the fact that over 65 doctors from the community are serving the district.

During the event, Sri Jayabasavakumara Swamiji delivered blessings and demanded necessary amendments in caste certificates to secure 2A reservation benefits for the community, warning that their rights must not be diluted.

sugarcane income to fund the construction of a community welfare hall or administrative building. He assured full cooperation for setting up a cooperative bank and expressed confidence that local MLA K.C. Veerendra Pappi would also extend generous financial support. Savadi emphasized that true social and political strength comes from community unity and mutual respect for all castes. He also urged the honored medical professionals to prioritize affordable, quality healthcare for underprivileged patients.

MLA K.C. Veerendra Pappi

Dalit Sena President rejects rural superstition

MAGADI

Dalit Sena State President M.S. Jagannath has strongly urged communities to launch an organized, unified struggle to successfully combat persistent caste-based discrimination and untouchability. He was addressing a gathering after distributing official appointment letters to newly selected office bearers at the local tourist temple.

Jagannath expressed deep regret that Dalits are still barred from entering temples in rural areas. He emphasized that the progressive ideas of the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, hold far greater importance than physical temples. He urged the community to completely reject superstition, avoid idol worship, and recognize their inherent collective strength by understanding their constitutional rights.



Highlighting the effectiveness of unity, he stated that individual complaints are often dismissed by revenue and police departments, whereas grouped demands yield immediate justice. To foster inclusivity, he proposed conducting mandatory training camps for government officials regarding the egalitarian principles of iconic reformers like Ambedkar, Buddha, Basavanna, Periyar, and Narayan Guru.

Jagannath also demanded that the late spiritual leader Shrivakumara Swamiji of Tumkur

be posthumously honored with the Bharat Ratna. Nationally, the Lok Janshakti Party under Chirag Paswan is aggressively championing the rights of marginalized communities in Parliament. Local leaders announced plans to host major community conventions inside the Magadi Kempegowda Fort premises to amplify their voice. Key newly appointed members, including District Vice President J. Prajwal and Taluk President Nagaraju, vowed to establish 30 new village branches to defend Dalit rights aggressively.

SAVADI PLEDGES 25 LAKH

‘Cooperative bank vital for Ganiga community’

HUNSUR

Former Deputy Chief Minister and current MLA Laxman Savadi stated that establishing a dedicated cooperative bank and a well-equipped community hall is essential for the comprehensive socio-economic development of the Ganiga community in Chitradurga. He was speaking after inaugurating the district-level talent awards for SSLC and PUC students, a felicitation ceremony for community doctors, and the annual general meeting organized by the Chitradurga Taluk All India Singers



(Ganiga) Association at the Sri Jagadguru Panchacharya Kalyana Mantapa.

Savadi announced that he would personally contribute ₹25 lakh from his personal

Sadalagi urges school development innovation

DHARWAD

Field Education Officer of the Rural Taluka Zone, Ramakrishna Sadalagi, has urged teachers’ organizations to channel their collective strength into school development while continuing to advocate for their legitimate professional demands. He emphasized that educators must continuously innovate to improve the daily learning outcomes of students in their classrooms.

Sadalagi was speaking as the chief guest during the official inauguration and oath-taking

ceremony of the newly elected representatives of the Karnataka State Primary School Teachers’ Association’s rural taluka unit. The grand event, organized for the administrative tenure spanning from 2026 to 2031, took place at the Guru Bhavan.

The prestigious function was presided over by Basavaraj Gurikar, the National President of the All India Primary Teachers’ Federation (AIPTF). The ceremony also welcomed several distinguished guests, including State Treasurer Rajashekar Honnappanavara, District

President V.F. Chulaki, and General Secretary Ajith Kumar Desai, alongside local education inspectors and administrative managers.

During the swearing-in segment, Krishna Bongale officially took charge as the new President of the Dharwad Rural Taluka Unit, alongside General Secretary N.S. Kammar and Treasurer Raju Malvada. Additionally, Vice Presidents Bharathi Mannikeri and S.N. Savalagi, Working President Shaikat Ali Menasagi, and Honorary President N.G. Guruputranavara solemnly took their oaths of office.

QUICK READ

Opposition to demand govt's reply on NEET

New Delhi

The Opposition, led by the Congress, on Sunday said that the alleged theft of offerings made at Ayodhya's Ram Temple, the NEET-UG paper leak and the forceful hospitalisation of climate Activist Sonam Wangchuk will be among the top issues on which the leaders will seek the Union government's reply during the Monsoon session of Parliament that begins tomorrow.

Speaking to IANS, Congress MP Kumari Selja said: We will definitely raise several issues.

There are issues related to students, the theft at the Ram Temple, and rising inflation. The government neither sees nor hears the concerns of the people.

O'Brien urges PM to call all-party meet on delimitation

Kolkata

Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien on Sunday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to convene an all-party meeting to discuss proposed legislation on delimitation and amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), which he described as draconian in nature. Any legislation related to delimitation has not been included in the parliamentary bulletin listing government business to be taken up during the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament.

However, given your government's dubious record of mocking parliamentary rules of procedure and conventions.

Calcutta HC stays demolition of Abhishek Banerjee's party office

KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Sunday ordered a status quo on the proposed demolition of a Trinamool Congress (TMC) party office at Amtala in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, providing temporary relief to the ruling party.

A single-judge special Bench conducted an urgent hearing on a petition filed by TMC general secretary and Lok Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee, who challenged the demolition of the party office by the local administration.

After hearing the matter, the court directed the authorities to maintain the existing position until further orders, effectively putting the demolition process on hold.

The petition argued that the demolition action required judicial intervention and sought immediate protection for the party office. Considering the urgency of the matter, the High Court convened a special sitting on Sunday to hear the case.

The court's interim order ensures that no further action can be taken regarding the structure until the matter is heard in detail. The administration has been restrained from proceeding with the demolition during this period.

The dispute centres on the party office located in Amtala, with the TMC alleging that the demolition move was unjustified. The administration's stand on the issue is expected to be placed before the court during the next hearing.

The High Court's order offers temporary relief to the ruling party while the legal challenge remains under consideration.

JANTAR MANTAR PROTEST

HC backs Wangchuk's hospitalisation decision

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Sunday declined to grant any interim relief on a petition filed by Sonam Wangchuk's wife challenging his continued hospitalisation at Safdarjung Hospital, holding that the government's decision to shift him from the Jantar Mantar protest site was justified in view of his deteriorating health condition.

A single-judge Bench of Justice Mini Pushkarna issued notice to the Centre, Delhi Police and other respondents, directing them to file their status reports within three days. The matter has been listed for further hearing on July 24.

In its order, the court observed that the government's decision to move Wangchuk to the hospital could not be termed arbitrary as it was taken solely on medical grounds. Justice Pushkarna noted that Wangchuk had not voluntarily admitted himself to a hospital despite his worsening health, making the government's intervention appropriate.

The court also recorded that doctors at Safdarjung Hospital were closely monitoring Wangchuk's condition and that only oral medication had been administered with his consent. It said there was no material to suggest that force was being used or that his personal autonomy was being violated.

PMK chief claims bid to dilute local job promise

TVK govt must enact 75% reservation in private sector jobs: Anbumani Ramadoss

CHENNAI

PMK president Dr Anbumani Ramadoss on Sunday accused sections of the bureaucracy and private industry of attempting to dilute the Tamil Nadu government's election promise to encourage companies to recruit more local youth.

He warned that any move to weaken the commitment would amount to a betrayal of the state's long-standing principles of social justice.

In a statement, Anbumani referred to media reports claiming that officials have begun consultations on a new industrial policy for Tamil Nadu. According to those reports, some officials and industry representatives



have opposed proposals aimed at increasing employment opportunities for Tamil Nadu's youth in private companies and commercial establishments.

If the reports are accurate, Anbumani said, such opposition would undermine the state's commitment to inclusive development. He stressed that industrial growth should be accompanied by adequate employment opportunities for educated local youth seeking

In-short

- Anbumani backs local youth employment policy.
- Alleges officials, industry oppose proposal.
- Seeks implementation of election promise.
- Calls for industry growth with local jobs.

jobs within Tamil Nadu.

The PMK leader recalled that the ruling government had promised before the elections to provide incentives to private companies employing a higher proportion of local youth. Under the proposal, firms with at least 75 per cent of their workforce from Tamil Nadu

Nagaland landslide kills 1, traps child

KOHIMA

At least one person was killed and a child is feared trapped after a massive landslide struck Defence Colony in Nagaland's Mon district on Sunday, sweeping away several houses and triggering a multi-agency rescue operation.

Officials said around 15 houses in the colony were severely affected as the landslide caused widespread destruction, leaving behind huge mounds of mud and debris. A police official confirmed that one body had been recovered, while rescue teams continued searching for survivors under extremely hazardous conditions.

Personnel from the Assam Rifles, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Nagaland Police, the Army, district administration and local volunteers have joined the intensive rescue operation.

Authorities fear a child remains trapped beneath the debris, while the possibility of more victims buried under the landslide has not been ruled out. However, officials said the exact number of casualties is yet to be determined.

Rescue operations have been severely hampered by continuous water flow through the affected area, unstable terrain and persistent rainfall, making it difficult for teams to deploy heavy machinery and specialised equipment safely.

Officials said a comprehensive assessment of casualties, injuries and property damage would be undertaken once weather conditions improve and the site is declared safe.

Authorities have also advised residents living in vulnerable locations to stay away from landslide-prone slopes and unstable terrain as heavy rainfall continues across Nagaland and other parts of the



Rescue operation at a glance

- One person confirmed dead.
- Child feared trapped beneath debris.
- Around 15 houses severely damaged.
- Assam Rifles, Army, NDRF, SDRF and police leading rescue efforts.
- Heavy rain and unstable terrain continue to hamper operations.

Punjab govt marks 500-day anti-drug drive

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Police on Sunday marked the completion of 500 days of its flagship anti-drug campaign, 'Yudh Nashian Virudh', highlighting significant progress in curbing drug trafficking through arrests, seizures, property confiscations and rehabilitation efforts.

Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said that since the campaign was launched on March 1, 2025, the force has registered 52,432 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and arrested more than 68,850 drug traffickers across the state.

Among those arrested were 629 major drug traffickers, each found in possession of more than two kilograms of heroin, with the seized contraband collectively valued at around Rs 12 crore.

Alongside strict enforcement, the government has also focused on rehabilitation. A total of 10,917 individuals were granted immunity from prosecution under Section 64-A of the NDPS Act, allowing them to undergo treatment and rehabilitation instead of facing criminal proceedings.

Punjab Police also intensified its financial crackdown on organised drug networks. Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) chief Nilabh Kishore said properties worth Rs 319 crore linked to drug traffickers had been attached or confiscated, while illegal structures built on government land using drug money were demolished.

Officials said the Safe Punjab Anti-Drug Helpline received 46,342 anonymous tips-off, resulting in the arrest of 22,960 traffickers and reflecting growing public trust in community policing initiatives.

DGP Yadav added that Punjab has achieved an 89 per cent conviction rate in NDPS cases the highest in the country which he attributed to improved investigations, stronger evidence collection and effective coordination with prosecution agencies.

Campaign snapshot

- 68,850+ traffickers arrested.
- 629 major traffickers held.
- Rs 319 crore properties attached/confiscated.
- 10,917 addicts rehabilitated under Section 64-A.

NEET paper leak: Patnaik calls for debate in Parliament

BHUBANESWAR

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Odisha Assembly and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik on Sunday demanded that the paper leak issue be debated in Parliament and also urged the Centre to engage in a meaningful dialogue with students protesting against the NEET paper leak case.

Taking to his X handle, Patnaik on Sunday wrote, For millions of children in our country, education remains the only path to a brighter future. Every developed nation is built upon a strong education system and a transparent, credible examination process. India too has made remarkable progress because of the strength of its education system.

He further added that this education system has nurtured generations of brilliant doctors, scientists, engineers, teachers, and innovators who have shaped modern India. In view of the recent incidents of question paper leaks in the country, Patnaik said, however, that trust in this system now stands broken.

All-party meet: DMK seeks clarity on women's quota, delimitation

CHENNAI

The DMK on Sunday urged the Centre to provide a clear roadmap for implementing the Constitution amendment that grants 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, while reiterating its demand that the quota be calculated on the existing strength of the Lok Sabha and not be linked to a future delimitation exercise.

The demand was raised by DMK's Rajya Sabha member Tiruchi Siva during the customary all-party meeting convened in New Delhi ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, which is scheduled to commence on Monday.

Representatives of major political parties attended the meeting to discuss legislative

MP cabinet approves UCC Bill in historic session

BHOPAL

In a landmark decision, the Madhya Pradesh cabinet on Sunday approved the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill during a special meeting held at Jagdishpur, a historic town near Bhopal once known as Islamnagar.

The venue, steeped in stories of valour and sacrifice, was chosen to underline the cultural and historical significance of the move. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, addressing a press conference, described the decision as a tribute to the state's glorious past and a step towards ensuring equality for all citizens.

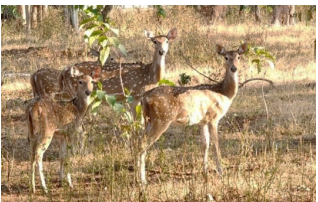
He recalled the courage of Rani Kamalapati, who defended her dignity in difficult times, and linked the present decision to the spirit of sacrifice and national pride embedded in the soil of Jagdishpur.

50 spotted deer released in Gujarat forests

SURAT

The Gujarat Forest Department has released 50 spotted deer into the Mandvi Forest Range in Surat district as part of a long-term conservation programme aimed at strengthening the natural prey base for carnivores, enhancing biodiversity and reducing human-wildlife conflict in the southern part of the state.

The translocation, carried out under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, involved relocating the deer from the Sasan Gir Wildlife Division in three phases between May and June this year.



Twenty-one spotted deer were released on May 23, followed by 16 on June 18 and 13 on June 24. The initiative forms part of the state's broader wildlife management strategy, which seeks to improve ecological balance by increasing herbivore populations in suitable forest habitats.

As per the Forest department, a stronger prey base allows

predators to meet their food requirements within forests, reducing the likelihood of their movement into nearby human settlements in search of food.

Forest and Environment Minister Arjun Modhwadia said the programme reflects the state's science-based approach to wildlife conservation. He added that strengthening the natural prey base in forest habitats is a key component of efforts to reduce human-wildlife conflict.

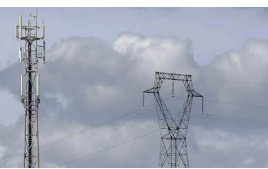
Under the guidance of CM Patel, the department is implementing a range of science-based conservation measures to reduce human-wildlife conflict.

QUICK READ

'Fight against cancer, diabetes need people's movement'

New Delhi

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh on Sunday called for a nationwide 'Jan Andolan' against cancer, diabetes, obesity and other non-communicable diseases, saying India's response to the growing burden of lifestyle disorders must extend beyond hospitals and evolve into a mass public movement focused on prevention, early diagnosis and evidence-based healthcare. Addressing the launch of UNBROKEN: My Battle with Cancer and the Will to Lead, authored by cancer survivor and former Department of Science and Technology Senior Adviser Dr Akhilesh Gupta.



'Don't tag 1,600 series calls as frequently blocked'

New Delhi

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has raised objections to Truecaller's display of a frequently blocked badge on calls originating from the dedicated 140 and 1600 number series, saying such labels could mislead telecom consumers and create unnecessary suspicion around legitimate commercial and government communications. A senior TRAI official said tagging regulated number series with labels such as frequently blocked is not advisable as it can confuse users and undermine confidence in calls that are made under the regulator's prescribed framework.

Army rescues 11 from flood-hit Rajouri

Among the 11 rescued persons, 5 were children. They were stranded at different places in the flood-affected district following incessant rainfall

JAMMU

The Indian Army on Sunday rescued 11 civilians, including five children, stranded in flash flood-hit areas of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district after incessant rainfall triggered severe flooding across the region.

According to the Defence Ministry, the rescue operations were carried out by troops of the White Knight Corps in close coordination with the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and the civil administration. The operations highlighted the Army's swift response and coordinated disaster relief efforts amid worsening weather conditions.

In the first rescue mission, Army personnel responded to reports of nine civilians, including five children, trapped



across a flooded Nala near Churung village, south of Thanamandi. Battling strong water currents and adverse weather, the rescue teams reached the location in time and safely evacuated all those stranded.

Simultaneously, troops of the Engineer Regiment launched another operation in the Naushera Tawi River near Dhangri, around 12 kilometres from Rajouri town. Two youths, aged between 17 and 20 years, had become stranded on a river island after the

water level rose rapidly.

Despite dangerous currents, the Army successfully rescued both individuals and handed them over safely to their families in the presence of civil administration officials.

The Defence Ministry said the successful operations reflected the seamless coordination between the Army, Police, SDRF and local administration, ensuring that no lives were lost during the rescue missions.

Meanwhile, flash floods

Rescue operations

- Five children evacuated from flooded Nala near Churung village.
- Two youths rescued from river island in Naushera Tawi.
- Joint operation involved Army, Police, SDRF and civil administration.
- Flash floods claim 10 lives in Poonch-Rajouri; search for missing continues.
- All 11 individuals were brought to safety without any loss of life.

have caused widespread devastation in the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch. At least ten people have lost their lives in the Bafliaz area, while several others remain missing.

MP cabinet clears bills on labour, fire safety

BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, has approved nine significant Bills during its meeting at Jagdishpur near Bhopal, setting the stage for a transformative monsoon session of the Legislative Assembly beginning July 20.

The decisions made during the special cabinet meeting marked a sweeping legislative agenda, with reforms spanning civil law, education, industry, labour, and public welfare.

Foremost among these is the Madhya Pradesh Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026, which introduces a unified framework governing marriage, divorce, adoption, and inheritance across religions. The Bill mandates registration of live-in relationships and ensures equal property rights for men and women, while exempting tribal communities from its ambit.

This move places Madhya Pradesh among the few states to advance such a comprehensive civil reform.

Key concern

Arjun Munda has demanded a time-bound inquiry into the alleged medical negligence while urging the state government to strengthen healthcare systems in tribal regions. He said recurring incidents, including the 2025 HIV-infected blood transfusion case in West Singhbhum, highlight the urgent need for stricter monitoring, accountability and improved medical infrastructure.

life are fundamental rights that must be protected.

He warned that repeated lapses in healthcare delivery could weaken public trust in institutions, especially at a time when tribal rights and the implementation of the Fifth Schedule remain key issues in Jharkhand.



government not to treat the incident as an isolated mistake by a single hospital but to examine it in the larger context of healthcare services available in tribal and remote regions.

Munda noted that several tribal-dominated areas continue to suffer from inadequate medical infrastructure and higher mortality rates. He also recalled an incident in October 2025 in West Singhbhum district, where five tribal children suffering from thalassemia were allegedly transfused with HIV-infected blood, saying such cases expose serious gaps in monitoring and accountability.

Referring to the constitutional safeguards under the Fifth Schedule, Munda said healthcare and the right to

Medical negligence: Munda seeks probe into tribal woman's death

RANCHI

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Arjun Munda has written to Chief Minister Hemant Soren, seeking a fair, transparent and time-bound investigation into the alleged death of a tribal woman due to medical negligence at a hospital in Khunti district.

In his letter, Munda said the death of Budhan Purti, reportedly after being transfused with the wrong blood group, was an extremely serious matter that required strict action against those found responsible. He said the incident at the Birsa Institute of Medical Science and Research Centre was not merely a personal tragedy but a reflection of deeper shortcomings in the state's healthcare system.

The BJP leader said Jharkhand's identity is rooted in its tribal communities, social justice and human valueres, making the death of a tribal woman during treatment a matter of concern for the entire state. He urged the

Yogi opens disaster response HQ

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday inaugurated the new headquarters of the Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (UPSDMA) in Lucknow and called for a collective approach to tackling natural disasters through preparedness, coordination and public participation.

