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J&K BELONGS TO INDIA: US

US envoy Sergio Gor visits Srinagar; hails improving security situation in valley, says US will reconsider downgrading its highest-level travel warning for J&K.

SRINAGAR

In a strong endorsement of India's longstanding position on Jammu and Kashmir, US Ambassador Sergio Gor on Wednesday called the Union Territory "an important part of India" during his first visit to Srinagar.

Gor's remark came after he met J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, marking the first standalone trip by a US envoy to the Union Territory since the abrogation of Article 370 and after the Pahalgam attack.

"It is a pleasure to be here... This is an important part of India. I am here, visiting for the first time. It is an incredibly beautiful place. I am thrilled to be here, thrilled to see this place," Gor said.

Gor's statement will be seen globally as a big shout-out to India's position that J&K is an inalienable and integral part of the country amid Pakistan's repeated misadventures in the region.

Hints at reducing
J&K travel advisory

The envoy also indicated that the US could reconsider its travel warning for J&K, which currently carries a Level 4 "Do Not Travel" advisory because of terrorism and civil unrest.

Eastern Ladakh and Leh are excluded from the advisory.



'Washington won't solve our problems'

Earlier in the day, Omar Abdullah refused to hype up the visit, saying he would not be raising any complaints about Kashmir with the US envoy. Since his National Conference (NC) came to power in J&K, Abdullah has been persistently demanding the restoration of J&K's statehood, which was. "Washington won't solve our problems; the Centre will. I would rather listen to him instead of complaining," Abdullah told reporters. He said it was not his habit to complain about the country's problems to the envoy of another country. "Our problems are not his concern," he added.

"Every so often we re-evaluate those travel warnings. I cannot make any big announcements here today, but it is something we're going to look at," Gor said. "I think a lot of Americans would enjoy coming here and seeing the beauty and opportunity that exists here," he added.

He said the J&K government had taken "incredible steps" towards improving security and making the region safer, adding that Washington would examine whether the

existing warning should be downgraded.

Prior to Gor's visit, former chief minister and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti had urged Gor to review and withdraw it, saying it was affecting families dependent on tourism.

Gor-Omar meet

The US envoy, widely credited for the turnaround in US-India ties following last year's strain, also held bilateral talks with Abdullah. In an X post, Gor said the talks

Visit highlights

DIPLOMATIC STANCE

Ambassador Gor affirmed India's position while speaking to reporters in Srinagar.

TRAVEL ADVISORY REVIEW

He indicated that Washington plans to re-evaluate and potentially re-view its highest-level Level 4 travel advisory for the region.

SECURITY RECOGNITION

He acknowledged the steps taken by the central and regional governments to improve safety and foster local stability.

focused on Abdullah's "priorities" for Kashmir and ways to deepen economic collaboration.

Gor, who is also US President Donald Trump's Special Envoy for South and Central Asia, tweeted, "We discussed ways to deepen economic collaboration and create opportunities that would mutually benefit both of our nations."

Abdullah, on his part, said the discussions centred on deepening engagement with the US on tourism, horticulture and the new economy

Next stop Ladakh

On Thursday, Gor will travel to Ladakh, which will again be a first visit by a US envoy to the region following the 2020 Galwan clashes and the border standoff with China.

'Modi govt ruined future of youth'

It's time for Cong to prepare roadmap for youth: Kharage

NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday accused the Modi government of "destroying" the future of students and asserted that the time has come for the Congress to formulate a comprehensive 'Education-to-Employment Roadmap' for the youth.

In his opening remarks at the Congress Working Committee meeting at the Indira Bhawan here, Kharge also questioned the "silence" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the alleged theft of Ram temple donations and demanded that the PM apologise for it and answer to the people.

"Over the last 12 years, the Modi government has devastated the future of the youth. Instead of new schools opening, 94,000 schools have closed in recent years. Driven by the race for privatisation, higher education is becoming increasingly expensive and out of reach for ordinary families," Kharge said.

He alleged that educational institutions are increasingly being taken over by RSS people.

"Even after studying, our young people face paper leaks,



India is one of the youngest countries in the world, yet our young people are struggling to find quality education and meaningful employment. In the last 12 years, the Modi government has ruined the future of the youth.

-Mallikarjun Kharge,
Congress president

irregularities in recruitment examinations and delays in appointments. The worst affected in this are children from poor backgrounds. That is why the anger rising among the youth across the country is not a one-day affair. This government has never had the time to listen to them. To avoid the problem, the government has always sought some temporary fix. Therefore, they have been forced to take to the streets," Kharge said.

Citing the recently concluded Monsoon session of Parliament, he said, "In Parliament too, we all tried to ensure wide-ranging deliberation on issues of education and examinations.

Miscreants
blow up several
anti-poaching
camps in K'taka

MYSURU/BENGALURU

Unidentified miscreants allegedly blew up several anti-poaching camps in the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in Chamarajanagar using explosives, Forest department sources said on Wednesday.

The attacks come amid continuing anger against the Forest Department following the killing of three alleged poachers in an exchange of fire on August 15.

The Minchinarehalli anti-poaching camp in the Kothanur zone was reportedly destroyed using dynamite and gelatin sticks. The intensity of the blast damaged the camp walls and burnt materials kept inside, sources added.

Several other anti-poaching camps in the Kothanur zone Minchinahalli, Bheemeshwari, Ollemarada Hatti, Budikere, Bandahalli and Kalidoddi were also targeted in the intervening night of August 18-19. There were no injuries to anyone.

Hanur shootout case
under detailed probe: CM

Reacting to the developments, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday said the August 15 Hanur shootout case is being investigated thoroughly and the government will respond only after the inquiry is completed.

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ನಾರಾಯಣ ಗುರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ

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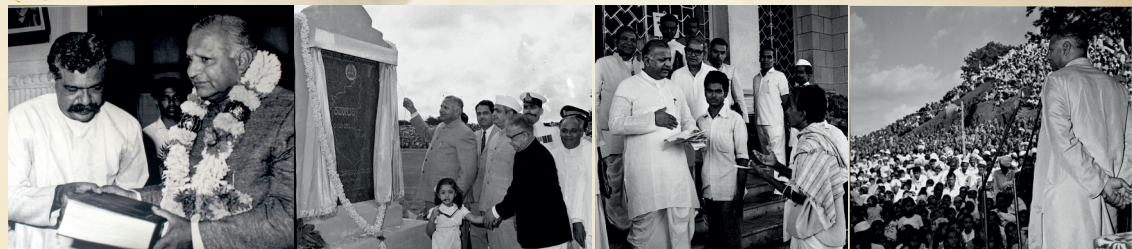
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2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗುವ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು

- ▶ ಸ್ವಯಂ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಸಾಲ ಯೋಜನೆ
- ▶ ಗಂಗಾ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನೆ
- ▶ ಅರಿವು-ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಸಾಲ ಯೋಜನೆ
- ▶ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬಿ ಸಾರಥಿ (ನಾಲ್ಕು ಚಕ್ರಗಳ ವಾಹನ ಖರೀದಿ) ಸಹಾಯಧನ ಯೋಜನೆ

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ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯ



"ನಮ್ಮ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಂಪರೆಯನ್ನು ಗೌರವಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಪಾಡುವುದು"
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ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ಶ್ರೀ ನಾರಾಯಣ ಗುರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ

Quick Read



Couple rescued from lift in Indiranagar

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A couple trapped inside a lift at Vishal Mega Mart on Thippasandra Main Road was rescued swiftly by Indiranagar police. The couple, trapped due to a technical malfunction around 11.53 pm, alerted the Namma-112 emergency helpline. The information was relayed to ASI Guruswamy N. and Head Constable Muthanna K., who were patrolling in Hoysala-30. The officers reached the spot within six minutes and found the lift stalled on the fourth floor with its doors locked. Coordinating with mall staff and security personnel, they rectified the problem and opened the doors. The couple was rescued safely without injuries, highlighting the prompt and coordinated response of Bengaluru City Police and Namma-112.

18.6% of Bengaluru sites inaccessible to PwDs

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Nearly one in five locations assessed in Bengaluru were found inaccessible to persons with disabilities (PwDs), according to 16,265 assessments under the Association for People with Disability's (APD) 'Yes To Access' initiative. The community-powered platform found gaps including inaccessible parking at 11,530 locations, lack of approach signage at 6,106, tactile pathways at 4,819, ramps at 3,740 and accessible toilets at 3,068. Educational and research institutes recorded the highest inaccessibility at 20%, followed by hotels at 19.6% and retail and commercial spaces at 19.5%. APD said accessibility must be planned from the design stage, with mandatory audits, better enforcement, accessible footpaths and crossings, and greater representation of PwDs in infrastructure planning.

North City Corporation launches weekly phone-in

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar has launched the weekly initiative to improve citizen services and provide residents with direct access to the civic administration. The first programme will be held on Friday, August 21, from 7 am to 9 am. Citizens can raise issues concerning potholes and road repairs, streetlight maintenance, door-to-door garbage collection, hazardous trees and branches, mosquito control, stray dogs, parks, unauthorised

B'loru-Chennai Expressway faces legal roadblock

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A legal dispute over a stalled Tamil Nadu package is delaying the Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway, though most of the corridor is nearing completion. Work on the Arakkonam-Kanchipuram stretch in Tamil Nadu has remained stalled at 53% since May 2025 after the concessionaire stopped construction, citing financial constraints. The National Highways Authority of India subsequently initiated termination proceedings against the contractor. However, the Madras High Court directed NHAI to maintain status quo on termination, leaving the matter sub judice with orders reserved.



Nagendra seeks resignations of 126 BJP ministers

Nagendra challenges BJP demands, citing criminal cases against ministers and accusing Opposition of politically targeting him.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Minister B Nagendra hit back at the Opposition on Wednesday, demanding resignations of BJP ministers facing criminal cases across the country. Planning, Monitoring and Statistics Minister B Nagendra launched a sharp counter-attack against the BJP and JD(S), which have been demanding his resignation and disrupting the Monsoon Session over his re-induction into the Karnataka Cabinet. Nagendra claimed that 126 of the 326 BJP ministers across the country had criminal cases against them, including serious charges such as murder, rape and kidnapping.

He questioned why the Opposition was targeting him while allegedly ignoring ministers facing criminal cases. Nagendra was dropped from the Siddaramaiah Cabinet in 2024 following allegations of irregularities in the

NAGENDRA HITS BACK

326: BJP ministers cited by Nagendra

126: BJP ministers he claimed face criminal cases

26: NDA Union ministers he claimed have charges

Aug 3: Nagendra re-inducted into K'taka Cabinet

2024: Nagendra dropped from Cabinet

"If the court rules I am convict and says I have wronged, I am ready to accept any punishment."

-B Nagendra, Planning, Monitoring & Statistics Minister

Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation. Though the Karnataka SIT cleared him, the ED and CBI have chargesheeted him in connection with the case. He is currently out on bail. The BJP and JD(S) combine has strongly opposed his

re-induction into the Cabinet on August 3 and has disrupted proceedings, insisting that he be removed before allowing normal legislative business. Nagendra, who belongs to the Valmiki Scheduled Tribe community, accused the BJP of using Central investigative agencies to level politically

Hotel licence protest leads to FIR

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A protest over rejection of a hotel licence outside the Bengaluru North City Corporation office has led to an FIR. A police case has been registered after a protest was held outside the Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) office over rejection of permission for a proposed hotel business in a residential area. M Y Basappa, a Kodigehalli resident, had applied on June 24 for permission to operate R.P. Restaurant. Following verification, the Corporation issued an endorsement on August 11 stating that the premises falls in a residential area and the road is only 7.2 metres wide. Earlier, Basappa had applied on October 27, 2025, for a licence for R.P. Bar and Restaurant and Boarding and Lodging (CL-7). Residents and the local residents' association objected to the proposal. The application was subsequently rejected on November 14, 2025, under provisions of the BBMP Act, 2020, citing the residential zoning of the

premises. According to the police complaint, Santosh and others, allegedly representing Basappa, staged a protest near the gate of the BNCC Commissioner's Office on August 18 between noon and 2.30 pm. The protesters allegedly raised slogans against the Corporation Commissioner, officials and the government. The complaint further alleges that the protesters obstructed movement within the Corporation premises and on the adjoining public road. Officials reportedly informed them about the High Court order dated March 3, 2022, in Writ Petition No. 5787/2021 concerning protests and processions in Bengaluru. Despite this, the protesters allegedly continued their demonstration.

Dr Ramu G., Medical Officer of Health, Byatarayanapura Division, lodged a complaint at Amruthahalli Police Station seeking action against Santosh and around five to six others. Police have registered a case at Amruthahalli Police Station and launched an investigation.

Why was the licence rejected?

The proposed premises is located in a residential area, while the connecting road is 7.2 metres wide. The Corporation had earlier rejected an application for an R.P. Bar and Restaurant and Boarding and Lodging licence after residents and their association raised objections. The latest application for R.P. Restaurant was also denied based on applicable regulations. A protest against the decision subsequently resulted in a police complaint and FIR.

Hotel licence protest

- June 24: Application submitted for hotel business
- August 11: Corporation rejected permission
- 7.2 metres: Road width at the proposed site
- 12 noon-2.30 pm: Duration of August 18 protest
- 5-6: Others named in the complaint

ra Division, lodged a complaint at Amruthahalli Police Station seeking action against Santosh and around five to six others. Police have registered a case at Amruthahalli Police Station and launched an investigation.

How to raise grievances

Residents can call the North City Corporation during the weekly phone-in to report civic problems, including potholes, garbage, streetlights, stray dogs, mosquito control, parks and footpath encroachments. Complaints will be registered on Sahaaya 2.0 and forwarded to the relevant officials. Citizens will receive complaint and officer details through SMS. Complaints can also be filed through the Sahaaya 2.0 mobile application for convenient follow-up.

Weekly civic phone-in

- Every Friday: Weekly phone-in programme
- August 21: First session
- 7-9 am: Phone-in timings
- Sahaaya 2.0: Complaint registration platform
- 9480685705: Mobile/WhatsApp helpline
- 080-22975936 / 080-2363667: Landline numbers

citizens directly communicate their civic concerns and enable quicker redressal through the concerned departments.

Ask Suvendu, Himanta to resign first

Nagendra said the Opposition should first seek the resignations of BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. He questioned the demand for his resignation while alleging that several BJP ministers face criminal cases. Nagendra maintained that he was not convicted and said he would accept punishment if a court found him guilty. He also accused the BJP of targeting him because he is a Dalit minister.

motivated allegations against him. He maintained that he was not convicted and said he would accept punishment if a court found him guilty. Holding up a copy of the Constitution, Nagendra said it would protect marginalised communities and accused the Opposition of insulting the Valmiki community by repeatedly referring to the controversy as a "Valmiki scam".

Speaker assures support for K'taka's bioenergy initiatives



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

S. E. Sudheendra, Chairman of the Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board, met Karnataka Assembly Speaker G. S. Patil and congratulated him on assuming office as the newly elected Speaker. During the meeting, Sudheendra briefed him on the Board's ongoing bioenergy programmes and sought his cooperation for their implementation, as well as for the proposed new Bioenergy Policy.

He said Karnataka has abundant bio-resources that can be used to produce bio-briquettes, bio-pellets, biodiesel, biochar, biocoal, green hydrogen and compressed biogas (CBG). Sudheendra stressed the need for a comprehensive policy to attract investors and establish high-capacity bioenergy production units in Karnataka. He also said the proposed policy would facilitate access to grants available under the Union Government's CBG initiatives and expressed hope that it would receive speedy approval. The Speaker congratulated Sudheendra on his efforts to promote sustainable bioenergy and assured him of full cooperation for the Board's programmes. Patil also expressed hope that Karnataka would emerge as a model for the country in developing a clean-energy ecosystem and wished the Board success in expanding the State's bioenergy sector.

Karnataka to form SIT to probe spurious drug racket

Karnataka plans an SIT probe after authorities uncovered a Rs 5-crore spurious drug racket near Bengaluru.



CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka government plans an SIT probe into a suspected spurious drug network uncovered during a raid near Bengaluru on Wednesday. The Karnataka government is likely to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT), comprising police officers and health officials, to investigate the supply chain of spurious drugs seized at Bidadi near Bengaluru.

The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), acting on a tip-off, raided a farmhouse at Kurubarakeranahalli and uncovered an unlicensed pharmaceutical repacking and re-labelling operation. Officials seized drugs worth around Rs 5 crore. According to the department, the spurious drugs were supplied from Himachal Pradesh and Telangana. At the farmhouse, the drugs were allegedly filled into new vials and re-labelled to resemble expensive multinational brands, including Pfizer, Eucratia Healthcare Private Ltd and Welcure Remedies. Officials said the seized drugs either contained no active medicinal ingredients, wrong ingredients or potentially harmful substances. The scanning codes printed on the labels were also found to be non-functional.

Tough punishment for spurious drugs

Under Section 17B of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, spurious drugs attract stringent punishment. Manufacturing, selling, stocking or distributing such drugs can invite imprisonment ranging from a minimum of 10 years to life. The seized stock will be produced before the JMFC court in Bengaluru South. Officials are also investigating where the counterfeit medicines were supplied and whether similar operations are active elsewhere in Karnataka.

