



Goyal Pushes Stronger India-Singapore Ties

BJP hits back at Congress over 'back foot' remark



Japanese rise against Takaichi's rapid militarisation

Will Smith Reportedly Joins Allu Arjun's 'Raaka'

31ST SOUTHERN ZONAL COUNCIL MEET

Shah turns southern power table

Hails South India's role in India's development journey; cites 3 pillars - high literacy rate, trained manpower and technical expertise - behind the progress of these states.

MAHABALIPURAM

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday hailed the development journey of the southern states, saying "high literacy rate, trained manpower and technical expertise in the utilisation of deep seas" have been the three pillars behind the progress of these states.

Chairing the 31st meeting of the Southern Zonal Council in Tamil Nadu's Mahabalipuram, the Shah said: "The people of South India and the governments have also established many excellent traditions in the fields of innovation and revenue generation." He said that "the whole of India should learn from South India in these two areas," as per the home ministry's statement.

TN CM Vijay, who serves as the council's vice-chairman, personally welcomed Shah upon his arrival. The two leaders also held a brief interaction before the meeting began. During the proceedings, Vijay was seated alongside Karnataka CM DK Shivakumar.

Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu, Kerala CM VD Satheesan and Telangana Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka were among those who attended. Puducherry CM N Rangasamy was absent from



Southern Zonal Council Meet in nutshell

Chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the high-level session focused on cooperative federalism, regional infrastructure, security, and healthcare funding among southern states and union territories.

Attendees

Chairperson: Union Home Minister Amit Shah

Host: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay (delivered the welcome address)

State leaders: Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Kerala Chief Minister Satheesan, and Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka.

UT representatives: Lieutenant Governors of Puducherry and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, alongside the Administrator of Lakshadweep

Agenda and discussions

Cooperative federalism: Emphasized joint approaches to regional governance and development.

Key sectors: Addressed policy frameworks and resource distribution for healthcare funding, infrastructure projects, and environmental protection.

Security: Reviewed regional security measures and inter-state coordination.

the meeting, with lieutenant governor K Kailashnathan representing the Union Territory.

The meeting comes amid several political and inter-state issues involving the southern states.

The regional forum focused on resolving inter-state dis-

putes, water sharing, infrastructure, and security matters among southern states and union territories. The Council comprises AP, Karnataka, Kerala, TN and Telangana, along with the UTs of Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

Give south its due: DKS

Karnataka moves resolution to freeze Lok Sabha seats at Southern Zonal Council meet

MAHABALIPURAM

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar told Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday that the federal government must "give the South its due" with fair funding, and called for a freeze on the existing number of Lok Sabha seats and women's reservation be accommodated within the current number of seats.

'Maintain 1971 census for seats'

In his address at the 31st Southern Zonal Council (SZC) meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah near Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu, Shivakumar urged the council to adopt a resolution asking the Union Government to use the 1971 Census as the basis for delimitation, retain the Lok Sabha's existing strength of 543 seats for the next 25 years and accommodate women's reservation within those seats.

He argued that southern states should not be penalised for successfully implementing population-control measures. "We welcome the assurance that no southern state will lose seats. But representation is not only about numbers. It is about weight, and about voice."

Shivakumar said the southern states had responded to the country's call for population stabilisation and should not lose political representation because of that. "I am confident that all the chief ministers here will support me in what I say. Let the 1971 basis be honoured, and let the strength of our voice be protected," he said. He also linked delimitation to the implementation of women's reservation, saying it should not be delayed because of a fresh exercise to redraw constituencies. Shivakumar called for the Lok Sabha's strength to remain fixed at 543 seats for 25 years, with women's reservation accommodated within the existing number.

He expressed strong objections to public sector undertakings (PSU) auctioning lands allotted by the state government, calling it "a misuse of resources".

Except 5 TMC for drinking, Mekedatu dam water from will be for TN: DKS

Mahabalipuram: DK Shivakumar, flanked by his Tamil Nadu counterpart Vijay, on Thursday said the proposed Mekedatu dam across River Cauvery would benefit both the states by storing water for use during periods of scarcity and asserted that "Water should unite us and not divide us", stressing on the need for greater cooperation among states in managing river water issues.

"Help us to help you," he said, adding, every drop of water from the project would benefit farmers in the neighbouring states. "Except 5 TMC for drinking water, the rest of the stored water in the proposed dam would be released to Tamil Nadu," he added.

He said the proposed Mekedatu reservoir was crucial not only for Karnataka, but also for Tamil Nadu as it would help conserve water that otherwise flows into the sea as surplus during periods of heavy inflow.

He maintained that his state's legal share of water must be respected, saying Karnataka had not attended the conference to complain but as a partner in India's development.

It is time to move from a mindset of river water sharing to one of river water cooperation.
-DK Shivakumar, Karnataka CM

Legitimate rights of lower riparian states should be protected: Vijay

Mahabalipuram: With his Karnataka counterpart D K Shivakumar by his side, Tamil Nadu CM Vijay on Thursday stressed that the "legitimate rights" of lower riparian states must be fully protected and pushed for the timely implementation of the Supreme Court verdict and decisions of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on sharing of Cauvery River water.

He said no agenda for Southern cooperation is complete without addressing our shared rivers, while stressing that water was fundamental to the lives, and livelihoods of millions. His remarks on inter-state water sharing carry significant weight, coming on the heels of a recently cancelled bilateral meeting between him and Shivakumar over the Cauvery dispute.

Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have locked horns over Cauvery water sharing for decades. Tamil Nadu continues to press Karnataka to strictly implement CWMA orders and adhere to the monthly release schedules stipulated by the SC.

Our rivers, coasts, infrastructure and markets should unite us in a common purpose and shared prosperity. Strong states make for a stronger India.
-C Joseph Vijay, Tamil Nadu CM

BNP's Alamgir elected as Bangladesh prez

DHAKA

Bangladesh has elected senior Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir as its 23rd president, marking a significant shift for a politician who until recently held one of the party's top organisational posts.

Alamgir secured 255 votes in Thursday's presidential election held at the Jatiya Sangsad, Bangladesh's Parliament. His rival, Oli Ahmed, the candidate backed by an 11-party opposition alliance led by Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and the National Citizen Party (NCP), received 88 votes.

The voting took place between 2 pm and 5 pm local time under the supervision of chief election commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin. Of the 349 MPs eligible to vote, 343 cast their ballots. The chief election commissioner later announced Alamgir as the winner.

A contested presidential poll after 35 years

Thursday's poll was notable because it was the first time in 35 years that more than one candidate contested Bangladesh's presidential election. The previous presidential election involv-



From BNP leadership to the presidency

Alamgir's election marks a major change in his political role. He had served as BNP secretary general before stepping down to contest the presidential poll. The result also comes at a significant point in Bangladesh's political transition, with the BNP now holding power after years of opposition politics. Alamgir's move from the party's organisational leadership to the country's highest constitutional office places a senior BNP figure at the head of state. The President's role here is largely constitutional and ceremonial, while executive authority rests with the PM.

ing a parliamentary vote was held in 1991. Alamgir had been nominated as the BNP's presidential candidate last week. After receiving the nomination, he stepped down as BNP Secretary General and resigned from the party's National Standing Committee.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi announced his nomination following a meeting of the party's National Standing Committee near the Bangladesh Prime Minister's Office at the Secretariat. Rizvi said the decision followed discussions with Prime Minister and BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman.

ROUTE TO JUSTICE

5-member panel to probe NEET stir police action

NEW DELHI

A day after the Supreme Court announced it will be setting up a committee to examine allegations of excessive use of force by security personnel against students during the July 20 student march over the NEET paper leak, the top court on Thursday said that a five-member panel will be headed by former SC judge Justice R Subhash Reddy.

Other members of the panel include former Punjab and Haryana high court Chief Justice Ravi Shankar Jha, former Delhi high court judge Justice Shalinder Kaur, former CBI director Rishi Kumar Shukla and retired Meghalaya Director General of Police Dr LR Bishnoi.

The committee will examine allegations of excessive use of pellet

guns, electric batons, lathi charges and tear gas, along with alleged violence against women protesters. It will also look into police surveillance, the proportionality of crowd-control measures, and the provision of medical assistance and compensation to victims.

It will also consider allegations by authorities of violence against police personnel and damage to public property. This comes as the apex court is hearing a batch of petitions alleging excessive police action against students who participated in protests at Jantar Mantar and other locations across the country over alleged NEET paper leaks and broader concerns over the exam system.

The proceedings come against the backdrop of weeks of student stir led by the CJP at Jantar Mantar.

10 acres of Ch'nagar reserve gutted amid shootout row

Chamarajanagar: A fire allegedly set by miscreants has gutted around 10 acres in the Shilubepura forest area here, days after a poaching prevention camp was blown up, Forest Department sources said on Thursday. Forest officials suspect the miscreants set it on fire to avenge the killing of three suspected poachers. The fire spread across the Shilubepura forest and damaged around 10 acres, and poaching prevention camp near Jageri was also destroyed.

Ex-Cong MP Sajjan Kumar dies in Tihar

NEW DELHI: Former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar, who was serving a life sentence in connection with the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, died on Thursday, the day the Supreme Court was scheduled to hear his plea seeking three-week parole on medical grounds concerning his ailing wife. The jailed former parliamentarian had approached the top court seeking parole for three weeks, citing the medical condition of his ailing wife. The plea was listed for hearing on Thursday. Kumar had been in jail since 2018.

Scope of the probe

The high-powered panel is tasked with factual inquiries into the events surrounding the protests:

POLICE CONDUCT AND USE OF FORCE: Examining claims of disproportionate force, including the use of tear gas, lathi charges, electric batons, and pellet guns without proper warnings.

TARGETED HARASSMENT: Prioritizing complaints of molestation, harassment, and targeted violence against women protesters.

PROTESTER ACTIONS: Investigating reciprocal violence and injuries sustained by police and security personnel during the unrest.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Identifying who ordered the use of force, assessing whether protocols and laws were violated, and verifying if security personnel wore clear nameplates and uniforms.

EVIDENCE SCRUTINY: Reviewing official video footage and CCTV recordings from the protest sites.

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Government of Karnataka

Bengaluru City Corporations
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Shri Krishna Byre Gowda
Hon'ble Minister for Greater
Bengaluru Development

Dr. G. Parameshwara
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

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Quick Read

SIR duty leaves
Karnataka govt
schools short-staffed

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Government school students across Karnataka are facing learning disruptions as teachers remain engaged in Special Intensive Revision (SIR) duties. Teachers in Bengaluru and other parts of the State have been handling additional subjects, while headmasters are being forced to take classes amid the staff shortage. Booth Level Officers (BLOs), including teachers and anganwadi workers, were initially expected to complete the exercise earlier but were retained through extensions. The Election Commission said the active role of BLOs will continue until October 22, when the final stage of claims and objections concludes. Educationist Prof. Sabiha Bhoomigowda warned that students from marginalised communities would bear the greatest impact. She said the educational loss over several months could be significant and difficult to recover.

Hebbal-airport Metro link may miss June 2027 deadline

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
Slow progress beyond Yelahanka threatens Bengaluru's planned June 2027 opening of the Hebbal-airport Metro link. The 27.44-km Hebbal-Kempegowda International Airport section of Phase 2B is unlikely to meet its June 2027 deadline, with construction beyond Yelahanka progressing slowly. NCC Ltd, executing the IAF Yelahanka-Airport Terminal package, has sought another extension until March 2027. The 15.01-km section is currently around 80% complete. After civil works, at least six months of trial runs and commissioning are required, making an opening before September 2027 unlikely. The corridor is divided into three packages: Hebbal-Bagalur Cross, IAF Yelahanka-Airport Terminal and works inside the airport premises. BMRL is also coordinating with traffic police to minimise construction-related disruptions.

Revised schedule for Okalipuram corridor works: Maheshwar Rao

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to prepare a revised schedule for completing pending works of the Okalipuram Eight-Lane Corridor and ensure timely execution. Inspecting ongoing and pending works in Gandhinagar under Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Rao said the approach road towards the railway station was under construction. He directed officials to expedite retaining wall works and complete all pending works according to the revised schedule.

BNCC steps up flu surveillance at Clarence High School

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) continued active health surveillance at Clarence High School in Richards Town following reports of flu infection among students. A health team from New Bagalur Layout Primary Health Centre reviewed attendance and students' health status on Thursday. Of 1,868 students and staff, 1,599 were present and 269 absent. The school reported mild flu-related symptoms



Devaraj Urs championed social justice: Parameshwara

Devaraj Urs pioneered social justice reforms, empowering farmers, youth and marginalised communities across Karnataka, Parameshwara said.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Revenue and Sports Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara on Thursday described former Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs as one of the foremost leaders who fought for social justice, the poor and the downtrodden. Speaking to reporters after garlanding Urs's statue near the western entrance of Vidhana Soudha on the occasion of his 111th birth anniversary, Parameshwara said Urs had brought about historic changes during his long tenure as Chief Minister. "Devaraj Urs was among the first leaders in the country to fight for social justice, the poor and the deprived. Our government is continuing on the path shown by him," Parameshwara said. He recalled Urs's landmark land reforms, particularly the principle of 'Land to the tiller', which ensured that those who cultivated agricultural



"Devaraj Urs was among the first leaders in the country to fight for social justice, the poor and the downtrodden. Our government is continuing on the path shown by him."
—Dr. G. Parameshwara, Deputy CM

land could gain ownership. The reform, he said, brought a major transformation and provided justice to farming communities. Urs also played a significant role in improving opportunities for young people by establishing educational insti-

tutions, hostels and other support systems, Parameshwara said. His initiatives helped provide greater opportunities to communities that had remained neglected and disadvantaged. The Deputy Chief Minister said the Congress government was continuing several programmes and policies inspired by Urs's ideals and social vision. "We are following his ide-

Urs' key contributions

- Land reforms:** 'Land to the tiller'
- Social justice:** Focus on oppressed communities
- Education:** Institutions and hostels
- Youth:** Greater opportunities & support
- Governance:** Welfare-oriented reforms

Sadbhavana Day pledge

Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara administered the Sadbhavana Day pledge to officers and staff of the State Secretariat at the Vikas Soudha conference hall, Legislative Assembly Speaker G.S. Patil and Legislative Council Chairman Salim Ahmed were present. The pledge reaffirmed the commitment to promoting peace, harmony, unity and brotherhood, while upholding the values of secularism and strengthening national integration among citizens.

als and continuing the programmes he introduced. We will carry them forward in the years ahead," he said.

Varamahalakshmi festival sends flower, fruit prices soaring

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Festival demand has pushed up flower and fruit prices at KR Market, leaving shoppers paying sharply higher rates. With Varamahalakshmi festival preparations, Bengaluru's KR Market has witnessed a surge in shoppers purchasing flowers, garlands and fruits for puja and decorations. The increased demand has resulted in steep price rises compared with last week. Among flowers, chrysanthemum prices have jumped from Rs 150 to Rs 450 per kg, while jasmine has increased from Rs 500 to Rs 1,200. Kanakambar, earlier priced at Rs 2,000, is now selling for around Rs 5,000-Rs 6,000. Garland prices have also climbed substantially. Lotus garlands have risen from Rs

500 to Rs 2,500, while rose garlands have increased from Rs 200 to Rs 500. Jasmine garlands are now priced at Rs 1,500 compared with Rs 500 earlier. Fruit prices have similarly risen. Apples have increased from Rs 110 to Rs 270 per kg, pomegranates from Rs 120 to Rs 260 and oranges from Rs 80 to Rs 180. Grapes have risen from Rs 70 to Rs 170, while pineapples have increased from Rs 60 to Rs 150. Cardamom bananas and regular bananas have doubled to Rs 100 per kg, while mosambi has risen to Rs 150 from Rs 100. Despite the higher prices, shoppers continued to throng KR Market to complete festival purchases. The increased footfall also contributed to traffic congestion around the busy market area.