The state-of-the-art headquarters has been constructed at a cost of Rs 200 crore and is expected to significantly strengthen the state's disaster response capabilities. During the event, the Chief Minister also launched the authority's official website and honoured eight personnel from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) and Fire Services for their exemplary contribution to relief and rescue operations.

Addressing the gathering, Yogi Adityanath said disaster management is not merely the responsibility of the government but also requires active public awareness and timely preparedness. He emphasised that effective early warning systems, better coordination among agencies and citizen participation can substantially reduce the loss of lives and property during disasters.

The Chief Minister urged



We must make Uttar Pradesh such an empowered state where every citizen is fully prepared, alongside the government, to fulfil their responsibilities in any hour of crisis.

-Yogi Adityanath, UP CM

people to make vigilance, preparedness and disaster awareness an integral part of daily life. He also highlighted the state's efforts to strengthen its early warning systems to minimise future losses.

Yogi Adityanath said Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to classify human-wildlife conflict as a disaster, enabling victims to receive relief and assistance under the state's comprehensive disaster management policy.

He expressed confidence that the newly inaugurated UPSDMA headquarters would play a crucial role in ensuring faster and more effective responses during both natural and man-made disasters, making Uttar Pradesh better prepared to handle emergencies in the years ahead.

1 more held in Rajarhat house blast case in Bengal

KOLKATA

One more person has been arrested in connection with the house explosion in Rajarhat in Kolkata, taking the total number of arrests in the case to two, police said on Sunday.

The arrested accused, identified as Shahenshah, is a broker who allegedly helped the main accused, Mohammad Shamim, secure a rented room in the house using a fake identity. Mohammad Shamim was arrested from Sodepur in North 24 Parganas district.

According to the police, Shahenshah was arrested after long hours of interrogation. With this, the number of arrests has risen to two in this

case, while two others -- a minor and house owner Zulfiqar Ali -- have been detained for questioning, said the police.

The explosion took place late in a house in the Supari Bagan area of Dakshin Narayanpur in Rajarhat, in the northern outskirts of Kolkata. One person was injured in the explosion.

Officers of the Narayanpur police station launched an investigation and detained two persons. The bomb squad went to the scene and recovered two more fresh bombs. Later, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) took over the case. Forensic experts also went to the spot to investigate the real cause and source of the explosion.

Political blow for Thackeray as MPs switch

NEW DELHI

The political landscape in India shifted significantly as Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla officially recognized the merger of six Shiv Sena (UBT) Members of Parliament into the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction. This decision, arriving just before the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament, marks a major blow to Uddhav Thackeray's leadership and has sparked a heated war of words between the two rival camps.

The Speaker's move effectively validates the MPs' switchover under the country's anti-defection law. Following this, leaders from the Shinde faction have hailed the development as a clear sign that the Uddhav-led group is losing its grip and crumbling from within.

Sanjay Nirupam, a prominent leader in the Shinde camp, defended the change, emphasizing that the merger strictly followed constitutional rules. "These six MPs acted lawfully," Nirupam stated, noting that the law allows for such moves when a two-thirds majority is achieved. He didn't hold back in his criticism of his former party leader, arguing that the public has lost confidence in Uddhav Thackeray. According to Nirupam, the party is shrinking and breaking apart despite recent attempts by its members to seek divine intervention through prayers. He harshly compared their recent religious recitations to mythological irony, suggesting they have abandoned their core values by

aligning with political opponents.

Meanwhile, Shaina NC, another key figure in the Shinde faction, echoed these sentiments. She described the recognition of these MPs as a clear affirmation that political leaders and workers alike are placing their trust in Eknath Shinde's vision. She suggested that rather than complaining, the Uddhav Sena leadership should take a hard look at their own internal failures to understand why their members are choosing to jump ship.

As the Monsoon Session approaches, this realignment strengthens the Shinde faction's position, leaving Uddhav Thackeray's group facing an uphill battle to regain its footing in an increasingly difficult political environment.

BJP claims opposition used Wangchuk for agitation

NEW DELHI

A fresh political clash has erupted in the capital following the removal of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk from his protest site at Jantar Mantar. Delhi BJP Media Head Praveen Shankar Kapoor claimed on Sunday that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and various Communist factions are visibly rattled because their opportunity to "mislead the youth" has been effectively blocked.

Wangchuk was recently relocated from Jantar Mantar to Safdarjung Hospital, an action carried out under the direct orders of the Delhi High Court. However, the BJP argues that the Opposition is framing this move as a political setback.

Telangana CM asks party leaders to focus on SIR, warns against negligence

HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has once again asked all the party leaders to focus on the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and warned that negligence will not be tolerated.

During a virtual meeting on SIR on Sunday, he directed the leaders to remain on the field to monitor the SIR process to ensure that the voting rights of all genuine voters are protected.

Deputy Chief Minister Malu Bhatti Vikramarka, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Goud, State Party Affairs In-charge Meenakshi Nataraajan, AICC Secretary Sachin Sawant, ministers, MLAs, MLCs, MPs, constituency in-charges, and SIR coordinators

attended the meeting.

The Chief Minister said ministers, MLAs, in-charges, corporation chairpersons, and party in-charges appointed for the SIR process must go to the field.

Stating that ministers-in-charge must fully supervise the SIR process, he remarked that the ultimate responsibility lies with them.

He said PCC President Mahesh Goud and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka must take greater responsibility in coordinating the ministers-in-charge, MLAs, and party in-charges.

The Chief Minister said that with the deadline for SIR being extended to August 3, this should be viewed as an opportunity. He announced that

on Monday, 10 in-charge ministers will conduct review meetings on SIR across all districts.

The Chief Minister said MPs must conduct regular reviews, even while attending



Parliament sessions. He said that strict action will be taken if MPs fail to perform their duties in the areas where they are acting as in-charges.

He said those designated as SIR in-charges for the party must ensure constant coordination. He noted that a total of 489 meetings regarding SIR have been conducted by the Congress party across the 119 constituencies. The Chief Minister said that immediate action is required, especially in constituencies that are lagging.

OPPOSITION WALKOUT ROW

All-party meet: Rijiju defends NCPI's invite

NEW DELHI

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday defended the Centre's decision to invite members of the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) to the all-party meeting ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, asserting that elected representatives cannot be excluded while their status is under the Speaker's consideration.

The all-party meeting witnessed a brief walkout by the INDIA bloc, which objected to the presence of NCPI



members. The NCPI is a rebel faction of the Trinamool Congress, and the Opposition questioned its participation in the meeting.

Responding to the protest, Rijiju said the Opposition was

within its rights to register its disagreement but maintained that the government could not deny participation to 20 Lok Sabha members who had sought recognition as a separate party.

He said the MPs had formally submitted their request to the Lok Sabha Speaker seeking recognition and separate seating arrangements in Parliament, adding that the matter is currently under the Speaker's consideration. Until a decision is taken, the government has a responsibility to engage with all elected representatives.

The minister clarified that the Centre had invited all parties represented in Parliament and had not extended any special invitation to the NCPI. He stressed that the

all-party meeting was aimed at building consensus ahead of the Monsoon Session and that every Member of Parliament had the right to participate in such consultations.

Rijiju reiterated that recognition of the NCPI is a procedural matter to be decided by the Lok Sabha Speaker's Secretariat and declined to comment on its outcome. He maintained that excluding 20 elected MPs from discussions would have been inappropriate and contrary to parliamentary norms.

British journal recognises India's Tele-MANAS initiative

NEW DELHI

India's Tele-MANAS (Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States) programme has been recognised as the world's largest government-led tele-mental health initiative, according to a recent article published in the British Journal of Psychiatry. Launched on October 10, 2022, on World Mental Health Day, the service offers free, round-the-clock counselling in more than 20 languages.

The helpline has handled over 3.43 million calls across

all states and Union Territories until March 2026. Most callers sought help for anxiety, depression and psychosocial stress, while a smaller but significant number reported suicidal distress.

Counsellors provide immediate psychological support, and complex cases are referred to psychiatrists, clinical psychologists or nearby health facilities for further care.

A 2024 assessment by the World Health Organisation (WHO) praised Tele-MANAS as a scalable and inclusive mental health solution.

QUICK READ

Hungary's prez signs law change ending his term in office

BUDAPEST
Hungarian President Tamás Sulyok has signed a constitutional amendment passed by Prime Minister Peter Magyar's ruling Tisza party that ends his term as head of state, Sulyok said in a statement. The legislation was part of Magyar's drive to dismantle former Prime Minister Viktor Orban's bastions of power, for which Magyar says he received a strong mandate from voters after ousting the right-wing leader in an April election landslide.



Cuban dissident artist arrives in US after 5 years in prison

MIAMI
Cuban dissident artist Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara arrived in the United States after completing a five-year prison sentence on the communist-run island. Otero Alcántara, co-founder of Cuba's opposition San Isidro Movement, was welcomed in Miami by a group of singing supporters and visited the National Shrine of Our Lady of Charity. Speaking outside the church to journalists and members of the Cuban community, he thanked the U.S. and the European Union and reiterated calls for a change of government in Cuba. I believe the dictatorship has to end, and the Castro dynasty has to end, as well, Otero Alcántara said. Because as long as there is a Castro in power, there will be corruption.