Gym essential for urban youth: Somasekhar

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Exercise is essential for urban youth to maintain physical fitness and address lifestyle-related health concerns caused by work pressure, said Yeshwanthpur MLA S.T. Somasekhar. Speaking after inaugurating the newly opened S Class Fitness gym at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Layout in the Yeshwanthpur Assembly constituency, Somasekhar said the fast-paced lifestyle in Bengaluru had made regular exercise increasingly important for young people. He said urban youth often face long working hours, stress and lifestyle-related health problems. Regular physical activity and exercise can help them maintain a healthy body and improve their overall well-being, he added. Somasekhar urged youngsters to make fitness a regular part of their daily routine and use gym facilities to stay healthy and physically active. He said maintaining good health was important not only

for physical fitness but also for leading a productive and balanced life. He encouraged young people to pay greater attention to their health while managing work and other responsibilities. Former Ramohalli Gram Panchayat president B.H. Prabhu said regular gym workouts can contribute to better physical health and mental concentration. However, he cautioned youngsters against excessive exercise, stressing the importance of working out according to individual fitness levels and health requirements. He advised young people to use gym facilities responsibly and focus on maintaining long-term health rather than pursuing excessive physical exertion. The programme was attended by S Class Fitness gym owner Shivanna, Kengowda Ward GBA probable candidate Hanumanthagowda, Kengal Hanumanthiah Ward GBA probable candidate Chetan Gowda and Nagadevanahalli Ward GBA probable candidate Pushpa Devaraj, besides several others.

NAGESH REMEMBERED FONDLY

Shivakumar pays tribute to B.C. Nagesh

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday paid tribute to former BJP minister and Tiptur MLA B.C. Nagesh, who died aged 67. Shivakumar visited the Karnataka BJP headquarters in Bengaluru to pay his last respects to Nagesh, who passed away on Tuesday following a brief illness. Describing Nagesh as an honest and simple politician, Shivakumar recalled his contributions as Education Minister. "He was an honest individual who performed excellently as Education Minister. He made significant efforts to bring discipline to the education sector," Shivakumar said.

"It is my duty to honour him, and the state will accord him full respect. This is a huge loss for his family and his party as well."

-DK Shivakumar, Karnataka CM



Nagesh served as Minister for School Education and Literacy from 2021 to 2023 in the Basavaraj Bommai-led government. He was elected twice from Tiptur Assembly constituency. Shivakumar said Nagesh had been known to him for many years and had worked closely with him on programmes at the Nonavinakere Math. The Chief Minister said it was his duty to honour Nagesh's contributions and assured that the State govern-

ment would accord him full honours. He also expressed condolences to Nagesh's family, party colleagues and admirers. Meanwhile, several BJP leaders, dignitaries and officials paid homage to Nagesh at the party headquarters. Mysuru MP Yaduveer Wadiyar expressed grief over the veteran leader's death, recalling his contribution to public life and the BJP. Nagesh's funeral is expected to be conducted with full State honours. Shivakumar prayed for peace for the departed soul and strength for his family to bear the loss.



Quick Read

Hubballi remembers Kannada icon through his play

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

Several cultural and environmental organizations in Hubballi paid tribute to renowned Kannada poet, critic and playwright Dr. D. R. Bendre during a performance of his century-old play Sayo Aata. Members of the Horakeri Mastara Education Foundation, Ranichannamma Environmental Service Committee, Basava Environment Conservation Committee, Dr. D. R. Bendre Research Institute and Rangarekha Kalabalaga attended the programme. Bendre, popularly known as Ambikatanayadatta, made a lasting contribution to Kannada literature and received both the Jnanpith Award and Padma Shri. Organizers garlanded his portrait and remembered his literary legacy. Poets, writers, artists and social workers also participated in the tribute programme.

Health camp held for labourers at Challari Lake

Devaraj Pattara urged families to use the programme for individual and collective works, complete 125 workdays, and strengthen their incomes

KOPPAL

A health check-up camp was held for labourers working on lake revitalisation at Challari village under Chikkabommanal Gram Panchayat in Koppal taluk on Wednesday. Taluk Panchayat Assistant Director K. Soumya urged workers to register for insurance schemes while taking up wage employment. Speaking at the camp, Soumya said the VB-G RAM G scheme aims to reduce migration from rural areas by providing up to 125 days of local wage work to every eligible family. The scheme offers equal wages to men and women and focuses on water conservation, irrigation, groundwater recharge, watershed development and restoration of water bodies. She said the current wage has been fixed at Rs. 382 per person per day, with payment linked to the amount of work completed.



AT A GLANCE			
■ Health camp held for Challari lake labourers	■ Daily wage fixed at ₹382 per worker		
■ Workers urged to register insurance schemes	■ Individual works include cattle and goat sheds		
■ VB-G RAM G offers 125 days employment	■ Newly registered families receive employment guarantee cards		

Soumya urged labourers to understand the work measurements and make full use of employment opportunities available under the scheme.

Taluk IEC Coordinator Devaraj Pattara said families can also take up individual works such as cattle sheds, goat sheds, agricultural wells, dams and

poultry sheds through the programme. He encouraged eligible families to complete the available 125 days of work and strengthen their income. Landless families can earn through collective works undertaken by Gram Panchayats, he added. Pattara said newly registered families would receive guarantee cards. He also encouraged workers to use government welfare and insurance schemes to improve their financial security. Panchayat Development Officer Andigallappa, Gram Panchayat Secretary Gavisiddaya, health department staff, DEO Hulagappa, villagers and workers attended the camp. Village-level workers and community representatives also participated. The health programme provided workers with an opportunity to receive medical attention while learning about employment, insurance and welfare benefits available through government schemes.



Koppal Sena protests over alleged Urban Authority fraud

KOPPAL

Karnataka Nav Nirman Sena members staged a protest in Koppal on Wednesday, demanding a transparent investigation into alleged fraud and corruption in the Koppal Urban Development Authority. The protesters began a procession from Basaveshwara Circle and collected money through symbolic begging, saying it represented funds sought for corrupt officials and politicians. The organization alleged that more than Rs. 8 crore had been misappropriated from the authority. It demanded the immediate arrest of Ravindra Kumar, an outsourced employee named in a fraud case registered at Koppal Nagar Police Station. According to the protesters, people were allegedly promised plots in Sarojamma

Barangay after transferring money to specified bank accounts. The Sena sought a comprehensive investigation into the bank accounts involved and alleged that money was also transferred to accounts linked to Kumar's wife and brother. It demanded that the officials, commissioner and bank employees connected with the period under investigation also be questioned. The organization said every affected applicant should either receive the promised plot or get their money back. Tension briefly rose when protesters attempted to enter the Urban Development Authority office, leading to a verbal exchange and scuffle with police. District president Vijayakumar Kavalur, taluk president Mahesh Allahnagar, honorary president G.S. Gonal and other members participated.

Buddhaschara calls for compassionate, righteous living

GADAG

Living a righteous life and helping people in need can give meaning to human life, said Pujya Sri Buddhaschara. He was speaking on the first day of the Hari Jatre Mahotsava of village deities Sri Dhymava and Sri Durgamma Devi at Okkalageri in Gadag. Buddhaschara said human life is a precious opportunity and should be used for serving others. He urged people to feed the hungry, provide water to those who are thirsty, offer clothing to those in need and respond with compassion to people facing difficulties. Loving others as oneself, he said, makes life truly meaningful. He said people should re-

member that good deeds matter more than religious rituals. According to him, God may not judge the way people worship, but the kindness and good work they do for others have lasting value. He encouraged devotees to follow the path of righteousness and support others during difficult times. Dr. Siddhaveera Mahaswamiji Gurusiddaya Hiremath, who attended the event, said the annual festival of the village deities holds great spiritual importance. He recalled the traditional belief that Sri Durgamma Devi became widely revered after defeating the demon Raktabijasura. He also spoke about the different forms of happiness people ex-

perience through spiritual practices, festivals and blessings. Pujya Shivasharane Neelammatai of Gadugina Spiritual Vidyashram Asundi, Trust Committee President Kotrappa Kamatara, Jatre Committee Working President Fakirappa Hebasura and several community leaders and municipal members attended the programme. Geetanjali Gowda offered the prayer, Bahubali conducted the programme and Panchakshari Angadi proposed the vote of thanks. Cultural performances by the Savita Puja Dance Troupe from Mandya and Mysuru later added colour to the festival, bringing devotees together in celebration.

BJP protest demands Minister's resignation over corporation row

GADAG

The BJP Gadag district unit staged a major protest outside the district administration building, demanding the resignation of Minister B. Nagendra over alleged misuse of funds from the Maharishi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation. Party leaders also criticised the Congress government over what they described as failures affecting the poor. The protesters raised slogans against the government and accused Minister Nagendra of being responsible for the alleged financial irregularities. BJP leaders demanded his immediate resignation and claimed that the Congress government had failed to protect public money. They also criticised the administration, alleging that corruption had affected the interests of disadvantaged communities. BJP District President Raju Kuradagi, Yuva Morcha District President Santosh Akki and party leaders M.S. Karigoudra, Hemagirish Havinal, Bhimsingh Rathod and Shivraj Hiremani Patil were among those who participated. Hundreds of party workers joined the demonstration and voiced their demands. The protesters said the government must ensure accountability and take action over the allegations. They called for a transparent inquiry and urged authorities to protect public funds and the interests of people who depend on welfare schemes.

Ballari tax office urged to improve taxpayer services

BALLARI

Income Tax officials should treat taxpayers with respect and provide proper facilities when they visit departmental offices, said Bharat R., Joint Director of the Income Tax (Investigation) Department, Hubballi Division. He said taxpayers contribute to job creation and the country's infrastructure and therefore deserve courteous treatment and appropriate consultation. Bharat R. was speaking after inaugurating the new Income Tax Investigation Division office on the third floor of ABR Complex in KHB Colony, Netaji Nagar, on Wednesday. He said Ballari is

an important commercial centre among the districts from Chitradurga to Bidar, with high GST registrations and substantial banking activity. He said the department's 'Operation Nudge' initiative had identified around 40 joint development projects, while 200 tax-evasion complaints prompted further banking scrutiny, surveys and raids. He also said the department would register more than 200 applications and complaints related to suspected tax evasion from the district, with about 40 cases recently disposed of. Further examination of banking transactions, surveys and raids will be conducted wherever necessary, he said. Bharat said the department would reg-

ularly interact with chartered accountants and other professionals to improve understanding of local economic activities and strengthen tax compliance. Assistant Director Vijay Chandra said the investigation office had functioned from an old building for nearly two decades before moving to the new facility. He said the improved infrastructure would boost staff morale and help provide better public service. Assistant Director K. Gopal Krishnamurthy expressed hope that the new office would help officials handle investigations more efficiently and successfully resolve important cases. Assistant Commissioners D. Panduraga and B.J. Ravi, senior Income Tax officials, staff members and representatives of the chartered accountants' association attended the programme. The new office is expected to improve coordination and strengthen investigation work in the region.

DHO orders disease awareness drives across villages

BALLARI

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Alakananda D. Malagi inspected Toranagallu Community Health Centre in Sandur taluk and reviewed medical services and facilities available to patients. She held discussions with medical officers and staff and issued directions to improve the quality of healthcare. Dr. Malagi instructed all doctors and staff to report for duty on time and wear their uniforms. She also stressed the importance of treating patients and visitors courteously. The health centre was directed to maintain adequate stocks of essential medicines, vaccines and emergency medicines required for dog and snake bite cases. She called for continuous awareness activities on tuberculosis, leprosy, dengue, chikungunya and encephalitis through field workers.

Gadag plans meaningful Narayana Guru Jayanti celebration

GADAG

Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Duragesh K.R. directed officials to make proper arrangements for celebrating Brahmashri Narayana Guru Jayanti in an organized and meaningful manner on August 28. The main programme will be held at the auditorium of the District Administration Building in Gadag. He was speaking while chairing a preparatory meeting at the District Collector's Office on Wednesday. Dr. Duragesh instructed officials to print invitation cards according to government protocol and ensure that the Jayanti is observed in schools, colleges and gram panchayats. He also called for celebrations at the taluk level. Students who secure top marks in SSLC and PUC examinations, win gold medals in graduation and achieve international-level success in

sports will be honoured during the programme. Senior members of the community who have contributed to different fields will also be felicitated. Scholars who have studied Narayana Guru extensively will deliver special lectures about his life and teachings. The meeting also discussed arrangements for food, drinking water and the stage, along with the proposed release of a book on Brahmashri Narayana Guru. Kannada and Culture Department Superintendent Rajkumar Sopadla, Municipal Council Mayor Rajaram Pawar, officials from various departments, dignitaries and community elders attended the meeting. The administration stressed that co-ordinated efforts should ensure the August 28 celebration reflects Narayana Guru's values and provides an opportunity to recognize students and community members for their achievements and service.

Fatal bus crash near Bilagi claims biker's life

BAGALKOTE

A 34-year-old biker died and more than 20 people were injured after a private sleeper bus collided with a two-wheeler and overturned near Bilagi town in Bagalkote district on Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Amarsidda Kamble. The accident occurred on National Highway 218, which connects Hubballi and Solapur. The Maharashtra-registered bus was travelling from Hyderabad towards Goa with more than 20 passengers when it hit the bike and overturned. Several passengers suffered minor injuries and were taken to a nearby government hospital.

Jayadeva Hiremath receives international doctorate in library science

DHARWAD

Scholar Jayadeva Panchakshari Hiremath has received a professional doctorate from Thames International University, France, for his lifetime contributions to library and information science. The honour recognises his long experience, dedication, achievements and innovative work in improving library services and supporting education. Hiremath has worked in library systems across India, Kuwait and Dubai. He previously served as a librarian at Karnataka Law University, Dakshina Bharata Hindi Prachar Sabha, The British Council Library in Bhopal, Unit Trust of India In-

stitute of Capital Market in Mumbai and the National Council for Cement and Materials in New Delhi. He also contributed to modernising libraries at institutions in Kuwait and Dubai through improved designs and information systems. A life member of several professional library associations, Hiremath also serves on advisory boards in India. He is the eldest son of noted Kannada scholar Dr. Panchakshari Hiremath. The doctorate was conferred during a university convocation held in Mumbai. Hiremath has earlier received the Asian Leadership and Teacher Award for Excellence in Library and Information Management.

Gadag residents disappointed by Ambari service shutdown

MALINGARAYA PUJAR

CH NEWS

The much-awaited Ambari double-decker bus service in Gadag has been discontinued, leaving residents disappointed and ending hopes of offering tourists a different view of the city. The service was introduced with the aim of promoting local tourism and allowing visitors to see important places from an open rooftop. However, the ambitious plan could not continue for long. The bus has now been sent back to Mysuru, turning what was



seen as a promising tourism initiative into a project that failed to find lasting support locally. The project had been sanctioned when H.K. Patil was serving as Tourism Minister in the Siddaramaiah govern-

ment, and it was considered one of his important plans for the district. The political situation later changed, and Patil lost his ministerial position. After that, the project reportedly lost momentum. Difficulties in moving the plan forward, along with technical concerns, weakened the service. What began as an effort to create a new attraction for Gadag therefore struggled to receive the continued administrative and political attention needed to survive. The Ambari was planned to start from the central bus stand and cover several tourist and public attractions, includ-

ing Bheeshma Lake, the District Administration Building, Binkadakatti Zoological Park and Saalumarada Thimmakka Park. Its open-top design was expected to give passengers a memorable sightseeing experience while they travelled through the twin city. Yet the city's narrow roads created a serious challenge for the large vehicle. Overhead high-voltage power lines and other cables were close to the upper deck, raising safety concerns for passengers and making operation difficult. Cost was another concern. The fare, fixed between ₹60

and ₹100 per passenger, was considered high by many families, especially when passenger numbers remained below expectations. With infrastructure issues, safety risks and demand affecting the service, the bus was stopped within days and returned to Mysuru. The development has disappointed people who had hoped to explore Gadag from a new perspective. Local residents now want authorities to address infrastructure and planning gaps before introducing tourism projects. For now, Ambari remains a missed opportunity for Gadag.

Navalgund school hosts legal awareness programme

NAVALGUND

A legal awareness programme on the Permanent People's Court was held at Arekurahatti village High School in Navalgund taluk. The programme was jointly organized by the District Legal Services Authority, Permanent People's Court, Taluk Legal Services Committee, Prosecution Department, Bar Association and Taluk Education Committee. Students, teachers and members of the public were in-

formed about the functioning of the Permanent People's Court, the objectives of the Legal Services Authority and the availability of free legal assistance. District Judge and Permanent People's Court Chairman Suvarna K. Mirji inaugurated the programme and explained the importance of the court in helping ordinary people access justice. Mirji said the Permanent People's Court can help resolve minor disputes through mutual settlement, saving people both time and money.

Quick Read

Photographers Host Charity Events On Special Day

HUBBALLI
The Hubballi Photo and Videographers Association celebrated the 187th World Photography Day on Wednesday by organizing impactful community welfare programs across the city. The celebrations commenced with an energetic morning health walk titled “Walk of Smiles,” starting from the Sangolli Rayanna Circle. City photographers participated in large numbers to promote physical fitness and mental wellness among busy professionals. Later in the afternoon, association members visited the Manovikas School for Special-Abled Children in Gopankoppa to celebrate with the students. Member Ramesh generously sponsored a wholesome midday meal for the children. Members spent meaningful time interacting with the students and served lunch personally.

Bidar dalit group seeks land for Ambedkar Community Hall

Bidar
Karnataka Dalit Sangharsh Samiti state organising co-ordinator Maruti Boudde has demanded that the authorities allot land in Survey No. 51/1 of Kumbarkwada Layout for construction of an Ambedkar Community Hall. He warned that residents may intensify their protest if the demand is not addressed. Speaking at a press conference at Patrika Bhavan, Boudde said around 25 acres of government land is available in the survey area. He noted that buildings serving different communities, including temples, churches, houses and community halls, have been constructed there, but land has not been provided for an Ambedkar Bhavan.

