



'Iran signals willingness for talks'

P9



'Best positioned to be India's best partner in LA'

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Gaikwad to lead star-studded West Zone squad



SIR fear? Don't worry

KARNATAKA GOVT LAUNCHES FREE DOORSTEP DELIVERY OF CASTE, RESIDENCE CERTIFICATES

Eligible citizens can also download the certificates online or obtain them free through government facilitation centres.



We are not looking at politics. We are acting beyond politics. Every citizen has the right to vote and the right to live with dignity, and it is our responsibility to facilitate that.

—DK Shivakumar, CM

BENGALURU

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday announced two major citizen-centric initiatives aimed at simplifying access to government services — free doorstep delivery of caste certificates and Permanent Residence Certificates (PRCs) in the state.

Shivakumar said the PRC initiative is aimed at protecting voting rights during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Launching the initiative, Shivakumar said officials would distribute the certificates door-to-door while eligible citizens could also download them through dedicated websites and avail services at facilitation centres set up across the state.

The CM told media, "We want the voters of Karnataka to be safe. We don't want anyone to misuse the process. We want to give them their rights. Every voter should have their right -- vote and right to live. When they have their vote, they can live safely." He described the initiative as a first-of-its-kind exercise and said the government would also provide caste certificates and other documents to eligible beneficiaries.

"The Karnataka government has come out with a new concept to give you the caste cer-

tificate and the PRC at your doorstep," he said.

Shivakumar said around 4.85 crore families already had income and caste certificates in the Revenue Department's database and government officials would visit households with printed copies of the documents. People could also download the certificates free of cost through two newly-launched websites, he added.

A dedicated mobile application has been developed to record beneficiaries' Aadhaar numbers, mobile numbers and acknowledgements after the certificates are delivered, ensuring transparency and proper authentication. People will also be able to download their caste certificates free of cost through the designated government website using the certificate's RD number, ration card number or Aadhaar number. The same service will also be available at government assistance centres.

K'taka goes voter-friendly

How to access your certificates

ONLINE DOWNLOAD

Citizens can instantly download their certificates completely free of cost using their RD number, ration card number, or Aadhaar number via the Seva Sindhu Services portal or the Nadakacheri website.

DOORSTEP & PHYSICAL DELIVERY

State officials and booth-level agents are conducting door-to-door distribution. Citizens can also visit the hobli-level government assistance centers (Atal Jana Snehi Kendras) to get their printed certificates free of charge.

TRACKING

A dedicated mobile application has been deployed to ensure authentic delivery by tracking beneficiaries' Aadhaar and mobile numbers.

Key features of the drive

VOTER PROTECTION

The PRC initiative directly aligns with the ongoing SIR to ensure all eligible residents are verified and included in the electoral roll.

ACCESSIBILITY

Nearly 4.85 crore digital caste certificates have already been prepared for distribution across the state.

EMPOWERED OFFICIALS

Deputy Tahsildars have been newly authorized to issue PRCs to cut down bureaucratic delays.

Govt formed multiple channels to obtain PRCs: DyCM



Earlier, Revenue Minister G Parameshwara said the government had established multiple channels for obtaining Permanent Residence Certificates, including Nada Kacheris (state offices), Gram One centres and the dedicated online portal. He said applicants would be eligible if they satisfied any of the prescribed conditions -- birth in Karnataka, continuous residence in the state for at least 10 years, studying in Karnataka for 10 academic years, having parents or a spouse who were permanent residents, ownership or lawful occupation of property in the state, enrolment in the electoral roll, or government service by the applicant or parents for at least seven years. "If an applicant satisfies any one of these conditions and falls within this framework, we will be able to issue the certificate," he added.

Tripura DGP Dhankar found hanging in office bathroom

NEW DELHI

Tripura Director General of Police (DGP) Anurag Dhankar was found dead Monday after he allegedly hung himself in the bathroom of his office at police headquarters in Agartala.

A 1994 batch IPS officer, he was part of the SIT that probed the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, as well as the CBI team that investigated fugitive businessman Nirav Modi.

The DGP was rushed to GB Pant hospital, where doctors declared him dead. An autopsy report is awaited.

Dr Pradip Bhowmik told reporters, "When DGP Anurag Dhankar was brought to the hospital, we could not find any signs of life; there was no pulse, blood pressure, or respiration." "We immediately shifted him to the red zone of

the emergency department and performed all forms of CPR, or cardiopulmonary resuscitation. However, everything failed, and ultimately, at 12.48 pm, we had to declare him dead," he added.

"Whether it was suicide will be confirmed after post mortem," he said. Government authorities are yet to issue the exact cause of death of the DGP. Following the incident, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha and other government officials rushed to the hospital.

Anurag Dhankar was a Post Graduate in Food Technology from CFTRI, Mysore. He also had a Masters Degree in Police Management from Osmania University and a Post Graduate Diploma in Cyber Crimes from NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.



He had vast experience of serving in Tripura during 1995 to 2003. He served as SDPO, Longtharai Valley, and District SP of undivided West and South Tripura Districts, apart from serving as Superintendent of Police, Special Branch and AIGP (HQ).

During 2003-04, he also served in the UN Mission in Kosovo. During 2005 to 2013, he was on central deputation and served as SP and DIG in CBI.

On return from central deputation, he served as IGP (Law & Order) Tripura from 2013 to 2016. During 2016 to 2023, he again went on central deputation and served as IG, Research & Correctional Administration, BPR&D and IG (Personnel) in CISE, besides Joint Director and Additional Director in CBI.

Newly-elected RS members take oath

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan on Monday administered oath to nine newly-elected members of the Upper House.

The members who took the oath represent the states of Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Rajasthan and West Bengal.

The newly-elected members who took the oath on the first day of the Monsoon session were Mukeshbhai J Rathwa (BJP-Gujarat), Pawan Khara (Congress-Karnataka), Mahesh Kewat (BJP, Madhya Pradesh), James Pangsang Kongkal Sangma (NPP-Meghalaya), Kiangte Lalitluakima (Mizoram), Satish Poonia (BJP-Rajasthan), Prakash Chik Baraik (BJP-West Bengal), Sushmita Dev (BJP-West Bengal) and Sukhendu Sekhar Ray (BJP-West Bengal).

Opposition fury washes out Day-1 of monsoon session

The Opposition disrupted Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha sessions over the alleged NEET paper leak and Ram temple donations theft, marking a stormy start.

NEW DELHI

The Parliament Monsoon Session got off to a turbulent start on Monday with proceedings in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha repeatedly adjourned due to intense opposition protests.

Members of the Opposition parties disrupted sessions demanding immediate debates on the NEET paper leak, alleged irregularities within the Ram Temple Trust, and the police action against students protesting at Delhi's Jantar Mantar.

Proceedings in both Houses were adjourned multiple times, with little legislative business transacted amid slogan shouting, placard-waving and repeated appeals from the Chair for order.

In the Lok Sabha, the House was adjourned five times during the day as Opposition members disrupted proceedings from the outset. When the House assembled at 11 am, members began raising slogans during Question Hour, prompting Speaker Om Birla to ad-



journal proceedings till noon. Earlier, while obituary references to six former MPs were being made, Birla objected to members raising slogans, calling it an inappropriate precedent.

The protests continued when the House reconvened at noon, leading to another adjournment till 12.30 pm. Before the House was adjourned, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal introduced a Bill to replace an ordinance increasing the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges from 34 to 38, including the Chief Justice of India.

Repeated appeals to take up Zero Hour at 12.30 pm failed as Opposition members continued shouting slogans. Presiding officer Dilip Saikia adjourned the House till 1 pm and, when it reconvened, urged members to return to their seats and participate in discussions.

"The House is ready for discussions on various issues. But you are not interested. You don't want to discuss people's issues. This is not the way. You are disrupting the House repeatedly. You are showing banners and

Key disruptions and protests

► **NEET-UG CONTROVERSY:** Opposition leaders—led by the Congress party—submitted multiple adjournment motion notices, strongly demanding accountability and answers regarding the 2026 medical entrance examination paper leak.

► **RAM TEMPLE DONATION THEFT ISSUE:** The opposition sought a formal debate on the alleged embezzlement of donations collected by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.

► **CJP PROTESTS:** Proceedings inside the chambers coincided with a 'Chalo Sansad' (March to Parliament) demonstration led by the CJP, with demonstrators demanding the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

► **ADJOURNMENTS:** Despite appeals for decorum from Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Hariwansh, the uproar and sloganeering stalled all legislative business, resulting in the early adjournment of both houses.

posters which is not acceptable," Saikia said before adjourning proceedings again till 2 pm.

The Rajya Sabha also witnessed repeated disruptions, with proceedings being adjourned soon after the laying of papers, oath-taking by newly-elected members and obituary references.

'Not talking about 56-year-old youth'

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday took a veiled dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi while hailing young innovators behind India's first privately developed orbital rocket, saying he was not talking about a "56-year-old young man".

Addressing reporters ahead of Parliament's Monsoon Session, he said in the past month the country has achieved many milestones, filling citizens with pride and these achievements span national, international, and even space domains.

India's milestone in private space sector

He said there have been moments of glory just before the Monsoon Session last year as an Indian citizen reached the International Space Station and only the day before yesterday, a young Indian start-up accomplished an extraordinary feat.

He was referring to Skyroot Aerospace on Saturday launching the country's first private orbital rocket Vikram-1 and successfully placing multiple technology demon-



I am told that the average age of the team working at the Skyroot start-up is just 28 years. It is these young minds who have made this possible. I am not talking about a 56-year-old young man.

—Narendra Modi, PM

stration payloads into the desired orbit, making India the third country with private orbital launch capabilities after the US and China.

Modi's praise for youth

"I am told that the average age of the team working at the Skyroot start-up is just 28 years. It is these young minds who have made this possible. I am talking about a start-up whose team, with an average age of just 28, has planted India's flag in the realm of space." Rahul, the LoP in Lok Sabha, turned 56 on June 19 this year.

'Dirty tricks': Cong hits back

The Congress on Monday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi started off Parliament's Monsoon session with his "usual litany of platitudes" and that he failed to mention key issues such as Ram temple donation "theft", NEET UG paper leak and "dirty tricks" being used to split opposition parties.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh also said the PM failed to talk about his government's ongoing attempts to subvert democracy and the federal setup of the Constitution through a "compromised delimitation process, the One Nation One Election gimmick, and the unconstitutional (Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan) VBASA Bill".

Reacting to the PM's remarks, Ramesh said Modi started off the monsoon session with his "usual litany of platitudes". "What the PM failed to mention are the following issues, which the Opposition is committed to raising -- the massive Chanda Chori Aastha Dhoka at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya executed by members of the RSS-BJP ecosystem that has shocked the nation's conscience.

"The NEET UG 2026 paper leak and the CBSE Grade 12 Board Examinations fiasco which has enraged the 'yuva shakti' that the PM paid lip service to," he said. The PM also failed to talk about the dirty tricks and financial incentives being used to split opposition parties.

Rape case: HC orders immediate arrest of cricketer Abishek Porel

KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court has ordered an immediate arrest of Delhi Capitals wicketkeeper-batter Abishek Porel over a rape case. The court has also directed the police to seize his electronic devices to protect the complainant's privacy.

This came after the cricketer was accused of engaging a woman in a sexual relationship under the false promise of marriage, and subjected her to assault and criminal intimidation, over a month ago.

However, Porel had denied the allegations. Porel also allegedly been threatening the

victim, who is said to be a medical student, to circulate intimate photos and videos.

The case relates to Mogra Police Station which says that the FIR includes non-bailable offences under the BNS, including rape and criminal intimidation.

As reported earlier, the complainant alleged that she and Porel had been in a relationship for the past three years and that differences surfaced last year, after which the cricketer allegedly started "distancing" himself from her. She further alleged that Porel had promised to marry her but is now unwilling to do so.



State bids tearful adieu to Chennamma Deve Gowda

HASSAN

Chennamma Deve Gowda, wife of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, was cremated with full state honours at the foothills of the Bettada Ranganathaswamy Temple near Haradanahalli in Hassan district, the native village of the former Prime Minister in Karnataka, on Monday.

Thousands of people, political leaders and admirers gathered to pay their last respects to the matriarch of the Gowda family.

Following the floral tributes by dignitaries, the Karnataka Police accorded full state honours with a three-round gun salute, followed by the National Anthem. A two-minute silence was observed in her memory before Chief



Minister DK Shivakumar handed over the National Flag to HD Deve Gowda's

family.

In an emotional gesture, the CM also bowed before the former PM and touched his feet to seek his blessings.

The final rites began with purification rituals, after which HD Deve Gowda and family members performed the last religious ceremonies. Priests chanted Vedic hymns as the mortal remains were taken in a ceremonial pro-

cession around the burial site three times before the last rites were conducted according to the customs of the Vokkaliga community.

The funeral rites were performed by the couple's elder son HD Ramesh. After sprinkling holy Ganga water at the burial site, the body was lowered into the grave and the final rituals were completed amid prayers and chants.

Earlier in the day, Union Ministers Prahlad Joshi, HD Kumaraswamy, V Somanna and Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, Ministers KJ George and KH Muniyappa, state BJP president BY Vijayendra, MP BY Raghavendra, seers, including Dr Nirmalananda Swamiji and Rambhapuri Sri, legislators, MPs and several dignitaries offered floral tributes to Chennamma.

Prajwal watches grandmother's last rites via video conference

Bengaluru: Prajwal Revanna, who is in jail after his conviction in a rape case, watched the final rites of his grandmother Chennamma through video conference on Monday. Prajwal had submitted a request to the Superintendent of Parappana Agrahara Jail, as per reports. Prajwal has not filed any petition in court so far. To file a petition in court, the convict must have served at least two years of sentence. Since it is a rape case, there were doubts whether the court will grant permission, sources said.



QUICK READ

Fake astrologer steals gold from pregnant woman

Bengaluru

A cunning thief disguised as a holy man cheated a couple and stole gold worth Rs 1.2 lakh in Hegga-dadevanpura. The trickster targeted a pregnant woman, warning her about a deadly curse on her family. He promised to perform a free prayer to remove the evil. During the ritual, he asked the couple to place their gold jewelry inside a clay pot. Sending them to fetch water, he swapped the pot with a fake one packed with stones and ran away. The couple soon discovered the fraud and informed Madanayakana-halli police, who started searching for the culprit.

Actress Aishwarya files harassment complaint against stalker

Bengaluru

Popular television actress Aishwarya Sindhogi filed a complaint at Sanjaynagar police station after facing severe social media harassment. She revealed that an unknown person has been sending her offensive messages and posting defamatory comments through fake accounts over the past two months. Aishwarya mentioned experiencing similar stalking and phone harassment back in 2022. Suspecting an acquaintance behind these repeated attacks, she named a suspect, Mrs. Mannat Nakul, in her report. The actress stated that these constant online abuses are damaging her public reputation. Police have officially accepted the complaint and launched an investigation to track down the perpetrator.

Eleven arrested for extortion in Bengaluru

Bengaluru

City police arrested eleven individuals for kidnapping and robbing a man through a fake dating app scheme. The suspects entered the victim online, offering meetings with women. When he arrived at HRBR Layout in KG Halli, the gang forced him into an auto-rickshaw where women were already seated. They drove him around various parts of the city, forcibly snatching his money, mobile phone, and gold chain before fleeing. Following a tip-off, Crime Branch officers investigated the incident, filed a case, and caught the primary suspects, including Chethan Manu, Shabu, and Manjunath. All eleven culprits are now in custody.

Former PM's wife Chennamma laid to rest

Bengaluru

Chennamma Deve Gowda, wife of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, was laid to rest with full state honours near Haradanahalli on 20th July. She passed away on July 18 at a Bengaluru hospital following a cardiac arrest. Her mortal remains were kept at H.D. Revanna's Holenarasipura residence, allowing the public to pay their final respects. Traditional Vokkaliga community rites were performed at the foothills of Bettada Ranganathaswamy Temple. Top leaders, including Union Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Pralhad Joshi, and Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, attended the funeral to offer condolences to the grieving family.

COURT CLEARS PATH FOR BIDADI TOWNSHIP

The K'taka HC dismissed a PIL challenging Bidadi township land acquisition, greenlighting the major infrastructure project

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has officially dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that challenged the ongoing land acquisition process for the proposed Greater Bangalore Integrated Township near Bidadi. A judicial bench led by Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice K.S. Hemalekha rejected the petition submitted by social activist Rajesh Kamalapur. The High Court confirmed that the state government's land acquisition process is legally sound and can proceed as planned.

The petitioner had requested a complete stay on the project and the cancellation of the

June 13, 2026 land acquisition notification for 516 acres. With this court ruling, the major legal roadblock facing the ambitious township project has now been removed.



LEGAL POINTS RAISED:

Legal Framework: The court clarified that land acquisition is being conducted under the State Urban Development Act. Using the Central Act of 2013 solely to determine compensation amounts does not require the government to follow every single process of the central law.