Festival price surge



Item	Earlier	Now
Chrysanthemum	Rs 150/kg	Rs 450
Jasmine	Rs 500/kg	Rs 1,200
Kanakambar	Rs 2,000/kg	Rs 5,000-6,000
Lotus garland	Rs 500	Rs 2,500
Apple	Rs 110/kg	Rs 270
Pomegranate	Rs 120/kg	Rs 260
Grapes	Rs 70/kg	Rs 170
Pineapple	Rs 60/kg	Rs 150

Bengaluru to host India International Coffee Festival in February 2027

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru will host the third India International Coffee Festival from February 26 to 28, 2027, bringing together the country's coffee community on a farm-to-cup platform. Organised by the Coffee Board of India in association with the Specialty Coffee Association of India (SCAI), the festival will bring together coffee growers, roasters, café brands, baristas, equipment manufacturers and consumers. The three-day event comes as coffee consumption expands beyond its traditional southern markets. While cities account for nearly 70% of India's coffee consumption, southern In-

dia contributes around 75-80% of overall consumption. Coffee is also gaining popularity in northern, western and eastern parts of the country. Despite the growing café culture, India's per-capita coffee consumption remains low at 0.07 kg annually, compared with the global average of 1.3 kg, highlighting considerable potential for growth in the domestic market. Coffee Board of India CEO and Secretary Kurma Rao M. said the festival had become an important platform for India's coffee community at a time of significant growth. SCAI president and IICF organiser Ham-sini Appadurai said India had been producing high-quality

coffee for generations and was now seeing a growing domestic appreciation for it. A major attraction at the festival will be the National Coffee Championships. The competitions will include the 26th National Barista Championship, Brewers Cup, Indian Filter Coffee Championship, Latte Art Championship and, for the first time, Coffee in Good Spirits. Winners of the national competitions will represent India at the corresponding World Coffee Championships. Qualifiers for the championships will be held in Bengaluru, Delhi and Navi Mumbai between August and October 2026, before the national finals are conducted in Bengaluru.

Missing four-year-old girl traced, reunited with parents

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Swift action by Shivajinagar and Pulakeshinagar police led to the safe tracing of a four-year-old girl who went missing from outside her home in Fraser Town on Wednesday. The incident occurred around 1.55 pm on August 19 near Farooq Masjid on Moore Road, where the girl, the daughter of a security guard, was playing outside her house. Members of the public alerted the Namma-112 emergency helpline after noticing that she was missing. Namma-112 personnel immediately alerted ASI Rizwan Pasha and PC Rajashekhar, who were on duty in Hoysala-41 of Shivajinagar Police Station. The policemen reached the spot within six minutes and began inquiries. Police learnt that an unidentified person had allegedly taken the child away by offering her chocolate. Her mother had searched nearby areas but

could not find her. Pulakeshinagar Police Inspector Anand Naik and PSI Priyanka joined the search operation. Police examined CCTV footage from surrounding areas and circulated information about the missing girl through WhatsApp groups to facilitate her identification. The efforts yielded results when police received information that the child had been spotted near Coles Park. A police team immediately rushed to the location, traced the girl safely and brought her to the police station. After completing the required verification, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Pulakeshinagar Sub-Division, K. Basavaraju, along with the police team, handed over the child safely to her parents. The prompt response by the emergency helpline and coordinated efforts of the police teams helped ensure the child's safe return to her family.

Karnataka records second-highest pesticide residue cases

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka has recorded the country's second-highest number of fruit and vegetable samples exceeding permissible pesticide residue limits, raising concerns over food safety. Between 2023 and 2026, authorities tested 9,176 samples in the state, of which 334 contained residues above the Maximum Residue Limit prescribed by FS-SAI. Telangana topped the list with 486 such samples, followed by Karnataka and Maharashtra with 260. Nationally, 2,223 of 70,652 samples tested across 23 states and Union Territories exceeded permissible limits. The Centre is promoting Integrated Pest Management, approved pesticides and recommended dosages. Consumers are advised to wash produce thoroughly under running water and remove outer leaves of leafy vegetables before consumption.

INDUSTRY RULING UPHELD

SC upholds 1978 Bangalore Water Supply judgment

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld its landmark 1978 Bangalore Water Supply judgment defining what constitutes an "industry" under Section 2(j) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. A nine-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant ruled by a 6:3 majority that the reference seeking reconsideration of the nearly five-decade-old judgment was valid. However, the Bench retained the essential framework of the original Triple Test, while ac-

knowledging that some aspects could require refinement. The court clarified that pending disputes will continue to be governed by the framework laid down in the Bangalore Water Supply judgment. Matters already decided will also remain undisturbed. For future disputes, however, the court said the Industrial Relations Code, 2020 will apply. The new Code, the court stressed, will have to be interpreted independently on the basis of its own provisions. Justice B.V. Nagarathna,

joined by Justices Ujjwal Bhuyan and Deepankar Datta, dissented. They held that reopening the settled interpretation after nearly 50 years was unnecessary and could create uncertainty in pending industrial disputes. Justice Nagarathna also held that government departments cannot automatically be excluded from the definition of "industry" merely because they perform statutory functions, saying the nature of the activity is more important than the identity of the organisation. The original 1978 seven-judge Bench, led by then



Chief Justice M.H. Beg, had established the Triple Test and complementary Dominant Nature Test. The issue was later referred to larger Benches following concerns over its impact on labour courts.

What is the Triple Test?

The 1978 Bangalore Water Supply judgment evolved a broad test to determine whether an activity qualifies as an "industry" under labour law. It focused on organised activity involving cooperation between employers and employees to produce goods or provide services. The judgment also recognised the Dominant Nature Test for mixed activities. The Supreme Court has now retained the core framework for pending disputes while leaving future interpretation to the Industrial Relations Code.

Quick Read

Man arrested in two-wheeler theft case

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Uwa police have arrested a 40-year-old man in connection with the theft of a two-wheeler from Kodikal. The accused has been identified as Mohammed Faisal alias Thota Faisal, from Kody, Ullal. According to police, a case was registered at Urwa police station on July 24 after a two-wheeler parked in front of a residence in Kodikal was reported stolen. During the investigation, police examined CCTV footage, traced the suspect and gathered information from their sources. Faisal was arrested and the stolen scooter was recovered, police said. Police further stated that more than 40 cases had been registered against him at various police stations in Karnataka and Kerala. Arrest warrants are reportedly pending against him at Mangaluru North, Konaje, Ullal, Moodubidre, Bantwal Rural and Manipal police stations.

Father fined ₹27,000 for minor riding

CH NEWS, SHIVAMOGGA

The Bhadravati First ACJ and JMFC Court has ordered a fine of Rs 27,000 on the father, bike owner, who had let the boy drive the vehicle. In 2025, while conducting a check under the Holehonnur police station limits of Bhadravati taluk, the police noticed a minor riding a bike. The police then registered a case under Sections 199(A), 180, 196 of the IMV Act and submitted a charge sheet to the First ACJ and JMFC Court of Bhadravati. The Court that heard the case imposed a fine of Rs. 27,000 on those who gave the bike to the minor. The parents paid the fine as per the Court order.



‘Devaraja Urs, a wise man who turned wage laborers into landowners’

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

In a society where a handful of people owned land, thousands of people today have become landowners, said the State Minimum Wage Advisory Board Chairman TM Shahid. He was speaking at the inauguration of the 111th birth anniversary celebration of former Chief Minister D Devaraja Urs, held at the Netravati Hall of the Zilla Panchayat on Thursday under the joint auspices of the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat and the Backward Classes Welfare Department. He said that at a time when people who worked as wage laborers on the farm could not even dream of becoming landowners, even those from the lowest strata of society

got land ownership as a result of the administration and policies of Devaraja Urs. Realizing that education can uplift any community, Urs opened several schools for it. By establishing hostels in urban areas, the poor came to the cities to pursue higher education. TM Shahid said that Urs's visionary administration helped the undivided Dakshina Kannada district to progress socially and educationally. Resource Person Nandikoor Education Trust Administrative Officer Sainath Shetty Mundkoor spoke and said that Devaraja Urs worked tirelessly for the social and educational progress of the backward classes, minorities and Dalits. He said that the weaker classes could progress socially and economically due

to land ownership. Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation President Mamata Gatti, Karnataka Eco-Tourism Development Board President Shalette Pinto, Tulu Sahitya Academy President Taranath Gatti, Additional Deputy Commissioner K Raju, Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Jayalakshmi, District Officer of the Backward Classes Welfare Department Bindhya N Nayak, School Education Department Deputy Director Shashidhar, Additional Superintendent of Police Anil Kumar Bhumareddy, Zilla Panchayat Chief Accountant Shakuntala and others. On this occasion, the pledge for Sadbhavana Day was taken on the occasion of the birthday of former Prime Minister D Rajiv Gandhi.

As new phone sales slump, consumers turn to repairs and refurbished devices

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Mobile phone dealers across Mangaluru are witnessing a sharp decline in smartphone sales, with consumers increasingly opting to repair older devices or buy refurbished handsets as rising prices make new smartphones unaffordable for many buyers. Muneer, Secretary, Dakshina Kannada Mobile Retailers Association, said sales have dropped significantly com-

pared to previous years. Earlier, a shop could sell 15 to 20 mobile phones a day. Now, even selling five phones a day has become difficult, he said. According to him, repair work has increased as customers continue using older devices instead of replacing them. People who would earlier set aside damaged phones are now getting them repaired and reusing them. Display replacements and similar repairs have increased, he said,

estimating that repair-related business has risen by around 25 percent. Former Association President Shailendra said the shift has also fuelled demand for refurbished and second-hand smartphones. Customers are increasingly looking for refurbished devices because new smartphones have become expensive. Demand for second-hand phones has risen sharply, he said. He added that used phones that earlier sold for around Rs

3,000 to Rs 4,000 are now fetching between Rs 8,000 and



Rs 10,000 in the resale market. Shahul from Phone Zone in Hampankatta, who said that he has seen a 40 percent decline in sales as compared to last year, said the trend is largely due to rising smartphone prices and the shrinking availability of budget models. He said the customers visiting stores typically have budgets of Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000, but many fail to find suitable devices within that price range currently. The slowdown has also af-

ected sales promoters employed by smartphone brands, whose incentives are linked to monthly sales targets, another dealer said. Prajwal, team leader handling Redmi sales in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi, said the slowdown is visible across brands and outlets. Sales have declined by around 30 percent compared to last year. Price increases have affected demand, he said, adding that several smartphone models

across brands have seen frequent price revisions in recent months. Prakash, sales head of Samsung mobiles for Dakshina Kannada and Udupi, said that they have better sales compared to other brands, as the brand itself is into manufacturing chipsets. Another sales manager associated with a leading smartphone brand expressed hope that demand would improve during the upcoming festive season.

Electric auto Permit processing faces allegations

Members of Team Green City Auto Chalaka Malikara Sangha have urged the district administration to honour its assurance of granting city permits to all electric autorickshaws registered on or before October 30, 2025.

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

Former Association President K J Prajesh alleged that permits had been processed for electric autorickshaws registered to city addresses, while applications involving vehicles registered to rural addresses and some vehicles registered in the names of women had been kept pending, citing a case before the court. He said temporary rural permits had been issued to some applicants in recent days, allowing them to operate in Mangaluru until the court pronounced its final order. However, the permits reportedly state they cannot be converted into regular city permits until the court delivers its verdict. Prajesh ques-



Association President Mohandas demanded to know whether these people were authorised to run such checks. The association has appealed to the district administration to expand charging infrastructure for electric vehicles. It also sought clarity on the status of vehicles purchased by families before the one-vehicle-per-person rule was introduced.

tioned the need for issuing temporary rural permits to vehicles operating within the

city, pointing out that such permits were generally issued to tourist vehicles. He claimed autorickshaw drivers have already accepted the revised rules, including the requirement to obtain permits, restrictions on the number of vehicles and the October 30 cut-off date. Yet, the district administration has not offered any assurance, he alleged. Many drivers from rural areas had purchased electric autorickshaws after raising loans by pledging gold and other assets, with the intention of earning a livelihood in Mangaluru, Prajesh further said. He also questioned the condition that requires only the registered owner to drive the vehicle. He demanded that similar conditions be imposed on CNG and

LPG-driven autorickshaws as well. We were told that the existing rules for CNG and LPG vehicles were old and could not be changed. If the administration can change the rules for electric autorickshaws, why can't the rules be changed for other vehicles, he asked. Association President Mohandas said some electric autorickshaws were registered in the names of the drivers' wives because the husbands had low credit scores. Mohandas further questioned the circulation of lists bearing vehicle numbers and addresses of electric autorickshaw operators. He alleged that outsiders and members of other autorickshaw unions were checking these lists at RTOs.

Vande Bharat trial run on Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya route

MANGALURU

South Western Railway General Manager (GM) P Ananth reviewed the trial run of the Vande Bharat train on the Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya Road railway line, which passes through the rugged terrain of the Western Ghats, and various development works underway under the Amrit Bharat Station Project. He was briefed by the officials on the operational readiness of the train, safety arrangements and railway infrastructure in the Ghat section in view of the trial run of Vande Bharat Train. This railway route in the Western Ghats is technically the most challenging section as it involves steep

General Manager P Anant directed the officers to give top priority to safety, quality and passenger convenience and complete all ongoing works within the stipulated time. The progress of the works should be continuously monitored. He pointed out that precautions should be taken to ensure that no work hinders passenger movement and does not compromise the safety of train operations.

slopes, sharp turns, tunnels, bridges and difficult terrain. During the trial run, the railway infrastructure, operational arrangements and safety arrangements in various parts of the route were reviewed. He instructed the officials to ensure smooth train movement in the Ghat section and not to compromise on the safety of passengers. Review of Amrit Bharat Railway Station Works: On

this occasion, he visited Sakleshpur and Subrahmanya Road railway stations and reviewed the progress of the development and redevelopment works underway under the Amrit Bharat Station Project. Information was received from the officials regarding the passenger facilities, platform system, development of the areas around the station, infrastructure and other faci-

ties in the development works of the stations. The officials explained about the current stage of the works, the work to be completed and the next phase of the work plan. Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya Road route is a major rail link connecting coastal Karnataka with Mysore region and its importance has increased further in the Ghat section of the Western Ghats. The review of the feasibility of infrastructure improvements and modern train services on this route has created high expectations among the passengers and the people of this region. Divisional Railway Manager, Mysore Division, Mudit Mittal and divisional officers were present during the review.

NITK welcomes 2026–2030 batch with curriculum designed for the AI Age

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

A total of 1,066 BTech students joined this academic year, comprising 834 male students and 232 female students. Addressing the gathering, Director Prof B Ravi told students that the next four years will bring profound changes in the world, which will shape their careers and life choices. By 2030, your real competition for jobs may not be from fellow students, but from AI, he said, noting that artificial intelligence already outperforms humans in logical left-brain capabilities such as reading, writing, remembering, locating, translating and monitoring. He urged students to work on their right-brain capabilities, curiosity, creativity, intuition, emotion, empathy, ethics, context, judgement, nuances and non-verbal communication, and combine these with AI to succeed in the future world. Prof Ravi highlighted that the institute's newly redesigned curriculum, developed over the past three years, is built to strengthen such human capabilities. Alongside theory and lab courses, students will undertake four categories of life-skill activities, physical (sports), cultural (creative arts), technical (model fabrication) and professional

The National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK) Surathkal inducted the newly admitted BTech students of the 2026–2030 batch at NITK campus.

(communication). He also pointed to a stronger institutional focus on innovation and entrepreneurship. Students can pursue a parallel minor programme covering product design, fabrication and business plan development, supported by NITK's alumni as mentors, co-founders and investors. Deputy Director Prof Subhash Yaragal congratulated the incoming batch. The deans, chief warden and other Institute functionaries delivered presentations on NITK's academic structure, research opportunities, campus facilities and student life. The UG Induction Programme is designed to enable a smooth transition for new students into the institute's academic and cultural environment. A separate programme was organised for more than 1,500 parents who came to the Institute. They were given a tour of the institute facilities, followed by addresses by the Institute functionaries. The parents were urged to partner with the Institute in the progression of their wards, and to regularly keep in touch with them.



Prof Ravi, Director of the institution, set an aspirational target for the batch, 100 new student startups over the next four years; so that the number of job creators exceed the number of job seekers.

Two arrested in separate drug peddling cases

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

The City police have arrested two men in separate cases involving the alleged sale of MDMA and the supply of ganja. In the first case, Mangaluru East police arrested a 30-year-old man for allegedly possessing and selling MDMA from an autorickshaw on the service road between Pumpwell and Nantloor. City Police Commissioner CH Sudheer Kumar Reddy said that acting on a tip-off received, police conducted a raid and arrested

Mohammed Irshad, 30, a resident of Varkady, near Manjeshwar in Kerala. Police seized 13.7 g of MDMA, estimated to be worth Rs 1.4 lakh, along with cash and the autorickshaw allegedly used in the crime. The total value of the seized items has been estimated at Rs 2.9 lakh. A case has been registered at Mangaluru East police station under Sections 8(c) and 22(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Irshad was produced before a court and re-

manded in judicial custody. In the another case, Surathkal police arrested a 27-year-old man for allegedly supplying ganja to college students. The investigation followed the questioning of Ashwin Xavier, 24, who had been booked in a ganja-consumption case. During questioning, he reportedly identified Nithin Krishnan as a person involved in supplying ganja to college students. Police traced Krishnan, who was working as a therapist at an ayurvedic clinic

near Padavu Maidan in Kadri. They allegedly seized 1.2 kg of ganja, valued at approximately Rs 60,000, along with a mobile phone and a KTM motorcycle. Krishnan hails from Tali-paramba taluk of Kannur district, Kerala, and has been residing in Konchady. A case has been registered at Surathkal police station under Sections 8(c), 20(b)(ii) (B) and 27(b) of the NDPS Act. Krishnan was arrested and produced before a court, which remanded him in judicial custody, police said.