Authorities Plan To Cancel Defunct Cooperative Societies

GADAG
The Cooperative Societies Department in Gadag has officially initiated steps to cancel the registration of eleven defunct cooperative bodies currently placed under liquidation. Officials confirmed that these defunct organizations have remained completely inactive for nearly a decade without conducting mandatory financial audits, official board elections, or statutory annual general meetings. Moreover, untraceable board executives and general members have shown no interest in reviving these local operations. Authorities have now issued a strict seven-day deadline for citizens and members to submit legitimate claims regarding pending deposits, Pigmy collections, or outstanding receivables.

Gadag residents disappointed by Ambari service shutdown

CH NEWS, Malingaraya Pujar
The much-awaited Ambari double-decker bus service in Gadag has been discontinued, leaving residents disappointed and ending hopes of offering tourists a different view of the city. The service was introduced with the aim of promoting local tourism and allowing visitors to see important places from an open rooftop. However, the ambitious plan could not continue for long. The bus has now been sent back to Mysuru, turning what was seen as a promising tourism initiative into a project that

“Dr Veerendra Heggade has empowered poor to live with dignity”

Rajeev defended the Dharmadhikari, questioning personal attacks and urging people to judge service programmes by their impact, not unsupported allegations

MYSURU

Former Mysuru Urban Development Authority chairman H.V. Rajeev has praised Dharmadhikari Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade for his selfless service and efforts to help poor people live with dignity and self-respect. Speaking at a Seva Dharma workshop organised by the Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project B.C. Trust on Wednesday, Rajeev said the initiatives had reached people across different sections of society. He said the government had introduced several welfare schemes, including guarantee programmes, but it could not handle every social need alone. The trust, he said, had taken up work that was beyond the government’s reach. Its humane programmes include tree planting, lake and temple rejuvenation, de-addiction camps and doorstep pension services for needy people. Rajeev said visitors from other States had seen these rural development activities and asked Dr. Heggade to introduce similar programmes there. However, he said Dr. Heggade had maintained that State governments should take responsibility for



such programmes and had continued his service in Karnataka. Rajeev also questioned criticism directed at the Dharmadhikari and asked whether he should be blamed for every incident reported from Dharmasthala. He said such allegations could deeply hurt a person who had spent years working for public welfare. He stressed that service programmes should be judged by their impact on ordinary families and communities, rather than by unsupported claims or personal attacks. Inaugurating the workshop, Mysuru District Superintendent of Police Mallikarjun Baladandi urged people to give children’s education top priority and work towards a drug-free nation. He also called for public action against social problems

such as child marriage. Baladandi said women’s self-help groups in villages had valuable knowledge about local developments. If they informed the police about illegal activities, authorities could respond quickly and prevent such incidents. He encouraged people to cooperate with officials and help create safer communities for everyone. The workshop also brought together SKDRDP B.C. Trust CEO S.S. Anil Kumar, retired School Education Department director B.K. Basavaraju, former Karnataka Vishwakarma Development Corporation chairman Nandkumar, senior journalist Anshi Prasannakumar, Akhila Karnataka District Jana Jagruthi Vedike founder-president Handanahalli Somashekar and former Mayor Purushotham.

31,780 SELF-HELP GROUPS IN MYSURU DISTRICT

The Rural Development Project was launched in Mysuru district 15 years ago and currently has 31,780 self-help groups with 3,06,050 partner members. The organisation is implementing several community-oriented initiatives, including lake development, Sujnana Nidhi, scholarships, appointment of Jnanadeepa teachers, monthly financial assistance for the destitute, construction of Vatsalya homes, de-addiction camps, financial assistance and community development programmes.

District Director Vijayakumar Naganala welcomed the gathering, while Regional Director Yogesh explained the organisation’s programmes. Hundreds of participants from across Mysuru district attended the workshop, highlighting importance of service and collective action.

Global Impact Forum Links Culture With Global Growth

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The second edition of the Global Impact Forum, titled “Civilisational Legacy,” will be held in Mumbai on September 5 and 6, bringing together representatives from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Hosted by AP Globale at The Taj Mahal Palace, the two-day event will focus on culture, heritage, knowledge and creative traditions, while exploring how these shared connections can strengthen international relationships beyond politics and economics. The forum is expected to welcome around 500 delegates each day, including diplomats, business leaders, scholars, entrepreneurs, investors, cultural personalities and family offices. Discussions and workshops will highlight connections between traditions such as Ayurveda and Traditional Chinese Medicine, Kalaripayattu and Kung Fu, classical dance and Capoeira, as well as cinema, music, sports and indigenous cultures. Organisers said the programme aims to show how



knowledge and artistic traditions have crossed borders and continue to influence modern societies. South Africa’s Consul General H.E.G Labane said India and South Africa share a strong civilisational relationship that can support deeper economic cooperation. He highlighted South Africa’s critical minerals, including platinum, manganese and chrome, and India’s strengths in technology and pharmaceuticals. He said the relationship between the two countries needs faster economic action and stronger supply chains. More than 20 South African business leaders and cultural representatives are expected to participate in the Mumbai event. AP Globale Director

Janhavi Pawar said the forum would focus on similarities among BRICS nations and encourage collaboration instead of competition. The event will include an evening Gala featuring Capoeira and percussion performances, followed by Founders’ Night on the second day, where entrepreneurs, investors and family offices will connect. Venture Catalysts and VC Grid will also present six early-stage and six late-stage startups working in sectors such as electric mobility, sustainability, logistics, deep technology and rural finance. The organisers said the forum is designed to connect civilisational heritage with modern innovation and business opportunities.

“UNEMPLOYMENT IS A PROBLEM FOR THOSE WHO THINKS ITS ONLY PURPOSE OF LIFE”

MYSURU

Unemployment is considered a problem only by those who believe that having a job is the sole purpose of life. This is an illusion, said Prof. M. Krishnegowda, a retired professor. Presiding over the valedictory function of the 50-day free training camp for the K-SET and UGC-NET examinations organised by

Jnanabutti here, he said conventional degree courses offered by universities today had failed to inculcate a spirit of activity and initiative among students, leaving many of them lethargic. There were students who studied for hours with determination and dedication, almost like performing penance, but their number was small. A larger section had become accustomed to laziness and inactivity.



Protecting Bengaluru’s water bodies from pollution and disease

CH NEWS, Sanjeevini,

Once known as the “City of Lakes,” faces increasing water pollution due to rapid urbanisation and industrial growth. This study examines the major causes and consequences of water pollution, public awareness, water-borne diseases, and community-based suggestions to protect and restore the city’s water bodies. Bengaluru’s industrial growth has contributed to water pollution. Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) stated in 2021.

Affiliation between water pollution and water-borne diseases

Water pollution in Bengaluru is becoming a serious concern, with untreated industrial waste, sewage and improper disposal of household and commercial waste affecting the quality of water bodies. Industrial discharge can introduce toxic chemicals and heavy metals into rivers, lakes and other sources, creating health risks for nearby communities. Untreated sewage contains harmful microorganisms that can cause diseases such as cholera, typhoid and diarrhoea. Improper waste disposal can further contaminate surface water and create unhygienic surroundings. Groundwater is also at risk from leaking septic tanks and poor waste management, particularly in areas that depend on groundwater for drinking and household needs. Agricultural runoff containing fertilisers and pesticides can enter nearby water sources and reduce water quality. Polluted and stagnant water can become breeding grounds for mosquitoes, increasing the spread of diseases such as dengue and malaria. Poor water quality can also

contribute to gastrointestinal infections, skin problems and other health concerns. Experts stress that stronger sewage treatment, scientific waste management, effective pollution control and public awareness are essential. Protecting Bengaluru’s water resources requires coordinated action from authorities, industries, communities and residents to prevent further contamination and safeguard public health.

Stages of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)

A Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) treats wastewater through several stages to remove solid waste, harmful microorganisms and other pollutants before the treated water is reused or discharged.

Primary Treatment
Floating and large solid materials such as plastic, leaves, paper and other debris are removed from the raw sewage through screening and settling processes.

Secondary Treatment
Air or oxygen is supplied to the wastewater to support beneficial microorganisms. These microbes break down organic matter and convert it into biological sludge. The sludge is separated, dewatered and may be used as manure where appropriate. The remaining water is transferred to a clarifier.

Tertiary Treatment
The clarified water undergoes further filtration to remove fine suspended particles and impurities. It is then disinfected using methods such as chlorination, ozonation or ultraviolet (UV) treatment to reduce harmful microorganisms. The treated water can then be stored, reused or safely discharged.

St. Philomena’s College hosts ‘Techno Expo 4.0’

MYSURU

The two-day ‘Techno Expo 4.0’, a technology exhibition organised by the BCA Department of St. Philomena’s College, was inaugurated at the college’s indoor stadium on Wednesday. The exhibition, being held on August 19 and 20, features more than 75 technological models and innovative projects developed by students. Prof. P. Nagabhushan, a senior academic in the fields of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence and Professor Emeritus at JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research, inaugurated the expo by cutting the ribbon as the chief guest. Appreciating the discipline, enthusiasm for learning and eagerness among students to acquire new knowledge, he advised them to evaluate themselves and understand the importance of time. He

called upon students to cultivate an attitude of continuous learning and gain new experiences throughout their lives. Students from various educational institutions, including SDM College and Amrita Vidyalayam, are participating in the expo along with students of St. Philomena’s College. The event provided a platform for knowledge exchange, creativity and showcasing technical skills among students from different colleges. Rev. Dr. Lourd Prasad, Rector; Dr. Ravi J.D. Saldanha, Principal; Dr. Suresh Narayan Rao, AICTE Director; Dr. Noor Mubashir, Coordinator of the Postgraduate Studies and Research Centre; A. Thomas Gunaseelan, Co-ordinator of the Department of Physics and IQAC, along with other dignitaries, teaching and non-teaching staff, students and media representatives were present.

BHIO leads fresh push for tobacco-free Mysuru

MYSURU

In an innovative push to strengthen the campaign for a tobacco-free Mysuru, Bharat Hospital and Institute of Oncology (BHIO), under the leadership of renowned cancer specialist and BHIO President Dr. B.S. Ajay Kumar, has launched an awareness initiative titled ‘Meter On, Tobacco Off’. Going beyond cancer treatment, Dr. Ajay Kumar has consistently focused on disease prevention, early detection and community-based health awareness. The latest campaign seeks to encourage people to embrace healthier lifestyles and sends out a simple but powerful message: “Meter On, Tobacco Off.” BHIO has called upon Mysuru residents to join hands in building a healthier, tobacco-free future.

AMBARI SERVICE DISCONTINUED



failed to find lasting support locally. The project had been sanctioned when H.K. Patil was serving as Tourism Minister in the Siddaramaiah government, and it was considered

one of his important plans for the district. The political situation later changed, and Patil lost his ministerial position. After that, the project reportedly lost momentum. Difficulties in moving the plan

forward, along with technical concerns, weakened the service. What began as an effort to create a new attraction for Gadag therefore struggled to receive the continued administrative and political attention needed to survive. The Ambari was planned to start from the central bus stand and cover several tourist and public attractions, including Bheeshma Lake, the District Administration Building, Binkadakatti Zoological Park and Saalumarada Thimmakka Park. Its open-top design was expected to give passengers a memorable sightseeing experience while they travelled

through the twin city. Yet the city’s narrow roads created a serious challenge for the large vehicle. Overhead high-voltage power lines and other cables were close to the upper deck, raising safety concerns for passengers and making operation difficult. Cost was another concern. The fare, fixed between ₹60 and ₹100 per passenger, was considered high by many families, especially when passenger numbers remained below expectations. With infrastructure issues, safety risks and demand affecting the service, the bus was stopped within days and returned to Mysuru.

Quick Read

Experts urge greater awareness of biofuel benefits

CHITRADURGA

Producing biofuel from non-edible oilseeds can support environmental protection and national development, Professor B.K. Sunil Kumar of SJM Technical College said. He was speaking at a biofuel awareness programme held at Koonabevu Government High School in Thuruvarur hobli. Kumar said biofuel could be produced from around 150 non-edible oilseed varieties, including honge, neem, hippe and jatropa. Used cooking oil from homes and hotels can also be collected for production, providing an income opportunity. He added that oil extraction by-products can be converted into useful organic manure. Headmaster S. Hanumanthappa highlighted biofuel's environmental benefits and potential support for farmers and the economy.

Koppal invites applications for free artisan equipment

KOPPAL

The Rural Industries Department has invited applications from eligible rural artisans in Koppal district for free advanced equipment under the 2026-27 Professional Artisans Equipment Supply Scheme. Artisans working in electric sewing, carpentry, barbering and washing professions can apply for the required equipment. Interested applicants must submit their applications online by September 30 through the link available on the official Koppal district website. The scheme aims to support rural workers by providing modern tools that can improve their work and income. For further details, applicants can contact the Deputy Director, Rural Industries Department, Zilla Panchayat, Koppal, or call 08539-230980.

SOCIETY MUST SUPPORT FARMERS' WELFARE, SAYS MALLIKARJUNA

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

No one should be indifferent to the farmers' program. Farmers have immense experience in life. It is the duty of society to take care of the well-being of farmers, said Mallikarjuna Murugarajendra of Bekkina Kalmath.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the memorial program of Dr HS Rudrappa, the founder of the Farmers' Association, on behalf of the Karnataka State Farmers' Association and the Hasiru Sene, at the city's Ambedkar Bhavan.

HS Rudrappa always thought for the farmers. When the new APMC market was built in Shivamogga, no trader was ready to go there. Then Rudrappa held a meeting of farmers and traders there and called for everyone to come to the APMC.

Then everyone came there and started trading. They paid attention to his words that day. He said that today the APMC is functioning successfully, which is the quality of his leadership. When we remember the initial movement of the farmers' union, we are reminded of the freedom struggle. The movement that showed that a farmer can become a ruler in a democracy was the farmer's movement of that time.

When a farmer is organized, he can earn a life of self-respect. The farmer's union gave newness to the movements. Now the farmer's organizations and movements have taken different paths. He said that no matter what field there is setback, it should not be setback only in the agricultural field. The root field of everything is the agricultural field. The

mental state of today is that wealth without work is pleasure against self-evidence. People want ethics, farmers, commerce, business but are not ready to practice it. There are those who are happy to see propaganda and intelligence in animals.

A panel discussion was held by Professor BM Kumaraswamy, a retired professor, on the dangers of nuclear power plants, environmental expert Akhilesh Chipli on the dangers of new power generation projects on Sharavati backwaters, and Dr Sarpa Raja Chandragutti on the issue of drought in the state.

Farmer leader Kodihalli Chandrashekhar. Manjunath Gaudru, Byre Gowda, Umesh Patel, Vasanth Kumar, Manjunath Harekappa, Renukamma and others participated.

Journalists Likely To Get Land Soon, Says Srinivas Nayak

MANGALURU

Journalists are likely to receive land soon, as efforts are underway to secure revenue land on the outskirts of Mangaluru, said Srinivas Nayak Indaje, president of the Journalists' Planet Building Cooperative Society.

He was speaking at the society's annual general meeting at Mangaluru Patrika Bhavan.

Indaje said a proposal had already been submitted to the State Government seeking land for the society. He said the efforts of Legislative Council member Ivan

D'Souza had helped move the proposal forward, with former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah directing officials to process the file.

He said Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister G. Paramesh-

wara and Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner Darshan had extended cooperation.

Indaje expressed confidence that the land would be sanctioned soon and said priority would be given to

society members who hold shares while allotting sites.

He added that some private companies had also offered premises for journalists. The society would examine those proposals and explore the possibility of providing suitable premises to members on a priority basis. Indaje also said the co-operative society recorded a net profit of Rs. 36,000 during the last financial year.

Society Chief Executive Officer S. Panduranga Acharya was honoured during the meeting. Vice-president Bhaskar Rai Katta presented the annual report, while

Free certificates reach thousands across Uttara Kannada

Digital certificates are prepared using revenue, caste census and Aadhaar data, then delivered with GPS verification across all taluks

UTTARA KANNADA

Uttara Kannada district has distributed 9,60,218 caste and income certificates free of cost directly to people's homes, marking a major step in taking government services closer to citizens. Officials said the programme has achieved 85.76 percent progress so far.

Earlier, residents had to visit taluk offices, submit applications and wait for verification and signatures. Rural families often faced difficulties travelling to offices, while staff shortages and server problems caused delays lasting weeks or months. Some students reportedly missed scholarships and admission opportunities because certificates were not issued on time.

Under the new system, de-



partments use existing revenue records, caste census details and Aadhaar-linked information to prepare digital certificates for eligible beneficiaries. Officials then deliver them directly to families. A GPS photograph is also taken during delivery to ensure the certificates reach the correct beneficiaries. The initiative covers all taluks, with Kumta recording 1,65,025 certificates and Ankola 1,22,805, among the highest numbers.

At a glance

- 9.60 lakh certificates distributed across Uttara Kannada
- Distribution achieved 85.76% of targeted beneficiaries
- Certificates delivered free directly to doorsteps
- Government uses digitized revenue and Aadhaar records
- GPS photos ensure doorstep delivery to families
- Collector targets complete 100% distribution soon

The certificates are important for school and college reservations, scholarships, hostel admissions, fee exemptions

and government recruitment benefits. They are also needed for age relaxation in competitive examinations, reserved-seat elections and several welfare schemes, including housing, agricultural loans and subsidies. The certificates may also help citizens provide supporting documents during the 2026 voter-list revision process.