Petitioner's Concerns: The activist argued that mandatory steps—such as a social impact assessment and rehabilitation plans—were skipped. He also expressed concerns regarding environmental damage, water scarcity, and spending over ₹12,500 crore near Bengaluru instead of supporting backward regions.

Scope of Order: The bench dismissed the plea for lacking legal grounds. However, judges noted that this order does not prevent future legal reviews of other specific land issues.

MP Tejasvi Surya protests tunnel road project at Lalbagh

MP Tejaswi Surya protested at Lalbagh Botanical Garden against using park land for Bengaluru's tunnel road project, urging public action to protect it.

BENGALURU

Bangalore South MP Tejaswi Surya staged a unique protest at the historic Lalbagh Botanical Garden, opposing the state government's proposal to use park land for the North-South Tunnel Road project.

Surya directly distributed pamphlets titled "Lalbagh is for Sale" to local visitors and residents, urging citizens to build a massive public movement to protect the city's green spaces.

Protest Focus mainly at opposition leaders and local environmentalists strongly oppose acquiring parts of the historic botanical garden for major urban road construction.

While state officials main-



tain that affected areas will be restored after construction finishes, critics argue that sacrificing Bengaluru's irreplaceable green heritage for real estate development sets a dangerous precedent. Activists insist the infrastructure project must be completely rerouted away from the iconic garden.

Low reservoir storage raises Karnataka water concerns

BENGALURU

Despite the recent return of monsoon rains across Karnataka, water levels in major reservoirs throughout the state remain surprisingly low, raising serious long-term concerns for both local agriculture and city drinking water supplies.

Most notably, the famous Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) dam, which serves as the crucial drinking water lifeline for Bengaluru, has still failed to cross the important 100-foot mark. The current KRS water level stands at 92.61 feet, well below its maximum capacity of 124.80 feet, keeping regional government authorities highly watchful and concerned.

While the strong inflow into the Almatti dam offers a rare positive highlight for farmers, other essential reservoirs are struggling with reduced water storage levels. State officials are actively monitoring incoming water flows and remaining hopeful that continued rainfall will steadily rebuild

DAMS ACROSS KARNATAKA:

- **KRS Reservoir:** Storage surged to 17.55 TMC against a 49.45 TMC maximum capacity, with total outflows currently exceeding daily incoming water flows from regional rains.

- **Almatti Dam:** Inflow has surged to over 40,000 cusecs, bringing immense relief and great joy to hardworking local farming communities.

- **Tungabhadra Dam:** Storage remains low at 25.76 TMC, with incoming flow recorded at just over 1,000 cusecs.

- **Kabini Reservoir:** Water level sits at 71.77 feet, reflecting a notable decrease from last year's level.

critical reserves, effectively securing the region's vital long-term agricultural and drinking water supply throughout this crucial monsoon season.

Arguments surrounding the project

Government Plan: An affidavit filed in the High Court states the project temporarily requires 2.37 hectares (2.47%) of the park, with 1.92 hectares needed permanently for the Hebbal-Silk Board tunnel road.

Environmental Risk: Opponents emphasize that Lalbagh is a vital green belt, critical for recharging groundwater and protecting the fragile Lalbagh Lake ecosystem.

Real Estate Allegations: Surya alleged that project documents allow the contractor to build a five-story commercial complex on the acquired park land, trading green heritage for private profit.

Bengaluru Forest Official Loses Lakhs Online

BENGALURU

A local forest official recently lost nearly ten lakh rupees after falling victim to a sophisticated cyber scam. Deputy Zonal Forest Officer Ramesh Babu B. received a malicious Android Package (APK) file via WhatsApp from a friend's compromised account. Shortly after opening the file, scammers executed seven unauthorized transfers, stealing 9,96,659 rupees within just 30 minutes. The attackers then remotely wiped the malware to hide their digital tracks.

Cybersecurity experts warn that fraudsters now frequently disguise harmful software as wedding invitations or job offers. Authorities urge citizens to verify any unexpected links with contacts before clicking. If you encounter suspicious activity, contact the national cyber helpline at 1930 immediately to freeze your accounts and prevent further losses.

K'taka launches "Permanent Residence" certificates

BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G. Parameshwar have launched a door-to-door distribution drive for caste and permanent residence certificates across Karnataka. Officially flagged off at the Vidhana Soudha, this initiative aims to benefit over 4.85 crore families by bringing essential government identification directly to citizens' homes.

Local staff are delivering printed digital certificates to residents while logging distribution details on a designated mobile app. To make the process simple, the state has opened hobli-level help centers and launched a web portal where residents can download their official documents for free. Additionally, authorities have already sent direct download links via WhatsApp and SMS to roughly 85 lakh eligible beneficiaries across the state.

To qualify for a Permanent



Karnataka leaders launched a door-to-door drive delivering caste and residence certificates to over 4.85 crore families, drastically streamlining public access to essential identification

Residence Certificate, applicants must have lived or studied in Karnataka for at least ten years, or own immovable property in the state. Officials

clarified that while the certificate serves as a valid document during Special Summary Revision electoral processes, it acts solely as proof of residence for administrative needs rather than for job quotas or land allotments.

Despite criticism from opposition leaders, state leadership hailed the massive logistical rollout as an unprecedented achievement in governance. Citizens seeking new certificates can apply through the Seva Sindhu portal or visit their local Atal Janasnehi Kendra.

Over 500 homestays seek official registration

BENGALURU

Following a tragic crime in Kodagu, the Karnataka government has launched a strict safety drive, forcing over 500 homestays to apply for official registration.

This mandatory move aims to ensure tourist safety, hygiene, and legal compliance across the state's hospitality sector.

Tourism Commissioner V. Ram Prasat Manohar confirmed that a joint team of officials is now conducting physical inspections of these properties.

Over 400 applications are already under review. Establishments failing to meet state criteria will be denied certification until necessary upgrades are made.

Once approved, operators receive a five-year certificate. This initiative seeks to build a verified database and restore traveler confidence, warning that non-compliant hosts face immediate closure.

One day KSTDc tour connects Bengaluru to Hogenakkal

BENGALURU

Are you looking to escape the hectic pace of daily city life without spending a massive fortune? The Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation has launched a brand new, highly budget friendly weekend tour package designed specifically for nature lovers based in Bengaluru.

Priced at an attractive Rs 1,480 per traveller, this exciting one day trip takes passengers directly to two famous, picturesque tourist destinations in neighboring Tamil Nadu: the serene Krishnagiri Dam and the majestic Hogenakkal Waterfalls.

Enjoy an effortless weekend getaway featuring comfortable bus transport, gorgeous views, and incredible savings for every traveller.

This organized trip offers a wonderfully comfortable way to experience natural beauty and return home the exact same evening without feeling exhausted. Interested passen-

Official daily itinerary and travel timeline:

Operating Days: Tours run regularly every week on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Morning Departure: Buses leave promptly at 6:00 AM from the KSTDc counter located inside Yeshwantpur BMTC bus stand.

Dam Visit: Stop for a fresh breakfast en route before exploring Krishnagiri Dam from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Waterfall Sightseeing: Spend three full hours from 2:00 PM enjoying Hogenakkal Falls, widely known as the Niagara of India.

Evening Return: Depart from the waterfalls at 5:00 PM to reach back in Bengaluru by 9:00 PM.

gers can book their tickets online via the KSTDc website or directly at the Yeshwantpur counter.

KEA reopens UGCET portal for qualified NEET candidates

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has opened a new registration link for UGCET applicants who cleared the national entrance exam. Candidates who qualified for NEET but missed previous registration deadlines can now submit their applications until July 24. Admission to medical, dental, ayurveda, unani, and homeopathy courses will be strictly based on NEET ranks. KEA Executive Director H. Prasanna confirmed that candidates who previously submitted UGCET applications will soon receive a dedicated online link to integrate their NEET roll numbers seamlessly.

Non-Karnataka candidates must register through the official KEA portal, pay the required application fee, and upload their high school marks

online. Generally, out-of-state applicants do not need to attend physical document verification sessions. However, physical verification remains mandatory for Overseas Citizens of India, Persons of Indian Origin, Non-Resident Indians, foreign nationals, and students applying for specific minority or NRI quota seats. KEA will publish detailed physical verification schedules on its official website in the coming days.

Additionally, KEA announced the official first-round seat allocation schedule for Diploma Common Entrance Test candidates starting July 21. Applicants can submit their institution choices through July 24, with mock allotment results releasing at 6:00 PM on July 24. Candidates will have until July 27 to modify their choices before final first-round results are officially published that evening.

Karnataka ramps up relief amid drought

BENGALURU

Facing a severe rainfall deficit across 178 taluks, Karnataka's Rural Development Minister Eshwar B. Khandre has ordered an immediate scale-up of drinking water supplies and rural employment initiatives. With 60 taluks declared drought-hit, the state has released 117 crore rupees for water relief and sanctioned 95 crore rupees for emergency works. To support distressed families, the state is aggressively implementing the new VB-G RAM G scheme. Despite increased financial burdens, Karnataka has already generated five lakh man-days of employment since July 1, with targets to reach 1.25 crore monthly. The scheme now guarantees 125 days of wage employment for eligible households, covering vital infrastructure projects.

SHIVAKUMAR UNVEILS YOUTH SPORTS INITIATIVE IN BENGALURU

BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar joined thousands of enthusiastic fans in Bengaluru to celebrate the 2026 FIFA World Cup final. The event, hosted by MLA N.A. Harris and local authorities, showcased the passion of the city's youth.

During the festivities, Shivakumar announced a major government project to empower local talent. The state is launching the 'Jodo Youth Association' at the Gram Panchayat level to identify

and train gifted individuals in rural areas.

This ambitious grassroots program aims to prepare 10,000 young men and women for competitive sports and arts with significant state funding. Shivakumar emphasized that sports foster teamwork and discipline, helping youth channel their energy toward excellence. The initiative promises top-tier training and financial support for rural athletes, opening new doors to national and international success.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL

UT KHADER UNVEILS MLA-LED HEALTH COMMITTEES

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Health Department has decided to establish special MLA-led committees across all constituencies to manage and control infectious diseases effectively.

Former Health Minister UT Khader announced the new measures following a comprehensive review meeting with health officials. The decision aims to improve local action and strengthen the state's public

health emergency response system. Local legislators will now lead constituency-level health committees to catch disease outbreaks early and coordinate quick action.

Additionally, the state is actively recruiting lab technicians and pharmacists to fill crucial staff gaps. The government has also created a fast communication network to share urgent health updates across all districts immediately.



HEALTH DECISIONS ANNOUNCED:

Airport Screening: Strict health checks are active at state airports for travelers arriving from African nations, including Congo and Uganda, due to global Ebola concerns.

Positive Progress: Malaria cases have dropped by 70%, while dengue cases fell by 33% compared to the same period last year. Door-to-door surveys are ongoing to prevent mosquito breeding.

Private Hospital Rules: Private facilities must report all infectious disease cases to the health department and follow strict rules to avoid overcharging patients.

QUICK READ

Steel bridge over Tungabhadra river causes traffic jam

CH NEWS: RAICHUR
The steel bridge constructed over the Tungabhadra River on the Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka routes near Gillesugur in Raichur taluk has broken into pieces, causing a traffic jam on the Raichur-Mantralaya route for two hours.
This is the main bridge on the way to Raichur – Mantralaya. Due to lack of maintenance, the rods have rusted and broken. Fortunately, no one was killed in this accident. National Highways Authority of India officials have visited the spot and inspected it. The broken line has been reattached. The public has expressed anger over the negligence of the officials and is demanding proper maintenance. The bridge was washed away during the great flood that occurred in 2009. Later, a new bridge was inaugurated in 2012.

Raghav Annigeri Seeks Action Against Alleged Inflammatory

CH NEWS: VIJAYAPURA
Raghav Annigeri has called for strict legal action against individuals who allegedly made inflammatory and anti-national statements during a protest held over the NEET examination.
In a press statement, Annigeri alleged that certain speakers made remarks about attacking Parliament and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and claimed that such statements were intended to incite unrest and violence. He further alleged that some opposition parties, including the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Trinamool Congress (TMC), and Samajwadi Party, were encouraging an atmosphere of instability through their political rhetoric. These allegations reflect his views. Annigeri urged law enforcement agencies to take stringent action against anyone found making statements that incite violence or threaten public order, stating that such acts should be dealt with strictly in accordance with the law.

State govt approves ₹12 crore AI Centre at IIIT Raichur to boost NK

The new Centre of Excellence in AI will promote AI research, innovation, education and start-up growth while serving 13 districts of North Karnataka.

CH NEWS, RAICHUR

The state government has approved the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence (CoE-AI) at the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Raichur, marking a major step towards expanding the state's technology ecosystem beyond Bengaluru. The project has been sanctioned with an investment of Rs 12 crore over the next five years.
The proposal received approval during a State Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister DK Shivakumar under the Karnataka Government Transaction of Business Rules, 1977. The announcement was made by Minister for Home, Information Technology and Biotechnology, Priyank Kharge.
The project will be financed through two funding sources. An amount of Rs 5 crore has been allocated in the 2026-27



State Budget, while the remaining Rs 7 crore will be provided under the LEAP programme.
The Centre of Excellence will function as a dedicated regional AI hub for the 13 districts of North Karnataka. The initiative aims to decentralise Karnataka's technology ecosystem by creating new opportunities for artificial intelligence research, education, innovation and entrepreneurship in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, reducing the concentration of technology activities only in Bengaluru.

To manage and oversee the implementation of the project, the Karnataka government will create a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) named IIIT Raichur ARIA (AI Research and Innovation Arena). The SPV will be responsible for driving the project and ensuring its long-term development.
The initiative will be implemented in three phases. The first phase will focus on creating the required infrastructure. The second phase will concentrate on strengthening innovation and entrepreneur-

According to Minister Priyank Kharge, the project is expected to transform Raichur and the North Karnataka region into a major Artificial Intelligence hub. He said the Centre will create world-class opportunities for students, researchers, start-ups and industries, while strengthening Karnataka's position as a leader in emerging technologies.

ship, while the final phase will aim to make the Centre self-sustainable over the long term.
The establishment of the AI Centre of Excellence is expected to play a significant role in promoting advanced technology, generating skilled talent and encouraging innovation-led growth across North Karnataka in the coming years.

Iron Age Burial Site Discovered Near Surpur

CH NEWS, YADGIR

According to researchers, the site is believed to date back to the 6th to 5th century BCE (around 600–500 BCE) and is associated with the Iron Age megalithic culture of South India.
Spread across nearly one acre, the site is situated on level ground surrounded by hills. More than 100 upright stone slabs, each measuring about 3 to 4 feet in height, have been identified. The stones are placed at intervals of about 4 to 5 feet, while several others appear to have collapsed over time.
The discovery came after local farmer Eerappa Doddamani informed fertiliser dealer Shrivankumar, who is also president of the Surpur Hitarakshana Samiti, about the unusual stone formations. Shrivankumar alerted his team, following which history professor and researcher Rajagopal Vibhuti, along with Rajkumar Dore and Marepanayak Guddakayi, visited the site. Based on a preliminary inspection, Rajagopal Vibhuti

Archaeological remains believed to be part of an Iron Age burial site have been discovered near Mallibavi village, about 3 km northwest of Waganageri village in Surpur taluk



Researcher K. Paddayya had previously identified similar Iron Age sites at Chikkanalli, Kannelli, Bachimatti, near Jevargi, and Vibhutihalli in Shahapur taluk. The newly discovered site near Waganageri is expected to add to the archaeological significance of the region and could become the focus of further scientific studies.

identified the remains as belonging to the Iron Age and shared photographs and videos with noted Archaeologist K Paddaiah, who reportedly confirmed that the site is associated with the Iron Age.
The Iron Age marks an important phase in human history when communities began using iron and steel to manufacture tools and weapons.

Cabinet approves ₹25 crore road development in Kalaburagi: Kharge

Priyank Kharge, who is also the MLA of the constituency, has said that Rs 25 cr has been approved for the development of roads in Jewargi constituency

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

It is a matter of happiness that the state cabinet has approved road development work worth Rs 25 crore to further strengthen road connectivity in Jewargi assembly constituency of Kalaburagi district, said Home and Information Technology and Biotechnology Minister Priyank Kharge.
He has issued a media release in this regard, saying that a total of 20.65 kilometers of road are being developed under this project, including 9.045 kilometers of road on the Kattisangavi-Yanagunti-Naribola-Mal-K Cross route of State Highway-156 and 3.900 kilometers of road on the Kellur-Andola district main road. He informed that the current 3.75 meter wide road will be widened to 5.5 meters wide in



Our government is committed to delivering equitable development to all parts of the state. The work of further strengthening the infrastructure of rural areas will continue, said Minister Priyank Kharge.

selected parts and a quality road will be constructed. This will give a boost to economic and social development.
Good roads are not just a means of transportation, they are the backbone of rural development. Quality road construction improves the standard of living of the people, facilitates farmers in transporting their produce to the market, provides safe and fast transportation to students and

the general public. It will also give new impetus to local economic activities, said Minister Priyank Kharge.
The Minister expressed confidence that this road development will provide better connectivity to thousands of people in the surrounding villages including Kadakola, Kattisangavi, Naribola, Kellur and Andola, and will give a new impetus to the economic and social development of this area.