MESCOM linemen brave swollen river to restore power to 12 houses

CH NEWS, MANGALURU

When a swollen river cut off access to a power line serving a handful of houses in Dhoomadka in Bettampady of Puttur, MESCOM linemen and local residents took a risky route, swimming across the raging waters to restore electricity. Power supply to around 10-12 houses was disrupted on August 17 after two Low-Tension (LT) lines were snapped as the Seere River, flowing through the area, swelled following heavy rain and a tree fall. According to J

Puthu, Junior Engineer, MESCOM, Bettampady, Puttur, officials who inspected the site found that the river was in spate, making it impossible for the linemen to cross safely and access the damaged lines. A local resident had temporarily tied the damaged line to the opposite bank to prevent further damage. With the water level high, the team initially had to wait for it to recede. However, the residents were without power for nearly 24 hours and were anxious to have the supply restored, J Puthu

said. As the pressure to restore power mounted, linemen Bande Nawaz, Praveen Kumar and Basavaraj, along with local resident Janu Naik and his son, took up the challenge. Three members of the team swam across the swollen river to reach the damaged lines, while the other two remained on either side of the river, coordinating the work and managing the lines. After a strenuous operation, power supply to the affected houses was finally restored. Videos of the incident have gone viral.

Accused who was absconding for 13 years arrest

SHIVAMOGGA

Bhadravati New Town police station has arrested an accused who was absconding in a case and produced him in Court. The arrested accused is Manjunath from Davangere district. He was involved in a 379 IPC case in 2010 and absconded without appearing in court. The ACJ and JMFC Court of Bhadravati had issued an arrest warrant against Manjunath under CC No. 1790/2010. The PSI and the staff of the New Town Police Station have located the accused and produced him before the Court.

Quick Read

Mandya extends cultural funding application deadline

CH NEWS, MANDYA
Kannada and Culture Department has extended the deadline for cultural funding applications by 15 days. Registered associations and institutions promoting language, art, literature, music, folklore and dance can apply under the General, Special Unit and Scheduled Tribe Sub-Plan for 2026-27. Unorganized artists can seek financial support to buy musical instruments and costumes or display paintings and sculptures. Applications, earlier accepted until August 20, can now be submitted from August 21 to September 4. Interested applicants must apply online through Seva Sindhu. For further information, they can contact the department at 080-24410574, 080-22213530, 9986837037 or 080-22241325.

Chintamani Ambedkar Bhavan inauguration set for Aug 22

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA
Chintamani will host the inauguration of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan on August 22 at 10 am. Deputy Chief Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara will inaugurate the building and unveil Baba Saheb's bronze statue. Social Welfare Minister K.H. Muniyappa will open the new Social Welfare Department office. Transport Minister B.S. Suresh will inaugurate the digital study centre, while Minister Ishwar Khandre will unveil the "Sadhaney Hadi" paintings. Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa will unveil the Gautam Buddha marble statue. MLA Dr. M.C. Sudhakar will preside over the event, which will be attended by elected representatives and citizens.

Free training for teacher recruitment exams

Mysuru
Jnanabuthi, a Mysuru-based organisation, has decided to provide free coaching for competitive examinations to be conducted by the Karnataka School Education and Literacy Department for recruitment to various vacant teacher posts in government primary and high schools. Interested candidates can register their names at the Jnanabuthi office located on the premises of the Government High School and Pre-University College at Lakshmi-puram, Mysuru, by August 25, 2026. Registration will be open from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. In a press release, Jnanabuthi Secretary H. Balakrishna (9448117455) appealed to eligible and interested candidates to make use of the free training programme.

Mysuru decks up in festive splendor for Vara Mahalakshmi

MYSURU
Mysuru was filled with festive energy on Thursday as residents prepared to celebrate Vara Mahalakshmi. Markets across the city, including the historic Devaraja Market, witnessed a steady rush of shoppers buying flowers, fruits, bangles, coconuts, turmeric, kumkum and other puja items. Women, families and elderly residents moved through crowded stalls, choosing everything needed to welcome Goddess Lakshmi into their homes. Streets near temples and residential areas also looked colourful, with tempo-

Koppal Set To Get Electric Buses Soon

Patil inspected KKRTC's five-acre site near Koppal divisional office and directed officials to establish an electric bus unit promptly

CH NEWS, KOPPAL

Kalyan Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) Chairman Arun Kumar Patil said 400 new buses have been sanctioned for the corporation and eco-friendly electric buses will soon be introduced in Koppal under the PM E-Bus Seva scheme. He made the announcement during his visit to Koppal district on Thursday.

Patil inspected transport facilities and development works in the city. He met Koppal MP Rajashekar Hitnal and discussed the need for better bus services, particularly for people living in rural areas. The MP requested additional transport facilities to improve connectivity for residents across the district.

At the Koppal Central Bus Station, Patil inspected basic



facilities, two-wheeler parking, toilets and urinals. He also visited the bus pass counter to check whether students and passengers were receiving passes properly. He directed officials to maintain cleanliness and ensure passengers receive essential services without difficulty.

Patil also inspected a five-acre vacant site allotted to KKRTC with the approval of the District Collector. He visited the area near the Koppal

divisional office, where old residential buildings had been removed, and instructed officials to take steps to establish an electric bus unit there at the earliest.

Later, Patil reviewed the physical and financial progress of the Koppal division with divisional controllers, branch heads and unit managers. He appreciated the work of officials and urged employees to remain committed to providing safe, reliable and

AT A GLANCE

- KKRTC receives sanction for 400 new buses
- Electric buses planned under PM E-Bus Seva
- Officials instructed to build electric bus unit
- Koppal Central Bus Station facilities inspected
- MP seeks improved rural transport facilities
- Division reviewed for physical, financial progress

quality transport services. The visit also included a programme commemorating former Chief Minister D.

Devaraja Urs. KKRTC officials and staff, including divisional and unit managers, attended the meetings and inspections.

Gadag youth raise voice over water crisis

CH NEWS, Malingaraya pujar

Residents of Gadag-Betageri have continued to face drinking water shortages for decades, with some households reportedly waiting 20 to 25 days for regular supply.

The Gadag Youth Voters and Citizens Forum has now stepped up its campaign, calling the situation a serious violation of citizens' constitutional rights. The group has accused the municipal administration and state government of failing to provide a dependable drinking water system despite years of promises and spending on various projects.

The forum has pointed to a Karnataka High Court order dated May 28, 2025, in the case of Ramesh Nayak L. versus State of Karnataka. According to the forum, the court observed that access to safe and clean drinking water is connected with the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. Youth leaders argue that the continuing shortage in Gadag raises serious questions about whether authorities are fulfilling their responsibility to residents. They say people should not have to struggle for basic drinking water in a developing city.

Residents have also expressed frustration over repeated election promises. The forum alleges that large projects and pipeline works are

Action should be taken to solve the drinking water problem of Gadag city. Access to drinking water is a civil right. Gen Z voters have started a signature campaign with their blood for water

Anil Menasinakayi is a BJP leader

announced during elections, but many people continue to depend on tankers and other uncertain sources. It has demanded accountability from municipal officials and called for action against those responsible for prolonged supply failures. The group has also sought a permanent, scientific plan to ensure clean drinking water reaches households regularly, preferably at least once every two days.

Another major demand is the release of a white paper showing how much public money has been spent on drinking water projects in Gadag during the past decade. The forum has given the authorities 15 days to announce a clear action plan for a lasting solution. If no satisfactory response comes, its leaders have warned that they will mobilise residents and consider approaching the High Court through a Public Interest Litigation.

For Gadag's residents, the issue is no longer about promises, but about securing a reliable supply of a basic necessity and ensuring that decades of waiting finally come to an end.

Exam centres in Ballari Get 200-metre curbs

BALLARI

The Ballari district administration has imposed prohibitory orders within a 200-metre radius of examination centres for the Karnataka Open School (KOS) supplementary examinations. The exams will be held from August 24 to September 3 at the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) centre. Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate K. Nagendra Prasad issued the order under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, to ensure smooth conduct of the examinations.

Six child labourers rescued in Ballari raid

CH NEWS, Ballari

Six child and adolescent labourers were rescued during a joint inspection conducted by the district administration and Labour Department in Moka Hobli of Ballari district on Thursday.

The operation was carried out under the 'Pan-India Rescue and Rehabilitation Campaign' aimed at identifying and rescuing children and adolescents engaged in labour. The action followed a meeting of the Child and Adolescent Labour Task Force Committee held in the presence of the Deputy Tahsildar, as directed by the Deputy Commissioner.

After the meeting, the task force team conducted surprise inspections at various establishments and shops across

Moka Hobli. During the inspections, officials found children being employed in violation of labour regulations. Six child and adolescent workers were immediately rescued and taken into protective custody.

Officials recorded the statements of the rescued children at the spot before producing them before the Child Welfare Committee for further action. The authorities also distributed pamphlets and displayed awareness posters at establishments in the area, informing owners and employers about the harmful effects of child labour and the legal consequences of employing children.

The rescue operation involved officials and personnel from several departments. Deputy Tahsildar Pandurang,

Labour Inspector Ramesh, District Child Labour Project Director Mounesh, Education Coordinator Prasanna, District Tobacco Control Cell Consultant Prashanth Kumar and Health Department official Govindappa participated in the operation.

Personnel from the District Child Protection Unit, including Sudha, Child Helpline 1098 representative Chandrakala, REACH organisation coordinator Basamma and para-legal volunteer Lakshmi were also part of the team.

Officials said such inspections and awareness programmes would continue to prevent child labour and ensure that children are protected from exploitation and provided opportunities for education and rehabilitation.

JK Tyre hands over advanced fluoride testing kit to Health Dept

MYSURU

JK Tyre and Industries Limited on Thursday handed over an advanced Thermo Scientific Ion Meter Fluoride Kit to the District Health and Family Welfare Department under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

The equipment has been provided to support the department's fluorosis control and prevention programme being implemented under the National Health Mission, with the objective of strengthening community-level healthcare activities and protecting public health. The advanced fluoride-ion meter is designed to accurately detect fluoride levels in drinking water and help ensure the safety of water consumed by the public. The equipment was handed over to the District Health and Family Welfare Officer.

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Mohan K. said the equipment would help detect fluoride

levels in drinking water in rural and urban areas quickly. Excessive fluoride in drinking water can lead to fluorosis, which affects the teeth and bones. The advanced kit would enable the department to rapidly test water quality and urine samples of suspected cases, helping authorities take timely preventive measures and ensure access to safe drinking water, he said.

The Health Department thanked senior officials of JK Tyre for the company's public-oriented initiative and its concern for community health. District RCH Officer Dr. Mohammed Siraj Ahmed, District Family Welfare Officer Dr. Gopinath, District Surveillance Officer Dr. Nagaraj, medical officer of the District Cholera Control Team Dr. Puttathayamma, Fluorosis Programme Consultant Dr. Yakuth Naveen, JK Tyre Chief Manager Jagadish R., Deputy Chief Manager Anil A.V., Deputy Manager Nagaraj and health department staff were present.

"Cancel all illegal MDA 50:50 site allotments made between 2019 and 2023"

MYSURU

Welcoming the cancellation of 1,100 illegal site allotments made under the Mysuru Urban Development Authority's (MUDA) 50:50 scheme, former minister and senior Janata Dal (Secular) leader Sa Ra Mahesh demanded that all illegal allotments made between 2019 and 2023 also be cancelled.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, Mahesh alleged that a ₹5,000-crore scam had taken place in the allotment of sites under MUDA's 50:50 ratio scheme. Urban Development and Mysuru District-In-Charge Minister Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah had cancelled 1,100 sites allotted from 2023 onwards, but alleged that sites allotted between 2019 and 2023 had not been cancelled. All illegal sites allotted during this period be cancelled and that sites be allotted to the genuine landowners as per the agreement.

MITF begins first round of discussions ahead of major Dasara initiative

MYSURU

The first round of discussions for the Mysore Integrated Task Force (MITF), an initiative through the Anita Humanitarian Foundation, commenced on Thursday with a committed group of citizens, social leaders and professionals coming together with a shared vision for a stronger, more inclusive and progressive Mysuru.

The meeting brought together Mimicry Dayanand, Mahendra Singh, Suresh Babu, Dr. Shyam Prasad Shetty, Besina Maharshi, Jayaprakash, Triveni, Shweta, Gurudutt, Dr. Anita Prasad, Ashwini and Saraswati.

The Task Force has already begun planning its first major public initiative, a large-scale Mysuru event to be held ahead of Dasara. The proposed programme will bring together initiatives focused on women's empowerment, social impact, community development and recognition of individuals who are making a meaningful difference to society.

The event will also feature an awards ceremony honour-



ing individuals and organisations whose contributions are creating positive social change and inspiring communities through action.

Speaking about the initiative, Dr. Anita Prasad said that MITF is envisioned as a platform that brings citizens, organisations, corporates and social-impact leaders together to identify challenges facing Mysuru and work collectively towards practical solutions. The Task Force believes that meaningful change is possible when citizens, corporates, civil society organisations and institutions work together beyond traditional boundaries. MITF will therefore seek to create opportunities for collaboration, participation and

community-led action across Mysuru.

The first meeting marks only the beginning of a broader initiative. The team will shortly announce further details about the upcoming event, partnership opportunities, participation and avenues through which corporates, organisations and citizens can contribute.

Mysuru is a city with a remarkable heritage. MITF seeks to help build an equally remarkable future, through participation, responsibility, compassion and collective action. For further information and partnership opportunities: Anita Humanitarian Foundation, Mysore Integrated Task Force (MITF).

STATE-LEVEL RETIRED EMPLOYEES MEET HELD IN BALLARI

CH NEWS, Ballari

The Karnataka State Government Retired Employees Association, Ballari district unit, organised a state-level council meeting at Dr. Joladarashi Doddana Gowda Rangamandira in Ballari on Tuesday, with more than 500 retired employees participating. The programme was inaugurated by Principal District and Sessions Judge and District Legal Services Authority Chairman Siddalinga Prabhu. He extended his best wishes to retired employees and expressed hope that they would lead a peaceful and happy retired life.

Association State President

Dr. L. Byrappa, who presided over the programme, said efforts would be made to implement the Sandhya Suraksha scheme, secure a 10 per cent pension increase for pensioners who have completed 70 years and establish association buildings at all district and taluk headquarters.

As part of the government's Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan, participants took an anti-drug pledge during the event. The meeting also resolved to promote sports activities in schools and colleges, conduct tree-planting programmes and organise pledge-taking activities across the district to create awareness about the dangers of drug abuse.

Chitradurga hosts training for minority cooperatives

Thippeswamy stressed cooperatives’ social, educational and economic role, urging officials to follow laws and noting leadership reservation amendments

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

A one-day state-level training program for office bearers, directors and chief executive officers of selected minority cooperative societies in Bengaluru division was held in Chitradurga on Thursday.

The program was jointly organized by the Cooperation Department, Karnataka State Cooperative Federation and Chitradurga District Cooperative Union at Aishwarya Naveen Hotel Auditorium on NH 4.

Cooperative Ratna awardee R. Malleshappa said the federation and district cooperative unions play an important role in strengthening cooperatives through training. Participants from Chitradurga, Bengaluru, Davanagere, Chikkaballapur, Tumakuru and Shivamogga districts attended the program. He urged them to understand cooperative laws and make proper use of facilities offered by the Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation.



opment Corporation.

Cooperative Ratna awardee G.E. Ajjappa said training was essential for societies seeking growth. He urged co-operatives to maintain transparent financial dealings without discrimination based on caste, religion or community. Director H.M. Majunathappa said elected presidents must take greater responsibility and use such training to improve the functioning of their societies.

Union President H.N. Thip-

peswamy, who presided over the event, said the cooperative sector plays an important role in providing economic, educational and social benefits. He urged secretaries and board members to perform their duties responsibly and strictly follow legal provisions. He also referred to recent amendments providing reservation for cooperative society presidents and vice-presidents.