District Collector K. Lakshmi Priya said distribution was slow initially, but officials later gave it special priority and increased the pace.

The district administration expects to complete distribution to all eligible beneficiaries soon. The initiative is aimed at reducing travel, delays and paperwork while ensuring essential documents reach citizens without extra cost.

Srinivas Mane takes charge of KHB

HANAGAL

Hanagal MLA Srinivas Mane took charge as the new chairman of the Karnataka Housing Board in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

He said he would work towards fulfilling Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's goal of providing housing facilities to 50,000 landless families in every district. Mane thanked party leaders and the government for entrusting him with the responsibility.

Speaking after assuming office, Mane said providing affordable and quality homes to poor and middle-class families would be his main priority. He said the Housing Board should become more people-friendly, transparent and effective. He also expressed confidence that the government's housing target could be achieved through cooperation from officials, elected representatives and the public.

"Providing affordable and quality homes to poor and middle-class families will be my main priority. The Housing Board should become more people-friendly, transparent and effective"

-Srinivas Mane, Chairman of the Karnataka Housing Board

Mane said he would treat the new position as another opportunity to serve people and promised to discharge his responsibilities honestly. He stressed the need to help families who dream of owning a home. Haveri District In-charge Minister Rudrapa Lamani, MLAs Basavaraj Shivannavara, U.B. Bankara, Prakash Koliwada and Yasir Khan Pathana, along with Congress Lok Sabha candidate Anandaswamy Gaddadevaramath, were present during the occasion and extended their support.

Monsoon Failure Leaves Gadag Farmers Struggling

Malingaraya Pujar CH NEWS

Failure of monsoon rains has left farmers across Gadag district worried, with crops wilting due to moisture shortage and growing attacks by monkeys and deer adding to their difficulties.

Farmers who spent ₹20,000-₹30,000 per acre on credit, hoping for a good monsoon, are now facing crop losses. Although harvesting is approaching, inadequate rainfall has stunted crop growth and is expected to reduce yields.

Good pre-monsoon showers initially encouraged farmers to begin sowing. Crops including groundnut, cotton, maize and other major crops were planted after the soil received sufficient moisture. However, rainfall has re-

Last year, the crops were damaged due to excessive rain, but this year, the crops planted have failed due to lack of rain, which is putting the farmers in distress. The government should immediately come to the aid of the farmers.

-Abzal Ritthi, farmer

mained inadequate since sowing, leaving many crops struggling to survive.

Farmers said intermittent showers have not provided enough moisture. Alternating cloudy and sunny weather has also increased the risk of diseases in crops that have managed to grow. With little or no significant rain for two to three months after sowing, several fields are now showing signs of severe moisture stress.

Monkey menace adds to farmers' worries

In Lakshmeshwar taluk, monkeys have become a major threat to groundnut and yam crops. Large groups are entering fields and damaging crops, worsening the losses already caused by drought-like conditions.

Farmers said monkeys are even uprooting groundnuts that have not developed properly and eating them. As a result, growers are being forced to remain in their fields from morning until evening to protect what little crop remains.

With rainfall uncertainty, declining crop prospects and increasing wildlife damage, farmers are facing mounting financial pressure and are seeking relief and effective measures to protect their crops.

Farmers demand Chitradurga representation in Bhadra CADA

CHITRADURGA

The Irrigation Implementation Struggle Committee has urged the State Government to include Chitradurga district in the Command Area Development Authority (CADA) of the Bhadra reservoir, saying the district's farmers need proper representation in decisions on water distribution.

Committee working president B.A. Lingareddy said the Upper Bhadra Project was planned to irrigate dry areas of central Karnataka. Under the project, 2,25,515 hectares across Chitradurga, Tumakuru, Chikkamagaluru and Davanagere districts are expected to receive micro-irrigation facilities. Water has also been allo-

cated to fill hundreds of lakes. Although Chitradurga is part of the Bhadra command area, its representatives and farmer leaders are not included in the CADA committee, he said.

Lingareddy said recent discussions on releasing Bhadra water highlighted the need for Chitradurga's participation. He said ministers, legislators and farmer leaders from Davanagere and Shivamogga attended the Irrigation Consultative Committee meeting on August 18. The meeting considered releasing water to various areas, but differences over the proposal left the final decision with the Chief Minister.

The committee said Chitradurga has a legitimate share in Bhadra water and

should have representatives at CADA and irrigation advisory meetings. Without representation, farmers could face difficulties in protecting their water rights. The committee also noted that water has already reached Vani Vilas Sagar under the Upper Bhadra project.

The government should immediately include all Chitradurga representatives in the Bhadra CADA, the committee demanded. It also sought release of Bhadra water within a week and supply to lakes in Holalkere taluk, including Gonur Lake. B.A. Lingareddy, K.R. Dayanand, Chickappanahalli Shanmukha, Hampayanamalige Dhananjaya and G. Suresh Babu supported the demand.

Sports build leadership and confidence in students



MAGADI

Active participation in sports helps students develop leadership skills, confidence and discipline, said Bamul Director H.N. Ashok. He was speaking after inaugurating the taluk-level group games for pre-university college students at the BGS College campus in Magadi on Wednesday.

Ashok said India hosts many sporting events but has not achieved the expected results at the Olympics.

He urged the Central and State Governments to give

greater importance to sports and consider establishing special sports colleges named after freedom fighters. Better facilities and training, he said, could help athletes win more medals for the country.

Recalling American athlete Wilma Rudolph, who overcame childhood polio and poverty before winning three Olympic gold medals, Ashok encouraged students to face difficulties with determination.

He urged young athletes to participate actively in competitions and work towards achieving success at higher levels.

Contractors get four days to seek Jal work extension

CHITRADURGA

Contractors working on Har Ghar Jal projects in Chitradurga district have been given four days to submit requests seeking additional time to complete pending works, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Akash S. said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the District Water and Sanitation Mission Committee meeting at the Zilla Panchayat Neer Lab, Dr. Akash said contractors had earlier received work orders under the Jal Jeevan Mission with deadlines for completion. However, delays occurred in declaring villages as Har Ghar Jal villages even after some contractors completed their assigned works.

He said the committee had earlier decided to consider requests from contractors who had worked sincerely but faced delays, including relief from penalties in eligible cases. Contractors must now submit their requests in Form-1 to the concerned Assistant Executive Engineer of the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Sub-Division, explaining the reasons for the delay.

Following this, the Panchayat Development Officer, Administrative Officer, Branch Officer and Executive Officer of the concerned Gram Panchayat must submit a confirmation report in Form-2.

Assistant Executive Engineers should prepare proposal reports in Form-3 and forward them to the Executive Engineer within seven days.

Dr. Akash directed the Executive Engineer to consolidate all proposals



Highlights

- Contractors can seek time extension proposals
- Applications must be submitted within 4 days
- Delay reasons required in prescribed Form-1
- Engineers must submit proposals within 7 days
- Consolidated proposals due at division office September 4
- Water flow meters planned for 1,000 RO plants

and submit them to the divisional office by September 4.

The CEO said technology is being used to monitor water supply and collect data to ensure 55 litres of water per person daily across district villages.

A Neer Lab has already been established for this purpose.

Technology-based water flow meters are also being considered for around 1,000 RO plants to monitor their operational status automatically. Deputy Secretary Babu, Executive Engineer Amarnath Jain, Assistant Conservator Vasant, District Scheduled Castes Welfare Officer Diwakar, water expert Devaraja Reddy and other officials attended the meeting.

Quick Read

Udupi to mark Devaraja Urs birth anniversary

CH NEWS, UDUPI

The Udupi district administration will celebrate the 111th birth anniversary of former Karnataka Chief Minister D. Devaraja Urs on August 20. The programme will begin at 10 am at Jagannath Sabha Bhavan of Badagabettu Credit Cooperative Society in Mission Compound. Food and Civil Supplies Minister and district in-charge Rizwad Arshad will inaugurate the event, while MLA Yashpal A. Suvarna will preside. Several ministers, MPs, legislators and senior officials are expected to attend. Udupi Taluk Government Pre-University College Principal Nagaraj will speak about Urs's life, achievements and contribution to social transformation, particularly for backward communities.

Udupi firm to hold direct interviews today

CH NEWS, UDUPI

Omion Premedia Pvt. Ltd. will conduct direct interviews for various positions on August 20 (today) from 10 am at its office near Ambalapady Karavali Bypass in Udupi. The interviews will be held for 3D and Photoshop, CSR and accountancy positions. Candidates who have completed PUC, M. Com or other degree courses can attend. Applicants must carry their marksheets, updated resume or CV and a copy of their Aadhaar card. The District Employment Exchange Office said interested candidates can contact its office at Rajatadri, Manipal, for further details. Officials provided four contact numbers for applicants seeking additional information about the recruitment process.

MLAs seek halt to BSSK auction, factory revival

MLAs urged reopening the BSSK factory to provide sugarcane growers a nearby market, reduce transport costs, and restore livelihoods for thousands of families

CH NEWS, Bidar

Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale and Humnabad MLA Dr. Siddu Patil have urged the Karnataka government to stop the proposed auction of BSSK Sugar Factory and revive it by leasing it to a suitable organisation. The MLAs made the appeal during a meeting with Sugar and Textiles Minister Rudrapa Manappa Lamani in Bengaluru. The BSSK factory has remained closed for several years, creating difficulties for sugarcane growers in Bidar and nearby areas. The MLAs said reopening the unit would provide farmers with a nearby market and help reduce trans-



portation costs. They also highlighted the factory's importance to workers and thousands of families whose livelihoods depend directly or indirectly on its operations. The representatives argued that leasing the factory, instead of auctioning it, would be more beneficial to farmers and workers. They urged the government to give the matter special attention and take steps to revive the unit

through a scientifically and economically sustainable plan. Responding to the appeal, Minister Lamani reportedly assured the MLAs that a stay order on the auction process would be issued the following day. He also said a meeting of elected representatives from Bidar district would be held on Monday or Tuesday to discuss the issue and arrive at an appropriate decision. The MLAs said reopening BSSK could strengthen the district's economy by improving sugarcane marketing and creating direct and indirect employment. They added that increased activity could benefit transport, trade and small industries. They appealed to the government to take an early

HIGHLIGHTS

- MLAs demand immediate halt to BSSK auction
- Seek leasing factory to suitable organisation
- Reopening would reduce farmers' transport costs
- Revival could support thousands of dependent families
- Minister assured stay order against auction
- District representatives meeting planned for early decision

decision in favour of farmers, workers and the wider economic interests of the region.

Chikkaballapura plans 203 Youth Associations across district

CH NEWS, Chikkaballapura

The district administration is taking steps to establish 203 Bharat Jodo Youth Associations to promote sports, culture, scientific thinking and social harmony among young people. Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu appealed to youth to join the membership drive in large numbers. The district has 154 Gram Panchayats, with one association planned for each. Another 49 associations will be formed in urban areas according to population. The plan includes nine associations in Chikkaballapura, seven in Gauribidanur, 10 in Chintamani, nine in Shidlaghat, five in Bagepalli, two in Gudibande, three in Alipur and four

in Kaiwara. Each association must have at least 100 members, creating a district target of 20,300 members. As of August 18, 1,054 young people had registered, including 986 from rural areas and 68 from urban areas. Those aged 16 to 35 can join by completing Aadhaar-based registration and paying a Rs. 10 fee. Applications can be submitted through the BJYS portal, mobile application, Gram One, Karnataka One or Civil Service Centres. Applicants must normally reside in the concerned village or ward and can join only one association. Each association will have a 15-member executive committee with representation for women and different social groups.

Job Card Mela targets drought-hit rural families

CH NEWS, Haveri

A month-long Job Card Mela is being held across Haveri district from August 15 to September 15, following government directions. The campaign aims to create more local employment for rural families affected by drought and reduce migration to cities in search of work, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Daljit Kumar said. During a visit to a worksite in Kulenur village, Haveri taluk, Kumar interacted with 175 workers and said the new employment programme would provide continuous wage work. He assured work-

ers that wages would be paid within the prescribed period. The campaign is part of the Developed India Guarantee for Employment and Livelihood Mission (Gramin), launched on July 1, 2026. Under the programme, registered workers who have completed the required electronic process can receive unskilled employment. Officials aim to increase participation and create five lakh person-days of work daily, contributing towards a target of 1.50 crore person-days each month. The Job Card Mela will spread awareness about available work and benefits, particularly among vulnerable rural families.

DC seeks better opportunities through My Bharat

CH NEWS, Udupi

District Collector Swaroopa T.K. has directed officials to work together to make the My Bharat programme successful and create better opportunities for young people. She was speaking while chairing a meeting of the My Bharat District Level Advisory Committee at the District Collector's office. The My Bharat initiative, run by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, aims to build leadership, skills and social responsibility among young people. It also seeks to involve youth in community activities and make them active partners in achieving the national goal of Developed India by 2047. The Collector said all departments must coordinate closely to ensure the programme reaches young people effectively across the district. She stressed the need for joint efforts to organise activities that can improve leadership abilities, practical skills and participation in social

development. District Youth Officer Ullas explained that My Bharat is a digital platform designed for young people aged 15 to 29. Through the platform, registered youth can take part in programmes such as Border Village Programme camps, Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament and the National Youth Festival. Volunteers can also gain practical learning experience in different fields. The meeting discussed organising skill training programmes, leadership camps and entrepreneurship workshops to improve employment opportunities for youth in both rural and urban areas. Additional District Collector Abid Gadyal, Information Officer Manjunath B., Dr. G. Shankar, principal of Government Women's First Grade College, committee members, district officers and college principals attended the meeting. Officials were asked to strengthen coordination so that more youth can benefit from the programme and contribute meaningfully to society.

Maruti Omni catches fire near Hunsur petrol station

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

A Maruti Omni car caught fire after a suspected short circuit near a petrol station on Tipu Circle Bypass Road in Hunsur city. The vehicle reportedly caught fire while it was being taken from a garage for water servicing. The sudden incident caused concern among motorists and nearby residents. The car was reportedly travelling at high speed before the fire started. The occupants quickly got out after noticing

the flames, avoiding injuries. Although the vehicle caught fire close to a petrol station, officials said there was no danger to the public or passing motorists. The car was completely damaged in the incident. The vehicle owner was identified as Manoranjan M.S. of Mangaluru in Dakshina Kannada district. Local residents immediately informed the authorities after noticing the fire. Firefighters reached the spot and secured the area around the main road and highway.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

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ದೂರವಾರ್ತೆ : 08192-237480 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ : adysdv@gmail.com

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ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-08-2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಧೀನದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ/ನಿಲಯದ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ಉಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ (KTTP) 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ E-Procurement Portal (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗಾಗಿರುವ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಮುಖಾಂಶಗಳು:- ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಸನಿ/ಯುಸಕ್ರೀಇ/ದಾ/ಸಿಆರ್/33/ಉ.ಪೂ.ಇ.ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು/2026-27/call-2. ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-08-2026
(1) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.1,51,12,500-00 ಗಳು (2) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಫೌಂಡರ್ ಆಫ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-08-2026 (3) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಫೈನಲ್ ಸೆಡೆಯು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24-08-2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಸ್ಥಳ:- ಸಹಾಯಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ (4) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ / ಸ್ವೀಕರಣ ಕೇಳುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25-08-2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ರ ವರೆಗೆ (5) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಫೌಂಡರ್ ಆಫ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29-08-2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ರ ವರೆಗೆ (6) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲೋಟಿ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31-08-2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಪ್ಪಬಲ್ಲದ್ದು) ಸ್ಥಳ:- ಸಹಾಯಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ (7) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನೋಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.3,02,250-00 (8) ಪ್ರವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ:- ಸಹಾಯಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ. ದೂರವಾರ್ತೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08912-237480

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ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮಾದನಾಯಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-560073, ದೂರವಾರ್ತೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-23718487 Email : istaff_ulb_mnhalli@yahoo.com
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“ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ”

2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾದನಾಯಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ ನಗರಸಭೆಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸರಬರಾಜುಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಸ್ಪಂದರ್ಡ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಂತೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. DMA/2026-27/SE8365, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮೊತ್ತ-ರೂ.4,88,000.00, ಇಎಂಡಿ -ರೂ.6,100.00. 2) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT60255/CALL-2 ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮೊತ್ತ-ರೂ. 50,00,000.00, ಇಎಂಡಿ -ರೂ.50,000/-, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:-04.09.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 16:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:-05.09.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 17:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಮಾದನಾಯಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ.

ಮಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ನಗರಸಭೆ/2233/ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಂಶ/2026-27

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Haveri youth urged to donate blood and save lives

CH NEWS, HAVERI

Swami Vivekananda Seva Samiti President K.M. Vijapura urged young people to come forward and donate blood regularly to help save lives. He was speaking at a voluntary blood donation camp organized in Haveri by the Seva Samiti, Indian Red Cross Society District Branch and KIMS Hubballi. The camp was held in connection with the installation of the statue of Sri Shaktimat Chowdeshwari Devi and the inauguration of her temple in C Block of Basaveshwara Nagar. Vijapura said blood donation was among the most valuable forms of service and encouraged healthy youth to participate. He thanked devotees and others who supported the initiative. KIMS doctor Dr. Kavita said the demand for blood is increasing

and stressed the need for greater public awareness. She suggested that blood donation camps should become part of religious and community programmes. She also encouraged healthy people to develop the habit of donating blood regularly. Swami Vivekananda Seva Samiti Secretary Basavaraj Kori, Indian Red Cross District Honorary Secretary Ningappa Arera, Treasurer Prabhu Hitnalli and other office-bearers attended the event. Representatives of KIMS Hubballi Blood Bank, dignitaries, devotees and donors also participated. Organizers said the camp combined religious devotion with community service and encouraged more people, particularly young adults, to support blood donation efforts. They said regular voluntary donation can help maintain adequate supplies and provide timely support to patients in need.