Bhim Army Demands Probe into Alleged Harassment of SC/ST Girls at Hostel

CH NEWS, VIJAYAPURA

Bhim Army Ekta Mission State President Mateen Kumar has urged the Commissioner of the Social Welfare Department to order an immediate inquiry into allegations of physical and mental harassment of students at the Post-Matric Ambedkar Girls' Hostel (SC/ST) in Basavana Bagewadi of district.
In a statement, Mateen Kumar alleged that the hostel warden, Rajeshwari, and members of the kitchen staff had been subjecting girl students to inhuman treatment, including continuous mental and physical harassment. He claimed that students who questioned the alleged irregularities and poor conditions in the hostel were verbally abused, threatened, and, in some instances, physically assaulted.
Referring to an alleged incident on July 18, Mateen Kumar said the students had requested permission to study in

the hostel library at night to prepare for their examinations. Instead of granting permission, he alleged that the warden and staff assaulted the students, causing visible injuries and severe mental distress. He said the students were staying in the government hostel to pursue their education and that allegedly assaulting them for seeking additional study time amounted to a violation of their right to education, dignity and human rights. Stating that the students belong to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities, Mateen Kumar demanded a thorough investigation into the allegations and urged the authorities to take appropriate legal action under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, and other applicable laws. The allegations have been made by Bhim Army Ekta Mission, and an official response from the hostel authorities or the Social Welfare Department was not immediately available.

Drought Threatens Paddy Cultivation in Shahapur

YADGIR

The ongoing drought-like conditions and declining water levels in the Narayanpur and Almati reservoirs have created uncertainty over paddy cultivation in the Krishna command area, leaving farmers anxious about the future of their crops.
A majority of farmers in the region traditionally depend on canal water to cultivate paddy. However, with the southwest monsoon failing this year, water storage in the reservoirs has fallen sharply. In view of the shortage, the district administration has appealed to farmers to grow only low-water-consuming crops, casting a shadow over paddy cultivation. Officials have stated that the available water in the reservoirs is sufficient only for drinking water needs, making irrigation for water-intensive crops difficult. Farmers have also been advised not to rely on reservoir water for sowing paddy.
The advisory has come as a major setback for farmers who had already prepared paddy nurseries and were waiting for canal water to begin transplantation. Many tenant farmers said they had invested thousands of rupees to lease farmland and are now uncertain whether to proceed with paddy cultivation.
Some farmers said they had raised paddy seedlings using water from nearby streams, but those sources are also drying up due to the prolonged dry spell.
They fear the seedlings may not survive if water is not made available soon. Farmers expressed hope that the government would release at least some irrigation water following public demand.

Women Receive Free Sarees in Wadi to Mark Mallikarjun Kharge's Birthday

CH NEWS, KALABURAGI

To commemorate the 84th birthday of Rajya Sabha MP Mallikarjun Kharge, the local PMK Fans Club organised a free saree distribution programme for 1,000 women in Wadi town. The event was held at Dhammadeeksha Bhoomi Siddhartha Bhavan and was inaugurated by Rajkumar Biradar, Branch Officer of GESCOM.
Speaking at the programme, Khemalinga Belamagi hailed Kharge as one of Karnataka's most distinguished political leaders and a champion of the development of the Kalyana Karnataka region. He said Kharge had dedicated his public life to improving the socio-economic conditions of the people. Local leader Abdul Qadeer said it was the responsibility of every citizen to uphold and protect the Constitution of India, which guaran-

tees dignity and security to the poorest sections of society. He called upon people to safeguard constitutional values.
Bhante Sanghasevak graced the event.
Among those present on the dais were Shakuntala Katti, President of the Ramabai Ambedkar Women's Association, along with Devaki Kachapur, Chandappa Kattimani, Doddeshha Badiger, Sharanu Maragol, Vitthal Mashal, and Shivakantamma Mainalkar. The programme was attended by hundreds of Kharge supporters, including Gurupad Doddamani, Lakshmi Kolakoor, Prabhu Nimbarga, Ambika Raddevadagi, Tulajabai Gaikwad, Savitri, Mahesh Rajolli, and Dilip Mainalkar. Ravi Kolakoor delivered the introductory remarks, while PMK Fans Club President Suryakant Raddevadi was present.



Good Rainfall Brings Relief to Crops, Devikera Records 58 mm

CH NEWS, YADGIR

Widespread rainfall across Yadgir district on Sunday brought much-needed relief to farmers, providing a lifeline to crops that had been wilting due to the prolonged dry spell.
The district witnessed cloudy skies throughout the day, with moderate rainfall beginning in the afternoon. The showers cooled the weather and improved soil moisture, offering relief to standing crops affected by the recent heat.
Several parts of Hunasagi, Shahapur and Surpur taluks received more than



half an hour of rain. Farmers expressed happiness as the rainfall is expected to benefit crops such as cotton, pigeon pea (tur), green gram (moong) and other kharif crops, which had started drying up due to inadequate rainfall.

Devikera village in Surpur taluk recorded the highest rainfall of 58 mm, followed by Malagatti (55.5 mm), Arakera (K) (53 mm), Surpur town (47 mm), Peth Ammapur (33 mm), Naganur (32.5 mm) and Malla (B) (29 mm). Other notable

rainfall recorded included 34 mm at Tadibidi in Vadagera taluk, 25 mm each at Jaigram in Gurmitkal taluk and Honagera in Yadgir taluk, 24 mm at Baichabal in Hunasagi taluk, 22 mm at Hosakera in Shahapur taluk, 21 mm at Hotpet, and 20 mm at Anabi.
While the rainfall brought cheer to the farming community, it also exposed poor civic infrastructure in Yadgir town.
Waterlogging was reported on several roads due to clogged drains, and rainwater-filled potholes made commuting difficult for motorists.

JUSTICE DEMANDED

Agriculture Students Allege Recruitment Rule Violations

CH NEWS, RAICHUR

Students of Karnataka's government agricultural universities have alleged violations of the Cadre and Recruitment (C&R) Rules in the recruitment of Agriculture Officers (AO) and Assistant Agriculture Officers (AAO), claiming that the state government has failed to respond even after their indefinite protest entered its seventh day. Addressing a press conference, the students said representatives from all government agricultural universities across the state, including the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Raichur, are participating in the agitation. They accused

the government of ignoring their legitimate demands.
The students alleged that despite the Karnataka Agricultural Services C&R Rules clearly prescribing eligibility criteria, the government altered the qualifications midway through the recruitment process to accommodate candidates from a private agricultural technology university. They claimed the move was contrary to the Supreme Court's ruling and the spirit of Article 309 of the Constitution. They also expressed concern over the growing affiliation of private agricultural colleges with government agricultural universities, alleging that it is commercialis-

ing agricultural education and making higher education increasingly unaffordable for farmers' children. They demanded an immediate halt to the approval of new private agricultural colleges.
The protesters further urged the government to withdraw its order allowing B.E. Biotechnology graduates to apply for AO and AAO posts. They argued that appointing candidates without specialised agricultural education to key positions in the Agriculture Department would be against the interests of farmers. The students also called for the immediate withdrawal of the Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input



Dealers (DAESI) course, alleging that permitting pesticide and fertiliser sales based solely on the certificate could adversely affect the agriculture sector. Warning of intensified protests, they said that if the government failed to address their demands, stu-

dents from all agricultural universities in Karnataka would launch a massive protest in Bengaluru and, if required, pursue legal action. Agriculture students including Ansh Nirmith, Jyoti and Siddayya were present at the press conference.

Karnataka explores investment opportunities with Luxembourg

Minister Patil said Luxembourg seeks stronger Karnataka ties, praising Bengaluru's technology sector, skilled workforce, industrial environment, and Silicon City status

BENGALURU

Karnataka has invited Luxembourg and Japanese companies to explore investment opportunities and partnerships in the state, especially in technology, innovation and industrial sectors. Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil held discussions with representatives from Luxembourg and Japan to strengthen business relations and attract new investments.

Luxembourg Deputy Prime Minister Xavier Bettel is scheduled to visit Bengaluru from September 7 to 9. Ahead of the visit, Luxembourg Ambassador to India Christian Beaver and Embassy Counselor Maxime Victor met Minister Patil at Mineral Bhavan on Monday. During the meeting, both sides discussed possibilities for increasing cooperation in investment, technology and innovation.

Minister Patil said Luxembourg has shown interest in expanding business relations with Karnataka. He highlighted

ed Bengaluru's position as India's Silicon City and appreciated the state's strong industrial environment, skilled workforce and growing technology sector. The Luxembourg delegation was informed about the opportunities available in the Queen City project being developed between Dabasapete and Doddaballapur. Universities, companies and innovation centres have been invited to participate and invest in the project.

Patil also explained that Luxembourg-based Ceratizit is already manufacturing advanced industrial cutting tools in India. He pointed out Luxembourg's expertise in steel, automobile, engineering, clean energy, industrial equipment and space technology sectors. He added that Bengaluru-based companies Infosys and Wipro have investments and operations in Luxembourg, showing the existing business connection between both regions.



Karnataka plans Fukuoka investment drive for industries

Karnataka is preparing to attract investments from Japanese semiconductor companies through new industrial partnerships and opportunities. Minister Patil said an investment attraction programme will soon be held in Fukuoka to highlight the state's industrial potential. He said Japanese firms recognize Karnataka's strong research facilities and global capability centres. Patil expressed confidence that collaborations with Japanese companies would support semiconductor development and economic growth. He added that the state's educational institutions and skilled workforce provide a strong base for future industries. International partnerships are expected to create opportunities and strengthen Karnataka's position as a major investment destination globally.

Science and innovation drive future through discovery: Prof

Shashi Shekar R. said space exploration needs precision, curiosity and science, encouraging students to innovate confidently while supporting educational reforms for future challenges

MYSURU

University of Mysore Vice Chancellor Prof. Lokanath N. K. said that science and innovation are closely connected and encouraged students to observe the world carefully to develop new ideas and discoveries.

He was speaking at the inauguration of a one-day state-level seminar titled "Space Frontiers: Innovations, Exploration and Discovery" organized by the Department of Physics in association with Mysore Science Foundation at JSS College for Women in Mysuru on Monday.

Prof. Lokanath said space is a vast subject that teaches humanity many lessons about nature and progress. He advised students to read original textbooks and study the lives of great scientists to understand the importance of creativity and innovation.

Retired ISRO Senior Space Scientist Shashi Shekar R. said space exploration requires accuracy because there



is no room for mistakes. He added that curiosity combined with science encourages real exploration and innovation. The student community was encouraged to participate confidently in scientific activities and contribute ideas without fear of failure. He also stressed the need for educational reforms to prepare learners for future challenges.

Dr. Prathima D. S., Joint Director of Collegiate Education, said space research connects with many modern fields and basic science remains the foundation of scientific advancement. She highlighted that seminars help improve research culture and critical thinking among students.

The event was attended by Mysore Science Foundation President Krishnegowda P., Principal Dr. Rechanna and Physics Department Head Sowmya P. Faculty members and students also participated in the programme. Soujanya K., Deeksha and other students contributed to the

Space teaches humanity about nature and progress; students should study textbooks and scientists' lives to inspire creativity and innovation.
—University of Mysore Vice Chancellor Prof. Lokanath N. K.

smooth conduct of the event.

The inauguration was followed by three technical sessions focusing on space missions, challenges, star life cycles and modern telescopes.

Shashi Shekar R. discussed space missions while Dr. Shivalingaswamy T. explained the life cycle of stars. Amoghavarsha N. presented details about twenty-first century telescopes and their role in understanding universe better. The seminar concluded with a message that science and innovation must move together to inspire young minds and create solutions for future generations through knowledge research and dedication.

QUICK READ

GTTC job fair opens doors for youth

Chitradurga

The Government Tooling and Training Centre will organise a job fair on July 22 in collaboration with Wipro Kawasaki to provide employment opportunities for unemployed youth and women. The event will be held from 10 am to 3.30 pm at the GTTC campus on Old Bangalore Road. Candidates with diplomas in Mechanical, Automobile, Tool Engineering, Precision Manufacturing or equivalent courses can participate. Selected applicants will receive a monthly salary of Rs.16,000, two meals, free transport and a government certificate. Officials urged candidates to attend with required documents and take advantage of this opportunity for employment.

Hammigi barrage water reserved for drinking

Gadag

Water available in Hammigi barrage under the Singhalur Etha Irrigation Project has been reserved only for drinking purposes during the 2026-27 season. Officials said limited water inflow has been recorded in the reservoir, and priority will be given to people and livestock needs as per national and state water policies. Around 1,953 TMC water is currently available for use and will be protected for drinking requirements. Karnataka Irrigation Corporation advised farmers in Gadag and Vijayanagar districts not to depend on canal water from Hammigi reservoir during the monsoon season. Authorities said water flow may vary due to rainfall conditions.

Disabled union protests for restoring monthly allowances

Goolappa said the income limit was unrealistic, affecting poor families and causing thousands to lose monthly assistance

RAICHUR

Members of the Karnataka State Disabled and Guardians' Union staged a protest at Tipu Sultan Park in Raichur on Monday, demanding restoration of reduced and suspended monthly allowances for disabled persons, senior citizens and widows. The protesters submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister through the District Collector.

Speaking at the protest, union district president Honnappa Goolappa said the government's annual income limit of Rs 32,000 for social security benefits was unrealistic and affected poor families. He said thousands of beneficiaries had faced difficulties after their monthly assistance was stopped.

The protesters stated that the current income limit does not match the rising cost of living. They compared it with the BPL family income limit of Rs 1.20 lakh annually and claimed that the lower limit for social security schemes was unfair. They said the allowance is essential for medicines, medical treatment, food and daily expenses of disabled persons, elderly people and widows.



The union demanded immediate removal of the Rs 32,000 income restriction and requested that the BPL income standard be considered for eligibility. They also sought the restoration of suspended disability, old age and widow pensions. The protesters demanded a monthly allowance of Rs 3,000 for persons with 40 to 74 per cent disability and Rs 5,000 for those with more than 75 per cent disability.

The organisation urged the government to review social security policies on humanitarian grounds by considering similar measures followed in other states. Protesters warned that a statewide movement would be launched if their demands were not addressed. They said timely financial support

KEY DEMANDS RAISED IN PROTEST

- Remove Rs 32,000 income limit for social security benefits
- Restore suspended disability, old age and widow pensions immediately
- Adopt BPL income standard for social security eligibility criteria
- Provide Rs 3,000 monthly allowance for moderate disabilities
- Increase disability allowance to Rs 5,000 for severe cases

is necessary to protect vulnerable groups and help them live with dignity.

Farmers Association seeks action against illegal liquor sales

YADGIR

The office bearers of the Karnataka State Farmers' Association and Karmika Sena district unit submitted a petition to the Excise Department, seeking action against alleged illegal transportation and sale of liquor in rural areas of the district.

District president Polappa M. Narayanor said some wine shops and bars were supplying liquor to villages through vehicles including two-wheelers and other means. He said such activities were affecting families and creating social problems due to alcohol addiction. Women and children were facing difficulties, while the risk

of young people becoming addicted was also increasing. The association demanded strict action against those involved in illegal activities and requested cancellation of licenses if violations continued.

The members also urged authorities to prevent illegal liquor sales in villages and protect public health. They warned

that if no proper action was taken, the organisations would approach the Lokayukta with documents including vehicle GPS details as evidence of illegal transport. District General Secretary Mallikarjuna Hulibetta, Yadgiri taluk president Bhimaraya Baaur and other members were present during the submission of the petition.

Kabini, KRS reservoirs await monsoon boost as inflows fall

MYSURU

Deficient rainfall in the Kabini and Cauvery catchment areas has led to a sharp decline in inflows into the state's two major reservoirs—Kabini and Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS). Water storage in both reservoirs continues to remain well below their full capacity, raising concerns over irrigation and drinking water availability.

At 8 a.m. on Monday, the water level in the Kabini Reservoir stood at 2,271.77 ft, against its maximum level of 2,284 ft. On the corresponding day last year, the reservoir level was 2,283.33 ft, indicating a significant decline this year.

The reservoir has a gross storage capacity of 19.52 TMC, while the present storage is 12.56 TMC. More importantly, the live storage has dwindled to just 2.75 TMC, compared to 9.27 TMC on the same day last year.

Kabini is currently receiving an inflow of only 2,818 cu

secs, a steep fall from 15,206 cusecs recorded on the same day last year. Only 500 cusecs is being released into the river, while no water is being let into the Left Bank Canal (LBC) or Right Bank Canal (RBC). The reservoir recorded an evaporation loss of 8.19 million cubic feet, and the catchment received 5 mm of rainfall during the last 24 hours.

The situation at the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Reservoir is also far from encouraging. The water level stood at 92.61 ft, against the maximum level of 124.80 ft.