China sounds fresh rain alarm

BEIJING
China's meteorological authorities on Sunday issued fresh warnings for heavy rainfall and geological disasters across large parts of southern China, as rescue teams continued searching for 34 people missing after a rain-triggered landslide in the southwestern municipality of Chongqing. The China Meteorological Administration forecast intense rainfall across a broad belt stretching diagonally from Yunnan province in the southwest to the Yangtze River Delta on the country's eastern coast. Officials warned that persistent downpours could increase the risk of floods, landslides and other geological disasters in vulnerable areas. The search operation in Chongqing entered its third day after Friday's landslide struck a county on the municipality's outskirts, killing at least eight people and leaving 34 others unaccounted for. Rescue personnel continued combing through debris de-

US strikes Iran for 8th straight night

Tehran returns fire on Gulf bases; US Central Command says new strikes on Iran are designed to further degrade Iran's ability to choke the Strait of Hormuz

DUBAI

The United States carried out its eighth consecutive night of airstrikes on Iran, intensifying military operations after two American service members were killed and another was reported missing in an Iranian attack in Jordan. The latest escalation comes after an interim ceasefire agreement between Washington and Tehran, signed a month ago, collapsed last week, fuelling concerns of a return to full-scale conflict between the two adversaries. According to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), the strikes began at 6 p.m. ET (2200 GMT) under the direction of President Donald Trump. The operation targeted Iranian military infrastructure, including coastal surveillance and air defence facilities. CENTCOM said the ob-



jective of the strikes was to weaken Iran's ability to threaten commercial shipping through the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz and retaliate against the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) following the attack on U.S. personnel in Jordan. Iranian media confirmed that U.S. forces struck areas near Sirik in southern Iran and near Shadegan, close to the Iraqi border. While the Mehr news agency reported no casualties or infrastruc-

ture damage near Sirik, Iran's Atomic Energy Organization condemned an attack on a nuclear power plant under construction in Darkhovin. In retaliation, Iran launched drone attacks targeting U.S. military assets at Kuwait's Al-Adiri camp and Ali Al Salem Air Base, according to Iranian state television. The strikes are part of Tehran's broader campaign against U.S. military installations and allies in the Gulf that has intensi-

Points from war front

■ US hits Iran for 8th consecutive night; Tehran returns fire on Gulf bases.

■ Two US troops killed, one missing in Jordan attack.

■ US targeted Iranian military surveillance and air defence sites.

■ Iran reported strikes near Sirik, Shadegan and Darkhovin.

■ Iran's supreme leader warns US of 'unforgettable lessons' amid MoU breaches

fied since last week. The latest exchange marks a significant escalation in regional tensions, with fears growing that continued retaliation could trigger a wider conflict across the Middle East.

Jordan denies evacuating airport, seaport, after US warning

AMMAN
Jordanian authorities have not issued any decision on Sunday to evacuate the airport or seaport in Aqaba, the government's spokesperson told Reuters, after the U.S. embassy in Amman said they had been evacuated due to a credible threat. No potential threats have been recorded by the relevant Jordanian authorities in the past few hours, government spokesperson Mohammad Al-Momani told Reuters in a written statement. The airport and port are operating normally. The U.S. embassy had said the airport and seaport were evacuated due to a specific and credible threat, without providing further details. It advised Americans to refrain from travelling to either location and to continue to follow all security directives issued by Jordanian authorities. The U.S. military said that two of its personnel were killed in Jordan and another was missing after an Iranian attack. Over the last week, Jordan has repeatedly said that it has intercepted Iranian missiles flying over its territory.

RUSSIA POUNDS KYIV WITH WAVE OF MISSILES

KYIV

Russia launched one of its heaviest ballistic missile attacks on Kyiv since the start of the war, killing at least one person and injuring 16 others in a massive overnight assault that also caused widespread destruction across the Ukrainian capital. According to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Russia fired 41 missiles of various types at Kyiv, triggering a series of powerful explosions that echoed across the city. Residential buildings, warehouses, a supermarket and a student dormitory were among the structures damaged, while emergency teams rushed to rescue survivors from the debris. Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said three of the injured were in critical condition. Rescue workers spent hours searching

Attack at a glance

Russia launched 41 missiles and 125 drones overnight. Ukraine said its air defences intercepted 18 missiles and 108 drones, but the strikes still caused casualties and extensive damage across Kyiv and other regions, highlighting growing concerns over Ukraine's dwindling air defence capabilities.

through the rubble of damaged apartment buildings and extinguishing fires caused by the strikes. One resident, identified only as Vlad, said he was inside his apartment when the blast ripped off his balcony door,

striking him in the head. He said he could not flee because his elderly grandmother, who is unable to walk, lives with him. The attack also destroyed an underground pedestrian passage near a metro station frequently targeted by Russian strikes. Elsewhere, three people were killed and 16 injured in a separate missile strike in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region, while Russian forces also hit a rehabilitation centre in the neighbouring Sumy region. Ukraine's military said it intercepted 18 of the 41 missiles and shot down 108 of the 125 drones launched overnight. The latest barrage comes as Ukraine faces a growing shortage of U.S.-supplied air defence systems, leaving major cities increasingly vulnerable to sustained missile attacks.

Sao Tome Prez faces party rival in polls

SAO TOME

Sao Tome and Principe is voting in a presidential election on Sunday, with incumbent Carlos Vila Nova seeking a new five-year term in the small, cocoa-producing island nation despite recently falling out with its most powerful political party. Vila Nova, a former public works and infrastructure minister, won the last election in 2021 in a runoff. In that race he had the backing of the Independent Democratic Action party, known by its Portuguese acronym ADI, which holds a majority of seats in the National Assembly. But last year Vila Nova dismissed Patrice Trovoada as prime minister, prompting a split with the ADI that has left him running as an independent on Sunday against three other candidates. His main challenger, Nito Abreu, has vowed to focus on creating jobs for youth and stem what he describes as an exodus of young

people from the country, which is made up of two main islands and has a population of around 240,000. A former Portuguese colony situated off the western coast of Africa, Sao Tome and Principe has enjoyed a history of free and peaceful elections since the adoption of multiparty politics in 1990. But in 2022, the government announced it had thwarted a coup attempt, the first in nearly two decades, involving at least one member of a South African apartheid-era militia known as the Buffalo Battalion. The Africa Center for Strategic Studies, linked to the U.S. Department of Defense, said in a briefing that Sunday's election is a chance to show such violence is an isolated aberration rather than an ongoing feature of national politics. There are 142,298 eligible voters, according to the election commission. Polls opened at 7 a.m. (0700 GMT) and are scheduled to close at 6 p.m., with preliminary results expected late on Sunday.

Tate brothers arrested in US

LOS ANGELES

Social media influencers Andrew and Tristan Tate have been arrested in the United States after British authorities filed 38 new criminal charges against the brothers, including rape, human trafficking, actual bodily harm and offences relating to indecent images of a child. The arrests follow a request by the United Kingdom to extradite the brothers so they can face prosecution over both the newly filed charges and previously existing allegations. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said the additional charges were brought after investigators identified four more alleged victims. Andrew Tate, 39, faces seven additional counts of rape along with charges related to sex trafficking and indecent images of a child. His brother Tristan, 38, has been charged with two counts of rape and three counts of arranging or facilitating trafficking for sexual exploitation. The alleged offences span the period between July 2010 and August 2017. The brothers, who hold dual British and American citizenship, have denied all allegations. They were arrested in Miami, according to multiple



Social media influencers Andrew and Tristan Tate were arrested in the US following fresh British charges of rape and sex trafficking; total charges risen to 59

media reports, while the U.S. Marshals Service has not yet commented publicly on the case. Assistant Chief Constable Karen Thomas said the total number of charges against the brothers now stands at 59. The arrests add to the brothers' growing legal challenges, as they also face criminal proceedings in Romania, where authorities have been investigating them since late 2022. Andrew Tate is also expected to stand trial in Britain later this year in a separate civil case brought by four women alleging physical and sexual abuse. The brothers have built a massive online following through content centred on masculinity and wealth.

Lai urges Taiwan to resist China

TAIPEI

Taiwan President Lai Ching-te on Sunday called on the people of Taiwan to unite in defending the island's democracy and reject what he described as China's growing red terror campaign, warning against Beijing's efforts to bring Taiwan under its control. Addressing the ruling Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) annual convention, Lai urged party members to remain vigilant despite the absence of open conflict. He accused China of expanding its use of legal warfare, pointing to Beijing's recently introduced ethnic unity law, which Taiwanese fears could be used to justify legal action against Taiwanese citizens abroad whom China considers separatists. Lai said Taiwan must never allow its democratic system to be undermined or become part of China. Speaking in Taiwanese rather than the official Mandarin language, he

appealed to party workers to stand united against external threats. We must work together to protect our democratic and free way of life, and absolutely never allow 'democratic Taiwan' to turn back and become 'China's Taiwan', Lai said. China considers Taiwan a breakaway province and has repeatedly rejected Lai's calls for dialogue, branding him a separatist. Taiwan, however, maintains that the People's Republic of China has never governed the island and has no legal authority over it. Lai reiterated that Taiwan is already an independent country under its constitutional name, the Republic of China, and stressed that the island's future should be determined solely by its 23 million residents. Relations between Beijing and Taipei have remained tense since Lai assumed office, with China continuing military pressure and diplomatic isolation efforts against the self-governed island.



Merz signals chance for cabinet reshuffle

FRANKFURT

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Sunday signalled that he is open to reshaping his cabinet following the resignation of a senior politician over the weekend, suggesting the development could provide an opportunity to review the composition of his government. Speaking to German broadcaster ZDF, Merz said the unexpected vacancy had prompted him to consider whether broader changes within the federal administration might now be appropriate.

While he stopped short of confirming an imminent cabinet reshuffle, his remarks indicated that discussions on the government's future direction could now take place. It could be an opportunity, Merz said when asked whether the resignation would lead to changes within the cabinet. He added that the situation presented a chance to reconsider the composition of the federal government. The resignation comes at a politically significant time for Merz's administration as it

faces growing expectations to deliver on key domestic and economic priorities. Although the chancellor did not identify which ministerial portfolios could be affected, his comments have fuelled speculation that the government may use the occasion to strengthen its leadership team and improve policy coordination. Cabinet reshuffles are often used by governments to refresh leadership, address political challenges or bring new expertise into key ministries.