Villagers catch two suspects in Hunsur temple theft

CH NEWS, HUNSUR

Villagers caught two of four people suspected of attempting to rob temples in the middle of the night and handed them over to police. The incident took place on Tuesday night in Neralakuppe village of Hanagodu hobli in Hunsur taluk. According to the information provided, the suspects, including Mohammed Anas and Adil Daniel from Kesare in Mysuru, first allegedly entered the Omkareshwara temple in nearby Hebbal village. They reportedly stole money from the hundi and puja materials before moving towards the Mahalakshmi temple in Neralakuppe. The suspects allegedly tried to break open the Mahalakshmi temple when youths living nearby heard the noise and rushed to the spot. Two suspects reportedly fled into a nearby garden, while the other two attempted to escape in a Swift car bearing registration number KA-51-MB-9556. Villagers blocked the vehicle using a tractor and caught the two men along with the car and suspected stolen property. The villagers informed the emergency service and Hunsur Rural Police at around 2.30 am. Around 4 am, they handed the suspects, vehicle and recovered property to police. A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway to trace the two suspects who allegedly escaped. Police personnel later visited the temples and conducted a mahazar. The prompt action and courage shown by the villagers in stopping the suspected theft and assisting police have received appreciation from local residents. Further investigation is expected to establish the full circumstances of the incident.

Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests

Bangalore Urban Division, Jarakabande kaval, kammagondanahalli jalahalli west, Bangalore-560015
Ph. 080-23343464, Email- dcfurban82@yahoo.co.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎ9/ಮರ ಕತಾವಣೆ/ಸಿಆರ್/54/2026-27.

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.08.2026

Public Notice

This is to bring to the notice of all citizens of Bengaluru that the Secretary, Fruit, Flower and Vegetable (Special) Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Binnipet, Bangalore has submitted a request for the removal of 535 different species of trees obstructing the development work on a total of 42.31 acres of private land in Anekal Taluk, Sarjapur Hobli, Goolimangala Survey No. 69, 106/1, 106/2, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, the details of which are as follows-

Name of the project	construction of a market of fruits, flowers and vegetables in these lands, Anekal Taluk, Gulimangala village.sy.No. 69, 106/1, 106/2, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146 A total of 42.31 acres Bengaluru		
Name of the Agency.	Anekal Taluk, Sarjapur hobali, Gulimangala village.sy.No. 69, 106/1, 106/2, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146 A total of 42.31 acres		
Purpose for removal of trees.	Improvement in construction of a market of fruits, flowers and vegetables		
Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS readings	<table><tr><td>GPS Reading</td></tr><tr><td>N-12°50'44.92° E-77°41'30.81°</td></tr></table>	GPS Reading	N-12°50'44.92° E-77°41'30.81°
GPS Reading			
N-12°50'44.92° E-77°41'30.81°			
Enumeration of trees. • Total no. of trees standing in the project area	535 (Annexure-I) Description of Trees, Species, location, Area Map etc are uploaded in the website of Karnataka Forest Department for information of all. (www.aranya.gov.in)		
Mode of communication. (Public can send their comments either by E- mail/ Post / Hand	Adress: The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bangalore Urban Division, Jarakabande Forest campus, Kammagondanahalli Jalalahalli west, Bangalore-560015 E-mail ID- dcfurban82@yahoo.co.in		
Deadline for filing objections	Ten(10) days from the date of Publication of this notification *Comments should be relevant and specific to the project		

In this background suggestions and objections invited from all citizens in terms of section 8 (3) (vii) of The Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act 1976.

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bangalore Urban Division, Bangalore.

DIPRI/CP/NCP/L/2220/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ

ಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನ ಹಾಲ್, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನ, ಬಿ.ಎ.ಚಯ್ಯ ದಬಲ್ ರೋಡ್, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-571313. ದೂರವಾರ್ತೆ: 08226-224370 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ : domcnagar@gmail.com
SI NO: MWDC/OUT SOURCE TENDER/CR-16/2026-27 Date: 14.08.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Minority welfare department, Chamarajanagar invites tender to supply manpower such as group D, cooks, sweeper, night watchman, cleaning staff and staff nurse for the Dr. APJ Abdul kalam Residential School/College, Minority Morarji Desai Residential School, Minority Girls P U college, Moulana Azad English Medium school and Minority Post Metric Hostels and Group D, Driver for District office, Data Entry Operator & group D for Minority Information Center

1. Estimated tender amount Rs. 136.56 lakhs

2. EMD amount 2.73 lakhs.

3. Bid form available from: 14.08.2026

4. Last date for bid submission: 15.09.2026

For more information log on website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 14.08.2026 to 15.09.2026 OR contact District officer, Minority welfare Department, District Administrative Building Multipurpose Hall, 1st Floor, Chamarajanagar District- 571313 (ph no-08226-224370)

District Officer, Minority Welfare Department, Chamarajanagara

NO: DIPR: CHANAGAR : 299: 202627

SILK GROWERS RECEIVE PRACTICAL TIPS ON PEST CONTROL

CH NEWS, MANDYA

A special awareness and demonstration programme was held for silk growers at the Taluk Technical Service Centre in Madahalli village, Malavalli, under the 'Mera Resham Mera' campaign. The programme was organized with support from the Central Sericulture Board to help farmers improve mulberry cultivation and silk production. Farmers received technical guidance on maintaining soil fertility and controlling pests and diseases affecting mulberry plants. Experts explained ways to manage thrips, mites, leaf curl insects, stem borers, May-June beetles and other pests. Information was also provided on preventing leaf spot, leaf rust and root rot diseases. A practical demonstration showed farmers suitable pest control methods in their gardens. Deputy Director of Sericulture Dr. Sundar Raj and Central Sericulture Board scientist Dr. Shivakumar provided technical and practical guidance. Farmers discussed difficulties they face in silk production and received suggestions on crop management and disease control. Assistant Director Ravi A.B., along with sericulture extension officers and inspectors from Malavalli, attended the programme.

CABINET NOD FOR ₹13,041 CR RAIL-ROAD PROJECTS

Under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, projects prioritize integrated planning, multimodal cnnectivity, and enhanced logistics efficiency

NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved four multi-tracking railway projects involving an investment of Rs 9,450 crore. The projects, scheduled for completion by 2030-31, will add about 410 km to the Indian Railways network across West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The approved projects include the 173-km Kharagpur-Bhadrak (Ranital) fourth line covering West Bengal and Odisha, the 75-km Bhadrak-Haridaspur fourth line in Odisha, and the 90-km Gummidipundi-Gudur third and fourth lines covering Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The fourth project involves 72 km of third and fourth lines between Cuttack and Paradeep (Badabandha) in Odisha. According to the Cabinet, the additional railway lines will increase capacity, reduce congestion and improve operational efficiency and service reliability. The projects have

GOVT APPROVED RAILWAY INFRA PROJECTS

■ Kharagpur-Bhadrak (Ranital) 4th line: 173-km stretch covering West Bengal and Odisha (cost: ₹3,352 crore)

■ Bhadrak-Haridaspur 4th line: 75-km stretch in Odisha (Cost: ₹1,583 crore).

■ Gummidipundi-Gudur 3rd & 4th lines: 90-km stretch covering Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu (cost: ₹2,229 crore).

■ Cuttack-Paradeep (Badabandha) 3rd & 4th lines: 72-km stretch in Odisha (Cost: ₹2,286 crore)

■ PM Gati Shakti alignment: Planned under the National Master Plan focusing on integrated multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency.

■ Capacity & efficiency: Designed to eliminate bottlenecks, reduce network congestion, and enhance service reliability across key main lines (including segments of the Howrah-Chennai route).

been planned under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, with emphasis on integrated planning, multimodal connectivity and improved logistics efficiency. They are expected to provide smoother movement of passengers, goods and essential services. The four projects will cover eight districts and improve rail connectivity to around 6,448 villages with a com-

bined population of nearly 60 lakh. They will also strengthen access to several tourist destinations, including Bhitarkanika National Park, Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, Pulicat Lake, Chandipur Beach, Tal-sari-Udaypur, Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary, Lalitgiri and several prominent temples. The projects are also expected to support freight movement of coal, iron ore,

cement, steel, containers, automobiles and food grains. Railway officials estimate additional freight capacity of 76 million tonnes annually. As an energy-efficient transport mode, railways are expected to help reduce logistics costs, oil imports by around 13 crore litres and carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 65 crore kg, equivalent to planting about 2.60 crore trees.

Quick Read

SEBI warns strict action over CAS manipulation

Mumbai Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey has warned that strict and immediate action will be taken against attempts to manipulate the newly introduced Closing Auction Session (CAS). Pandey said the regulator has stronger capabilities to detect suspicious activity under CAS than under the earlier volume-weighted average price (VWAP) system. He said the new mechanism was introduced to improve transparency and make stock closing prices more reliable. The 20-minute CAS determines closing prices by matching buy and sell orders and identifying the price at which maximum trading volume can be executed. SEBI, he said, would closely monitor trading activity and respond firmly to any irregularities. The comments come amid concerns from some traders about the new closing mechanism, which replaced the earlier VWAP-based method.

IndiGo website outage disrupts ticket bookings

New Delhi IndiGo's website faced a technical outage on Wednesday, preventing some customers from booking flight tickets and completing online check-in. Users searching for flights reportedly received a "no data available" message. The disruption appeared to affect customers across multiple locations. Reuters journalists in at least three Indian cities were unable to make bookings through the airline's website. A third-party travel platform also confirmed that IndiGo's systems were experiencing technical problems. Several customers took to social media platform X to complain about difficulties with ticket bookings and online check-in. The outage caused inconvenience for passengers relying on IndiGo's digital services. IndiGo, India's largest airline, holds more than 65 per cent of the country's domestic aviation market. The airline had not immediately responded to requests for comment on the technical issue.

'AI, tax certainty, global reforms will shape India's next tax era'

'Over 220 bilateral agreements offer businesses greater clarity on international tax matters while minimizing potential disputes'

NEW DELHI

India needs to protect its tax base while ensuring policy stability, predictability and certainty for global investors, Monica Bhatia, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (International Tax), said on Wednesday. She was speaking at the 23rd International Tax Conference organised by ASSOCHAM in New Delhi. Bhatia said India's international tax framework is undergoing a major transformation, influenced by the Supreme

Court's Tiger Global judgment, the new Income-tax Act, changing dispute-resolution mechanisms and rapid technological developments. She stressed that stable tax policies are essential for maintaining investor confidence. She also highlighted government measures introduced after the Tiger Global judgment to provide greater certainty to genuine legacy investments. She said artificial intelligence is rapidly changing business models as well as tax administration. This is creating new questions about permanent establishment, profit attribution and where economic value is actually created. As technology develops faster than existing tax rules, Bhatia stressed that stronger

international cooperation and consensus-based global rule-making will become increasingly important. Rakesh Nangia, Chairman of ASSOCHAM's Task Force on International Taxes, said international taxation has entered a period of fundamental transition, with the Tiger Global ruling, new legislation, global minimum tax measures and AI influencing future policies. Sandeep Chaufla, Chairman of ASSOCHAM's National Council on Direct Taxes, said governments want to protect their tax bases while taxpayers seek certainty and predictability. The conference also discussed BEPS 2.0, treaty changes, APAs, safe harbours and cross-border dispute resolution.

Agentic AI plans surge, production adoption lags

NEW DELHI

A new report highlights a major gap between corporate interest in Agentic AI and its actual deployment. While 99% of companies are planning to adopt Agentic AI, only 9-14% have moved these systems into production, largely because businesses are yet to see clear and measurable changes from their investments. The findings suggest that many organisations are still experimenting with AI agents rather than deploying them at scale. Companies are increasingly exploring autonomous AI systems that can perform tasks, make decisions and coordinate workflows with limited human intervention.

However, concerns over measurable business value, integration, governance and reliability are slowing wider adoption. The report indicates that organisations are looking beyond AI demonstrations and seeking tangible improvements in productivity, revenue, customer experience and operational efficiency before committing to large-scale deployments. The gap also reflects the difficulty of moving Agentic AI projects from pilot programmes into real-world business environments. Companies need appropriate data infrastructure, strong security measures and clear accountability frameworks to ensure that AI agents can operate safely and effectively.

Meta ex-engineer resumes testimony in landmark trial

OAKLAND

Former Meta engineering director Arturo Bejar resumed testimony on Wednesday in a landmark federal trial examining allegations that the company's social media platforms harm young users. The case, being heard in Oakland, California, could lead to changes in how Facebook and Instagram operate. Bejar, who worked at Meta from 2009 to 2015 and later returned as an independent contractor from 2019 to 2021, is the first witness in the six-week trial. A coalition of 29 states alleges that Meta designed its platforms to keep children engaged, misled the public about their safety and improperly collected personal data from users under 13. Bejar helped conduct surveys examining teenagers' ex-

periences and wellbeing on Instagram between 2019 and 2021. He told jurors that he raised concerns with Meta leadership about the impact of the company's platforms on young people. He also argued that Meta's internal monitoring did not adequately measure harm because it focused mainly on content violating company policies rather than the extent of harm experienced by users. During his testimony, Bejar referred to an email he had sent to Meta Chief Product Officer Chris Cox, highlighting what he described as a significant difference between the levels of harm reported internally and the actual experiences reported by users. California, Colorado, Kentucky and New Jersey are among the states accusing Meta of designing Facebook and Instagram to attract young

users and contributing to problems including anxiety, depression and suicide. The wider case also involves claims that Meta violated federal law by collecting and using children's personal data. Meta has denied the allegations and defended its efforts to protect teenagers. The company had sought to prevent Bejar from testifying, arguing that he had deleted communications with former Meta employees on Signal. However, US District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers rejected the request. Bejar has previously testified against Meta in several similar cases and appeared before a US Senate committee in 2023. One New Mexico case involving his testimony resulted in \$942 million in damages and penalties, along with an order requiring Meta to make changes to its platforms in the state.

India GCC industry revenue reaches \$98.4 billion

NEW DELHI

India's global capability centre (GCC) industry recorded an estimated revenue of \$98.4 billion in FY26, highlighting the country's growing importance as a hub for technology, research and innovation, according to a joint report by Awfis Space Solutions and Zinnov. The report said India currently hosts 2,117 GCCs operating across 3,728 units and employing more than 2.36 million professionals. The number of GCCs has increased by nearly 32 per cent since FY21. As many as 506 Global 2000 companies now operate GCCs in India, while private equity-backed businesses, mid-sized enterprises and digital-native companies are also increasingly establishing centres in the country. Awfis Chairman and Managing Director Amit Ramani said Indian GCCs are taking greater ownership of products, platforms and artificial intelligence-led operations. Zinnov CMO and Managing Partner Nitika Goel said the rapid adoption of AI is changing workforce requirements, with companies seeking professionals who combine technical skills with industry knowledge and business understanding. Nearly half of India's GCCs now undertake an equal or larger share of frontier work compared with their global headquarters.

SK Hynix plans \$28.6 billion share buyback

SEOUL

South Korean chipmaker SK Hynix said on Wednesday it will buy back and cancel treasury shares worth 40 trillion won (\$28.61 billion), as it seeks to strengthen shareholder returns following a decline in its share price. The company also plans to return more than 50 per cent of free cash flow generated between 2025 and 2027 to shareholders. SK Hynix shares fell nearly 10 per cent during Wednesday's trading session before recovering some losses in post-market trading. The stock had reached record highs in June but has declined since then, partly due to investor concerns about whether strong artificial intelligence spending by US technology companies can continue at the current pace. The company said it will repurchase and cancel up to 24 million treasury shares between August 20 and November 19. Analysts said the large-scale buyback could reassure investors about the

The stock peaked in June but has since fallen due to investor doubts about sustainable AI spending by US tech firms

company's outlook for memory chip prices and future earnings. SK Hynix previously planned to use up to 50 per cent of its cumulative free cash flow between 2025 and 2027 for shareholder returns through dividends and share repurchases. The company said it will now expand its overall shareholder-return target, with further details expected alongside its third-quarter results. The move comes as SK Hynix and Samsung Electronics face increasing pressure from investors to distribute more cash after record profits driven by strong demand for memory chips used in artificial intelligence systems. US chipmaker Micron has also pledged to return all of its ex-

PLAN IN A NUTSHELL

• SK Hynix to buy back and cancel 40 trillion won of shares.

• Plans to return over 50% of free cash flow to shareholders.

• Shares slide but trim losses in post-market trading.