The KRS reservoir has a gross storage capacity of 49.452 TMC, of which 17.554 TMC is currently stored. The live storage is 9.175 TMC.

The reservoir is receiving an inflow of 828 cusecs, while 2,148 cusecs is being released, including water supplied for canals and drinking water requirements. Since the outflow exceeds the inflow, pressure on the reservoir's storage continues.

THE GATEWAY TO KNOWLEDGE

Regional International School unveils its new library

MYSURU

Regional International School, Mysuru, celebrated a proud milestone with the grand inauguration of its new School Library in Mysuru. The event reflected the institution's commitment to promoting reading, knowledge, and lifelong learning among students.

The chief guest of the function, Shamira Sultana, academican and social leader, emphasized that a

library is the heart of an educational institution, where books ignite curiosity, creativity, and wisdom. The students must cultivate the habit of reading, stating that today's readers become tomorrow's leaders.

School Director Mujeebulla Rasheed, reiterated the school's vision of providing quality education and creating an environment that nurtures intellectual growth.

School Principal John

Prakash Kumar highlighted the importance of the newly established library in enriching students' academic and personal development.

School H.M Ghousia, HR Shanara, Senior administrator Seema, PRO Farhan were present.

The newly inaugurated library includes a diverse collection of books across various subjects, providing students with valuable resources to enhance their learning and imagination.



Koppal police return stolen property worth ₹ 1.82cr to victims

Officials said night patrolling, CCTV monitoring, and tracking previous offenders will continue as strict measures to prevent crimes and ensure safety

KOPPAL

The Koppal District Police returned seized properties worth Rs 1.82 crore to rightful owners and heirs during a special programme held at the police parade grounds.

Bellary Zone Inspector General of Police Dr. P.S. Harsha appreciated the efforts of police teams for solving property crime cases through quick action and technical skills.

The programme also included a talent award ceremony for children of police personnel who scored above 90 per cent in SSLC and second PUC examinations. Around 53 students were honoured with appreciation letters and mementos by the IG for their academic achievements.

Speaking to reporters, Dr. Harsha said 252 property theft cases were reported in Koppal district between January 2025 and June 2026. Police successfully detected 104 cases and recovered stolen items including gold jewellery, silver articles, cash, vehicles, and mobile phones. The recovered valuables were handed over to victims after completing legal procedures.



Koppal Superintendent of Police Dr. Ram L. Arasiddi said the recovered property included 988 grams of gold, 10 kg of silver, Rs 43.33 lakh cash, six four-wheelers, three three-wheelers, 34 motorcycles, and 1,905 mobile phones traced through the CEIR portal. He said returning lost property has increased public trust in the police department.

Officials said strict measures, including night patrolling, CCTV monitoring, and tracking of previous offenders, will continue to prevent crimes. The Mobile Forensic Lab vehicle of Koppal District Police was also launched during the programme.

POINTERS
Crime Recovery Report
● Koppal reported 252 property theft cases between Jan 2025-June 2026.
● Police detected 104 theft cases and recovered stolen valuables.
● Police recovered 988 grams gold and 10 kg silver.
● CEIR portal helped trace 1,905 stolen mobile phones.
● Rs 43.33 lakh cash recovered from property theft cases.

The event was attended by senior police officials, staff members, police families, and members of the public. Victims expressed happiness after receiving their stolen belongings back and thanked the police for their sincere efforts and timely action.

Police families receive sewing training for income growth

The Koppal District Police and Sarvodaya Integrated Rural Development Institute launched a free sewing training program for women from police families to promote self-reliance and financial growth. The program was inaugurated by Dr. P.S. Harsha at Police Bhawan. He said police personnel remain dedicated to public service and such skill training can help their families earn additional income. The initiative aims to provide women with skills to start businesses or find employment opportunities.

Shankar Ankanashettipur directed officials to ensure timely delivery of government facilities and benefits to sanitation workers. He said authorities must protect the welfare of workers who play an important role in maintaining cleanliness in villages and towns.

Commission warns officials over worker negligence

MANDYA

State Safai Karmachari Commission member C. Shankar Ankanashettipur directed officials to ensure timely delivery of government facilities and benefits to sanitation workers. He said authorities must protect the welfare of workers who play an important role in maintaining cleanliness in villages and towns.

He was speaking during a meeting held at the Mandya Taluk Panchayat Hall after interacting with sanitation workers from all Gram Panchayats under Mandya Taluk. He instructed officials to provide facilities according to government guidelines and warned that negligence would invite action from the commission.

Shankar said sanitation workers should receive their salaries before the fifth of every month without delay. He also stressed the need to provide essential safety equipment such as uniforms, gloves, gumboots, masks, and other protective materials. He said workers should not face difficulties while performing their duties.

He highlighted that the government has introduced several schemes for the education and development of children from sanitation



worker families. Officials should ensure that eligible families receive these benefits and become part of the mainstream society. He also advised authorities to conduct regular health check-ups and spread awareness about welfare schemes related to health, safety, and financial support.

The commission member instructed officials to provide modern working tools, distribute Ayushman cards, organise training programmes, and take necessary steps to improve the working conditions of sanitation workers. He said protecting their health and dignity should be a priority.

District Social Welfare Officer Srinivas, Mandya Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Lokesh Murthy, and community leaders attended the meeting. Officials assured

Shankar urged timely salaries before the fifth, along with safety equipment like uniforms, gloves, gumboots, and masks, ensuring sanitation workers perform duties safely without difficulties

Sanitation workers must receive timely salaries and proper safety equipment to perform duties without difficulties.
—C. Shankar Ankanashettipur, Safai Karmachari Commission member

that necessary measures would be taken to improve facilities and ensure better support for sanitation workers across the district.

QUICK READ

Eklavya award applications open for eligible players

Chitradurga

The Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports has invited applications from eligible sports persons for various awards, incentives and scholarships for 2026-27. Athletes can apply for Eklavya Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, Karnataka Sports Gem Award, Sports Patron Award and cash prizes. Applications are also open for sports scholarships and Olympic medal support schemes. Interested players must submit forms online through Sevasinidhu by July 31. Officials advised athletes to apply early and avoid delays. More details are available from the district sports office at Veeravante Onake Obavva Stadium or through the contact number (08194-235635).

Workers savings need protection: Krishna

Congress leader flagged EPFO irregularities, citing fake accounts and fraudulent claims, and demanded stronger monitoring to protect workers' savings

GADAG

Gadag District Congress Youth Congress Committee President Krishna Gowda H. Patil has criticised the Central government over changes related to workers' provident fund contributions. He alleged that the new PF system would negatively affect employees' retirement savings and benefit large companies instead.

Patil claimed that limiting mandatory PF contributions would reduce the retirement security of millions of workers. He questioned the government's decisions and said the future financial stability of employees should not be affected by policy changes. He also demanded greater protection for workers' savings.

Patil accused the government of failing to address rising living costs and said wage policies should consider inflation.

He alleged that while corporate tax benefits were being provided, ordinary workers were facing difficulties. He urged authorities to ensure that employees receive stronger financial security after retirement.

The Congress leader also raised concerns about alleged irregularities in the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation system. He claimed that corruption cases involving fake accounts and fraudulent claims show the need for stronger monitoring and better safeguards to protect workers' hard-earned money.

Patil said provident fund savings are a lifeline for employees after retirement and should be handled with complete transparency. He urged the government to take immediate steps to protect workers' interests and prevent misuse of retirement

Cong leader accuses BJP over pension funds

District Youth Congress Committee President Krishna Gowda H. Patil alleged that the BJP government misused employees' pension funds by investing in failed companies like DHFL. He claimed such actions caused losses to workers and showed administrative failure. Patil said the UPPCL PF issue reflected poor protection of employees' savings. He demanded accountability and said workers suffered due to these decisions. The allegations have sparked political debate over pension fund management while party leaders continue discussing the matter. Authorities have not announced any fresh action on the issue so far and the controversy remains a major public concern.

ees after retirement and should be handled with complete transparency. He urged the government to take immediate steps to protect workers' interests and prevent misuse of retirement

funds. He added that ensuring financial safety for workers is essential for building confidence among employees and strengthening the economy. The Congress leader called for reforms that support workers while maintaining accountability in the PF system.



Girl dies as village hospital lacks doctor

CHIKKABALLAPURA

An eight-year-old girl died after allegedly failing to receive timely medical treatment at the government primary hospital in Peresandra village, causing anger among villagers.

The village is known as the hometown of MP Dr. K. Sudhakar and MLA Pradeep Eshwar. Residents alleged that the hospital often faces a shortage of doctors and lacks important medical facilities. Following the incident, villagers gathered outside the hospital and staged a protest demanding immediate improvements.

According to the family, Sasikala, daughter of Chandrika and Naveen, suddenly became seriously ill after she ran home in fear of a monkey near her house. Her family rushed her to the hospital, but they alleged that no doctor was available as it was Sunday. They claimed that the available staff could not provide proper treatment due to a lack of facilities, leading to



the child's death. Villagers demanded the appointment of a permanent doctor and availability of essential equipment, including oxygen. They urged authorities to take quick action to prevent similar incidents in the future and improve healthcare services.



Shivaji Gaudru brings pride with global achievement

KARWAR

District Collector K. Lakshmi Priya said that Shivaji Parasurama Madappana Gaudru's silver medal in the U-23 Athletic Championship held in China should inspire athletes across Uttara Kannada district. The sportsperson from Belavatagi village of Haliyal taluk won silver in the 10000m event and brought pride to the state and nation.

The district administration honoured Shivaji at the Collectorate Hall and praised his discipline and daily hard work behind the achievement. District officials said his success shows that talent from small areas can reach global platforms with dedication and proper support.

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Dileesh Shashi stated that Karwar district stadium will be developed to provide better facilities for athletes. Parents were encouraged to support children in sports along with academics and cultural activities. Shivaji thanked the administration and said he aims to win medals in future international events including the Commonwealth, Asian Games and Olympics through continued effort and patience. District Superintendent of Police Dipan M.N., Deputy Collector Sajid Mulla and Sports Department Assistant Director Ravi Nayka attended the programme.

Coach Prakash was appreciated for identifying Shivaji's talent early and encouraging him throughout his journey. Various organisations including Rotary Sea Side of Karwar felicitated him and presented cash prizes. The event ended with hopes that Shivaji's achievement would motivate young athletes to work hard and bring more glory.

HEALTHY-MINDS-MATTER

Health awareness stressed amid growing workplace pressure

CHITRADURGA

District Principal and Sessions Judge G.D. Mahavarkar highlighted the importance of maintaining good health through stressful lifestyles. He said judges, lawyers, and judicial department employees often work under pressure, making regular health care and medical check-ups necessary for a healthy life.

He was speaking after inaugurating a free health check-up camp organised jointly by the District Legal Services Authority, District Lawyers Association, and Swasthya Health at Vakil Bhavan in Chitradurga. The camp was



conducted for judges, advocates, and judicial staff to encourage preventive health care.

Mahavarkar said a healthy body is essential for a healthy mind and reminded people

that ignoring health can make life difficult. He appreciated the Bar Association for organising the

A healthy body is essential for a healthy mind, and ignoring health can make life difficult.
—G.D. Mahavarkar, District Principal and Sessions Judge

camp and encouraged all members and staff to use the opportunity for medical examination.

Eye specialist Dr. Mrityunjaya advised people to undergo complete eye check-ups at least once a year. He explained that increased eye pressure can damage nerves and lead to glaucoma if not detected early. He also warned that diabetes, excessive mobile phone use, and long computer hours are increasing eye-related problems among people.

Bar Association

President H.S. Maheshwarappa said wealth and comforts have no value without good health. He urged everyone to consider health as their biggest priority and undergo regular tests for conditions like blood pressure and diabetes.

Several judges, lawyers, and judicial department officials attended the programme. Organisers said such health camps help create awareness about early detection of diseases and encourage people to follow healthier habits in their daily lives. They added that timely medical care can prevent serious health problems and improve overall well-being.

CPI(M) protests government hospital privatization plan

Munir Katipalla said privatisation of government healthcare would reduce affordable medical access for poor and middle-class families across the region

MANGALURU

Members of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) staged a human chain protest in Mangaluru demanding that the government withdraw its proposal to hand over government hospitals to private medical colleges.

Protesters also called for the development of Wenlock District Hospital into a super specialty hospital and sought Jayadeva Heart Hospital and Kidwai Cancer Hospital units in Dakshina Kannada district.

Speaking at the protest, CPM Dakshina Kannada District Secretary Munir Katipalla said privatisation of government healthcare would weaken access to affordable medical services for poor and middle-class families. He urged the government to protect public hospitals and ensure equal healthcare opportunities for all citizens.

CPM District Secretariat member Sunil Kumar Bajal



said many patients from the district currently travel to distant cities for specialised heart and cancer treatment. He said establishing Jayadeva and Kidwai hospital units in the district would benefit thousands of patients. He also demanded that Wenlock District Hospital be upgraded with advanced medical facilities to provide better treatment locally.

Several party leaders and youth representatives addressed the gathering and supported the demands for stronger public healthcare. They

also called for permanent employment for contract workers who have been serving in city health centres for many years.

A large number of party workers and supporters participated in the human chain demonstration. The protest concluded with an appeal to the government to strengthen public healthcare services instead of promoting privatisation. Organisers said improving government hospitals and expanding specialised medical facilities would ensure better healthcare access for

KEY DEMANDS TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTHCARE

- Withdraw proposal handing government hospitals to private medical colleges

- Upgrade Wenlock District Hospital into a super specialty hospital

- Establish Jayadeva Heart Hospital unit in Dakshina Kannada district

- Set up Kidwai Cancer Hospital unit for local patients

- Ensure affordable public healthcare for poor and middle-class families

- Provide permanent employment for long-serving contract health workers

people across the district and reduce the need for patients to travel long distances for advanced treatment.

Forest dwellers seek complete ban on Acacia plantations

SIRSI

Forest dwellers have renewed their demand for a complete ban on Acacia plantations, claiming the species continues to be planted despite a government decision taken nearly ten years ago. Forest Land Rights Fighters Forum president Ravindra Naik urged the Forest Department to stop planting Acacia and follow the existing rules without delay.

Naik said the Karnataka government had introduced measures in 2016 to prohibit the planting of Acacia and Eucalyptus because of their impact on the environment. He alleged that although the law was brought into force, Acacia plantations were still being carried out in forest areas, wildlife sanctuaries and reserved forests across the state.

He claimed that such plantations are not natural forests and should not be counted as an increase in forest cover. According to him, Acacia plantations have reduced evergreen forests in the Malnad region and affected the sensitive ecosystem of the Western Ghats. He also alleged that



the species lowers groundwater levels, reduces soil fertility and provides little support for wildlife.

Naik said scientific studies have pointed to environmental concerns linked to Acacia plantations, including fewer nesting opportunities for birds, poor growth of other plants and reduced food sources for wild animals. He urged authorities to encourage native tree species instead of continuing plantations that may harm biodiversity.

Naik said Karnataka banned Acacia and Eucalyptus plantations in 2016, but alleged Acacia planting continues across forests, sanctuaries, and reserved forest areas



Authorities should promote native tree species instead of Acacia plantations that may harm biodiversity.

—Forest Land Rights Fighters Forum president Ravindra Naik

The forum appealed to the Forest Department to fully implement the government's earlier decision and prevent further planting of Acacia and Eucalyptus. Members said protecting natural forests and restoring native vegetation would help conserve biodiversity, improve water resources and safeguard the ecological balance of the Western Ghats for future generations while supporting sustainable forest management across Karnataka.

QUICK READ

Families invited for child parenting support scheme

Gadag

Applications have been invited from families and organizations in Gadag district to provide temporary care and protection for children through the parenting scheme. The initiative aims to offer children a family-like environment with proper nutrition, education and emotional support. Interested applicants can register at the District Child Protection Unit office located in the District Administration Building. Parenting families will be responsible for providing food, clothing, shelter, education and healthcare support for children. Officials said the scheme focuses on children's overall development and well-being. More information is available through the Child Welfare Committee and Child Helpline 1098.

Udupi invites applications for digital media subsidy

UDUPI

Applications have been invited from unemployed Scheduled Caste graduates in Journalism and Electronics fields to receive subsidy support for starting digital media enterprises. The scheme offers financial assistance up to 70 per cent of the unit cost or a maximum limit as approved under the programme. Eligible candidates can collect application forms from the Social Welfare Department offices in Udupi, Karkala and Kundapur. Filled applications with required attested documents must be submitted by July 31. Officials said interested applicants can contact the respective taluk Social Welfare Department offices for more information about the scheme and application process.

Mangaluru Police honour officers for outstanding performance

MANGALURU

The Mangaluru City Police Commissioner honoured 29 police officers with appreciation certificates and 118 staff members with cash prizes along with appreciation certificates on July 20. The awards were given for outstanding performance in various fields over the past six months.