Additional Registrar H.S. Nagarajaiah explained recent

HIGHLIGHTS
• One-day state-level training held in Chitradurga.
• Six districts participated in minority cooperative training.
• Training covered amended cooperative laws and regulations.
• Minority Corporation facilities explained to participants.
• Leaders urged responsible, legally compliant cooperative management.
• Financial transactions urged beyond caste, creed divisions.

amendments and important provisions of cooperative law. Senior journalist H.B. Manjunath spoke about time management and stress management, while Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation District Manager Maheshub Ali explained available facilities. The program began with the national song and concluded with a vote of thanks by District Cooperative Union Manager Soumya.

Quick Read

PM Kisan farmers urged to complete e-KYC

Chitradurga
Farmers under PM Kisan must complete biometric or face-based e-KYC to receive installment, officials said. The 24th installment is expected in September with farmers receiving Rs. 2,000 every four months. The scheme provides Rs. 6,000 through three direct bank transfers. The rule aims to prevent fake claims and stop payments to deceased beneficiaries. OTP-based e-KYC is no longer accepted. In Chitradurga district, 1,51,498 of 1,51,693 beneficiaries have pending e-KYC. Farmers can complete it at Common Service Centers, Grama One, Karnataka One, Raitha Sampark Kendras or through the PM Kisan app.

Gadag invites applications for community auditor posts

Gadag
Sanjeevini-KSRPLPS has invited applications for 13 community auditor positions in Gadag district. Women from self-help groups or their daughters will receive first priority. Selected candidates will conduct internal audits of self-help groups and gram panchayat-level unions. Applicants must hold a B. Com, M. Com, BBA or MBA in Finance. The last date to apply is August 31. Application forms can be collected and submitted in person at the NRLM section of the Taluk Campaign Management Unit. Interested candidates can contact their respective Taluk Panchayat offices for further details. The Gadag Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer announced the recruitment through an official release.

Voter revision notices issued across Mandya constituency

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Mandya Sub-Divisional Officer Shivamurthy said the draft voter list for the Mandya Assembly constituency will include 1,93,788 voters after the special revision process.

He said the exercise aims to improve accuracy and protect every eligible citizen's voting rights. During verification, officials identified about 37,981 ASG voter names for removal, while notices are being issued.

About 25,000 voters have received notices for different reasons, including 7,042 cases involving no mapping and around 18,000 cases involving logical errors. Booth Level Officers are delivering notices to voters. Following Election Commission directions, 20 inquiry officers have been appointed to examine cases. Ten officers will work in rural areas and ten in urban



areas.

Voters who receive notices should attend the inquiry at the date, time and place mentioned in their notice, without fear. Shivamurthy appealed to them to bring any two documents from the 12 accepted documents available to establish their eligibility. Officials will verify the documents and take action to include eligible names in the final list. He said

the revision is intended to make the electoral roll accurate, transparent and reliable. The final voter list is scheduled for publication on Octo-

ber 27, 2026. He clarified that voters who fail to attend the hearing or submit required documents may face action according to election rules. He urged citizens to respond and use the opportunity to correct any errors in their records.

He stressed that the revision process is not meant to trouble voters, but to ensure that eligible names remain on the electoral roll. Tehsildar Vishwanath, Municipal Commissioner Pampashree and representatives of political parties attended the press conference.

Urs remembered as courageous champion of social justice

CH NEWS, HAVERI

Former Chief Minister D. Devaraja Urs was remembered as a courageous leader who worked to build an equal society during his 111th birth anniversary celebration in Haveri.

Urban Development Authority President S.F.N. Ghazi Gowdra said Urs left a lasting mark through his progressive vision and efforts to uplift backward classes, Dalits, poor, landless and exploited communities.

The programme was jointly organized by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Backward Classes Welfare Department, D. Devaraja Urs Backward Classes Develop-

ment Corporation and Kannada and Culture Department at District Guru Bhavan. Ghazi Gowdra said the Land Reforms Act and measures against bonded labour were among Urs's historic achievements. He urged young people to study Urs's life and follow his ideals of equality, justice and human dignity.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Vijayamahanthesh Danamma- vara said Urs became a strong voice for disadvantaged communities through several progressive measures. He highlighted land reforms, minimum wages, rural employment initiatives, welfare schemes for senior citizens

and persons with disabilities, and efforts to end manual scavenging. Urs also promoted Kannada as an administrative language, renamed Mysore State as Karnataka and supported literature, arts, theatre and cultural institutions.

The speakers recalled Urs's decision to establish the L.G. Havanur Commission and introduce reservation for backward classes based on its findings. They said he also encouraged political participation among backward, Dalit and minority communities. Minister Rudrappa Manappa Lamani sent a message recalling Urs's political journey and ideals.

Boat service resumes, but bridge dream remains

MALINGARAYA PUJAR CH NEWS

The boat service between Magala and Vithalapur across the Tungabhadra River has resumed after remaining closed for nearly eight months.

The service was stopped after the boat, locally known as Nadadoni, developed a hole and became unsafe for travel. Following repairs, the boat is now operating again, bringing temporary relief to residents of border areas in Gadag, Haveri and Vijayanagar districts. People living along the river, including farmers, students and daily commuters, have welcomed the return of the service.

The boat is an important link between Magala village in Huvinahadagali taluk of Vijayanagar district and Vithalapur in Mundaragi taluk of Gadag district. For many residents, crossing the river by boat is part of their daily routine. The suspension had created serious difficulties, forcing people to take longer routes and spend more time and money on travel. The resumption has eased these problems for now, but locals say the boat cannot be considered a safe and lasting answer to their transportation needs.

The demand for a permanent bridge across the Tungabhadra is decades old. Resi-



The boat reconnects Magala and Vithalapur, easing travel hardships, but residents say regular crossings remain unsafe and demand a permanent transportation solution across the river

dents have been seeking a proper bridge since 1972, but their demand remains unfulfilled despite several governments coming to power.

A Detailed Project Report has reportedly been prepared, yet progress on the project has remained slow. Differences among elected representatives over the proposed location have added to the delay. Some Gadag leaders support a bridge between Itagi and Belahunasi, while Shirahatti

MLA Chandru Lamani has said a site near Kallaganur would be more useful for people.

Residents believe political differences should not stand in the way of a project that affects thousands of people. They want district ministers and elected representatives from the concerned areas to work together, set aside personal differences and find a common solution. MLA Dr Chandru Lamani has urged the government to respond quickly and release funds for construction. The renewed boat service may have brought a sigh of relief, but people say their real hope lies in a permanent bridge that can provide safer, faster and more reliable travel throughout the year. Until that happens, the river will continue to separate communities that are waiting for a lasting connection.

Students urged to embrace Urs's educational vision

CHITRADURGA

Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy on Thursday remembered former Chief Minister D. Devaraja Urs as a great leader who opened educational opportunities for Karnataka's backward classes.

He said Urs lit a lamp of knowledge by establishing hostels that helped poor students continue their studies instead of remaining tied to traditional occupations.

Speaking at Tarasu Theatre during Urs's 111th birth anniversary, Kumaraswamy said the former chief minister's land reforms also changed rural society. The "tiller is the owner" principle ended the zamindari system and gave land rights to farmers who worked on it. He said these measures strengthened poor and disadvantaged families.

He urged students to see education as a path to knowledge, values and self-reliance, not only government employment. He advised them to avoid wasting time on mobile phones and social media, and instead focus on regular

study, concentration, skills and preparation for competitive examinations. He also reminded students that parents make sacrifices and expect them to succeed.

SJM College lecturer S. Laxmikant said Urs remained a symbol of social justice because he worked to extend constitutional rights to weaker sections. He praised Urs as a leader who promoted equality, supported farmers and encouraged self-employment. Educationist R.A. Chetan Ram also spoke about value-based education, creativity and personal growth, urging young people to develop their own thinking and writing habits.

The event, organized by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat and Backward Classes Welfare Department, included floral tributes and recognition of talented students. Winners of essay and debate contests, along with high-scoring hostel students, received awards. Speakers urged the younger generation to carry Urs's ideals forward and build a fairer society together.

Gadag Police seek help finding missing student

GADAG: Gadag Rural Police have launched an investigation after an 12-year-old boy went missing from Kurtakoti village in Gadag taluk on August 10.

Police said the boy, identified as Niti, is the son of Lakshman Bhajantri. He is studying in eighth standard and was reportedly missing from a relative's house at about 1 p.m. His family searched nearby places and contacted relatives before approaching police and filing a complaint. According to the police description, Niti is about four feet tall, has a slender face, average build, wheatish complexion and brown hair. He was last seen wearing a brown T-shirt and brown shorts. He can read, write and speak Kannada.

Gadag Rural Police Station registered case number 207/2026 and began efforts to trace him. Police have appealed to the public to share any information that could help locate the missing child.

People who find the boy or have relevant information can contact Gadag Rural Police Station or the Gadag Control Room through the numbers provided by police.

PRESCILLA MONTEIRO DIES AFTER BRIEF ILLNESS IN MANGALURU



MANGALURU

Prescilla Monteiro, 81, of Moodu- jeppu, Kelarai, died at a private hospital on August 19 following a brief illness. She was the wife of the late Gilbert Monteiro and was known as a progressive farmer and philanthropist. Prescilla maintained warm relationships with neigh-

bours and acquaintances. She was the mother of Rohan Monteiro, Managing Director of Rohan Corporation, and is survived by three sons, three daughters and 14 grandchildren. Her mortal remains will be kept at St. Anna's Church, Kelarai, on August 21 from 10.30 am. The Holy Eucharist will be held at 11 am, followed by funeral rites.

BJP protest demands Minister Nagendra's immediate resignation

CH NEWS, GADAG

Bharatiya Janata Party leaders and workers from Shirahatti and Mundaragi mandals staged a protest outside the Gadag District Collector's office, demanding the resignation of Minister B. Nagendra over the alleged irregularities in the Maharishi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation.

Hundreds of party workers took part in the demonstration and raised slogans against the Congress government.

The protesters accused the government of failing to act firmly despite the seriousness of the alleged multi-crore scam. They said it was unacceptable for a minister facing allegations



linked to the controversy to continue in office. The demonstrators demanded that Nagendra step down immediately and that the government order a fair and impartial investigation.

The protest was organized by BJP leaders from the Shirahatti Assembly constituency, Shirahatti mandal and Mundaragi mandal. Addressing the gathering, party representatives said

public money must be protected and those responsible for financial irregularities should face appropriate action. They urged the authorities to ensure that the investigation is conducted without political influence.

The protesters later submitted their demands through the district administration, seeking immediate government intervention. They said people deserve

transparency and accountability in the handling of funds meant for the welfare of Scheduled Tribe communities. The demonstration also highlighted the BJP's criticism of the Congress government's handling of the controversy. Mandal president Sunil Mahantashetty, Kumaraswamy Hiremath, district general secretary Pakkireswari Rattihalli, Lingaraj Patil, Gangadhar Menasinakai, Basavaraj Bilimaggada, Pramod Shah Gunda, M.S. Karigowda, Hemagiriish Havinal and several other BJP leaders and workers participated. The protesters said they would continue raising the issue until their demand for accountability and a transparent probe is addressed.

AT A GLANCE
• BJP workers staged protest outside Gadag Collector's office
• Protesters demanded Minister B. Nagendra's immediate resignation
• Hundreds participated, raising slogans against Congress government
• BJP alleged multi-crore irregularities in corporation funds
• Protesters demanded fair, impartial investigation without political influence
• Leaders sought transparency, accountability in welfare fund handling

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No:BDA/EE/HPD-1/TEN/T-229/2026-27Date: 20.08.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT-TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/>)

Short-Term Tender is invited for Housing Project work by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT275)

Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **20.08.2026** (2) Last date and time for submission of Tender Pre-Bid Enquiries: **22.08.2026, 11.00 A.M.** (3) Date and time of Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **24.08.2026, 3.00 P.M.** (4) Last date and time for submission of Tender: **16.09.2026, 4.00 P.M.** (5) Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **17.09.2026 after 4.30 P.M.**

Interested contractors can view further details on <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> and for more details it is requested to contact the Housing Project Division-1 of BDA during office hours. Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) ✉ @BDAOfficialGoK

Note: For any reason if there is delay in uploading the Tender Documents in e-portal, the revised/modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, HPD-1 Division, BDA, Bengaluru

E-KYC DRIVE SUPPORTS WIDER ACCESS TO RURAL JOBS

Srinivas said digital systems would track workers and progress, while gram panchayats would assist families with job cards, e-KYC and work demands

CH NEWS, GUDIBANDE

A special awareness campaign under the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Employment and Livelihood Mission (Rural) scheme is being conducted across Gudibande taluk from August 15 to September 15. As part of the campaign, a job card fair was held at Varlakonda village on Thursday to help rural families access employment opportunities.

Assistant Director A.R. Srinivas said job card fairs would be organized in all gram panchayats of the taluk. He said officials were planning works to create more employment days for rural families. The campaign also focuses on visiting households, issuing new job cards to eligible families, renewing existing cards and completing e-KYC procedures.

Srinivas said workers' attendance, work progress and related records would increasingly be managed through



digital systems. The main aim, he said, was to bring employment opportunities directly to deserving families. People seeking information about job cards, e-KYC or submitting work demands were advised to approach their respective gram panchayats.

The scheme is also expected to reduce migration from villages to cities by creating work locally. Officials urged eligible unskilled workers to

make full use of the programme and strengthen their livelihoods. Information Education Coordinator Ramanji said special efforts were being made to identify families with inactive job cards through door-to-door visits and inform them about employment and individual benefit schemes.

He said the campaign would particularly encourage participation among weaker sections and improve eco-

HIGHLIGHTS
• Special awareness campaign runs till September 15.
• Job card fair held at Varlakonda village.
• House-to-house visits target needy rural families.
• New cards, renewals and e-KYC prioritized.
• Campaign aims to reduce rural-urban migration.
• Water conservation works prioritized for livelihood security.

omic security through job creation. During drought conditions, priority would be given to works related to water conservation, groundwater recharge and activities supporting long-term livelihoods. Panchayat Development Officers Narasimhamurthy and Sathyaprasad, labour organizer Naveen, technical staff member Narasimappa and gram panchayat employees attended the programme.

Belagavi division targets improved SSLC results through FLN

CH NEWS, HUBBALLI

Dr. Eshwar Ullagaddi, Additional Commissioner of the School Education Department, urged teachers and education officials to work together to strengthen Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) and Lesson-Based Assessment (LBA) programmes to improve SSLC results.

He was speaking at a Belagavi division-level consultative meeting held at Deshpande Foundation Sabha Bhavan on the BVB campus in Hubballi on Thursday.

Ullagaddi congratulated teachers and officials after the Belagavi division secured first place in the state in the latest SSLC results. He said the achievement was the result of continuous efforts by school staff and education officers. However, he urged them not to become complacent and instead aim for better performance during the current academic year through planned preparation.

He said the department's target should not be limited to achieving 100 percent results. Teachers must focus on im-



Ullagaddi praised Belagavi division's SSLC success, urging teachers to improve learning quality, strengthen preparation, implement 60 Plus, and address gaps through LBA reviews

proving learning quality and helping students achieve strong marks. He highlighted the 60 Plus programme and urged officials to ensure its effective implementation. LBA questions, he said, can help identify learning gaps, while regular reviews of student answers and progress can guide additional teaching.

Ullagaddi said FLN must receive special attention at the primary level. Students should gradually develop reading skills at word, sentence and paragraph levels, along with basic mathematical abilities such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Monthly learning standards will be re-

viewed, and students who fall behind should receive additional support.

He stressed that FLN should become a regular classroom practice rather than remain only a departmental programme. Strong foundational skills, he said, would help students perform better in higher classes and ultimately improve SSLC results. School Education Department Director Mamata Nayak, Joint Director Jayashree Karekar and other officials participated in the meeting.

Lingapura villagers seek ANM quarters construction

HONNALI

Residents of Lingapura have demanded that the new Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) quarters be constructed on the government-approved site, alleging that influential individuals are preventing the work.

Villagers said the quarters are important for ensuring healthcare workers remain available and public medical services continue smoothly.

According to residents, an old ANM quarters had stood on a 45×75-foot government site under Lingapura Gramthana Survey No. 18, Panchayat Record Form No. 15 and Khata No. 304. The building became unsafe and was demolished. The Health Department later approved funds and other formalities to construct a new quarters at the same location.

Villagers alleged that some influential people were pressuring officials to shift the project elsewhere, resulting in the construction being stopped. They also claimed that threats had created fear among residents, making people hesitant to openly raise the issue before officials. The villagers said the lack of accommodation for healthcare staff was affecting local health services.