BoA reshuffles Asia Pacific industrials leadership

NEW DELHI

Bank of America has appointed Yuta Komori as chair of its Asia Pacific Global Industrials Investment Banking group, while naming Meng Gao and Masashi Toda as co-heads, according to an internal memo reviewed by Reuters on Wednesday. Komori will provide strategic guidance to the industrials banking business and support the expansion of the firm's industrials franchise across the Asia Pacific region. He will continue to serve as co-head of Japan Investment Banking alongside his new responsibilities. Gao and Toda will be responsible for driving growth across the industrials business in the region. They will work with country, sector and product teams to strengthen client relationships and improve connectivity across Bank of America's global banking platform. The leadership changes come as the US banking giant continues to adjust its invest-

ment banking structure across major markets and sectors. The firm is seeking to strengthen client coverage and take advantage of a potential recovery in global dealmaking activity. Komori will report to Peter Guenthardt, head of Asia Pacific Global Commercial and Investment Banking. Gao and Toda will report to Guenthardt on a regional basis and also to Loli Wu and Justin Anstee, co-heads of Global Industrials Investment Banking, on global matters. Gao joined Bank of America in 2015 and has been a senior member of its China Investment Banking team. His experience in the Chinese market is expected to support the bank's efforts to expand

its industrials business and deepen relationships with corporate clients across Asia. Toda will retain his existing positions as head of Japan Industrials and Natural Resources & Energy Transition Investment Banking, as well as Japan Investment Banking Strategy officer. The appointments follow other changes within Bank of America's investment banking operations. Earlier this year, the lender hired nine senior investment bankers across the United States to strengthen its regional presence and capture increasing demand from middle-market companies. A Bank of America spokesperson declined to comment on the latest appointments.

CURRENCY DEPRECIATION

Rupee falls 2 paise to settle at 95.76 against US dollar

MUMBAI

The Indian rupee weakened by two paise to close at 95.76 against the US dollar on Wednesday, extending pressure on the currency amid movements in global markets. The rupee had ended at 95.74 against the dollar in the previous session after depreciating 13 paise. Traders said the domestic currency remained under pressure as market participants closely monitored global economic developments and movements in the US dollar.

The rupee's performance has remained sensitive to changes in global financial conditions, particularly expectations surrounding US monetary policy, foreign fund flows and international crude oil prices. A stronger dollar in overseas markets can also put pressure on emerging-market currencies, including the Indian rupee. Market participants are expected to track upcoming economic data and signals from major central banks for further direction. Developments in global trade and geopoliti-

cal conditions could also influence currency movements in the near term. The rupee's latest decline comes as importers and other market participants continue to monitor foreign exchange volatility. Persistent weakness in the domestic currency can increase the cost of imports, particularly crude oil and other commodities, while exporters may benefit from improved realisations. The currency closed at 95.76 against the US dollar, down two paise from its previous close. Analysts said the

rupee could remain sensitive to global dollar movements and foreign capital flows in the coming sessions, with traders continuing to watch market developments for signs of further direction.

Rupee slips amid global pressures

The Indian rupee closed lower at 95.76 against the US dollar, driven by foreign capital flows and global market volatility. Persistent weakness increases import costs, particularly for crude oil, while exporters benefit from improved realisations.

RESTORE TRUST IN EXAMINATIONS: PRALHAD JOSHI’S TIMELY CLEAN-UP OF THE NTA

The integrity of a nation’s education system rests not merely on classrooms and universities, but on the credibility of its examinations. For millions of students, competitive tests such as NEET, JEE and other national-level entrance examinations are gateways to higher education, careers and dreams. Any compromise in the fairness or secrecy of these examinations strikes at the very foundation of meritocracy and public trust.

It is in this context that Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi’s decisive intervention to overhaul the National Testing Agency (NTA) deserves appreciation. His directive for a comprehensive revamp of examination procedures, confidential operations and security architecture comes at a crucial juncture, particularly after controversies and irregularities surrounding major entrance examinations had caused widespread anxiety among students, parents and educational institutions across the country.

The Minister’s actions indicate that the Government has

recognised the gravity of the problem and is determined to restore confidence in the examination system. The removal of more than 50 staff members, replacement of nearly 600 experts, induction of new professionals and creation of top-level positions such as Chief Technology Officer, Chief Information Security Officer and General Manager for Test Security reflect a serious attempt to rebuild the institution from within.

Equally significant is the decision to strengthen confidential operations through air-gapped systems, secluded rooms and stringent security protocols. The introduction of a four-tier question-paper verification system and the deployment of CISF personnel for securing NTA premises indicate that the Government is moving beyond cosmetic changes and addressing structural weaknesses.

This is not merely administrative reform; it is an effort to protect the aspirations of millions of young Indians.

The NEET controversy and other examination-related issues had shaken public confidence. Students spend years

preparing for these examinations, often sacrificing personal comforts and investing enormous emotional and financial resources. Any leak, manipulation or malpractice not only destroys individual

come. The emphasis on technology, cyber-security, psychometrics and professional expertise is in tune with the requirements of modern examination systems. India conducts some

structure and technology can reduce vulnerabilities, the human factor remains the biggest challenge.

Every institution, however strong, can be weakened by a few dishonest individuals.



dreams but also erodes faith in institutions. A transparent and fool proof examination process is therefore not just an educational necessity but a moral obligation.

Pralhad Joshi’s “war-footing” approach to reform is, therefore, timely and wel-

come. The emphasis on technology, cyber-security, psychometrics and professional expertise is in tune with the requirements of modern examination systems. India conducts some

Experience shows that “black sheep” or moles often operate within systems, leaking information, manipulating processes or colluding with external elements for personal gain. These internal threats can undermine even the most sophisticated



- SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

security mechanisms.

Therefore, while modernising the NTA, equal emphasis must be placed on identifying and eliminating such elements. Strict background verification, periodic audits, accountability mechanisms and exemplary punishment for those found guilty of malpractice are essential. The message must be loud and clear: there will be zero tolerance for any attempt to compromise the sanctity of examinations.

Transparency should also become an integral part of the reform process. Periodic public disclosures on corrective measures, independent audits and stronger grievance redressal mechanisms can further strengthen trust among students and parents.

India’s youth deserve an examination system that rewards talent, hard work and

merit alone. No student should feel that success depends on unfair practices or systemic loopholes. The nation cannot afford a situation where uncertainty and suspicion overshadow the dreams of aspiring doctors, engineers and professionals.

The reforms initiated by Pralhad Joshi offer a ray of hope. Yet, this must not remain a one-time clean-up exercise. It should evolve into a sustained mission to create a robust, transparent and incorruptible examination ecosystem.

The credibility of India’s competitive examinations is too precious to be compromised. Protecting it requires not only better technology and stronger security but also constant vigilance against those who seek to exploit the system from within.

If the present reforms are implemented with sincerity and firmness, India can once again assure every student that merit alone will triumph, and that the nation’s examination system remains fair, secure and worthy of public trust.

EUROPE’S HEAT IS NO LONGER JUST A HOT SUMMER

A summer heat wave can sound almost ordinary. It can mean hot afternoons, dry fields and people searching for shade. But there is nothing ordinary about people dying because the air around them has become too hot to survive. Europe has always experienced hot summers, droughts and wildfires. What is becoming harder to ignore is the scale, frequency and consequences of the extreme heat now affecting the continent. Across Europe, prolonged high temperatures are putting pressure on people, agriculture, water supplies, forests and infrastructure. Rivers are falling to unusually low levels, soils are drying out, wildfire conditions are worsening, and extreme heat is contributing to loss of life. And behind every number is a person. A heat-related death is not simply a statistic. It is a family losing someone, a life ending because the human body could no longer cope with the conditions around it. That is what makes extreme heat so deeply tragic. Unlike a flood or wildfire, heat can be almost invisible.

There may be no dramatic moment when disaster arrives. Instead, the danger builds quietly, day after day and night after night, until the body can no longer regulate its temperature. So, are these events simply natural variations in European weather, or are they connected to the enormous changes humanity has made to the climate? The answer is both. Heat waves are natural weather events. The atmosphere has always produced periods of exceptional heat, just as it has produced cold spells, heavy rain and droughts. But the climate in which these events occur has

changed. Decades of burning coal, oil and gas have increased greenhouse-gas concentrations in the atmosphere, trapping additional heat and raising global temperatures. Climate change does not create every heat wave from nothing. Instead, it changes the conditions in which heat waves develop. A weather pattern that might once have

fect. But prolonged heat and a lack of rainfall dry the soil and weaken this process. More energy is then available to heat the land and the air above it.

This can create a dangerous cycle: heat dries the land, dry conditions reduce cooling, and weaker cooling can contribute to further warming. Water demand rises, crops suffer and vegetation be-

do not address the underlying trend. Europe must do two things at once: reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and adapt to the warming that is already taking place. That



- PRADIVYA NAMBIAR



produced a very hot period is now operating on top of a warmer climate, making extreme temperatures more likely and, in many cases, more intense. Weather determines what happens on a particular day. Climate determines the conditions in which that weather occurs. Europe is now the fastest-warming continent, and that changing baseline matters. As average temperatures rise, extreme heat becomes easier to reach. Conditions once considered exceptional can become increasingly familiar. The effects do not stop at the thermometer. When soil contains moisture, some of the Sun’s energy is used to evaporate water, providing a natural cooling ef-

comes more vulnerable to fire. A heat wave, therefore, is rarely just a temperature problem. It can become a crisis for an entire society. Farmers can lose crops. Water supplies can come under pressure. Electricity demand can rise as people try to cool their homes. Outdoor workers can face dangerous conditions. Older people and others vulnerable to extreme temperatures face greater health risks. This is why Europe cannot treat every heat wave as an isolated summer event. Warnings, emergency services, cooling measures and protection for vulnerable people are essential when extreme heat arrives. They can save lives. But they

means cooler cities, better water management, stronger infrastructure, improved early warning systems and effective protection for vulnerable people. It also means recognizing that heat deaths deserve the same seriousness as other climate-related disasters. None of this means every summer will be hotter than the last. Natural variability will continue to produce cooler years as well as hotter ones. But the background is changing.

Europe is warming, and that warmer background is changing the consequences of the weather it has always experienced. The heat will eventually break. But the consequences do not always disappear with it.

A CRISIS OF EXAMS, JOBS AND JUSTICE: JHARKHAND MUST FIND THE RIGHT BALANCE

The student agitation over government recruitment examinations in Jharkhand, which has continued for the past twenty-five days, has now entered a new and more complex phase. Amid mounting pressure from protesting students, allegations of irregularities in recruitment examinations, and serious questions over the credibility of the examination system, the Hemant Soren government has announced the cancellation of the JSSC-CGL, the 14th JPSC examination, and several other recruitment examinations, including those associated with TDPL. The government has also announced that examinations conducted since 2014 will be investigated and that steps will be taken to reform the recruitment system. While this decision has brought considerable relief to protesting students, it has simultaneously created a serious crisis of employment and future prospects for thousands of young people who had already been selected and were serving in government jobs. This contradiction makes Jharkhand’s current recruitment controversy much more than a case of examination malpractice; it has become a serious question of justice, administrative accountability, and human sensitivity.

The student agitation, which began at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium in Ranchi on July 25, 2026, was against alleged paper leaks, irregularities, and lack of transparency in JPSC and JSSC recruitment examinations.

The students demanded a fair investigation into the examinations, cancellation of processes found to be compromised, and stringent action against those responsible. Student leader Devendra Nath Mahto undertook a sixteen-day hunger strike. Following the government’s an-

nouncement, he ended his fast, although some students continue to demand an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The government has issued a list of 44 examinations to be cancelled through eight separate notifications.

If a question paper has been leaked, organized malpractice has taken place, or serious irregularities have been proven to have compromised the selection process, an investigation and, where necessary, cancellation of the examination is undoubtedly justified. The confidence of millions of young people competing for government jobs can be sustained only when they are assured that their hard work will not be rendered futile by brokers, corrupt officials, examination authorities, or candidates using unfair means. Therefore, the students’ demand for a transparent and impartial recruitment system is entirely legitimate.

However, the situation becomes far more serious when a collective irregularity in an examination results in the removal of candidates who have been selected and appointed, even though there is no evidence of individual wrongdoing on their part. This is the fundamental question being raised by the employees selected through the JSSC-CGL examination. The examination was conducted in December 2023. Following allegations of a paper leak, it was conducted again in September 2024.

The matter reached the courts, and after the judicial process, the results were declared. Successful candidates were issued appointment letters, and many of them joined government service. Now, with the entire process being cancelled, nearly 2,000 selected employees have been directly affected. According to available information, around 1,975 appointments have been impacted by the decision.

These employees maintain that they appeared for the examination through the prescribed procedure, qualified on merit, received appointment letters, and joined government service. If corruption occurred at any level, it must certainly be investigated. But treating every selected candidate as guilty and terminating their employment cannot be considered just.

After securing government jobs, many young people took loans, assumed financial responsibilities for housing and other necessities, and gave up other employment opportunities. Their lives and financial plans became dependent on the stability of regular government salaries. The anguish and grievances of these employees must be heard with the same seriousness with which the concerns of protesting students were addressed.

The fundamental issue is how to distinguish between irregularities in an examination system and the individual involvement of a candidate in malpractice.

If a candidate purchased a leaked paper, cheated, used unfair means, or obtained an undue advantage through a broker, the strictest possible action should be taken against that individual. But if a candidate appeared for the examination without any proven misconduct, succeeded on the basis of the declared result, and subsequently entered government service, then penalising that person merely because the examination system itself was flawed raises serious questions of justice. Protecting the guilty is injustice, but punishing the innocent is equally unjust.



- LALIT GARGG

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fix the Exam System

Restoring Trust in Examinations, repeated question paper leaks and scheduling delays have shattered student trust in competitive exams. When years of hard work are rendered meaningless by corruption, youth lose faith in the system. The government must implement strict cybersecurity, secure printing, and independent oversight immediately. Rebuilding credibility in our examination process is essential to secure the future and morale of our nation’s youth.

- Fakiyan Firdouse

Climate Action Now

Europe’s Extreme Heat Warning, record-breaking temperatures across Europe are no longer just an uncomfortable summer—they represent a severe ecological crisis. Prolonged heatwaves, droughts, and wildfires threaten public health, agriculture, and infrastructure. Governments must move beyond temporary relief measures and enact aggressive, long-term climate policies. We must accelerate the transition to renewable energy and build climate-resilient cities before these extreme weather events become permanent.

- Rahul Prakash

Youth Needs Employment

Addressing Jharkhand’s Job Crisis, Jharkhand urgently needs to resolve its ongoing employment and recruitment crisis. Thousands of educated youth face uncertainty due to delayed examinations, legal hurdles, and policy instability. The state government must ensure transparent hiring practices, timely exam schedules, and fair reservation policies. Balancing social justice with merit-based opportunities is critical to restore stability, reduce frustration, and empower the state’s young workforce effectively.

- Rajan Johnson A.



Quick Read



Officer's CPR saves teenager's life

kerala
A police officer's timely CPR helped save a 17-year-old girl who was found unconscious after an alleged suicide attempt at her home in Kollam, Kerala. Police said the family sought help after the teenager locked herself in her room following a dispute over mobile phone use. A patrol team led by Sub-Inspector S Manoj and home guard Jyothi P S forced open the door and brought her down. Manoj performed CPR for more than five minutes, restoring her heartbeat. She was rushed to hospital and is recovering. Kerala police chief Ravada Chandrasekhar gave Manoj and Jyothi commendation certificates on Wednesday.

Eight held for child abuse in Raipur

Raipur
A major child abuse and alleged newborn trafficking case has emerged in Raipur, where police have arrested eight people, including relatives and medical staff. A 16-year-old girl alleged that her father repeatedly raped her and used forged documents to arrange her delivery at a private hospital. Officials said she was falsely shown as an adult and married. Her newborn son was allegedly sold. The survivor later contacted her mother through social media, leading to a complaint on Monday. Police have invoked provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, POCSO Act and Juvenile Justice Act. The investigation is continuing.

Man found dead after alleged assault

BEGUSARAI
A 24-year-old man was found dead in a garden in Bihar's Begusarai district after he was allegedly tied up and beaten, police said. Investigators suspect his younger brother may be involved following a reported dispute, but said the motive and sequence of events have not been established. The body of Rahul Kumar, 24, was found on Tuesday night after local residents alerted police. Officers said his hands and legs were tied and that deep injury marks were visible on his back and other parts of his body. Police suspect Kumar was restrained and assaulted with sticks and possibly a whip before his death. However, they said the cause of death will be confirmed only after the post-mortem examination and further evidence is examined.

NMC Chief stresses medical education quality

India's medical education expansion must prioritise competent, ethical doctors, NMC chief Abhijat Sheth said

NEW DELHI

National Medical Commission chairperson Abhijat Sheth has urged India to protect quality and training standards as it rapidly increases medical colleges and MBBS seats. Speaking at the Indian Chamber of Commerce's Medical Education Forum in Delhi, he said expansion should strengthen the healthcare workforce without weakening competence or accountability. India now has more than 800 medical colleges, he said, calling the growth a planned national effort to improve healthcare access and reduce regional gaps. Official figures show medical colleges rose from 387 in 2014 to 844 in 2026. MBBS seats increased from 51,348 to 139,489 over the same period. Sheth said the number of doctors alone cannot define success. Medical graduates must have strong clinical skills, ethical grounding and the ability to serve communities, he said. He called for competency-based teaching,



"Expansion must not compromise quality."
Abhijat Sheth, NMC chairperson

better faculty development, simulation-based training and continued research throughout a doctor's career. Technology and artificial intelligence will increasingly support diagnosis, data analysis and clinical decisions, Sheth said. However, he stressed that AI cannot replace doctors' professional responsibility or accountability. Students must understand algorithmic bias, data privacy, cybersecurity, informed consent and the limits of AI-generated information, he said. He urged institutions to

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- India has 844 medical colleges in 2026.
- •MBBS seats have risen to 139,489.
- Sheth stressed competency-based medical education.
- AI must support, not replace, doctors.
- Students must understand AI risks and limits.

build AI tools suited to Indian patients, local health needs and available data. India's medical education system must combine wider access with rigorous standards, he said. The aim should be to prepare capable, ethical doctors who can respond to changing health challenges and help shape the future of medicine. He said expansion must remain purposeful, inclusive and focused on patients, not merely rising college numbers. That balance, he added, will determine the system's lasting value.