During this period, police arrested accused persons in 24 long pending cases and successfully traced several accused who had been absconding for years with non-bailable warrants. In property theft cases during 2026, police solved 88 cases, arrested the accused and recovered stolen property worth approximately one crore twenty lakh Rupees.

Against those involved in the sale and transportation of

narcotic substances, police registered 84 cases and arrested 142 accused, following which strict legal action was taken. In cases related to consumption of narcotic substances, 346 cases were registered and 443 accused were taken into custody.

Information about peddlers was also collected from them for further action. The Commissioner also recognised officers and staff who helped victims of cyber fraud recover their money by acting promptly on calls received through the 1930 helpline.

Officers who achieved significant success in detecting cyber crimes, including breaking an investment fraud network operating from Nepal and assisting in tracing accused persons across different states, were also honoured.

Gantihole joins Chaturmasya preparatory meeting

UDUPI

Gururaj Gantihole, who represents the Byndoor assembly constituency, joined a preparatory meeting held at the Sri Narayana Guru Kalyana Mantapa located in Kundapura. The session was arranged specifically to organize the Chaturmasya Vratacharane of Sri Brahmananda Saraswati Swamiji.

This religious observance is scheduled to start on July 29 at the Bilishile Vinayaka Devasthan situated in the Golihole area of Byndoor. The meeting served as an important step in coordinating the various aspects of the upcoming event. Participants gathered to discuss the necessary arrangements for the Swamiji's four-month period of spiritual practice and discipline.

Gantihole's presence at the venue underscored the involvement of local elected representatives in supporting

community religious activities centered around the temple in Golihole. The preparatory session brought together individuals focused on ensuring smooth conduct of the Chaturmasya Vrata at the Bilishile Vinayaka Temple.

In a move to encourage wide participation from every section of society, Byndoor Vidhan Sabha constituency MLA Gururaj Gantihole convened a meeting attended by people from diverse backgrounds. The gathering served as a platform to formally invite the public to the Byndoor Chaturmasya program.

The meeting allowed community members to learn about the program details and express their support for the upcoming spiritual event. By hosting this inclusive meeting, the MLA ensured that information about the Chaturmasya program reached representatives from across the constituency.

Voters urged to complete electoral roll revision process

Somasekhar urged eligible voters to utilise the SIR process and ensure their names remain in the electoral roll without deletion

MADIKERI

The Election Commission of India has started the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Kodagu district and District Collector S.J. Somasekhar has urged voters to complete the process carefully before the deadline. The census forms have already been distributed and digitization work is underway to achieve full progress through cooperation from citizens and political parties.

Speaking at a meeting with party leaders at the Collector's office, Somasekhar said eligible voters should use the opportunity provided under SIR and ensure their names are not removed from the voter list. He said the revision work will continue until August 8, and everyone must support the process to maintain an accurate and updated electoral roll.

Officials said Booth Level Officers are visiting homes across 552 polling booths in Madikeri and Virajpet constituencies to collect completed forms and upload details through the BLO application. The district has 4,68,657 voters and authorities reported that 3,04,805 forms have already been digitized, showing



65.65% progress. Voters who have not received forms should contact BLOs immediately for assistance and completion of the revision process.

The Collector requested political party representatives to create awareness in their areas and help eligible voters participate without confusion. He advised citizens to verify details related to their polling stations and provide correct information during the SIR process. Additional District Collector Sahana S. Hadimani said awareness programs are being conducted through local bodies including gram panchayats and municipalities to improve public participation.

Deputy Divisional Officer Nitin Chakki said Madikeri constituency has 275 polling booths with 2,38,447 voters and digitization of 1,51,768

VOTER REVISION DATA REPORT

- BLOs covering 552 polling booths collecting voter revision forms

- District has 4,68,657 voters under ongoing revision process

- Authorities digitized 3,04,805 forms achieving 65.65% progress

- Madikeri constituency has 275 booths and 2,38,447 voters

- Virajpet constituency includes 277 booths with 2,30,210 voters

forms has been completed. Virajpet constituency has 277 booths with 2,30,210 voters and work on 1,54,323 forms has also been completed. Political leaders Sajil Krishna and Rose Janardhana assured cooperation in spreading awareness among people.

Belliyappa appointed to lead guarantee schemes committee

MAGADI

The Taluk Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee has received a new chairman as Belliyappa from Gejjagaruppe village has been appointed to the position. Former chairman Kalkere K.R. Shivanna was removed from the role, and the change order was issued by

the district administration.

The appointment has come into immediate effect, and Belliyappa will continue in the responsibility according to the official order. Collector clarified that there would be no changes in the list of other committee members. Belliyappa's selection was linked to his political and social work background. He has

worked closely with MLA H.C. Balakrishna and actively participated in party activities and public programmes for several years. As a Dalit leader, he has taken part in social struggles and gained attention for his organisational abilities.

Following his appointment, Belliyappa expressed gratitude to MLA H.C. Balakrishna for trusting him with the responsi-

bility. He said he would work to ensure that government guarantee schemes reach every eligible beneficiary in Magadi taluk. He also promised to strengthen the respect of the party and government through his service. Belliyappa stated that he would focus on effective implementation of welfare projects and support people who need assistance.

SMART-AGRICULTURE-ACCESS

Kisan Sarathi digital platform offers quick agricultural information to farmers

MAGADI

Farmers can now access quick and scientific agricultural information through the Kisan Sarathi digital platform, said Dr. Shweta B.S., Senior Scientist and Head of Chandurayanahalli Agricultural Science Centre.

She said the mobile application helps farmers make better decisions by providing useful information directly through technology.

She was speaking during an

online awareness programme organised at the Agricultural Science Centre in Chandurayanahalli to educate farmers about weather conditions and monsoon crops. She explained that the Kisan Sarathi app, developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, provides farmers with reliable guidance on farming-related activities.

Dr. Shweta said the app offers information on weather forecasts, crop management, pest and disease control, horti-

culture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and natural farming. Farmers can also upload pictures of crop problems and receive scientific solutions directly from agricultural experts.

She added that timely information about changing climate conditions can help farmers reduce cultivation costs and improve productivity. The application also provides details about agricultural training programmes, crop recommendations, government schemes, market prices,

and other useful services on a single platform.

Dr. Shweta encouraged farmers to use modern technology and digital facilities to improve farming practices. She said access to accurate information at the right time is essential, especially during changing weather conditions. The awareness programme helped farmers understand the benefits of the Kisan Sarathi application and encouraged them to adopt digital tools for better agricultural outcomes.



App Registration Guide

To register, farmers need to download the app, enter their mobile number, and provide details such as state, district, taluk, and crops being cultivated. After registration, farmers can receive weather updates, expert advice, and other information suitable for their region.

QUICK READ

Delhi cops dismiss report of CJP founder's detention

New Delhi
The Delhi Police have dismissed reports claiming that Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke was detained or arrested during the protests near Parliament. This came as CJP spokesperson Saurav Das initially posted claims that Dipke had been picked up by police during the 'Sansad Chalo' protest. Refuting the claims, the Delhi Police said, Misleading reports are currently circulating on various social media platforms claiming that Abhijit Dipke has been detained by the Delhi Police. It is formally clarified that these allegations are entirely false and he is available on stage.

Public figures celebrate Vikram 1 orbit success

New Delhi
India's first privately developed orbital rocket, Vikram 1, successfully reached orbit under Mission Aagam and drew praise from industry and public figures, who called it a landmark achievement for the country's burgeoning private space sector, according to multiple reports. Startup Skyroot Aerospace, which built the rocket, described reaching orbit on its first attempt as an incredibly rare feat globally, posting a video of the launch and satellite separation on X. Reliving the launch—from lift-off to satellite separation. Reaching orbit on the very first attempt of a new launch vehicle is an incredibly rare feat globally. The world now has a new launch vehicle. From India, for the world, it captioned the video.

2 found dead in Delhi's Amar Colony residence

NEW DELHI
The bodies of two individuals were found under suspicious circumstances in Delhi's Amar Colony area on Monday, officials said. According to the police, the bodies were found at a flat in the Sant Nagar area in Amar Colony. Officials stated that the police have taken both bodies into custody, and further proceedings are underway. As per preliminary report, both bodies were discovered in a flat in the Sant Nagar area. A woman, originally from Nagpur, Maharashtra, had been living in the flat as a tenant for the past two years. Along with the woman's body, a man was also found dead in the flat. The officials said that the man was found hanging from the ceiling fan, while the woman's body was lying on the bed. Upon receiving the information, the police arrived at the scene and took possession of both bodies. Subsequently, the woman's family, residing in Nagpur, was informed.

MAN ARRESTED FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT OF MINOR GIRL

KOLKATA
A 40-year-old man was arrested in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district for allegedly sexually assaulting a minor girl after luring her with a mobile phone, police said on Monday. The husband of a former Trinamool Congress councillor has also come under the scanner after allegations surfaced that he tried to shield the accused. The incident has triggered a huge uproar in Ward No 2 of Dum Dum Municipality in North 24 Parganas district. The victim's

SC: Don't politicise Ram temple donation case

The top court asks UP govt to apprise it on the possibility of an SIT probe into the alleged embezzlement of Ayodhya temple donations

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Uttar Pradesh government to apprise it about the possibility of setting up an SIT to probe the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya and cautioned the litigants not to politicise the issue. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, to take instructions on whether the Special Investigation Team (SIT), which had examined the entire issue before registration of the FIR, could be entrusted with the responsibility to probe the case instead of the local police. "Just a word of caution. Please don't politicise the issue. The courts are not a place for politics. It is a simple case of commission of crime. We are (here) just to ensure a proper investigation," the CJI said. At the outset, Mehta said



that in compliance with an earlier order, the state government has filed a status report. "Investigation is going on. Eight persons were arrested. I cannot divulge much," he said. Asked whether the SIT was probing the case, Mehta said, "The SIT was constituted to find out the truthfulness. Now it is being probed by the police. The SIT just found that there is a cognisable offence." The bench noted that two senior IAS officers and the Inspector General of Police of Lucknow were part of that SIT and asked whether they

Investigation must be fair and taken to its logical conclusion. Courts are not a place for politics. -Supreme Court Bench

could conduct the main investigation to ensure fairness and transparency. The bench said it will take up the case next Monday and pass certain directions. On July 13, the bench had directed the Uttar Pradesh police to submit a status report in the matter. It had also issued a notice to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust on pleas seeking a fair and time-bound probe into the alleged donation theft.

Lalu leaves for AIIMS treatment

PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) president and former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav on Monday left for New Delhi to undergo advanced medical treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), days after suffering a health complication that required hospitalisation in Patna. He was accompanied by his wife and former Chief Minister Rabri Devi, daughter and Rajya Sabha MP Misa Bharti, who assured supporters that his health had improved and that further treatment would continue under specialist supervision at AIIMS Delhi. Lalu Prasad's condition is much better now. He is already under treatment at AIIMS Delhi, and further consultation and treatment will continue there, Misa

Health update

Lalu Yadav has remained under regular medical supervision since his kidney transplant and recently returned from Singapore after a routine post-transplant health evaluation.

Bharti told reporters before departing from Patna. The veteran leader's health deteriorated unexpectedly on Friday, following which he was admitted to the Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (IGIMS) in Patna. He underwent a detailed medical evaluation, including an ECG and a comprehensive eye examination conducted by ophthalmology specialists. After nearly two hours of

observation, doctors discharged him once his condition stabilised. Following the discharge, Misa Bharti linked part of her father's discomfort to poor sanitation in Patna's Kautilya Nagar area. She also criticised the Bihar government, questioning reports that senior district officials accompanied the wife of Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary during a college inspection instead of attending to public responsibilities. Lalu Prasad Yadav has remained under continuous medical supervision since undergoing a kidney transplant. Around two months ago, he travelled to Singapore for a routine post-transplant medical check-up after receiving permission from a Delhi court. His latest visit to AIIMS is part of ongoing specialised treatment and follow-up care.

‘MoSPI advances evidence based policy making through surveys’

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) compiles key economic and social indices and conducts household surveys that inform policy on quality of life, the government said on Monday. MoSPI produces Estimates of Gross Domestic Product, the monthly Consumer Price Index -- the monthly Index of Industrial Production -- and disseminates a wide range of official statistics and administrative data through regular household surveys on labour force, social consumption, health and education, MoS, Statistics and Programme Im-

plementation, Rao Inderjit Singh said in the Rajya Sabha. These surveys provide evidence on various dimensions of social and economic development that are relevant to assessing the quality of life, the minister said. MoSPI is also the nodal ministry for monitoring the National Indicator Framework for Sustainable Development Goals, which includes indicators covering health, education, gender equality, environmental sustainability and other aspects related to citizens' well being, he added. These indicators, along with data generated through various official statistical surveys, support evidence-based policy

formulation and enable assessment of progress towards improving the overall well-being of citizens, the minister said. The government has finalised the framework for India's first Index of Services Production, with the trial monthly series set to be released on July 14, marking a major step towards improving the measurement of the country's services sector, the ministry had said earlier this month. For the first time, the proposed ISP will provide a comprehensive monthly measure of short-term movements in India's formal services sector and complement the existing Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

RS chairman asks members to uphold dignity of House



NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan on Monday called upon House members across all sides to uphold the dignity, discipline and decorum of this august institution and promote meaningful deliberations. In his opening remarks at the start of the Monsoon Session, Radhakrishnan said that while differences of opinion are integral to parliamentary democracy, they must be expressed in a manner that preserves the sanctity of the House. Disruptions should not be allowed to undermine its functioning, he said. This session has an important legislative and deliberative agenda. I urge members to remain focused on the timely disposal of business, as every disruption delays discussion on matters affecting the nation and the people we represent, said the Rajya Sabha Chairman. He called upon members to uphold the House's proud tradition of meaningful deliberations. I am confident this session will uphold that legacy. We have 19 sittings before us, and it is our collective responsibility to utilise this valuable time to debate and decide on issues of national importance, he said.

Split cuts down TMC's LS strength

NEW DELHI

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) faced a major setback in Parliament on Monday as a split in its Lok Sabha ranks significantly reduced its numerical strength and altered its position in the House during the Monsoon Session. The development became evident when TMC's Lok Sabha leader Abhishek Banerjee was allotted a seat behind former party colleague Sudip Bandopadhyay, in accordance with parliamentary seating rules based on party strength. The reshuffle follows a major split in the Trinamool Parliamentary Party after the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections. Twenty MPs broke away from the TMC and merged with the National Citizens Party of India (NCPI), a little-known political party that now has 20 members in the Lok Sabha. The Speaker approved separate seating for the rebel group in line with the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution and established parliamentary precedents. The Trinamool Congress, which had won 29 Lok Sabha seats in the 2024 general elections, now has only eight MPs, while one seat remains vacant following the death of a sitting member. The split has also shifted the political balance in the Lok Sabha further in favour of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Political observers view the rebellion as one of the biggest organisational setbacks for the Mamata Banerjee-led party in



The Trinamool Congress suffered a parliamentary setback after a major split reduced its Lok Sabha strength to just eight members

From 'position of influence to ...'
■ TMC strength reduced from 29 MPs to eight.
■ 20 rebel MPs merged with the NCPI.
■ Speaker approved separate seating under the 10th Schedule.
■ Abhishek Banerjee seated behind former colleague Sudip Bandopadhyay.
■ Split further strengthens the NDA's position in the Lok Sabha.

Parliament. Interestingly, the breakaway legislators chose to merge with the NCPI instead of staking claim to the Trinamool Congress name, thereby avoiding a prolonged legal dispute over the party's election symbol and organisational control. The episode marks a dramatic reversal for the party that had steadily expanded its parliamentary presence over the past two decades before witnessing its latest internal fracture.

Newly-wed couple found hanging in Muzaffarpur

PATNA

A newly married couple was found dead under suspicious circumstances in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district, with their bodies discovered hanging in separate rooms of a house, prompting a police investigation into the deaths. The incident has shocked residents of Nariyar Nawada village under the Motipur police station area. Police have launched an investigation, examining both homicide and suicide angles. The deceased have been identified as Vijay Sahani and his wife Anjali Sahani, who had been married only four months ago, in March this year. According to family members, Anjali had been unwell for the past few days and was staying at her maternal home. Vijay had been visiting his in-laws regularly and had arrived there on Sunday as well. According to the initial account, only Anjali's mother, Sheila Devi, was present at the house on Sunday evening. She served food to the couple before stepping out briefly. When she returned, she

found Anjali and Vijay hanging from dupatta (scarf) nooses in separate rooms. The incident immediately created panic in the village, and local police were informed. Police reached the spot, conducted a preliminary investigation, and sent both bodies to Sri Krishna Medical College and Hospital (SK-MCH) for postmortem examination. Vijay's family has alleged foul play and demanded a fair and impartial investigation. They claimed that even if Anjali had died by suicide, Vijay was murdered afterwards. The family has urged the police to investigate the circumstances surrounding both deaths. Rejecting the allegations, Anjali's mother, Sheila Devi, said everything had been normal during the day. She explained that her daughter had been staying at her parental home because of illness and that Vijay visited frequently. She said the family had sold some land to arrange Anjali's marriage and questioned why they would harm their own daughter and son-in-law.