A memorandum submitted to the Panchayat Development Officer and secretary stated that residents would not accept construction at any site other than Khata No. 304. They urged taluk and district officials to visit the location, examine the technical report and resolve the dispute quickly so the sanctioned project can proceed.

The villagers warned that returning or cancelling government funds because of administrative confusion or negligence would make responsible officials accountable. They also said they would approach the Lokayukta seeking a detailed investigation if the issue remained unresolved. Copies of the memorandum were submitted to the Honnali Taluk Executive Officer, Taluk Health Officer, Davanagere District Health Officer, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer and Lokayukta office.

Devaraja Urs remembered as champion of backward classes

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Karnataka State Seed Corporation President N. Anjinappa described former Chief Minister D. Devaraja Urs as a champion of backward classes who helped disadvantaged communities gain economic and political strength. He was speaking at Urs's 111th birth anniversary programme held at Kannada Bhavan on Thursday, organized by the district administration and other departments.

Anjinappa said many backward communities faced poverty, illiteracy and limited access to government benefits. He credited Urs with introducing several welfare measures that helped bring these communities into the mainstream. Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. N. Bhaskar highlighted the Land Reforms Act, which gave land rights to cultivators, and said Urs also established hostels and supported reservation for backward classes through the Havanur Commission.

District Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authority Chairman Yaluvalli N. Ramesh said Urs's land reforms provided social justice to tenants and challenged the influence of powerful landlords. He urged students to study Urs's life and apply his principles. He also said the former leader's unemployment assistance scheme had similarities with the present Yuvanidhi programme. Resource person B.V. Prakash said Urs was born on August 20, 1915, at Kallahalli in Hunsur taluk and entered the state Assembly in 1952. He recalled Urs's contributions to social justice, including measures against bonded labour, child labour and manual scavenging. He also credited Urs with supporting the development of Electronic City in Bengaluru.

Bidar BJP demands public disclosure of financial transactions

BIDAR

The Bidar South unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party staged a protest in the city on Thursday, demanding the resignation of Minister B. Nagendra over the alleged ₹187 crore irregularities in the Valmiki Corporation.

BJP leaders, office-bearers and workers participated in the demonstration near the office of the district in-charge minister and raised slogans against the state government.

Addressing the protesters, BJP district president Somnath Patil described the alleged financial irregularities as a serious issue involving public money. He questioned the government's decision to reinstate Nagendra after his earlier resignation in connection with the controversy. Patil said the government should explain its position clearly and ensure transparency in the administration.

Patil demanded a comprehensive investigation into the alleged misuse of funds and called for the details of financial

transactions to be made public. He said anyone found responsible should face legal action, regardless of their position. He also urged Nagendra to accept moral responsibility and resign from the ministerial post.

The BJP leader said the government's claims of taking strong action against corruption would be questioned if serious allegations were not addressed properly. He stressed that protecting taxpayers' money should be a priority and that any misused public funds should be recovered

after due investigation.

BJP Bidar South Mandal president Gurunath Rajgir said the party would continue its democratic campaign against corruption and alleged irregularities. He said the movement would focus on protecting public money and the interests of citizens. BJP mandal office-bearers, leaders of various party fronts, elected representatives and workers attended the protest. The demonstrators reiterated their demand for accountability and Nagendra's resignation.

Public Works Department,
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, PRAMC,
PWD Bengaluru-560001
No.EIC/PWD/10/PRAMC/2026-27/747 Date: 20.08.2026

Short-Term Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD on behalf of Governor of Karnataka, invites Short Term Tender for Ten Building work in Chikkamagaluru District. Further details can be obtained from Karnataka KPP Portal (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 20.08.2026, 5.30 p.m.

Sd/- Executive Engineer , PRAMC, KPWD, Bengaluru.
DIPR/DD-CP/2350/KSMCA/2026-27

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajajinagar Division,
BWCC Building, #161, 1st Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Block,
Near Old Navarang Bus Stop,Rajajinagar, Bengaluru- 560 010.

No.:BWCC/EE/KPPP/RNR/TN/05/2026-27 Date:19.08.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only) (Single Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Rajajinagar Division, invites tenders from eligible tenderers for work detailed in the table below.

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1.	Supply of Labour and tipper for the immersion of Ganesha Idols in Ward No. 63, 64, 65, 66, 67 & 68 in Rajajinagar Sub Division. Amount put to tender: Rs. 5.06 Lakhs. EMD : Rs. 12,700/-
2.	Supply of Labour and tipper for the immersion of Ganesha Idols in Ward No. 58, 59, 60, 61 & 62 in Sriramamandira Sub Division. Amount put to tender: Rs. 4.22 Lakhs. EMD : Rs. 10,600/-

1)Tender documents can be downloaded from KPP portal <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 24.08.2026, 4.00 p.m. onwards. 2) Last date for submission queries : 27.08.2026 upto 3.00 p.m. 3) Last Date for receipt of tenders: 01.09.2026 upto 4.00 p.m. 4) Opening of bids: 02.09.2026 at 4.00 p.m. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rajajinagar Division, BWCC.

Government of Karnataka
Department Of Archaeology, Museums And Heritage, Mysore
Karnataka Exhibition Authority Premises, Mysuru-570010,
Tel : 0821-2424673/74, Fax No.0821-2424665,
Email- commr_amh@yahoo.in, Web : <https://archaeology.karnataka.gov.in>,
<https://nammakarnataka.in>

Notification No.:DAMH/CW/T-10/2026-27 Date: 14.08.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor, Government of Karnataka, the department of Archaeology, Museum and Heritage, Mysuru has invited the item wise tender for the 01 Conservation Works (DAMH/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT/220) The amount **Rs.158.00 lakhs** as per the tender documents KW-4 under the tender documents. The Tender documents can be obtained through ([https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in](http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)) e-portal onwards

Last date and time of any Queries for tender	27.08.2026, 17.00 hrs
Last date and time of tender submission	02.09.2026, 16.00 hrs
Opening of Date and Time of Technical bid	04.09.2026, 16.30 hrs
Opening of Date and Time of Financial bid	05.09.2026, 11.00 hrs

Sd/- Commissioner
Department of Archaeology,
Museums And Heritage, Mysore.
DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDI SAI/594/2026-27

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES
GENERAL HOSPITAL, KANAKAPURA
Bengaluru South Dist., Ph No: 080-27522485, Email: ghkanakapura@gmail.com

No.: GHK & M Hospital K/Tender/01/2026-27 Date: 20.08.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-Procurement Tender Notification)

General Hospital, Kanakapura, Bangalore South District, Tender for the year 2026-27, to get services from various cadres for **Human resource through, ARS posts (including non-medical posts of various cadres in the state sector)** with an annual cost of Rs. 1,00,00,000/-, purchase of cleaning materials with an annual cost of Rs. 18,00,000/-, purchase of stationery with an annual cost of Rs. 20,00,000/-, purchase of pharmaceutical materials with an annual cost of Rs. 24,00,000/-, purchase of laboratory chemicals with an annual cost of Rs. 24,00,000/-, tender for Diet food with an annual cost of Rs. 34,00,000/-, tender has been invited from eligible tenderers through e-procurement under transparent rules. Authorized tenderers who wish to submit tenders may obtain details of online submission as per tender terms and conditions at <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

1 Date for downloading tender forms online	Date: 21.08.2026 to Date: 05.09.2026
2 Last date for uploading and submitting in e-tender	Date: 05.09.2026 till Evening 4:00 PM
3 Date of opening of technical bid	Date: 07.09.2026
4 Verification by the tender committee	Date: 08.09.2026
5 Date of Opening of Financial Bid	Date: 10.09.2026
6 E.M.D	Maximum 2.5 percent
7 Total annual cost of the tender	2,20,00,000/-

Sd/- Chief Medical Officer
General Hospital, Kanakapura
DIPR/BSD/260/SA/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department Division, Haveri
This office letter No.033/PB/Tnd/5054-4059TSP/2026-27/2126/ Dated:19-08-2026

E-Tender Notification

On 19-08-2026 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal tender notification has been issued for the following Work Indent No. 38858 Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : **07-09-2026** (upto 4:00 PM) and Work Indent No. 33292/Call-2 & 34485/Call-2 Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated: **28-08-2026** (upto 4:00 PM). For further additional information, any changes & queries visit <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/ (N.N.Patil)
Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Haveri
DIPR/Haveri/299/KSMCA/2026-27

CH

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact:
080-41209042

BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore - 560009.

No: EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND No-07/TS/2026-27 Date: 13.08.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION No.07/2026-27
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Tender is invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D, Bangalore Rural, under Zilla Panchayat Various Head of Accounts. The work details can be obtained from the KPP Portal ([https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in](http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)). The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **05.09.2026 upto 5.30 P.M.** Further details contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore

DIPR/CP/2345/SMCL/2026-27

Chikkamagaluru Urban Development Authority
Hiremagaluru Residential Layout, First Phase
Hiremagaluru -Kadur Bypass Road, Kalyana Nagara,
Chikkamagaluru-577102. www.chikkamagaluru.uda.gov.in
Tel: 08262-295712 Email: cmr_cudackm@yahoo.in

No.: CUDA/Indent12/CALL-2/2026-27 Date: 18.08.2026

e-Procurement Re Tender Notice

Re Tender is invited through e-procurement in two cover system subject to conditions from eligible contractors registered with PWD regarding implementation of works with details mentioned below in the limits of Chikkamagaluru Urban Development Authority.

Sl.No. 1. Details: Work of development of Hiremagaluru Kenchanakatte Lake in the limits of Chikkamagaluru Urban Development Authority. Indent No. CKMUDA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT12/CALL-2 **Approx. Amount (Rs. In lakhs) : 320.00 E.M.D.** As mentioned in e-portal Tender Form Fee as per e-procurement portal.

***)** Date and time of Pre-bid Meeting: 10.09.2026 at 16.00 Hrs. ***)** Last date and time for submission of objections in e-procurement portal: 10.09.2026 up to 12.00 Hrs. ***)** Last date and time for submission of Tender Forms in e-procurement portal: 19.09.2026 up to 17.00 Hrs. ***)** Date and time of opening Technical Bid: 21.09.2026 at 11.00 Hrs. ***)** Date and time of opening Financial Bid: 28.09.2026 at 11.00 Hrs.

Further details can be obtained during working hours of the office and from e-portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> Corrigendum,if any, will be published only in e-portal.

Sd/- Commissioner **Sd/- President**
Chikkamagaluru Urban Development Authority,
Chikkamagaluru.

DIPR/ckm/ksmca/26-27/95679

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi, Pin Code.585 102.
CIN: U04101KA2002SGC030436, E-mail: seeprojectsgescom@gmail.com

No.GESCOM/CEE(O)/SEE(Proj)/EEE(Proj)/AEE/AE-2/2026-27/46456-71 Date: 20-08-2026

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited, Kalaburagi invites tender for the work of "Establishing new 2x5MVA, 33/11kV Sub-Stations at 1) **Ujalamba Village** in Basavakalyan Taluk, Bidar District, 2) **Shadhipur Village** in Chincholi Taluk, Kalaburagi District and 3) **Ballur Village** in Aurad Taluk, Bidar District **on Total Turnkey Basis**" including supply of all equipment's/materials, erection, Civil, testing and commissioning under competitive bidding from eligible bidders through **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal**.

The project cost (excluding GST) & the bid documents will be available in <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after **28.08.2026**, the prospective bidders can obtain further details from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy., (Operations),
Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi.
DIPR/Kalaburagi/450/KSMC&A/2026-27

Quick Read

India's passenger EV market surges 102 pc in Q2

New Delhi

India's Electric Passenger Vehicle (EPV) market surged an impressive 102 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in Q2 2026, significantly outpacing the broader passenger vehicle market's 26 per cent growth, a report said on Thursday. The report from CyberMedia Research (CMR) said sharp acceleration was driven by an expanded product portfolio, improved vehicle availability, and compelling total-cost-of-ownership economics. The firm forecasted that EVs will make up 7–8 per cent of India's PV market by end-2026, while connected vehicles are projected to capture 40–45 per cent of market share.

Mutual Fund NAV glitch on HDFC Securities'

New Delhi

HDFC Securities customers on Thursday reported discrepancies in NAVs displayed on the InvestRight platform, with portfolio value of investors showing a decrease of up to 70 per cent. Mutual fund portfolio showed a loss of around 30 per cent, amounting to nearly Rs 1 lakh, despite the portfolio being in profit, an investor told IANS. The investor said one of the two mutual funds in the portfolio was showing a normal NAV, while the other displayed a decline of around 50 per cent.

Gains in AI company stakes juice second-quarter earnings for S&P 500

NEW YORK

S&P 500 companies are winding up a banner quarterly earnings season, fuelled in large part by surging profits at AI-related companies. The S&P 500 is on track for a 52% surge in aggregate second-quarter earnings from the year before, helped by a 74% profit jump in the technology sector. The figures include big mark-to-market boosts at Alphabet and Amazon, both of which recognized large gains in the period on investments in AI highfliers such as Anthropic.

Excluding those gains, the latest estimate for S&P 500 second-quarter profit growth would be 33%, according to Tajinder Dhillion, head of earnings research at LSEG. That is still the strongest quarter since 2021, in the wake of the pandemic's start, but the gap is worth considering because many investors view mark-to-market profit gains with caution as they can accentuate the impact of market swings on a company's performance.

Goyal Pushes Stronger India-Singapore Ties

Goyal's Singapore engagements sought stronger trade, investment and technology ties, with government and business leaders.

NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal held a series of high-level meetings in Singapore on Thursday, seeking to deepen India-Singapore economic cooperation across trade, investment, technology and business.

Goyal began the visit with a call on Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong at the Istana. He then participated in the fourth India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable and the fourth India-Singapore Business Roundtable at Hotel Shangri-La. The discussions examined ways to strengthen bilateral economic engagement and identify new areas for cooperation, followed by an MoU signing ceremony. Later, Goyal held Government-to-Business meetings with senior representatives from the Global Finance & Technology Network and Keppel Infrastructure. The talks explored opportunities in agri-exports,



GCC-based commercial parks, fintech and sustainable infrastructure, with a focus on creating stronger opportunities for businesses and investors. Goyal also jointly visited an APEDA-FairPrice initiative at City Square Mall with Singapore Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Trade & Industry Gan Siow Huang. The initiative showcased Indian agricultural products and highlighted expanding trade and market linkages.

In the evening, Goyal addressed the India-Singapore Business Forum organised by FICCI at the INSEAD Asia Campus. He participated in a fireside chat on India's role in the new global growth equa-

Goyal Meets Singapore PM Wong:

- Goyal meets Singapore PM Lawrence Wong,
- Fourth India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable held,
- Business talks focus on investment opportunities,
- Fintech and sustainable infrastructure discussed,
- Indian agricultural products showcased,
- FICCI Business Forum held in Singapore.

tion before engaging with business community members. The engagements underline efforts by India and Singapore to strengthen their longstanding economic partnership amid changing global conditions, with emphasis on trade, investment, technology and business-to-business ties.

Gujarat, Walmart Chart MSME Global Roadmap

WASHINGTON

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Walmart Executive Vice-President Dan Bryant have discussed a roadmap to expand global market opportunities for the state's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and small artisans.

The discussion took place during Patel's one-to-one meeting with Bryant, Walmart's Executive Vice-President for Global Public Policy and Government Affairs, in Washington, D.C.. Patel is on a week-long visit to the US and Canada to engage global investors and businesses ahead of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2027.

With Gujarat having a large MSME base, the discussions focused on making local enterprises more export-oriented by improving product quality

Walmart's MSME push

More than 1.15 lakh MSMEs trained since 2019,

Target of 1.70 lakh MSMEs by 2028,

Focus on export readiness and product quality,

Roadmap may be announced at Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2027.

and strengthening their access to international markets.

Patel proposed joint workshops involving Walmart and relevant state government departments to assess the sectoral potential of MSMEs and identify areas where they could be positioned more effectively for global trade.

Bryant informed Patel that more than 1.15 lakh MSMEs have been trained since 2019

under Walmart's Vriddhi programme. The company has set a target of training 1.70 lakh MSMEs by 2028.

The two sides also discussed identifying potential opportunities for Gujarat's MSMEs and artisans over the next three to four months.

The objective is to develop a practical roadmap for connecting state-based enterprises with international markets.

Patel, Bryant and members of the Gujarat delegation discussed the possibility of announcing the collaboration's roadmap at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2027.

Patel arrived in Washington after completing the San Francisco leg of his visit, where he held meetings with technology and business leaders as Gujarat seeks stronger international partnerships and investment.

India's core industries clock 5.4 per cent growth

NEW DELHI

India's Index of Core Industries (ICI) recorded a 5.4 per cent growth in July this year compared to the same month of the previous year, driven by the strong performance of the iron ore, cement, and electricity sectors, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Thursday.