AISA launches Gen-Z yatra across Uttar Pradesh

NEW DELHI

The All-India Students' Association on Tuesday announced its "GEN-Z Mahajutan Yatra" across Uttar Pradesh, as part of its GenZ Rising campaign focused on education reform, entrance examination policies and unemployment. The student group said the initiative aims to bring together young people and students around these concerns. The yatra will begin in Prayagraj on September 9. It will travel to Rae Bareilly on September 10, Varanasi on September 12, Azamgarh on September 13, and Gorakhpur on September 14. The programme will then move to Lucknow on September 17 and Meerut on September 18. AISA leaders said the journey will be led by the organisation's president, Neha Bora, and Uttar Pradesh state chief Manish. Representatives of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union are also expected to support the campaign. AISA said it wanted to

AISA's Gen-Z Mahajutan Yatra will cross seven Uttar Pradesh cities from September 9, rallying students around education reform, entrance exams and unemployment across the state

"carry the Jantar Mantar momentum forward" through the state-wide campaign. The organisation described the yatra as an effort to raise concerns about higher education, entrance tests and employment opportunities. The campaign is named GenZ Rising and is aimed at students and young people in the state. AISA said the scheduled visits would provide a platform to discuss education and jobs issues. The group has also called attention to entrance examination policies, which it has listed among its main concerns. The proposed route covers cities in different parts of Uttar Pradesh over ten days. AISA has not announced further programme details in the statement.

SP MLA congress MP clash in Saharanpur

SAHARANPUR

Samajwadi Party MLA Ashu Malik and Congress MP Imran Masood exchanged sharp words over speaking time during a District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee, or Disha, meeting in Saharanpur. A video of the exchange later circulated widely on social media. The meeting was held on August 18 at Vikas Bhawan auditorium on Delhi Road. Malik raised issues related to his assembly constituency and sought answers from officials. The disagreement reportedly began over the order and time allotted to members for raising questions. In the video, Malik said many questions came from the public and asked who would raise them if elected representatives did not. Masood asked him to let other members speak, saying everyone would receive a turn. Malik also asked officials not to drop his questions and sought written replies. After the video spread, both leaders downplayed the incident and said it was a discussion over meeting rules. Malik said the session lasted about five hours and that he was seeking solutions, not a dispute.

CABINET CLEARS BIHAR NH-22 WIDENING

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹3,590.73-crore project to widen the Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa section of National Highway 22 in Bihar to four lanes. The scheme is intended to improve connectivity with the Nepal border and support trade, tourism and economic activity in the region.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the route would become a major transport artery linking Sonbarsa, Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur. He said the project would benefit Bihar for years and serve as an important economic corridor. Construction is scheduled for completion within 30 months using flexible, black-top pavement. The work will include seven major bridges, three road overbridges and six underpasses. A 340-metre bridge over the Bagmati River is also planned. Officials said bridge designs will consider flooding in the river. The project will connect important economic, social and logistics centres across Bihar, according to the Press Information Bureau. These include four industrial estates, a mega food park, the Baba Garibnath Temple, Mata Janki Temple and Punaura Dham. Muzaf-

Details of highway plan
The project will cost 3,590.73 crore.
NH-22 will be widened to four lanes.
Construction is planned within 30 months.
The project includes seven major bridges.

farpur and Sitamarhi railway stations are also among the logistics nodes expected to benefit. The expanded highway is expected to speed up travel for passengers and improve goods movement in north Bihar.

It will also provide better road links for communities near the international border, officials said. The government said the corridor would support development in Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur districts and improve access to tourism sites.

The project forms part of wider efforts to upgrade national highways and strengthen regional transport networks. With construction planned over thirty months, authorities will focus on safe bridge design and uninterrupted connectivity during the work. Work will proceed as scheduled

CBI arrests I&B officer in bribery case

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested Sandeep, a Deputy Controller of Accounts with the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in an alleged ₹10-lakh bribery case. The agency said he was caught while allegedly accepting money through his wife.

A CBI spokesperson said the case was registered on August 18 after a complaint alleged that Sandeep, an Indian Civil Accounts Service officer of the 2020 batch, demanded ₹15 lakh to quickly clear a pending file.

The file concerned renewal of a private company's contract, the agency said. Sandeep was posted as Deputy Controller of Accounts and Internal Financial Adviser in the ministry, according to the CBI. Following negotiations, he allegedly agreed to accept ₹10 lakh from the complainant.

Bengal court issues warrant against Mahua Moitra

KOLKATA

A court in West Bengal's Nadia district on Wednesday ordered an arrest warrant against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra after she allegedly failed to appear in an alleged hate speech case. The Krishnanagar court directed police to submit an execution report by August 28, PTI reported.

The case alleges that Moitra insulted women and made hate speech. A senior Krishnanagar police district official said the complaint invokes provisions concerning insulting a woman's modesty, promoting enmity, hurting religious feelings, criminal intimidation and hate speech.

The third judicial magistrate said Moitra did not attend despite repeated pre-cognisance summonses. The court noted that she was directed on Tuesday to appear

AT A GLANCE
■ 1: Arrest warrant issued against Mahua Moitra.
■ 1: Hate speech complaint case before the Krishnanagar court.
■ Several: Summonses allegedly missed by Moitra.
■ August 28: Deadline for police to submit the warrant-execution report.
■ October 5: Interim protection date in a separate Calcutta High Court case.

the following day but did not do so. It said her continued non-compliance left it with no option but to issue a warrant.

Moitra's lawyer told the court she would not appear and raised concern that she

could be heckled outside the courthouse, according to the order. The judge said this showed a lack of respect for the court.

Separately, the Supreme Court earlier this month declined to intervene in Moitra's challenge to a Calcutta High Court order requiring her to appear before police in another hate speech case. Her lawyer had sought virtual appearance, citing past security concerns and an egg attack.

On July 21, the High Court granted Moitra interim protection from coercive action in that separate case until October 5, subject to cooperation with investigators. Moitra has reportedly said the allegations were fabricated.

The present warrant concerns a complaint case before the Krishnanagar court, officials said, and its execution remains pending. Police must report by August 28.

Jharkhand cancels 44 recruitment exams

RANCHI

The Jharkhand government on Tuesday released a list of 44 recruitment examinations conducted by the Jharkhand Public Service Commission and Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission that were cancelled following alleged irregularities. The move came amid student protests over recruitment examination concerns. The cancelled tests include recruitment examinations for drug inspectors, assistant professors, deputy collectors, dental doctors, assistant engineers, civil judges, additional public prosecutors and forest range officers. Examinations for polytechnic

lecturers, senior scientific officers, assistant conservators of forests and other administrative and technical posts are also on the list.

The government said the cancellations followed complaints about irregularities in ongoing examinations conducted by the commissions and handled through TSR Data Processing Private Limited, or TDPL. It cited facts brought before the government during a Criminal Investigation Department inquiry.

To address the issue, the government said it would ask the High Court to establish a fast-track court for cases concerning alleged irregularities and misconduct in JPSC and



JSSC examinations. It also plans to create an internal monitoring cell within both commissions. A committee chaired by IAS officer Amitabh Kaushal will examine reforms in the JPSC and JSSC examination system, the government said. The panel will

include other officials and the director of a reputed institution. It must submit its report within two months. Meanwhile, Jharkhand CID arrested the wife and brother of Abhay Tiwari, described as a suspected key figure in the case.

RESERVATION SYSTEM GLITCH

IndiGo website outage disrupts online flight bookings

NEW DELHI



"We are currently experiencing intermittent issues with our core reservation platform," IndiGo

access online services. Its teams were working with a partner to resolve the problem as soon as possible, it said.

Several customers posted on X that they were unable to book tickets or finish check-in online. Reports indicated that

passengers in at least three Indian cities were affected. Another travel website displayed a notice asking users to try again later, Reuters reported.

IndiGo advised passengers needing immediate travel assistance to contact its customer support centre. Those travelling later were asked to try the website or mobile application again after some time. The airline apologised for the inconvenience and thanked customers for their patience.

This follows other recent operational concerns involving the airline, including a technical snag on a Kolk-

ata-to-Chennai flight and flight cancellations linked to a pilot shortage last year. However, Wednesday's disruption involved its online reservation services.

The airline did not give a timeline for full restoration of the platform. It said it was prioritising a solution and urged customers with later travel plans to wait before trying again. The outage underlined the importance of reliable digital systems for passengers seeking to book or manage their journeys. IndiGo said it would share updates as work continued on repairs.

Hospital faces probe over c-section negligence claims

BEED

A 19-year-old woman is in critical condition after her family alleged that surgical gloves and paper napkins were left inside her abdomen during a Caesarean section at the Beed district hospital in Maharashtra. Authorities have begun an inquiry and issued show-cause notices to the doctor and health workers concerned.

Sandhya Suraj Gaikwad was admitted to the hospital on August 1 for delivery and underwent the surgery. She was discharged four days later but developed severe abdominal pain after returning home, her family said.

As her condition worsened, relatives took her to a private hospital, where doctors reportedly detected an unknown object in her abdomen. She was later taken to Sassoon Hospital in Pune for further treatment. Her family alleged that doctors at Sassoon Hospital performed another operation and removed surgical gloves and paper napkins from her abdomen. Her husband, Suraj Gaikwad, blamed negligence during the first surgery and sought strict action against those responsible.

Her mother said Sandhya had vomited after the C-section and that she informed a nurse at the Beed hospital. The family said her condition

deteriorated after she was taken home. Beed District Surgeon Dr Satishkumar Solanke said the matter was under investigation. He said legal and administrative action would follow if anyone was found responsible. The inquiry will examine how the alleged material was found inside the patient and whether procedures were followed during the surgery. The woman remains under treatment in Pune, her family said. Officials have not yet released the findings of the investigation. The case has raised questions about patient safety and post-operative care at the district hospital. Further official action is awaited.



Quick Read

Man tied, beaten to death; brother suspected

Begusarai

A 24-year-old man was found dead in a garden with his hands and legs tied, police said. The victim, Rahul Kumar, had injuries on his body suggesting a violent assault.

Police suspect his younger brother after reports of an argument before the incident. The brother was missing from home, officials said. However, investigators have not confirmed the motive or the sequence of events.

The body was sent for post-mortem examination. Police are collecting evidence and questioning people to determine whether others were involved.

Further action will depend on medical and investigative findings.

600 students leave 'haunted' in hostel

AMRAVATI

Nearly 600 tribal students left a government residential school in Maharashtra's Amravati district after four girls reportedly cried and laughed uncontrollably, triggering rumours of "possession" and spirits on campus. The incident on July 22 caused fear among students and families.

Authorities said the girls' hostel had been overcrowded for a long time. To restore confidence and safety, girl students will begin shifting to a newly constructed hostel on the school premises from September 1. Officials are working to bring students back and resume normal schooling.

Tamil Nadu engineering admissions falter

Chennai

selected 74,658 seats after two rounds, below the 79,894 chosen at the same stage last year. Officials and education experts expect 40,000 to 50,000 seats to remain vacant after counselling ends. Nearly 46 per cent of applicants did not attend the second round, possibly choosing management quota colleges, deemed universities or other courses. They said affordability and location could also shape student decisions.

Career consultant Jayaprakash Gandhi said students are increasingly favouring urban colleges, where they believe internships, technology exposure and jobs are easier to secure. He linked the preference to concerns about an information technology slowdown and preparation for careers after graduation. Educationist Prince Gajendra Babu said many private colleges had failed to modernise infrastructure despite charging high fees.

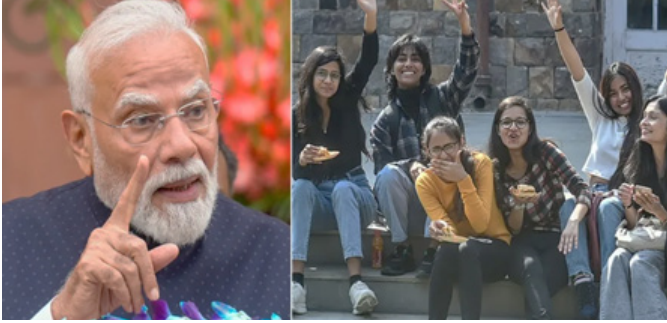
Government plans university visits by Union Ministers

The Union government is considering One Day, One University, a programme that would send ministers to campuses daily to hear students directly

NEW DELHI

The Union government is preparing a proposed nationwide outreach programme under which a minister would visit one university each day to meet students and hear their concerns, sources said. Called One Day, One University, the initiative is intended to deepen direct contact between the government and young people across higher education institutions.

During the visits, ministers are expected to discuss issues affecting students, listen to their views and explain government schemes related to education, skills and employment. Education Minister Pralhad Joshi and Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya have reportedly been asked to coordinate with universities and other ministers. Sources said the proposal



was discussed at a Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The ministry has not issued an official statement on its final structure, timetable or selection of campuses. India has about 1,300 universities, according to University Grants Commission data, including 57 central universities and 522 state universities. The rest are deemed-to-be or private institutions. The plan would therefore involve an extensive

schedule if implemented nationally. It comes as the government seeks to increase engagement with students following protests over the NEET paper leak controversy, which also became a major political issue. Students would be able to raise local concerns and ask questions about policies during the proposed meetings. The government has recently highlighted programmes for youth, including free online coaching, artificial

University outreach at a glance

- 1,300 universities nationwide.
- 57 central universities.
- 522 state universities
- One ministerial visit proposed.

intelligence skills training, a sports talent hunt and expanded civil defence opportunities. In his Independence Day address, Modi also pointed to possible jobs in manufacturing, space, nuclear energy and semiconductor production. Supporters say the university visits could offer direct access to ministers, while the programme's details and launch date remain unannounced. Officials hope the initiative will create a regular channel for feedback from campuses in different regions and academic backgrounds across India each working day.

Rajasthan announces civic poll schedule

JAIPUR

Rajasthan will hold elections for its urban local bodies in two phases on September 9 and 11, the State Election Commission announced on Wednesday. Counting will be completed and results declared on September 14. The Model Code of Conduct took effect immediately in all municipal areas covered by the poll programme.

State Election Commissioner Rajeshwar Singh said voting will cover 10,245 councillor posts in 309 urban bodies, including 10 municipal corporations, 51 councils and 248 municipalities. The election notification will be issued on August 27. Candidates may submit nomination papers until August 31, with scrutiny and withdrawals scheduled before polling.

The deadline for candidates to withdraw nominations is September 3. Once councillor elections are over, the process

Rajasthan will elect councillors in 309 urban bodies on September 9 and 11, with results due September 14. The schedule has triggered the Model Code of Conduct across municipal areas statewide.

to select mayors, chairpersons and municipal presidents will begin. These posts will be elected on September 21. Elections for deputy mayors, deputy chairpersons and vice-chairpersons, along with general meetings, are scheduled for September 22.

The Commission said the code will remain in place until the election process ends, restricting official decisions, fresh announcements and development work that could influence voters. The state's Autonomous Government Department has completed reservation and delimitation work.

Gujarat campaign cuts mosquito-borne cases

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat's mosquito-borne disease control campaign has produced sharp reductions in malaria, dengue and chikungunya cases, according to state health department figures released on World Mosquito Day. The government said its focus on prevention, early testing, treatment and mosquito control helped curb infections.

Data up to Week 33 showed malaria cases falling 45 per cent from 1,407 last year to 774 this year, despite more blood tests. Dengue cases declined 39.1 per cent, from 1,293 to 788, while chikungunya infections dropped 48.1 per cent, from 154 to 80. No malaria or dengue deaths were reported during the period.

Officials said testing facilities at 42 medical college-linked hospitals examined more than 83,000 dengue serum samples and over 12,000 chikungunya samples by Week 33.

House-to-house drives were expanded in two phases, with 19,558 teams

- Mosquito-borne cases**
- Malaria cases fell from 1,407 to 774.
 - Dengue infections declined from 1,293 to 788.
 - Chikungunya cases dropped from 154 to 80.
 - Over 95,000 dengue and chikungunya samples were tested.
 - 19,558 teams covered 6.51 crore people

covering more than 6.51 crore people during the July campaign. They collected over 257,000 blood samples and treated 28 malaria patients detected.

The campaign also removed more than 29.63 lakh mosquito breeding sites and fogged over 321,000 houses. Vector control teams remain active during the monsoon, while larvivorous fish were released at 5,024 waterlogging sites.

The state said medicines, larvicides and equipment are available, and disease trends are being monitored regularly.

Chugh Defends RSS Freedom Role

New Delhi

BJP national general secretary and MP Tarun Chugh on Wednesday criticised Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge over the Vande Mataram dispute, saying the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh played a "monumental role" in India's freedom movement and nation-building.

Speaking to ANI, Chugh said Congress leaders give credit for independence mainly to the Gandhi-Nehru family, overlooking countless freedom fighters and revolutionaries. He also accused Kharge of showing excessive loyalty to Congress leadership, but

T"he RSS has played a monumental role in the nation's construction and its struggle for independence."

Tarun Chugh, MP

said political disagreement should not diminish the sacrifices made by people across the country.

Kharge had defended his conduct after a video from Congress headquarters showed him and Sonia Gandhi talking while Vande Mataram was being sung during Independence Day events. The BJP called the episode disrespectful and de-

manded an apology. Kharge said he sang the version followed by Gandhi, Nehru and Patel.