TRUMP-AOUN TALKS

Lebanese President seeks US push on Hezbollah

BEIRUT

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun is set to make his first official visit to the White House this week, where he will present US President Donald Trump with a proposal to disarm Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah and secure the withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon. Aoun, the first Lebanese head of state to visit the White House in nearly two decades, will hold his first face-to-face meeting with Trump on Tuesday. The visit comes at a crit-



ical juncture as Lebanon continues to grapple with Israeli military presence in its south, widespread displacement caused by recent hostilities

and mounting political tensions over Hezbollah's future. According to Lebanese officials, Aoun will submit a written roadmap outlining how the

Lebanese state plans to gradually dismantle Hezbollah's extensive arsenal. In return, he is expected to seek stronger U.S. pressure on Israel to fully implement a U.S.-brokered agreement signed on June 26. The agreement calls for Hezbollah's disarmament, a phased Israeli military withdrawal from Lebanese territory and the creation of conditions for peaceful relations between the two countries. Speaking last week, Aoun said he would urge Trump to exert the necessary pressure on Israel to honour its commitments under the agree-

ment. Lebanese officials believe the U.S. president is uniquely positioned to influence Israel and help restore Lebanon's sovereignty. A former commander of Lebanon's U.S.-backed army, Aoun became president last year after years of political deadlock. His rise followed Hezbollah's weakened position after Israel's 2024 military campaign and the fall of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, developments that significantly altered Lebanon's political landscape and reduced the group's long-standing influence.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPUR C.M.S.No.106/2026

BETWEEN: 1. SRI. SRINIVAS K.C S/o Channappa K.C Aged about 35Years, Riat, Karepura Purushanahalli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District

AND: REGISTRAR OF BIRTH AND DEATHS REPRESENTED BY TANSILDHAR DODDABALLAPUR RESPONDENT

PETITIONER

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the petitioner filed a petition under section 13(3) of the Registration of Birth and Death act-1969, for obtaining death certificate the Father of the petitioner namely Channappa K.C S/o Late Chikathimnempowda, was Purushanahalli, Doddaballapur Taluk, and Bangalore rural district died on 18.9.2010 at Karepura Purushanahalli. Hearing date of the above case is on 20-08-2026 if any person having any claim or objections with this regard, they may appear before this Hon'ble court in person/ by pleader on the date mentioned above at about 11.00 AM, failing which the petition will be disposed of ex-parte.

Even my hand and seal of this Hon'ble court on this date 10.07.2026

By the order of the court
Chief ministerial officer Addl. Civil judge and JMFC Doddaballapur
Advocate for petitioner: ADVOCATE Doddaballapur

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Saka hat-trick powers Eng past France for WC third place

MIAMI GARDENS

Bukayo Saka produced a dazzling hat-trick as England defeated France 6-4 in a breath-taking FIFA World Cup third-place playoff, while Kylian Mbappé surpassed Lionel Messi's career World Cup scoring tally and strengthened his grip on the Golden Boot race.

The thrilling contest at Hard Rock Stadium featured 10 goals, making it the highest-scoring World Cup match since Hungary's 10-1 victory over El Salvador in 1982 and the most prolific third-place playoff in tournament history.

England raced into a commanding 4-0 lead before halftime through goals from Declan Rice, Ezri Konsa and a first-half brace from Saka.

The Arsenal winger struck in the 37th minute and again in stoppage time to put the Three Lions firmly in control.

France mounted a spirited comeback after the break, led by Mbappé, who scored twice in the 48th and 66th minutes to take his career World Cup tally to 22 goals, moving one ahead of Lionel Messi. With 10 goals in the 2026 tournament, the French captain also leads the race for the Golden

England secure second-best WC finish since historic 1966 title triumph with France victory.

Boot by two goals over the Argentine superstar.

Bradley Barcola and Ousmane Dembélé also found the net for France as they threatened an unlikely recovery.

However, Saka completed his second international hat-trick with a late penalty in the 87th minute before Jude Bellingham sealed England's victory deep into stoppage time with his sev-

enth goal of the tournament.

The result secured England's second-best finish in World Cup history, surpassed only by their title-winning campaign in 1966.

Despite falling short of a place in the final, both teams entertained a sell-out crowd of 64,478 with an attacking spectacle. England had narrowly missed out on the final after losing 2-1 to Argentina in the semi-finals, while France's hopes of reaching a third consecutive World Cup final ended with defeat to Spain.

The match also marked the

end of an era for France, as long-serving head coach Didier Deschamps took charge of his final game after announcing he would step down following the tournament. The World Cup-winning coach received a warm farewell, embracing his players and acknowledging supporters after the final whistle.

Attention now turns to Sunday's final, where Argentina and Spain will battle for the title, with Messi still having one last opportunity to challenge Mbappé in the race for the tournament's Golden Boot.

Viking row, giant-killers and hotshots define memorable FIFA WC

WC delivered unforgettable drama through goals, upsets, controversies and remarkable underdog stories everywhere.

MIAMI

The first-ever 48-team FIFA World Cup has produced an unforgettable spectacle, combining breathtaking football with dramatic upsets, political controversies and memorable moments that have captivated fans across Canada, Mexico and the United States.

One of the biggest talking points has been the race for the Golden Boot.

France captain Kylian Mbappé heads into the final day with 10 goals after scoring twice in his side's 6-4 defeat to England in the third-place playoff. He also became the highest scorer in World Cup history with 22 career goals.

The tournament also celebrated the rise of football's emerging nations. Debutants Cape Verde stunned the football world by finishing unbeaten in the group stage despite sharing a group with former champions Spain and Uruguay.

Their dream run ended only after pushing defending



champions Argentina into extra time in the Round of 32.

Caribbean nation Curaçao, the smallest country by population to qualify for the World Cup, also earned widespread admiration by holding Ecuador to a goalless draw after suffering a heavy defeat to Germany in their opening match.

Argentina's remarkable resilience has been another defining feature of the tournament. The defending champions repeatedly recovered from difficult situations, coming from behind against Egypt and England while surviving extra-time battles against Cape Verde and Switzerland to reach another World Cup final.

Off the field, controversy erupted when FIFA overturned the suspension of United States striker Folarin Balogun following intervention linked to U.S. President Donald Trump. The decision drew widespread criticism, although the hosts were eventually eliminated by Belgium in the Round of 16.



Expanded WC wins over fans, bettors with record engagement

Paris: FIFA's decision to expand the World Cup from 32 to 48 teams has delivered a resounding commercial success, with betting activity soaring well beyond expectations and helping validate President Gianni Infantino's ambitious vision for the tournament.

According to reports, betting volume during the 2026 World Cup has increased by 80 per cent compared to the 2022 edition, despite the larger number of matches in the expanded competition.

"We've seen an 80 per cent increase in ticket volume," Darren Small, Senior Vice President of Managed Trading Services at Sportradar, told.

"We're seeing more bets, more active customers and record numbers that have exceeded our expectations," he added.

The 2026 tournament featured 48 teams and 104 matches, significantly more than previous editions. While the expanded format initially faced criticism from fans who feared one-sided contests and a diluted competition.

Rathanvel becomes India's 99th Grandmaster, eyes bigger milestones

NEW DELHI

V.S. Rathanvel ended a five-year wait to become India's 99th Grandmaster after crossing the coveted 2500 Elo rating mark at the Guwahati Smart City International Open 2026, taking the country one step closer to the landmark of 100 Grandmasters.

The 25-year-old from Coimbatore had completed all three Grandmaster norms in 2022 but repeatedly fell short of the required rating, turning the final hurdle into a prolonged battle of patience and perseverance.

A World Youth Under-10 bronze medallist and one of India's strongest International Masters in recent years, Rathanvel said achieving the title after several near misses brought immense satisfaction.

"I came very close on multiple occasions, so it becomes very depressing because chess is a mental sport and you suddenly start doubting yourself," Rathanvel told.

"That really affects a player's performance. So finally crossing the 2500 rating feels very satisfying," he added. The newly crowned Grandmaster believes the biggest benefit of earning the title will be the freedom to compete without constantly worrying about maintaining his rating. "I'll be able to play stress-free and probably a bit more relaxed. I think that will help me perform better," he said.

Rathanvel began playing chess at the age of six and trained under several renowned coaches, including Grandmasters Vishnu Prasanna, Narayanan Srinath and Shyam Sundar, besides Sundarrajan Kidambi.

Although he holds a degree in mechanical engineering, he has chosen to pursue chess as a full-time profession. His parents run a wedding card printing business in Coimbatore,



while Rathanvel supports his career by competing in European leagues and coaching aspiring players online. He learnt the basics of the game at the Kovai Kids Chess Academy before rising through India's highly competitive chess ranks.

Looking ahead, the Grandmaster said he hopes the title will open doors to stronger international tournaments.

"My goal now is to receive invitations to stronger events. By September, I'll start planning the major tournaments I want to play," he said.

All India Chess Federation (AICF) president Nitin Narang congratulated Rathanvel, describing his achievement as another significant milestone for Indian chess.

With Rathanvel becoming the country's 99th Grandmaster, India now stands just one title away from the historic landmark of producing its 100th Grandmaster, underlining the nation's emergence as one of the world's leading chess powers.

Chelsea seal record £117m deal for England star Morgan Rogers

LONDON

Chelsea have agreed a British record transfer worth £117 million to sign England international Morgan Rogers from Aston Villa, beating Premier League rivals Arsenal in one of the biggest moves of the summer transfer window.

The 23-year-old forward is expected to sign a six-year contract, with an option to extend for a further year. He is scheduled to undergo a medical on Monday after returning from England's FIFA World Cup campaign in the United States.

The deal makes Rogers the most expensive British footballer in history, eclipsing the previous record set earlier this summer when Manchester City signed Elliot Anderson

from Nottingham Forest for £116 million.

Rogers will also become Chelsea's most expensive signing, surpassing the £115 million the London club paid Brighton & Hove Albion for midfielder Moisés Caicedo in 2023.

Arsenal had identified Rogers as their primary attacking target and were expected to approach Aston Villa after the conclusion of the World Cup. However, the Gunners were unwilling to match Chelsea's record-breaking offer, allowing the Blues to complete the transfer.

Interestingly, Rogers leaves Aston Villa, who secured UEFA Champions League football, to join a Chelsea side

that will not feature in European competition next season.

The versatile attacker enjoyed an outstanding 2025-26 campaign, scoring 14 goals and providing 11 assists in 55 appearances for Villa. His consistent performances earned him a regular place in the England squad, where he has already won 21 international caps.

At the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Rogers featured in five matches and provided the assist for Anthony Gordon's goal in England's semi-final defeat to Argentina, further enhancing his growing reputation.