The cement sector clocked a robust growth of 13.1 per cent during the month as demand stayed buoyant due to large government investments in big-ticket infrastructure projects such as highways, ports, and railways.

The production of iron ore surged by as much as 29.5 per cent in July. Owing to intensive use of iron ore in the

production process, and its contribution to industrial development, it has been included in the list of core industries as a new item in the revised series of ICI. Accordingly, the number of core industries has increased from eight to nine in the new series, which kicked in for the first time from last month.

Electricity generation grew by 9 per cent during July while coal production went up by 7.6 per cent. The output of steel and refinery products during the month increased by 2.9 per cent and 2.7 per cent respectively, the data showed.

However, natural gas, crude oil, and fertilisers witnessed negative growth in July this year.

The final index for the month of June 2026 has been



revised from 119.6 (Provisional Estimate) to 120.7. Accordingly, the year-on-year growth rate has been revised from 5.0 per cent to 6.0 per cent, according to the official statement. The cumulative growth rate of ICI during April-July 2026 now works out to 4.3 per cent compared to 1.5 per cent in the corresponding period of the previ-

Alibaba Profit Plunges Amid AI Spending

NEW DELHI

Alibaba Group Holding Ltd has reported a sharp profit decline as the Chinese giant increases spending on artificial intelligence and computing infrastructure while its core e-commerce business faces weaker consumer demand.

The company reported a 9 per cent rise in revenue, broadly matching market expectations. Growth was supported partly by demand for computing capacity from its cloud business. However, net income fell more than 75 per cent to 10.5 billion yuan, or about \$1.6 billion.

Alibaba also reported a free-cash outflow exceeding \$6.6 billion, highlighting the financial pressure created by its investment in AI infrastructure and projects. The company has committed tens of billions of dollars to chips, data centres and AI-agent development as it seeks to strengthen its position in the AI race.

The results sent Alibaba's US-listed shares down about 4

Alibaba's profits have plunged as AI spending collides with weaker Chinese consumer demand and pressure on its traditional e-commerce business.

per cent in pre-market trading. The company has emerged as a Chinese AI player, with its Qwen family of models attracting global attention.

Under Chief Executive Officer Eddie Wu, Alibaba has accelerated its AI strategy by bringing most AI-related research and product teams under Alibaba Token Hub, a new business unit directly overseen by Wu.

At the same time, Alibaba is restructuring its business and selling non-core assets. Earlier this month, it disposed of its gaming unit Lingxi Games.

The company's challenge is to balance AI investment with profitability as subdued Chinese consumer spending continues to pressure its online retail operations.

China's Baidu revenue falls for fifth straight quarter in Q2

NEW DELHI

Chinese technology company Baidu reported a fifth consecutive quarterly decline in revenue as weakness in its online marketing business continued to weigh on performance despite strong growth in artificial intelligence-related operations, according to a report.

According to an analysis of Japan Today, the search engine company posted second-quarter revenue of 31.3 billion yuan (\$4.6 billion), down 4 per cent from a year earlier, according to its unaudited financial results.

Meanwhile, operating income fell to 3 billion yuan in the three months ended June 30 from 3.3 billion yuan a year earlier, it said. Baidu has invested heavily in artificial intelligence in recent years, recruiting leading researchers and launching its Ernie chatbot, one of the country's earliest generative AI products.

Revenue from Baidu's AI business which includes AI applications and infrastructure services rose 25 per cent year-on-year to 12.5 billion yuan during the quarter. By contrast, revenue from online marketing services, historical-

SAIL welcomes Mines and Minerals Amendment Act

NEW DELHI

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) on Thursday welcomed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2026, notified by the Central Government on August 17, saying the reform will bring greater predictability to the fiscal regime and provide long-term policy certainty to the mineral sector.

SAIL said the amendment provides greater clarity and uniformity in mineral taxation and levies while addressing pending retrospective levies. The move is expected to provide greater certainty and confidence to the mining industry and encourage investment in the sector.

It also addresses pending retrospective levies, thereby providing greater certainty and confidence to the mining industry, it said. For SAIL, which operates substantial captive iron ore and coal mines, the reform is expected to improve the viability of its mining operations and facilitate investment and development of mines.

GOVT LAUNCHES MISSION KARMAYOGI CONFERENCE TO BOOST CAPACITY BUILDING

NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) on Thursday commenced a two day National Conference on Mission Karmayogi for Mission Karmayogi Development Officers (MDOs) to strengthen institutional capacity building mechanisms and their effectiveness across the health sector.

The conference aims to equip MDOs to plan, implement and sustain capacity-building initiatives under Mission Karmayogi, the MoHFW said. The event provided a platform for institutional collaboration, peer learning and knowledge exchange among MDOs and stakeholders engaged in capacity building.

The conference held in collaboration with the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), Capacity Building Commission (CBC) and Karmayogi Bharat (KB) focused its first day on aligning learning interventions with organisational needs, promoting competency based professional development and sharing best practices in im-

plementation.

Rakesh Kumar, Director (Training), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, highlighted that Mission Karmayogi represents a significant shift from the traditional rule-based approach towards a role-based, competency-driven and capacity-building-oriented approach to civil service development.

He emphasised that MDOs have a critical role in translating this vision into measurable institutional outcomes by identifying capacity-building requirements, facilitating appropriate learning interventions and strengthening a culture of continuous professional development within their respective organisations.

Highlighting the progress made under the Mission, Rakesh Kumar said that 21,627 course enrolments and 17,960 course completions had been recorded, reflecting the growing adoption of structured and technology-enabled learning across the Ministry.

He emphasised that the focus of capacity building should extend beyond completion of courses to enhancing competencies, improving workplace performance.

India, Singapore Deepen Strategic Economic Partnership

SINGAPORE

India and Singapore have concluded a very productive Ministerial Roundtable meeting, with both sides discussing ways to expand their strategic partnership across advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, connectivity, digital technologies, fintech, skilling, green economy and clean energy.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the fourth India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable brought together senior Indian and Singaporean ministers to explore new areas of cooperation and



strengthen existing economic and strategic ties.

Jaishankar participated in the meeting alongside Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and Elec-

tronics and Information Technology Jitin Prasada.

The Indian delegation also interacted with participants of the India-Singapore Business Roundtable, highlighting the importance of stronger government-to-business and business-to-business engagement.

“Our discussions explored deeper ties in advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, connectivity, digital, fintech, skilling, green economy and clean energy domains.— S Jaishankar

Earlier, the ministers called on Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and discussed progress across various dimensions of bilateral relations. The discussions covered economic cooperation, digitalisation, connectivity, skills development and sustainability.

Jaishankar thanked Singapore Deputy Prime Minister

HANUR SHOOTOUT: LET THE INQUIRY ESTABLISH THE TRUTH

The death of three persons in a shootout involving Forest Department personnel in the Hanur range of Chamara-janagar district recently has snowballed into a major political controversy, with the ruling Congress and Opposition BJP trading serious allegations during the ongoing session of the State Legislature. Amid the competing claims and counter-claims, the State Government has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident to establish what actually happened.

The inquiry is now crucial because several questions surrounding the shootout remain unanswered. The statements attributed to Forest Department officials and the account of the lone survivor appear to have raised more questions than they have answered. While the Forest Department has strongly defended the action of its personnel, maintaining that they opened fire after en-

countering allegedly armed poachers, the families of the deceased have rejected the claim and described the incident as a cold-blooded killing of innocent persons.

The Opposition BJP has seized upon the controversy and sought explanations from the government and the Forest Department. Questions have been raised over the circumstances leading to the firing, including why the personnel allegedly resorted to firing and whether the use of force could have been avoided or minimised. The demand to know why the firing was not aimed below the knees has also become part of the political debate.

However, political rhetoric cannot substitute for a proper investigation.

The fundamental question that remains is: what were the three persons doing deep inside the forest at that particular hour? What prompted the confrontation between them and the Forest

Department personnel? Were they actually carrying deer meat and sharp weapons, including country-made firearms, as alleged by the Forest Department? Were they involved in hunting

poachers and thereby justify the firing. The Forest Department, on the other hand, has stood by its personnel and maintained that they acted in the course of their duty. Both sides have pre-

the Forest Department team encountered the three persons, whether weapons and wildlife meat were actually recovered, whether there was an exchange of fire, and whether the use of lethal force was justified under the circumstances.

Until these facts emerge, it would be premature for anyone whether from the ruling party or the Opposition to pronounce a verdict.

Unfortunately, the incident has already become another battlefield for political mudslinging. The ruling party has defended the Forest Department personnel, while the Opposition has sought to turn the episode into a larger political controversy, even raising conspiracy theories before the facts have been conclusively established. Such statements only deepen public confusion and risk prejudicing the inquiry.

Elected representatives certainly have a duty to raise issues of public importance. But they also have a

greater responsibility to ensure that their statements do not interfere with or undermine an ongoing inquiry. When lives have been lost, the priority should be truth and justice not political mileage.

The intervention by neighbouring Tamil Nadu has added another dimension to the controversy. The Tamil Nadu Government has demanded a CBI probe and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh each to the families of the three deceased. While humanitarian sympathy for the bereaved families is understandable, Karnataka should make it clear that matters concerning an incident within its territory and involving its officials are primarily for the State Government and its

investigative mechanisms to deal with.

Tamil Nadu would do well to respect Karnataka's jurisdiction rather than attempting to influence the course of an investigation.

At this stage, neither the Forest Department's version nor the allegations of the families and villagers can be accepted as the final truth. The only credible way forward is a transparent, impartial and time-bound inquiry.

Three lives have been lost. Their families deserve justice, and Forest Department personnel who were performing their duty also deserve protection if their actions are found to have been lawful and justified.

The truth must therefore emerge from evidence, not from political speeches. Until the preliminary report is placed before the public, political leaders would do well to exercise restraint. The people deserve answers, but they deserve facts not more confusion.



- SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM



wildlife, or were they innocent persons who happened to be in the forest for some other reason?

These are not questions that can be settled through political statements.

The villagers and relatives of the deceased have alleged that evidence was deliberately created or planted to portray the victims as

sented sharply contrasting versions of the same incident.

This is precisely why an impartial inquiry assumes significance.

The preliminary findings of the magisterial inquiry are expected to place at least some facts before the public. They could help establish the circumstances in which

VARALAKSHMI: THE DIVINE MOTHER OF LOVE AND ABUNDANCE, AND THE SACREDNESS OF SHRAVAN

As the sacred month of Shravan arrives, homes and communities across India begin to take on a distinct rhythm—one defined by fragrance, color, prayer, and deep devotion. At the center of this seasonal transformation is the Varamahalakshmi festival, a time-honored tradition that brings the spiritual realm into the heart of everyday domestic life. On the surface, the festival is a vibrant celebration featuring rich silk sarees, decorated kalashas representing the Divine Mother, fragrant flowers, lamps, and families gathering to seek blessings. They pray for Lakshmi's grace in her many forms to attain wealth, health, nourishment, prosperity, and overall well-being. Beneath the physical elegance of these rituals, however, lies a far deeper understanding of who Lakshmi is, why she is welcomed into the home, and why Varalakshmi holds such profound significance during Shravan.

To fully appreciate Varalakshmi, one must first understand Lakshmi herself. In the Hindu tradition, Lakshmi is the Divine Mother associated with prosperity, beauty, nourishment, and auspiciousness. While she is widely recognized as the goddess of wealth, that singular description fails to capture the full breadth of her place in Hindu philosophy. Lakshmi represents all the elements that help a family and a community live well: food, health, knowledge, security, love, and the capacity to flourish. She is intrinsically linked to the resources that sustain physical existence and the general well-being that allows individuals to grow.

This multidimensional understanding is formally articulated in the traditional concept of the Ashta Lakshmis, or the eight forms of Lakshmi. Each form governs a distinct dimension of human experience, ranging from material wealth and food to knowledge, courage, progeny, success, and spiritual strength. The underlying philosophy is straightforward: a prosperous life cannot rely on money alone. While financial security is undeniably important, it must be accompanied by physical health, intellectual growth, emotional courage, physical nourishment, and meaningful relationships. Lakshmi, therefore, is not merely a deity who bestows currency; she embodies a holistic state of existence where all necessary components of human well-being are present and balanced.

This comprehensive view illuminates the specific significance of the name Varalakshmi. The word "Vara" signifies a boon or a divine blessing. Varalakshmi is Lakshmi in her aspect as the benevolent giver of blessings, and observing the Varamahalakshmi Vratam serves as an intentional prayer for family well-being, longevity, happiness, and peace. The ritual functions simultaneously as a request and an act of recognition. It asks for future grace while expressing deep gratitude for the blessings already present within the household.

This spiritual practice is elevated by its timing within Shravan, one of the most sacred months in the Hindu lunar calendar. Falling during the monsoon season, Shravan arrives just as rain replenishes the earth, causes vegetation to flourish, restores water sources, and reinvigorates agricultural activity. Historically, these natural shifts were directly tied to food security, economic livelihood, and domestic stability. Within Hindu cosmology, the rhythms of nature and the rhythms of spiritual life are deeply interconnected. Seasons carry their own spiritual character, establishing ideal conditions for prayer, fasting, reflection, and celebration.

The spiritual depth of Shravan is further enriched by its association with the grand narrative of the Samudra Manthan, or the churning of the cosmic ocean. According to tradition, the Devas and Asuras churned the ocean to obtain Amrita, the nectar of immortality. During this process, extraordinary treasures and divine beings emerged from the depths—including Lakshmi herself. However, before the ocean yielded its ultimate blessings, it released Halahala, a deadly poison capable of

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tual fullness. Water holds supreme significance during the monsoon, as it breathes life into the soil and sustains agriculture. Placing water at the core of a ritual dedicated to prosperity acknowledges the primary element that makes physical life possible. Similarly, offerings of rice, grains, fresh fruits, and cooked food represent the tangible fruits of human labor and natural generosity. Offering these everyday necessities transforms standard commodities into objects of sacred gratitude.

Crucially, this worship takes place within the domestic sphere rather than exclusively in public temples. The home itself is thoroughly cleaned, decorated, and converted into a sacred sanctuary. This underscores a foundational principle of Hindu philosophy: spirituality is not compartmentalized or distant from daily living. The divine can enter the kitchen, the dining table, and the quiet routines of family care. Cooking becomes an offering, sharing a meal becomes an act of community, and maintaining a household becomes a quiet form of spiritual service.

For generations, women have been the primary custodians of this tradition, passing its nuances down through direct participation rather than formal text. Daughters and granddaughters learn the prayers, recipes, and arrangements by watching their mothers and grandmothers. In doing so, they preserve not only a religious observance, but also family history, culinary heritage, artistic skills, and cultural memory. Varalakshmi serves as an enduring bridge between generations, honoring the maternal principle of nurturing and protecting life.

In a modern world that increasingly measures success solely through financial metrics, balance sheets, and material accumulation, the Varamahalakshmi festival offers a necessary recalibration.

destroying all creation. To save the universe, Lord Shiva stepped forward, consumed the poison, and held it safely in his throat. This act turned his neck blue, earning him the name Neelkanth and cementing Shravan's association with Shiva worship.

The convergence of these two elements within the same story provides a profound metaphor for human existence. Before abundance can emerge, toxicity and difficulty must be confronted. Before the nectar of prosperity is reached, the ocean of life must be churned through effort and patience. While Shiva absorbs the destructive forces to protect life, Lakshmi arises to nurture, adorn, and sustain it. Celebrating Varalakshmi during Shravan connects domestic prayers for prosperity directly to this cosmic story of protection, sacrifice, transformation, and preservation. This symbolism comes alive within the physical rituals of the Varalakshmi puja. At the center of the altar sits the sacred kalasha a vessel filled with clean water, adorned with mango leaves, and topped with a coconut. Far from being a simple decorative prop, the kalasha symbolizes life, potential, and spiri-



- PRADIVYA NAMBIAR

For millions of people living with advanced kidney disease, conventional dialysis remains an essential, life-sustaining treatment. When the kidneys lose their ability to filter blood adequately, this process takes over the critical responsibility of removing metabolic waste products and excess fluid from the body. Although effective, conventional hemodialysis presents significant physical and emotional hurdles for patients. Most notably, it relies on repeated needle access to the bloodstream via a fistula, graft, or catheter. For many individuals undergoing treatment multiple times a week, these recurrent needle pricks cause physical discomfort, heightened anxiety, and significant lifestyle disruption.