WELCOME GUESTS

UAE delegation calls on LS Speaker at Parliament House

NEW DELHI

A delegation led by Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy and Tourism of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), called on Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at the Parliament House on Monday. Pleased to welcome H.E. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy and Tourism of the United Arab Emirates, along with members of the UAE delegation to Parliament House, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla wrote on X. The interaction reflected the strong and enduring partner-



ship between India and the United Arab Emirates, founded on mutual trust, shared interests and close cooperation. It also reaffirmed the shared commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties

and deepening people-to-people connections, he added. The UAE minister also met Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, on Monday. Delighted to meet H.E. Abdulla Bin Touq Al

Marri, UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism. Robust air connectivity has long been at the heart of the strong bilateral partnership between India and the UAE. Had a productive discussion on unlocking new avenues of collaboration in India's rapidly expanding aviation sector, with a particular focus on Maintenance, Repair, and Operations (MRO) and manufacturing, Naidu wrote on X after the meeting. India and the UAE share one of the oldest and most enduring commercial partnerships in the world. The dis-

covery of oil in the 1960s and the UAE's emergence as a federal state in 1971 gave new momentum to this relationship. Over the past decade, it has undergone a transformational shift, evolving from a traditional trade partnership into a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, spanning trade, investment, energy, technology and deep people-to-people bonds. Today, the two nations stand as each other's most valued economic partners in their respective regions, turning their relationship into a model for bilateral cooperation in the 21st century.

QUICK READ

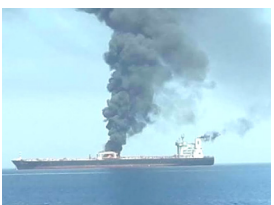


Thousands visit Pashupatinath on holy Shrawan

Kathmandu
Thousands of Hindu devotees from Nepal and India gathered at the Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu on the first Monday of the holy month of Shrawan, dedicated to Lord Shiva. Long queues of worshippers carrying offerings were seen waiting to enter the temple. Shrawan is considered a sacred month, and many women observe fasts and wear colourful bangles and beads. Devotees prayed to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati for good health, peace, prosperity, and the well-being of their families and the nation.

IRGC claims attack on US bases in Jordan

Tehran
Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) claimed it carried out attacks on US military targets in Jordan with the help of intelligence provided by individuals in the country. The IRGC said it destroyed 20 hangars at the al-Azraq air base and killed dozens of US troops. It also claimed to have hit US C-17 transport and P-8 surveillance aircraft at Aqaba airport. However, the US has not confirmed these claims and says 17 American service members have died since the conflict began.



Missile attack sets ship ablaze in Hormuz

London
A ship caught fire after a missile attack in the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, forcing its crew to abandon the vessel. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said all crew members were safely rescued by a tugboat. The attack happened about 15 km northwest of Kumzar, Oman. The ship remains afloat but is drifting without anyone on board, and the fire is still burning. UKMTO has advised ships in the area to remain alert and report any suspicious activity.

HEALTHCARE CRISIS

Pricing delays block lifesaving medicines in Pak

KARACHI
Nearly 40 newly approved life-saving medicines are still not available in Pakistan because the federal government has not yet announced their official retail prices. As a result, thousands of patients are unable to access important treatments and are being forced to rely on expensive smuggled or unregistered medicines that may not meet safety standards. The delayed medicines include treatments for cancer, diabetes, haemophilia, Parkinson's disease, autoimmune disorders, severe bacterial infections,

'Iran signals willingness for talks'

Earlier, Rubio said Iran is using the Strait of Hormuz as leverage in the regional conflict and called on other countries to do more to protect global shipping

WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said Washington is receiving signals through multiple channels that Iran is interested in negotiations, even as divisions within the country's leadership appear to be deepening. He said, "We are receiving signals through multiple channels of Iran's desire to negotiate, but there is a growing split within the regime." His remarks came amid continued US-Iran military exchanges, with Washington saying its strikes are aimed at weakening Iran's military capabilities, particularly those linked to attacks on commercial vessels in the Hormuz. He also accused Tehran of using the strategic waterway as leverage in the conflict and called on other countries to contribute more towards securing global shipping routes.



Speaking to reporters before his visit to the Philippines for an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers' meeting, Rubio said the US would continue efforts to protect maritime traffic but urged allies to provide equipment or financial support to share the responsibility. "It's clear that Iran, at least some people in Iran, want to control the straits and hold that as leverage against the world," Rubio said. "The United States will do and continue to do what it needs to, to protect global shipping, but other countries need to begin to step up and provide, whether it's hardware or finances, to help carry that burden," he added. Addressing the possibility of a diplomatic solution, Rubio said Washington remained

Key diplomatic and geopolitical details

MEDIATED PROPOSALS: Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei confirmed that Tehran received ideas and proposals from international mediators (including Qatar) aimed at de-escalating tensions, though specific details were not disclosed.

US STANCE: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated that Washington is receiving indications through multiple channels that Iran wants to negotiate, which he attributed to a "growing split" within the Iranian regime.

CONCURRENT MILITARY ACTION: Despite the diplomatic signals, military operations continue. US airstrikes have targeted Iranian infrastructure and military assets involved in maritime assaults in the Strait of Hormuz. The US maintains that it remains open to a negotiated resolution but insists Iran's behavior must change.

open to negotiations but insisted any agreement must be genuine and enforceable. "I think we're always open to diplomacy. It has to be real. It has to be a deal that they're willing to live by," he said. The comments came as the

Pak plans to host 2027 South Asian Federation Games

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has announced plans to host the South Asian Federation (SAF) Games in early 2027 as part of its efforts to revive regional cooperation under the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The announcement was made by Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar during a farewell meeting with outgoing SAARC Secretary General Ambassador Golam Sarwar of Bangladesh in Islamabad. Dar praised Ambassador Sarwar for his leadership and contributions to strengthening regional cooperation. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the SAARC Charter and said stronger regional ties would promote economic growth, improve trade, reduce poverty, and enhance the quality of life for nearly two billion people in South Asia. The two leaders also discussed the need for greater cooperation to address common challenges such as climate change, energy security, regional connectivity, and the security situation in Western Asia. Ambassador Sarwar thanked the government and people of Pakistan for their support during his tenure and appreciated the country's role in promoting SAARC's objectives.

Iran: Document is clear, US must honour interim truce terms

TEHRAN

Iran on Monday said the United States has no reason to break the interim agreement signed between the two countries, insisting that the document is clear and leaves no room for misunderstanding. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said the memorandum of understanding contains only 14 clauses and is written in simple and clear language. He stressed that Washington must honour its commitments under the agreement. "The text is completely clear, and there is no excuse for America to break the treaty," Baghaei said while addressing reporters in Tehran. He repeated Iran's stand that the future management of the Strait of Hormuz remains Iran's responsibility and will be handled through discussions with Oman and other regional countries. His remarks came as fighting between Iran and the United States continued to intensify. The US carried out another round of airstrikes on Iranian military targets after confirming the death of another American service member in Iraq. In response, Iran launched attacks targeting Bahrain and Kuwait, where US military facilities are located. The conflict has disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil route, and pushed Brent crude oil prices above 90 US dollars a barrel. Trump defended the latest strikes, saying, "We hit them very hard again tonight." The US military said it has now conducted airstrikes for nine consecutive nights, targeting Iranian military facilities, missile launch sites, air defence systems and communication networks as tensions continue to grow across the Middle East.



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'US attempt to seize Kharg will face strong resistance'

Iran has warned the United States against any attempt to seize Kharg Island, the country's main oil export hub, amid rising military tensions. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said any US ground operation would face strong resistance and serious consequences. He stated that people were "counting down the minutes" to confront American forces if they entered Iran. Reports suggest the US is considering military options, including targeting Kharg Island and key Iranian strategic facilities.

Israel rejects NY mayor's Bibi arrest threat

TEL AVIV

The Israeli Prime Minister's Office has criticised New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani after he said his administration was exploring legal options regarding Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's planned visit to the United Nations General Assembly in September. Israel rejected the International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant against Netanyahu, calling it "bogus" and describing the ICC as a court with no legal authority over Israel or the United States. The statement also claimed the warrant was politically motivated. The criticism followed Mamdani's remarks to The New York Times, where he

described Netanyahu as a "war criminal" and said city officials were discussing what legal powers New York authorities could use if the Israeli leader visited. The Israeli Prime Minister's Office responded by urging the mayor to focus on local issues instead of targeting Israel. Israel also defended its military operations in Gaza, saying its forces had taken extensive steps to reduce civilian casualties while fighting Hamas, which it accused of using civilians



as human shields. The dispute is linked to arrest warrants issued by the ICC in November 2024 against Netanyahu and former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity during the Gaza conflict. Israel has denied the allegations and challenged the court's jurisdiction. The United States is not a member of the ICC and is not legally required under the Rome Statute to arrest or extradite individuals wanted by the court.

Stop poisoning our air: Trump to Canada

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Monday said he confronted Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney at the 2026 FIFA World Cup over toxic wildfire smoke that is affecting North America. While speaking to reporters before boarding Air Force One, Trump told reporters that he had conveyed to Carney that the United States may "charge" Canada for the damages. "I told him, 'You've got to STOP these fires from coming in and poisoning our air. Our air has been POISONED,'" the American leader averred. "Maybe they should pay us some damages or something, or we should do some tariffs. I mean, you had businesses closing. In particular, Michigan. If you look at Detroit, the Detroit, Michigan area, they had to close EVERYTHING!" he furthered.

It is pertinent to note that the latest remarks from Trump came just days after he issued a similar threat to impose new tariffs on Canada. The threats and warnings are coming at a time when hundreds of wildfires have left much of the northern US covered by a blanket of smoke. The threats also followed multiple complaints by US lawmakers over the wildfires and Ontario's premier Doug Ford asking the US to send support to fight the fires, rather than complain. "The United States is being unnecessarily invaded by filthy, polluted, and unhealthy air," Trump said, threatening to impose new levies over Canada's "willful negligence".

Trump said that he confronted Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney at the 2026 FIFA World Cup over toxic wildfire smoke that is affecting North America

Canada wildfire worries Trump

According to the Canadian Wildland Fire Information System, as of Saturday, there were about 955 fires actively burning in the country. The majority of the fires continue to remain out of control. More than 190 of those blazes are burning in Ontario alone, with some of them continuing to remain out of control.

Canada responds

Prime Minister Mark Carney said both countries share responsibility for tackling climate-related challenges. Ontario Premier Doug Ford urged the US to provide additional firefighting assistance instead of criticising Canada's efforts. The wildfire crisis continues to impact public health, air quality, and diplomatic relations between the two neighbouring nations.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HASHEM KHALEEL UR RAHMAN S/o Mohammed Hashim, aged about 61 years, residing at No. 82/1, 1st Main Road, Hidayath Nagar, K G Halli, Bangalore North, Arabic College Post, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560045, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KHALEEL UR RAHAMAN.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAKSHITA KRISHNA MANGANAGOUDA alias RADHA KRISHNA MANGANAGOUDA W/o SHIVANAND S GUNDAKAL, R/o Navanagara, Murkavada, Khurd, Kanchanalli, Uttara Kannada, Karnataka - 581329, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RADHA S GUNDAKAL.

NAME CHANGE

I, FAYAZ PASHA, resident of No. 445, 8th Cross, Rama Tent Road, Near Ameen Masjid, Venkateshpuram, Bengaluru-56045, have changed my name to SYED FAYAZ PASHA, vide affidavit dated: 09.07.2026, before Notary N.NAGAPPA, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, NASEEMA BANU, resident of No. 18, Policelane, D' Street, Mackan Road Cross, Bharthinagar, Bengaluru-56001, have changed my name to NASEEMA, vide affidavit dated: 07.07.2026, before Notary N.NAGAPPA, Bengaluru.

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shaikh Nilofar Moola (Old Name), aged about 25 years, W/o. Rafiq Chapparbhand, RESIDING AT NO. 202, Kadugodi police quateres Kadugodi, BENGALURU-560067, declare that I have changed my name from Shaikh Nilofar Moola (Old Name) to Nilofar Rafiq Chapparbhand (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as Nilofar Rafiq Chapparbhand (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated: 20/07/2026 before Notary MANJUNATH T. at BENGALURU

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHIVA V S/o VIJAYAN R/o No.51, 1st Main, 3rd Cross, W O C Road, M G N a g a r , Mahalakshipuram Layout, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka-560086, have changed the name of my minor son PRAJANYAN S aged 3 years and he shall hereafter be known as ELLANCHEZIYAN S.

NAME CHANGE

I, AYASHA SULTANA BEGUM ALSO KNOWN AS YASMIN, W/o. Syed Nayaz Ahmed, Resident of No. 553, 1st Main Road, 8th Block, Koramangala Layout, Bengaluru -560095, Karnataka, have changed my name to YASMEEN NAYAZ, vide affidavit dated: 20.07.2026 before notary G. DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Smt. Kamalakshi is the present owner of the Schedule Property, having inherited the same from her husband, Late Prakash, who had purchased the property under a registered Sale Deed. The property was originally granted to Smt. Lilly D'Souza under Haku Patra (Title Grant Certificate) No. ADIS.HSDR:201/80-81. The original Haku Patra has been lost/misplaced. If any person has found the said Haku Patra or has any claim or objection regarding the same, they are requested to contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no claim or objection is received, a certified copy of the Haku Patra will be obtained.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the property situated at Sajjipannur Village, Bantwal Taluk, bearing Survey No. as per sale deed and Hakupathra 145/1C24 (as per khata: Survey No. 145/1C92), measuring 0.05 Acres, together with all easementary and appurtenant rights attached thereto.

Place: Bantwal
SD/- HEMACHANDRA, ADVOCATE
3rd Floor, Padma Complex, Jodumargu, Bantwal Taluk - 574219
Mobile: 9448253249

Trump Booed At WC Final



NEW YORK

US President Donald Trump faced loud boos from spectators during the FIFA World Cup final as he joined FIFA President Gianni Infantino on the field to present the trophy after Spain defeated Argentina in the summit clash.

Trump arrived at the stadium aboard Marine One, with the presidential helicopter flying over the venue around 45 minutes before kick-off. According to reports, he also received scattered boos when he appeared briefly on the stadium's giant screens during the playing of the United States national anthem.

The US President watched the match from a glass-enclosed VIP suite alongside Infantino. Other dignitaries present included Spain's King Felipe VI, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum.

Following Spain's victory, Trump and Infantino walked

US President Donald Trump was booed during the FIFA WC trophy presentation and sparked fresh controversy after remaining on stage during Spain's title celebrations despite being guided away

Key highlights

- Trump booed during trophy presentation.
- Marine One flew over stadium before kick-off.
- Viral video showed Rodri asking Trump to step aside.
- Infantino guided Trump toward the podium's edge.
- Final ended with heated clashes between Spanish and Argentine players.

onto the field for the trophy presentation. As Trump entered the podium, loud jeers echoed around the stadium, with reports suggesting the crowd noise reached 84 decibels.

The ceremony became more awkward after the trophy presentation when Trump appeared reluctant to leave the stage. Viral videos showed Spain midfielder Rodri gesturing for the US President to move aside before Infantino stepped in and guided him toward the edge of the podium. Despite the intervention,

Trump remained alongside the Spanish players during parts of their title celebrations.

The final itself ended in dramatic fashion as tempers flared after the final whistle. Argentina midfielder Leandro Paredes was involved in multiple confrontations, including grabbing Spain defender Eric Garcia by the throat, bringing Gavi to the ground and shoving him. Defender Nahuel Molina also appeared to swing a punch at Rodri before players and officials intervened to restore order.

Rohit Sharma Silences Future Speculation

NEW DELHI

Former India captain Rohit Sharma has dismissed speculation surrounding his international future, stressing that outside criticism has never affected his commitment to representing the country after England won the three-match ODI series 2-1.

Speaking after India's 27-run defeat in the third ODI at Lord's, Rohit said his responsibility has always been to contribute with the bat and help the team succeed, regardless of the discussions taking place off the field.

My job is with the bat. Come and play, represent my country, represent the team. That's what I've been told to do since I made my debut, Rohit said, adding that the noise surrounding his career has existed since his debut and will continue for as long as he plays.

The 39-year-old produced a magnificent 138 at Lord's, becoming the

first Indian batter to score an ODI century at the iconic venue. However, his innings was not enough as India fell 27 runs short while chasing England's imposing total of 387.

Despite the personal milestone, Rohit admitted disappointment over the series defeat. He felt India had played quality cricket throughout the tour but failed to capitalise in key moments, particularly with the bat during the second and third matches.

Rohit also backed India's relatively inexperienced bowling attack, urging patience and saying the young bowlers would improve with more exposure to ODI cricket. The veteran opener further highlighted his successful partnership with Virat Kohli after the duo registered their 21st century stand in ODIs at Lord's. They now rank second on the all-time list for century partnerships in ODI history, behind only Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly.