The transfer also represents a major financial windfall for Middlesbrough,

Rogers' former club. Under the terms of the agreement negotiated when Villa signed him in January 2024, Middlesbrough will receive approximately £20.3 million through a 20 per cent sell-on clause.

Having originally bought Rogers from Manchester City for just £1.1 million in 2023 before selling him to Villa six months later for £15.5 million, Middlesbrough will ultimately earn around £35.8 million from the player's transfer journey.

Chelsea will now hope Rogers can justify his record price tag by becoming a central figure in their rebuilding project as they seek to return to the top of English football under their new managerial regime.



Lakers sign Albert as new jersey patch sponsor

Los Angeles: The Los Angeles Lakers have announced a new jersey patch partnership with personal financial assistant app Albert, marking another significant commercial move under the franchise's new ownership. The NBA club confirmed that Albert will become the Lakers' official jersey patch partner, with the company's logo set to appear on the upper left chest of all four official team uniform designs from the upcoming season. The sponsorship is one of several changes introduced since Los Angeles Dodgers owner Mark Walter acquired a controlling stake in the Lakers last year. Walter has overseen a series of commercial and organisational decisions aimed at reshaping one of the NBA's most iconic franchises.

NFL suspends Cardinals executive indefinitely over gambling policy breach

NEW YORK

The NFL has indefinitely suspended Arizona Cardinals personnel executive Ryan Gold for violating the league's gambling policy after an investigation found he shared confidential draft-related information and participated in prohibited sports betting.

The league announced that Gold, the Cardinals' director of college scouting, provided non-public information regarding the franchise's 2026 NFL Draft selections before they were announced. Investigators also found that he placed parlay bets on NFL and college football games, breaching league regulations. The NFL did not disclose who received the confidential information.

In a statement, the league stressed that all employees are annually briefed on its strict gambling rules, which prohibit personnel from participating in sports betting, facilitat-

ing gambling activities, or sharing insider information with third parties.

The NFL said there was no evidence that the integrity of any game had been compromised but emphasised that violations of its gambling policy are treated with utmost seriousness.

The Arizona Cardinals expressed full support for the league's decision, describing the case as involving a single employee. The franchise said its focus remains on preparations for training camp and the upcoming 2026 season.

Gold, who is in his 13th season with the Cardinals, was promoted to director of college scouting in June 2025 after serving in several scouting roles within the organisation. He has the right to appeal the indefinite suspension.

The NFL noted that the Cardinals fully cooperated with the investigation and that there was no indication any other member of the organisation.

Europe rights body questions FIFA WC integrity, seeks reforms for 2030

GENEVA

Europe's leading human rights organisation has raised serious concerns over the integrity of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, urging world football's governing body to strengthen transparency and governance ahead of the 2030 tournament to be hosted mainly by Spain, Portugal and Morocco.

In an open letter, Alain Berset, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, warned that the credibility of football's biggest event was being undermined by the growing influence of "money and power."

"The next crisis has already begun. It has two names: money and power," Berset wrote, calling on FIFA to work with the Council of Europe to establish a stronger integrity framework for future tournaments.

Berset cited FIFA's contro-

versial decision to suspend the one-match ban imposed on United States forward Folarin Balogun after reported pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump.

The move allowed Balogun to feature in the knockout stages, prompting criticism from several quarters over FIFA's disciplinary independence.

"When the rules bend under pressure, every result is open to doubt," Berset said, adding that political influence had reached the football field.

The Council of Europe also questioned FIFA's commercial partnership with prediction market sponsor ADI Predictstreet, reportedly worth around 150 million dollars. Berset argued that prediction

betting, which allows wagers on individual in-game events such as passes, corners or cards, increases the risk of match manipulation and insider abuse.

"It is an open door to fraud, and this World Cup has opened the door wider," he said.

The criticism is particularly significant because the Council of Europe signed a memorandum of understanding with FIFA in 2018 to promote transparency, accountability, integrity and respect for human rights in global football.

The body also highlighted concerns over racist abuse directed at players, attacks on referees and the lack of transparency surrounding FIFA's disciplinary decisions during the tournament.



64-team World Cup boosts India's hopes, says Bhutia

NEW DELHI

Former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia believes expanding the FIFA World Cup to 64 teams would improve India's chances of qualifying for the game's biggest tournament, though he cautioned that such a move could dilute the overall quality of the competition.

FIFA is considering a proposal from South American football body CONMEBOL to increase the number of participating teams from 48 to 64 for the 2030 World Cup. While no decision has been taken, FIFA president Gianni Infantino has said the proposal will be reviewed after the ongoing 2026 World Cup.

"From the perspective of an Indian football fan, I think it's a welcome move. I'm not saying India will qualify, but India will have a better chance if the World Cup expands to 64 teams," Bhutia said.

The former striker, however, stressed that qualification cannot come through expansion alone. He urged Indian football authorities to strengthen grassroots development, improve coaching structures and focus on youth competitions.

"We still need to get our system and structure right. India has to regularly qualify for Under-17 and Under-20 World Cups before expecting the senior team to make



it. Countries like Uzbekistan and Morocco have shown how sustained youth development leads to success," he said.

Bhutia also warned that increasing the number of teams could reduce the standard and competitiveness of the World Cup.

"From the perspective of football fans across the world, the quality and excitement of the tournament would definitely decrease if 64 teams are playing," he added.

The Indian football legend was more optimistic about the women's national team, saying it has a better chance of qualifying for the expanded 2031 FIFA Women's World Cup, which will feature 48 teams.

India's women's team is currently ranked 69th in the world and 13th in Asia, significantly higher than the men's side, which is placed 138th globally and 26th in Asia. Bhutia said greater investment in the Indian Women's League, age-group competitions and grassroots programmes would be essential to realise that potential.

QUICK READ

New bills set for Monsoon Session

New Delhi

The Centre will introduce five new bills during the Monsoon Session of Parliament beginning Monday, including measures on income tax, MSME reforms, Supreme Court judge strength, birth and death registration, and national honour.

The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill seeks to replace an ordinance aimed at attracting foreign investment in government securities. Another Bill proposes increasing Supreme Court judges from 33 to 37. The MSME Bill focuses on ease of doing business and delayed payments, while amendments to birth registration and national honour laws seek stricter provisions. The session is expected to witness intense debates between the government and Opposition.

SEBI expands forensic audit panel with firms

New Delhi

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has empanelled 18 additional firms, including Ernst & Young LLP, KPMG Assurance and Consulting Services LLP, Zx Grant Thornton Bharat LLP and Nangia & Co LLP, to conduct forensic audits of listed companies. The empanelment, valid for three years, follows a selection process initiated in November 2025. The expanded panel will assist SEBI in investigating suspected financial irregularities, strengthening corporate transparency and protecting investor interests. The newly added firms join the existing panel to support independent forensic audits and enhance confidence in India's securities market through improved regulatory oversight.

DIs counter FI selling, markets stay resilient

New Delhi

Strong buying by Domestic Institutional Investors (DIs) offset heavy Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) outflows during the week, helping Indian equity markets remain resilient despite global uncertainties. FIs sold equities worth Rs 8,743.35 crore, while DIs invested a net Rs 8,790.75 crore, enabling the Nifty to close the week at 24,334.30. Analysts said robust domestic liquidity, stable macroeconomic fundamentals and improving corporate earnings continue to support markets. However, geopolitical tensions, elevated crude oil prices and uncertainty over global interest rates may keep volatility high, with the ongoing Q1 FY27 earnings season expected to drive market direction.

Critical mineral investment slips amid rising demand

New Delhi

Global investment in critical minerals declined by 9 per cent in 2025 despite strong demand growth for resources essential to clean energy technologies, electric vehicles, and advanced industries, according to the International Energy Agency's



Indian crafts gain global economic momentum

Traditional Indian craftsmanship can boost economic growth, preserve heritage, and connect artisans with global markets through innovation and partnerships.

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday highlighted the potential of traditional Indian craftsmanship to contribute significantly to economic growth, innovation, and global market integration. The Prime Minister's Office shared an article by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, which underlined how the government's One District, One Product (ODOP) initiative is helping local artisans access wider markets, create sustainable livelihoods, preserve cultural heritage, and enhance India's global competitiveness.

The Finance Minister highlighted the example of Vastrakala, an Indo-French collaboration based in Chennai, which combines French haute couture techniques with India's centuries-old embroidery traditions. She noted that such partnerships demonstrate how Indian artisans can connect with international markets while preserving traditional skills.

During her visit to Vastrakala's workshop in Gudapakkam, Tiruvallur district, Sitharaman observed how the organisation had shifted from Chennai city to a rural location to bring high-value craftsmanship closer to villages where these

ODOP EXPANDS MARKETS FOR LOCAL ARTISANS

- Industrialization reduced traditional rural craft practices.
- Crafts boost growth and global integration.
- Global partnerships preserve heritage embroidery techniques.
- Workshop relocation encourages critical reverse migration.
- Handicrafts provide vital alternative drought livelihoods.

skills have been nurtured for generations.

She described the initiative as an example of reverse migration, where a company moved towards rural communities instead of workers moving to cities in search of opportunities. The move has helped create employment opportunities while supporting local artisans and preserving traditional knowledge.

The Finance Minister also highlighted the historical connection between agriculture and handicrafts in regions such as the Kanchipuram-Sriperumbudur-Tiruvallur belt. During periods of drought, farming communities often relied on embroidery and needlework as an alternative source of livelihood. These skills reflected patience, precision, and creativity developed over generations.

However, industrialisation and urban migration gradually reduced the presence of traditional crafts in many villages. As agricultural lands transformed into industrial zones and employment patterns

The highway will improve connectivity, reduce travel time, strengthen trade, and boost tourism across Odisha's key coastal, religious, and economic hubs.

Odisha coastal highway boosts economy, tourism growth

NEW DELHI

Odisha is set to witness a major infrastructure transformation with the construction of the 160.18-km Rameshwar-Paradeep Coastal Highway, a project worth Rs 8,300.79 crore to be developed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). The highway is expected to improve connectivity, reduce travel time, and accelerate economic growth across the state's coastal region.