Driven by these challenges, biomedical engineering is pioneering an alternative paradigm: the implantable artificial kidney. Rather than viewing kidney care through the lens of external machines, researchers are exploring whether an implanted device could perform continuous filtration directly inside the body without relying on repeated vascular needle access. This vision represents a major milestone in nephrology research. The goal extends beyond the simple convenience of removing needles; it seeks to closely replicate the natural, uninterrupted function of human kidneys.

The Mechanics of Natural Kidneys vs. Conventional Dialysis

To understand the promise of an implantable device, one must appreciate the sheer sophistication of natural kidney function. Healthy kidneys work continuously 24 hours a day to filter blood, manage fluid volume, regulate essential electrolyte balances, and produce vital hormones.

By contrast, conventional hemodialysis operates intermittently. Patients typically attend scheduled sessions where blood is drawn from the body, routed through an external dialyzer to extract waste and fluid, and subsequently pumped back into circulation. Because this process happens over discrete sessions rather than continuously, patients experience fluctuating concentrations of toxins and flu-

ids between treatments. This fundamental difference has spurred intense research into bioengineered, wearable, and implantable kidney technologies that can provide seamless, round-the-clock support.

How an Implantable Artificial Kidney Works?

An implantable artificial kidney

aims to integrate advanced filtration membranes with the body's natural cardiovascular system. Placed surgically inside the patient, the device utilizes the body's own blood pressure to drive circulation through tiny, highly specialized membranes. These micro-architectures are engineered to selectively allow waste molecules and excess water to pass through into an outlet system while safely retaining blood cells, vital proteins, and useful nutrients in circulation.

Understanding the term "needle-free" requires realistic expectations. It does not imply that conventional dialysis will vanish overnight or that current medical protocols are immediately obsolete. Instead, it outlines a future where dependence on invasive vascular pricks is significantly minimized. By shifting treatment from stationary, high-maintenance equipment to an internal, continuous support network, the overall burden of care drops dramatically, elevating the patient's daily quality of life.

The Interdisciplinary Challenge: Materials and Engineering

Replicating an organ as complex as the human kidney requires deep interdisciplinary collaboration. Biomedical engineers, material scientists, nanotechnologists, and clinicians are uniting to address formidable obstacles:

Microscopic Membrane Selectivity, filtration membranes must operate at a nanometer scale to distinguish waste products from critical blood proteins. Biocompatibility, every material implanted within the bloodstream must prevent ad-



-DR. VIJAY GARG



verse immune responses, inflammation, and cellular damage.

Thrombosis and Infection Prevention, blood flowing through artificial channels carries a risk of clotting or infection, demanding advanced anti-clogging surface coatings.

Power and Energy Constraints, unlike external dialysis units connected to wall outlets, an implanted system must operate efficiently with minimal internal power or rely entirely on natural blood flow mechanics.

Because an implantable kidney operates under such strict biological and mechanical constraints, early success in laboratory settings must undergo rigorous testing. Rigorously designed clinical trials are essential to verify that these compact devices remain durable, safe, and effective over long spans of time inside the human body.

A Vision of Hope Grounded in Realism

News regarding artificial kidney breakthroughs understandably generates tremendous enthusiasm among patients and their families. The prospect of breaking free from rigid dialysis schedules and painful needle access is deeply meaningful. However, scientific progress is inherently deliberate. Translating a successful laboratory prototype into a standardized clinical intervention requires patient, evidence-based research. The appropriate perspective is one of measured optimism—celebrating scientific strides while acknowledging that routine adoption takes time. Ultimately, the measure of success for next-generation kidney care will not be defined merely by technological novelty. It will be defined by safety, reliability, and human impact. Conventional hemodialysis remains a life-saving foundation for current patients, and any adjustments to treatment plans should always be made in consultation with a qualified nephrologist. Yet, the trajectory of kidney replacement therapy is undeniably shifting.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Revolutionizing Kidney Care

A Breakthrough in Dialysis, the development of needle-free dialysis technology offers immense hope to thousands of kidney disease patients. Traditional treatment is often painful, invasive, and physically exhausting. This innovative, non-invasive alternative promises a significantly better quality of life and reduced infection risks. Healthcare authorities and private investors should support the clinical adoption and affordability of this ground-breaking technology to make it accessible to all.

- Hemalatha D.

Protect Urban Greens

Save Our City Trees, Uncontrolled urban development is rapidly destroying our city's remaining green cover. Concrete pavements and frequent tree felling increase local temperatures and worsen air quality. Local municipalities must strictly enforce urban forestry laws and integrate green spaces into infrastructure planning. Preserving existing trees is not an aesthetic luxury; it is a vital necessity for public health and sustainable urban living.

- Ashley Sharan R.



Quick Read



Jalpaiguri Teacher arrested for making drugs in school

CH NEWS, KOLKATA
Jalpaiguri District Police arrested government high school teacher Ranjit Sikdar and suspected buyer Dheeraj Mahato after raiding Sikdar's rented house near Chhochhariya petrol pump in Nagrakata late on Wednesday. Police recovered about 67 grams of raw material for making the banned drug brown sugar, along with special white cloth, packing plastic and other manufacturing items. Around ₹8.39 lakh in cash, including some fake notes, was seized. Sikdar, from Bamangola in Malda, has a past drug-related jail record and was under surveillance after STF and internal tips. Both accused will be produced in court, with police seeking remand to probe possible links to a larger gang.

Maharashtra drivers failing Marathi test gets deadline

CH NEWS, MAHARASHTRA
Maharashtra's transport department began on-ground checks on Thursday, targeting taxi and autorickshaw drivers unable to show working knowledge of Marathi. Flying squads of the Mumbai RTO acted outside Dadar railway station, issuing show-cause notices and giving non-compliant drivers one month to learn the language and explain why further action should not be taken. Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik said drivers who still fail after the notice could face three-month suspension of licence and badge, with repeated non-compliance leading to cancellation. Around 1.25–1.65 lakh drivers have completed Marathi training and received certificates, but distribution has caused long queues and chaos at RTOs.

ICICI Banker kills wife, sister and then shot himself

CH NEWS, LUCKNOW
ICICI bank relationship manager Divya Mishra was shot dead by her husband, Manas Vajpayee, outside her Gomti Nagar branch on Thursday. Police said Vajpayee waited in an auto, fired as she stepped out of a car, then fled to Husaria, where he shot his sister Sheeba Bajpai and killed himself. Before the killings, he posted a WhatsApp status claiming his wife cheated, saying he would kill her, himself and his sister. ADCP Amol Murkut said the couple had issues and divorce proceedings were underway. Five police teams are investigating, checking CCTV and other evidence.

SATHEESAN SEEKS CENTRE SUPPORT

Kerala CM seeks fairer Centre-State relations

KERALA
At the 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting in Chennai, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Kerala raised critical demands for greater central financial support and an equitable federal framework across healthcare, infrastructure, and environmental defense. Highlighting a stark fiscal gap in healthcare, Kerala revealed that it spent ₹1,493 crore under Ayushman Bharat during the last policy year but received only ₹151 crore from the National Health Authority—leaving the state to shoulder nearly 90 per cent of the total costs. In response, Kerala advocated for state-specific premiums, alignment with the National Food Security Act database, and central support recalibrated to actual state expenditure. The state also pressed for immediate operational relief for public transport, asking for complete toll exemptions or concessional rates for Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses, which incurred over ₹2.16 crore in toll expenses in a single month. Addressing severe environmental threats, Kerala pointed out that 63 per cent of its 586 km coastline suffers from active erosion, jeopardizing thousands of fishing households. The state urged the Centre to permit coastal defense projects and family rehabilitation to be funded directly through central disaster response and mitigation schemes. On regional infrastructure, Kerala called for accelerated progress on the long-pending Thalassery-Mysore and Nilambur-Nanjangud railway corridors, urging Karnataka and the Ministry of Railways to finalize alignments and project reports. The state opposed absolute night-traffic bans through sensitive forest transit corridors, proposing regulated convoy movements during scientifically evaluated least-sensitive time slots instead. Finally, Kerala emphasized a moratorium on offshore sand mining pending comprehensive scientific assessments, highlighted its 78 per cent compliance rate across 54 operational Fast Track Special Courts (including 14 e-POCSO courts), and proposed appointing Inter-State Nodal Officers across southern states for real-time security intelligence sharing.

BJP hits back at Congress over ‘back foot’ remark

BJP rejected Congress claims, said Opposition blocked Parliament debate on exam leaks and student protests during Monsoon Session.

HYDERABAD

The party's response came after Congress General Secretary K.C. Venugopal, following a Congress Working Committee meeting, claimed the government was under significant pressure from the Opposition over major national issues, including examination paper leaks and student agitations. "The agitation carried out by the students of this country and the way in which the Government of India has dealt with that agitation, the Congress Working Committee unanimously opined that the sessions held in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were 100 per cent successful for the Opposition parties, and the government was totally on the back foot on that issue. Basically, these educational issues," Venugopal said at a press conference. BJP spokesperson T.R. Srinivas strongly rejected the remarks, accusing Venugopal of being out of touch with the government's actions on education. "K.C. Venugopal, in



"If we were out of sync, why ask our former Education Minister to step down, revamp NTA and ensure accountability?"
- T.R. Srinivas, BJP leader

his CWC meeting, said that the government is on the back foot with respect to the students' issue. Oh my God, Venugopal, you are so out of touch with the government's policies and decisions," Srinivas told IANS. He pointed to

steps such as seeking accountability, mid-course correction and revamping the National Testing Agency (NTA), and asked, "If we were so out of sync, then why would we request our honourable former Education Minister to step down, undertake a mid-course correction, revamp the entire NTA, and ensure accountability? Please talk with facts before saying anything."

Srinivas argued that students need practical solutions, not political exploitation of

their distress. "Students need solutions and not political misappropriation in times of distress. We don't do distress politics, but listen to the students and find solutions," he said. He also accused the Opposition of failing to use the Monsoon Session to raise student-related issues in Parliament. "We wanted to debate this issue in the Parliament. Where were you then?" he questioned.

Launching a sharp personal attack, the BJP leader referred to a protest by Opposition MPs led by Congress's Pawan Khara outside Parliament, where they carried toy monkeys, carrying two other monkeys, were dancing outside the Parliament. Instead of blaming us, think about what you did," he said. The BJP maintained it was willing to discuss student concerns and examine shortcomings in the examination system, but alleged the Opposition chose confrontation and demonstrations instead of allowing a substantive parliamentary debate.



Bihar board plans ₹112 crore Modi temple

BIHAR

A devotional event featuring the recitation of "Modi Chalisa" and the worship of a cutout of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was held at the Press Club of India in New Delhi, sparking controversy after videos went viral on social media. The footage showed participants chanting hymns and treating the PM's image in a god-like manner, prompting questions about the nature and approval of the gathering.

The Press Club of India swiftly clarified that it had not organised the programme. In a statement posted on X, the club said the hall had been rented out for a press conference by an external organisation. However, when the organisers violated the terms of the rental agreement, club authorities intervened and stopped the event.

The function was organised by Rajan Singh, vice-president of the Bihar State Transgender

Welfare Board. Speaking to reporters, Singh defended the event, saying it was an expression of gratitude toward PM Modi for policies benefiting the transgender community. He claimed that for the first time, the community had received rights and employment opportunities under the current government.

Singh also announced plans to construct a temple dedicated to "Lord Shri Narendra Modi ji" in Bihar. He said the project would cost ₹112 crore and spread over five acres of land. When asked about criticism over deifying a political leader, he said, "Nobody should criticise it... This government, for the first time, provided rights to transgender people; they are getting employment." He further addressed controversy around the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, alleging that opposition parties, not the transgender community, were criticising the law.

Aadhaar app crosses 5 crore downloads

NEW DELHI

The Aadhaar app has crossed 5 crore downloads, marking a major milestone in the adoption of digital-first Aadhaar services, the IT Ministry said on Thursday. The app now serves as a key digital interface between residents and UIDAI, letting users update mobile number, address and email, lock or unlock biometrics, and download e-Aadhaar from their smartphones.

Since its launch, the app has seen strong and sustained usage. More than 60 lakh people updated their mobile number using the app, while over 15 lakh address updates and more than 23 lakh email updates were done through it. This growing adoption reflects residents' increasing preference for availing Aadhaar-related services digitally, without visiting an Aadhaar centre.



The Aadhaar app crossed 5 crore downloads, enabling mobile, address, email updates and biometric locks digitally, reducing visits to Aadhaar centres.

The app is built on the principle of "Show, Share and Verify", giving Aadhaar holders greater control over how their information is used while enabling convenient identity verification. Alongside the app's growth, UIDAI has expanded

secure offline verification by onboarding more than 200 entities as Offline Verification Seeking Entities (OVSEs) since January. These partners can now verify identity using QR code-based checks and secure digitally signed documents without real-time connectivity to UIDAI's central database.

UIDAI said this offline mechanism enables secure, consent-based and paperless verification, empowering both service providers and residents. By allowing users to share only the minimum necessary data, the approach enhances privacy and builds trust through transparent, consent-driven interactions. The initiatives are aligned with the government's Digital India vision and the broader goal of improving ease of living through secure, accessible and technology-enabled public services.

Massive search underway for 7 missing Andhra fishermen

AMARAVATI,

A large search operation is underway in the Bay of Bengal for seven fishermen from Andhra Pradesh who went missing after their boat ran into trouble earlier this month, officials said on Thursday. Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said the effort involves two Dornier aircraft, a helicopter, and seven boats of the Navy and the Coast Guard, with continuous sorties over potential areas.

Navy boats have been deployed for an extensive search from Visakhapatnam towards Paradip, while a Navy vessel is also scanning the port area. Dornier aircraft from Vi-



AT A GLANCE

- Seven fishermen missing since August 3.
- Navy, Coast Guard search with aircraft, boats.
- Operation covers Visakhapatnam–Paradip, port areas.
- Accident 12 nautical miles off coast.
- CM seeks regular family updates, monitoring.

sakhapatnam, Kolkata and Chennai, along with a Navy helicopter from Kolkata, are being used in the operation. "We are using all available resources to search for the missing fishermen with constant coordination between the Navy, Coast Guard, and the Fisheries Department," the minister said, adding that the search will continue until the fishermen are brought back safely.

Home and Disaster Management Minister V. Anitha earlier directed officials to intensify the search for missing fishermen from Dr B. R. Ambedkar Konaseema district. Officials told her the boat met with an accident about 12 nautical miles off the coast, after which

one fisherman, Appanna, went missing. She said all resources must be used to locate him safely and reunite him with his family, and stressed greater vigilance for fishermen venturing out to sea.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday reviewed the operation and asked officials to step up efforts to trace the missing fishermen. The boat, carrying fishermen from Odalarevu, Dummalapeta and Vasalathippa villages in Alavaram mandal, had left on August 3 and was due back on August 12. Fishing boats from Kakinada, Bhairavapalem, Visakhapatnam and Paradip have been alerted to help gather information.

Kerala to move SC against highway curbs



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala will approach the Supreme Court against its recent order restricting construction along national highways, Public Works Minister P.K. Basheer said on Thursday, arguing the directive is impractical in a densely populated state with scarce land and could affect thousands of homes and businesses.

The Supreme Court, in a suo motu case triggered by a fatal road accident in North India, directed that residential construction should not be permitted within 40 metres and commercial establishments within 75 metres on either side of the centre line of national highways. The order also envisages keeping additional land vacant for service roads and adjoining areas to regulate access and improve road safety.

Basheer said Kerala's circumstances are fundamentally different from those that led to the court's intervention. He noted that in the original case, vehicles could enter the highway from various points

along the service road, a risk that has since been addressed by restricting entry and exit to designated points, including in Kerala. "Given Kerala's special circumstances, it is not possible to leave such large stretches of land free for construction. It is not practical. Kerala will directly place its concerns before the Supreme Court. The state government will take a clear and firm stand on the matter," he said.

The government is expected to highlight Kerala's unusually high population density and limited land availability compared with most other states. Basheer warned that if the directive remains unchanged, hundreds of acres of private land and thousands of houses and commercial establishments from Kasaragod to Thiruvananthapuram could be affected. The issue gains added importance as six-laning work on National Highway 66 progresses and several new projects recommended by the National Highways Authority of India could be impacted.

Quick Read

seven-Year-Old dies, neck trapped in bus door accident

CH NEWS, Vadodara
A seven-year-old boy died after his neck became trapped in the hydraulic door of a luxury bus at a repair garage near Suryanagar-Tarsali bypass. CCTV captured the child hanging from the door, but crucial footage before the incident was missing, raising questions. Police have begun investigating all possibilities. DCP Abhishek Gupta said preliminary findings suggest the boy may have become trapped while trying to open the door.