The Congress chief said the party had followed the same official national-song practice for decades and argued that changing it could not be dictated by any government.

He also questioned the BJP and RSS record in the independence struggle, deepening another sharp exchange between the two national parties.

Chugh said the RSS made important contributions to both the independence movement and India's subsequent national development.

4 die after consuming sourious liquor in dry Gujarat

BHAVNAGAR

Four persons have died and 18 others were hospitalised, eight of them in critical condition, after consuming spurious liquor in Gujarat's Bhavnagar district, officials said on Wednesday. Four bootleggers have been detained in this connection, they said, adding that the victims had consumed duplicate liquor of a popular Indian-Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) brand. Gujarat is a 'dry' state where manufacturing, sale and consumption of alcohol are banned.

Government plans wider drug testing

NEW DELHI

The civil aviation ministry is likely to raise the annual random drug-testing requirement for flight crew from 10 per cent to more than 25 per cent, sources said. The move follows a recent Air India Phuket-Delhi flight incident in which the pilot reportedly tested positive for cannabis.

The aircraft encountered heavy turbulence and reportedly lost about 300 feet of altitude, injuring 24 passengers. Following the episode, Air India said it would screen all group pilots for prohibited psychoactive substances. Air India Express is also expected to undertake broader screen-

ing as regulators consider stricter action against aviation personnel who fail drug tests.

Existing DGCA rules require random testing of at least 10 per cent of flight crew and air traffic controllers every year. The rules also cover maintenance engineers, certifying staff, trainee pilots, instructors and examiners in specified situations. Tests are conducted during recruitment, after safety-related events and as follow-up checks, depending on the category of employee.

The 2021 Civil Aviation Requirement prescribes urine tests for amphetamines, opiates, cannabis, cocaine, barbiturates and benzodiazepines.

Cong plans 'Chanda Chori' stir across India

NEW DELHI

Vowing to corner the Modi government that is "already on the backfoot", Congress on Wednesday chalked out agitations on multiple fronts by expanding the ongoing 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' programme to 800 towns and cities and a nationwide protest on the donation theft at Ayodhya's Ram Temple.

Gujarat minister orders missing tank probe in hospital

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat Health Minister Praful Pansheriya has ordered a police complaint and disciplinary action after an approved underground water tank was found missing at a hospital in Palitana, Bhavnagar district. A bill for Rs 50.43 lakh had been sent for approval, although work had not started.

The 2.55 lakh-litre tank had been approved for the hospi-

tal, but the minister found no construction at the designated site during a recent visit. The Health Department said the bill had been forwarded to senior authorities despite no work being carried out. Pansheriya later reviewed the matter through a video conference with hospital and Project Implementation Unit officials. He directed officials to file a complaint against In-Charge Executive Engineer Mehul Dave and Deputy Ex-

ecutive Engineer N.V. Kaliya, who submitted the bill. The minister also asked the PIU to begin blacklisting Surat-based Dharmanandan Construction, the contractor linked to the project. Proceedings to remove, suspend or dismiss the two engineers will be started, where applicable.

Pansheriya said, "No negligence, malpractice or irregularity" involving public money for healthcare services would be accepted.

MISLEADING PRASAD LISTINGS

Amazon fined for misleading Ayodhya prasad

NEW DELHI

Amazon has been fined Rs 1 lakh for allowing ordinary sweets to be marketed online as "Shri Ram Mandir Ayodhya Prasad", a claim the Central Consumer Protection Authority found misleading. The consumer watchdog said the e-commerce platform could not avoid responsibility by describing itself only as an intermediary when listings use a major religious institution's name without verified permission.

The CCPA directed Amazon to deposit the penalty within 15 days. It said sweets sold



under the Bihari Brothers brand by Chandu Trading Company were listed as Ayodhya Ram temple prasad without authenticated permission from the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. The products included ghee



laddoos, khoya laddoos, boondi laddoos and cow's milk peda.

According to the order, product descriptions referred to "Lord Ram's blessings" and presented the items in a way that suggested an official con-

nection with the temple. The authority held that this could mislead consumers who believed they were buying genuine prasad. It said platforms must ensure that sellers do not make unverified claims that exploit faith, religious identity or the reputation of important institutions.

The decision expands scrutiny of online marketplaces that use the names of prominent religious bodies in product advertisements. Amazon has been asked to comply with the order within the specified time. The case also signals that digital platforms may face action when third-party listings

create a false impression of endorsement, certification or association, especially in matters involving public trust and religious sentiment. The regulator said such marketing practices fall within the scope of deceptive trade and consumer protection violations. Customers may rely on names, images and descriptions while deciding whether an item has been officially offered or approved. Authorities have increasingly examined online claims that appear to borrow credibility directly from respected organisations or public institutions without proper documentation or consent.

Congress reaffirms Vande Mataram policy

NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee has reaffirmed the party's long-standing position that only the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram will be sung at its programmes. The decision, based on a resolution adopted in 1937, has returned to attention amid BJP criticism of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

Sources said the matter was discussed at a CWC meeting on Wednesday, where several leaders repeated the position taken by the party nearly nine decades ago. The 1937 resolution set the first two stanzas as the version for national gatherings. Congress leaders

say the practice has continued consistently at party events since then.

The issue gained fresh political attention after video footage from Independence Day celebrations at the AICC headquarters showed Kharge and former Congress president Sonia Gandhi talking while the song was being rendered. The BJP alleged disrespect and called for an apology. Kharge defended the rendition, saying it followed the version sung by earlier Congress leaders. Kharge has said the party was following a practice established before Independence and questioned whether changing it could be imposed by any government.



At least 10 earthquakes struck Granada in southern Spain overnight, authorities said on Wednesday, continuing a series of tremors that has shaken the region for several days and caused injuries and damage to buildings. The strongest earthquake recorded overnight measured 3.4 magnitude and struck at 10:35 p.m. on Tuesday, with its epicentre near Ogijares, around seven kilometres south of Granada city, according to Spain's National Geographic Institute. Nine additional tremors measuring between 1.5 and 2.5 magnitude followed, along with dozens of smaller aftershocks. The continuing seismic activity has prompted authorities to take precautionary measures across Granada. Several shops, churches and museums were closed, while local government offices were temporarily shut. Some residents reportedly left the area for the coast, while others chose to remain outdoors because of concerns about possible building collapses. Health services treated 14 people, most of whom suffered panic or anxiety attacks following the tremors. Emergency services received more than 500 calls from residents seeking assistance or information.

Manjunatha Layout, Bychapura Road, Near Akash
College, Devanahalli Town, Bangalore Rural District.

Nick Kyrgios suspended after positive cocaine test

LONDON

Australian tennis star Nick Kyrgios has been handed a provisional suspension after testing positive for a cocaine metabolite during a tournament in Spain. The International Tennis Integrity Agency announced that the 31-year-old provided a sample in June that tested positive for benzoylecgonine. Because cocaine is classified as a prohibited substance, the mandatory ban went into effect on August 4. The suspension bars him from playing, coaching, or attending any sanctioned tennis events globally. Taking full accountability, Kyrgios admitted to making a massive error in a public statement. He noted that persistent physical injuries and mental struggles over recent years heavily impacted him. The former Wimbledon finalist announced he will step away from social media and public life for 28 days to reset. He has not appealed the decision and faces further disciplinary review.



Gill's men conquer Galle with ease

NEW DELHI

The Indian national cricket team secured a massive and much-needed 165-run victory over Sri Lanka in the opening Test match held in Galle, significantly strengthening their ongoing chances of reaching the World Test Championship final. Led smartly by Captain Shubman Gill, the visiting team captured 12 vital championship points, which successfully pushed their overall point's percentage up from 48.15 to 53.33. Even with this impressive jump in the standings, India currently stays in 5th place, sitting just behind a strong 4th placed Bangladesh side. Young left-arm spinner Manav Suthar played the absolute starring role on a slow and turning pitch. Playing in only his 2nd career Test match, Suthar



grabbed an incredible 6 wickets for 55 runs in the 2nd innings to finish with brilliant match figures of 10-101, marking his very first 10 wicket haul in international cricket. Chasing a tough target of 372 runs to win, the home hosts folded completely for 206 despite fighting individual

knocks from Sonal Dinusha and experienced player Dhananjaya de Silva. Earlier in the contest, talented batter Devdutt Padikkal put India firmly in command by scoring a stunning 167-run knock during the first innings. Wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant then added a valuable 66 runs in the second stint to build a solid target. With this crucial win now safely under their belt, India aims to keep their winning momentum rolling as they quickly head to Colombo for the second Test starting on August 23. Following that series, they face more matches ahead.

India defeated Sri Lanka by 165 runs in Galle, fueled by Manav Suthar's ten-wicket haul and Devdutt Padikkal's century, boosting their Test Championship hopes.

Devdutt Padikkal highlights adaptability after win

GALLE

Star Indian batter Devdutt Padikkal believes that quick adaptability across contrasting venues is the main secret to success in international red-ball cricket. Fresh off a brilliant Player of the Match performance, Padikkal stated he could not have asked for a better start to his career after steering India to a comprehensive 165-run victory over Sri Lanka in the opening Test match at Galle. His marathon knock of 167 runs in the first innings, followed by a fluent 44 in the second essay, laid the solid foundation for this dominant win. This historic fixture marked Galle's milestone 50th Test match and added another special chapter to India's 600th appearance in the traditional format, giving the touring squad plenty of reasons to celebrate proudly. Reflecting on his journey, Padikkal noted that he has already experienced vastly different conditions, starting his career at challenging venues like Dharamshala and Perth before starring on this slow, turning subcontinental track.



He praised the pitch quality, mentioning that it held up nicely over all 5 days despite natural wear and tear. According to the talented left-hander, the true deciding factor on such tracks always comes down to who executes their skill sets better under pressure. Analyzing the batting conditions further, Padikkal explained that because the surface lacked sharp and sudden bite, left-handed batters found it much easier to negotiate the heavy volume of spin. With a 1-0 lead now secured in the two-match series, the team will travel to Colombo for the next game.

Neetu David joins UP Warriorz

NEW DELHI

Former India spin legend and national selector Neetu David has been named the head of scouting for the UP Warriorz ahead of the 2027 Women's Premier League season. The franchise announced the appointment to revamp its talent identification process following consecutive disappointing campaigns. David recently joined the team's off-season camp in Bengaluru alongside head coach Abhishek Nayar and mentor Lisa Sthalekar.



UP Warriorz have struggled for consistency, recording only 12 wins in 33 matches and finishing at the bottom of the points table in the 2025 and 2026 seasons. David will leverage her vast experience having chaired the national selection committee and claimed 182 international wickets during her stellar playing career to discover and nurture emerging domestic talent for the team.

South Africa names young squad for Zimbabwe tour

JOHANNESBURG

The South African women's cricket team has chosen a fresh, youth-focused group for their upcoming historic series against neighboring Zimbabwe next month. Experienced captain Laura Wolvaardt will guide the side through 5 exciting matches. Because several veteran players are busy playing in global franchise leagues, selectors decided to give a golden chance to rising talent. The 15-player lineup features three exciting newcomers who earned their very first national call-ups. Fast bowlers Caitlin Wyngaard and Nthabiseng Nini, alongside off-spinner Luyanda Nzuza, successfully impressed coaches during recent developmental tours. Head coach Mandla Mashimbyi noted that watching these young athletes step up on the international stage will be thrilling.



The roster also brings back several standout performers who missed the recent World Cup. Domestic star Faye Tunncliffe joins alongside players like Anneke

Bosch, Eliz-Mari Marx, and Seshnie Naidu. Experienced names such as wicketkeeper Sinalo Jafta and all-rounder Annerie Derksen will help anchor the lineup. This landmark tour holds massive value for the squad. Coach Mashimbyi pointed out that these games act as vital preparation blocks ahead of the ICC Women's Champions Trophy early next year. Team members will gather for a quick training camp starting September 2 before traveling across the border for the opening clash on September 11 in Bulawayo. Full Squad: Laura Wolvaardt (c), Anneke Bosch, Annerie Derksen, Ayanda Hlubi, Sinalo Jafta, Eliz-Mari Marx, Karabo Meso, Seshnie Naidu, Nthabiseng Nini, Luyanda Nzuza, Kayla Reyneke, Nondumiso Shangase, Miané Smit, Faye Tunncliffe, Caitlin Wyngaard.

Rahul praises pitch, relief win

GALLE

Indian vice-captain KL Rahul has admitted that the urgent threat of an impending rainstorm forced the visiting side to adopt a fiercely aggressive approach to quickly wrap up their 165-run victory again st Sri Lanka on the final day of the opening Test at the Galle International Stadium. Chasing a challenging target of 372 runs, the home team was eventually

bowled out for 206. Young left-arm spinner Manav Suthar triggered a rapid lower-order collapse after lunch, claiming crucial wickets to seal the game just moments before a heavy downpour forced the post-match presentation indoors. Speaking to broadcasters after the win, Rahul expressed pure relief while explaining how the team managed the pressure from the skies. He noted that the squad kept a close eye on

dark clouds overhead and knew a massive shower was approaching fast, meaning they could not afford any delays. Once they successfully broke a stubborn partnership, the bowling attack quickly targeted the tailenders to secure the result. Reflecting on the pitch conditions, Rahul praised the local ground staff for preparing a sporting track that offered a fair balance between bat and ball across all five days.

Karan Sharma leads Kashi Rudras to victory



LUCKNOW

Defending champions Kashi Rudras secured a brilliant 15-run victory over the Gorakhpur Lions in the ongoing UPT20 League at the Ekana Cricket Stadium. Powered by an exceptional, unbeaten captain's knock from Karan Sharma, the Rudras claimed their 2nd win in 3 matches to strengthen their title defense. Asked to bat first, Kashi found themselves in a spot of trouble after

slipping to 88/5 by the 10th over. Stepping up under pressure, captain Karan unleashed a stunning counter-attack, smashing an unbeaten 92 off just 48 deliveries. His explosive innings featured 4 boundaries and 9 massive sixes, pushing his team to a competitive total of 194/6. Opener Sahab Yuvraj Singh also chipped in earlier with a brisk 41 runs. Chasing 195, the Gorakhpur Lions fought hard but failed to keep up with the required run rate as disciplined bowling kept them to 179/7. Vaibhav Chaudhary, Vijay Yadav, and Sunil Kumar grabbed two wickets each, while Karan capped off his all-around brilliance by picking up a crucial wicket during the chase.

Harry Brook reclaims top test spot

DUBAI

English cricket star Harry Brook is back at the very top of the official ICC Men's Test batting rankings. Brook takes over the number one spot from Australia opener Travis Head. Head slipped down the rankings following a tough outing against Bangladesh, where he managed scores of just 22 and 17 in Darwin. Taking advantage of the shift, Joe Root climbs to second place, while Australia veteran Steve Smith moves up to third after steady scores of 71 and 44. Meanwhile, Bangladesh is celebrating a historic nine-wicket win over Australia in the first Test match. Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto played a key role with a brilliant knock of 84 runs in the first innings. His stellar performance pushed him up 9 spots to a career-high 20th place in the rankings, reaching 659 rating points. Other players making notable



English cricket star Harry Brook claims the number one ICC Test batting spot, leading a dynamic shift in the rankings.

Hasan Mahmud, who jumped 26 spots to 38th following a brilliant 6 wicket haul. In the ODI rankings, Afghanistan left-hander Sediqlah Atal made the biggest leap of the week. Strong scores of 143 and 98 against Ireland propelled him up 37 places to 33rd position. With only a narrow 33-point gap separating the top four Test batters, cricket fans can expect more changes at the top as England prepares to face Pakistan and Australia looks to bounce back in the second match of their series.

Manav Suthar shines as India wins

GALLE

Young left-arm spinner Manav Suthar delivered a masterclass performance, claiming 10 wickets in the match to steer India to a commanding 165-run victory over Sri Lanka on the final day of the opening Test at the Galle International Stadium. Playing in just his 2nd career Test, Suthar ripped through the opposition lineup in the 2nd innings with a brilliant spell of 6-55. His stellar efforts brought his total match figures to 10-101, sealing an emphatic win for the visitors in what marked Galle's milestone 50th Test match and India's 600th appearance in the format. Resuming on day 5, Sri Lankan batters Dhananjaya de Silva and Sonal Dinusha put up a stubborn fight during a valuable 95-run partnership. De Silva reached 50th by cutting Ravindra Jadeja, while Dinusha played positively to anchor the innings. However, the game turned after lunch when Suthar unleashed a devastating triple-wicket over, dismissing the well-set Dinusha for 84 and removing the

Can Suthar spearhead India's spin future?

GALLE

India secured a brilliant 165-run win over Sri Lanka in the first Test. Young spinner Manav Suthar played a starring role, claiming 6 wickets for 55 runs. This brought his match total to 10 wickets, dismantling the hosts on the final day. Earlier, Devdutt Padikkal scored a crucial century to set up a massive lead. Rishabh Pant added vital runs with a sharp 50. Sri Lanka fought hard through Sonal Dinusha, who made eighty-four, but Suthar struck decisively after lunch. The victory gives India a one-nil lead in the series.



lower order in quick succession. Earlier in the match, Devdutt Padikkal laid the foundation with a magnificent 167-run knock in the first innings, while wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant added a crucial 66 runs in the second essay to set a massive target of 372. Though the home team fought hard through the morning session, Suthar's phenomenal bowling brilliance eventually bowled them out for 206, earning India 12 vital World Test Championship points and an early 1-0 lead in the two-match series.