The project comprises a four-lane access-controlled highway from Rameshwar to Konark and a two-lane highway with paved shoulders from Konark to Paradeep. Designed for a speed of 100 kmph, the corridor is expected to reduce travel time between Rameshwar and Paradeep by nearly two-and-a-half hours, benefiting both passenger travel and freight movement.

Aligned with the PM GatiShakti initiative, the highway will connect nine economic nodes and five logistics hubs, strengthening Odisha's transport and trade network. It will also improve access to key infrastructure, including Paradeep Port, Puri Railway Station, the upcoming Puri Airport, and other important commercial centres.

Passing through Khurda, Puri, Kendrapada, and Jagatsinghpur districts, the corridor will link major cultural, religious, tourism, and economic destinations. It will enhance connectivity to the Jagannath Temple in Puri, the

COASTAL HIGHWAY TO TRANSFORM ODISHA REGION

- Infrastructure Upgrade:** The project builds a four-lane access-controlled highway to Konark and a two-lane highway to Paradeep.
- Reduced Travel Time:** Designed for speeds up to 100 kmph, cutting the Rameshwar-Paradeep commute by 2.5 hours.
- Economic Infrastructure Links:** The corridor connects nine economic nodes, five logistics hubs, Paradeep Port, and Puri Airport.
- Spiritual Tourism Boost:** The route passes four key districts, easing access to Jagannath, Konark, and Ramchandi temples.
- Local Community Growth:** Improved coastal connectivity will drive eco-tourism and create new hospitality and business opportunities.

Odisha highway boosts regional growth

The Rameshwar-Paradeep Coastal Highway will connect major logistics hubs and economic nodes. Beyond accelerating trade, this strategic corridor links iconic religious landmarks and biodiversity hotspots like Gahirmatha, generating extensive local employment, hospitality ventures, and sustainable eco-tourism opportunities across coastal Odisha.

Konark Sun Temple, and the Ramchandi Temple, making pilgrimage travel safer, faster, and more convenient for

Critical mineral investment slips amid rising demand

Global transition towards clean energy and advanced technologies.

Battery metals recorded the sharpest decline, with capital spending in the segment falling more than 20 per cent, marking the biggest drop in over a decade. Lithium companies reduced investment by nearly 40 per cent as market



Government extends solar ALMM relief till December

NEW DELHI

The Centre has extended the exemption from mandatory sourcing of Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) List-II solar photovoltaic (PV) cells for net metering and open access renewable energy projects until December 31, 2026. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) clarified that the extension is a limited transition measure and not a blanket relaxation for all solar projects.

The exemption, which was earlier available until May 31, has been granted to facilitate a smooth shift to mandatory procurement of ALMM List-II-compliant solar PV cells for the affected project categories.

The ministry emphasised that there is no change in the government's broader policy on implementing ALMM List-II. All net metering and open access renewable energy projects commissioned after December 31, 2026, will be required to comply with the existing norms by sourcing solar PV cells from ALMM List-II-approved manufacturers and solar PV modules

The extension provides a transition period for developers while supporting domestic solar manufacturers and strengthening India's self-reliance in solar photovoltaic production.

from ALMM List-I.

According to the ministry, the decision was taken after consultations with stakeholders across the solar industry to ensure an orderly transition while supporting project implementation.

The extension is also expected to benefit standalone solar PV module manufacturers by creating additional demand and helping them utilise existing inventories. It will provide manufacturers more time to gradually increase sourcing from ALMM List-II-approved domestic cell manufacturers as India's solar cell

"It added that the policy aims to build a robust domestic manufacturing ecosystem and position India as a significant player in the global solar value chain while supporting the country's clean energy transition."

—Ministry

Solar cell ALMM mandate deferred

India extends solar cell ALMM exemption to December 31, 2026. The move ensures an orderly transition for open access and net metering projects, while allowing local module manufacturers to clear existing inventory and smoothly transition to domestic cell sourcing.

manufacturing capacity continues to expand.

Reiterating its commitment to strengthening domestic manufacturing, the ministry said promoting self-reliance in solar PV production remains a key government priority.

Samsung cuts US jobs ahead of headquarters shift

SEOUL

Samsung Electronics has cut hundreds of jobs in the United States as it prepares to move the headquarters of its consumer electronics unit from New Jersey to Texas, affecting employees mainly in New Jersey and Texas.

The South Korean technology giant said 739 positions at Samsung Electronics America (SEA) in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, have been impacted by the relocation plan. A majority of affected employees have received relocation offers, while some workers have been laid off.

Separately, around 100 employees at Samsung's Plano, Texas office, including staff from its mobile division, have also lost their jobs, according to sources familiar with the matter. The company said the restructuring was linked to changes in workforce requirements and efforts to align operations with key business priorities.

The job reductions highlight contrasting trends within Samsung's businesses. While its semiconductor division is benefiting from strong demand driven by artificial intelligence technologies, its consumer electronics operations are facing challenges due to rising chip costs and intense competition.

Samsung has projected a sharp increase in second-quarter profit due to strong AI-related chip demand and announced major investments in semiconductor manufacturing. However, its mobile division is expected to face pressure from competition with rivals including Apple and Chinese electronics companies.

SINGAPORE

Users of Meta-owned social media platforms Facebook and Instagram reported outages on Sunday, with difficulties accessing the apps and websites across multiple locations. The disruptions affected users in the United States and Singapore, with reports indicating intermittent access and connectivity problems.

According to outage monitoring website Downt detector, Facebook users in the United States submitted 4,808 reports by 0746 GMT. Around 63% of the complaints were related to problems accessing the Facebook website, while others reported issues with app performance and connectivity.

Instagram users also experienced disruptions, with 2,829 reports filed in the US by 0818 GMT. Several users reported difficulties loading content, accessing the application, or maintaining a stable connection. Reuters checks further confirmed that access to both Facebook and Instagram was inconsistent in Singapore during the reported outage period.

Meta, which operates Facebook, Instagram, and other major digital platforms, did not immediately respond to requests for comment regarding the cause of the disruption. The company also did not provide details about the scope of the outage or when normal services would resume.

The incident highlights the challenges faced by large technology platforms that support billions of users worldwide. Social media

networks have become critical communication channels for individuals, businesses, advertisers, and content creators, making service interruptions potentially disruptive.

Facebook and Instagram are among Meta's most widely used platforms, supporting activities ranging from personal communication and entertainment to online marketing and business operations. Even short-term outages can affect user engagement, advertising campaigns, and digital services that depend on these platforms.

While major platforms maintain extensive infrastructure to prevent disruptions, occasional outages can occur due to technical failures, system updates, or unexpected operational issues. Users typically rely on official company updates and service monitoring platforms to track recovery progress during such incidents.

The latest disruption adds to the growing focus on reliability and resilience in global digital networks as online platforms continue to play an increasingly important role in everyday communication and commerce.

STAR MARKET DEBUT

CXMT IPO demand softens amid chip selloff

SHANGHAI

Chinese memory chipmaker CXMT Corp's \$8.6 billion initial public offering received strong institutional interest but saw comparatively cautious demand amid a global selloff in semiconductor stocks. The IPO was oversubscribed more than 500 times by institutional investors, according to a company filing.

CXMT said institutional investors, including mutual funds, pension funds, and insurers, subscribed for 1.24 trillion shares against 2.17 billion shares offered to them, translating into an oversubscription ratio of around 570 times.

CXMT's IPO, the largest in Asia so far this year, comes as semiconductor companies face pressure from a sharp market correction. Investors in major technology hubs have raised concerns over whether the artificial intelligence-driven chip boom has pushed valuations too high.

China's STAR Market, which hosts many leading semiconductor firms, has fallen about 25% from its July peak, reducing market value by more than 4 trillion yuan (\$590 billion). The decline has weighed on investor enthusiasm for new chip offerings.

CXMT, China's leading memory chip manufacturer and the world's fourth-largest DRAM producer after Samsung, SK Hynix, and Micron Technology, is expected to list on the STAR Market later this month. Sources said the company's shares could begin trading on July 27.

The listing will be closely watched as Beijing continues efforts to strengthen domestic semiconductor capabilities amid technological competition with the United States.



Mirabai, Lovlina to lead India at CWG opener

Olympic medallists Mirabai and Lovlina will proudly lead India's Commonwealth Games contingent together.

NEW DELHI

Olympic medallists Mirabai Chanu and Lovlina Borgohain have been named India's flag and baton bearers for the opening ceremony of the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced.

The opening ceremony of the scaled-down multi-sport event will take place on July 23 at the OVO Hydro arena, where the two decorated athletes will lead the Indian contingent.

IOA President P.T. Usha described the decision as a

proud moment for Indian sport, saying the honour reflected the achievements and leadership of two of the country's finest women athletes.

"It is a matter of pride Mirabai and Lovlina will be doing the honours at the OVO Hydro. I wish both the girls and the entire contingent good luck," Usha said.

She added that selecting two women to lead Team India at the opening ceremony would set the right tone for the Games and acknowledged their consistent performances on the international stage. Usha also noted that both ath-

letes are training intensely in the United Kingdom ahead of the competition.

Mirabai, who has been India's premier weightlifter for nearly a decade, won a silver medal in the women's 49kg category at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 before claiming Commonwealth Games gold in Birmingham in 2022. Although she missed the podium at the Paris Olympics in 2024, she remains one of India's strongest medal contenders in Glasgow. She is also a multiple medallist at the World Weightlifting Championships. Lovlina has enjoyed an

equally impressive career. The Assamese boxer won a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics, captured gold at the 2023 World Championships and added a silver medal at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou. She enters the Glasgow Games as one of India's leading medal prospects.

India will look to its experienced stars to inspire the contingent at the opening ceremony before the competition begins, with Mirabai and Lovlina expected to play key roles in the country's medal campaign at the Commonwealth Games.



Spa continues to test the best as F1's greatest drivers chase glory

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

The Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps once again reaffirmed its status as Formula One's most iconic and demanding venue, offering a spectacular blend of high-speed straights, sweeping corners and unpredictable weather that continues to captivate drivers and fans alike.