"My job is with the bat... represent my country and contribute to the team's success. The noise has always been there and will remain there. If there's no noise, there's no fun."

—Rohit Sharma

Rohit and Virat Kohli now have 21 century partnerships in ODIs, second only to Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly's record of 26.



Simon Hails Spain's World Cup Triumph

NEW DELHI

Spain goalkeeper Unai Simon described his team's FIFA World Cup triumph as madness after La Roja defeated Argentina 1-0 in the 2026 final to lift the trophy for the second time in the nation's history.

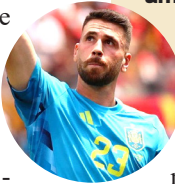
Simon played a pivotal role in Spain's title-winning campaign, keeping seven clean sheets in eight matches to claim the Golden Glove award. His remarkable tally set a new World Cup record for the

We're still processing it. When we arrive in Spain, we will realise the madness we have done.

— Unai Simon

I don't attribute the merit to myself but to my teammates. I am grateful to them for the defensive level we showed throughout the tournament.

— Unai Simon.



most clean sheets by a goalkeeper in a single edition of the tournament.

Despite his individual achievement, the 29-year-old insisted the credit belonged to the entire squad, particularly the defenders, who helped Spain maintain one of the

strongest defensive records in World Cup history.

We're still processing it, Simon said after the final. He admitted that the magnitude of Spain's achievement had not fully sunk in and believed the celebrations back home would make the squad realise what they had accomplished.

Simon also praised head coach Luis de la Fuente for maintaining harmony within the squad during the 50-day tournament, saying the manager handled the emotions of both regular starters and fringe players exceptionally well.

The Spanish goalkeeper said his gloves had not been forced into as much action as many others during the tournament because of the outstanding work done by his teammates in front of him.

Spain's triumph also created history beyond the men's competition.

Gill Demands Fitness Overhaul Ahead

LONDON

India captain Shubman Gill has called for significant improvements in the team's fitness standards after a series of injuries disrupted India's campaign during the ODI series against England.

Following India's 2-1 series defeat, Gill expressed concern over the growing number of players breaking down midway through short series, warning that such setbacks could seriously hamper India's preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup.

India were forced into multiple changes after key players suffered injuries. Jasprit Bumrah missed the third ODI with an impact injury, Washington Sundar sustained a hamstring injury, Harshit Rana was ruled out with a hamstring issue during the T20I series, while Nitish Kumar Reddy missed the entire tour because of a quadriceps injury.

Gill said constant injuries prevented the team from fielding settled combinations and made planning extremely difficult.

If you look at the first squad that we announced, at least five of the players did not play today, Gill said, adding that players must be capable of completing an entire series if India are to remain genuine World Cup contenders.



Keeping the World Cup in mind, we have to play eleven matches in a row. Here, players are unable to finish even a two or three-match series. Somewhere as a group, we need to improve our fitness.

The skipper also explained the decision to play only one specialist spinner during the series, saying the pitches in Birmingham and Cardiff offered greater assistance to pace bowlers than spinners. India believed an additional fast bowler would provide better opportunities to build pressure during the middle overs.

Despite the series loss, Gill felt India had performed well for long phases of the contests but admitted the team needed to become smarter in reading conditions and maintaining consistency throughout an entire match rather than dominating only for brief periods.

Rennie wins over doubters as New Zealand embraces new era

EDINBURGH

Dave Rennie's appointment as All Blacks coach was initially greeted with scepticism, but a flawless 3-0 start to the Nations Championship and has swiftly reshaped perceptions of the man chosen to replace Scott Robertson.

New Zealand signed off from the southern hemisphere leg of the new, global tournament with a thumping 40-21 win over Ireland on Saturday, having already crushed Italy 47-17 and edged an understrength France 34-32 in their opener.

While there was quibbling from the nation's loudest rugby pundits after the France and Italy wins, the All Blacks' commitment to a fast and fu-



rious running game under Rennie generated rave reviews after the Ireland demolition.

The fog that sat over this team throughout 2024 and 2025 has lifted – and the All Blacks now have a universally understood vision of being a team that plays at a high-tempo with a multi-option attack plan., opens new tabwrote the New Zealand Herald's Gregor Paul.

Only months ago, fans were lamenting a lack of global interest and competition in the recruiting process for a new coach following Robertson's abrupt departure in the off-season.

Rennie's only opponent for the role was another New

Zealander in Jamie Joseph, the long-serving Japan coach.

After Robertson's lack of experience at test level was exposed, New Zealand Rugby wanted a coach with international experience.

Many in the nation backed Joseph to take the reins, having done great things with Japan, including taking them to a first World Cup quarter-final on home soil in 2019.

Rennie arrived with a less compelling record and was sacked by Australia in 2023 to make way for Eddie Jones. His 38% win rate stands as the worst among Wallabies coaches with over 30 tests in charge.

Three weeks into his All Blacks reign, however, those doubts have given way to growing optimism, with the 2027 World Cup in Australia now little more than a year away.

Morocco to boost hotel beds by a fifth ahead of 2030 World Cup

RABAT

Morocco plans to expand its hotel capacity by 60,000 beds, equal to about a fifth of its current total, by the time the country co-hosts the 2030 World Cup, its tourism minister said.

The North African country is riding a wave of publicity from its quarter-final run in

the latest World Cup after becoming the first African and Arab side to reach the semi-finals in Qatar four years ago.

Officials want to leverage the renewed attention into lasting gains for the country's tourism industry, which employs hundreds of thousands of Moroccans and contributes about 7% of gross domestic

product.

We see the 2030 FIFA World Cup as an accelerator, not an end in itself, Tourism Minister Fatim-Zahra Ammor told Reuters. The government is investing more than 190 billion dirhams (about \$20 billion) to build and expand rail, road, airports, stadiums and other urban infrastructure ahead of the 2030 tourna-

ment, where Morocco is one of three main co-hosts with Portugal and Spain.

The number of matches each of them will host has yet to be decided. Morocco has already added 45,000 hotel beds over the past four years, bringing the current total to a little over 300,000, official data shows.

The North African country

welcomed nearly 20 million tourists last year, making it the most visited destination in Africa. It aims to attract 26 million visitors by 2030.

Morocco's central bank expects tourism revenue to reach a record 161 billion dirhams in 2027, from 138 billion dirhams in 2025. More air routes from Europe have also boosted the sector.



ing a fourth world title.

Despite the defeat, many fans acknowledged Spain's superiority on the night while taking pride in Argentina's run to the final. Expectations had been modest at the start of the tournament, but confidence steadily grew as Messi and his teammates overcame Cape Verde, Egypt and Switzerland in tense knockout encounters.

Supporters also reflected on the emotional significance of Argentina's semi-final victory over England, a result that carried historical and political symbolism linked to the 1966 World Cup.

Aston Villa sign Joao Gomes from Wolves

WOLVERHAMPTON

Aston Villa strengthened their midfield by signing Brazil international Joao Gomes from Wolverhampton Wanderers in a deal worth up to £38 million. Aston Villa have completed the signing of Brazil midfielder Joao Gomes from Wolverhampton Wanderers, with both Premier League clubs confirming the transfer on Monday.

According to British media reports, Villa agreed a deal worth an initial £34 million, with a further £4 million in performance-related add-ons, taking the overall package to £38 million.

The 25-year-old joins Unai Emery's side after spending two-and-a-half seasons at

Wolves, where he established himself as one of the club's most consistent performers despite their difficult campaign last season.

Gomes featured in 41 matches across all competitions during the 2025-26 season, but was unable to prevent Wolves from finishing bottom of the Premier League table and suffering relegation to the Championship.

The Brazilian midfielder arrived at Molineux from Flamengo in January 2023 and went on to make 130 appearances for Wolves in all competitions. During his time at the club, he scored eight goals while earning a reputation for his energy, ball-winning ability and work rate in midfield. His move to Villa represents



another significant addition for the Midlands club as they continue strengthening their squad ahead of the new season. Gomes is expected to add steel and balance to Villa's midfield while bringing valuable Premier League experience despite his relatively young age.

For Wolves, the departure marks the end of a successful spell for one of their standout performers, while Villa will hope the Brazil international can play a key role in their ambitions during the upcoming campaign.

Tempers flare at end of Spain-Argentina World Cup final

NEW YORK

Spain's FIFA World Cup triumph over Argentina ended on a sour note as tempers boiled over immediately after the final whistle, with players from both sides becoming involved in a brief on-field brawl following the European champions' 1-0 victory.

The heated scenes unfolded moments after substitute Ferran Torres' extra-time winner secured Spain's second World Cup title. As Spain's substitutes rushed onto the pitch to celebrate, Argentina midfielder Leandro Paredes shoved Spain's Gavi to the ground, triggering a confrontation between players from both teams.

The incident briefly over-

shadowed Spain's historic achievement before coaching staff and match officials stepped in to restore order.

Argentina head coach Lionel Scaloni was among the first to intervene, urging his players to calm down and helping defuse the tense situation before it escalated further.

Frustration had already been evident during the closing stages of the match after Argentina were reduced to ten men. Midfielder Enzo Fernandez was shown a red card in second-half stoppage time, leaving the South Americans with little chance of mounting a final comeback.

Spain eventually held firm to secure a famous victory after extra time, with Torres



emerging as the match-winner after coming off the bench to score the decisive goal.

The result handed Spain their second FIFA World Cup crown and completed an outstanding tournament for Luis de la Fuente's side, while Argentina were left to reflect on a missed opportunity to become only the third nation in

history to win back-to-back World Cup titles.

Lionel Scaloni intervened after the final whistle to calm his players as tensions flared following Argentina's defeat. Substitute Ferran Torres scored the extra-time winner as Spain defeated Argentina 1-0 to lift their second FIFA World Cup title.

QUICK READ



Rupee slips against dollar amid market pressure

Mumbai

The Indian rupee fell 14 paise to close at 96.44 against the US dollar on Monday due to rising crude oil prices and global market uncertainty. Traders said the US-Iran conflict and higher US Treasury yields added pressure on the currency. Analysts expect the rupee to remain weak, though possible diplomatic talks and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) intervention could help limit further losses.

Gold futures gain on strong spot demand

New Delhi

Gold futures rose by Rs 294 to Rs 1,41,200 per 10 grams on Monday, supported by strong demand in the spot market. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, the August gold contract increased by 0.21 per cent with a business turnover of 720 lots. Analysts said fresh buying by traders pushed prices higher. However, in the global market, gold futures slipped 0.17 per cent to USD 4,010.69 per ounce in New York.

China rare earth export value sees rise

Beijing

China's rare-earth export value rose 61.1 per cent in the first half of 2026, reaching USD 308.27 million despite a 6.4 per cent drop in shipment volumes, customs data showed. Exports totalled 30,482.84 tonnes during January-June, compared with 32,569.28 tonnes a year earlier. In June alone, exports stood at 5,104.84 tonnes worth USD 64.64 million. The data also showed higher export values for refined petroleum products and medical and pharmaceutical goods during the same period.

‘Best positioned to be India’s best partner in LA’

Panama invites Indian businesses to use the country as a strategic base for manufacturing, trade and investments across Latin America

NEW DELHI

Panama's Foreign Minister Javier Eduardo Martinez-Acha Vasquez has invited Indian companies to use Panama as their main gateway to the Americas, highlighting its strong logistics network, stable economy and global connectivity.

Speaking during his official visit to India, he said Panama offers Indian businesses a reliable platform to expand into Central America, the Caribbean and South America.

"Panama is uniquely positioned ahead of regional competitors to serve as India's strategic partner across manufacturing, logistics, and maritime trade," Vasquez said.

He said Panama's open economy, financial stability, zero inflation and world-class logistics make it better positioned than many regional

competitors. He urged Indian manufacturers to establish production facilities in Panama to serve the wider Latin American market.

The minister said his delegation would meet several Indian ministers to strengthen commercial, diplomatic and educational ties. He stressed that despite the geographical distance, both countries share common goals and can build long-term partnerships.

Vasquez also highlighted the growing importance of the Panama Canal as global shipping routes change due to geopolitical tensions affecting the Suez Canal. He said more international cargo is now passing through the Panama Canal, increasing its importance in global trade.

He reaffirmed that the Panama Canal remains a neutral international waterway owned by Panama and serves all na-



tions equally.

While the United States remains Panama's main security partner, he said India could become an important democratic partner in Asia to support the canal's neutrality and efficiency.

The Foreign Minister said Panama is not just the starting point for Latin America but a successful destination for Indian investments, businesses and government cooperation, offering secure and long-term opportunities across the region.

Looks for stronger Indian partnership

Foreign Minister Vasquez said Panama wants deeper ties with India in trade, investment, education and diplomacy. He encouraged Indian companies to set up manufacturing units in Panama to serve Latin American markets. He also stressed the importance of protecting the neutrality of the Panama Canal and welcomed India as a trusted partner supporting international trade and cooperation.

‘India has sufficient coal for power needs’

NEW DELHI

India has adequate coal stocks to meet the country's thermal power requirements, with 42.8 million tonnes of coal available at thermal power plants as of July 12, 2026, the Ministry of Power informed Parliament on Monday.

The ministry said the available coal stock is enough to meet electricity demand for 14 days at an 85 per cent plant load factor. Coal and lignite-based power plants currently have a generation capacity of about 230.8 GW and supplied nearly 69.54 per cent of the country's electricity between April and June this year.

During non-solar peak demand hours, these plants gen-



erated about 188.8 GW, accounting for nearly 75 per cent of total electricity production. The ministry also said thermal power stations are receiving sufficient coal every day to meet operational needs.

Coal supplies are monitored daily by a joint committee of the Ministries of Power, Coal and Railways. An inter-minis-

terial committee also reviews coal movement regularly to ensure uninterrupted fuel supply to power plants.

The government said maintenance of thermal power units is carefully planned to avoid disruptions during periods of high electricity demand. The Central Electricity Authority allows maintenance schedules to be changed whenever necessary.

To strengthen the power sector, India added 9,470 MW of thermal capacity during 2025-26 and another 2,260 MW this financial year. Battery Energy Storage Systems and Pumped Storage Projects are also being expanded to support electricity supply during non-solar hours.

'E20 fuel has not caused widespread engine failures'

NEW DELHI

The Central Government on Monday said there is no verified evidence that E20 petrol has caused widespread engine failure or vehicle breakdowns in India. The statement was made in the Rajya Sabha by Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi.

The minister said more than 23 crore vehicles, including over 20 crore two-wheelers

and more than three crore petrol cars, are running on E20 fuel. This includes many older vehicles that were not originally certified for E20 fuel, yet no large-scale engine damage linked to ethanol blending has been reported.

He said the move to E20 petrol was gradual and based on scientific studies. Ethanol blending increased from 1.53 per cent in 2013-14 to 20 per cent in 2025-26 after detailed testing and consultations with

NITI Aayog, the Automotive Research Association of India, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, the Indian Institute of Petroleum, oil companies and vehicle manufacturers.

According to the government, laboratory tests, durability trials and field studies examined engine life, fuel systems, emissions, corrosion, fuel efficiency and overall vehicle performance before increasing ethanol content.

Centre’s capital spending surges fivefold in 2014-26

NEW DELHI

The Central Government's effective capital expenditure increased more than five times during 2014-26, reaching Rs 90.87 lakh crore compared to Rs 17.04 lakh crore during 2004-14, the Finance Ministry informed Parliament on Monday.

In a reply presented in the Lok Sabha, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Centre's direct capital expenditure also rose sharply from Rs 12.39 lakh crore during 2004-14 to Rs 64.70 lakh crore during 2014-26. The figures for 2025-26 are provisional.

The government explained that effective capital expenditure includes both the Centre's spending on creating public assets and grants given to states for projects such as school buildings under Samagra Shiksha and houses under the PM Awas Yojana.

Out of the total Rs 90.87 lakh crore spent during 2014-26, about Rs 26.17 lakh crore was provided to states for capital asset creation.

The ministry said capital expenditure as a share of GDP increased from 1.6 per cent in 2014-15 to 3.2 per cent in 2023-24 and 2024-25 before easing slightly to 3.1 per cent in 2025-26.

‘No plan to remove equity LTCG tax’

NEW DELHI

The Central Government has no proposal at present to remove the long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax on equity transactions for retail and domestic investors, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed Parliament on Monday.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, the minister said tax policies, including capital gains tax rates, are reviewed regularly during the annual Union Budget process after considering the country's overall economic conditions.

The government collected Rs 72,249 crore through LTCG tax in the assessment year 2024-25, which increased to Rs 1,29,158 crore in the assessment year 2025-26. Together, the collections from the two years reached more than Rs 2.01 lakh crore.

The minister said the current LTCG tax rate on listed shares and equity mutual funds is 12.5 per cent. The tax is applicable only on gains exceeding Rs 1.25 lakh in a financial year. Investments held for more than 12 months are treated as long-term capital assets.