Class 10 student alleges abduction, assault

CH NEWS, Bhagalpur
A Class 10 student in Sultanganj, Bhagalpur, alleged that Kamlesh abducted her at gunpoint while she was going to coaching on Wednesday afternoon. She said he took her to Kathara, attempted rape and assaulted her. Police detained Kamlesh and his brother Durgesh after the complaint. The accused's father, Uday Yadav, is a sub-inspector in Samastipur. Police said an FIR will be registered and legal action taken. Investigation into the brothers' criminal background is underway.

10 Schools shut after stray dog attacks Children

CH NEWS, Chamoli
Panic has spread in Naryanbagar after stray dogs reportedly attacked children, residents and animals. Authorities have ordered 10 schools to remain closed for two days as a safety measure. Students will attend classes online during the closure. Teams have been deployed to catch the dogs, control the situation. The attacks have raised concern among local residents, with officials taking precautionary steps to protect children, prevent further incidents.

Lawyers protest against BCI Chief over NALSAR row

NEW DELHI
A group of lawyers protested outside the Bar Council of India (BCI) office on Thursday, demanding the resignation of chairman Manan Kumar Mishra. The protest followed criticism of the council's now-withdrawn order targeting the enrolment of NALSAR University's 2026 graduating batch. Heavy police deployment was seen near the office as lawyers raised slogans and held placards seeking accountability. The demonstration was organised by the All-India Young Advocates Association and supported by the Cockroach Janta Party. Advocate Raman Sharma said the protest was being led by lawyers to highlight concerns within their own professional body. Protesters questioned Mishra's long tenure and demanded greater attention to the welfare and concerns of lawyers and law students. The controversy began after the BCI directed State Bar Councils not to enrol NALSAR's graduating students following a campaign over the invitation of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant to the university's convocation. The order was later withdrawn after criticism, with the BCI saying that the vast majority of students were innocent. Lawyers at Thursday's protest also raised wider issues, including lawyer welfare, stipends, chambers, the Advocates Act and regulation of law colleges. Advocate Umesh Kumar alleged that professional concerns were being neglected while political issues received greater attention. The Bombay Bar Association has separately demanded Mishra's resignation over the NALSAR episode. Mishra later apologised, saying, "If anything connected with the present controversy, any of my words, or letter, has hurt the feelings of our law students, I sincerely regret and apologise for the same." Chief Justice Surya Kant had also criticised the BCI order as unnecessary and supported students' right to protest. The issue has now widened into a debate over accountability, student rights and the functioning of the legal regulator.

Maharashtra Warns Consumers Against Buying Loose Oil

MUMBAI
Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe has urged people not to buy loose or unsealed edible oil, calling it unsafe. The warning came as the FDA issued a compliance order for the edible oil sector after finding several violations, including adulteration, poor packaging and improper storage and transport. The order applies to oil producers, processors, packers, importers, supermarkets, online sellers and retailers. It covers commonly used oils such as groundnut, mustard, sunflower, rice bran, palm, coconut and maize. Mundhe said consumers buying packed oil should check the label, manufacturing and expiry dates, and make sure the package is sealed properly. Old or reused packaging should be avoided by consumers. During 2025-26, the FDA collected 1,247 edible oil samples and analysed 1,142. Inspections found 77 substandard samples and 15 cases of misbranding. The department also seized 3.20 lakh kg of stock worth Rs 5.31 crore. Officials found violations including unlicensed businesses, adulteration, high acidic value and high trans-fat levels across the edible oil industry statewide. Mundhe said mustard oil cannot be mixed with other edible oils, and retailers should reject unsealed products. He also warned against using old or rusted tins and transporting edible oil in tankers previously used for non-edible oil or hazardous materials. Oil should be protected from direct sunlight and strong odours during storage and transport. Repeated heating and reuse can also form harmful compounds. The commissioner said food safety violations can bring strict penalties, while operating without a licence can attract a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh. He said the campaign aims to improve safety across Maharashtra.



Delhi launches programme to strengthen MSMEs

Delhi launches a major MSME training programme, targeting over 30,000 businesses with modern skills, technology, finance and wider market access

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday launched a Mega Capacity Building Programme aimed at helping micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) gain modern skills, technology, finance and wider markets. The programme took place at Anuvrat Bhawan under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance scheme today. Gupta said the training drive supports the government's four-pillar reform plan covering policy, process, performance and partnership. She said stronger cooperation between the government and entrepreneurs could give momentum to Delhi's economy.



IN FOCUS

- 30,000+ MSMEs to get training.
- ₹49.74 crore approved for Delhi.
- 10,000+ firms to join digital platforms.
- ₹4,806 crore in loan guarantees approved.

More than 200 MSME entrepreneurs attended, along with Industries Minister Sardar Manjinder Singh Sirsa, senior officials and industry representatives. DSIIDC formally organised the programme. Under the RAMP scheme, the Centre has approved Rs 49.74 crore for Delhi, Gupta said. More than 30,000 MSMEs are expected to receive skills and training by January 2027, while over 10,000 businesses will be connected to digital platforms such as GeM and ONDC. Gupta stressed that digital access is essential for growth. The government says MSMEs are central to Delhi's economy and wants their products to reach markets across India and abroad. Under the Delhi Credit Guarantee Scheme, businesses can receive loans up to Rs 10 crore without collateral, with guarantees covering 95 per cent. Since February, 10,505 guarantees worth Rs 4,806 crore were approved. Industries Minister Sirsa said the government is working to improve infrastructure, finance, technology and market access. Tenders' worth around Rs 500 crore have been issued for industrial works, while more projects are planned. An AI-enabled single-window portal is being developed to simplify approvals. The programme will help MSMEs grow and compete globally.

Tharoor panel seeks update to old passport law

NEW DELHI

A Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs has discussed ways to modernise India's passport system, including e-passports and police verification. The panel, headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, also considered whether the Passports Act, 1967, needs to be updated to match present-day needs and technology. Speaking after the meeting, Tharoor said the discussions were detailed and covered several issues related to passport services, citizenship and travel documents. He said around 15 MPs attended the meeting and examined different aspects of the existing system. The committee was briefed by officials from the Ministry of External Affairs on passport issuance and the use of e-passports. Several members reportedly felt that the 1967 law is now outdated and requires revision after more than five decades. Tharoor described the need for



"It was a very thorough, comprehensive and detailed discussion on the passport system."
- Shashi Tharoor, MP

changes as overdue, but made it clear that the committee has not reached a final conclusion. He said the Ministry of External Affairs would have further work to do before any decision is taken. The committee also looked at police verification, which is an important part of the passport application process. Tharoor said members had earlier spoken



ken with passport officials during visits to Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. These interactions helped the panel identify problems and areas that may require further attention. The meeting is part of the committee's continuing review of India's passport system. Its recommendations could help improve services, reduce delays and make passport procedures more suited to modern technology. The discussions on e-passports and possible changes to the old law are expected to continue as the panel gathers more information before preparing its final recommendations.

Amit shah announces high court bench in Ladakh

LADAKH

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday announced that the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the establishment of a bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir in Ladakh. Shah said the decision is aimed at improving access to justice for people living in the remote areas of the Union Territory by reducing the time and distance involved in accessing legal services. In a post on X, Shah said the government is committed to the all-round development of Ladakh and to ensuring constitutional safeguards for the Union Territory. He said the new High Court bench would significantly enhance access to justice for citizens who are entitled to legal services. Ladakh became a separate Union Territory without a legisla-

The Union Cabinet has approved a Jammu and Kashmir High Court bench in Ladakh, aimed at improving access to justice and reducing travel time for residents.



ture after the Centre abrogated Articles 370 and 35A on August 5, 2019, and reorganised the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories. Jammu and Kashmir was created as a Union Territory with a legislature, while Ladakh was formed without a legislature. The announcement comes amid the Centre's focus on strengthening infrastructure and connectivity in the Union

Territory. The decision to establish a High Court bench is expected to make it easier for residents to pursue legal matters without having to undertake long journeys outside the region. Meanwhile, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved several major infrastructure projects. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs cleared four railway multi-tracking projects in West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu at an estimated cost of Rs 9,450 crore. The Cabinet also approved the upgradation of the Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa section of NH-22 in Bihar to four-lane standards, involving a capital investment of Rs 3,590.73 crore. The Ladakh High Court bench decision is being viewed as another step towards improving public services and strengthening access to justice for residents of the strategically important Union Territory.

Pawan Kalyan absences fuel NDA rift speculation



AMARAVATI

Questions have emerged over the stability of Andhra Pradesh's ruling NDA alliance as Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has missed several Cabinet meetings and public events attended by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. His repeated absence has led to speculation about differences between the Jana Sena leader and the TDP chief. Kalyan has reportedly skipped at least four Cabinet meetings in recent weeks, including an event linked to new buildings and roads in the Amaravati capital region. He has also stayed away from Assembly sessions. His last public appearance with Naidu was at the Bhogapuram Airport inauguration on August 1, which was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Political observers believe the absences could be connected to differences over seat-sharing for upcoming local body elections. Sources in Jana Sena said Kalyan wants a larger share of seats and some civic corporations for his party. The TDP, however, is reportedly reluctant to give up more constituencies because of concerns among its grassroots workers. Jana Sena has also pointed to Kalyan's health problems following shoulder surgery as a reason for his absence. A senior party leader said Cabinet meetings require long hours of sitting and that Kalyan has been avoiding them on health grounds.

Jadavpur university clash sparks tension

KOLKATA

Tension continued around Jadavpur University on Thursday after a clash between the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and Left-backed student groups over a general body meeting. The violence later spilled onto Kolkata streets, with rival groups staging protests amid heavy police and CRPF deployment. The confrontation began late Wednesday during a meeting of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology Students' Union. Members of ABVP and Left groups, including SFI, DSF and DSO, accused each other of attacks and bringing outsiders onto the campus. Several students were injured and taken to KPC Medical College and Hospital for treatment.

‘Toxic’ English Trailer Focuses More on Its World

Yash’s Toxic English trailer focuses on its fictional world, period setting and story, offering international viewers a clearer introduction.

The English trailer of Yash-starrer Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups has taken a different approach from the Kannada version, giving more attention to the film’s fictional world than its lead actor.

The new trailer, released for international audiences on Wednesday, is shorter than the Kannada trailer released on August 8. However, it includes two new snippets and presents the story in a more detailed and atmospheric manner.

The Kannada trailer introduced Yash prominently in his dual roles as Raya and Ticket, with several action sequences. The English version keeps much of the action but builds the setting more carefully. It takes viewers into a fictionalised Goa during the final years of Portuguese colonial rule.

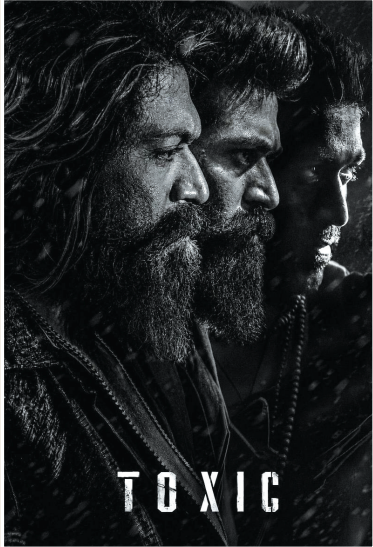
The international trailer also has a tighter narrative structure. Instead of moving quickly between action, romance and character introductions, it presents the events with a clearer flow. This approach appears designed to help audiences unfamiliar with Yash understand the film’s setting and story.

The English version also contains stronger language from Yash’s character. One line uses an expletive that was not included in the Kannada trailer.

The film features Nayanthara as Ganga, Kiara Advani as Nadia, Tara Sutaria, Rukmini Vasanth as Melissa and Huma Qureshi.

Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic is a period gangster drama co-written by Mohandas and Yash. It is produced by Venkat K. Narayana and Yash under KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations.

Toxic will release worldwide on August 26 in Kannada, English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam across several markets.



Toxic At A Glance

Toxic is a period gangster drama set in a fictionalised Goa during the declining years of Portuguese colonial rule. Yash plays two characters, Raya and Ticket. Geetu Mohandas directs the film and co-writes it with Yash. The cast includes Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Tara Sutaria, Rukmini Vasanth and Huma Qureshi. The film releases worldwide on August 26.

Will Smith Reportedly Joins Allu Arjun’s ‘RAAKA’

Will Smith’s reported entry into Allu Arjun’s Raaka could give the pan-India film greater international attention and boost its global appeal



Hollywood star Will Smith is reportedly set to join Allu Arjun’s upcoming pan-India film Raaka, directed by Atlee.

Indian cinema, especially films from the South, has gained strong global attention. Movies such as Baahubali, RRR and Pushpa have performed well worldwide.

Now, another Hollywood name may enter Tollywood. Os-

car-winning actor Will Smith is reportedly in talks to appear alongside Allu Arjun in Raaka. If confirmed, his presence could increase the film’s popularity, particularly among overseas audiences.

Allu Arjun is currently working on Raaka, which is being directed by Tamil filmmaker Atlee.

Deepika Padukone is set to play the female lead opposite Allu Arjun. Rashmika Mandanna, Janhvi Kapoor and Mrunal Thakur are also reportedly associated with the project, although details about their roles have not been officially confirmed. Will Smith is one of Hollywood’s most recognised actors. His reported involvement could give Raaka greater publicity



in overseas markets. South Indian cinema has increasingly welcomed international actors. Arnold Vosloo, known for The Mummy, has been associated with Vijay Deverakonda’s upcoming film, while James Cosmo appeared in Dhanush’s Jaganmohan Thanthiram.

The Shangles Andrew Garfield Reveals Secret Band

Oscar-nominated actor Andrew Garfield has revealed that he is part of a band called The Shangles, which performs covers from the 1976 musical Bugsy Malone.

Garfield, who displayed his singing skills in Tick, Tick...BOOM!, said music continues to be part of his life through the group. I do have a band, we do Bugsy Malone covers, he told E! News. He also invited fans to look out for The Shangles, describing them as a group of middle-aged guys doing Bugsy Malone covers.

The Amazing Spider-Man actor said the band has plans ahead, but he is keeping them

until everything is confirmed. We have some big plans, Garfield said, adding that he did not want to jinx it.

Garfield stressed that The Shangles is not being created for money or commercial success. It’s more of a passion project, he said, making clear that the group is simply something he enjoys.

Meanwhile, Garfield is preparing for the release of The Magic Faraway Tree, which reaches theatres on August 21.

The fantasy film also stars Claire Foy and Nicola Coughlan.



‘Mandaadi’ Clears Censorship, Sets Sept Release

Soori’s upcoming sports action drama Mandaadi has cleared censorship and is set for a worldwide theatrical release on September 10, 2026. The certification has increased interest in the film, which features an unusual sea-based setting.

Directed by Mathimaran Pugazhendhi, the film has been shot extensively across Tamil Nadu’s coastal regions. The Central Board of Film Certification has cleared Mandaadi with a U/A 16+ certificate. The makers announced the update through their official X account as promotions enter the final stage.

Soori plays the lead role, while Mahima Nambiar is the female lead. Telugu actor Suhas will make his Tamil debut with the film in an important role. The cast also includes Sath-

yaraj, Ravindra Vijay, Mithun and Balasaravanan.

The film stands apart from regular sports dramas because several major sequences were filmed at sea. Soori is reported to have performed difficult action scenes himself rather than using body doubles. He also underwent training for sailing and boat-racing sequences before filming.

The team completed the shoot in April after working in challenging weather and coastal locations. Earlier, the makers released a video highlighting the demanding production, during which some cast and crew members reportedly suffered injuries.

The title Mandaadi draws inspiration from the maritime culture of Tamil Nadu’s coastal communities.



Rajinikanth’s spiritual side shines before Jailer 2

Superstar Rajinikanth is known for his powerful screen presence, but away from films, his spiritual life remains an important part of his identity.

At 75, Rajinikanth continues to balance demanding film roles with a simple and disciplined lifestyle. He has often said spirituality matters more to him than fame, money or status. He believes it gives him energy and helps him remain grounded despite his huge popularity.

The actor has visited several spiritual places and temples across India, including Tirupati and the Raghavendra Swamy Temple. His connection with the Himalayas is especially well known. During a break from the shooting of Jailer 2, he travelled to Rishikesh, spending quiet time away from the busy film industry.

Rajinikanth’s lifestyle also includes regular exercise, careful eating and meditation. His doctor has spoken about these habits, saying they help the actor maintain his fitness and energy for physically demanding roles. This peaceful side of Rajinikanth now contrasts with the excitement around Jailer 2. Directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, the film sees him return as Muthuvel Pandian.

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WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
UDAYAPRASANNA
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WISH YOU
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Shreeya

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