Now in its 76th year as a Formula One host, Spa first staged a World Championship race in 1950, won by the legendary Juan Manuel Fangio. Since then, the 7km Belgian circuit has earned a reputation as the ultimate driver's track, with its fast-flowing layout and the famous blind uphill Eau Rouge-Raidillon section testing both skill and courage.

This year's event also highlighted the remarkable longevity of several drivers. Fernando Alonso, still competing at 44, shares the grid with 18-year-old Arvid Lindblad, bringing the average age of the current Formula One field to just 28. The contrast reflects the resilience required to survive in one of motorsport's toughest arenas.

Three current drivers — Nico Hulkenberg, Esteban Ocon and Sergio Perez — also share a common link, having all been backed by former Force India team owner Vijay Mallya during different stages of their Formula One careers.

Japan Open triumph boosts Sindhu ahead of World Ch'ships: Vimal Kumar

NEW DELHI

PV Sindhu's impressive triumph at the Japan Open has provided the perfect confidence boost ahead of next month's BWF World Championships in New Delhi, with former India chief coach U. Vimal Kumar hailing the victory as a major milestone after a prolonged title drought.

Sindhu defeated Japan's Akane Yamaguchi 21-17, 21-17 in the final on Sunday to clinch the prestigious BWF World Tour Super 750 title, ending a wait that stretched back to December 2024 for her last World Tour crown.

The Olympic medallist displayed the aggressive, attacking badminton that made her one of the world's most feared players, dominating rallies with powerful smashes and sharp movement against the home favourite.

Vimal Kumar, who closely monitors Sindhu's progress at the Centre of Badminton Excellence (CBE), said the victory was richly deserved and could significantly enhance her prospects at the World Championships.



Vimal Kumar believes Sindhu's title triumph signals resurgence before home World Championships challenge ahead.

there," he said.

According to Vimal, Sindhu's recent struggles stemmed from avoidable unforced errors, passive play and poor shot selection rather than any decline in ability.

He also stressed the importance of remaining injury-free and maintaining peak fitness, especially as several players from her generation continue to compete at the highest level.

Although reigning Olympic champion An Se-young's withdrawal opened up Sindhu's path in Japan, Vimal said the Indian still had to produce high-quality badminton to lift the title.

He now hopes Sindhu can carry the same intensity and confidence into the World Championships on home soil, where India will look to its biggest badminton star to challenge for another global medal.

Burns seizes British Open lead after late decision to compete at Royal Birkdale

Sam Burns leads British Open after unexpected return following daughter's birth and determination.

SOUTHPORT

Sam Burns moved within touching distance of his maiden major title after extending his lead at the British Open, capping a remarkable week that almost never happened following the birth of his second daughter earlier this month.

The American carded a five-under 65 in the third round at Royal Birkdale to reach 10-under 200, opening a two-shot advantage over South Korea's Si Woo Kim and New Zealand's Ryan Fox heading into the final round.

Burns had matched the major championship record with

a sensational 62 on Friday and followed it up with another composed display despite playing alongside Bryson DeChambeau, whose every move continued to attract intense attention from galleries.

The 29-year-old admitted he had initially planned to skip the championship because his wife, Caroline, was due to give birth just days before the tournament. However, after daughter Belle was born on July 3, his wife encouraged him to make the trip to England.

"She basically said, 'I've got this at home. Go over there and give it your best.' And

here we are," Burns said after taking control of the championship.

Burns came close to major success in recent years, narrowly missing a playoff at the U.S. Open last month after failing to hole a crucial putt. He also held the 54-hole lead at last year's U.S. Open before fading in the final round. Those experiences could prove valuable as he chases his first major title.

Ryan Fox also equalled the major championship scoring record with a brilliant 62, while Si Woo Kim remained firmly in contention after a steady 67.

DeChambeau, meanwhile, recovered from an eventful week to post a 69, finishing four shots behind the leader. The American had been handed a controversial two-shot penalty during the second round for improving the area of his intended swing, a decision that sparked animated protests and criticism from fellow players, including Rory McIlroy.



BCCI rules out Rohit's ODI retirement after Lord's clash

NEW DELHI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has firmly dismissed speculation surrounding Rohit Sharma's ODI future, with Secretary Devajit Saikia confirming that third and final ODI against England at Lord's will not be the veteran batter's last appearance for India.

Rumours had suggested that the 39-year-old former India captain had been informed by the selectors that the team management was planning for the future, with young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal expected to be given an extended run in the format.

However, Saikia categorically denied the reports, stating that no such decision had been taken regarding Rohit's retirement from one-day internationals.

"There are a lot of speculations going on in the media about Rohit Sharma's future. I want to firmly assert that there has been no such discussion that Rohit will be playing his last match at Lord's on Sunday," Saikia told.

He reiterated that Rohit remains an integral part of India's ODI plans and will continue to represent the country as long as he remains in the team's scheme of things.

"Rohit is a regular member of the Indian ODI team and he will continue to represent the country as long as he is in the scheme of things. In other words, the Lord's ODI won't be his last match," Saikia said.

According to sources, the BCCI's top leadership was unhappy with the manner in which the issue had been handled by chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar and head coach Gautam Gambhir. The board

secretary is understood to have issued the clarification after discussions involving key stakeholders.

Reports also indicated that Rohit was disappointed after allegedly being informed about the speculation ahead of a crucial international fixture, believing a senior player deserved better communication.

Rohit, one of India's most successful white-ball cricketers, is just 13 matches away from joining the exclusive club of players with 300 ODI appearances.

The opener has consistently maintained that he remains committed to representing India at the highest level and has set his sights on the 2027 ODI World Cup after the team's runner-up finish in the 2023 edition.

With the BCCI now publicly backing him, Rohit's immediate future in India's ODI setup appears secure as he continues to chase both personal milestones and another shot at World Cup glory.



MICHAEL HOLDING RECALLS SOBERS' LASTING LEGACY

CHENNAI

"He has left us, but we have lots of good memories."

Those heartfelt words from West Indies pace legend Michael Holding summed up the emotions of the cricketing world following the death of Sir Garfield Sobers, one of the game's greatest all-rounders, in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Friday. Sobers was 89 and only 11 days short of his 90th birthday.

Holding described Sobers' passing as a deeply saddening moment, saying that although death is inevitable, losing someone

who had remained a constant presence in Caribbean cricket for decades was difficult to accept.

"It is obviously a very sad day. We all know that no one lives forever. But when something like this happens, it still affects you," Holding said.

Although Holding never shared the field with Sobers, he recalled meeting him regularly during West Indies tours, cricket functions and social gatherings across the Caribbean and overseas.

"He was always around cricket. We met at cocktail parties during tours, at functions in Barbados and Lon-

don, and even during the Stanford Twenty20 tournament. We were always in touch in one way or another," Holding said.

Paying tribute to Sobers' immense contribution to the sport, Holding said the former captain had touched countless lives through his achievements and personality.

"He did a lot of great things for West Indies, for Barbados and for individuals he came across. He has left us, but we have lots of good memories," he added.



Sobers' cricketing record remains among the finest in history. Between 1954 and 1974, he played 93 Test matches, scoring 8,032 runs at an average of 57.78 with

26 centuries while also taking 235 wickets with his unique ability to bowl left-arm pace, orthodox spin and wrist spin. He was equally outstanding in the field.

His unbeaten 365 against Pakistan in 1958 stood as the highest individual Test score for 36 years before Brian Lara eclipsed it. Sobers also became the first batter to hit six

sixes in an over in first-class cricket when he achieved the feat for Nottinghamshire against Glamorgan in 1968.

Holding said he could not single out one defining memory of Sobers because every interaction was memorable. Their last meeting came during a virtual conference on West Indies cricket, but the admiration remained unchanged.

With Sobers' passing, cricket has lost one of its greatest icons, while generations of players and fans continue to cherish the remarkable legacy and unforgettable memories he leaves behind.

Mandaviya unveils mascot, anthem for BWF World Championships

NEW DELHI

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya unveiled the official mascot, 'Peacko', and launched the championship anthem for the BWF World Championships, which will be held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi from August 17 to 23.

The ceremony was attended by Badminton Association of India (BAI) president and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Sports Authority of India Director General Hari Rangan Rao, chief national coach Pullela Gopichand and several leading figures from Indian badminton.

The official anthem features all 16 members of India's squad, including two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen, men's doubles stars Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, along with the country's emerging talents.

Speaking at the



launch, Mandaviya said India was steadily establishing itself as a global sporting destination and was well on course to host more international events in the future.

"India is moving towards becoming a sporting nation. Our roadmap is clear as we prepare to host major international events, including our bid for the 2036 Olympic Games," he said.

Mandaviya noted that India had hosted 36 international sporting events over the past two years and described the return of the BWF World Championships after a gap of 17 years as another significant milestone.

"It will not only give our players the advantage of competing at home but also showcase India's capability to organise world-class sporting events," he added.

The official mascot, Peacko, is inspired by the Indian peafowl, the country's national bird.

Brondello suspended one game by WNBA over inappropriate comment

NEW YORK

Toronto Tempo head coach Sandy Brondello has been suspended for one game by the WNBA after making an inappropriate comment during her team's 111-92 defeat to the Atlanta Dream.

The league announced the suspension, stating that all coaches and team personnel are expected to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and respect. Brondello will miss Toronto's game against the Las Vegas Aces on Monday.

The incident occurred after Toronto's Nyara Sabally was injured following contact with Atlanta's Angel Reese. Sabally was called for a foul, and television microphones captured Brondello telling officials that

Reese was a "protected species."

The Australian coach apologised publicly on social media a day later, taking full responsibility for her remarks.

"Angel, I'm sorry," Brondello wrote. "My frustration was with the officiating, but my words unfairly put the focus on you."

She also acknowledged that the phrase carried unintended racial implications in the United States, particularly for Black women in the league.

"I understand that my words carried an impact beyond what I intended, and I'm deeply sorry for that," she added, extending her apology to Reese, her teammates and the Dream organisation.