Responding to questions on whether Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) receive special treatment, Chaudhary clarified that the 12.5



Key points

- No proposal to remove LTCG tax on equity investments.
- Tax policies reviewed regularly during every Union Budget.
- LTCG tax rate remains 12.5%.
- Tax applies only on gains above Rs 1.25L
- Same LTCG tax rate for retail investors, domestic investors and FPIs.
- FPI tax relief applies only to Government Securities, not equities.

per cent LTCG tax rate is the same for FPIs, domestic investors and retail investors in equity investments.

He added that the recent Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, only exempted FPIs from paying tax on interest and capital gains earned from investments in Government Securities, and not from equity investments.

Clean energy: India expedite pumped storage projects to boost capacity

NEW DELHI

India is expanding its pumped storage capacity to improve grid stability and support the growing use of renewable energy. The Ministry of Power on Monday said 11 Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) with a total capacity of 15,870 MW are currently under construction across the country.

The ministry also said six more PSPs with a combined capacity of 8,140 MW have been approved by the Central Electricity Authority and are awaiting construction.

The government has introduced several measures to speed up approvals and reduce project delays. The time required for approving Detailed Project Reports has been reduced from 90 days to 50 days. Environmental clearances have also been simplified for eligible projects.

Pumped storage projects



help store surplus electricity generated during low-demand periods and supply it during peak hours. They also improve grid reliability by providing frequency control, voltage support and emergency backup services.

To encourage investment, the government has issued guidelines promoting private sector participation and announced financial support for roads, bridges, transmission lines and other infrastructure linked to these projects.

A competitive bidding system for storage capacity was introduced in February 2025.

Sensex falls sharply as crude prices rise

MUMBAI

Indian stock markets ended lower on Monday as rising crude oil prices and fresh tensions in West Asia weakened investor confidence. The BSE Sensex fell 442.93 points, or 0.57%, to close at 77,708.52, while the NSE Nifty dropped 95.80 points, or 0.39%, to settle at 24,238.50.

Market experts said the end of the June ceasefire between the US and Iran pushed Brent

crude prices close to USD 90 per barrel, increasing concerns over inflation and global economic growth. Investors remained cautious as geopolitical uncertainty continued.

Vinod Nair of Geojit Investments said higher crude prices and rising global bond yields could keep central banks cautious on interest rate decisions. However, he added that first-quarter earnings from PSU banks, oil and gas companies and metal firms have

remained encouraging.

Among sectoral indices, Nifty PSU Bank emerged as the best performer with a gain of 2.78 per cent. Nifty Pharma rose 1.40 per cent, while Metal, Media and FMCG indices also ended higher. On the losing side, Nifty Private Bank dropped 2.27%, followed by Auto and IT stocks.

Brent crude was trading at USD 88.19 per barrel, while the Indian rupee closed around Rs 96.45 against the US dollar.

Sensex drops 443 points amid global concerns

MUMBAI

Indian stock markets ended lower on Monday as heavy selling in major banking stocks and rising geopolitical tensions in West Asia affected investor sentiment. The BSE Sensex fell 442.93 points, or 0.57%, to close at 77,708.52, while the NSE Nifty declined 95.80 points, or 0.39%, to settle at 24,238.50.

The market remained un-

der pressure after HDFC Bank and Axis Bank reported margin-related concerns. Axis Bank was the biggest loser on the Sensex, falling 5.48 per cent after announcing its quarterly results. HDFC Bank also dropped 5.12 per cent, disappointing investors with weaker-than-expected net interest margins.

Other stocks that declined included Maruti, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Infosys, Tata

Consultancy Services, Mahindra & Mahindra and Bharat Electronics. On the positive side, Trent, Power Grid, NTPC and Bharti Airtel ended with gains.

Market experts said investors also turned cautious after tensions between the United States and Iran pushed crude oil prices close to USD 90 per barrel, raising concerns over inflation and global economic growth. Foreign Institutional-

al Investors sold equities worth Rs 376.41 crore on Friday, adding pressure on the markets.

Despite Monday's decline, analysts said the overall market outlook remains stable, although investors are expected to remain cautious until global uncertainties ease. European markets traded mostly higher, while South Korea's market fell sharply. Japan's markets remained closed for a holiday.

WHITE GOLD

India strengthens global cotton production position

NEW DELHI

India has strengthened its position as a global cotton leader, with government initiatives boosting production, quality and exports while supporting millions of farmers and workers.

India remains the world's largest country in cotton cultivation area and ranks second in both production and consumption, according to an official factsheet released on Monday. Cotton production reached 290.91 lakh bales in 2025-26, while domestic consumption stood



at 328 lakh bales during the same period.

The government said the cotton sector contributes nearly 19 per cent of global fibre production and continues to play a key role in the

country's economy. Cotton is widely known as India's "White Gold" because of its importance to agriculture, exports and employment.

Government programmes are focused on improving

productivity, quality, market access and value addition. Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations continue to protect farmers during market downturns, while the Mission for Cotton Productivity aims to increase production to 498 lakh bales by 2031.

India has also introduced technology demonstrations, digital procurement and traceability systems to improve competitiveness in global markets. Cotton farming supports around six million farmers across 114.84 lakh hectares, while

another 40 to 50 million people depend on related activities such as processing, trading and textiles.

India exported about 18 lakh bales of cotton during 2024-25, with exports valued at 11.49 billion US dollars. The United States remained the largest buyer of Indian cotton products, followed by Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Major cotton-producing states include Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Haryana, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.



Kaif Backs Rohit Amid Retirement Buzz

Mohammad Kaif backed Rohit Sharma's right to decide his retirement, praising the opener's Lord's century as proof that he remains capable despite mounting speculation

NEW DELHI

Former India cricketer Mohammad Kaif has thrown his weight behind Rohit Sharma, insisting that the veteran opener alone has the right to decide when to retire from international cricket. Kaif's remarks came after Rohit silenced speculation surrounding his future with a magnificent 138 in the third and final ODI against England at Lord's. The knock, the first ODI century by an Indian batter at the iconic venue, came amid growing debate over whether the 39-year-old would continue until the 2027 ICC Men's ODI World Cup. Rohit's innings featured crucial partnerships of 147 runs with captain Shubman Gill (77) and 113 with Virat Kohli

(74). However, India fell 27 runs short of the target, losing the match and conceding the three-match ODI series 2-1. Reacting to the performance, Kaif said Rohit had earned the privilege of making his own retirement decision after years of dedicated service to Indian cricket. He highlighted the opener's remarkable record of more than 12,000 ODI runs and 34 centuries, while also praising his leadership in white-ball cricket. Kaif noted that Rohit had produced a memorable century despite facing relentless calls from critics to retire. According to him, the innings demonstrated the veteran's ability to deliver under immense pressure. The former batter also suggested that



Rohit appears isolated in the current cricketing environment and argued that public backing from captain Shubman Gill and the BCCI would strengthen the veteran's confidence if they intend to have him in India's plans for the 2027 ODI World Cup.

Key highlights

- ▶ **Kaif says Rohit alone should decide his retirement.**
- ▶ **Rohit scored 138 at Lord's amid retirement speculation.**
- ▶ **First Indian ODI century at Lord's.**
- ▶ **India lost the decider by 27 runs and the series 2-1.**
- ▶ **Kaif urged stronger public backing from the team management and BCCI.**

Asian Legends League Returns Bigger

The second Asian Legends League will feature six teams and legendary cricketers in Zambia from July 30 to August 10.

NEW DELHI

The second edition of the Asian Legends League (ALL) will be held in Lusaka, Zambia, from July 30 to August 10, 2026, bringing together some of Asia's most celebrated former cricketers for an expanded T20 tournament. Building on the success of its inaugural edition, the competition will feature six country-based franchises representing India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and a Rest of Asian Stars team. The tournament has earned popularity among fans as the Retired Players' Asia Cup for showcasing iconic names from across the continent. League Commissioner Chetan Sharma said the organisers had always envisioned the tournament being staged across Asia. However, prevailing geopolitical tensions in parts of the Middle East and the resulting logistical challenges prompted the decision to host the second season in Zambia. He clarified that this would be the only edition held outside Asia, with plans already in place to return

Chetan Sharma, League Commissioner
Season 2 is a significant milestone for the Asian Legends League. Zambia is a one-time venue due to geopolitical and logistical challenges. From next season, we intend to bring the tournament back to Asia, where it truly belongs. This edition will be bigger, more competitive and more entertaining.

the league to the continent from the next season onwards. The participating teams will be spearheaded by well-known former internationals. Yusuf Pathan will lead the Indian Royals, Thisara Perera the Sri Lankan Lions, Shakib Al Hasan the Bangladesh Tigers, Asghar Afghan the Afghanistan Pathans, Mohammad Hafeez the Pakistan Panthers, and Tillakaratne Dilshan the Rest of Asian Stars. The tournament will also feature renowned players including Ambati Rayudu, Naman Ojha, Rishi Dhawan, Upul Tharanga, Saeed Aijmal, Umar Akmal, Yasir Shah, Mohammad Irfan, Isuru Udana, and several others, with more marquee names expected to be announced. A major boost for the league is its new three-season broadcasting partnership with Sony Sports Network, which will telecast the tournament in India.



ROAD TO 2026 INDIA WOMEN EYE WORLD CUP GLORY

NEW DELHI

The Indian women's hockey team will head into the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Belgium & Netherlands 2026 with renewed confidence after overcoming setbacks to secure qualification and reclaim their place among the world's top teams. Co-hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands from August 15 to 30, the prestigious tournament will see India compete in Pool D alongside China, England and South Africa. All of India's group-stage matches will be played at the Wagener Hockey Stadium in Amstelveen, Netherlands.



After narrowly missing direct qualification, India bounced back impressively by remaining unbeaten in the World Cup Qualifiers and later winning the FIH Nations Cup. The performances underline the team's resilience and growing confidence ahead of the 2026 World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands.

India's campaign begins against China on August 16, followed by matches against South Africa on August 18 and England on August 20. The team's journey to the World Cup has been one of resilience. India narrowly

missed direct qualification after losing the Women's Asia Cup 2025 final to hosts China. Instead of allowing the defeat to derail their ambitions, the squad regrouped for the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Qualifiers in Hyderabad in March 2026. Playing before home supporters under chief coach Sjoerd Marijne, India remained unbeaten during the

qualifiers and sealed their World Cup berth with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Italy in the semi-finals. Although England edged India in the final, the runners-up finish secured qualification for hockey's biggest event. Experienced forward Navneet Kaur emerged as one of the tournament's standout performers, scoring four goals, including a hat-trick against Wales, to win the Player of the Tournament award. India further strengthened its credentials by winning the FIH Nations Cup in New Zealand last month without suffering a defeat, earning promotion back to the FIH Pro League and carrying valuable momentum into the World Cup.

Virat was a master, he will remain one: Irfan Pathan

NEW DELHI

Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan believes Virat Kohli's reputation does not hinge on scoring runs at Lord's, saying the batting great has already proven himself across the world and that his latest half-century should be appreciated for the quality of the innings rather than the venue where it came.

Kohli struck 74 in India's chase of 388 in the third ODI against England at Lord's, sharing a crucial partnership with Rohit Sharma before the visitors eventually fell 27 runs short as England clinched the three-match series 2-1. Questioning the significance often attached to performances at the historic venue, Pathan said Kohli's legacy has long been established. I've always wondered why it's considered so important to score runs at Lord's. Virat has scored runs everywhere in the world. It might be a prestige thing, but if this half-century hadn't come, would his importance in world cricket, or Indian cricket, have diminished? Absolutely not. Whether he scores runs at Lord's or not shouldn't be given that much importance, especially from an Indian fan's perspective. Virat Kohli was a master, and he will remain a master, Pathan told JioStar. Pathan also highlighted Kohli's awareness during the chase, noting how the former India captain adjusted his approach as the required run rate climbed in the latter stages of the innings.

CM Vijay hails TN's chess legacy on World Chess day

Chennai: Marking World Chess Day, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay extended his greetings to chess players, coaches and enthusiasts across the world, while reaffirming his government's commitment to strengthening the state's position as India's and the world's leading chess hub. In a message released on the occasion, the Chief Minister praised Tamil Nadu's remarkable contribution to Indian chess, noting that the state has produced the highest number of young grandmasters in the country and continues to dominate the international chess

arena through its emerging talent. Vijay recalled that Tamil Nadu's journey to becoming a global chess powerhouse began with Viswanathan Anand, who became India's first Grandmaster in 1988 and inspired generations of young players to take up the sport. He said Anand's achievements laid the foundation for the state's sustained excellence in chess and transformed Tamil Nadu into the country's most successful breeding ground for world-class players. The Chief Minister also congratulated the new generation of chess stars, including World

Champion D. Gukesh, Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa and Grandmaster Vaishali Rameshbabu, for their outstanding performances in international tournaments. He said their achievements had brought immense pride not only to Tamil Nadu but also to the entire nation and had further elevated India's standing in world chess. Highlighting Tamil Nadu's growing reputation as the global capital of chess, Vijay said the state's success reflects the dedication of players, coaches, parents and sporting institutions that have consistently nurtured young talent.

Gaikwad to lead star-studded West Zone squad

NEW DELHI



India opener Ruturaj Gaikwad has been appointed captain of a star-studded West Zone squad for the upcoming Duleep Trophy, with seasoned left-arm spin bowling all-rounder Shams Mulani named as his vice-captain. The squad was announced on Monday following a meeting between the zonal selection committee for the competition to be played from August 23 to September 10 at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) grounds in Bengaluru. Last year, India's seam-bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur led West Zone, who reached semi-finals of the competition, but didn't go to final as Central Zone grabbed the first-innings lead. Now, for the upcoming competition, the captaincy baton has gone from Thakur to Gaikwad, who also leads Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the IPL and was recently in India 'A' squad for 50-over tri-se-

ries and red-ball games against Sri Lanka 'A'. The team features two specialist wicket-keepers in Harvik Desai and Urvil Patel, ensuring strong options behind the stumps. Apart from Gaikwad, Prithvi Shaw and the prolific Khan brothers - Sarfaraz and Musheer - have been included. They are joined by Jaymeet Patel and Shivalik Sharma to complete a solid batting department. Spin bowling duties will be spearheaded by vice-captain Mulani, off-spin bowling all-rounder Tanush Kotian, and left-arm spinner Siddharth Desai. The fast-bowling department features Thakur, alongside speedsters Tushar Deshpande, Mukesh Chaudhary, and all-rounder Atit Sheth. The selectors have also named a six-member standby list to cover any injury contingencies. The standby players include Jay Gohil, Aarya Desai, Arshin Kulkarni, Mahesh Pithiya, Vishal Jayswal and Rajvardhan Hangargekar. West Zone squad: Ruturaj Gaikwad (captain), Shams Mulani (vice-captain), Harvik Desai (wk), Urvil Patel (wk), Jaymeet Patel, Prithvi Shaw, Shivalik Sharma, Siddharth Desai, Sarfaraz Khan, Musheer Khan, Atit Seth, Mukesh Chaudhary, Tanush Kotian, Shardul Thakur, and Tushar Deshpande.

India Names Strong Shooting Squad

India has announced a 36-member squad led by Manu Bhaker and Swapnil Kusale for the ISSF World Cup in China.

NEW DELHI

India has named a formidable 36-member squad for the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun, to be held in Hangzhou, China, from July 20 to 29, with Olympic medalists Manu Bhaker and Swapnil Kusale spearheading the country's campaign. The squad combines experienced Olympians with promising young shooters across rifle, pistol and shotgun disciplines. Indian shooters will compete in individual as well as mixed-team events, aiming to continue the country's impressive performances on the international stage. The rifle contingent includes established names such as Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Elavenil Valarivan, Sift Kaur Samra, Sonam Uttam Maskar and Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil. Young shooters Parth Rakesh Mane, Himanshu Dhillon, Shahu Tushar Mane and Sakshi Sunil Padekar also feature in the squad.



In the pistol events, Manu Bhaker will lead the women's 25m Pistol team alongside Esha Singh and Rahi Sarnobat, while Suruchi Sainyam and Esha Singh will contest the women's 10m Air Pistol event. The men's pistol squad features Anish Bhanwala, Omkar Singh, Bhavesh Shekhawat, Kamaljeet, Aakash Bhardwaj and Kedarling B. Uchagane. India's shotgun challenge will be led by Olympian Anant Jeet Singh Naruka,

Key highlights

- **Event:** ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun
- **Venue:** Hangzhou, China
- **Dates:** July 20–29, 2026
- **Indian Squad:** 36 shooters
- **Star Names:** Manu Bhaker, Swapnil Kusale, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Esha Singh, Elavenil Valarivan, Anish Bhanwala and Ganemat Sekhon
- **Competition Starts:** July 22
- **Closing Finals:** July 28

along with Ganemat Sekhon, Raiza Dhillon, Vivaan Kapoor, Bhowneesh Mendiratta and Rajeshwari Kumari. Teams have also been named for the men's and women's Trap and Skeet events. Competition begins on July 22, with medals to be decided in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team and men's 10m Air Rifle.